



Summer Update – 7.6.2020

Good Afternoon Northview Families,

First and foremost, welcome to our new 6th grade families who are officially Falcons!

I am hopeful that each of you have been able to take a moment this summer to relax and rejuvenate from what has been an interesting 2020 thus far. As we prepare for the upcoming school year, you will be receiving weekly updates to keep you informed, engaged, and excited for what is to come. While school will certainly look different this upcoming year, we are committed to providing our students and families with an engaging and nurturing educational experience with added safety precautions. While there are still numerous decisions and details that need to be made and finalized, my hope is to provide you with updates as they occur, so that any questions or concerns that you have can be addressed to the best of our ability. Below you will find information regarding a variety of topics:

School in the Fall: The district office is sending out an e-mail today that provides parents a survey including 2 educational opportunities for the start of school on July 30. Families will be able to opt into **In Person** learning at the school, or the **Digital Academy** that will be taking place virtually. For families who do not feel comfortable sending their child(ren) back to school on July 30, the Digital Academy will serve as an option. The district e-mail will provide details regarding both options and it is imperative that all parents take a moment to complete the survey and select a mode of learning for quarter 1. Please note that whichever mode of learning is selected, this mode will last the entirety of the quarter. Students who are enrolled in the Digital Academy will complete this mode of learning for the first quarter of school. During the first quarter, parents will have the option of changing their selection, but changes will not take effect until the start of the second quarter.

Safety Precautions for In Person Learning: With guidance from the CDC, Marion County Health Department, the Indiana Department of Education, and other health agencies, Washington Township Schools have worked to create safety procedures and protocols for the schools. As each building is different, Northview Middle School has put together a School Re-Opening Task Force that includes individuals representing the following groups: Administration, Special Education, English as a Second Language, Facilities, Food Services, Health Services, Guidance, Student Services, Parents, Teachers, School Safety, Technology, Communication, PE, Performing Arts, and Student Equity. Representatives from each of these groups will take part in weekly meetings leading up to the re-opening of school to ensure that all voices are heard and all considerations are made.

While there are many decisions that still need to be finalized and conversations that will take place in the upcoming weeks, the following items have been discussed and will be implemented for the 2020 - 2021 school year thus far:

- Per the Marion County Health Department, all students and faculty must wear a mask. This means that all students and staff (with the exception of students with a doctor's note or special accommodations in their IEP) will be required to wear a mask. While there are exceptions, for instance lunch, students who refuse to wear a mask will be required to participate in the Digital Academy vs. In Person learning.
- Additional hand sanitizing stations will be spread throughout the building.
- The building foremen and her team will conduct additional cleaning and sanitation on high use surfaces.
- A face mask will be provided to all students and staff members.
- Reduced traffic of visitors / guests into the building.
- Lengthened transition periods for students to utilize washing stations.
- Revised classroom seating to allow for appropriate social distancing as well as additional considerations for class sizes as possible.
- Table shields in situations where small group instruction takes place as well as the cafeteria.

Please note that you will be receiving communication from the district today regarding re-opening that includes district wide safety precautions.

Focus on Equity for the 2020 - 2021 School Year: As you may have read in the letter sent out earlier this summer from the Northview Administration, we are committed to working tirelessly to ensure that equity is a priority for our school and the community. As the summer has progressed and we have continued to have meaningful conversations and training around bias and equity, I wanted to provide an update as to some of the action steps that have been taken thus far to ensure that these conversations continue and we continue to be part of the solution. In the past month, Northview Middle School has:

- Incorporated bias training and equity work into the school improvement plan as well as the Professional Development Calendar for all staff members for the 2020 - 2021 school year.
- Created metrics to focus on disproportionality as a staff and leadership team in regards to academics, behavior, and staffing.
- Expanded our school equity team to include more individuals with different perspectives.
- Begun looking at school curriculum and programming to determine how it might be better adjusted to meet the needs of all students.

While this is only the beginning and steps that have been taken during summer break, we are excited for the momentum that we have gathered in this work and look forward to continuing to open our ears and being part of the solution.

Upcoming Dates: For incoming 6th grade families, we are still schedule to hold Falcon Quest on July 28th from 5:30pm - 7:30pm. This event will help acclimate our incoming 6th grade families

to Northview, provide an opportunity to see your students' schedule, and learn what it means to be a Falcon. More information will be sent out in the upcoming weeks regarding this event and the safety precautions being taken to ensure a safe event.

Additionally, on July 23, from 12:00pm - 7:00pm, registration and schedule pick-up for grades 7 and 8 is scheduled at Northview Middle School. More details will be sent out in the upcoming weeks about safety precautions being taken to ensure a safe event.

PTO: The Northview PTO plays a critical role in ensuring a great school year for the students and staff at Northview. Whether it be through the donation of time, talent, or treasures, members of the Northview PTO help to provide meaningful experiences and opportunities for our students and staff. If you are interested in participating in the PTO, please reach out to our PTO President, Mrs. Crystal Haffner (crystalhaffner@gmail.com).

Spirit Wear: Now through July 20, Falcons can click on the following link to purchase a, "We are One" Northview t-shirt at a reduced price! [Spirit Wear Flyer](#).

As always, thank you for your continued support and always remember that, "Today, like every day, is a great day to be a Falcon."

Respectfully,

Steven Pelych

Principal