

**NORTH BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 138
NORTH BRANCH AREA EDUCATION CENTER, LARGE GYM
38705 GRAND AVENUE
NORTH BRANCH, MN 55056
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2020
5:30 PM**

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Approval of Agenda
- V. New Business
 - A. **Return to Learn** Back to School Plan
 - B. Consider Adoption of Base Learning Model for the 2020-2021 School Year and Other COVID-19 Related Matters
- VI. Adjournment

RETURN TO LEARN!

Back to School Plan
Fall 2020

School Board Presentation

8/6/20

DRAFT



NORTH BRANCH
AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Inspire Dreams, Build Integrity, Instill Hope

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Overview



Safety First

*Considering the extraordinary circumstances related to COVID-19, NBAPS' primary focus for the 2020-21 school year will be **safely reopening schools.***

NBAPS Goals



Prepare all learners for success in school and in life.

- **Flexibility and choice** for families to decide what is best for each child: distance learning or 5-day, in-school option
- Value **safety** and place a priority on the **health and wellness** of **students and staff**

Raise accountability for all staff and programs

- Establish **mutual commitments** for procedures/protocols to mitigate risk
- Provide **predictability** of daily schedule, instructional model and learning environments

Increase community engagement

- Include students, families, and staff members in a **responsive, adaptable,** and **ongoing** planning process

Commit resources to district priorities

- Share the responsibility to **maximize resources**

NBAPS Theme: Better Together



- NBAPS believes in “better together,” and is grateful for the continued high response rates to school district surveys and Thoughtexchanges. That early feedback **informed** initial planning.
- NBAPS is **committed to including** students, families, and staff in a responsive, adaptable, and ongoing planning process.
- NBAPS will **continue** to provide opportunities for input to hear feedback about how the 2020-21 school year is going for families and staff. Survey results will help the school district make adjustments and improvements.

Stakeholder Input

Initial Stakeholder Input- Parent Survey



On June 17, a “back to school” survey was sent to all families. As of July 14, over a thousand survey responses were submitted.

- An **overwhelming majority** of respondents indicated an initial desire to **send students to school** if that is an option.
- The **more remote** learning is involved in the re-opening plan, the **less support** it received.
- **65%** of respondents said it would make **family schedules difficult** to have school every other day or on a morning/afternoon schedule.

Return to Learn Family Choices



How we are starting the school year?

NBAPS will offer two education options:

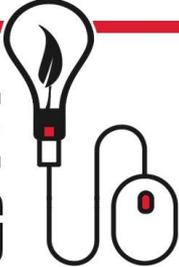
Distance Learning Academy for K-12 students, Monday through Friday.

Or

In school option for all K-12 students, Monday through Friday. Continued Youth Connections programming and early learning options.

Distance Learning Academy Option



**DISTANCE
LEARNING** 
ACADEMY

Why distance learning 5 days per week?

- Some families will prefer distance learning as an option for their family
- NBAPS seeks to offer a quality distance learning program for students that includes:
 - Daily connections with teachers
 - Courses taught by expert teachers
 - Fully accredited through Minnesota Department of Education and NCAA
 - Service to students K-12
 - Engaging Curriculum
 - Flexibility allows students to learn at their own pace

[ENROLL](#)



In-School Option

Why in school learning five days per week?

- Survey results indicated this was the strong preference of families
 - Over 90% of families indicated a preference for in-school learning
- By maximizing resources, NBAPS is able to offer an every day option to students while following public health guidelines as required; including when shifting to the hybrid model
- Predictability for families and students
 - Families and students benefit from predictable schedules.
- Social and emotional well being of students
 - It is understood that students do better learning in collaboration with others - students are social beings
- Broadband inequities
 - Quality of internet access makes distance learning challenging for some families

School Schedules

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School Schedules

NBAPS has adjusted space and staffing to provide the opportunity for students to come to school five days per week. School schedules have been modified to adhere to safety protocols, to allow for staff to connect virtually with absent students, and to allow pivoting between the levels as needed based on local public health data. Schedules will remain consistent through levels 2-4 on the Flexible Learning Continuum.

