



THE PLAN FOR REOPENING
NORTHSTAR ACADEMY
2021-2022



LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Northstar Families and Staff,

I'd like to welcome you to the 2021-22 school year. We are excited to work with your family in the coming school year. Thank you for entrusting us with the education of your student. I also thank you for your patience as we awaited and reviewed guidance to develop a safe and comprehensive plan for our 2021-22 school year.

With that in mind, we've reviewed local, state and federal guidance and stayed in communication with our Board of Directors as well as other private and public schools. **Our priority is to return safely and maintain in-person instruction.** We look forward to welcoming students back to campus 5 days a week for in person instruction. We will not offer a virtual option this year except for cases related to COVID. Additionally, we will begin the year with all students, faculty, and staff, vaccinated and unvaccinated, wearing masks. Following guidance, we'll continue to monitor community spread, and will review the need for masks at the end of the first interim.

Using the guidance mentioned above, we were able to develop this guide that provides a broad overview of preparations for the start of the 2021-22 school year and I hope you find it useful. Additionally, we've amended our comprehensive safety plan (<https://northstaracademy.net/covid2020/>).

As we move forward with our school year, I remind you that the pandemic causes this situation to remain fluid and we could alter our plan any time before or after school starts. As we prepare to welcome students on campus, I ask our entire Northstar Community to continue to focus on your health and safety. Current guidance continues to encourage vaccination as a primary mitigation measure against COVID. Consult with your health care provider to determine if this is an appropriate option for you and your family. Please note, we are asking families, faculty, and staff to provide proof of vaccination for the purposes of contact tracing only. This information will be kept confidential. If we do not have this information, it will be assumed the person is unvaccinated for the purposes of contact tracing.

Respectfully,

Crystal Trent
Head of School



COVID-19 PREPARATION AND PLANNING TEAM

Northstar Academy is committed to safely opening and maintaining in-person instruction for students on September 7. This situation remains fluid, however, and may necessitate changes to this plan. Northstar's Administrative and Academic teams have been studying the educational and operational implications of COVID-19. This team is composed of:


- Head of School
- Assistant Head of School
- Director of Career Academy
- Administrative & Academic Teams
- Building and Facilities Director
- Maintenance/Janitorial Managers
- School Nurse


We've examined possible scenarios and made recommendations to provide the best possible learning experience for each student, taking into consideration a comprehensive review of COVID-19 public health guidance as well as state and federal guidance, our campus footprint, and school logistics. We will further continue to monitor local, state, and national guidance and resources and make changes as we can. **We are committed to prioritizing the health and safety of everyone.**





UPDATED SCHOOL PROTOCOLS


For the safety of our students and staff, we made the following changes:


 A cloth face covering over the nose and mouth will be worn on campus by all students, faculty, staff and visitors. This will be reviewed at the end of the first interim.


 Temperature screenings will be required for all students, faculty and staff upon arrival at school each day.


 Using CDC guidelines, our facilities team will perform a deep cleaning each evening and will clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces throughout the day.

 Classroom space has been reconfigured to accommodate physical distancing.

 Our ventilation system is actively maintained. Air filters have been upgraded and are changed on a regular schedule, and fresh air induction levels have been set to recommended levels.

 Hand sanitizer stations will be available throughout the campus.

 New signage will be posted throughout campus to support foot traffic patterns, distancing and regular handwashing.

 *Vaccinations are considered a primary mitigation measure. Please consult with your health care provider to determine if it is appropriate for you and your family. *We are asking families to provide proof of vaccination for contact tracing purposes only.*



SICK POLICY

Students, faculty and staff should stay home/sent home if they have a temperature of 100 without fever reducing medication, coughing, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell or have any two of the following: fever of 100 (without fever reducing medication), coughing, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, fatigue, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, headache, muscle or body aches, vomiting, diarrhea, or new loss of taste or smell.

Students experiencing these symptoms will be isolated in a "sick room," separate from the "well room" or general clinic area, and will be required to be picked up by parents within 1 hour of contacting the parent/guardian. If a sibling of a student with these symptoms also attends Northstar, the sibling will also be sent home.

Daily temperature checks/health screenings will be performed for anyone entering the building. Should the initial temperature check register a high temperature, the student/faculty or staff will be asked to wait 5 minutes and the check readministered. If the student/faculty or staff's temperature registers again at 100 or higher, the student will be isolated in the "sick room" and will be required to be picked up by parents immediately/within 1 hour of contacting the parent/guardian. The faculty or staff will be sent home.

If a student, faculty, or staff have been exposed to COVID, are considered a close contact, and/or tested positive for COVID, Northstar will consult with the VDH to determine if they need to quarantine/isolate and when they may return to campus. This will be determined by guidance available at the time of exposure and/or positive test results.

If you develop symptoms after testing positive, follow the guidance above.

In consultation with the local department of health, each positive case will be reviewed individually and could result in a campus closure of up to 2 weeks. All students/ faculty pivot to distance learning during a campus closure.

Distance learning will be provided for students who are in quarantine/isolation at home due to student illness/positive COVID-19 test, or close contact with a person who tested positive.

Students whose symptoms may be caused by allergies must provide a doctor's note stating that their symptoms are due to non-contagious cause/allergy.

Families should contact Susan Amos, School Nurse, at samos@northstaracademy.net when their child is sick and/or exposed to COVID.



UPDATED SCHOOL PROTOCOLS

LUNCH

For the 2021-22 school year, students on the academic campus will alternate between their classrooms and the gym. Students at Career Academy will eat in their classrooms. Refrigerators and microwaves will not be available for students.

- Monday & Wednesday - Grades K-9, students in the gym (separate tables), Grades 10-13 in classrooms.
- Tuesday & Thursday - Grades 10 - 13 in the gym. Grades K-9 in classrooms.
- Friday -- All students in classrooms.
- Students will maintain physical distancing during lunch.

VISITORS ON CAMPUS

Northstar will welcome visitors, parents, volunteers, vendors and external groups throughout the school year. They will be expected to adhere to all safety protocols at the time of their visit.

LARGE GATHERINGS

As these events approach throughout the school year, we will review current guidance available at that time to determine if and how we might gather together. Events and programs such as assemblies, performing arts events and many others may be reimaged or canceled. We will update students and families as we approach those events.



IT TAKES ALL OF US

An important piece for this plan to be successful is our faculty and staff. We are asking for your help to keep these members of our Community safe. These dedicated professionals want to be on campus with your students and we want to do everything to mitigate the danger to them. We have prepared contingency plans so we can quickly adjust, if needed.

During the registration process, you will be asked to complete an acknowledgement of your responsibility in keeping the Northstar Community safe.

As an important member of the Northstar community, we are asking you to partner with us by preparing for a safe return. ***We ask families and staff to monitor local guidance and practice masking based on the COVID transmission in your area two weeks prior to the start of school.***

The Northstar Community was successful in its attempts to safely navigate our 2020-2021 school year. We acknowledge that constant hand-washing, wearing cloth face coverings and physical distancing are challenging. However, we implore you to remain vigilant for the Northstar Community. While the school will do its part in attempting to mitigate exposure during the school day, it is important that our families understand their obligations in ensuring the same when the school day ends. So please, even when you are away from Northstar, remember to wash your hands frequently, wear a cloth face covering when in public, and maintain physical distance.



RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES NORTHSTAR ACADEMY 2021-2022



CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health_medical/office/covid-19.shtml

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) IN VIRGINIA

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov>