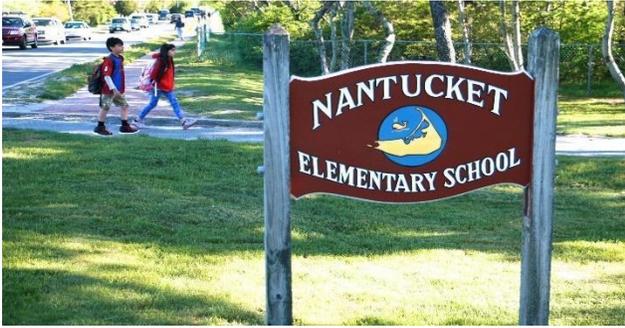


Nantucket Public Schools



2021 Spring Reopening Plan for Return to In-Person Learning **FINAL DRAFT**



Dr. Elizabeth Hallett– Superintendent of Schools

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Superintendent Message

March 31, 2021

Dear Nantucket School Community,

On March 5, 2021, the Massachusetts State Board of Education voted to allow Commissioner Jeffrey Riley the ability to determine when remote and hybrid learning models would no longer count towards structured learning time in Massachusetts schools. Soon afterwards, school districts across the state learned that the return to 100% in-person learning for Grades K-5 would be on Monday, April 5, 2021 and for Grades 6-8 on Wednesday, April 28, 2021. The return for in-person learning for Grades 9-12 remains to be determined sometime within the month of April, with a two-week notice of the start date.

Since the Commissioner's announcement on March 5, Nantucket Public Schools has been busy preparing for this phased-in return to full in-person learning. We are excited to have more students back in the classroom with their peers, but we understand that there are some students and families who are not ready to return in person and may opt for full remote learning instead. Please know that we are committed to uphold the highest standards for teaching and learning as well as strict health and safety standards for our students and staff, aligning to the newly released DESE and CDC guidelines. The physical, social and emotional well-being of our students and staff is of the utmost importance as we return to in-person learning.

The following document outlines the Nantucket Public Schools plan for reopening for full in-person learning. While many of our health and safety protocols as well as descriptions of instructional models remain the same, updates and modifications have been shared in this document to provide clarity and guidance as to any changes that may be in place.

Thank you to all of the individuals and groups, including the District Leadership Team, the NTA Joint Labor Management Council, NPS teachers and staff, our Facilities and Tech Departments, and any others who have assisted in the planning process. We are confident that we will be able to return to safe in-person instruction starting on April 5, and we look forward to finally having more students learning in our buildings

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Hallett, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Timeline for Changes from Hybrid to In-Person Learning

- March 5, 2021: Massachusetts Board of Education votes to provide Commissioner Jeff Riley the ability to determine when Hybrid and Remote Learning Models will not count towards Structured Learning Time.
- April 5, 2021: All Massachusetts students in Grades K-5 must return to in-person learning in their schools by this date, unless parents choose to keep their children at home in remote learning (Cohort D).
- April 28, 2021: All Massachusetts students in Grades 6-8 must return to in-person learning in their schools by this date, unless parents choose to keep their children at home for remote learning (Cohort D).
- By May 1, 2021: Commissioner Riley will announce the date in which all Massachusetts students in Grades 9-12 must return to in-person learning in their schools by this date, unless parents choose to keep their children at home in remote learning. **School districts will be given a 2-week notice as to the date for in-person instruction for high school students.*

District Schedule for In-Person Learning

- Beginning on April 5 for NES and NIS and April 28 for CPS (still TBD for NHS), all in-person students will attend:
 - Mondays: 7:50 am - 2:20 pm
 - Tuesdays: 7:50 am - 2:20 pm
 - Wednesdays: 7:50 am - 11:50 am (early release)
 - Thursdays: 7:50 am - 2:20 pm
 - Fridays: 7:50 am - 2:20 pm
- All Remote Learning students will follow this schedule as well unless otherwise noted by the school's principal.

