

Northern Elementary School

Frequently Asked Questions

Disclosure Statement: *The answers to these questions are based on what is known, as of July 24, 2020. Keep in mind that recommendations from health and government agencies change daily. We can assure you that the Northern Elementary teachers, administrators and staff will do their best to keep your children safe, as they follow the Scott County Schools' guidelines. We will also provide the best instruction possible given the complicated circumstances.*

For in person learning, will students/staff need to wear masks all day? Yes, exceptions are when they are eating or are outside and can socially distance 6 feet or more apart.

If students do not comply with the mask requirement what will happen? They will be socially distanced away from other students for safety, likely in an isolation room where they have adult supervision until such time that they can wear a mask. Their parents and guardians will need to assist with this matter or choose virtual learning instead.

Can the classrooms accommodate groups of students low enough to allow for social distancing and to take masks off? It is not likely. Most of our classrooms will not allow us to social distance within the building.

Will students get breaks so they can remove masks? Yes, we will take classes outdoors as often as possible to take breaks and remove masks.

How will recess be handled? We realize recess is a big concern for safety. We are still working with our maintenance team and local health professionals on best recommendations in this area. We plan to have recess each day.

How will specials classes work? Special class teachers will visit each homeroom to provide instruction. The PE teacher will take the students outside when weather permits for locomotor movements. Masks may be removed during this class if proper social distancing can be maintained.

Will students share materials such as pencils, scissors, crayons, etc.? No, community supplies will not be used this year. Teachers are currently modifying supply lists to ensure individual materials can be used. We will share the revised version of them soon on our school website and Facebook page. Classroom manipulatives will not be shared as well.

How will lunch work? We plan to observe social distancing for lunch in the gym. Masks may be removed while the students are eating while they are observing social distancing. There will be an arrangement for each class so that they are sitting in the same general area each day.

If I choose "In Person Learning" for my child, can I change my mind later in the year? Yes, it is permitted. Please notify the school as soon as you know the change will occur.

Will staff be monitored with daily temperature checks, just like students? Yes

Will Northern have a school nurse on site this year? Yes

Will there be precautions taken before a child can return to school after they are suspected to have the virus? We will follow the approved guidelines by the local health department and Dr. Miller at WEDCO.

Do Kindergarteners have to wear masks? Children of this age and grade do not have to wear a mask according to state guidelines.

How will dismissal work? We plan to conduct it much the same as last year, but students and staff will be masked.

Will an Open House take place? As soon as we know what we can do safely, we will share our Open House plan.

Can “In Person Learning” students join a “Virtual Class” if they have to self-quarantine? Yes

How will Virtual Learning work at Northern? Students will have a main homeroom teacher based on whether they are a virtual learner or in person learner. The teachers will have students assigned to them based on this decision. The instruction for virtual learning will mirror what is being taught in person to the extent possible. Short video clips and resources will be shared by way of Google Classroom. Students will also use other online resources to complete assignments, take tests, and practice skills. They will complete assignments and send them back to their teachers using Google Classroom. Teachers may assist small groups using Zoom instruction. The practice of writing and fine motor skills will be done at home.

Will virtual learning students be observing the in person instruction live? The virtual learners will not observe video instruction within the classroom live. We plan to use video clips of teachers doing direct instruction for the virtual learners.

What if I choose “In Person” learning and then the school closes for all students, will we return to NTI packets? Our teachers have had time to receive professional development on the use of Google Classroom as a platform. We will proceed with teaching new learning content, rather than just reviewing previous learning concepts like when NTI work was assigned. Our virtual learning teachers will model for the other teachers to implement virtual learning. However, if students do not have access to technology, paper packets will be provided.

Will Paper/Pencil Packets be a choice? Paper/Pencil packets can be provided at family request. New content is harder to teach using paper only. Keep in mind, in person or virtual learning are more interactive and provide students with more assistance for feedback and direct instruction. We will work with your family on what plan will work best for your situation.