

NHS Principal's Update 4/2/2020

Dear NHS Families,

I hope you are staying safe and healthy. This is the first of two important communications that will come from me today. This one is an opt-out form for two-way video conferencing. The second communication, which you will receive later today, is the NHS remote learning schedule which will go into effect on April 6, 2020.

Best,

Hugh T. Galligan, Ed.D.

Message 1

Dear Parent/Guardian,

During this time of school closure, the Norwood Public Schools will be utilizing online resources to provide continuing educational support to students. This may include video conferencing sessions between educators and students. In accordance with state law, including the Massachusetts Wiretapping Act and FERPA, recording remote lessons is prohibited without the consent of all parties. Accordingly, Norwood Public Schools is reminding parents/guardians and students that they must refrain from recording any and all remote lessons that involve students. In addition, all participants agree, by participating in a videoconference, to refrain from disseminating any student information about other student participants with any and all third parties.

We ask everyone in our school community to recognize that video conferences and other online services will be taking place in the homes of the educators and students who participate in the calls and to be mindful of everyone's right to privacy. To that end, we remind our students to dress appropriately and choose an appropriate location in their home from which to participate in any video conferences. Parents/guardians should take all precautions to safeguard personal or private information that they do not wish to be disclosed. Students will be expected to behave in accordance with school rules of conduct while participating in remote instruction.

Cyber-bullying, harassment, discrimination, and abuse of the remote learning process will not be tolerated and may result in suspension from the video conference, as well as additional consequences when school resumes. Please review the Norwood Public Schools General Guidelines for Video Conferencing with your children before having them participate in video conferences with their educators.

If you do not want your child to participate in a video conference with his/her educator, please respond to hgalligan@norwood.k12.ma.us stating that you do not give them permission to participate.

4/2/2020 Message 2

Dear NHS Families,

Attached you will find our NHS Remote Learning Schedule that will go into effect this Monday 4/6. Please read through the document closely and in its entirety. I encourage you to talk through it with your child as well. I will be sending out a separate message for students tonight, and then a video message tomorrow. At first, it may seem overwhelming, but take a deep breath. It is designed to provide the right balance between structure (which is currently missing) and flexibility (which is needed more than ever right now). Please know that our goal for week 1 (4/6) will be to "get used to this schedule" and offer incentives for students to engage. During the following week (4/13), we will have more guidance for you about how educators will move forward with new material and for credit options. Again, week by week.

This plan was designed in collaboration with the department leadership team, the district leadership team, and the teachers' association and is the result of updated and revised guidance from the federal and state levels on remote learning opportunities during the closure due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Please read, digest, and know that our students and educators are well-positioned to make this happen. Reach out to me directly at any time with questions. If there are any barriers that are preventing your child from being able to engage at this time, please let me know and we can work through it. Above all, compassion is the most important thing we can share right now.

*Best,
Hugh T. Galligan, Ed.D.
NHS Principal
#4As5Cs1Team*

Attachment link:

<https://www.norwood.k12.ma.us/about/nhs-remote-learning>