

Dr. Steve Gray
Superintendent
sgray@nevadacubs.org

Mr. Kristian Einsweiler
Principal
keinsweiler@nevadacubs.org

Mr. Dustin Smith
Assistant Principal
dsmith@nevadacubs.org

Mr. Jeff Baker
School Counselor
jbaker@nevadacubs.org

Hello Everyone -

Throughout the end of last year, and now the start of the 2020-2021 school year, it feels as though any and all communication has in some way begun with, “We are living through an unprecedented time in history.” In March, prior to Spring Break, a student asked me if we would have Prom or Graduation like normal and I was taken aback by the mere notion that those events would in some way be impacted. Four months later, for many of us, our worlds have been turned upside down.

Throughout the last several weeks, district administration, Mr. Smith and I, as well as the Building Instructional Leadership Team have spent countless hours in meetings to craft a return to learn plan that is consistent with guidance from the Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa Department of Public Health. In addition to the state guidance, we’ve also sought parent feedback on reopening and incorporated that information into our plans for reopening.

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 High 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 that are outlined throughout the document. 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 imperative that every family register their child/ren as soon as possible to help 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.

Below, you will find our full guidance for the high school reopening plan, which strives to take district guidance and apply that to the nuances of Nevada High School. You will find a table of contents with links to allow parents and students to access a specific section of the document.

Throughout the next few weeks, we will do our very best to answer questions as we prepare for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. We thank you for your support of Nevada High School.

Kristian Einsweiler
Principal

Dustin Smith
Assistant Principal



NEVADA
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Return to Learn Plan

[LINK](#)

High School Return to Learn Plan

[Delivery Models](#)

[Learning Options - Student & Family Choice](#)

[Health & Safety Measure](#)

[Masks & Face Coverings](#)

[Temperature Checking](#)

[Social Distancing Guidelines - Key Locations & Times](#)

[Contact Tracing](#)

[Training](#)

[Sanitation](#)

[Transportation](#)

Academic Commitments

[Online Learning Option](#)

[Consistent Online Learning Platform - Canvas](#)

[Utilize Outdoor Space](#)

[Field Trips - Visitors / Outside Guests](#)

Daily Schedule

Academic & Activities Night - August 6th

Freshmen & New Student Orientation

Nevada High School - Return to Learn Plan

Delivery Models

Nevada will begin the 2020-2021 school year utilizing the On-Site Delivery Method

- On-Site Delivery Learning - Within this learning model, students will be able to return to school full time to engage in their educational learning.
-
- 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.
- 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. It is a district-level decision to move to a hybrid learning model and is not an option available for individual families and students to choose.

The above learning options are district-dictated options. That means it is up to the district to make the decisions to shift delivery models, not at the discretion of the individual student or family.

Learning Options - Student and Family Choice

Starting the fall of 2021, as stated earlier, Nevada CSD will be utilizing the On-Site Delivery Learning Model. However, in an 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 to 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 high school.
2. Online Learning - Those students and families may also choose to conduct their learning entirely online using Edmentum learning programs.
 - a. If a student and family 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.

Health & Safety Mitigation Overview - Onsite Learning

Face Coverings / Masks / or Face Shields

In school, students and staff will be highly encouraged to wear masks, but they will not be required. However, the district has outlined a number of areas where masks will be required including the bus, nurse's office, vocal music, and other areas situationally as determined by the administration for the health and safety of the individuals present. Additionally, any staff member with an underlying condition or a significant medical need will be permitted to require the use of a mask while in their classroom.

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 masks for students to utilize. We again stress that wearing a mask is highly encouraged, but 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, as stated earlier.

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. *No additional information to share beyond what was shared within the district approved plan.*

Social Distancing & Mitigation Efforts

To the extent possible, we will attempt to socially distance within the high school. However, with the current set up in many classrooms, we will not be able to meet or accommodate 6 feet social distancing guidelines within the building. Furthermore, an attempt to meet the social distancing criteria in one location by removing students from the classroom will only exacerbate the situation in another room. Outside the classroom, we have developed the following procedures to help minimize large gatherings in the school:

Before School - Students are encouraged to not arrive at school early, if at all possible. Students who are in the building prior to 7:50 AM will be allowed to use the cafeteria space, maintaining social distancing as outlined by the lunch seating arrangement. At 7:50 AM, there will be a bell that will designate students to leave the cafeteria and enter classrooms. Should there be any individuals who need to eat school breakfast after 7:50 AM, they will be allowed to finish in the cafeteria and then immediately go to their 1st period class. Morning practices will continue, and expectations and procedures for students leaving those practices will be communicated by individual coaches.

Hallway - Class Period Transitions - There were several options that we considered as an administrative team and teaching staff, including a normal passing time with a hallway flow or staggered passing time by either grade or class. Ultimately, we decided to implement a hallway flow system to prevent large groups of students waiting at a door to get into a classroom that has yet to be released. By doing this we will be able to -

- Limit student bottlenecking in the hallway or waiting in a large group to enter a classroom.
- Keep all students moving in the same direction, which will limit students passing one another.
- These expectations will be throughout the day, whether it is during passing time or not.