Reopening Scenarios (As Of April 5, 2021)

Full In-Person Learning	Remote Learning (Cohort D)
<p>Definition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All students will return to in-person learning in the school building every day (Monday through Friday; Wednesday early release) ● Traditional in-person with safety measures in place 	<p>Definition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All students participate in remote learning every day (Monday through Friday; Wednesday early release) ● As public health conditions permit, some groups of students may attend school in-person
<p>Considerations for students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All students will wear face coverings throughout the day ● Students will maintain social distance of 3-6 feet at all times in the classrooms, with 6 feet during lunch, recess, arrival/dismissal, and hallway passing ● Students have the benefit of in-person instruction and assessment 	<p>Considerations for students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will maintain a consistent schedule for learning ● Students will attend all classes and meetings remotely as scheduled ● Students will submit work via internet only
<p>Considerations for staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff will build a welcoming, safe, and supportive community for students ● Staff will understand students' learning needs after different learning models have been in place (i.e. full remote and hybrid) ● Staff will align instructional materials to meet students' needs 	<p>Considerations for staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff will maintain relationships with students and families remotely ● Staff will maintain instructional coherence ● Staff will maintain an appropriate role for technology ● Staff will monitor and track students' participation ● Staff will be asked to work from school unless they have been granted district-approved accommodations

New: In-Person Learning Model

All students will attend class in person five days a week (with early release on Wednesdays) to participate in standards aligned teaching using high leverage pedagogical practices that engage learners in the content and support critical and analytical thinking. All students will be spaced with 3-6 feet distancing, depending on school and classroom. However, additional safety considerations are necessary for learning in the arts, including chorus, band, theater, dance, and visual arts, and in physical education ([Updated Guidance for Courses Requiring Additional Safety Considerations](#)).

NPS will continue to utilize Schoology as our Learning Management System as a platform for all students, whether fully remote or in-person. This will allow our remote-only students to access asynchronous and synchronous learning that aligns with the learning that our fully in-person students are experiencing. This will also allow our students who are home, because they or a family member has tested positive for COVID-19 or because they are quarantining due to possible exposure, to access learning that aligns with their in-person classmates. Furthermore, this will allow us to convert quickly to a remote teaching and learning model should the health metrics indicate the need to be fully remote.

School and Student Expectations for In-Person Learning

What the School Expects from Students with In-Person Learning

Required

- Students will physically come to their school for their learning.
- Students should attend all group/class meetings.
- Students will physically see and interact with their teacher(s) and classmates and follow a class/course schedule each day.
- Students and families must review wellness protocols to ensure students are well and symptom-free prior to coming to school on their in-person days.
- Students will be expected to complete and submit assignments as determined by the assigned teacher.
- Students will wear masks/face coverings during the day and will be provided mask breaks during the day.
- Students should bring their school-issued devices to school to access their curriculum and assignments via Schoology.
- Students will participate in any local or state assessments as scheduled.

Suggestions for Success

- Be ready to participate in the class and on independent work.

- Complete all assignments on or before appropriate due dates.
- Conduct yourself with integrity and honesty when completing assignments.
- Avoid multitasking during class.
- The Code of Student Conduct and traditional school expectations will be appropriately refined to reflect the new school model and will remain in effect for all students. All technology expectations remain in effect.

What Students Can Expect from the School with In-Person Learning

- Students will be provided with grade-level, standards-based instruction that aligns with the expectations outlined in the Massachusetts State Standards and Frameworks, including learning activities that encourage choice and engagement.
- Student course work will be evaluated using assessments which are aligned with the Massachusetts Standards and Frameworks. Students will be provided feedback in an effort to support continued growth and understanding whether work was completed in the remote or in person models.
- Teachers and instructional support staff differentiate and adjust instruction to meet the individual needs for student learning within the remote and in-person settings.
- Teachers will provide student make-up work, flexibility, and support if students are out of school for any reason.
- Students will be issued an electronic device and any associated materials such as books, art supplies, manipulatives, hands-on kits where possible.
- Classroom spaces will be arranged to maximize social distance between 3 and 6 feet and minimize any shared items. In addition, in-person collaborative activities may look different or be lessened to ensure the safety and well being of the school community.
- Large group gatherings will be eliminated.
- Lunch schedules will be modified to maximize social distancing and students will remain with learning cohort small groups to eat (could be in classroom or outside).
- Students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch will have access to that on both in-person and remote learning days.
- SPED and ESL services will be provided as outlined by state guidance and student specific plans.
- School counseling support services provided for students on campus or remotely as appropriate.

