



Nevada Middle School
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'20-'21 Return to School Information

Dear Nevada Middle School Families,

Welcome back to the 20-21 school year! I hope you and your families have had an opportunity to relax this summer after an unusual end to last school year and are excited and re-energized to begin the new year at Nevada Middle School. I am eager to continue serving Nevada's students and families in my new role as your principal. NMS's skilled and devoted staff began preparations in May for what is certain to be a year we will all remember. Our collaborative commitment to 'Prepare Learners Today for Tomorrow' has ensured we are ready to welcome your children back and ensure success for each one of our students.

Our district will be offering two learning platforms for the upcoming school year for parents/guardians to choose between. One option is 'On-Site Learning', where students will come to Nevada Middle School to receive in-person instruction from a classroom teacher every day of the week. We have multiple mitigation protocols in place to ensure student and staff safety is a top priority. The other option is 'Online Learning', where students will be provided a Chromebook by the district to do their required learning at home. More information about these options and the steps we are taking to ensure student and staff safety are provided below.

School registration will open on Monday, July 27th. It is very important that every family register their child/ren as soon as possible to help us best prepare for school this coming fall. Knowing the number of students who will be either on-site or online will determine important planning for our building such as staffing, class rosters/sizes, and furniture needs. Due to these unique circumstances, student schedules will not be available until closer to orientation and open house.

Please read through this information. If there are further questions you may have, please email me (tsneiderman@nevadacubs.org) directly so I can clarify or assist you in your decision.

Sincerely,

Tony Sneiderman
Principal

Vanessa Huber
Assistant Principal & 7/8 Activities Director



"Preparing Learners Today for Tomorrow"

nevadacubs.org NevadaCSD @NevadaMiddleSch





Nevada Middle School Family Return to School Plan

[NCSD Return to Learn Plan](#) (Please review the district plan if you have not already done so.)

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Delivery Models*

1. On-Site Delivery Learning - ***Nevada will begin the 2020-2021 school year utilizing the On-Site Delivery Method.*** Within this learning model, students will be able to return to school full time to engage in their educational learning.
2. Required Continuous Learning Online - This learning model may be utilized if the state determines there is a need for an additional school closure period, or if we need to close Nevada schools due to pervasive exposures that prevent the district's ability to offer on-site delivery of education.
3. Hybrid Learning - As mentioned by Dr. Gray, this model was most likely provided for schools to utilize when dictated that schools need to reduce to 50% capacity. It may also be utilized when returning from a school closure period.

**The above learning options are district dictated options. That means it is up to the district to make the decisions to shift delivery models and is not at the discretion of the individual student or family. The "Learning Options - Student and Family Choice" listed next allows for individual student or family choice.*

Learning Options - Student and Family Choice*

As stated earlier, Nevada CSD will be utilizing the On-Site Delivery Learning Model. However, in effort to continue to serve all families, Nevada CSD will offer two learning choices for students and families to choose from.

1. On-Site Learning - Any student who chooses the On-Site Delivery Learning is committing to 5-days a week of in-person learning. Students and families who choose this option agree to abide by and adhere to the guidance and any mitigation measures proposed by the district and the middle school.
2. Online Learning - Students and families choosing this option will conduct their learning entirely online using Edmentum learning programs.

Our district has been using Edmentum for the high school's alternative school, credit recovery, and to provide many students with scheduling conflicts for alternative course options. It is nationally accredited by NCA and one of only a few online programs approved by the Iowa Department of Education. Therefore, will be expanding our usage of this platform for students selecting the Online Learning option.

The content is generated by Edmentum, but Nevada staff will be designated to respond to student questions, monitor course progress, score assessments, and give feedback. Edmentum is aligned with the Iowa Core Curriculum Standards, and Nevada will also be making any additional course adjustments necessary to match the On-site Learning option as much as possible to avoid any gaps upon students returning at semester or next school year. Edmentum courses are created with a mix of direct instruction, videos, readings, homework practice, and assessments.

Edmentum will NOT be used for the student’s math class requirement. Students will continue to progress through our sequential, self-paced math curriculum online through the Canvas platform with a Nevada math teacher.

