

North Schuylkill School District FAQs Continuity of Education Plan – PHASE II

WHAT IS A CONTINUITY OF EDUCATION PLAN?

As you are aware, we have been working since March 30, 2020, to provide continuity of education for the students of North Schuylkill. During the first two weeks of the closure, our staff spent time connecting with students and families and providing optional enrichment activities. Staff also began to prepare for a more purposeful learning, which will be launched on April 17, 2020. On March 25, 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Education asked all districts to post a Continuity of Education Plan to their websites. The goal of the Continuity of Education Plan is to ensure that districts continue to meet the educational needs of all students during a prolonged school closure. That has been our goal from the start. We appreciate the strong partnership that our staff has with families as we all work to make these days meaningful and manageable. Districts may provide continuity of education through either option or a combination of the following:

- **Enrichment and Review:** Enrichment and Review consists of informal activities that reinforce or extend students' prior learning. New standards and skills are not addressed through Enrichment and Review.
- **Planned Instruction:** Planned Instruction is formal teaching and learning similar to what occurs in a classroom setting. Within this process, teachers use planned courses of instruction that introduce new concepts/skills aligned to grade level standards.

According to the PDE, these options can take a variety of forms, including online/digital learning opportunities and non-digital learning opportunities (e.g. paper packets). Our District chose to design a Distance Learning Plan that is a combination of the two options.

WHAT IS NORTH SCHUYLKILL'S PLAN?

Phase 1: The District's focus during the weeks of March 30 – April 16, 2020, was enrichment and review. K-12 staff spent time reaching out to students and families and offering a variety of review and enrichment activities. It was important we took time to acknowledge the challenges COVID-19 presented and continues to present for staff and community. We also took time to gather information about what families might be struggling with: meeting basic needs, internet access, accessing mental health services, etc. The District worked to ensure struggling families were taken care of and tele-therapy was available. In fact, the District has a COVID-19 Resource Page on the website. Staff and students became more familiar with learning and the communication platform Google Classroom during this phase and teachers began to plan for the launch of Phase 2 – More Purposeful Learning.

Phase 2: The District will begin to offer learning that is more purposeful or planned instruction on April 17, 2020. This phase will continue through June 3, 2020. We will operate on a weekly cycle. There is no graded work, rather teachers will give feedback on assignments as students work to master identified concepts and skills within the

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North Schuylkill Curriculum. Options for all students include online/digital learning opportunities and non-digital/packet learning opportunities because not all students have access to Internet at home.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PHASE I and II?

Phase I – Enrichment and Review (March 30 – April 16, 2020)

- Informal
- No New Standards
- Review of Material
- Optional for Students
- Not Graded
- No Attendance
- Cannot Start a New Course for Last Quarter

Phase II – More Purposeful Learning /Planned Instruction (April 17 – June 3, 2020)

- Formal
- New Standards
- Advancement of the Curriculum
- Students Evaluated on Engagement
- Live/ Recorded Videos
- Begin New Course for Last Quarter

WHAT WILL A LESSON LOOK LIKE DURING PHASE II?

- **Instruction:** Includes a short video of the teacher, Power Point, visual, etc. to introduce each lesson. This introduction can include examples by screen sharing, visuals that help teach the skill, pictures that show a step-by-step process, etc. while introducing the lesson.
- **Independent Practice:** A few questions, problems, etc. that will help the teacher determine if a skill has been met. This should give the teacher a better understanding of where the student is, what problems they may be having and where, etc. Feedback will be provided.
- **Reinforce:** Additional sources that goes along with the skill introduced. This can be an additional Brain Pop Video, You Tube Video, a different reading prompt, a different example of teaching the skill, etc.
- **Lesson Extension:** Instead of homework, voluntary 'lesson extensions' for students.

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WILL ASSIGNMENTS BE GRADED IN PHASE II?

While students are still not receiving a grade, their effort is being recorded as:

- Highly Engaged – means a student is actively participating by attending sessions, completing work, tasks and is proactively communicating with the teacher and classmates.
- Moderately Engaged – means a student is meeting minimum expectations and/or is partially engaged, attends some learning sessions and completes some work/tasks.
- Not Yet Engaged – means a student is not engaged in the learning process, does not attend learning sessions and does not complete tasks/work.

Teachers will keep track of engagement weekly based on the rubric descriptors above - including students working with packets. They will continue to provide weekly feedback to students via Google Classroom, phone calls or other previously used communication methods. The nature of Distance Learning requires us to shift our focus from assessment to engagement. It is not appropriate to utilize a grading system during this time as students have varying degrees of time and support at home.

We understand that Distance Learning is difficult in many ways, especially for our families with multiple children, working parents, and those facing technology issues. As such, we feel it is not possible to grade students in an equitable manner during the closure; however, it is important we provide some form of feedback.

For secondary students, level of engagement will not be calculated into the final course grade, but might be considered when we determine if the student does or does not earn credits.

We know there may be many reasons why a student's engagement may be affected, and we will do everything we can to support them.

WHEN WILL PACKETS BE DISTRIBUTED?