Remote Learning Model (Updated)

Remote learning may occur in three forms during the 2020-21 academic year: Cohort D (students opting for full remote learning), classroom or pod quarantine remote learning (due to full quarantine of a classroom or pod), and full district remote learning (due to COVID-19 metrics in the community or orders from the Governor of Massachusetts). Regardless of the model under which the district at large is operating, parents have the ability to opt their students into Cohort D. In the sections that follow, we will discuss Cohort D as well as what happens if a classroom or pod must be quarantined or if the district moves into full remote learning.

Cohort D

This remote learning cohort will be full-time due to choice, personal risk factors, or family risk factors associated with COVID-19. Students in Cohort D will learn remotely (100%) through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous lessons for their classes. These students will not attend any face-to-face sessions; however, it is possible that Cohort D students may be asked to attend standardized testing in person (i.e. MCAS). Cohort D schedule will mirror the in-person schedule except that all learning will be remote and synchronous times will be offered every day.

Classroom or Pod Quarantine Remote Learning

Based on the number of COVID cases and close contacts in one classroom, it may be necessary to have a whole class or pod quarantine for the appropriate number of days. During this time, classes will be held remotely. All students in the class or pod will have access to their classroom teacher(s), class playlists/daily lesson plans, and any materials needed for this period of quarantine.

Full District Remote Learning

In the event that our community surpasses the threshold for allowable COVID-19 cases, the entire district may move to remote learning. Students will maintain their same teachers; however, in-person attendance will not be an option. The schedules, should the district go to full remote learning, will be the same as the regular daily schedule.

School and Student Expectations for Remote Learning

What the School Expects from Students with Remote Learning (Cohort D)

Required

- When working remotely, students will engage in synchronous and asynchronous learning activities that are aligned with the Massachusetts State Standards and encourage choice and engagement.
- Students will use their school-issued devices to access their curriculum and assignments via Schoology. Live interaction may occur via Zoom or Google Meet, but links will be provided in Schoology.
- Students should adhere to daily attendance guidelines, log in, and attend class during the designated times.
- Students should be dressed appropriately for school.
- Student's workspace should be set up in a school-appropriate location in their house, such as a desk or table.
- Camera should be facing the student. Students should not walk around with their cameras on.
- Microphone should be muted but available when needed to ask or answer questions.
- Students should respond within 24 hours to faculty emails.
- Students will participate in any local or state assessments as scheduled.

Suggestions for Success

- Students should develop a daily schedule, including classes and breaks.
- Students should participate in remote classes as they would in person.
- Students should be aware of their surroundings in terms of their laptop cameras.
- Students should be ready to participate in the class and on independent work.
- Students should check email daily and email teachers whenever they have questions or concerns about assignments. They should utilize teacher office hours to seek clarity or questions.
- Students should complete all assignments on or before appropriate due dates.
- Students should conduct themselves with integrity and honesty when completing assignments.
- Students should avoid multitasking during class.
- The Code of Student Conduct and all technology expectations remain in effect.

What Students Can Expect from the School with Remote Learning

- When working remotely, students will be provided with synchronous and asynchronous learning activities that are aligned with the Massachusetts State Standards and encourage choice and engagement.
- Student course work will be evaluated using assessments which are aligned with the Massachusetts Standards and Frameworks. Students will be provided feedback in an effort to support continued growth and understanding whether work was completed in the remote or in person models.
- Teachers and instructional support staff differentiate and adjust instruction to meet the individual needs for student learning within the remote and in-person settings.
- Students will be assigned a liaison to help facilitate remote learning, and this person will check-in regularly.
- Students will be graded and given feedback on assignments in alignment with the expectations outlined in the Massachusetts State Standards and Frameworks. In addition, students will receive feedback regarding their engagement in remote learning activities.
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- Students will be issued an electronic device and any associated materials such as books, art supplies, manipulatives, hands-on kits where possible.
- Students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch will have access to that on both in-person and remote learning days.
- SPED and ESL services will be provided as outlined by state guidance and student specific plans.
- School counseling support services will be provided for students on campus or remotely as appropriate.

Operations (Updated)

Response to COVID-19 Scenarios

NPS adheres to all health and safety requirements required by DESE, yet we acknowledge that despite our best efforts, COVID-19 exposure and transmission in school and on buses will still exist. We have provided a summary below and encourage all members of the NPS community to review the updated DESE guidelines [here](#).

