



# North Star Montessori Academy

## Return to Learn-COVID Response Plan 2021/22

**ONLINE LEARNING** As currently constructed, NSMA will adhere to the following guidelines for online learning:

- Virtual classes will be offered as an option to all students in grades 6-12.
- While students remain face to face, no district virtual options will be offered to K-5 students
- If circumstances necessitate a classroom, building or district wide move to online learning, 6-12 students enrolled in virtual classes will continue in that format. All other students will receive virtual instruction from their regularly assigned teachers.
- If circumstances necessitate a classroom, building or district wide move to online learning, K-5 students will receive virtual instruction from their regularly assigned teachers
- Students with IEP's, 504's and other learning plans will be provided accommodations that fit with virtual learning. Ancillary services will be provided to the extent staff is limited by local, state or CDC guidelines. Services such as OT, PT and speech may happen virtually if appropriate.

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)/FACIAL COVERINGS** Facial coverings are REQUIRED for students in PK-6th Grade and HIGHLY RECOMMENDED for students in 7th through 12th grade. Facial coverings are REQUIRED for ALL students and staff on school buses. However, this decision may be changed based on local transmission rates and health department mandates.

**If facial coverings are required:**

- The expectations for the wearing of face coverings, if required, and how to obtain clean face coverings will be included in a communication to staff and families.
- NSMA may be required to transition to this plan on very short notice.
- In the event facial coverings are required, buildings, grounds, and transportation signage will be prominent throughout all school facilities and clearly identify who is required to wear face coverings in each designated area of the building, grounds, or bus.
- Face coverings will be ordered and available to every student and staff member on a daily basis. The supply of masks located on busses and in the classrooms will be checked every evening by the teacher, custodian and bus driver.
- Individuals (staff or students) who claim medical exemption will need to provide rationale and documentation.
- Students who are capable of wearing a face covering and refuse to do so in an area where a face covering is required will be issued a face covering by a school official (teacher, paraprofessional, administrator, school safety staff, playground aid, etc.) and asked to put the face covering on.



**SCREENING STUDENTS & STAFF** Students and Staff should conduct daily self-examinations, including a temperature check, prior to coming to work/school. If they exhibit “principle symptoms” of COVID-19 or have a temperature of 100.4 or greater, they should stay home and monitor for 24 hours.

- MDHHS defines “principle symptoms” as follows:
  - At least 1 of the following *not explained by a known medical or physical condition*: fever, shortness of breath, or uncontrolled cough, or
  - At least 2 of the following *not explained by a known medical or physical condition*: abdominal pain, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell, muscle aches, severe headache, sore throat, or vomiting.
- Students and staff may return to work/school with a negative COVID test result or have recovered according to CDC guidelines.

**TEMPERATURE DEVELOPS WHILE AT SCHOOL** If a student or staff member exhibits a fever of 100.4 degrees or greater while at school, they must immediately be picked up from school or leave (if they are a driver). Students will be isolated to avoid spreading illness until they can be picked up from school. They cannot return to school until they are fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, negative COVID testing results, or have recovered according to CDC guidelines.

**MARQUETTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT QUARANTINE GUIDANCE** If a student is exposed to COVID-19 can **remain in school** under the following scenarios:

- **A fully vaccinated student (regardless of whether they wore a mask) who came in close contact with a COVID-positive student.** The exposed student can remain in school if they wear a mask and monitor symptoms for 14 days after their exposure. They should test for COVID-19 three to five days after their last exposure to the COVID-positive student. If the exposed student tests positive, then the student should isolate and follow directions from their local health department.
- **An unvaccinated student who was masked and exposed to a COVID-positive student who was also masked in an indoor school setting, so long as the students remained at least three to six feet apart.** The exposed student can remain in school if they wear a mask, but they should monitor symptoms for 14 days following the exposure.
- **An unvaccinated student who was masked and exposed to a COVID-positive student who was also masked in an indoor school setting, but the students were less than three feet apart and the student tests daily.**
  - The exposed student can remain in school if they wear a mask. They should monitor symptoms for 14 days and test daily before entering the classroom for the seven days following the exposure. They should continue to monitor for symptoms for a total of 14 days following the exposure

**TRANSPORTATION** Our school will continue traditional busing services for existing routes. Masks are REQUIRED for all students and staff while riding the bus. All students will be assigned seats on the bus and children who live in the same household will be seated together. Hand sanitizing will be



required when entering and exiting the bus. Transportation vehicles will be frequently cleaned and disinfected daily. When possible, windows will be down for air circulation, as recommended by the CDC.

**ATTENDANCE** It is imperative for the health and safety of all students to stay home on days they have a fever or other symptoms of illness. Students who have a health reason that is verified by a parent/guardian or medical professional will receive an excused absence.

**CLASSROOMS** Classrooms and common seating areas (including tables and work mats) will be arranged to maximize space between students to meet distancing guidelines. Schedules will be created to minimize movement within the classroom and hallways.

**CLEANING & DISINFECTING** NSMA will increase sanitization of high-contact surfaces throughout the school day. All shared materials will be cleaned between student use, as well as at the end of each class period, before lunch, and at the end of the school day. Our custodians will continue to ensure deep cleaning is completed each day. Frequent hand-washing and other healthy protocols will be practiced and highly encouraged for all students and staff. Hygiene lessons and expectations will be taught explicitly at the elementary level. A hand washing schedule will be established throughout the day for our students. Hand sanitizer will also be easily accessible throughout all schools. Upon notification of a positive COVID-19 case, classroom(s) and school buildings will be deep-cleaned.

**BREAKFAST & LUNCH** Breakfast will be delivered to individual students every day. Lunch times will be extended and divided between the lunch room and gym to ensure social distancing.

**ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL** NSMA will continue to have designated grade level entrances/exits for drop off and pick up. Please view detailed procedures here: [Arrival & Dismissal Procedures](#)

**RESTROOMS** Student and staff restrooms will be frequently cleaned and disinfected throughout the school day. A daily bathroom break schedule will be made for each classroom to limit bathroom interactions and establish regular cleaning times.

**MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS** The social, emotional, and mental wellness of our students and staff are essential to a successful learning environment. Our social worker and school counselor are prepared and available to help our students and families both virtually and in-person.

**BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE** Before and After Care programs will not be offered at the school facility at this time. Before and/or After Care will be available through Kids Club and bussing will be arranged for pick up and drop off.



## **CLASSROOM DEVICES, CLASSROOM MANIPULATIVES & LIBRARY** All

technological devices, classroom manipulatives, and Montessori materials needed for instructional purposes will not be shared with another student without first being sanitized. All shared items and spaces will be cleaned/sanitized at mid-day, at the end of the day, and between each use. Middle and High School students will be assigned a Chromebook to use during the school day. All devices will be cleaned during the day and thoroughly at the end of the school day.

**CLUBS** After-school clubs will be offered on a limited basis for all of our students.

**LAPTOPS** In the event we have to transition from the Traditional Setting to Virtual Learning due to COVID-19, students in need will be assigned a device to use at home.

**OUTSIDE SNACKS & BIRTHDAY TREATS/PARTIES** Prior arrangements should be made for all special snacks and birthday treats. All snacks and birthday treats must be store bought, no exceptions.