

North Star Secondary

COVID - 19 Response Plan

The safety of our students and staff is of the utmost importance. North Star has prepared the following plans to address the pandemic of COVID-19.

North Star is committed to providing a high quality comprehensive educational experience whether our school is in traditional, hybrid or remote model. We will continue to ensure every student has a meaningful relationship with a responsible and caring adult. We will provide social and emotional support to students and staff. ***We believe these are best fulfilled when teachers and students unite together on campus.*** However, until the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided, an open school building requires special precautions and protocols in order to safeguard the health and well-being of all. North Star is committed to working closely with state and local officials to respond to COVID-19 promptly with flexibility, empathy and good judgement

It is our intention to educate our students in the school building when conditions permit. However, North Star recognizes that for the safety of our students and staff, and depending on conditions and guidance from coordinating agencies, the need to transition to one of the learning models below may occur. In all situations, North Star is committed to the highest standards of academic excellence.

Thank you for your patience and your support as we persevere through this unprecedented challenge.

Communication

North Star will regularly communicate with students, staff and parents with the most current health information impacting schools. The primary form of communication will continue to be email and text. Please make sure your contact information is updated and accurate in PowerSchool.

Generally speaking, there are four possible learning models*:

1. **Normal Learning:** *All students are in the school building. COVID-19 pandemic has abated. No restrictions from Central District Health (CDH) and state authorities.*
 - a. No community spread (as defined by CDH and NS Board of Directors); return to normal school routines.
 - b. Attendance policies are normal per the Parent/Student Handbooks.
 - c. Grading and academic policies are normal.

2. **Modified Traditional Learning:** *All students are in the school building (Tues. - Thurs).*
 - a. Minimal to moderate community transmission (Category 2 as defined by CDH and NS Board of Directors).
 - b. School-wide social distancing and mitigation strategies in place.
 - c. Special safety and sanitizing protocols approved by the health district.

3. **Hybrid Learning:** *Half the grade levels, 6-12, are in the building at one time. The goal is to have kids in school as much as possible, yet be able to limit contact, and not have to send everyone home.*
 - a. Moderate community transmission (Category 2 as defined by CDH and NS Board of Directors).
 - b. Students will be grouped with half at school and half at home, switching every other day.

4. **Remote Learning:** *No students permitted in the school building.*
 - a. Substantial community transmission (Category 3 as defined by CDH and NS Board of Directors).
 - b. Attendance and academic policies modified per State Board of Education guidelines and approved by the NS Board of Directors.
 - c. All schooling via Distance Learning Model.
 - d. *Platforms used for students who are at home may include but not limited: video sessions, Office hours, ZOOM, Remind App, email and Google Classroom*

*Students and/or someone living in the same household, that have a compromised immune system or other risk factors that make them susceptible to COVID-19, may request remote learning accommodations when we are in Modified Traditional or Hybrid models. *Medical documentation may be required* and each situation will be reviewed before approval granted.

Coordination with State and County Agencies

The North Star Board of Directors will determine the appropriate model of learning based on the recommended guidelines of the State of Idaho, the State Board of Education, and the Central District Health Department. Central District Health will be holding weekly calls with school leaders to identify the current category of transmission in our county as well as our school.

Category 1: No community transmission (preparedness phase)

Category 2: When there is minimal to moderate community transmission

Category 3: When there is substantial community transmission

- Central District Health Department – Guidance for Schools:
<https://www.cdhd.idaho.gov/pdfs/cd/Coronavirus/Resource%20Docs/schools/COVID-19-Guidance-Schoolsv2-06-19-20.pdf>

- State of Idaho – Stages of Reopening:
<https://rebound.idaho.gov/stages-of-reopening/>
- State Board of Education –
<https://boardofed.idaho.gov/covid-19/>

If North Star Charter School is mandated to comply with any applicable governmental regulation related to COVID (e.g.: CDH Order 7/14/20) this specific North Star policy shall be automatically modified to the extent necessary to be compliant with that regulation.

Modified Traditional Learning Model

NS will create spacing between our elementary students and our secondary students in order to allow closure and teaching model changes to occur within each program. For example, if an elementary school student gets sick, we don't have to respond and change the teaching model in the middle or high school. Elementary students won't travel or use secondary facilities during school hours and vice versa. If a classroom space is used by another program before or after school hours, the room will be sanitized. One exception is a high school science class being taught in the elementary science lab from 7:45-9:15 due to spacing issues in our secondary program. This room will be sanitized properly and students gone before elementary students start school.

