

NPS Summer Update

Each summer, Norwalk Public Schools provides learning opportunities for those students who require additional academic support. We are committed to making summer instruction available to students who need it. Due to the current COVID-19 coronavirus public health crisis, there will be some changes to this year's summer school programs.

As part of the "ReOpen Connecticut" plan, Governor Lamont has issued guidance allowing in-person summer school classes to start on Monday, July 6. With that in mind, the district has designed summer instruction options that will include both distance learning and in-person options. Summer Academy is available for students in grades K-8 who need extra support in reading and math. High school students will be able to turn "incompletes" into a pass/fail grade or take classes for credit recovery. Extended School Year (ESY) options will also be available for eligible students with disabilities.

NPS summer instruction will run for five weeks beginning July 6 through August 7. Online tutoring for high school students who received "incompletes" will start immediately after the close of the current school year.

Families will receive more information next week from their building principal if their child qualifies for summer instruction. An online survey will ask families for their input on which summer instruction program option they would prefer for their student. As we continue to monitor the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, plans for over the summer may need to change based on the most up-to-date health and safety recommendations. We will continue to follow any executive orders or public health and safety restrictions that would require us to change our approach to in-person summer classes.

Health and Safety

As we eagerly anticipate a return to in-person instruction, we want to assure families, students and staff that NPS will adhere to strict health protocols based on guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the State of Connecticut Department of Education and the Norwalk Health Department. **For additional details, please read the story below about health and safety procedures that will be in place for students and staff who will be returning to school buildings this summer.**

Transportation

With the continued need for social distancing, we will be unable to run our regular bus routes over the summer. In keeping with State of Connecticut guidance, we strongly recommended that families of all students provide their own transportation to summer school. Upon request, bus transportation will be available only for summer students currently in Kindergarten through Grade 3, as well as for special education students of any grade level who will be attending an ESY program. School bus transportation will not be available for Summer Academy or Summer School students in Grades 4-12.

NPS SUMMER ACADEMY FOR GRADES K-8

Summer Academy is for K-8 students scoring at the 25th percentile and below in literacy. It includes lessons in reading, writing math and social-emotional learning (SEL), as well as and special education and English Learner support. Parents and guardians will also be able to apply to have their child attend Summer Academy if their student has been unable to successfully access the distance learning program provided during the 2019-20 school year,

of if they may be in danger of falling below the 25th percentile. Recommendations will be reviewed and approved by the building principal.

K-8 Summer Academy will run Monday through Friday for 5 weeks beginning July 6 through August 7. Parents will have the opportunity to select a summer instruction option that includes face-to-face, in-person learning or remote distance learning. The Summer Academy program is offered in three segments: K-3, Grades 4 & 5, and Middle School. Please see below for the options on each.

Parents may opt-out of the Summer Academy program if they have concerns regarding the safety of their child or other factors related to COVID-19. Please speak directly to your principal for guidance.

Summer Academy for Grades K-3

Summer Academy for Kindergarten through Grade 3 students will run five days per week from July 6 through August 7, for three hours per day.

Option A: K-3 In-Person Learning at Elementary Schools

- In-person classes held at 11 elementary school locations. Columbus and Rowayton will share a location at Rowayton.
- A teacher to student ratio of 10:1 per classroom, with special education and English Learner support.
- A “grab and go” bag will be served for breakfast and lunch.
- Bus transportation available on request.

Option B: K-3 Distance Learning

- Parents can opt for a completely virtual model that includes a combination of “live” instruction delivered remotely and online coursework to be completed independently.
- Distance learning and tutoring sessions will be scheduled daily from 8-10am, 10:30am to 12:30pm or 1:30 to 3:30pm with parents requesting their preferred scheduled time.
- A teacher to student ratio of 1:15, with literacy, math and social- emotional learning (SEL) support.
- Breakfast and lunch available for pick up.

Summer Academy Grades 4 & 5

Summer Academy for Grades 4 and 5 students will run for five days per week from July 5 through August 7, for 3 hours per day.