For students without Internet access, distribution of paper handouts will continue to occur bi-weekly on Fridays from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and the following Monday from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at the North Schuylkill Elementary School. The second pick up of physical materials will be Friday, April 17, 2020, and Monday, April 20, 2020. To ensure proper social distancing, we ask that you drive up to the curb at the elementary school and pop your trunk. A North Schuylkill staff member will bring the materials to you and place them in your trunk. No one is permitted to enter the school building. Packets will not be returned to teachers.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS?

Actively engage in purposeful learning by:

- Monitoring Google Classroom daily or work on packet daily
- Establishing daily routines for engaging in the learning experiences

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- Being responsible for independent learning and maintaining a positive growth mindset
- Engaging in all learning with academic honesty
- Being an advocate and communicating with your teachers if you require additional support
- Complying with School Internet Safety policies including expectations for online etiquette
- Completing work by Friday at 3:00 p.m. which will serve as evidence of completion

HOW MUCH TIME SHOULD MY CHILD SPEND ON THE PURPOSEFUL LEARNING?

For some children, highly structured time will work best. For others, breaking up learning time throughout the day/week will be a better option. The workload guideline is listed below.

Subject	Workload
Elementary Math	30 – 45 minutes per week or 1 Activity per week
Elementary ELA	30 – 45 minutes per week or 1 Activity per week
Elementary Science	1 Activity per week
Elementary Social Studies	1 Activity per week
Elementary STEM/Library	1 Activity per week
Elementary Art	1 Activity per week
Elementary Music	1 Activity per week
Elementary PE/Health	1 Activity per week
Secondary English Language Arts Including Elective Courses	60 minutes per week
Secondary Math Including Elective Courses	60 minutes per week
Secondary Social Studies Including Elective Courses	60 minutes per week
Secondary Science Including Elective Courses	60 minutes per week
Spanish Including Elective Courses	60 minutes per week
Family Consumer Science	60 minutes per week
Secondary Art	60 minutes per week
Secondary Music	60 minutes per week
Secondary PE/Health	60 minutes per week
Industrial Arts	60 minutes per week
Tech Ed./Business Ed.	60 minutes per week
AP Courses	60 – 120 minutes per week
SAT Prep, Keystone Remediation, PSSA Prep	60 minutes per week

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We recognize that circumstances and schedules are different for every family during this time. Some students may be in child care throughout the day, some may be home with working parents. We want to make instruction accessible to all students, so we will prioritize learning activities and assignments that support development of critical knowledge and skills to reach weekly workload. The goal is for everyone to be successful – students, families and staff.

HOW CAN I COMMUNICATE WITH TEACHERS?

Email continues to be an effective communication strategy. Teachers are available for office hours from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday.

WHOM CAN I CONTACT IF I AM HAVING TROUBLE ACCESSING THE RESOURCES?

Teachers can provide help with access. If teachers are unable to provide initial assistance, they will be able to contact district administration to get an answer to questions.

ARE THERE ANY CALENDAR ADJUSTMENTS?

As for class trips, concerts, prom and graduation ceremonies, they are all cancelled due to the school closure.

WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE FOR PHASE II?

April 17, 2020 – Begin Week 3 of Planned Instruction
April 17 & 20, 2020 – Packet Distribution
April 24, 2020 – Begin Week 4 of Planned Instruction
May 1, 2020 – Begin Week 5 of Planned Instruction
May 1 & 4, 2020 – Packet Distribution
May 8, 2020 – Begin Week 6 of Planned Instruction
May 15, 2020 – Begin Week 7 of Planned Instruction
May 15 & 18, 2020 – Packet Distribution
May 22, 2020 – Begin Week 8 of Planned Instruction
May 29, 2020 – Begin Week 9 of Planned Instruction
June 3, 2020 – End of 4th Marking Period

WHEN IS THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL?

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

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WHAT ARE THE PLANS FOR SENIORS?

The District will have a virtual graduation ceremony, including senior awards on June 3, 2020, with more details to come in the future. In early May, caps and gowns will be distributed as well as Chords earned and Honor Society Stole. All Seniors will need to submit a photo of themselves in their cap and gown. Seniors who have an outstanding dues balance will be contacted on an individual basis. The Yearbook was completed before the closure and is currently waiting to be printed by the company when it reopens. The 2020 Prom, Baccalaureate and Senior Awards Night have been cancelled. Tentatively, the District will hold a senior culminating social event on Homecoming Weekend, Saturday, October 10, 2020, before the football game vs. Notre Dame Green Pond. The Senior Class of 2020 will be recognized and a tailgating event will be held after the game.

IS LUNCH STILL BEING SERVED?

We will continue to provide Grab-and-Go Bagged Breakfasts and Lunches at three locations throughout the District during the flexible learning days. For more information visit: <https://bit.ly/NSLunches>

HOW DO I GET MY CHILD'S PERSONAL BELONGINGS?

The buildings remain closed but the District is in discussion and looks to have answers in the near future.

WHERE CAN I FIND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT?

<https://sites.google.com/gapps.northschuylkill.net/nsstudenthelpcenter/home>

QUICK LINKS:

Elementary:

<https://sites.google.com/gapps.northschuylkill.net/nseclassrooms/home>

Junior Senior High School:

<https://sites.google.com/gapps.northschuylkill.net/hsclassrooms/home>

NSSD COVID-19 Information:

<http://www.northschuylkill.net/coronavirus.html>

CONTACT US:

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