



NORTH EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT

50 EAST DIVISION STREET • NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428
TELEPHONE (814) 725-8671 • FAX (814) 725-9380

Dr. Michele Spurgeon Hartzell, Superintendent

Mr. Jeffrey Fox, Business Manager

Mrs. Shelley Allen, Administrative Assistant

November 16, 2021

Re: Inclement Weather Procedures (page 1)/COVID & Thanksgiving Update (page two)

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the winter season approaches, we want to assure you that the school district takes the decision-making process to cancel or delay the start of school very seriously. We attempt to make this decision as soon as possible. The safety of our students and staff is the most important consideration when making this decision. As weather conditions throughout the district vary depending on location, if you feel at any time that the weather conditions where you live are not safe for your child to attend school, please keep them at home and use your best judgment in making this decision. If you have a young driver, please speak with them regarding poor weather conditions and remember that bus transportation is available in lieu of driving in snow and ice.

In most instances we will begin with a “two-hour delay” and monitor the conditions very closely from that point. There are times when the decision can be made the night before and, when it is possible, this will occur. Rarely will a decision be made to send students home early from school once they are here. Our buildings are safe and supervised places. Once a decision is made, the district’s Sapphire phone notification system will be activated. Please log in to the Sapphire parent portal and make sure your contact information is correct. If you need to make a change, please contact your child’s school. Messages will also be posted on the district’s website, official Facebook pages, as well as through local radio and television stations. The website will be our first place of notification.

Please note that if we have no school or dismiss early due to inclement weather, the buildings will be closed to the public. All practices, games, events, after school and evening activities will be cancelled as well. There may also be times when school has been in session for the full day but evening activities must be cancelled due to the weather. This information will be posted on the District website at nesd1.org and our official Facebook page and through afternoon announcements to the students.

Please be patient as buses may be delayed due to weather conditions. Again, we will do our best to keep you informed. If you have any questions about any of the information contained in this letter or need any other assistance, please feel free to call your child’s respective building principal or call my office directly at 725-8671.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michele S. Hartzell
Superintendent





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Page 2 - COVID-19/Thanksgiving UPDATE – November 16, 2021 – PLEASE READ

We wanted to provide an update regarding COVID-19. Since we opened on August 31, 2021, as of November 15, 2021, we have had 109 positive student and staff COVID-19 cases. We can only trace three back to the school district; all other cases have been traced to outside activities and events. This information confirms district data that our mitigation efforts in our Health and Safety plan are working, enabling us to keep our children and staff safe and our schools open. This being said, many buildings and schools have been closed in the local area. As a reminder, our number one goal is to protect our students and staff. The Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) has seen an increase in the number of positive COVID cases over the past few weeks. According to the ECDOH, several of these cases have been attributed to family and student parties/gatherings. We understand that the holidays are around the corner; however, we are asking that you protect our students and staff by following the recommended guidelines of the CDC, and the State and local Departments of Health.

We want to keep our children in school; however, we would like to remind you to have a plan in place for your child(ren) in case we have to close a classroom, building, or the district. In most instances, this will be with little to no warning.

In the event we need to move to virtual livestreaming, students would log into Google Classroom on Day 2 in order for our staff to have Day 1 to plan and make the transition to move to our virtual platform. We will implement our virtual livestream schedule posted on the district website at nesd1.org.

Once again, I want to remind families to please be kind, specifically to our school nurses. We are following the required protocols from the State and local Departments of Health and my staff is just doing their respective jobs.

Finally, this is the time of year to reflect on being grateful. Have an attitude of gratitude as we have many things to be thankful for. Take time to do something for someone else, especially during this Thanksgiving season. We want to once again thank you for your understanding as we navigate through this pandemic together and wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Respectfully,

Dr. Michele S. Hartzell, Superintendent &
Mrs. Kiersten Lawrence, Nurse, Co-Pandemic Coordinator

