

WE ARE COMMUNITY



#mustangSTRONG

Cathy L. Lauer, Ph.D.

Superintendent

830/582-1536 Ext 103

Fax 830/582-1920

cathy.lauer@

nixonsmiley.net

Jeff Van Auken

Dir. of Business & Operations

830/582-1536 Ext 104

Fax 830/582-1920

jeff.vanauken@

nixonsmiley.net

Jane Dwyer

Director of Special Programs

830/582-1536 Ext 107

Fax 830/582-1920

jane.dwyer@

nixonsmiley.net

Jim Weaver

High School Principal

830/582-1536 Ext 202

Fax 830/582-2168

jim.weaver@

nixonsmiley.net

Anita Van Auken

Middle School Principal

830/582-1536 Ext 301

Fax 830/582-2258

anita.vanauken@

nixonsmiley.net

Lundy Atkins

Elementary Principal

830/582-1536 Ext 402

Fax 830/582-1920

lundy.atkins@

nixonsmiley.net

**NIXON-SMILEY
CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
800 Rancho Road
Nixon, Texas 78140-0400**

July 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Families of NSCISD Students,

As we begin to prepare for the start of a new school year, I know many of you have questions. For example, some of you may be wondering if it is safe to send your child to school at all. Others are beginning to ask about school supplies and extra-curricular activities. Many have specifically asked me about requirements for face masks and how we will appropriately social distance in classrooms and on school busses.

I do not have all of the answers yet, but I wanted to share with you a summary of our preliminary plan for a safe return to school. However, please keep in mind, flexibility is essential. The information in this guidance is subject to change based on state and/or local decisions as well as input from local health authorities. You can expect a more complete, finalized plan the week of July 27th. That should allow families to make decisions at least two weeks prior to the start of school.

If you have any questions about the plan below or have further suggestions, please feel free to contact me at cathy.lauer@nixonsmiley.net or (830) 582-1536. I will do my best to reply as promptly as possible.

Sincerely,

Cathy L. Lauer, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Nixon-Smiley CISD

Back-to-School

Preliminary Guidance

Start Date – At this time, the plan is for staff to return by August 4, 2020 and students to begin on August 12, 2020. We have not changed our 2020-2021 school year calendar from the one previously published.

Masks – Schools are expected to comply with the Governor’s Executive Order for wearing masks or face shields when developmentally appropriate. **If the current order is still in place when school starts**, we will provide more information about our expectations.

Other Precautions – We are currently analyzing and planning for things like handwashing/sanitizing, screening, possible temperature checks, implementing appropriate social distancing in areas like the cafeteria, restrooms, and on transportation. We are already planning for increased cleaning, sanitizing, frequent reminders of hand hygiene, and reminders to social distance. For students who chose to attend in-person classes, we will be focused on keeping our students and staff healthy.

Instructional Models

Beginning Monday, July 27th families will be asked to make a commitment for their child(ren) to choose either **in-person** or **at-home learning** for the first semester. The commitment will need to be made July 30th in order for campuses to finalize student schedules. Students will be expected to remain in their chosen option through at least the nine week grading period in order to limit scheduling and staffing complexities. Any changes will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In both instances, students are expected to participate and remain engaged in high quality instruction.

More details about these options will be provided in future correspondence. But for preliminary planning purposes, here is a brief description of each option:

- **In person, face-to-face instruction** – Students attend school daily, as with the regular school year, and follow safety, sanitation, and social distancing expectations.
- **At-home learning (asynchronous remote/virtual learning)** –In this method, students learn from instruction that is not necessarily being delivered in-person or in real time, however daily participation is required. This type of instruction may include various forms of digital and online learning, such as prerecorded video lessons or game-based learning tasks that students complete on their own, and pre-assigned work and formative assessments made available to students on paper. Students will be expected to complete and submit assignments as communicated by the remote/virtual learning teacher(s). This home-learning model is an extension of the classroom and includes the same high-level expectations for participation and assignments as face-to-face. Not all electives or courses will be available for students choosing this option. Most students will need help and support from someone in the household.

In both models, monitoring student learning and progress remains integral to the success of the students. This includes attendance, grades, formative/summative assessments, and other techniques that help teachers know how students are making progress.

Attendance – Attendance will be taken each day for both face-to-face and at-home learning to ensure that students are actively engaged. During at-home instruction, students are expected to participate and fully engage as communicated by the teacher to receive attendance credit. In addition, per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement applies to both face-to-face and at-home instruction.

Extracurricular Programs – Each program will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine implementation guidelines. It is possible that students who are engaging through at-home (remote/virtual) instruction might not be able to participate in specified extracurricular programs. Program sponsors will provide information to students and parents/families as information is available.

RISE After-School Program – The RISE after-school program will be available on the first day of instruction for face-to-face students only. Registration will be required through Ms. Rogers (830-582-1536 ext. 411). This program will follow the same sanitation and social distancing requirements established during the regular instructional day.

Meals and Transportation – Meals and transportation will be provided for students attending in-person. We do not yet know if we can provide grab and go meals for students in at-home learning.

Response Requirements – NSCISD will comply with requirements to respond to lab-confirmed cases as follows:

1. If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, NSCISD will notify local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
2. The campus will close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 3 days have already passed since that person was on campus.
3. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, NSCISD will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate on any on campus activities.
4. Quarantine requirements will be determined based on the recommendations of local health authorities.