



At Northstar Academy we promote educational excellence and career opportunities for students with disabilities who have academic, physical, or social challenges.

During this challenging time, our mission is to continue to provide educational excellence through our Digital Learning Plan, while ensuring the safety and well-being of our entire school community.

This plan was created in collaboration by the Northstar Administration team:

Crystal Trent – Head of School

Wanda Ramsey – Assistant Head of School

Holly Peele – Director, Northstar Career Academy

Catie Huennekens – Assistant Director, Northstar Career Academy

Marissa Downs – IEP/IAP Liaison

Amanda Kerns – IEP/IAP Liaison

Nancy Creecy – IEP/IAP Liaison

Jessica West – Dean of Instruction

For the week of March 30 to April 3, and beyond:

- Northstar teachers will continue to hold virtual office hours Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., and 3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. During this time, they will be available through email, phone, or through a Zoom meeting made by appointment only. Friday will be reserved as an opportunity for students to schedule 1:1 Zoom or telephone meetings with teachers, catch-up on work, and for teachers to plan lessons.
- Students will continue to access Digital Learning content through their Google Classrooms set up for each class period they attend during their regular day at Northstar. Northstar students and teachers in middle school, upper school, and Career Academy will follow the following schedule:
 - Monday and Wednesday – periods 1, 2, 3, and 4
 - Tuesday and Thursday – periods 5, 6, 7, and Advisory

Students in Lower School at Northstar Academy will follow their own separate schedule detailed below.

Monday through Thursday (Middle School, Upper School, Career Academy)

8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Teacher Office Hours

9 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. – 1st period (MW); 5th period (TR)

10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. – 2nd period (MW); 6th period (TR)

11 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. – 3rd period (MW); 7th period (TR)

12 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. – teacher planning, lunch, etc.

2 p.m. to 2:50 p.m. – 4th period (MW); Advisory (TR)

3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Teacher Office Hours

Monday and Wednesday (Lower School)

8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Teacher Office Hours

9 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. – Language Arts B / Math A

10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. – Language Arts A / Math B

11 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. – Science A / Social Studies B

12 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. – teacher planning, lunch, etc.

2 p.m. to 2:50 p.m. – Social Skills (Whole Group)

3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Teacher Office Hours

Tuesday and Thursday (Lower School)

8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Teacher Office Hours

9 a.m. to 9:50 – Language Arts B / Math A

10 a.m. to 10:50 Language Arts A / Math B

11 a.m. to 11:50 – Science B / Social Studies A

12 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. – teacher planning, lunch, etc.

2 p.m. to 2:50 – Art / Technology (Whole Group)

3 p.m. to 3:30 Teacher Office Hours

- Students enrolled in APEX should continue to login to access the online curriculum, and to turn in assignments.
- For students without online access, Northstar will send home paper copies of Distance Learning materials.

Distance Learning for Northstar Teachers

Moving forward into week 3, Distance Learning will be a mixture of review content, individualized IEP/IAP goals, and new content deemed most important.

1. Create opportunities for simultaneous learning amongst students through lessons delivered through Zoom video chat, as available. **The expectation is that there is one online touch point a day per class. You do not need to be online on Zoom for the entire 50-minute course. Have some online, then working offline time. This could include recorded video, Zoom meetings, online discussion boards, etc.**
2. Create opportunities for learning to occur at various times throughout the day as student's individual schedules allow. Provide opportunities for student collaboration through discussion boards or through group distance work on Google Docs or Google slides.
3. Get creative. Let's get our students conducting experiments through Distance Learning, participating in virtual surveys, all the while collaborating and working together on digital social skills.
4. Think about how we can continue Project Based Learning through Distance Learning. Create opportunities for students to produce virtual products (PowerPoint, video, audio recording, etc.) through independent research, etc.
5. Continue to assess students through traditional and nontraditional methods. Traditional assessments: have students complete and turn-in assignments/assessments through Google Docs, or create a Google Form assessment. Nontraditional: have students respond orally and record themselves, or have students create a product and take pictures to submit to you.
6. Attendance will be taken each morning in the blocks of time for 1st and 5th periods. Attendance will be taken through Google Classroom by students responding to a yes or no question. Please send attendance during your planning period to Ms. Shugart who will upload it to Achieve.
7. For students who do not have access to WiFi, or a device for Digital Learning, please place a copy of your Digital Learning assignments into the folder that has been created for your classrooms. Administration will send home paper copies of these assignments for students without access.
8. Advisories will be meeting twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays. These Advisory sessions could include discussions based on our monthly themes, transition activities, etc. Look for more information to come from our Advisory Faculty Leaders.
9. Take advantage of the numerous free resources during this time. Create virtual assignments for students to take field trips through a museum, or go on a 'safari' at the zoo to learn about different animal species. Here is our list of [Distance Learning Resources](#) for you to utilize.

Distance Learning for Northstar Students and their Families

1. Create a routine and stick to it; set clear expectations. *Dedicate specific academic time daily that is manageable for your family. Here is a [possible schedule](#) to follow from Northstar.*
2. Establish a quiet, comfortable Distance Learning location in your home. This location should be in a public space in your home (not your bedroom!), free from distractions, well-lit, and if possible, within earshot of parental supervision for support as needed.
3. While social distancing, continue to encourage opportunities for physical activity or exercise as a family. *Use some of this time to connect together through physical activity – take walks around the neighborhood, play basketball outside, take an online exercise class, etc.*
4. Be engaged with your child’s learning. *Communicate with his or her teachers, and participate in Distance Learning opportunities to support continued learning during this period.*
5. Students will be engaging in Zoom meetings with their teachers. *Students do not need a Zoom account to participate in these Distance Learning opportunities.*
6. Students are encouraged to email teachers for help and support, and/or to set up 1:1 Zoom meetings available by appointment only.
7. Attendance will be taken daily during the blocks for 1st and 5th periods. Students should respond to the question posted in their Google Classrooms for those periods in order to be marked ‘present.’
8. If you do not have access to WiFi, or a device, for your student to participate in virtual Distance Learning, we will be mailing home hard copies of assignments posted to Google Classroom so your student can continue to learn and participate in educational opportunities.

Distance Learning Guidelines

1. Be mindful of your backgrounds while participating in Zoom Distance Learning opportunities.
2. Continue to dress for learning. *While we do not expect you to dress in your Northstar uniform, your clothing for Distance Learning should be school appropriate dress down clothing.*
3. We are still in school. *Language and behavior while on Zoom lessons, and/or posting in Google Classrooms, etc. should continue to be school appropriate. Please encourage students to use only their first names as they log into Zoom meetings.*
4. Zoom should only be used for educational purposes. *We encourage parents to monitor their student’s interactions on Zoom, particularly outside of teachers’ office hours, and in*

the evening hours. Please remember that The Social Institute [Parent Portal](#) is available to you should you need to access it.

5. Distance Learning is important, and will contribute to student success when we return to campus. *To the best of your ability, please encourage and support your student to complete the activities and assignments that are being posted to Google Classroom, or coming home in the mail. **This plan is not designed to overwhelm you or your family. It is meant to provide continuity for our students during this period away from school. Please work on and complete assignments at a pace that is manageable for your family.***