Staff Room

Room will be rearranged to allow for proper social distancing. No large groups will be allowed to congregate in the staff room for lunch or other times throughout the day. Elementary will add a smaller workspace on their side of the building to allow a place for staff to make copies and prep as needed. This will help with how many K-12 staff need to use the larger shared staff work room/lounge. Extra cleanings will occur in the staff work rooms.

Office Space

- 6-foot social distancing for staff and students
- Plastic sneeze guards in place
- Only office staff to use copier machines in the office
- Extra cleanings throughout the day

Post [*Stop The Spread*](#) signs at entry points to school and in highly visible areas.

School-Wide Disinfections

We utilize a combination of CDC-approved cleaning products to disinfect desks, common tables, countertops, doorknobs and handles, hands-on learning items, bathroom fixtures, phones, and customer service areas every day.

Hygienic Practices

Students will be taught, encouraged and given time to promote strong hygienic practices at school, including the following:

- Covering coughs or sneezes with a bent arm or tissue and washing hands or using hand sanitizer afterward;
- Washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, dry hands with a paper towel, and using the paper towel to turn off the faucet;
- Keeping hands away from nose, mouth, and eyes; and
- Avoiding the sharing of food, drinks, and personal care items (e.g. lip balm).

Masks are REQUIRED by all staff, students and visitors in the building.

- **Masks that cover the nose and mouth (cloth not shield) are required by all students and staff in the building. Students and staff with a medical exemption will need to provide a doctor's note (a waiver will no longer suffice) to the school.**

In order to protect students, staff and families we will require masks to be worn while in classrooms when social distancing of 6 feet cannot be met and during any transitions within the building for all of our 6th - 12th grade students and staff. During lunch, PE, transitions (all with 6-foot social distancing practices in place) that are outside of the building, or when individuals are by themselves, face coverings are not required but recommended. This is in consideration of those who we all come in contact with outside of school hours. It also helps provide the best opportunity for North Star to remain open for our students.

Hand Sanitizer Stations

Teachers, staff, and students will keep their hands sanitized using the dispensers of hand sanitizer that are installed at every building entrance, specified locations around the school and in every classroom.

Hand Washing Stations

While there are not sinks in every secondary classroom, students will have access to handwashing stations in the "Snack Shack" and staff room during lunch periods, in addition to the bathroom sinks.

Holding Room for Sick Students

Secondary will have a designated enclosed room, with an air purifier, for students that will be utilized as a holding area for sick students that are waiting to be picked up.

Drop-off

Our secondary students will enter through designated doors following a detailed transition plan utilizing one-way hallway and door movement patterns.

Bus, parent drop-off, and walkers will arrive at NS between 7:30 and 7:40. They will be allowed to enter at 7:30 and go directly to their first period class.

Pick-up

Bus students will be dismissed from their classrooms at 2:43 and load busses. Bus students will sanitize their hands leaving the classroom and/or boarding the bus.

Walkers/parent pick up students will be dismissed at 2:45 (or when buses are loaded). Walkers need to leave campus immediately. Students will be outside with social distancing to wait for their parent/guardian to come through the pick-up line.

Bus

- Face coverings required to ride the bus (students and driver)
- Load back to front
- Unload front to back upon arriving at school.
- Windows open when possible

Hallways

- Lockers will not be used during the 2020/2021 school year
- One-way travel will follow the detailed transition plan utilizing outside transitions and use of exterior doors.
- Drinking fountain will be turned off. Water bottle filler station is available.

Classroom

- Teachers and administration will create and use 6-foot spacing between desks whenever possible.
- Students will be podded while in classes. This means that assigned seats will be next to the same peers in each classroom. This will lessen the chance of spread and number of students that may potentially have to quarantine.
- Students with mask medical exemptions will be seated in the same pods when possible.
- Staff and students will be trained in the areas of physical distancing, handwashing, respiratory etiquette to mitigate exposure. Integrate good hygiene practices into instruction and classroom expectations.
- Sanitize desks, keyboards, and screens several times a day
 - Sanitation will be scheduled at appropriate transitions.
- Custodial staff routinely clean highly touched surfaces throughout the day and on a nightly schedule.
- Limit the use of shared materials and spaces.
- No community supplies. Keep student belongings separate.
- Avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids.
- Students and staff use personal water bottles and water bottle filling stations. All

hallway/classroom drinking fountains will be disabled.