School Schedules



Program	Location	School Hours	Parent Drop off/ Pick up Window	Youth Connections Hours on Location
Pre-School	Education Center	9:20 - 11:40 AM session 12:20 - 2:40 PM session 9:20-2:40 All Day offerings	TBD	On-site, fee-based childcare will be available for students ages 3 and above from 5:45 am until 6:00 p.m. Learn more here
Kindergarten and Grade 1	Education Center	9:20 AM - 2:40 PM	After school, students not taking the bus must be picked up by 3:15 PM, or attend Youth Connections	On-site, fee-based childcare will be available for students in kindergarten from 5:45 am until 6:00 p.m. Learn more here
Grades 2-5	Sunrise River	9:05 AM - 2:25 PM	17 After school, students not taking the bus must be	On-site, fee-based childcare will be available for students grades 1-4 Return to Table of Contents

School Schedules



Program	Location	School Hours	Drop off/ Pick up Window	Youth Connections Hours on Location
Grades 6-8	Middle School	9:20 AM - 2:40 PM	After school, students not taking the bus must be picked up by 3:15 PM, or attend Youth Connections (grade 6 only)	On-site, fee-based childcare will be available for students ages 3 - 6th grade from 5:45 am until 6:00 p.m. Learn more here

School Schedules



Program	Location	School Hours	Flexible Arrival/Departure
Grades 9-12	High School	9:10 AM - 2:30 PM	Students have flexibility to arrive after 8:30 AM or stay after school and study in designated spaces. Student are expected to follow safety protocols.
Norse Program	Brooker Building	9:20 AM - 2:40 PM	Students have flexibility to arrive after 8:30 AM or stay after school and study in designated spaces. Student are expected to follow safety protocols.
Chisago County Schools' Life Work Skills Program	Middle School	9:20 AM - 2:40 PM	Students and families will work with their child's case manager to determine time.



Students Switching Between Options

Secondary At Trimester

Elementary Changes may be more fluid but will require a conference

Short term absences: Students that are absent will remain with their teacher and receive virtual instruction and will not need to switch to the Distance Learning option.

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The Student Experience

Regardless of the option a family chooses, NBAPS is committed to providing a quality experience



Design Elements



Key Design Elements

- *Health and Safety for all*
- *Flexible Learning Continuum*
- *Student Support and Engagement*
- *Staff Balance and Support*
- *Activities*

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Health and Safety

Physical Spaces

- *Sanitation Stations*
- *Directional Signage*
- *Safety Signage*
- *Drinking Water
(Filling Stations only)*
- *Creating Space for
Distancing*
- *Contingency Planning*

Health and Safety

Physical Spaces Contingency Plan



If the need arises to reduce pressure on space at the high school and adhere to strict social distancing:

- Open up flex space/mini-campus concept at Shops at Gateway North
 - Supports student agency
 - Allows for safe small group collaboration
- Flex space/mini-campus work space can be available for students



Health and Safety

Healthy Environments

- *Ventilation*
- *Cleaning and Disinfecting*
- *Shared Objects*
- *Health Screenings*
- *Communal Spaces*
- *Hand Hygiene*
- *Modified Building Layouts*

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Health and Safety Transportation

- Mitigating the risk of spreading the virus is most difficult on buses.
- Almost half of survey respondents indicated they would consider personal transportation if the drop-off/pick-up window were expanded
 - Expanded drop off / pick up times will be provided
 - School Age Care will be available at sites
- Families will need to **sign up** to be transported on the school bus
- Safety protocols for face coverings and loading / unloading will be followed
- Use of transfer buses will be limited
- Special education transportation will be provided



Health and Safety

Nutrition Services

Level 1 to Level 4 - In School Option

- Breakfast and lunch will be available to students on-site daily.
- Accommodations will be implemented to assure safety.
- Physical distancing decals/stickers/tape will be used on the floors to direct traffic in the cafeterias.
- Nutrition Services staff will follow safety protocols.
- Hand washing routines will be emphasized.