Middle school students will be required to take the following Edmentum courses in addition to Nevada’s self-paced Math:

5th	6th	7th	8th
English Social Studies Science Health Fitness 2-3 Additional Exploratories	English Social Studies Science Health Fitness 2-3 Additional Exploratories	English Social Studies Science Career Explorations Health Fitness 2-3 Additional Exploratories	English Social Studies Science Career Explorations Health Fitness 2-3 Additional Exploratories

**If a student and parent/guardian chooses to move to schooling online, we fully understand and respect the choice for whatever the reason. However, we ask the family and student to make that commitment for a full semester to ensure we do not have continuous scheduling issues.*

**The district intends to follow any guidance of the DE, IHSAA, and IGHSAU in allowing participation in extracurricular activities or clubs for students selecting the Online Learning. This guidance has not yet been given.*

Canvas - Consistent Online Learning Platform

Throughout the district, staff will use Canvas as our online learning management system platform for all students and classes. Teachers district-wide have had the opportunity to engage in professional learning beginning last May to better understand the tool and how we can provide a more engaging learning environment to students virtually. Most of our middle school students have some familiarity with this platform having used it for self-paced math.

We intend to continue learning about Canvas through the start of the year and how we can use it to enhance connections between students and staff, incorporate Capturing Kids’ Hearts, and address the social-emotional needs of all students through this platform. It will be the expectation that every class has a functioning Canvas learning site even if the district is engaged in on-site learning, hybrid, or required continuous learning.

In the event that a student in a teachers course either contracts the virus or is forced to quarantine, staff will be expected to add all material for daily learning to their Canvas site. Additionally, staff will use Canvas to provide an avenue for students to be successful if they are unable to be in school.

Health & Safety Mitigation Overview - Onsite Learning

Face Coverings / Masks / Face Shields

Students and staff will be highly encouraged to wear masks, but they will not be generally required. However, the district has outlined a number of areas where masks will be required including the bus, nurses office, in vocal music, and other areas as determined by the administration for the health and safety of the individuals present. Any staff member with an underlying condition or a significant medical need with proper medical documentation will be permitted to require the use of a mask while in their classroom. These rooms and spaces will be designated with signage.

Given this last distinction, all students will be required to have a mask available for their use during the day. The district has already purchased one cloth mask for students to utilize. Students will receive a cloth, reusable facemask during 5th Grade Orientation and 6th-8th Grade Open House. A drive-by mask pick up will also take place at these events. Students who cannot attend or do not have a need to come to open house nights can receive their mask from their Cub Pride Time teacher on the first day of school. Students should launder face masks each night or wear a clean one each day.

Personal cloth face coverings are permitted, but will be subject to the dress code outlined in the student handbook.

We again stress that wearing a mask is highly encouraged in all spaces; in the event the student has a teacher who has demonstrated the need for a mask requirement the student will be expected to comply.

The mask requirement accommodation will be made for staff only, because our teaching staff does not have an option for how they will provide education. We want all students to participate in education at school, but understand that some students and families are in a situation where in-person participation is not feasible without more stringent requirements. To meet those individuals' needs, the district has created two learning options for students and families to choose from.

Temperature Checking

The district will encourage families to check temperatures before sending their children to school. This is consistent with guidance received from the Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa Department of Public Health. Students with temperatures over 100° should stay home.

Classroom Spaces

To the extent possible, we will attempt to socially distance within the middle school. Teachers are removing any unnecessary and bulky furniture. New student desks have been purchased for some classrooms and tables are being reallocated to allow students to spread out to the greatest extent possible. Students will work in cohorts when necessary and a plexiglass divider is available for teachers to work closely and safely with students while reviewing work.

Schedule

The middle school will stagger passing periods on the 5th/6th and 7th/8th sides with 2-minute passing periods. 8th Grade students taking high school courses will still have four minutes to pass between buildings.

Backpacks will be allowed for all 5th-8th graders to reduce needed passing period time and help with locker congestion. Please ensure the backpacks are small to keep classrooms functional. Duffle bags, jackets, etc. should still be kept in lockers throughout the day.

