



NORWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

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May 6, 2021

Dear NHS Staff, Students, and Families:

I am writing with a full update in regards to our transition to phase 3 (offering five in person days of learning to all students) according to the timeline below.

NHS Timeline for Increases to In-Person Learning:

- **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, Monday, May 17:** 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.

There are important structural and logistical changes related to serving lunch in a safe way, contractual obligations to educators, and transportation needs and costs, that were needed to make this shift happen. I would like to thank you for your patience, flexibility, and support while we worked to make sure we can make this shift in a safe way. Below, I will highlight some important information in advance of the return to five days of in person learning on May 17.

- The NHS school day times for phase 3 (May 17-June 18) will be 7:45-1:40. All students will be dismissed between 1:35-1:40. Students will participate in six in person class periods and a brief lunch period during the school day. There will be no more “all remote” classes.
- This early release time is needed to satisfy contractual obligations to educators, offer lunch in a safe way with adequate spacing and supervision, and to satisfy the transportation needs across the district.
- Any student in Cohort R (all remote) will continue to learn remotely for the remainder of the school year, with the same teachers and classmates they have had all year.
- Student lunch periods will be shortened from their usual times as we are adding an extra lunch period. Meals will be available “grab and go” style from multiple points of service. Students will be able to eat in the cafeteria, gymnasium, or outside – all spaced six feet apart. Adult supervision in each of these areas will help ensure student safety at all times. All meals (breakfast and lunch) will continue to be free of charge.
- There are minor changes to the rotation of classes and times that classes meet within our schedule, but no student will need to change teachers or classes due to this change. Please see the attached class schedule.
- As all classes will be offered in person, students who have chosen in person learning are expected to be present in the building each day. While we have been flexible this year offering remote learning for a day for multiple reasons, per DESE guidelines, remote learning on a short-term basis will only be allowed for health related or Covid-related reasons moving forward. If there is a true extenuating circumstance, a guardian should contact the student’s dean in advance to receive approval for short term remote learning.

I will be sharing some more information as we get closer to May 17, but I wanted to get this important update out to you as soon as possible. We have enjoyed seeing so many more students in person four days each week over the last few weeks, and we look forward now to lengthening the school day and adding in person Wednesdays. Thank you again for all of your hard work to make this year such a success in the face of so much adversity.

Best,
Dr. G

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