Level 5 - Closure of all in school learning

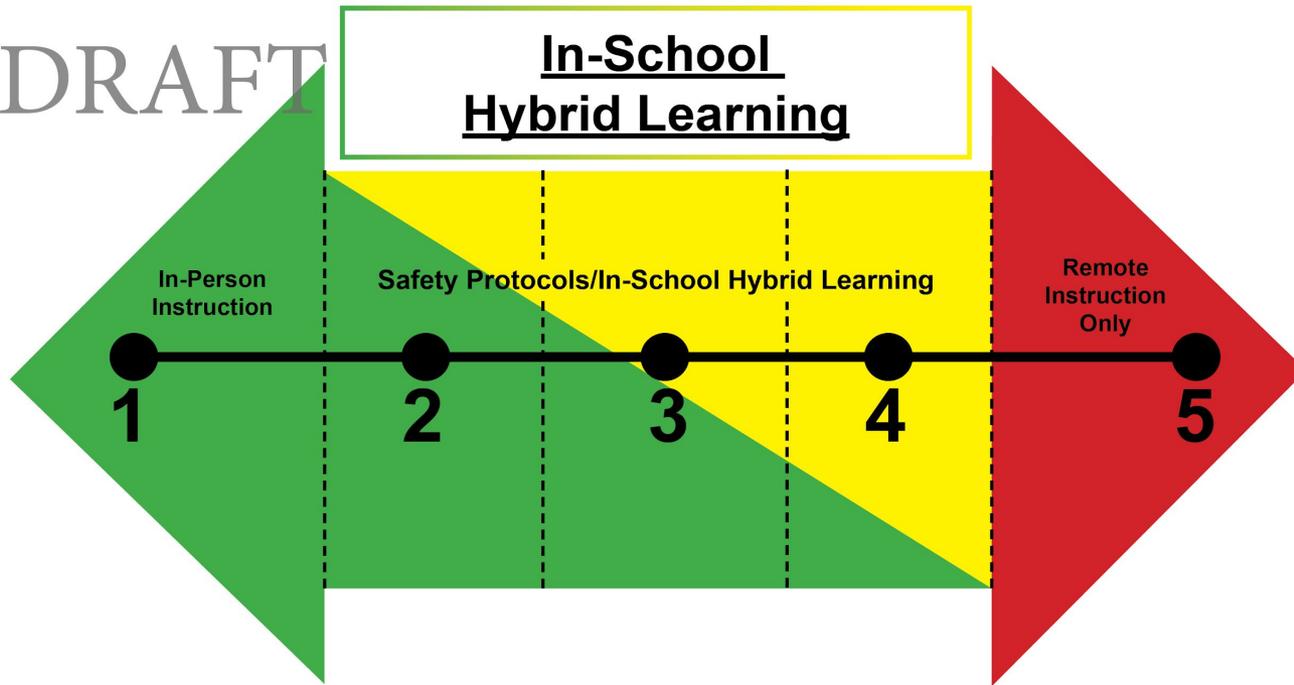
- Families will be invited to pick up pre-packaged meals.

Flexible Learning Continuum

Flexible Learning Continuum



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Distance Learning Academy is an option available for students grades K-12

[Click here to see a description of each level.](#)

Safe Learning Model Steps

How do schools determine their safe learning model?

STEP 1

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will use data from counties to determine a base learning model for public schools.

STEP 2

Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will share county data and the consultative process for public schools to engage with education and public health experts to review their county health data and safe learning plans.

STEP 3

Public schools, with their incident command team, will evaluate their ability to implement required and recommended health best practices.