Hallway Flow Chart

Areas that are prone to congestion will be released early to further prevent large groups of students congregating and passing one another. These areas include -

- Band & Choir
- Industrial Arts, FCS, & TAG
- 8th Grade Students - Returning to the Middle School

Certain situations may prevent a student from leaving at their designated dismissal time. For example, if a student is completing an exam it would be the expectation that they complete that prior to leaving. This dismissal schedule will be utilized Monday-Friday.

Lunch - During lunch, there will be a limited seating capacity at tables for students in the lunchroom. Additionally, our plan is to further space the lunchroom tables throughout the full space and entrance hallway. At tables with designated seats, every other seat will be removed to space students. Furthermore, at tables with chairs, there will be a maximum seating capacity and any additional seats will be removed. To create additional seating, as weather permits, we plan to utilize the courtyard and plan to bring in additional tables to that space to provide more options for students. Each table outside will also have a seating limit.

Band & Choir - Both band and choir are encouraged to rehearse outside as much as possible. However, any indoor rehearsals will take place in the auditorium utilizing the audience seating to social distance students using the entire performance hall, or throughout both music rooms to spread students.

Seminar - Seminar is a unique learning opportunity held at the end of each school day. However, its current design presents unique challenges for social distancing, particularly at the start of each term. To combat larger groups of students in common areas during seminar the following changes will be made starting this fall:

- During the first two weeks of each term all freshmen, sophomores, and juniors will be expected to attend seminar. During this time, staff will spend time exploring executive functioning and social-emotional learning components with students.
- Seminar open campus privileges will be expanded to include juniors and sophomores who maintain a B- and above in all classes.
 - If the academic standard is maintained those students will be allowed to leave the building after verifying their grades with their seminar teacher.
 - Freshmen will have the ability to leave seminar but will not have open campus.

Additionally, we will continue to maintain current offerings for all students to join open gym and weightlifting, and we are exploring the possibility of offering new options to students. Those students who have open campus or are free of seminar restrictions will be expected to not congregate in large groups in the cafeteria or other open spaces.

- Supervision will address social distancing in common areas
- Open Gym and Weightlifting will need to adhere to the same gym expectations as the regular day.

End of School & After 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:

- Seniors & Juniors - 3:15 PM
- Sophomores - 3:17 PM
- Freshmen - 3:20 PM

Building Visitors

At the entrance of the high 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 515-382-3521 to speak with a member of the main office."

We will encourage the use of face covering, but it will not be required. 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. We ask that visitors only come to school for emergency/essential circumstances.

Positive COVID-19 Case, Exposure, & Contact Tracing

With the possibility of students becoming exposed to COVID-19, it will be inherent upon us to determine who has met the criteria for exposure - within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more. As a result, all classrooms must maintain a consistent seating chart. Additionally, we understand that a seating chart will not be utilized in the classroom at all times, so we have created procedures to help staff identify possible exposures.

In the event that there is a positive test in the school all parents will receive district communication. Next, school administration or designee will make contact with all students who were exposed, meeting the criteria of 6 feet for 15 minutes or more. Additionally, personal contact will be made home to parents to inform them of the need to quarantine.

Quarantine Guidelines - Individual tests positive for COVID-19

- Quarantine for 10 days
- District Action Includes
 - District communication
 - Contact Story County Public Health
 - Begin contact tracing to identify exposed individuals in the school
 - Communicate with students and parents of exposed students
 - Conduct cleaning

Quarantine Guidelines - Exposure to an individual with a positive COVID-19 case

- Quarantine for 14 days - *Additional days to account for incubation period*
- Recommend the individual get tested for COVID-19
 - Positive Case
 - Continue quarantine for 14 days regardless of symptoms
 - Complete contact tracing
 - Follow district guidelines for communication
 - Negative Case
 - No contact tracing necessary
 - Continue quarantine

No matter the quarantine period individuals must be fever free from 72 hours in order to return.

Training

Staff will take specific health and safety training modules prior to the return to school. Students will be taught proper safety measures to combat the virus.

Sanitation

Staff and students will sanitize their classrooms throughout the day. However, new guidance has shown that spread through surface contact is limited. We are asking staff to plan to clean all desks or workspaces after period 2, period 4, and period 6. Cleaning supplies will be provided for each classroom.

The guidance we have received indicates that the most important factor is consistent and regular hand-washing and is not as dependent upon the cleaning of a specific item or manipulative. We ask that if staff know they plan to utilize common items that students wash hands before and after use.

Transportation

No additional information to share beyond what was shared within the district approved plan.

Equity & Meeting the Needs of All Learners

No additional information to share beyond what was shared within the district approved plan.

Staff Roles & Responsibilities

No additional information to share beyond what was shared within the district approved plan.

Student Roles & Responsibilities

No additional information to share beyond what was shared within the district approved plan.

Family Roles & Responsibilities

No additional information to share beyond what was shared within the district approved plan.

