



North Attleborough Public Schools
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September 15, 2020

Dear Families,

The entire North Attleborough School Community is excited for our first day of school tomorrow, September 16, 2020! We want to begin by thanking you for your patience and support as we created our hybrid and remote learning plans, and worked to release class lists and schedules.

As you have read in previous communications, every Wednesday is scheduled to be a remote learning day for ALL students. All children should have received information from their school and/or teacher with directions on how to log in for their remote start tomorrow morning. Please contact your building principal if you have not received this information. Teachers and staff members have planned an engaging first day of school for students. Children will have the opportunity to meet their teachers virtually and will participate in some introductory activities online. We are looking forward to meeting all of the students through these virtual meetings tomorrow!

Many families have asked if Wednesdays are scheduled to be a full day of school. The answer to that question is yes, we have scheduled a full day of learning for all students. The state is requiring us to provide a full day of learning on remote days. It will be expected that all students participate in a synchronous (scheduled) check-in at their school's normal start time so that we can take attendance and provide instruction for students. All synchronous instruction will occur in the morning on Wednesdays. Teachers will share assignments that students can complete at their own pace for the remainder of the school day. The majority of the students' afternoon on Wednesday will be for asynchronous (independent) learning to give the teacher flexibility to meet the varying needs of the students. This model will allow us to schedule time on Wednesday afternoons for teachers to plan their asynchronous assignments for students, create any videos or instructional materials that will need to be shared digitally, and to continue to collaborate with colleagues to refine our teaching model.

We plan to open schools on Thursday September 17th for our in-person hybrid model. That means that any student assigned to Cohort B and any student assigned to a 4 day/week program will report to school in-person on Thursday and Friday of this week, and the students assigned to Cohort A will participate remotely on those days. Cohort A will have their first day of in-person learning beginning on Monday September 21st, and Cohort B students will participate remotely. Students who have selected a full remote learning experience will log in virtually each day for their instruction. Below we have shared what a typical school day might look like, so that you know what to expect as we begin the school year.

In general, DESE is requiring us to plan for a full day of learning for all students regardless of in-person, hybrid, or fully remote. This means that there is a requirement for us to take attendance and track student progress. Students will be required to log on to a synchronous check-in at the start of every school day, or be present in-person at their schools' typical start time, so that all students can be accounted for through our attendance protocol. Whether in-person, hybrid, or remote, our plan for the year is to cover all Massachusetts State Standards typically taught during a school year, and we will assess students using formative and summative assessments in order to accurately represent student progress and issue report cards as we did before Covid.

A typical school day at all grade levels should have several synchronous check-ins for students per day.

At the high school and middle school levels, the block schedule naturally lends itself to scheduling a synchronous check in time for each class. This synchronous start allows in-person students and students who are logging in remotely to participate in the instruction led by the teacher. This check-in time would allow teachers the chance to take attendance, and teach a lesson to the entire group (in-person, hybrid, and remote). Teachers would use tools such as Google Meet, Screencastify, and Google Live Stream to present a lesson to their students. This synchronous portion of the lesson could be a brief mini-lesson to introduce students to a new topic, a demonstration, a class discussion, a read aloud, or any other presentation that the teacher would like all students to be a part of. From there, teachers could use breakout rooms to have students work in groups, complete projects, or participate in discussions. Once the teacher has delivered the synchronous part of the lesson, he/she will share asynchronous work for students to complete independently when they are not participating in the synchronous lesson. Assignments will have specific due dates, students will receive feedback, and be graded in ways similar to our pre-covid teaching and learning.

At the elementary level, teachers will plan for several synchronous check-ins throughout the day. These check-ins allow in-person students and students logging in remotely to all participate in instruction led by the teacher. Specialist schedules and other variables will not allow all teachers to have synchronous check-ins at the same time, so teachers will determine the best times for synchronous check-ins and schedule them throughout the day. All students will start their day in a synchronous check-in, so that we can take attendance and get students started for the school day. Synchronous check-ins at the elementary level will be similar to middle and high school in the sense that they will be brief chunks of time that focus on specific content that the teacher wishes to share with the entire class (students attending in-person and students participating from home). Teachers may use Google Meet, Screencastify, and Google Live Stream to provide instruction to students. This synchronous instruction may be used to have all students participate in read aloud time, calendar activities, a brief mini-lesson on a specific math concept, a teacher led discussion around an upcoming project, or for any time that the teacher would like the entire group to participate in his/her instruction at the same time. Once the synchronous check-in is complete, teachers could use breakout rooms to have students work in groups, complete projects, or participate in discussions. After the teacher has completed the synchronous portion of the lesson, the teacher will share out asynchronous work for students to complete. These assignments could be additional practice, projects, playlists, choice boards, or a menu of assignments for students to complete. Assignments will have specific due dates, students will receive feedback, and be graded in ways similar to our pre-covid teaching and learning.

* For all grade levels, we do not expect students to be logged into a computer all day. All students will have access to learning materials such as textbooks, workbooks, and other learning materials that we would typically use for instructing students. Asynchronous assignments can also include the digital materials that we have purchased for all grade levels (Moby Max, Newsela, Empowering Writers Hub, IXL, Discovery Education, etc...)

We hope this email helps to clarify what teaching and learning will look like as we begin the school year, and we will continue to work together to make this school year a successful learning experience for all!

Sincerely,



Scott C. Holcomb
Superintendent of Schools



Michelle McKeon
Assistant Superintendent