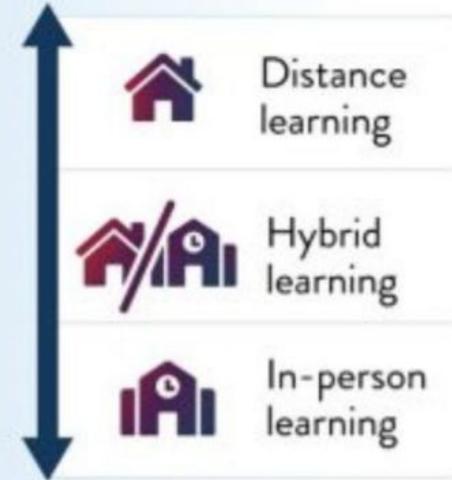
STEP 4

Public schools, in consultation with public health, will determine a learning model to begin the school year and communicate that decision with their school community.*

STEP 5

Public schools and MDH will monitor the community and school-level impact of COVID-19 on a regular basis. Adjustments will be made to the learning model if needed.

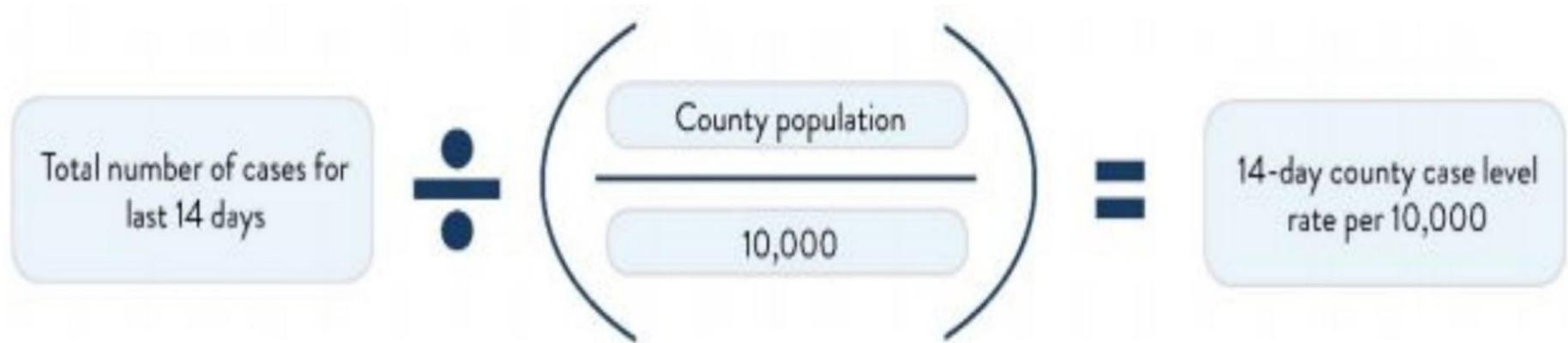
Safe learning models:



* Regardless of learning model, all public schools must offer an equitable distance learning option to all families.



Step 1: County Public Health Data





Step 1: County Public Health Data

Learning Model Parameters

Number of cases per 10,000 over 14 days, by county of residence	Learning Model
0-9	In-person learning for all students
10-19	In-person learning for elementary students; hybrid learning for secondary students
20-29	Hybrid learning for all students
30-49	Hybrid learning for elementary students; distance learning for secondary students
50+	Distance learning for all students



County case data for 7/4 through 7/18:

- **Chisago County** **5.85**
- **Isanti County** **5.13**



Step 2: Consult with health officials as needed

- Consultation with the Minnesota Department of Education
- County will be hosting consultation sessions for Superintendents

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Step 3: COVID Advisory Team

Teacher Union Leaders

School Nurses

Paraprofessional Union Leaders

County Public Health

City Leaders

Parents

Custodial Union Leader

Students

Building Principals or designee

District leaders

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Step 4: Return to Learn Starting Point

NBAPS proposes to start its in-school option at:

Level 2 for elementary

Level 2 for secondary

(The Governor's Safe Learning Plan refers to the starting point as the base learning model. With a priority on safety, NBAPS proposes a blended model of in-person and hybrid learning models. All students have the option for 5 days per week of in-school instruction.)



