

**NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS' EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS AND FAMILIES FOR
APPROPRIATE VIRTUAL TECHNOLOGY USE**

During the COVID-19 health crisis, NPS is dedicated to providing engaging and effective distance learning opportunities for our students.

As part of the distance learning model, NPS will offer educational opportunities via a virtual platform such as Google or Zoom. Many of these platforms have the capability to capture video and sound within range of your child's computer camera and/or microphone. Prior to engaging in virtual learning, NPS wishes to clarify expectations around appropriate use of virtual technology for educational purposes as follows:

- 1) NPS strictly prohibits screenshots, pictures, audio/video recording and distribution of any virtual educational experience in order to protect student privacy, proactively prevent potential cyberbullying, prevent the distribution of copyrighted materials and comply with Massachusetts law.* (Please note that in Massachusetts, it is illegal to record another person through any medium without his/her knowledge.)
- 2) Students, and where appropriate parents/guardians, agree to engage in virtual educational experiences in a quiet, private area to the extent practicable given the circumstances, in order to minimize background noise and distractions and to protect the integrity of student engagement as well as student confidentiality.
- 3) Students and parents/guardians agree not to share any link or password provided by the district to access online virtual meetings or other online platforms. Links and passwords should be kept confidential.
- 4) Parents/guardians and other household members who normally are not privy to day-to-day classroom and group service discussions agree to respect and keep confidential any personal or private information (e.g. disability status) inadvertently discovered about other students due to proximity of distance education.
- 5) To protect student privacy, NPS will not record live virtual learning sessions. If a student is unable to participate in a scheduled session, the student or parent/guardian should alert the teacher/provider to make alternate arrangements if needed.

As a reminder, the [District's Acceptable Use Policy](#) applies to virtual learning, including school-issued devices, networks, and online educational tools. For more information on school policies and procedures, please see: <https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/2902>.

For all additional questions, concerns, or inquiries, please contact your child's principal.

By participating in/allowing my child to participate in NPS' online/remote learning activities, I understand and agree to abide by the above requirements. By participating in/allowing my child

to participate in NPS' online/remote learning activities, I further understand and agree that my/my child's image and voice will be transmitted over the internet, into the homes of other students and staff, and that NPS, while taking measures to secure transmission, cannot guarantee or warrant complete confidentiality of my/my child's voice or image while participating in online learning.

*If there is a documented disability-based need for a student to record video/audio, consistent with the student's IEP or 504 plan, please contact the school principal and/or special education administrator to review this need. Under no circumstances should recording take place without the approval of the district.