

July 30, 2020

Hello NES Families:

Last night the CVSU School Board met and approved Superintendent Bollard's reopening plan for the 2020-21 school year (see link) [V2 of Parent Concern Responses 7.27.2020.pdf](#)

I noticed that many of your questions to her were building specific. You will soon be offered a choice to have your child receive their education here in the school building, 4.5 days per week or to enroll your child in the CVSU Online Academy. I hope to answer some of your questions regarding the return to school so that you are able to make an informed decision about what is the best educational setting for your child in the fall. I know very little about the plans for the CVSU Online Academy at this time, only that instruction will be delivered by current CVSU certified teachers and that depending on enrollment, students may be learning in grade bands such as K-2 or 3-5.

I have consulted with the NES nurse, the NES Leadership, the NES Targeted and Intensive Team, the NES staff, Building and Maintenance Director, Bill Kirby, my principal colleagues here in CVSU and through out the state and of course Sonia to develop a schedule and plans to reopen school Northfield Elementary in a safe and efficient manner. Many of the plans outlined below are mandated by the Agency of Education(see link).

<http://link.vtvsba.org/conf/SchoolHealthGuidance.pdf>. All plans are subject to change as we learn to navigate Covid culture here at NES. Your constructive feedback is always welcome.

1. Face Masks

All K-12 students, staff and families who are on school property are required to wear face coverings. If your child cannot wear a face covering due to health issues, please provide a letter from your pediatrician to the school nurse, Brenda Gove. If you have not already, please take the time to discuss and practice the use of face covering with your child now. The CVSU will be purchasing 6 face coverings (gator masks) for each student and staff embossed with our cute little owl mascot. Staff and students are free to wear a face covering of their choice as long as it meets regulation standards. Face coverings will be required throughout the school day unless eating or outside if a 6 foot distance is maintained.

2. Arrival and dismissal procedures

The school day begins at 8:10. Do not arrive before 7:30, staff members need to get through to the parking lot. The AOE requires that we conduct a daily health check procedure at the first point of contact for every student. You are highly encouraged to take your child's temperature at home each day. If your child has a temperature of 100.4 or higher, do not send them to school. Parents and guardians are required to wear a mask while on school property. There will be six-foot markers outside the recess doors and in front of the building to assist students and families in maintaining social distance. All students are required to report directly to their homeroom classroom after the health screening has been conducted. Students who have a temperature of 100.4 will be sent home. Please review the *Arrival and Dismissal Reopening Plans* to understand what will be expected of you when your child(ren) arrives and departs from

school. I anticipate that bus services will be very slow. I highly encourage families to walk, ride or drive to school. You are expected to wait until a health screening has been performed before your child(ren) can be admitted to school. *Arrival and Dismissal Reopening Plans:* https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gVlanHYYebn38uZnob0pgSriyiH6ppGbgBWL_52mn0/edit?usp=sharing.

Dismissal

It is anticipated that dismissal will be 2:45 Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Anticipated Wednesday's dismissal is 11:45. Arrival and dismissal times are subject to slight change due to the capacity of the bus to deliver students in a safe and timely manner.

3. What to bring to school?

- a. Do not bring toys or stuffies,
- b. Do bring a water bottle, rain gear and appropriate footwear for daily outdoor activities
- c. Students may bring their own lunch and snacks, as usual, some restrictions may apply.

4. Homeroom assignments

Class assignments were determined by teaching teams last spring. The process was very intentional referencing several data points regarding each student's learning style, strengths, challenges, friends and relations. The AOE recommends that sibling pairs and those students who reside in the same household remain in the same student cluster at school when instruction allows and on the bus.

I am not prepared to share homeroom assignments with families at this time. It is likely that, with the option of the CVSU Virtual Academy, some families may elect to opt to have their student(s) attend the Academy or to homeschool which will cause us to re-evaluate the homeroom groupings. Additional information about the CVSU Virtual Academy is anticipated in the near future. Superintendent Bollard will be sending out a survey asking you to express your interest in either virtual or in-school learning for your child.

If you are interested in homeschooling your child, please contact the Agency of Education to inquire about the approval process for homeschooling. Student groupings will be shared when we have information about student enrollment.

5. Room changes

5th Grade

Mrs. Hatch and Ms. Darea (formerly Mrs. Winters) have traded rooms. 5th grade students assigned to Ms. Dares's homeroom will enter through the 5th grade doors by the cafeteria, ascend the stairs to the front office and take a right after the office to the end of the hall, room 227. 5th grade students assigned to Mrs. Wheaton's (formerly Ms Gray) homeroom remains in the same place it was last year, room 251. Those 5th grade students assigned to Mrs.