Level 2- Flexible Learning Continuum- What to Expect*

- **Students will spend their school day on site.**
- Instruction will be delivered in-person for all students not enrolled in NBAPS Distance Learning Academy
- School day adjusted
- Flexible drop-off and pick-up times provided to allow families to transport students to and from school
- Visitor/volunteer access in buildings restricted
- Safety protocols in place on buses
- Large gatherings/activities that do not allow for social distancing will be discontinued
- Students will be transported to school with restrictions
- After-school activities and programs will operate within MDE/MDH and MSHSL guidelines
- Fee-based child care will be offered to all families
- Students and staff will wear PPE per the Executive Order 20-81.
- Personal hygiene habits modeled, practiced and encouraged
- Daily and frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces
- Lunch will be served outside of the classroom



Step 5: Monitor and Adjust

The NBAPS Flexibility Learning Continuum allows the school district to pivot between Levels 2-4 per public health guidance without disrupting family schedules.

Student Engagement and Supports



Flexibility to make Calendar Adjustments

- State guidance allows districts to adjust the school calendar when necessary to provide a safe learning environment for students and staff
 - Transitioning between instructional delivery models
 - At the guidance of public health or MDE

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Student Engagement and Supports

Supporting Students with Special Needs

- Student case managers will be reaching out once they return to work at the end of August to discuss changes with families.
- Find additional information regarding updates that will occur to student's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), Individual Education Programs (IEP), or 504 Plans [here](#).



Student Engagement and Supports Welcome Back Week

In lieu of traditional open houses, all schools will have welcome back events happening the first week of school. K-8 families will have Welcome Back Conferences on 9/8-9/10. For students attending the North Branch Area High School, the Norse Area Learning Center, or the Life Work Center, more details about these small group, personalized welcome activities will be sent out from building principals by August 17.



Student Engagement and Supports

Activities

Activities enrich the student experience and provide opportunities for social and emotional wellness and personal growth. Activities will be provided following safety protocols.

MSHSL guidance

Guidance from Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) will be relied on and implemented to safely hold athletic practices, competition and events. Each co-curricular activity is developing expectations following the flexible learning continuum, allowing for activities to continue in levels 1-4.

Clubs and activities

Through levels 1-4 on the Flexible Learning Continuum, clubs and activities may take place with physical distancing and safety measures in place.

Field trips

Temporarily suspended

Next Steps **and** **Communications**

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Next Steps: Approve MSBA Resolution

Adoption of Base Learning Model for the 2020-2021 School Year and Other COVID-19 Related Matters

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Next Steps: Policy Changes

Recommend Policy Changes

- Attendance
- Student Discipline
- Masks

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*First readings will be on August 13
Second readings will be on August 27.*

Next Steps: Safety Contingency Plan

Lease Aid Timeline

August 13	School Board Vote to Approve Lease Aid
August 20	City of North Branch Conditional Use Permit Hearing
August 20	City Council Meeting
September 10	School Board Approves Levy Certification

