

Family Information

Brown Middle School
Fall 2020

Webinar
September 8, 2020, 4PM

Expectations for Fall 2020

- Guiding Principles
- Safety
- Schedule
- Technology & Educational Platforms
- Attendance
 - Zoom classes - synchronous learning
 - Google calendar
- SEL supports
- Communication vehicles
 - Academic information
 - Covid related information
 - Technology supports
- Supplies
- Athletics and Extra curricular activities
- Feedback & Grades

Guiding Principles for NPS



Safety

Safety

Masks, Hygiene & Physical Distance

Masks:

- Cover the nose and mouth;
- Fit securely and comfortably against the side of the face;
- Be secured with ties or ear loops;
- Allow for breathing without restriction;
- Be able to be laundered without damage or change of shape;
- Be made of at least two layers of material;
- Face coverings may not have an exhalation valve or vent
- Mask breaks will be provided regularly for students in a safe place (generally outdoors)

Hygiene:

- Hand sanitizer in every classroom, office, and entrance
- Frequent handwashing

Safety continued



DAILY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

To mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission in our community, please complete the following health assessment before arriving at the school building each day.

If you or your student is experiencing any of the following, please stay home and contact your health provider.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fever greater than 100, chills, shaking chills | <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New or worsening cough (not chronic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle or body aches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing | <input type="checkbox"/> Headache* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat not related to allergies | <input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New loss of taste/smell | <input type="checkbox"/> Nasal congestion or runny nose* |

**When in combination with other symptoms*

Contact your student's school
to report absences.



Physical Distance

- All student and teacher desks are 6 feet apart
- Hallways - students will walk on one side of the hallway at a distance with adult supervision
- Close contacts are considered being within 6 feet of someone with Covid-19 for 10 minutes or more
- Lockers will not be used.

Daily self-check

- Staff and students must complete a daily health assessment

Safety continued

Visitors

- No visitors in the building
- Meetings with parents will be held on zoom
- Drop off of items for students during the school day will be at the front doors

Large gatherings

- Assemblies, concerts and other large events will not happen in person

Cleaning protocols

- Custodial staff has increased cleaning protocols
- PPE supplies and cleaners on site
- Wipes to clean surfaces available in all classrooms

What happens if a someone develops symptoms at school?

- School nurse is notified
- Wear a mask at all times
- Maintain 6 feet of physical distance from others
 - Students:
 - Go to the medical waiting area
 - Wait to be picked up immediately
 - Do not ride the bus
 - Staff
 - Notify building supervisor
 - Go home as soon as possible
 - Custodians fully clean and disinfect area



What happens if a someone develops symptoms on the bus?

- Bus driver notifies the school
 - Student:
 - Exits the bus first
 - Goes directly to the medical waiting area
 - Gets picked up immediately
- Bus is cleaned and disinfected
- Everyone must wear a mask and maintain 6 ft of distance at all times on the bus
- Recommendation:
- To learn more about scenarios and protocols, please click this link and refer to [HHS Covid-19 Scenarios presentation](#)



When will I be notified about a positive COVID-19 case?

The school nurses work in conjunction with City Hall-based Health and Human Services staff to monitor potential COVID-19 cases as well as any confirmed positive cases. Recognizing the requirement of maintaining medical confidentiality, you will be notified if your child is close contact of a case.

Additionally, if there is a positive case, a general notification will be shared with the building-based school community. No names or identifying information will be provided, per legal requirements.