Monday Schedule			
5th grade (A1)	6th grade (A2)	7th grade (B)	8th grade (C)
1st Period - 9:40 - 10:17	1st Period - 9:40 - 10:15	1st Period - 9:40 - 10:17	1st Period - 9:40 - 10:15
2nd Period - 10:19 - 10:49	2nd Period - 10:17 - 10:47	2nd Period - 10:19 - 10:56	2nd Period - 10:17- 10:54
Recess - 10:49 - 11:06	Lunch 10:47 - 11:12		
Lunch - 11:08 - 11:33	Recess - 11:08 - 11:28	3rd Period - 10:58 - 11:35	3rd Period - 10:56 - 11:33
3rd Period 11:35- 12:05	3rd Period 11:30 - 12:03	Lunch 11:35 - 12:05	4th Period 11:35 - 12:12
4th Period - 12:07-12:44	4th Period - 12:05-12:40	4th Period - 12:07-12:44	Lunch 12:12 - 12:42
5th Period - 12:46 - 1:23	5th Period - 12:44 - 1:21	5th Period - 12:46 - 1:23	5th Period - 12:44 - 1:21
6th Period - 1:25 - 2:02	6th Period - 1:23 - 2:00	6th Period - 1:25 - 2:02	6th Period - 1:23 - 2:00
7th Period - 2:04 - 2:41	7th Period - 2:02 - 2:39	7th Period - 2:04 - 2:41	7th Period - 2:02 - 2:39
8th Period - 2:43 - 3:18	8th Period - 2:41 - 3:16	8th Period - 2:43 - 3:18	8th Period - 2:41 - 3:16
No Cub Pride	No Cub Pride	No Cub Pride	No Cub Pride

Tuesday-Friday Schedule			
5th grade (A1)	6th grade (A2)	7th grade (B)	8th grade (C)
1st Period - 8:10-8:54	1st Period - 8:10-8:52	1st Period - 8:10-8:54	1st Period - 8:10-8:52
2nd Period - 8:56 - 9:40	2nd Period - 8:54 - 9:38	2nd Period - 8:56 - 9:40	2nd Period - 8:54 - 9:38
3rd Period - 9:42-10:26	3rd Period - 9:40-10:24	3rd Period - 9:42-10:26	3rd Period - 9:40-10:24
4th Period - 10:28-11:06	4th Period - 10:26-11:04	4th Period - 10:28-11:12	4th Period - 10:26-11:10
Recess - 11:06 - 11:22	Lunch - 11:04 - 11:29		
Lunch - 11:24 - 11:48	Recess - 11:24-11:44	5th Period - 11:14 - 11:58	5th Period 11:12 - 11:56
5th Period - 11:50 - 12:30	5th Period - 11:50 - 12:28	Lunch - 11:58 - 12:28	6th Period - 11:58 - 12:42
6th Period - 12:32 - 1:14	6th Period - 12:30 - 1:12	6th Period - 12:30 - 1:14	Lunch - 12:42 - 1:12
7th Period - 1:16 - 2:00	7th Period - 1:14 - 1:58	7th Period - 1:16 - 2:00	7th Period - 1:14 - 1:58
8th Period - 2:02 - 2:46	8th Period - 2:00 - 2:44	8th Period - 2:02 - 2:46	8th Period - 2:00 - 2:44
Cub Pride - 2:48 - 3:18	Cub Pride - 2:46- 3:16	Cub Pride - 2:48 - 3:18	Cub Pride - 2:46- 3:16

School Arrival

- **Please drop kids off after 8:00 AM (9:30 AM Monday) when possible.**
- **7:40 AM (9:10 AM Mon.)** -- Building doors open for bus students and for students eating breakfast
 - Other students will go directly to the gym upon arriving
- **7:50 AM (9:20 AM Mon.)** -- Gym will be cleared and students will go to lockers (if needed) and 1st period
- Students arriving after 7:50 AM will go straight to their locker and 1st period unless:
 - Student has a pass to visit another classroom teacher for homework help
 - Student goes to cafeteria for breakfast
- **8:10 AM (9:40 AM Mon.)**-- School-wide announcements, Pledge of Allegiance, NMS Student Pledge and 1st Period starts

Lunch

The cafeteria will have limited seating capacity with markings on tables designating every-other-seat spacing. Some students will also eat in classrooms to further space out from one another. No self-serve salad bar or microwaves will be available for student use.

5th and 6th grade lunch and recess will be opposite times. (Previously, this was waved with students overlapping.)

End of School

At the conclusion of each day, Monday through Friday, we anticipate another time with a large number of students moving at the same time. In an attempt to alleviate this issue and create a better exit flow we will adhere to the following dismissal schedule:

- 6th and 8th Grade - 3:16 PM
- 5th and 7th Grade - 3:18 PM

Students should go to their locker and exit the building quickly.

- Student pick up is at the front entrance door (west side of building).
- Bus loading is at the playground door (east side of building).

Enrichment Courses:

Band & Choir

Both band and choir are encouraged to rehearse outside as much as possible. Additional steps are being taken to reduce the number of students in the same classroom space. Each grade will be split in half instead of meeting as a full group every other day. Over a two week period, each section will meet for 5 days.