Communications



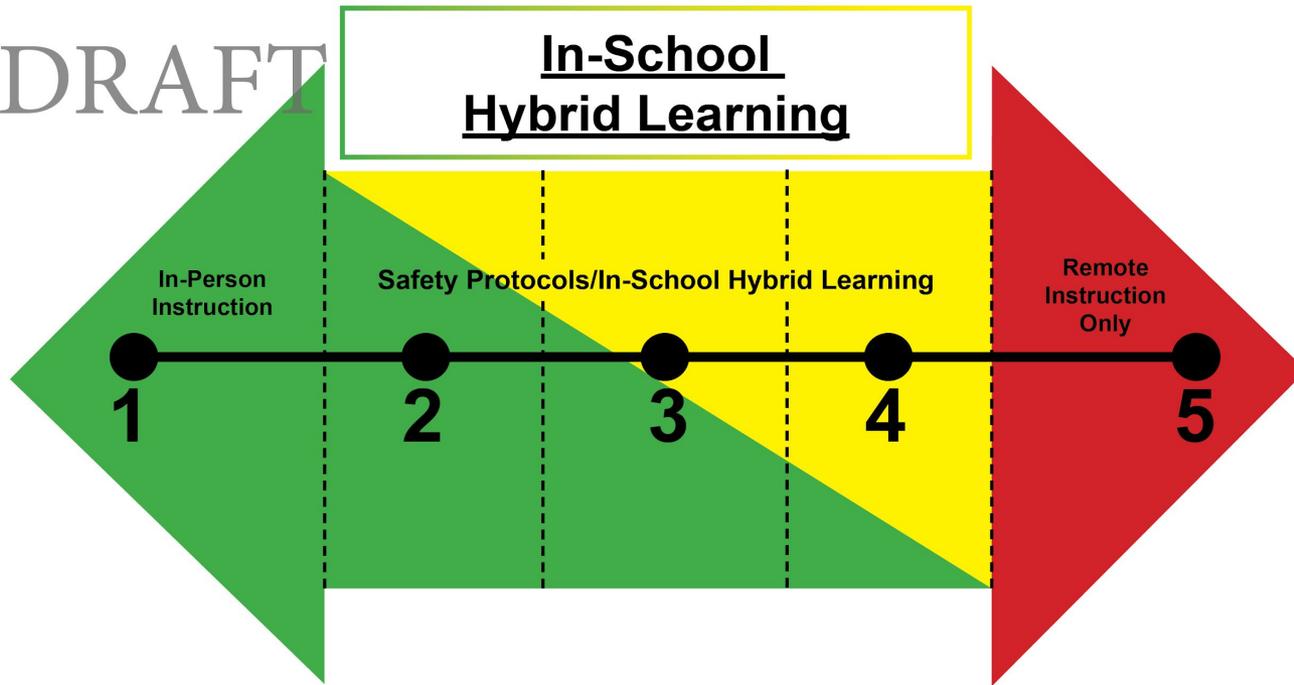
Mid June	Parent Survey
July	District leaders convened weekly to share progress reports and plans
July 23-Aug 2	Thoughtexchange
July 30	State releases guidelines for reopening schools
July 31	Message to Families and Staff about State's Announcement
August 6 Meeting)	Return to Learn DRAFT planning document shared with School Board (Special
August 7	Return to Learn planning document shared with Staff and Families
August 7	Return to Learn meetings held with staff at each site (virtual and optional)
August 7	Families receive information about school start and end times and fall activities
August 17	Families receive school-specific information
August 13	Regular Scheduled School Board meeting
September 8	Begin to welcome students back!

Appendix

Flexible Learning Continuum



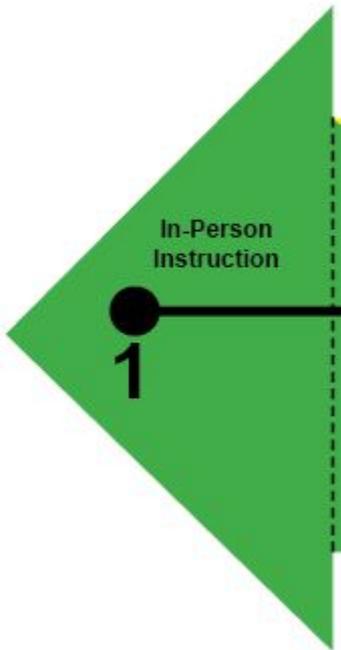
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Distance Learning Academy is an option available for students grades K-12

