

Notes from Superintendent's Coffee – April 6, 2021

Dr. Hallett greeted 18 participants, all of whom were parents of NPS students throughout the schools. She shared some updates in English and in Spanish around the return to in-person learning at PreK-5 that had started earlier that week. She shared the following things she noticed on her walkthrough at NIS that morning:

- Students, teachers, and staff are being so careful about continuing with health and safety protocols with the new distance requirements. Students are helping other students to stay on track and follow the rules about masks, social distance, and keeping hands to themselves.
- It was exciting to see students meet each other for the first time after more than 8 months; many students were thrilled to see their “long lost” friends.
- School administrators have made a huge effort to accommodate student distances for eating lunch; there are lunch monitors to assist in keeping tabs on students who are eating lunches in different locations at 6 ft apart.

Middle schools in the state are expected to start on April 28, and high school start dates have not yet been determined by MA Commissioner of Education Jeff Riley.

Some questions from the participants:

- **Are we allowed to NHS start earlier than the date given by the Commissioner?** Yes, we will not be starting on the same day as CPS to allow for the middle school to get situated/comfortable, but we hope to open doors very soon afterwards.
- **What will the classroom composition and cohorts be like?** Pods will remain intact. We will add to pods with student from Cohorts B, C, and D.
- **There has been word that some families with COVID at home are sending their children to school. How is the district dealing with this?** It is very important that families keep their children at home when they have any symptoms.
- **Will there be lunch monitors for middle/high school to assist with spreading out for lunch?** If needed, yes.
- **Will there be expanded bus service for children now going to school 5 days a week?** Yes, the bus guidelines allow for 2 students per bench. We have plenty of space.

Dr. Hallett then shared plans to create and implement a strong, robust summer school program. Some details:

- The time will be extended by one hour from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.
- Music and art will be included.
- We are trying to have as much time outside without too much screen time.
- High school students in need of credit recovery will have the option to work in person with teachers who can guide them through online credit recovery courses.
- Teacher recommendations and MAP scores will determine who will be invited to summer school

Finally, Dr. Hallett shared plans for new athletic improvements with the Campus Wide Master Plan. These plans include new tennis courts and a varsity baseball field, a new track and two synthetic fields, among other improvements.