



Dear NRHEG Elementary Families,

Greetings! I hope this newsletter finds you safe and well. This has been an absolutely wonderful past couple of weeks having all of our students back in school with us. Everyone has adjusted well and we are taking advantage of our established routines.

I have recently answered a few questions from families regarding our mitigation requirements in order for us to move to In-Person Learning. I have listed them here again for your review.

For early learning and elementary schools only: All special lessons must be held in the classroom or outside (computer/music). Physical education classes that cannot operate in the classroom may continue to be held indoors outside of individual classrooms so long as students and staff are wearing face coverings. Arts classes that cannot operate in the classroom may continue to be held indoors outside of individual classrooms if they are able to follow the Music Activities Guidance and the health and safety measures laid out for art classes in the 2020-21 *Planning Guide for Schools*. If the guidance cannot be followed, arts classes must be held in the classroom or outside (weather permitting).

Student support programs such as special education, EL, gifted and talented and counseling may continue to pull students from their primary classrooms in order to provide these essential support services. Additional groups should be kept as small as possible and as consistent as possible from day to day, and as much physical distance as possible should be maintained between group members.

Student meal times should be held in the classroom if six feet of physical distancing between students cannot be accommodated in the cafeteria and cohorts cannot be clearly separated within the cafeteria. Separate classes on the playground.

If meal times need to be held in the classroom, schools may have meals delivered to the classroom or have students bring food from the cafeteria back to their classrooms to eat.

Three feet of physical distancing or more is strongly recommended. A reminder that there is no school for students or staff on Monday, February 15, President's Day. Have a great weekend and stay well!

Sincerely,
Mr. Anderson
Elementary Principal



MCA Testing

Update from the Minnesota Department of Education

MDE's priority is to protect the health and safety of students and staff throughout the assessment administration. Without further direction or instruction from the federal government, Minnesota is bound by federal and state law to administer the MCA and MTAS. Just like in previous years, the online Reading, Math, and Science MCAs will be administered in person at school for spring 2021. There will NOT be an option to administer the test remotely. Families are able to opt-out of the assessments if so desired.

Administering 2020-21 statewide assessments will require MDE and Minnesota districts and charter schools to undergo additional preparation and develop creative solutions. The additional work is not perfect or ideal. To balance the school year 2020-21 assessment data collection needs with district responsibilities, MDE is stressing administration flexibility, creative problem solving, and active district-family engagement to ensure that as many assessment experiences as possible can be safely administered.

District Assessment Schedule-MCA Tests

*May be Subject to Change

March 23-25 & 30-31	Reading, Grades 3,4,5
April 20-22 & 27-29	Math, Grades 3,4,5
May 4-6	Science, Grade 5