Lunchroom Seating

- Students will eat outside, weather permitting maintaining a social distance of 6 feet.
- Students will eat lunch in the Cafe' and Hallways with the sanitation and seating modifications for 6' social distancing listed in the previous section if the weather does not allow us to be outside.

Recess Procedures

During Modified Traditional learning:

- Playground equipment is off limits for secondary kids. They will have access to the sport court, bus/fire lane, and a section of the field.
- Students will sanitize hands before and after breaks.

Volunteers

Until further notice, all volunteer programs will be suspended.

Visitors

- No irregular/unscheduled visitors.
- Limit visitors to parents, by appointment, and critically important visitors on campus. All visitors with a scheduled appointment will be temperature checked.
- When a child needs to be checked out early, the guardian will call 10 minutes in advance. Upon the guardian's arrival, the student will be called down to the office where they will be checked out. If entry foyer is past social distancing capacity, parents will be asked to wait outside. Entry foyer will be sanitized a few times a day.
- No visitors will be allowed past entry foyer without pre-arranged appointment.

Extra-curricular events and gatherings

- Cancel field trips, assemblies, and other large gatherings if physical distancing cannot be achieved. These things will be a case by case decisions approved by the administration and Board.
- Restrict mixing middle and high school students whenever possible
- Follow established guidelines of the IHSAA regarding athletic teams for middle and high school.

Hybrid Learning

Face coverings required for students and staff: Grades 6-12

North Star developed this contingency plan as an option to avoid complete school closure. The

plan's implementation will be determined by the North Star Board with guidance from Central District Health and other Idaho governmental authorities that have jurisdiction over school operations.

North Star recognizes that this plan places an additional burden on families. This scenario would allow us to maintain regular contact between teachers and students and continue valuable instruction. Again, North Star highly values building relationships and fostering the social emotional well-being of our students, which we believe best happens when in the building together.

Each class (grades 6-12) is divided in half. Group 1 will attend all 8 classes over the course of one day with 45 minute periods. Group 2 will be home. The next day Group 2 will be at school with Group 1 staying home to complete coursework assigned by the teacher remotely. Attendance will be counted by work completion/submission. It is important to note that students may still have "homework" outside of class whether class is at school or at home.

Students will be in school every other day in this model. One week they will be in school for two days and the next week for three days. The benefit of this hybrid model is there will be 13-16 students in each classroom, depending on grade level, as opposed to 26-32. There will be fewer students in the hallways and on the buses. Teachers anticipate some loss of time to teach content, but with fewer students, less time will be spent on classroom management. Families will be placed in the same group so they are on the same schedule.

When students are in the building for the hybrid model, all social distancing and cleaning protocols mentioned in the above modified traditional plan will be followed along with extra layers as determined are needed to keep staff and students safe and healthy.

This hybrid model would also allow the majority of special education and speech services to occur within the building.

Remote Learning Model

Substantial community transmission (Category 3 as defined by Central District Health and NS Board of Directors) AND Widespread positive case(s) with significant risk of exposure within a school and/or multiple schools.

If there is a state-wide or local order to close all schools or an individual school, learning will continue remotely. North Star will work closely with families to provide technological devices to ensure every student has what they need to be successful with remote learning. North Star will use a variety of platforms which may include but not limited: Video sessions, Office hours, ZOOM, Email and Google Classroom. North Star will continue to hold to its philosophy of providing students educational vigor.

North Star will follow the State Department guidelines regarding instructional minutes, attendance, learning standards and accountability in response to COVID-19.

Student Expectations:

- Students will interact with their peers and teachers using an internet-enabled device.
- Students will follow a modified schedule that will require attending online class time at a specified time.
- Students will submit work and receive feedback.
- Assessments and grading will continue until schools can reopen.

Counselor and Principal Support:

- Will work to support families and students struggling with remote learning. This may include, personal emails, phone calls, or home visits.
- Will work with families on a case by case basis with competing demands at home.