Priorities for Reopening

At the start of the 2020-2021 school year, the NWABSD will continue to focus on the safety, wellbeing and learning for students and staff members. The NWABSD will be guided by the following priorities for the start of the 2020-2021 School year. These priorities will drive decisions, communication and resource allocation:

1. Safety and security of our students, staff and community
2. Social and emotional well-being of our students and staff
3. Targeted instruction for students using platforms that can be used in classroom and remotely

Flexible Learning Plan
The school district has been creating a flexible learning plan in which students can learn at school or in the home and have access to a teacher and quality learning experiences.

- School will start on August 20, 2020.
- Each student will be provided a technology device that they will use along with their teacher’s instruction whether in class or learning remotely. (Lower grade students will be issued an IPad, higher grade students will be issued a laptop).
- For the start of the year, students will attend school on a staggered schedule, with groups of students attending at different times. This allows students and teachers to practice safety protocols for social distancing and to practice use of technology devices for learning.
- On August 20 and 21, students and their families will be scheduled for an orientation to the start of the year. They will be able to meet their teachers, and learn about their devices, their schedule, the safety protocols that will be in place, and about meal services.
- For the first weeks of school, the District anticipates that it will operate at the Medium Risk level, meaning students will be in school ½ the week and learning remotely the other ½ the week. Meals will be provided for both settings. Each school will develop this staggered schedule based on enrollment and physical space available. The intention is to create cohorts by household as much as possible. This may not be the case for every setting, but we anticipate this can be done in the elementary at the least.
• Many questions have been asked about sports and other student activities. The District is monitoring the expectations provided by the state activities association, and will have a clearer picture about student activities by early August.
At each of the three risk levels identified in the State’s guidance framework, students will have different attendance and participation expectations at each level. Some elements, such as grading and meals, will be consistent across all three risk levels.

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<tr>
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<th>Low Risk – No reported cases and low risk to community as determined by community</th>
<th>Medium Risk – minimal amount confirmed cases as determined by community</th>
<th>High Risk – outbreak or increase in cases as determined by community</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Instructional delivery</strong></td>
<td>In-building, at school, following school-established protocols for safety and local mandates for group size and safety. Accommodations in place for vulnerable populations. Teachers will enter grades for student work and participation.</td>
<td>A mix of in-building and remote learning. Accommodations in place for vulnerable populations. Teachers will enter grades for student work and participation.</td>
<td>Remote learning with support from teacher and school staff. Teachers will enter grades for student work and participation.</td>
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<td><strong>Student experience</strong></td>
<td>Students attend class five days/week, participate in class and school-based activities. Blended learning activities will prepare students for remote learning experiences. Students and staff wear face covering while in school. Students will receive grades for their work and participation</td>
<td>Students will be grouped into smaller attendance groups to accommodate social distancing in all areas of the building. Initially, students will attend school for 2 days/week, and participate in remote learning activities the other days of the week. If safety permits, student attendance in school will increase. Students and staff wear face covering while in school. Students will receive grades for their work and participation</td>
<td>Students will participate in remote learning class meetings and individualized activities during the entire week. Students will receive grades for their work and participation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Family Implications</strong></td>
<td>Students go school with typical attendance expectations. If students attend without their own face covering, the school will provide a reusable one that will be collected and washed in the evening.</td>
<td>Students go to school for part of the week and participate in learning on school-issued devices and materials at home. If students attend school without their own face covering, the school will</td>
<td>Students participate in learning on school-issued devices and materials at home. Meals provided. Parents will receive report cards that reflect on</td>
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<th>Protocols in Place at All Levels</th>
<th>Meals provided. Parents will receive report cards that reflect on student learning and participation.</th>
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| All schools and departments will attend to the conditions for a safe opening and maintenance at all time, throughout all risk levels: | • Coordinate with local health officials and monitor changes in community spread.  
• If students attend without their own face covering, the school will provide a reusable one that will be collected and washed in the evening.  
• Communicate current risk level of operation to students, families, staff and community  
• Conduct daily screening for staff members, students entering school district facilities  
• Follow CDC guidance for social distancing, hygiene, disinfecting  
• Teach and reinforce healthy hygiene  
• Ensure hand hygiene supplies are available in all settings  
• Designate a staff person to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concern  
• Establish and implement a cleaning and disinfection plan that follows CDC Guidance  
• Routinely train all teachers and staff in safety actions  
• Ensure external community organizations using school district facilities also follow each school’s current risk level protocols and procedures  
• Attend to students at high risk for COVID 19 implications, making decisions about attendance on a case by case basis in collaboration with student’s parents/guardian, medical provider and appropriate school staff  
• Allow parents to make the best decisions for their own families regarding attendance and remote learning options  
• Consider how to support staff who may be at high risk as they provide educational service for students |
Revised Calendar and Professional Development Timeline

At the June 30, 2020 NWABSD School Board meeting, the Board approved a school calendar that allows for a safe and well-planned start to the school year. The adopted calendar provides for the following:

1. An adequate amount of isolation time for teachers and their before they return fully in public into the communities. The teacher contract begins on August 3, 2020. Teachers will be on site on that date.

