



NORWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

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March 29, 2021

Dear NHS Staff, Students, and Families:

I am writing today with an update regarding the Norwood High School re-opening (again) process. I am providing as much detail as is available at this time, and will be providing more information in the coming weeks as we move through this process.

As we did in the Fall, NHS will follow a phased in return to more in person learning. This approach will allow us to return in a safe manner while allowing flexibility for adjustments and improvements as needed. It will allow us to increase the number of students we are serving in person first, and then to increase the time in which we are servicing the increased population next. The implementation steps are as follows:

Phase 1, Monday April 12: Students in grade 12 who choose full time in person learning (Cohorts A,B,F) will return for 4 partial days of in person learning following our current hybrid schedule (11:45 in person dismissal, remote PM classes, grab and go lunch, remote Wednesday).

Phase 2, Tuesday, April 27: Students in grades 9-11 who choose full time in person learning (Cohorts A,B,F) will return for 4 partial days of in person learning following our current hybrid schedule (11:45 in person dismissal, remote PM classes, grab and go lunch, remote Wednesday).

Phase 3, Date TBD: Begin 5 days of in person learning in accordance with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education guidelines and timeline (A,B,F). At this time, a modification to our existing daily schedule will be required and will be communicated to you appropriately.

As parents and guardians, your action is needed in the short term. At this point, we are going to assume that any student who is in Cohort A, B, or F currently will choose to commit to full time learning, first starting with four in person days and then moving to five in person days. We are also going to assume that students who are learning remotely full time (Cohort R) will continue learning remotely for the remainder of the year. However, I know that some families may want to change their selection based on the changing models.

Grade 12 families will be receiving a message tomorrow outlining the process for switching cohorts and asking for your selection by the end of this week. Grade 9-11 families will be contacted later this week asking you to do the same with a slightly later deadline. Please note that this will be your final opportunity to change learning models this school year and no change in placements will be issued after the deadline.

To assist with your selection, please note the following:

- Desks in classrooms will be spaced three feet apart in accordance with state guidelines.
- Any time students eat, they will still be required to maintain six feet of distance.
- All other safety protocols (masks, sanitizing/hand washing, one way hallways and stairways) will remain in place.
- We will make every effort to keep student schedules the same. However, in person classrooms will be capped at 24 students in our average sized classrooms. Some are smaller and some are slightly larger. In cases where there are more in person students than space allows, schedule changes may be necessary.
- Students who choose to learn remotely (Cohort R) will continue with their existing course schedule and remote in as they have been doing all along. The phases above will not affect anything for these students.
- Students who need to be absent on an in-person day due to illness and/or covid-related reasons may receive permission to learn remotely for a short-term period of time.

Over the next couple of weeks, our staff will be busy adjusting schedules, moving furniture, and getting more folks vaccinated. While this year has been crazy, I am so impressed by the resilience and commitment of our students, and really look forward to seeing more of them together at NHS.

I appreciate your patience, flexibility, and support this year. Please reach out with any questions at any time.

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