

NWCS in a Time of COVID 19

Back to School 2020 - 2021 Protocol

NWCS staff members have formulated a new set of strategies to keep staff, students, and by extension, their families relatively safe.

- The school will purchase face shields for all staff and students. Face shields will remain at the school.
- The school bus will continue to transport students to and from school. However, to keep in accordance with the two-meter social distancing rules, students will be organized by family groupings and will always have one extra staff member to help maintain these rules. A personal cloth mask will be provided to each student; they will be responsible for bringing it each day and for washing it at home (disposable masks will be available for those who forget). Notes will be home sent informing guardians of these expectations.
- Everyone who enters the school will be required to sanitize their hands. Staff will model this and will monitor to ensure proper sanitation.
- Students will be taught and consistently reminded of rules pertaining to social distancing (both in the classroom and when moving through the hallways), hand washing, and proper sneezing and coughing etiquette.
- NWCS provides breakfast, snack and lunch to its staff and students each day. This practice will continue with altered plans for each meal. In all cases, students will be seated over two meters away from one another at separate desks and surfaces will be wiped down after they have been used. Students will remain in their classrooms and their meals will be brought to them by the Educational Assistants. Special portioned plates will be purchased for each child.
- Free time and PE will be held outside with ample adult supervision, weather permitting. This will have to be adjusted if these protocols go on into the fall and the weather gets less hospitable.

- PE will be taught with social distancing in mind and equipment will be wiped down after use.
- Morning assemblies will continue to be held each day but with extra spacing in the seating arrangements. K-2 Students will have designated seats on the bleachers while the 3-5 class and 6-9 class will be seated in chairs. The janitor will wipe down and stack these chairs upon her arrival at 10:00am.
- Seating will also be spaced out in the classrooms and each student will have a designated desk and seat. Books, toys and basic learning utensils will also be given to each student to minimize the sharing of germs; these items can be stored in desks and individual storage containers (bins for the K-2 class, boxes for the 3-5 and 6-9 classes).
- Staff will organize staffroom storage area and put extra hooks in classrooms to ensure spacing between their own personal items.
- The current Buddy Reading program will be suspended to minimize the mixing of students from different classrooms and an alternative reading program will be offered. Students will read books from their own classes and do group, out loud or individual reading, based on teachers' discretion. Book selection will be limited and once touched, books will be left in a "cool down" bin for a minimum of five hours.
- Phones, computers, and copiers will be wiped down after each use.
- The school's janitor will wipe down surfaces that are regularly touched throughout the day.
- The toothbrushing program will continue but with an altered approach. Each student will be provided with a case containing their own individual toothbrush, tooth paste and floss.
- The school has purchased a digital thermometer. At this point, it will not be required but, should it become a requirement for entering the school, explanations and waivers will be sent home to all guardians.