2. Professional development for teachers and staff to understand new safety protocols for students and staff, use of devices in a one student to one device technology program, place-based learning, assessment for instructional planning, how to implement blended learning in face to face and remote learning settings, teaching in a blocked schedule, and strategies to support the social and emotional needs of students and staff.

3. Preparation for staff to be able to open schools at the medium risk level. This is the only risk level that the district has not experienced and requires the most district and on-site preparation for safe and successful operation. At medium risk, students will attend school in a staggered schedule, limiting the number of students in the building to allow for safe social distancing in ALL settings in school.

Middle High School Block Scheduling

Middle and High School students will be completing courses through a blocked schedule. A frequent concern last spring was that secondary students and teachers were spread thin and fragmented, attempting to cover six courses throughout the weeks and days. To address this, the District will set the 2020-2021 courses on a blocked schedule rotation. This allows for students to complete the same number of credits towards graduation and advancement and creates more time for each course during each quarter. [See attached draft example].

Blended Learning Model – Addressing the needs of all learners, whether in school or at home

Blended learning combines classroom learning with online and offline learning using technology. Students participate in lessons targeted to their needs, interest and pace in learning. Blended learning makes learning deliverable in all three risk levels with the added advantage of using technology as a leveraged tool to support student learning and engagement.

To provide for effective blended learning, teachers will create content to be delivered at home for students whose families chose to keep their children at school, and for the times that students are learning from home during both the medium and high risk levels. (Blended learning is also a best practice used in classrooms across the world in face to face classrooms).
In the proposed schedule, students will attend school for five hours per day on days of attendance. The remaining time of that day is time for teachers to create content and provide feedback daily for remote learning and planning.

Teachers at the July 6 – 10 Teacher Feedback group noted the following needs for time to do blended learning well:

1. This is a new initiative, and to do this well teachers will need time to collaborate across sites in grade level teams, creating learning activities that students find rewarding and is geared to individual student needs at home.
2. Teachers will need time to create content for their remotely delivered lessons such as videos and learning options for students.
3. Due to the various levels of internet access, teachers will be uploading and downloading content, assignments, feedback onto student devices on a regular basis in order to keep students in the remote settings engaged.
4. There are assessments available to teachers to target instruction using technology in a blended learning environment, and teachers need time to utilize the data to make informed instructional decisions.
5. Teachers need to become proficient, time with families to support their needs in rolling this initiative out.
6. Students will once again be graded. This is going to be a major effort to bring students expectations in a blended learning environment. Teachers will need to be available often for students who may be lacking in participation and engagement.
7. Teachers expressed a need to address not only academic but also social emotional needs in their planning and lesson delivery.
8. Teachers learn best when they learn from the experts within the district. We have experts who our teachers would like to engage and learn from.
9. Teachers are willing to take this risk and appreciate the faith the District has in them as they take this leap. Time to adequately plan to be successful will go a long way.
## Northwest Arctic Borough School District

### 2020-2021 District Calendar

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#### Key:

- S = School Days
- V = Vacation

#### Total:

- August: 21 school days, 8 vacation days
- September: 21 school days, 8 vacation days
- October: 22 school days, 5 vacation days
- November: 21 school days, 8 vacation days
- December: 15 school days, 6 vacation days
- January: 21 school days, 6 vacation days
- February: 20 school days, 5 vacation days
- March: 21 school days, 8 vacation days
- April: 22 school days, 6 vacation days
- May: 7 school days, 1 vacation day

#### Shaded dates = end of quarter/semester:

- 1st QTR: 40 days
- 2nd QTR: 41 days
- 3rd QTR: 44 days
- 4th QTR: 40 days
During the August 3 – 18 in-service days, teachers will participate in virtual learning professional development activities. Each teacher and Iñupiaq language instructor, through a district provided device, will have internet access to participate in virtual meetings.

**Medium Risk Opening**

Across the District, schools will open on August 20 at the medium risk level. Schools will operate on a staggered attendance schedule to ensure students can safely practice social distancing in the classroom and common areas. Students will learn about social distancing requirements, including hygiene, social distancing, use of face coverings, and care for one’s and others’ social and emotional needs. This phase of reopening will last no less than two weeks and may continue indefinitely based on transmission levels and decisions made in coordination with regional and local health, school and community leadership. Principals will notify families and community when the risk level changes.

The two weeks at the start of the year allows the District to:

1. Prepare protocols and expectations for students at a level not operated under yet
2. Provide for cohort rostering and staggered scheduling for attendance for each school site
3. Prepare teachers for on-site and remote teaching schedules and responsibilities
4. Provide practice at developing blended learning lessons that can move from in class to off-site remote learning with little to no notice
5. Provide practice for staff to meet the social and emotional needs of students in both a remote and distance learning environment
6. Prepare parents and families for a medium risk environment, one that the District feels is the most likely mode of operation during this era
7. Prepare students and parents information and training on devices, Canvas, schedules, communication, work submission, attendance and grading expectations that will be consistent through-out the year, but most necessary to understand during medium and high-risk levels.