Notifications only occur when there is a verified positive COVID-19 case

For more information click this link:

- [Health Guidelines and FAQ's for Families](#)
- [NPS FAQ's for families](#)

Schedule

Start of School

Remote learning:

- **Begins on September 16**
- Small cohort of “high needs” students who will be in the building

Move to Hybrid model

- **Scheduled for November 16**
- NPS and HHS will be assessing Covid conditions in the community throughout the fall

- Students will attend their classes on zoom
- Remote learning: School day runs from 8:30 -3:05

When we move to hybrid:

- All students (distance and hybrid) will remain connected to their team
- Distance students will have classes with their teammates
- Distance and hybrid will receive the same curriculum and instruction

Dates for information release

Wednesday, 9/9

- ⇒ Cohorts shared system-wide (available on Aspen)
- ⇒ Specific plans for “high needs” students shared

Friday 9/11

- ⇒ Team and Homebase shared (available on Aspen)
- ⇒ Case managers for students on IEP will begin contacting families

Distance Schedule

This is a sample 6th grade schedule - Individual student schedules will look different

- School Day 8:30 - 3:05
- Advisory 4 mornings per week
- Extra curriculars from 3:15 - 4:00 start beginning of October
- All classes are on Zoom
- Extension used for checking-in, extra support.
- Flex time for creative activities/support.
- Homework only for long term projects or studying

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 -8:50	Advisory (20 mins)	Advisory (20 mins)	Advisory (20 mins)	E/ExtX (25 mins)	Advisory (20 mins)
8:55 - 10:00	A1 Music (65 min)	F Science	E/Extension 2 (65 mins)	D ELA	C Math
10:05 - 11:10	B Chinese	G Soc St	A1 Music B Chinese	F Science	D ELA
11:15 - 12:20	C Math	A2 PE	C Math D ELA	G Soc St	Chorus 6 (65 mins)
12:20- 12:50	Lunch (30 min)	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:50 -1:55	D ELA	B Chinese	F Science G Soc St	A2 PE	F Science
2:00 - 3:05	E/Extension 1 (65 mins)	C Math	Flex Time	B Chinese	G Soc St
3:15 - 4:00	Extra-Curriculars (45 mins)	Extra-Curriculars (45 mins)		Extra-Curriculars (45 mins)	Extra-Curriculars (45 mins)

Hybrid Schedule

Detailed information regarding this will be shared later in another parent webinar later in October.

Cohort	In-person days
Cohort A	In school Mon. & Tues mornings
Cohort B	In school Thurs. & Fri. mornings
Cohort C	In school with the a cohort for in person AND in school for additional times.

- In-person classes will have around 12 students at the most at a time.
- Students will be seated 6 feet apart from each other all facing forward.

Chromebooks

All Newton middle school students will be supplied with a Chromebook.

NPS's order of chromebooks for everyone is on track for mid September.

Families that received a Chromebook last spring will keep them for the coming school year.

Survey was sent out by NPS to determine families with immediate need of Chromebooks.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdjlRmCBSnG2FAvqJDBqpCDorfEi2MdkI4u5J_1RLJDa92MtQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

The district will be in touch with those that completed the survey regarding distribution.

Educational Platforms: Schoology, Google and Zoom

Schoology

- Materials & coursework
- Assignments and due dates
- Resources
- Feedback/Grades

Google

- Communication (Gmail)
- Student work for assignments (Google docs)
- Organization - (Google calendar events with zoom links)

Zoom

- Virtual class meetings

Note: Students must be logged into their NPS google account to access zoom classes

Schoology

- Schoology is the digital home for each class containing all course materials, assignments, resources, and grades.
- Courses will have a similar layout throughout all classes. Folders for course materials will be organized in folders by date for ease of use.
- Course updates will communicate information specific to course content and assignments. Updates are sent to students' gmail accounts.
- Gradebook comments and google docs will provide students with feedback on progress.
- Students must share their password to Schoology with parent/guardian.

Gmail, Google Calendar, & Google Docs

- **Gmail**

- Main communication tool with families and students
- Students check GMail daily
- App can easily be added to smartphones

- **Google Calendars**

- Contains schedule of weekly zoom links for each class

- **Google Doc**

- Linked to schoology assignments
- Students complete assignments here
- Teachers give students feedback here and on schoology

Technology support for families

For technology support/assistance click [here](#).