Option A: Grade 4 & 5 Hybrid Model with Alternating Weeks of In-Person and Distance Learning

- The hybrid model alternates one-week in-person and one-week of remote learning, with 12 days of face-to-face instruction over five weeks. The final week will rotate days.
- In-person learning will take place on site at Nathan Hale, Roton and West Rocks. Ponus Ridge students will attend at Roton.
- In-person learning will have a ratio of one teacher and one paraeducator/interventionist to 16 students.
- The alternating week of distance learning includes support for independent online assignments, one-to-one conferencing, and intervention groups supported by the paraeducator/interventionist.
- A “grab and go” bag will be served for breakfast and lunch during face-to-face weeks; meals available for pick up during distance learning weeks.
- No bus transportation available. Families will need to provide their own transportation for students in grades 4 and 5.

Option B: Grade 4 & 5 Distance Learning

- Parents can opt to continue with a distance learning model that includes live virtual instruction, online assignments to be completed independently and small group tutoring.
- A student to teacher ratio of 1:15.
- Distance learning and tutoring sessions will be scheduled daily from 8 to 10am, 10:30am to 12:30pm or 1:30 to 3:30pm, with parents requesting their preferred scheduled time.
- Breakfast and lunch available for pick up.

Middle School Summer Academy Options

Summer Academy for Middle School students will run five days per week from July 6 through August 7, for three hours per day.

Option A: Middle School Hybrid Model with Alternating Weeks of In-Person and Distance Learning

- The hybrid model alternates one-week in-person and one-week of distance learning, for 12 days of face-to face instruction over five weeks. The final week will rotate days.
- The in-person learning week includes a ratio of one teacher and one paraeducator/interventionist to 16 students.
- The alternating week of Distance Learning includes support for independent online assignments, 1 to 1 conferencing and intervention groups supported by the paraeducator/interventionist.
- A “grab and go” bag will be served for breakfast and lunch during face-to-face weeks; meals available for pick up during distance learning weeks.
- No bus transportation available. Families will need to provide their own transportation for students in middle school students.

Option B: Middle School Distance Learning

- Parents can opt to continue with a distance learning model that includes live virtual instruction, online-based assignments to be completed independently and small group tutoring.
- A teacher to student ratio of 1:15.
- Distance learning and tutoring sessions will be scheduled daily from 8 to 10am, 10:30am to 12:30pm or 1:30pm to 3:30pm with parents requesting their preferred scheduled time.
- Breakfast and lunch available for pick up.

SUMMER SCHOOL FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GRADES 9-12

2020 Summer School for High School students has been designed to support students who have received incompletes which need to be changed to a pass/fail grade, or who need a credit recovery option in order to graduate. Students will be notified in each case if they are missing requirements for graduation. Social emotional learning support is also part of the Summer School program, with staff assigned to help students negotiate issues, advocate for student success and to ensure the emotional wellness for each student.

High School Incomplete Tutoring Option

Students who received a grade of “Incomplete” during Distance Learning will have the opportunity to complete the class and receive a pass/fail grade to earn credit towards graduation. Tutoring for incomplete grades will begin immediately after the last day of school, from June 10 through June 25. Grades will be posted on June 26.

- One tutor will offer up to 8 hours of individualized support to a student and will work with up to three students during the three weeks.
- Tutoring for incomplete grades will be delivered by distance learning.
- The teacher of record for the course will assign the incomplete, provide assignments that need to be completed and will post the final grade.
- Tutoring sessions will be coordinated at a convenient time between the student and the tutor.

High School Credit Recovery

To support students who need to complete course requirements for graduation, the high school credit recovery option will be offered July 6 through August 7. Students who failed a core course required for graduation can enroll in a summer school course. Students may enroll in one or two summer courses. Courses should be scheduled on the same rotation where possible. Final grades will be posted on August 7.

Option A: High School Hybrid Model with Alternating Days of In-Person and Distance Learning

This hybrid model provides each student with two days of in-person instruction, two days of online assignments to be completed independently, and one day of live, real-time online learning and tutoring. Specific times of courses will be communicated in June.

- Each course meets 90 minutes per day. Schedules will be communicated in June.
- Each course is specifically designed to teach high priority content, skills, and processes from the required course and to ensure students have mastered 60 percent of those requirements.
- For the in-person learning portion of this model, there will be a teacher to student ratio of 1:18 students, with a limit of nine students to a classroom to comply with CDC guidelines.
- No bus transportation will be available. Families will need to provide their own transportation for high school students.
- A "grab and go" bag will be served for breakfast and lunch during face-to-face weeks; meals available for pick up during distance learning weeks.