- Keeping our schools safe starts at the home of each and every NPS student and staff member. Parents/caregivers: please use the [NPS COVID Daily Health Screening Tool](#) to determine whether or not your child can come to school. Staff are expected to complete the NPS Self-Attestation Form daily, as well.
- If a student or staff member is experiencing any of the symptoms of COVID-19 below, they MUST stay home. Fever (100.4° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
 - Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
 - Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Headache when in combination with other symptoms
 - Muscle aches or body aches
 - Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
 - Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
 - Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) when in combination with other symptoms
- While specific protocols vary, there are some common elements for each possible COVID-19 scenario that individuals should adhere to:
 - Evaluate symptoms
 - Separate from others
 - Clean and disinfect areas visited by the person
 - Test for COVID-19 and stay at home while awaiting results
 - If test is positive:
 - Remain at home at least 10 days and until at least 3 days have passed with no fever and improvement in other symptoms
 - Monitor symptoms
 - Notify the school and personal close contacts
 - Answer the call from local board of health or Nantucket Cottage Hospital to help identify close contacts to help them prevent transmission
 - Secure release from contact tracers (local board of health or Nantucket Cottage Hospital) for return to school

Risk Reduction Strategies

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important factors in staying healthy and preventing the transmission of communicable diseases to others. All staff and students will be expected to:

- Wash or sanitize hands immediately before: leaving home, leaving the classroom or cluster (where sinks are available), eating, touching shared objects, touching one's face, and leaving school
- Wash or sanitize hands immediately after: arriving at school, entering classroom, finishing lunch, touching shared objects, using the bathroom, sneezing or coughing, blowing one's nose, and arriving at home

Touchless hand sanitizer stations will be provided at the entrances of all schools. There are touchless hand sanitizing stands and touchless hand sanitizing stations located throughout each school and there is a bottle of hand sanitizer available for each classroom teacher desk and each office desk. Adults should always supervise the use of hand sanitizer by children.

All students and staff must engage in frequent handwashing or hand sanitizing upon arrival, before and after meals, after bathroom use, after coughing or sneezing and before dismissal. All sinks have running water with soap dispensers available at each. The custodians will ensure each dispenser is fully stocked each day.

School Cleaning and Disinfecting

NPS follows strict protocols and routines to ensure that our facilities and surfaces are regularly cleaned and disinfected in accordance with industry standard COVID-19 cleaning procedures. The cleaning is done by the Facilities Department in all four schools. Our cleaning protocols meet and exceed the CDC guidelines for the cleaning of schools. To review school cleaning and disinfecting protocols that have been in place since the fall, please see our [2020-21 NPS Reopening Plan](#) for details.

Air Quality

NPS continues to follow DESE and CDC guidance and recommendations related to heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. For more information about NPS HVAC systems, evaluation, and maintenance, please click on [this link](#). For safe, sustained operation throughout this pandemic, NPS remains committed to the following:

- Execute HVAC preventative maintenance plans.
- Maintain and review with regularity all preventative maintenance and inspection records to ensure and confirm that duty of care has been provided.
- Replace air filters regularly to reduce COVID-19 transmission potential.
- In buildings with windows that open, we will open windows for regular air flow during the day (with the exception of NIS, which has advanced air flow systems that are superior to open windows).

Our HVAC systems are an integral systems component in our safety planning aimed to reduce potential COVID-19 airborne transmission as part of our broad-based infection control strategy.

Classroom Configuration

Physical distancing requirements are now acceptable for students to be between 3 feet and 6 feet of distance in a classroom. Desks and/or tables will face the same direction when possible and be arranged in rows. Children will be seated 3 to 6 feet apart from edge of seat to edge of seat in each direction. The front of the classroom will still have at least 6 feet of teacher space.

Food Services

Most in-person students will continue to participate in an in-class meal service. However, there will be some students who will be assigned to eat in a different space (i.e. grade-level cluster, cafeteria, available outside spaces, etc.). Wherever students are assigned to eat, they will eat spaced at least six feet apart. This allows for adequate social distancing so that they can remove masks safely to eat.

