

NORTH BORDER SCHOOL DISTRICT #100

Neche-Pembina-Walhalla

Pembina Office
155 3rd Street
Pembina, ND 58271
701-825-6261
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Walhalla Office
605 10th Street
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Walhalla, ND 58282
701-549-3751
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September 10, 2020

Dear North Border Elementary Families:

In the event that we should need to begin distance learning, we want to take this opportunity to outline the expectations we have developed to ensure our students will continue to receive the best educational experience. This experience will be vastly different than last spring, and teachers have had greater preparation for the possibility of distance learning.

If your child's class moves to distance learning, you will receive an announcement from the school office. Following that, your child's teacher will reach out to you via the tools they are already using. Teachers in grades PK-3 utilize SeeSaw. Teachers in grades 4-6 utilize Google classroom and group email.

We will work to ensure that devices and necessary materials are ready and delivered to families involved as quickly as possible. Students in grade PK-3 will need an iPad. If your family does not have an iPad for each child, one will be lent to you. Students in grades 4-6, will utilize their school Chromebook. A cell phone, Kindle, or other tablets will not work as a device, they simply cannot handle the learning platforms your students use.

Once we begin distance learning, **classes will be run on a schedule.** This means that at 8:30 AM, your child needs to be dressed and at a table or desk in front of their device. Teachers in grades PK-6 will be following the schedule below. What is important to know is that your child will be continuously returning to their digital classroom until the end of the school day at 3:30 PM. (Some adaptations may be made.)

Live Lesson Daily Schedule
MORNING SESSION
Class Meeting, daily from 8:30-8:45 AM
Language Arts lesson, daily 9:00-9:45 AM
Math lesson, daily 10:00-10:45 AM
AFTERNOON SESSION
Social Studies/Science/Health, daily 1:30-2:15 PM
Read Aloud, daily 2:15-2:30 PM
Eagle Time via Zoom, daily 3:00-3:30 PM

The teacher will not lecture for 45 minutes at a time. They will spend a small amount of time giving examples and teaching basic content. Students will then work at their own pace practicing the content. They will return for feedback and discussion. Daily breaks for meals and play have been scheduled.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The North Border Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or handicap in it's educational programs/activities and employment policies/practices.

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Intermittent vs. Full Time Distance Learning: Distance learning will likely be intermittent, meaning a defined period of time after which a class will return to normal face to face instruction. Full time distance learning is defined as families choosing to have their student enrolled in a virtual learning academy for a quarter at a time.

If a teacher is quarantined or isolated at home: Students will report to the school building. The teacher will teach from home remotely. A qualified paraprofessional or substitute teacher will be in the classroom assisting.

If an entire class must quarantine: The classroom teacher and students will be working and learning from home for the length of the isolation period using the above schedule.

If a single student becomes ill or needs to quarantine or isolate: Those situations will be handled as if the student was home with any other illness. The classroom teacher will send home the work they have missed from school and a device, if needed. It may be necessary to schedule conferencing times with their teacher via Zoom.

Full time distance education may occur if the county or state deems it is necessary for the entire school to close for a length of time. We would follow the same protocol for as long as necessary.

Isolation/Quarantine/Data Privacy:

Public health makes determinations regarding who must isolate or quarantine if it is determined to be COVID related. If someone tests positive for COVID 19, they are isolated for a period of time as determined by the health department. Household close contacts are notified, and are to isolate. Close contacts are traced by the health department. Students who are considered close contacts will be quarantined for a length of time as determined by the health department. We will make notifications to families in a timely manner, but please understand that state and federal laws do not allow us to identify either positive cases or close contacts. Those individuals (or parents) may choose to self-disclose to others, but we cannot. We ask for your understanding when we give information, as we are only able to give what is relevant without breaking confidentiality.

Keep sick kids home!

If in doubt, please keep kids with sore throats, fevers, headaches, etc home from school. We cannot advise about whether it is appropriate to seek medical care, but as parents--you know your kids best. If something is not right, trust your judgment. It is better to be safe than sorry! No student who has had a fever will be allowed to return until fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.

If you need further guidance on our Health and Safety Plan or Distance Learning Plan, we encourage you to read the plans in full which are posted online at www.northborder.k12.nd.us From there go to District, then Documents, and scroll down to the plan you wish to review.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact either of us at our respective buildings:

Pembina Elementary: Justine Gruenberg 825-6261

Walhalla Elementary: Nick Amb 549-3751

Sincerely,

Justine Gruenberg, Pembina Elementary Principal
Nick Amb, Walhalla Elementary Principal

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