For direct support email: familytechsupport@newton.k12.ma.us

Attendance Expectations and Policy

- Students are expected to attend all scheduled live Zoom classes for the entire time, as they would be expected to attend school.
- Teachers will take attendance for each class.
- [Behavioral expectations](#) will be explicitly taught regarding zoom classes.
- Families are responsible for:
 - Notifying the Main Office of excused absences by 8:00AM
 - Checking attendance report in Aspen at designated intervals (such as progress reports)
 - Setting up a quiet space for students to attend virtual classes
 - Making sure computers charge each night (especially when in hybrid model)
 - [Setting up my School Zone area at home](#)

Communication School to Home

Purpose	Tool
Emergencies/COVID announcements/Special updates	School Messenger - via email
Updates and sharing of expectations	Zoom webinars, Main NPS Site
Academic assignments	Schoology & Gmail
Attendance	Aspen
Checking in on students in need of support	Gmail, phone

Communication Home to School

Purpose	Who and How?
Absences	Absence phone line: 617-559-6980
Academic questions	Teacher and student Gmail (can be accessed on Brown website) Schoology
Social-emotional support	Counselors and advisors email
Technology support and tutorials	NPS and School websites Family Tutorials and Links

Supplies and Materials

- A Brown Supplies list will be shared with families later this week and posted on [Brown's website](#).
- Families will not be required to print materials as most will be online.
- Paper materials will be provided for certain classes.

Optional Student Meet and Greet

You will receive
notification of
when your
assigned day is
based on
homebase.

Mon. Sept. 14 or

Tues. Sept. 15

(Date determined by homebase.)

- 6th grade 9:00-10:00
- 7th grade 11:00-12:00
- 8th grade 1:00-2:00

SEL supports

- First days focused on connections
- Advisory 4 mornings per week.
 - Students remain with same advisory for 3 years.
 - Advisories will remain remote regardless of distance or hybrid so all students will be able to participate.
 - Advisors will be reaching out to connect with families in the coming days to welcome you to Brown
- Practicing mindfulness in advisory and classes
- Counselors as a resource
- Behaviors explicitly taught and reinforced with positive language
- Growth Mindset

First day

Wednesday Sept. 16

8:30 AM - Homebase on Zoom

Homebase teacher will send meeting link to students and to parents - watch for emails

- Getting to know you activities.
- Orientation to how to find your classes by using Gmail to receive invitations
- Google calendar
- Orientation to the school year

- Homebase teachers will help students navigate these first days

Curriculum

- City-wide curriculum coordinators have been planning with teachers in their disciplines regarding the fall during the 10 days of professional development
- Identification of “power standards”
- Planning for baseline assessments to inform instruction
- Information regarding curriculum will come from the teachers in the coming weeks

Assessments and Grading

Grades are a reflection of...

- Participation (Zoom rubric)
- Student habits
- Assessments
- Graded Work
- Reflection (such as self-assessment, goal setting, etc)

The goal is that students focus on the learning, not their score.

Grading Expectations

- Work will have deadlines
 - Teachers will provide sufficient time for students to complete, get support and get feedback on that assignment
- “Missing” indicator Identifies what work hasn’t been completed (only after deadline)
- “Excused” indicator is used for accommodated work loads (or at teacher discretion)

Grading Expectations and Policies

- Teachers will keep track of their progress in the Schoology Gradebook
- Many assignments will show students either exceed, meet or are approaching expectations
- Term grades:
 - Students will be graded according to this scale: A, B, P, NG

Extra-curriculars

- Beginning week of October 5
- Distance opportunities such as:
 - Cooking at home club, knitting club, PRIDE club, etc.
- Intramurals to be offered outside some afternoons
- Sports - no official competitive sports teams

Bear Beliefs - Keeping them central



Be Here



Be Safe & Kind



Set Goals



Be Honest



Let Go & Move On

Q & A