Transportation

On February 11, 2021, DESE released [new guidance](#) on bus transportation. The following changes have been implemented:

- Two students per bench for middle school and high school students and three students per bench for elementary and intermediate school students. A large bus will hold approximately 50 students at a time, 72 percent of full capacity. Our small buses will hold between 12 and 14 students at a time.
- Windows on buses will be always kept open at least 2 inches at all times to circulate fresh air.

Arrival, Dismissal, Hallway Transitions

Arrival and dismissal at each building will continue to maximize safety and efficiency when entering and exiting the building. To limit COVID-19 exposure and promote social distancing, students will move in cohorts where possible throughout the day, utilizing controlled movement patterns based on signage throughout campus. Travel paths, transition times, and traffic flows that reduce the number of adults and students in any one place during these normally busy times have been in place since the beginning of the school year.

Visitors

DESE and public health guidance encourages schools to strictly limit visitors in and out of the buildings throughout the day to avoid the chance of additional contacts and contamination. Each building team has created a visitor protocol.

NPS Health and Safety Protocols (Updated)

We have recently updated our [NPS Health and Safety Protocols](#) document to reflect recent changes from DESE and the CDC. While most of the protocols in this document have not changed, we have made adjustments to include new physical distancing information, protocols around eating lunch, and other new shifts. Within the document, you will also find updated health and safety protocols pertaining to each individual school.

Teaching And Learning (Updated)

Educational Technology

NPS is currently 1:1 from grades K-12, meaning that all students have been issued a device for use throughout the school day and at home. Kindergarten and 1st grade students have been provided with iPads and grades 2-11 will be provided with Chromebooks. All devices are labeled with the assigned student's name and ID and assigned within our device management system. Devices may travel between home and school daily.

All school owned devices are filtered by our Cisco Content Filtering software in school, either Go Guardian, Managed Methods (laptops and Chromebooks only), or Mosyle, even outside of school. These content filters are compliant with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) as required by law and are regularly updated to prohibit access to inappropriate material.

All school owned devices are managed by NPS's Technology Team and have been deployed with wireless network settings already in place to ensure that they will seamlessly connect when students enter school buildings. We will continue to provide families directions to help with connecting Chromebooks to home networks. Additional assistance and resources will continue to be provided for families who do not have internet access at home.

Teachers in all schools have been provided with new Dell laptops. These laptops will use a docking station while at school and can easily be unplugged from the dock for remote learning.

Document cameras are available if needed. PD will be provided on best practices in the use of Google Classroom, GoGuardian Teacher and other apps and equipment.

Curriculum

NPS utilizes the same curriculum as in the prior year in all subject areas for the 2020-21 school year in all grades Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12. NPS continues to provide grade-level, standards-based instruction that aligns with the expectations outlined in the Massachusetts State Standards and Frameworks. Student course work is evaluated using assessments which are aligned with the Massachusetts Standards and Frameworks. Students are provided feedback in an effort to support continued growth and understanding whether work was completed in the remote or in-person models.

Community Programs

The goal of additional childcare programming is to provide parents an option for keeping their child at the school in a structured, supervised environment after school hours. Nantucket Public Schools is partnering with Nantucket Community School to offer Extended Day after school care for students in K-2 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons.

Special Student Populations (Updated)

We believe, in alignment with state guidance and directives, that providing an equitable education for all students means prioritizing in-person learning for our most vulnerable students. Nantucket Public Schools will continue to ensure students with disabilities, English Learners (ELs), and at-risk students have as much access to in-person learning as possible. The NPS Special Services and English Learner Departments expect a seamless continuation of services and support for the students they serve regardless of learning model.

Students with Disabilities

NPS encourages families of students with disabilities to choose in-person instruction. If families do not choose in-person instruction, students with disabilities will “receive special education instruction and related services necessary to provide FAPE through an Instruction and Services model of delivery.” This includes structured lessons, teletherapy, video-based lessons, etc. all documented in remote learning plans.

There will be situations when there is a need for staff and students to be closer than the minimum physical distancing requirements when delivering instruction and services. Our NPS

staff who provide direct physical support to students with disabilities have received training on the use of the additional protective supplies they need.

