

April 8, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of NACS Children,

I hope each of you are doing well while continuing to be healthy, safe, and positive. I hope each of you were able to enjoy some of the recent good weather, and I trust that it relieved some of the stir-craziness experienced by nearly all of us. On behalf of NACS, thank you to all who have been on the frontlines caring for members of our community who are sick or completing work identified as essential.

Many of you are already aware that during the Governor's daily briefing on April 2, it was announced that all Indiana schools will be closed, and we will continue offering Remote Learning services for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. The revised NACS schedule is included with this communication, and it will be uploaded onto our [COVID webpage](#).

As a result of this announcement, we are able to move forward and make decisions related to many logistical issues, many of which will be communicated within the next few weeks. At the end of this communication, please find additional information related to the topics about which we have most often been asked.

Thank you for your continued patience and support as we write a new book about providing educational services during a pandemic. These unprecedented times have caused us to re-evaluate our curriculum and determine which parts are most important in building a foundation for success in future grade levels and courses. Consequently, we continue tweaking our curriculum and activities with a focus on helping each child continue moving forward.

We miss seeing your children. The energy that your child(ren) bring to school each day helps us thrive as educators. Likewise, the interaction among students enriches and extends learning far beyond the facts and procedures included in textbooks and other resources. Although it is not perfect, we are hopeful that the tools being used during remote learning activities are helping our students remain connected to their teachers and their peers.

As Helen Keller stated, "Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it." Thank you to all who have generously supported, encouraged, and helped others in our community. This spirit is a trademark of our community and reminds us of how blessed we are to serve the NACS community. In the meantime, stay healthy, stay safe, and stay positive.

Respectfully,

Chris Himsel
Superintendent
Northwest Allen County Schools

Access to school lunches/breakfasts: NACS will continue providing this service on Tuesdays as we have for the past few weeks. NACS is approved to provide this service through May 21, 2020. If changes are made to our approved waiver, we will post the changes onto our [COVID webpage](#).

High School Commencement Ceremony: We remain hopeful that we will have an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2020 via a traditional commencement ceremony. However, we are also planning alternate options. If we need to implement one of the alternate options, we will send information at a later time. If it is possible and the amount of time available allows, we will collect information from members of the Class of 2020 and their parents/guardians. In the meantime, we continue to plan for celebrating the achievements of the Class of 2020 on Sunday, June 7.

Graduation Requirements: After reading details included in the guidance provided to schools, we will continue maintaining current graduation requirements. Given the number of seniors preparing for post-secondary opportunities, we have a responsibility to present the curriculum necessary to build a foundation that maximizes their preparation and positions them to attain future success. The waiver opportunities announced by the state are intended to assist those districts lacking resources needed to provide Remote Learning opportunities. Therefore, we will limit utilizing the waiver opportunities to the few individuals who may need the provided flexibility. Fortunately, nearly all members of Carroll High School's Class of 2020 are on a path to fulfill the original graduation requirements. For members of the classes of 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024, zero flexibility has been offered by the state in terms of fulfilling the original minimum requirements to earn high school credit for a course in which they are currently enrolled.

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams: For high school students enrolled in AP courses, the College Board revised their testing schedule and made accommodations that allow students to take the AP exams online. Teachers will communicate the specific dates and times of the exams. All AP exams are scheduled to take place beginning Monday, May 11, 2020 and concluding Friday, May 22, 2020.

Summer School: NACS will be offering high school summer school opportunities. Although we remain hopeful that we will be able to implement our current plans, we are creating alternate plans that involve Remote Learning, just in case they are needed. Our intent is to offer these opportunities, so students can make-up and earn credit for a course previously failed or move ahead and create space in their schedule to take courses enabling them to continue developing technical skills, enjoy an activity of high interest, or complete an honors diploma, career pathway, or internship.

Picking-up/Dropping-off items and Cleaning out lockers/desks: Building level administrators will be communicating specific information about when students will be able to visit our schools to pick-up items that remain in their lockers/desks and drop-off items like textbooks, library books, computing devices, etc. However, the information will not be communicated until after we resolve as many logistical issues as we can. A schedule will be developed that allows each student to pick-up and drop-off her/his items in a manner that complies with social distancing. We want to create a safe environment for all families who will be visiting our schools. Therefore, if a person is sick, quarantined, or in isolation, please be respectful of all other families and do not visit our schools. If a child resides in a home with a person being quarantined or in isolation, please communicate directly with the building principal, and we will work with you to create an alternate opportunity. Although we will try to develop procedures that are efficient and respectful of each family's time, because of social distancing requirements, the procedures may not be perfect.

Kindergarten Round-Up: More information will be available on the NACS website next week. Because of the stay home order, we will gather information online/virtually the next few weeks and schedule opportunities to visit our schools prior to the start of school in August.