



New Providence Middle School

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Lauren Zirpoli, Principal
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“Respect, Responsibility & Readiness”

July 31, 2020

To New Providence High/Middle School Community,

We hope that this letter finds you well and in good health! Likewise, we hope that many of our students and families have found some time to enjoy summertime under our current circumstances. As we prepare to reopen schools in September, there has been a lot of work that has already been done to welcome our students back to New Providence High and Middle School. I would like to thank all of our Pandemic Response Team members who worked closely with the administration to create the best instructional program we could for our students while keeping their safety and health as our first guiding principle. Within this correspondence, you will find information as it pertains to your child’s health, safety, instruction, and involvement in extracurricular activities/athletics at New Providence High and Middle School. In the next few weeks, there will be additional communication sent to students and parents to best prepare us for September.

When will my child report to school and what will happen once they arrive?

New Providence High School and Middle School students will begin reporting to school by 7:35 a.m. beginning on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. Students from each grade level will be assigned a specific arrival time and location - staggered across six entrance door locations across the campus. Students will report to their assigned check-in location for a pre-screening prior to entering the building each day. Each screening will consist of a verbal confirmation in regards to not presenting any potential Covid-19 related symptoms, and will conclude with a non-contact temperature check. Once a student passes the pre-screening, he/she will report directly to their first period class, which will run as a “homeroom” from 7:35 a.m.- 8:00 a.m. every morning. Students must wear their masks at all times, including throughout this screening process.

Does my child have to wear a mask for the duration of their time in the school building?

Yes, your child will be expected to keep their mask on while they are in the school building. Please make sure that your child brings multiple clean masks with them when they are attending school, so that if they feel the need to change it they can. We encourage all students to begin practicing wearing a mask on their own to get more comfortable. It is recommended that students increase the length of time they wear a mask throughout the month of August leading up to the reopening of school in September.

What if my child needs a mask break?

If your child needs a mask break, they will have the opportunity to do so throughout the day by asking their teacher to step into the hallway to take their mask off. Students will need to be responsible for staying six feet away from any other person when doing so.

What will the building schedule look like for my child?

New Providence High School and Middle School hybrid model is designed to be a modified day for in-person teaching. Students will be broken into two groups, (A & B) daily, so that the building capacity is at fifty-percent to safely socially distance students. The expectation daily for remote learning students, will be to follow their class schedule and Zoom video conference into the in-person classrooms. During the PM Zoom sessions, which will rotate daily, all students (A, B, C & D) are required to participate in Zoom classroom virtual sessions. There will be four groups of students:

Group A: Approximately half the student population in each school.

Group B: Approximately half the student population in each school.

Group C: Remote only students.

Group D: Program-Based Students (LLD and ELL).

[New Providence High School Bell Schedule](#)

[New Providence Middle School Bell Schedule](#)

When exactly will my child report to school for in-person learning?

Please [click here](#) for the September 2020 A/B schedule. Each month, we will produce an A/B schedule that we will post on our school's homepage and send to students and parents/guardians.

How will my child be broken into the A or B group? How is this determined? When will I receive this information?

At New Providence High and Middle School, students will be broken up by grade level into two groups. In order to balance our classes as best as possible, we are not able to divide each high and middle school class (i.e. grade 9) by the alphabet. Students will be broken into groups that are balanced regardless of their last name. We will be determining student groups in the next few weeks and once available sending them to parents/guardians.

If I have two or more children in either two or three schools, will they be in the same group?

Yes, the administration from each of our buildings are working together to ensure that children from the same family are assigned to the same group.

Once in school, how will my child be socially distanced?

In each of your child's classrooms, we have distanced the space between them by six feet. While walking in the hallway, students will need to walk on either side of the hallway in a single file line six feet apart or more. The expectation is for our students to be responsible and stay six feet apart from any other person while in the school building.

Once the day is over at 12:51 p.m. will lunch be available in the cafeteria?

We are working with our food service provider to provide a grab and go lunch for our students. More information is to follow.

On the day that my child from the A or B group is a remote only student, what will they be expected to do?

When students are at home learning remotely, the expectation will be that they log into their classrooms, following the bell schedule, via Zoom video conferencing. Teachers will teach students at home remotely during the same time as in person students for that class period. Attendance will be taken in accordance with our attendance policy.

If I choose to have my child be a remote only student (group C), how will they follow their schedule? Who will their teachers be?

If your child is in group C, they will follow their schedule daily by logging into their virtual classrooms, following the bell schedule, via Zoom video conferencing. Attendance will be taken for each class in accordance with our attendance policy.

What are the expectations for my child while on a Zoom video conference?

Students will be expected to have their cameras on and be ready to engage in the class lesson with their teachers and peers. It is expected that students be responsible for their learning and act appropriately while in their Zoom virtual class. Students will be held accountable for appropriate behavior with the use of Zoom video conferencing. We are following our student Code of Conduct during video conferencing.

If my child is a remote only student (group C), will they be able to come to the high school in the afternoon for athletics?

No, if a student chooses to be remote only they will not be able to come on campus for athletics in the afternoon.

In the event the New Jersey Department of Education or school district makes a decision that all students will be remote only, what will the bell schedule be?

Students and teachers will follow our *Remote Only- Online Bell Schedule* daily, Monday - Friday. Each day students will log into their virtual classrooms via Zoom video conferencing. Students are expected to be in each class daily where attendance will be taken in accordance with our attendance policy. Should we go to a remote only plan, more information will be provided to students and parents/guardians.

[New Providence High School Bell Schedule](#)

[New Providence Middle School Bell Schedule](#)

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions. Thank you for your continued commitment and support to our students' learning!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lauren Zirpoli".

Lauren Zirpoli
Principal, New Providence High/Middle School