IEPs/Evaluations and IEP/504 Team Meetings

- Annual, initial and re-evaluation meetings that were delayed will be held to review the students' IEPs.
- Initial and re-evaluation testing that was delayed will be scheduled.
- Timelines for current IEPs and evaluations will be maintained.
- In-person evaluations will continue as long as health and safety requirements allow.
- Families will continue to be given the option of holding an IEP or 504 meeting in person or a hybrid meeting (some members in person, others remote). All meetings will be held remotely if a school/district moves to a full remote learning model.
- Since October 2020, all IEPs developed as a result of annual review and three-year re-evaluation team meetings have included a statement regarding compensatory services as a result of the district's transition to hybrid instruction from March 2020 to June 2020 and December 2020. Each team has discussed a student's eligibility for compensatory services by reviewing an eligibility flowchart. The Director of Special Services will issue compensatory service agreements and secure providers for all individual students to families.

English Learner Education

Nantucket Public Schools' English Learners will continue to have access to quality and rigorous English language development through Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) consisting of Sheltered Content Instruction (SCI) and English As A Second Language (ESL) classes in both full in-person or full remote settings. However, NPS encourages families of students who have been most impacted by the period of school building closure, including English Learners, to choose in-person learning instead of full remote learning (Cohort D).

English Learner Identification

The English Learner Department continues to follow the [DESE Guidance on Identification, Assessment, Placement and Reclassification for English Learners](#) and has adapted practices to account for current safety protocols. NPS will administer the Home Language Survey (HLS) to all new students upon enrollment. Every newly enrolled student whose HLS indicates that a language other than English is spoken at home must be screened for English language proficiency. The NPS will use the WIDA screener, with safety protocols in place. Upon completion of the screening, students who are identified as English Learners will be placed in the appropriate ESL classes according to ELD proficiency level. Families will be notified of placement in a timely manner.

Communication and Family Engagement

Federal law requires that schools must communicate information about any program, service, or activity that is called to the attention of multilingual parents in a language they can understand. We will continue to provide opportunities to hear the voices of our EL parent community (e.g., via ELPAC, ZOOM bilingual family meetings), as they are important partners in the decision-making process, and facilitate culturally-responsive learning opportunities for parents who would like to support their students' learning.

We will continue to use bilingual support specialists and translations of written materials to reach all parents/families. All written and oral communication between the district's personnel and parents of current or former English language learners will be in the parents' primary language. Three bilingual specialists provide interpretation and translation services in Spanish, and the district contracts with an outside agency for translations and interpreting of languages other than Spanish. The bilingual support specialists also provide interpretation for students and families to assist in access to educational platforms. The Technology Department also provides bilingual support in Spanish.

Mental Health Services And Supports/SEL (Updated)

Student Services staff and administration continue to develop resources and supports for students, families, and staff to ensure the transition back to school accounts for psychological well being and develop and deliver professional development to support all staff in creating a safe and supportive school and community for all students. In an effort to assess the individual social emotional competencies of students, the district has implemented the use of the DESSA Screener for Social and Emotional Well-Being to all students in grades 1-8. Data gathered from this screener has allowed staff to identify and implement targeted interventions for students in need. In preparation for the return of students to in-person learning, all staff will be prepared to provide universal, preventative supports aimed at fostering social emotional competence and developing skills to manage stress, seek help effectively, and navigate one's social environment; specialized staff will have the resources and systems in place to provide group and individual mental health services, regardless of the learning context adopted by the district.

Systems and practices designed to create a safe and supportive learning environment remain a priority for all staff, and this work will continue to be supported through the provision of resources and professional development. Additionally, this continued professional development assists in the identification of students and families who may require support services and a greater awareness of how to refer students and families to appropriate staff. Lastly, staff will continue to gain a greater understanding of the support available to them, including how to

seek consultation to effectively navigate crises and manage their own stress in order to be most effective in supporting the growth of students.

NPS Interscholastic Athletics (Updated)

NPS Athletics Philosophy

The philosophy as drafted in our NPS Student-Athlete Handbook states: “Nantucket Public School considers participation in athletics to be an integral part of the overall educational experience. Athletics provides opportunities for physical, mental, emotional, and social development for all participating student-athletes. The competition of athletics is viewed as a valuable experience because it challenges each student-athlete to strive for excellence, helps each student-athlete discover their physical limits, and requires each student-athlete to work cooperatively as a member of a team. While winning is a natural goal in the pursuit of excellence, the principles of good sportsmanship and enjoyment of competition take precedence at all times and enhance the educational value of all contests”.

With the above philosophy as our core value, the NPS athletic department successfully structured and ran a full intramural program for the 2020 Fall sports season and resumed a schedule of interscholastic play for the 2020-2021 winter season of play. Through the first 7 months of the school year we have worked to provide athletic opportunities in a healthy and safe environment for the benefit of all participants. The ability to see our NPS student-athletes enjoy and benefit from the rigors of interscholastic practice and competition through this very challenging time has been uplifting for so many.

2020 - 2021 Fall II Season of Play and Spring Season of Play

With the experience gained from managing a full season of interscholastic play for the 2020-2021 winter season, we now move forward into the newly established Fall II season of play and the 2021 Spring season of play with the highest level of confidence for success. For these two (2) remaining seasons of interscholastic play we feel that the guidelines and protocols that we have successfully operated under will continue to allow our student-athletes to enjoy and benefit from athletic participation in a safe and healthy manner.

You can access the opening plan for NPS 2020 Fall Interscholastic Athletics by clicking the link: [NPS Athletics - 2020 Fall Interscholastic Athletics Opening Plan / Guidelines](#)

The organizations listed below have been/will be used as the foundation of our decision making process with regards to the formulating of this plan:

- State of MA: [COVID-19 Information and Resources - Student and Family Support \(SFS\)](#)
- State Athletic Association / MIAA: [MIAA COVID-19 Task Force Page](#)
- National High School Association /NFHS: [NFHS.org](#)

NEW: Massachusetts Travel Advisory

As of March 22, 2021, Governor Baker has changed the Massachusetts Travel Order to a [Massachusetts Travel Advisory](#). Although this new advisory loosens restrictions around COVID testing requirements for those who travel outside of Massachusetts, it is still strongly recommended that families follow testing and quarantine guidelines if traveling out of state. Nantucket Public Schools endorses strict testing and quarantine protocols in order to preserve the ability to continue educating our students safely in person in our school buildings. We must be more vigilant than ever to be sure that children and their families who have traveled are coming to school healthy; therefore, we strongly advise you to get tested or quarantine after traveling outside of Massachusetts so that we do not have to shut schools or classrooms down due to COVID-19 cases resulting from travel.

Appendix A: DESE Reopening Guidelines (as of March 2021)

- **June 25, 2020:** [Initial School Reopening Guidance](#). This guide set forth the initial set of health and safety requirements for districts. It is available at the link above in English, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
- **July 9, 2020:** [Comprehensive Special Education Guidance for the 2020-21 School Year](#). This guide set forth the requirements for educating students with disabilities during the pandemic.
- **July 22, 2020:** [Fall Reopening Facilities and Operations Guidance](#). This guide describes the required protocols related to cleaning, facilities management, and food service.
- **July 24, 2020:** [Remote Learning Guidance for Fall 2020](#). This guide describes requirements for remote learning in the fall, which are very different from those established during the period of school building closures in the spring.
- **August 3, 2020:** [Supplemental Information for Science Courses and Laboratory Work for Fall 2020](#). This guide provides recommendations for science and laboratory work in both in-person and remote settings.
- **December 16, 2020:** [Revised Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in School, on the Bus, or in Community Settings](#). This revised guide describes what schools will do in response to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19.
- **February 1, 2021:** [Revised Career/Vocational Technical Education Reopening Guidelines](#). This guide provides revised guidance to support the safe reopening of vocational technical schools and comprehensive schools offering vocational technical programs.
- **February 11, 2021:** [Updated School Year 2020-21 Reopening Transportation Guidance](#). This guide describes the updated health and safety protocols that must be followed on school buses and urges families to utilize alternative forms of transportation to and from school.
- **February 23, 2021:** [Initial Information on Expanding In-Person Learning This Spring](#).
- **March 1, 2021:** [Updated Guidance for Courses Requiring Additional Safety Considerations](#). This guide describes updated safety considerations necessary for offering learning in the arts, including chorus, band, theater, dance, and visual arts, and in physical education.
- **March 9, 2021:** [Guidance on In-Person Learning Requirements](#). This document provides further information to districts about the new requirements and guidance for effective implementation, and is organized into the following sections: Background and rationale, Supports and resources for schools and districts, Timeline for phased implementation, Detailed requirements, Implementation planning, Waiver process, Looking ahead.