



07/23/2020

Navajo Public Schools 2020-21 School Year FAQs

The safety of our students and staff are TOP priority, and we are very eager to welcome our Navajo family back to the halls of Navajo School, August 13, 2020! We are working diligently to get safety protocols in place to provide a safe, positive learning environment for students/staff to return to this fall. Please keep in mind that the challenges we are all facing with COVID change daily, and may require us to make changes/updates to schedules/protocols/ etc. to meet the safety needs of our students/staff. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this challenging time!

We are providing these FAQs to support your children's return to school in the fall. Please note that any future mandates or closures set by state and/or federal governments could alter information in this document. We will update this information should that occur.

CALENDAR / SCHEDULES

Q: Has the first day of school changed for our district?

A: No. The first day of school is August 13th, 2020.

Q: Has the school day schedule changed for the 2020-21 school year?

A: No. The daily schedules can be found on our website. We ask that families respect the schedules for their children.

Q: Are there any planned closures of school for the 2020-21 school year?

A: No. There are no planned closures. If a closure was required for the health and safety of students, Navajo Public Schools would continue to provide instruction for students at home and we would call it "Pivot to Home."

Q: What is meant by “Pivot to Home?”

A: In the spring of 2020, classes were abruptly halted due to COVID-19. If we have any disruption to the 2020-21 school year, instruction will look much different than the spring. Assignments will be given by your student’s individual teachers - just like in the classroom. **Grades can increase or decrease based on student’s academic progress - just like in the classroom.** While the physical location is different, our teachers and district are committed to consistently moving forward with teaching and learning. We hope “Pivot to Home” is not necessary for 2020-21, but we are prepared to press forward with full instruction if it becomes necessary.

Q: If school has to be shut down for health reasons, how much notice will parents be given?

A: Navajo Public Schools will give as much notice as possible. We know that keeping school in session is a priority for families. For that reason, we are examining each procedure and protocol in our district so that we can keep school open. However, we will never keep school in session if it is wise to close the school doors.

Q: If school has to be shut down for health reasons, how long will school be closed?

A: There is no way to predict the length of time that school would be shut down. Our goal is to keep school in session for the entire school year. We would remain closed until advised that we could re-open from local and state health officials.

Q: Will there be any virtual days built into the school calendar?

A: Yes, there will be two days each month designated to virtual learning on the school calendar. The first virtual learning day is September 4th (please visit our website or Facebook page to see designated days). We are sharing this now so parents can have ample time to plan. This will be a day when students learn from home rather than at their physical school buildings. Teachers and students will be able to practice “Pivot to Home” in August within their classroom setting. The goal of this day is for students and teachers to become familiar with the “Pivot to Home” processes, even though we hope they are not needed for the 2020-21 school year.

For students grades 7-12, this will be a six-period day following the same schedule as students follow in class. For elementary students, the classroom teacher will provide lessons. Assignments will be available outside standard classroom hours to support a variety of family schedules. This “Pivot to Home” day will be the equivalent of a day of learning in the classroom and will not result in added days to the school calendar.

Q: Will Navajo Public Schools offer full-time online classes as an alternative to classroom instruction?

A: Yes. Navajo Public Schools will offer full-time online learning for PK-12 students. We recognize some families may be uncomfortable returning to the physical classroom. There will be a survey available

through your child's Google classroom, beginning Friday, July 24, 2020 for parents to indicate if their child(ren) will be attending traditional face to face classes at Navajo School , or if they plan to choose the online option for the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year at Navajo School. The DEADLINE to complete this survey will be Friday, July 31, 2020, 5:00 PM. For NEW Navajo Students/Parents to gain access to this survey, please email Mr. Sager, ssager@navajo.k12.ok.us or Mr. Doss, ddoss@navajo.k12.ok.us.

Q: Can students shift back-and-forth between online learning and face-to-face learning?

A: No. Students will choose between full-time online learning and face-to-face learning for a complete semester. For example, a student could select online learning in the fall semester and return to face-to-face learning in the spring semester, or vice versa.

STAFF / STUDENT HEALTH PROTOCOLS

Q: What steps will the district take to keep school as safe as possible?

A: Navajo Public Schools will make every effort to promote healthy practices and protocols in our schools. Schools will have daily cleaning protocols that align with guidance from health officials. Social Distancing will be practiced to the extent possible. Frequent hand-washing and other healthy protocols will be modeled by adults and encouraged for students. Additionally, hand sanitizer and hand sanitizing stations will be present throughout school buildings.

Q: How will social distancing occur in our schools?

A: It will be difficult to consistently maintain distance between students in our schools. Every effort will be made to reduce close contact among students in the classroom, as well as in common areas such as hallways, restrooms, cafeterias, gyms, etc. Teachers will be encouraged to space student desks as much as possible and to reduce activities that require close contact between students.

Q: What steps can families take to keep school as safe as possible?

A: We ask that parents check their children's health status at home every morning. Please use the self-check list below:

By sending your child to school, you are representing to Navajo Public Schools that the answer to each of these questions is "no".

Does your child have a fever of 100 degrees or more?

Is your child experiencing a new loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea?

Is your child experiencing two or more of the following symptoms of COVID-19?

- Chills
- Cough
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat

- Congestion or runny nose

Is your child experiencing ANY of the Emergency Warning Symptoms of COVID-19?

- Shortness of breath
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

Has your child had, or do you think your child has, COVID-19?

Has your child tested positive for COVID-19?

Has your child been around a person with COVID-19?

Q: Will staff members be taking these same protocols?

A: Yes. Navajo Public Schools is requesting that every employee ask these same questions of themselves before leaving home each day.

Q: How can I remember all of the steps for my students regarding when to stay home and when the student can return to school?

A: Our district will provide a reference page for parents that you can print or keep on your phone.

