

Dear Newcastle Families,

We miss our Knights! We are busily preparing for school in a time when public safety with COVID 19 is constantly shifting. On July 17, 2020, our governor released updated guidance related to the re-opening of schools. The guidance can be accessed [here](#).

Additionally, the guidance addresses safety procedures such as social distancing, face coverings, and among other things, hygiene practices.

We are anxious to get more information to families and we are working hard to do so. While there are a great many questions, this letter is intended to provide some answers to basic questions based on current information as of July 24th, 2020. Thank you for your patience and grace as we navigate the everchanging circumstances.

School Opening Date:

August 14th, 2020. School start date was postponed 2 days to extend professional development time for staff.

What is the status of school closure?

The 2020 school year will begin with distance learning. Per the Governor's orders, any county on the "watch list" for COVID-19, schools are required to close and move to a distance learning model. Once a county is removed from the watch list, schools may open after 14 consecutive days of being removed from the list. California watchlist [link](#).

What will instruction look like during distance learning?

Distance learning will be synchronous. This means live instruction on-line. Families will have the ability to access asynchronous learning as well. Learning design will include: targeted learning, instruction and prompts, collaborative and independent practice, demonstration of learning and feedback. Our highest priority will be given to English Language Arts and Mathematics.

Additionally, our teachers are being supported with high quality professional development for distance learning. We have contracted with leading experts in the field of education to do training before school starts on best practices for delivering quality distance learning.

California has set minimum learning standards for schools. Use the following link to view the infographic. [Infographic link](#)

What will the schedule look like when students are allowed to return to the school campus?

There will be a phase in plan with students on an alternating day schedule. This will allow us to continue offering both synchronous and asynchronous learning. Additionally, it will reduce student contact exposure while transitioning to having students fully return to school.

What will technology for distance learning look like?

Students in grades 1-8 will be provided Chromebooks. Grades Tk and K will be offered iPads. Our on-line platform will be Google Classroom for all grades.

For families in need of internet access, the California Department of Education has worked with providers to help provide support. Use the following link: [internet plans](#). We are working to bring other options as well. If you are not able to procure internet access, please let the school know so that we may assist you.

What are the health and safety requirements when schools do open for in-person instruction?

Everyone entering the school must do daily health checks. If someone experiences symptoms while at school, they will be sent home. Masks are required for all staff. Masks are required for students in grades 3-12, and strongly encouraged for grades TK-2. Staff members must maintain 6ft distance from each other and students. Students should maintain 6ft distance as practicable.

When schools physically re-open, what happens if there is a confirmed COVID case identified on campus?

Full or partial closures are recommended based on the number of cases, the percentage of teacher/students/staff that are positive for COVID-19, and following consultation with Placer County Public Health Department.

A classroom must be closed when: there is one positive case in a classroom.

A school must be closed when: At least 5 percent of the total number of teachers/student/staff are active cases within a 14-day period.

As we have more information and updates, we will be communicating with families via email blasts. We are additionally working on posting our updates on the school website.

Best regards,

Dave Cory

Go Knights!