Wheaton's homeroom will also enter through the 5th grade doors ascend the stairs to the office but take a left and proceed to room 251.

The school counselor's office is now located across from the library.

Isolation Room

The room directly across from the nurses office is now the isolation room, used to isolate students or staff who present with a fever or other Covid symptoms while at school, awaiting pick up.

6. Parents and guardians in the school

Parents and guardians are not permitted in the school. Meetings will be held virtually. I anticipate planning for a virtual open house in the fall and I will encourage staff to share photos with you about your child's school experience during these unusual times.

7. Health and Safety of Staff and Students

- a. Mandatory staff training

<https://labor.vermont.gov/vermont-occupational-safety-and-health-administration-vosha>

- b. Staff room closed
- c. Gyms and cafeteria closed
- d. Library closed to students - library cart access by all students

Note: Circulated school library materials will be quarantined for one week before re-circulation. Research indicates that this length of quarantine represents an abundance of caution.

8. Meal Service

Breakfast will be grab and go style in the classrooms. Lunch for all students will be served in classrooms. Kitchen staff will take an order in the morning, package it up in plastic containers and deliver it to the class via handcart where students will grab their meal and teachers verify which students got a meal via checklist. All empty plastic containers will be placed back in the hand cart and the food staff will pick up later, wash, sanitize and repeat the next day. We will use plastic utensils for the immediate future and will not have much composting from the students.

9. Cleaning Procedures

The NES Maintenance and custodial crew under the direction of Bill Kirby, facilities director, will be prepared to properly clean the school per the guidelines provided by the Agency of Education <http://link.vtvsba.org/conf/SchoolHealthGuidance.pdf>

The student schedule makes every effort to limit the number of necessary cleanings by maintenance staff inside classrooms each day. Classes will not share common spaces with little to know exceptions. If a space is shared by students or staff members from different grade clusters, the space will be cleaned between uses. Each classroom will be provided ample cleaning supplies to keep surfaces clean and hands washed frequently throughout the school

day. Students will be given their own materials to use at school: pencils, scissors, markers, notebooks and the like. Electronic devices will be assigned to each student and not shared.

10. Recess, PE and Out & About

All students will enjoy time outside throughout their school day. The recess yard has been divided into 6 zones. Students will be assigned to a given zone by grade cluster so as not to commingle between clusters. Silicone bracelets will be worn by students that correspond with the color of the zone they are to play in order to facilitate effective supervision by staff. Grade clusters will stagger entrance to and departure from the recess yard. When students are called in one zone at a time, they will drop bracelets in the disinfectant bucket, use hand sanitizer and find assigned 6-foot bubble marks to line up (numbered and assigned by the classroom teacher). Teachers will collect students and walk to the classroom with masks on. These procedures will be taught and retaught to students to ensure the ongoing safety and health of our school community.

11. School culture and the school day

School culture, relationships, establishing new routines are our top priority when school reopens on September 8. Each teaching team has outlined plans for the first 6 weeks of school that prioritize the social and emotional needs of our students with the goal of building strong classroom communities.

Nearly all students will remain in their homeroom classes while they are in the school building. It is possible that one cluster may access the STREAM lab for an established number of days and be cleaned before another classroom cluster uses the space.

Each classroom has been measured and maximum capacity posted to ensure that we adhere to VT AOE Guidelines. Classrooms have been staged with student desks distanced 6 feet apart. All rugs have been removed and the carpeted walls in the hallways replaced with a washable surface. Each homeroom classroom has been assigned a math and a humanities teacher. Allied Arts teachers will rotate in 4-6 week periods (length of time subject to change) through each team to minimize their contact with students. PE and social skills (aka Out & About) will be available and ongoing for all students PK-5 and will not be rotated. PE and Out & About will take place entirely outdoors. Music, Art and STREAM instruction will mostly take place outdoors. I have requested large canopies be purchased and set up behind the school for this purpose.

12. Technology Integration

The CVSU has determined that all students in grades 1-12 will be utilizing Google Classrooms for the 2020-21 school year. PK-K students will be interacting on the Seesaw platform <https://web.seesaw.me> All teaching teams at NES have prepared technology integration plans for the upcoming school year with the goal of developing skills and habits that will transfer more readily to online learning should the need arise. An emphasis on developing students' skills and

choice for how they demonstrate their learning is encouraged. Professional Development opportunities for teachers will support this objective.

Thank you for your partnership in this process. I hope that this letter has provided you with a bit of clarity about what you can expect from the reopening on September 8, 2020. I will share any information about the CVSU Online Academy with you as soon as possible to aid in your decision making progress. You can reach me at drussell@cvsu.org or 802 485 6161 if needed.

Denise Russell, NES Principal