Q: Will students have their temperature taken each day at school?

A: Yes; however, we need parents to monitor/check their child(s) temperature at home...BEFORE sending students to school. Students should not even come to school if they are running a fever.

Q: Will parents be notified if their child has come in direct physical contact or close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?

A: Yes, if a child has been in direct physical contact or close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 the parent will be notified. While the district wants to respect the confidentiality of health information, notifying parents regarding their child's potential contact with COVID-19 is a priority to the district. The identity of the individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be kept confidential, this is in accordance with FERPA regulations. The district will work in cooperation with our county health department and use the CDC guidelines for these procedures.

Q: Will parents be notified if anyone in the school has tested positive for COVID-19?

A: Yes, the district will work in cooperation with our county health department and use the CDC guidelines for these procedures.

Q: Should a parent notify the school if their child or someone in their family tests positive for COVID-19?

A: Yes. The child should not return to school and the parent should notify the principal of the school. The principal, through a series of questions, can help determine what steps should be taken next.

Q: Will wearing face coverings/masks be mandatory for students to attend school?

A: No. At the time of these FAQs, July 23, 2020, face coverings/masks will be appreciated and strongly encouraged, but not required.

No student will be shunned or criticized for any extent of health protocols they take to make themselves feel comfortable and safe. Demonstrating respect is a core value of our district. If face coverings/masks are required by STATE OFFICIALS by the time school begins, Navajo Public Schools will be required to comply with those requirements.

Q: Will wearing face coverings/masks be mandatory for staff to remain employed?

A: As of the time of these FAQs, July 23, 2020, face coverings/masks will be appreciated and strongly encouraged, but not required.

As with our students, no adult will be shunned or criticized for any extent of health protocols they take to make themselves feel comfortable and safe. Demonstrating respect is a core value of our district. If face coverings/masks are required by STATE OFFICIALS by the time school begins, Navajo Public Schools will be required to comply with those requirements.

Q: What if my child misses more than 10 days in a semester due to illness or possible contact with someone with COVID-19?

A: Students who are ill or suspect they are ill should remain at home. Our district will work with parents to support students during periods of absences when families are working to support their child's health and the health of others.

ACTIVITIES / BUILDING VISITS

Q: Will activities (field trips, assemblies, concerts, etc.) be held in the fall semester?

A: Our primary focus right now is making every effort for school to be in session for the 2020-21 school year and to keep our students and staff safe and healthy. Athletics activities have taken place this summer with modified protocols. Determinations about activities will be made as we enter each phase of the school year. If school were to be shut down completely, then all activities would also stop.

Q: Will the district host schedule pickup and "Meet the Teacher" events?

A: These activities will likely be modified. Evaluating activities and details surrounding the school year will be done in late July and communicated at that time. Whether these activities are done traditionally or modified, please know our focus is making sure each student has a positive start to the school year.

Q: Will the district allow visitors/parents in the school buildings?

A: No. We will serve visitors curbside and ask for understanding that we must limit access inside our buildings to students and staff only. Our priority is the safety of our students and staff and working together to keep school in session.

TRANSPORTATION / ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

Q: Will Navajo Public Schools be providing transportation for the 2020-21 school year?

A: Yes. There will be transportation for the 2020-2021 school year, although protocols will be adjusted to implement guidelines for the safety of our students.

Q: What precautions will be taken to address COVID-19 on our buses?

A: Buses will have daily cleaning protocols that align with guidance from health officials. Windows will be down for air circulation, unless it is impractical to do so. Family members will be seated together, and hand sanitizer will be encouraged as students get on and off the bus.

Q: Will wearing face coverings / masks be mandatory for students to ride a bus?

A: Yes. As of the time of these FAQs, July 23, 2020, face coverings will be mandatory due to the proximity of students seated on the bus.

Q: What can students do to assist with a safe ride to school on the bus?

A: Students should not get on a bus if they are ill or have any symptoms outlined in the daily health checklist. Students should face forward at all times and respect the directions provided by the bus driver.

Q: If my student has always been a bus rider, can I transport my child to and from school?

A: Yes. Parents are always welcome to transport their children to and from school. Parents are strongly encouraged to bring their children to/from school this year, if at all possible, to assist with reducing the number of bus riders. However, we are aware that not all families can make that adjustment to their schedules.

Q: Can I walk my elementary child into the school building?

A: No. We are asking that parents remain outside of the school buildings, and our staff will assist the elementary children as they enter the school building.

CHILD NUTRITION

Q: Will Navajo Public Schools be offering breakfast and lunch to students for 2020-21?

A: Yes. Meals for the 2020-21 school year will be provided and menus will be located on the district's child nutrition page. Payment procedures will remain the same as the 2019-20 school year.

Q: Will parents be able to eat in the cafeteria with their child?

A: No. Parents will not be permitted to eat in the cafeteria with their child. Our hope is that this is a temporary change in practice.

COMMUNICATION / PARENT PARTNERSHIPS

Q: How will parents receive updates and information throughout the school year?

A: The Navajo school website, Navajo Facebook page and student school email will be used to update parents. When deemed necessary, we will also use our school all-call system. Please make sure your contact information is always updated so that we can provide you the best communication.

Q: If I have a question that hasn't been answered here, what do I do?

A: If, after reading these FAQs, you still have questions please feel free to reach out to:

Vicki Nance, Navajo Public Schools Superintendent at vnance@navajo.k12.ok.us

David Doss, Navajo High School Principal at ddoss@navajo.k12.ok.us

Shawn Sager, Navajo Elementary Principal at ssager@navajo.k12.ok.us

Danielle Tucker, Navajo Public Schools Counselor at dtucker@navajo.k12.ok.us

Parents can also reach the district by calling 580-482-7742