5th & 6th Grade Bands - Will be split up in sectionals. (For example, brass or woodwind groups.)

7th & 8th Grade Bands - Each grade will be divided into 2 equal, mini-bands.

General Music and 7/8 Choir - Indoor rehearsals will take place in the auditorium using the audience seating or by using multiple music rooms to social distance students.

PE

Individual fitness or physically distancing activities will be incorporated more into PE classes. Equipment will be disinfected after use.

Art

Materials will be disinfected after each use.

Additional Mitigation Efforts

Chromebooks

Students should bring the Chromebook fully charged each day since Chromebooks will be used more frequently this year. In the event a student does not have a working Chromebook, each classroom will have additional Chromebooks ready for students to use. Students should avoid sharing Chromebooks or chargers and ask the classroom teacher to borrow a Chromebook for that period instead. The Chromebook will be disinfected after each use. Students with lost chargers or Chromebooks and Chromebooks needing repairs should contact Mrs. Huse in the middle school Idea Lab right away for those longer-term Chromebook needs.

Recess

Students will be encouraged to social distance and bring their own recess balls. Playground equipment will be sanitized regularly.

Water Fountains/Water Bottles

Water fountains will be shut off, but bottle filling features will remain on. Students are encouraged to bring their own personal water bottle.

Restroom Use

Classroom teachers will limit the number of students using the restroom at the same time to the best of their ability. Floor decals should be used while waiting. Students will be reminded to wash their hands immediately after using the restroom with soap and water.

Signage Throughout The Building

Signage will be posted throughout the school that promotes everyday mitigation measures and reminds students of proper hand washing and social distancing.

Building Visitors

At the entrance of the middle school, we will have signs posted stating - "Visitors are welcome - however - we are taking all precautions to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff. If your visit does not require you to enter the building, please call the front desk at (515) 382-2751 to speak with a member of the main office."

We ask that visitors including parents/guardians only come to school for emergency/essential circumstances. If necessary, we will encourage the use of a face covering. We will also continue to use the same safety precautions of the RAPTR system that will be used to check visitor licenses for background information prior to further entrance to the building. When picking up your child during the school day, please stay in your vehicle and let your child come out to you.

Furthermore, while learning may be enhanced with outside guests we are asking staff to refrain from bringing outside guests into the building and their classrooms and instead pursue virtual methods to expand beyond the walls of the classroom.

Field Trips

While we all enjoy field trips, at this point all field trips will be limited in scope. Y-Camp for 7th grade will also be postponed until further notice. Not only are many of the locations not accepting visitors themselves, but it simply creates additional situations for student exposure. Each trip request will be taken on a case-by-case basis, and we are encouraging staff to think of alternative learning ideas which could include virtual field trips or outside destinations students can walk to.

Staff & Student Training

Staff will take specific health and safety training modules prior to the return to school. Students will also be taught proper safety measures to combat the virus during the first day of school including:

- [Hand Washing](#)
- [Hand Sanitizing](#)
- [Sneezing/Coughing](#)
- [Social Distancing](#)

Sanitation

Staff will have supplies to clean and disinfect their rooms throughout the day. Additional measures including ionizing and spray disinfectants will also be used when needed. Hand sanitizer will be located throughout classrooms, hallways, and common spaces. Students are also encouraged to bring their own personal hand sanitizer.

However, the most important factor in reducing the spread of germs is regular hand-washing. If staff know they plan to utilize common items, students will wash their hands before and after use.

Positive COVID-19 Case, Contact Tracing, & Exposure

[Positive COVID-19 Case Procedures](#)

Please notify the middle school office (515) 382-2751 if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

Any student exhibiting the following symptoms at school, will be sent with a mask to the nurse's office:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle/body aches
- Headache
- Loss of Taste or Smell
- Sore throat
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Diarrhea

All other students/staff in the nurse's office will leave prior to the student arriving and an initial medical evaluation will take place. If a student is displaying COVID-19 symptoms, a parent/guardian will be contacted to come to the school to immediately pick up their child. Please do not enter the building to pick up your child. We will recommend the child be tested for COVID-19 and ask the parents/guardians to contact the school immediately upon knowing the results so we may follow up with contact tracing.

Students will be required to stay home until the results of the test are known and are fever free for 72 hours.

If a student tests positive, s/he will be required to stay home for **10 days and be symptom free for the last 72 hours.**

Contact Tracing

All busses and classrooms will have and enforce seating charts. The middle school will use the CDC recommended guideline to identify students **within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes** of the student with a positive test.