Option B: High School Distance Learning Model

High school principals have the discretion to offer a completely online, virtual course if the need is warranted and enrollment is sufficient. The virtual model will require daily real-time online instruction at a set time plus online assignments to be completed independently.

EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR (ESY) FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who are eligible based upon PPT recommendations will be provided with Extended School Year (ESY) services July 6 through August 7 for three hours per day. For PreK students at the Norwalk Early Childhood Center (NECC), in-person learning will be provided for two hours daily in the morning.

Option A: ESY In-Person Learning for PreK, Grades K-12 and 18-21-Year-Old Transition Program

- ESY in-person learning will be offered at all schools open for Summer Academy or Summer School. Students will attend at their assigned school. Columbus will attend at Rowayton and Ponus Ridge students will attend at Roton.
- Classes will be staffed with group sizes up to a ratio of 8:2, with two adults assigned per 8 students.
- Students with more intensive needs documented on the IEP will be in classes with fewer students to allow an additional adult in the classroom.
- Additional services, including related services and individual or small group supplementary support, will be provided via live intervention provided remotely online.
- IEP goals will be addressed to the greatest extent possible. Social-emotional learning opportunities will be provided daily.
- A "gran and go" bag will be served for breakfast and lunch.
- Bus transportation available on request.

Option B: ESY Distance Learning for Grades PreK, K-12 and 18-21-Year-Old Transition Program

- Parents may opt for a completely virtual, distance learning model that includes live group or individual interventions provided by a special education teacher or related service provider.
- Services will be provided for up to 3 hours per day, with schedules based upon IEP recommendations and goals to the greatest extent possible.
- Schedules will be finalized in consultation with parents.

Option C: Summer Academy and Summer School for Grades K-12 with ESY Services and Supports

- Students with disabilities who are eligible for summer instruction may opt into Summer Academy or Summer School classes, either in-person, remotely through Distance Learning, or under a hybrid model.
- Choices are based upon the student's current grade and parent or guardian preferences.
- Related services or special education supports as per IEPs will be provided remotely in live small group or in individual sessions.
- Schedules for these services will be finalized in consultation with parents.

Protecting Health and Safety During Summer School 2020

Norwalk Public Schools has been closely monitoring all guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the State of Connecticut during the COVID-19 coronavirus crisis, as well as working with the Norwalk Health Department. As we plan for a return to in-person classes, the health and safety of students and staff will remain our primary focus.

As part of its ReOpen Connecticut plan, the State has issued a draft version of rules for operating summer schools during COVID-19. For Norwalk parents and guardians considering an in-person option for summer instruction in 2020, NPS expects to have procedures in place that align with these State recommendations. We will provide summer school families with a full list of health and safety rules closer to the start of school on July 6, after the State has issued a final version of its summer school document.

The following measures are expected to be part of our Summer Academy, Summer School and Extended School Year (ESY) plans for in-person instruction:

- Face masks, worn at all times by all students and staff while on school property and buses, with the exception of students who are exempt for medical reasons.
- Social distancing, with an emphasis on 6 feet of physical space. Class sizes will be limited to accommodate this. Students with special health care needs or

disabilities may require direct contact with staff wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

- An emphasis on hygiene and hand washing. Hand sanitizer as well as soap and water will be available.
- Bathroom trips will be managed to limit the number of students in bathrooms or stalls.
- Temperature checks. Students and staff will not be allowed to enter if they have a temperature of 100 degrees or higher. Students who have a temperature or who are ill will wait in a separate, designated room for pick up by a parent or guardian, which must be within 30 minutes.
- On school buses, no more than one student will be seated per row, unless they are from the same household. Rows will alternate.
- Cleaning, disinfection and sanitizing procedures per guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control. Door handles, desks and other high contact areas will be given special attention. Bathrooms will be sanitized twice per day.
- Students will remain with their own classes while in school. Assemblies or larger group activities will not take place.
- Cafeterias and lunchrooms will not be used. Breakfast and lunch will be “grab and go”

Thank you for your support in helping our district and the community protect the health and safety of all our children. More information will be communicated by the end of June, before the start of any summer programs.