

# **COVID-19 School Closure Frequently asked questions.**

Updated March 18, 2020 1:15 PM

NWCS is trying to present as much information as possible to help ease the anxiety and fears surrounding these uncertain times. Some of these responses will change as updates are made. We hope to provide updates in a timely fashion. If you have a pressing question, please call central office at 260-622-4125 at any time, even after hours. Leave a message if you need to and we will get back with you as soon as possible.

**I've been wondering if NWCS will offer lunches anywhere?** Yes. We are ramping up to start this on April 1. There is a link on the website to sign up.

**Will there be a prom this year?** Until the restrictions are lifted regarding social distancing and number of people in one location, prom will not occur. We are doubtful at this time that the prom will occur on its original date, but will still maintain hope we could have it before the end of the school year.

**Will this closure affect graduation?** Since high school graduation is scheduled for June 7, 2020, we are optimistic it will still occur as planned. However, restrictions will have to be lifted before we would permit it. Graduations conducted at other grade levels would occur only if we are back in school as normal by the end of the year.

**Will school at least be cleaned very well while everyone's gone?** Yes, deep cleaning of the school began in earnest on Monday. Teaching assistants, bus drivers, bus aids, etc... are helping to clean as well.

**Can parents come get the kids things if this does go long term?** Yes, parents can come to get students' belongings during regular school hours. Call ahead to let the office know you are coming.

**When will a decision be made as to whether the schools will be closed for an extended period, past the current closure?** Unless something drastically changes, the board will be asked on March 24 to approve a revised calendar to continue our current closure through April 17. The plan is to then wait until the April 14<sup>th</sup> school board meeting to make the next round of decisions.

**Is there any consideration being made to making up days into summer instead of using eLearning?** Yes, that has been considered. We share your angst. We think this is a like the old adage, "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." We hope we can get back to normal ASAP. If not, there is no guarantee the start of 2020-21 school won't be disrupted too. With not being able to accurately predict the future, managing for the least loss seemed the safest bet.

**How will the closure impact those students who need to take the AP exams for their dual diploma?** We believe that AP testing will still occur, but may be delayed. Our AP teachers will be doing their best to provide the instruction necessary.

**Will kindergarten Round-Up still occur?** We will still have kindergarten round-up in some form. It is still an issue that we will work on after spring break.

**Would it be possible for the teachers (especially math) to do videos of lessons and examples of problems on some sort of white board?** Please reach out to your child's teacher(s) and share what you need to help your children with their learning. We are confident they will help however they can. You can contact the building principal if you have additional needs.

**Has any thought been given to scrap the 2020-2021 school calendar completely until this academic year is completed without excessive eLearning days in place. Assuming the "all clear" comes down late June or July— why can't we simply use the fall of 2020 to complete the 2019-2020 school year? Then we can simply rewrite the academic year of 2020-21 with shortened breaks and fewer holidays and possibly extend into the summer of 2021.** Yes. There are too many variables in play to have confidence that would be the best choice. We share programs with surrounding schools, especially in the high school. If the surrounding schools would not adjust their calendars in line with ours, it would cause considerable problems. Also, we have seniors who plan to enter college or join the workforce. Delaying in this scenario could put an extreme burden on them.

**If we don't return to class how does this affect the students who are in yearbook? How will they complete their assignments and deadlines?** Unfortunately, we don't have answers to these questions yet. We will be working on these after spring break.

**Could we utilize something like Zoom or a similar service to allow teachers to provide some direct instruction to students?** We have teachers utilizing Zoom now. Please reach out to your child's teacher(s) and share what you need to help your children with their learning. We are confident they will help however they can.

**How long will eLearning go with this school closure?** If we are unable to return to school, it will continue until the end of the year which appears will be on May 22 if NWCS uses all 20 instructional day waivers.

**Why are we using a waiver day for April 10 when school was scheduled to be closed for Good Friday?** Current calendar, last student day is May 28th. If April 10 is used as a waiver day, last student day would be May 27th as originally planned before a 2nd make-up day was needed from fog days near the start of the year. Teachers working remotely would not be adversely affected using April 10th as a waiver day.

**If the school remains closed for the remainder of the year what does that mean for our kids?** At this point, we are planning to use eLearning to complete the school year if necessary. If that happens, we would consider the year complete after our last day of eLearning. Considerations to promote students to the next grade level would be handled the same way they are now.

**Will children still advance to the next grade level next year including high schoolers who are on a schedule for graduating?** We expect that to be the case. However, some graduation requirements are being compromised because of the closure. We are asking the Department of Education for advise as to how to proceed so we can't give a definitive answer at this time.

**What will happen with the 3rd grade ILearn testing?** All standardized testing is currently on hold. We have no information as to what will happen regarding standardized testing at this time.

**Will you allow parents to have input on decisions regarding eLearning as a means to complete the school year as opposed to making up the time as I have concerns about how much actual “learning” my children are doing especially my 1st grader?** The School Board makes final policy decision. The administration make recommendations based on the best information available at the time. What has been already presented will be the recommendation to the school board. We know it is frustrating that any recommendation will not please everyone. You can reach the School Board members by email at [schoolboard@nwcs.k12.in.us](mailto:schoolboard@nwcs.k12.in.us) .

**Is there any plan to cancel school further than what is already been cancelled?** The plan that is on our website is the plan we are proposing to the school board to use moving forward. It includes using eLearning until we are released to return to school.

**Will sports continue if the kids ever go back to school?** Yes. We plan to resume all normal activities when school resumes in the normal fashion.

**Will WiFi be unlocked at Lancaster so we can park in the parking lot to do some elearning?** If your device does not connect, use the “NWCS Public”. Also you can call (260) 622-1611 and ask for help. You should be able to access the public wifi outside all NWCS school locations.

**What does the staff only waiver mean?** On the current proposal, any place that refers to a waiver means that NWCS intends to request a waiver of an instructional day for that date from the state. The staff will report for work however they are instructed.

**Can the play still happen, by just postponing it 2-3 weeks, or even having it this summer?** All extra-curricular and co-curricular activities are suspended. When we return to normal, we will have to determine the feasibility of activities like this.