Academic Commitments

Commitment #1 - Learning Option For Students

If a student or family is uncomfortable or unable to attend on-site learning at the high school they will have the ability to take online classes through Nevada High School. This learning will be set up and managed through Edmentum.

Commitment #2 - Consistent Online Learning Platform - Canvas

Throughout the district, staff will use Canvas as our online learning platform for all students and classes. Teachers district-wide have had the opportunity to engage in professional learning to better understand the tool and how it can be most impactful for students. At the high school, we intend to continue learning about Canvas through the start of the year, and it will be the expectation that every class has a functioning Canvas learning site. Staff will be expected to keep their Canvas site updated with relevant and timely learning information even if the district is engaged in on-site learning.

In the event that a student in a teacher's 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 create some type of direct instruction video, either videotaped in class or during their own planning time, to provide an avenue for students to be successful if they are unable to be in school.

Commitment #3 - Utilize Outside Space When Possible & Reasonable

Recent guidance has indicated that outside transmission is significantly decreased compared to transmission indoors. While the weather is nice, we encourage staff to utilize outdoor space during the class period if it is at all possible. This will be especially true for band, choir, and physical education, but is encouraged for any classroom that feels their work can be sufficiently accomplished outside as well as inside. Staff will need to sign out their class to a specific location so we can continue to reach students as needed from the office.

Ultimately, it is up to our teachers to determine if this option is the right choice for the class. There are a number of factors that may impact the amount of time students can be outdoors, including the type of course, the type of work, and the effectiveness and efficiency of learning, among others.

Commitment #4 - Limit Outside Exposure in the School

While we all enjoy field trips, at this point all field trips will be limited in scope. Not only are many of the locations not accepting visitors themselves, but it simply creates additional situations for student exposure. As a high school, each trip request will be taken on a case-by-case basis, but if at all possible we are encouraging staff to think of alternate learning ideas.

Furthermore, while learning may be enhanced with outside guests, out of an abundance of caution we ask that staff refrain from bringing outside groups into the building. Additionally, we ask that all parents and guardians reflect on whether or not they truly need to come into the building. We ask that you please refrain from entering the building unless it is absolutely necessary.

School Day

AM Practices - Practices in the morning will continue. All coaches are expected to communicate after-practice expectations to players, and they must adhere to guidelines previously outlined.

7:00-7:50 - Students are allowed in the building in the cafeteria.

7:50-8:10 - Students will be expected to report to their first period classrooms unless they are eating breakfast in the cafeteria

8:10 - 8:52 - 1st Period / Bell will ring at 8:50 & 8:52

8:56 - 9:38 - 2nd Period / Bell will ring at 9:36 & 9:38

9:42 - 10:24 - 3rd Period / Bell will ring at 10:22 & 10:24

10:28 - 11:10 - 4th Period / Bell will ring at 11:08 & 11:10

Lunch - During lunch, we have made the decision to remove every other seat from the designated lunch tables. Additionally, we will utilize more of the space in the cafeteria as well as increase seating outside.

11:14 - 11:56 - 5th Period / Bell will ring at 11:54 & 11:56

12:30 - 1:12 - 6th Period / Bell will ring at 1:10 & 1:12

1:16 - 1:58 - 7th Period / Bell will ring at 1:56 & 1:58

2:02 - 2:44 - 8th Period / Bell will ring at 2:42 & 2:44

Seminar - Seminar will continue to have the same basic format as in previous years. However, to ease congestion in common areas, those students who do not need to report to seminar and all juniors and sophomores meeting academic expectations will be allowed to leave. Furthermore, in addition to strength-training and open gym we will also be looking to add an ESports option for students to report to in the library.

2:48 - 3:20 - Seminar / Dismissal will be altered as outlined below

3:15 Dismissal - 11th & 12th Grade

3:17 Dismissal - 10th Grade

3:20 Dismissal - 9th Grade

Academic & Activities Night - August 6th

Due to the format of the evening, with large numbers of individuals in attendance in a single room, we have decided to hold both the academic & activities sessions online. We will be utilizing Zoom so parents and students can engage in the session and also ask questions in the chat. Mr. Smith and Mr. Einsweiler will both help answer specific questions in the chat, and any questions that may benefit the entire group we will address during the session.

Academic Session - August 6th at 6:00 PM - [ZOOM LINK](#)

Activities Session - August 6th at 7:00 PM - [ZOOM LINK](#)

Individual Activity Sessions Will Immediately Follow the Activities Session

Football - Session Link Provided Later

Volleyball - Session Link Provided Later

Boys Cross Country - Session Link Provided Later

Girls Cross Country - Session Link Provided Later

Cheerleading - Session Link Provided Later

Parents & students can expect to receive additional communication about Academic & Activities Night as we near the date with updated links and information.

Freshman & New Student Orientation

August 21st - 10:00AM - 12:00 PM - Nevada High School

At this time we intend to hold freshman and new student orientation as regularly scheduled. We will be working with Nevada High School Student Council to come up with specific information for you all that we will share at a later date.

Parents & students can expect to receive additional communication and information about Freshman & New Student Orientation as we near the date.