



NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

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NMPSD Home Instruction Virtual School Plan

How will the New Milford Public School District (NMPSD) provide meaningful and continuous home instruction for students during a declared public health emergency, when schools are ordered to close, and still have it “count” under the 180 day NJDOE requirement?

If NMPSD is ordered to close by the New Jersey Department of Health or local Public Health Office, we will implement a virtual school option, pending approval by the Bergen County Office of Education. A virtual school option will provide students with an educational experience that fosters collaboration, supports continuity of instruction and learning, promotes digital citizenship, and enhances student engagement.

Preparation

All instructional staff will prepare lessons and learning activities that will be communicated to students via Google Classroom (Grades 3 through 12) or School Messenger (Grades Pre-K through 2). Each class should have an active engagement/collaboration component lasting approximately 10-15 minutes and the amount of time spent on course-related work should be equivalent to a regular class period on an abbreviated day schedule. Students should have the lesson available to them at or prior to 8:00 am each morning.

Attendance

To ensure that students get credit for “attendance,” as students log in and/or communicate with their teacher via Google Classroom, the teacher will mark that student “present” in PowerSchool. If the teacher does not communicate with the student or they do not log in to Google Classroom during school hours, the student shall be marked “absent.”

Schedule

Classes will run on an abbreviated schedule. Times for students are as follows:

School	Times
New Milford High School	8:00 am - 12:04 pm
David E. Owens Middle School	8:15 am - 12:23 pm
B.F. Gibbs & Berkley Street Elementary Schools	8:25 am - 12:35 pm

Teachers will be available via Google Meet during times when they would normally have class on a regular school day.

(i.e.: If a NMHS teacher has Algebra I during Period 1, from 8:00 am - 8:31 am, they will be available on Google Meet during that time.

If a DEO teacher has ELA during Periods 1-3, from 8:23 am - 9:02 am, they will be available on Google Meet during that time.

If a Berkley/Gibbs teacher has Math during Period 1, from 8:30 am - 9:00 am, they will be available on Google Meet during that time.)

Additionally, it is reasonable to expect that if a student communicates with the teacher via email that the teacher would respond either during their regularly scheduled class time or within a reasonable amount of time during the school day. The goal of a virtual school day is continued student-teacher interaction and peer-to-peer collaboration.

All lessons are to align to District-approved curriculum and New Jersey Student Learning Standards. All lessons will have a student learning objective as well as a means to check for student understanding and offer specific student feedback.

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, World Language, 21st Century Tech Ed

Lessons need to have student-teacher interaction. Assigned readings or worksheets *without interaction* as the lesson for the day should not be considered. Examples of tools that could be used for the lesson may include:

- Collaborative writing in a **Google Doc** with teacher feedback
- A classroom brainstorm or posting using **Padlet**
- Using the discussion features in **Canvas**
- Engaging students in a recorded conversation with the teacher and/or each other using **Google Meet**
- Creating a video using **Edmodo**
- Assign specific skill-based lessons in **DreamBox**
- Creating a class **Google Slide** presentation explaining a concept and/or presenting claims and evidence (each student makes a slide) and the teacher provides feedback on the task
- Creating a **Google Form** with questions for students to assess or poll (images and videos can be embedded)
- Shared class notes using **Google Docs** based on a teacher presentation

Comprehensive Health and Physical Education

Classes not currently in Health will shift to a health focus in a virtual day mode. Physical Education/Health teachers will take a grade level topic that is in the curriculum and focus lessons on hygiene and germ transmission prevention as well as lessons that complement the work they have already done with mindfulness, stress reduction, and mental health awareness. Students should also be encouraged to log physical activity/exercise at home if they are otherwise healthy as a supplemental activity.

Arts, Music, Family and Consumer Sciences

The focus of these classes should be individual performance and creation. Give students the opportunity to self-direct activities in these areas that support their creativity and growth. Teachers may make suggestions to assist students in designing these aspects of their schools. This may also be a good opportunity for student reflections that could be shared with teachers.

The key to preparedness is successful planning. Although there is no way to predict when or if schools will close, our priority is to establish a framework for virtual instruction that will support the continuation of learning. We greatly appreciate your understanding as we navigate these uncharted waters together. Thank you for your continued efforts!