Exposure & Quarantine

Please notify the middle school office (515) 382-2751 if your child must quarantine as a result of COVID-19.

If a student is exposed (determined through contact tracing) to another individual with a positive test at school, the parent/guardian will be notified immediately and the student will be sent home. Students will wait in a room designated for quarantine until a ride is available. Please do not enter the building to pick up your child. Parents will also be encouraged to take their child to be tested.

- If the child tests POSITIVE, the student will be required to stay home for **10 days and symptom free for the last 72 hours**. The district will also continue contact tracing.
- If the child tests NEGATIVE, no contact tracing is necessary; but the student must stay home for **14 days and be symptom free for the last 72 hours**.

Additional Information

- Please have contact information up-to-date in PowerSchool throughout the year.
- All parents/guardians in all three buildings will receive notification through district communication of any positive test. (Personal information will not be shared.)
- Any COVID-related student exits from the building will take place out of the northeast door of the middle school. (Turn south on the west side of Starbucks.)
- All teachers will be placing instruction, activities, assignments, and assessments on Canvas. Any student who is quarantined for a variety of reasons will still be expected to continue progressing through their coursework if they are well enough to do so. *(Please see the NCS D Return to Learn Plan linked at the top of this document for assistance with any at-home technology connectivity needs.)*
- COVID-related absences will be marked as "E- excused". Otherwise, the attendance policy outlined in the student handbook will still apply.

5th Grade Orientation - Wednesday, August 12

If you or your child missed the 5th grade transition video last May, you can view it by clicking [here](#). Some minor information has changed, but the staff introductions and picture slideshow may provide some reassurances of how awesome Nevada Middle School is for any anxious 5th graders!

5th Grade Orientation on August 12th will be for *pre-scheduled times only* to limit the number of individuals in our building at one time. Students will be able to pick up their schedule, locker number, and school-provided cloth face covering and receive a 15-minute guided tour of the building since they missed this opportunity in May. Tours are set up every 15 minutes for one student and only one parent/guardian. Please arrive a few minutes early to the scheduled tour time to check-in and receive your materials. Access to the building will be limited until your scheduled tour time. You will have time after the tour to visit your locker.

Tour sessions will close as they fill up, so please sign up as soon as possible for a time by clicking this link:

[Tour Registration](#)

Masks will be encouraged. Additional information and logistics will be sent the week of orientation to those who sign up.

Additional middle school policies and information important for parents to know in order to support their child through a successful four years at the middle school will be sent virtually.

6th - 8th Grade Open House - Wednesday, August 19

This is intended for 6th through 8th graders only this year. 5th grade students should make plans to attend the orientation a week earlier. Schedules, locker assignments, and school-provided cloth face masks will be distributed this night. Students will also have the opportunity to meet their new teachers and drop off any supplies in their locker or Cub Pride Time room.

If you are already familiar with your teachers and the building, we encourage you to not attend. You will be able to view your schedule online on PowerSchool and receive your locker and face covering on the first day of school. If you still wish to attend, we welcome the student and one parent/guardian at the following designated time:

	5:30 - 6:00 PM	6:00 - 6:30 PM	6:30 - 7:00 PM	7:00 - 7:30 PM
6th Grade	Last Name A - E	Last Name F - I	Last Name J - O	Last Name P - Z
7th/8th Grade	Non-fall sports last name A - H	Non-fall sports last name I - Q All Cross Country	Non-fall sports last name R - U All Football All Cheer	Non-fall sports last name V - Z All Volleyball

Siblings that may end up with different times, may choose either designated time to come together.

Masks will be encouraged. Additional information and logistics will be sent the week of Open House.

7th/8th Grade All Activities Parent Meeting - Virtual

The All Activities Parent Meeting will be shared virtually this year in order to limit the large group setting in the gym and help with social distancing. Please look for an email with this information prior to August 19th.

Fall Sports Parent Meetings - Wednesday, August 19

The athlete and one parent/guardian are invited to attend their fall sport specific meeting at the following scheduled time:

7th & 8th Volleyball	6:20-6:50 PM	MS Gym
7th & 8th Cross Country	6:45-7:15 PM	MS Cafeteria
7th & 8th Football	7:00-7:30 PM	MS Gym
7th & 8th Cheer	7:00-7:30 PM	MS Library

Masks will be encouraged.

The first day of practices will be the first day of school, August 24.