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NEWHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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August 12, 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We are very excited about the 2020-21 school year! Thank you for your patience as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and the start of the new year. This year will look different from years past but we know that our students, parents, teachers and community will all pull together to make this a successful year for our students.

Upon returning to school, the first day should be fun and welcoming among all the changes that have taken place. We plan to build trust and student/teacher relationships quickly with our students by letting them know how much we care and how much we missed them last spring. The first day back to school will be treated with kindness, understanding and flexibility to meet the needs of students who have been through so many unexpected challenges in the last few months. Our focus during the first two to three weeks of school will be on getting to know your child(ren), identifying their strengths, learning what areas they may struggle in, while creating a positive and safe learning environment for all students. We will love them first, and teach them next.

We are so excited to have students and teachers back engaging in new learning, regardless of the learning platform. The year might look different but NSD is committed to ensuring the safety of our students and staff while keeping our commitment for a quality education for all students. This is all new to everyone. We thank you in advance for your kindness and understanding as we walk this journey together. Enjoy the reopening of school and stay tuned as the health orders may change as we move throughout the fall.

As you look to set your child(ren) up for success this fall, below are "NSD Parent Support Digital Learning Best Practices" we highly encourage you to put in place as we launch school on August 13th. Click on the link to watch a helpful video from Libby Carson, one of our school counselors as well.

https://youtu.be/eRPSxE_rzIU

Learning Environments and Routines

- Create and maintain a daily schedule to support regular attendance
- Create a supportive and quiet learning environment for your child
- Ensure your child has all necessary supplies, including charged device and hotspot
- Eliminate distractors for your child (cell phone, snacks, TV, toys, etc.)
- Check-in with the teacher on a weekly basis
- Ensure your child attends sessions with support providers, if applicable

Curriculum and Instruction

- Allow for productive challenges as your child is learning new concepts
- Allow for setbacks and understand that not all work has to be perfect
- All student work, including assessments, needs to be student generated
- Support your child with being their own advocate

- Set aside a specific amount of time each day to support your child on their independent class work
- Closely review and monitor completion of your child's work each day
- Utilize the strategies being taught to your child to support the classroom teacher
- Attend parent trainings to support knowledge of standards and curriculum
- Engage in all communication that is sent home from your child's teacher

Parent Engagement

- Attend parent training sessions provided by the District
- Monitor your child's attendance and effort each day
- Provide technology support for your child
- Maintain open communication with your child's teacher
- Set goals with your child and help monitor their progress
- Provide positive social emotional support and feedback to your child each day
- Create a support system to keep your child connected to other students

Just like last spring, we are providing devices, hotspots, and student materials to our families. We will be asking you to pick-up student materials throughout the year so please monitor communication from your assigned school. Meal services will be available each day at all schools sites from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm in a drive-thru format. You will need to have your meal card provide by your site in the window of your car or with you to expedite the process. Lastly, now that we have built our classes and assigned students to a teacher, any change in program model will need to go through our Student Support Services Department (661.291. 4183) after Friday August 14th.

Our partnership with you is pivotal and we thank you in advance for all you will do to support your child(ren) with their school work. We are committed to an engaging, robust and collaborative year with our families while ensuring success for all!

Sincerely,



Jeff Pelzel
Superintendent of Schools