[Click here to see a description of each level.](#)

Level 1- Flexible Learning Continuum- What to Expect*



- **Students will spend their school day on site.**
- Instruction will be delivered in-person for all students not enrolled in NBAPS Distance Learning Academy program.
- Students will move freely throughout the building including at passing time and lunch in the cafeteria (while maintaining social distancing guidelines as much as possible).
- Large gatherings/activities that do not allow for social distancing will not be held (all school assemblies)
- Routines of hygiene education and practices will be built with students and staff
- Students will be transported to school without restrictions.
- After-school activities and programs will operate within MDE/MDH and MSHSL guidelines.
- Fee-based child care will be offered to all families.
- Students and staff will wear PPE per the Executive Order 20-81.



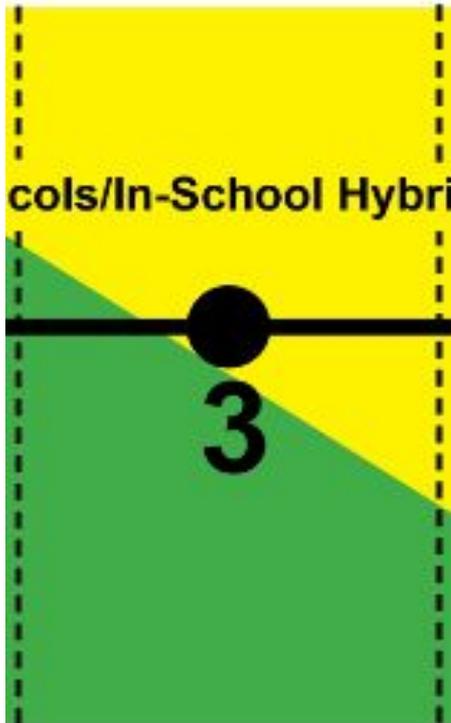
Level 2- Flexible Learning Continuum- What to Expect*



- **Students will spend their school day on site.**
- Instruction will be delivered in-person for all students not enrolled in NBAPS Distance Learning Academy
- School day adjusted
- Flexible drop-off and pick-up times provided to allow families to transport students to and from school
- Visitor/volunteer access in buildings restricted
- Safety protocols in place on buses
- Large gatherings/activities that do not allow for social distancing will be discontinued
- Students will be transported to school with restrictions
- After-school activities and programs will operate within MDE/MDH and MSHSL guidelines
- Fee-based child care will be offered to all families
- Students and staff will wear PPE per the Executive Order 20-81.
- Personal hygiene habits modeled, practiced and encouraged
- Daily and frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces
- Lunch will be served outside of the classroom



Level 3- Flexible Learning Continuum- What to Expect*



- **Students continue to spend their school day on site.**
- Core instruction primarily delivered in-person in spaces that allow strict social distancing. Specialist offerings adjusted
- School day adjusted
- Student transitions throughout the building are reduced.
- Flexible drop-off and pick-up times provided to encourage families to transport students to and from school
- Increased safety protocols in place on buses
- After-school activities and programs will operate within MDE/MDH and MSHSL guidelines
- Fee-based child-care continue to be offered to all families
- Students and staff will wear PPE per the Executive Order 20-81.
- Lunch location will vary by building.

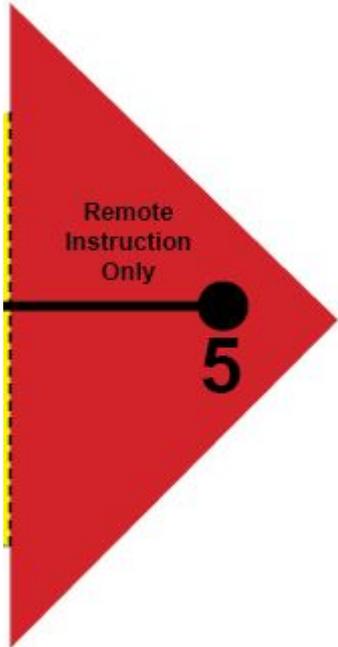
Level 4- Flexible Learning Continuum- What to Expect*



- **Students grades PK-8 have the option to continue spending school days on site**
- 9-12th grade students are encouraged to remain home
 - 9-12th grade students without reliable internet access and students who need special services may be able to attend school.
- Student transitions restricted
- Students discouraged from using district transportation;
 - Bus capacity will be limited
 - Families strongly encouraged to personally transport
- On-site child-care offered based on MDE/MDH guidance
- After-school activities and programs will operate within MDE/MDH and MSHSL guidelines
- Teachers and staff may be given flexibility for remote instruction as more families choose at home learning
- Students and staff will wear PPE per the Executive Order 20-81.
- Lunch will be served inside the classroom.



Level 5 - Flexible Learning Continuum - What to Expect*



- No students on site
- All instruction delivered remotely
- On-site child-care offered based on MDE/MDH guidance
- The Governor or public health officials have advised the school district to shift entirely to remote learning or halt specific activities in consultation with the MSHSL
- Families will be invited to pick up pre-packaged meals

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Adoption of Base Learning Model for the 2020-2021 School Year and Other COVID-19 Related Matters

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 123B.09 vests the care, management, and control of independent districts in the school board; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Independent School District 138 [hereinafter the “Superintendent”] is responsible for the management of the schools, the administration of all School District policies, and is directly accountable to the School Board; and

WHEREAS, when responsibilities are not specifically prescribed nor School District policy applicable, the Superintendent shall use personal and professional judgment, subject to review by the School Board, pursuant to School District Policy 302, *Superintendent*;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz issued Emergency Executive Order 20-01, which declared a peacetime emergency in Minnesota in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on July 30, 2020, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz issued Emergency Executive Order 20-82 and the Safe Learning Plan for 2020-2021 (the “Safe Learning Plan”), which set forth five Learning Models (in-person learning for all, in-person learning for elementary students and hybrid learning for secondary students, hybrid learning for all students, hybrid learning for elementary students and distance learning for secondary students, and distance learning) and authorized all school districts in the State of Minnesota to select and implement an appropriate base Learning Model in accordance with, and subject to, the Safe Learning Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Education (“MDE”) has issued and may continue to issue written guidance for Minnesota schools on educational issues related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Health (“MDH”) has issued and may continue to issue written guidance for Minnesota schools on public health issues related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent and the administration of the School District have conferred with the School Board regarding the available Learning Models, the current MDE and MDH requirements for each, and other relevant information; and

WHEREAS, based upon the collective consideration of these factors, the Superintendent has recommended to the School Board that a blend of in person and hybrid will be the base Learning Model to be implemented at the commencement of the 2020-2021 school year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 138 as follows:

Section 1: The Superintendent is hereby directed to implement the following base Learning Model to open the 2020-2021 school year: Blended In-Person and Hybrid Model.

Section 2: The Superintendent is hereby authorized, after consultation with the School Board Chair and notification to the School Board, to select and implement a different Learning Model for the School District or any specific school buildings without School Board action if the Superintendent reasonably believes that prompt implementation of a different Learning Model is necessary, and that constraints of time and public health considerations render it impractical to hold a School Board meeting to approve the implementation. The Learning Model selected and implemented by the Superintendent shall continue in effect unless and until the School Board, in consultation with the Superintendent and appropriate school district staff and public health officials, deems it in the best interest of the School District and its students to implement a different Learning Model.

Section 3: The Superintendent will provide regular updates to the School Board regarding the School District's efforts to implement COVID-19 related educational and public health guidance issued by the MDE and the MDH, respectively.

Adopted this 6th day of August, 2020.

Roll Call Vote

School Board Chair

School Board Clerk