



Nutley Public Schools

315 Franklin Ave.
Nutley, NJ 07110

Dr. Julie Glazer, Superintendent

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February 26, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your active involvement, patience, and support as we have worked diligently to reopen the Nutley Public School buildings to resume in-person instruction. Your dedication and continued commitment to the education of Nutley's children is admirable, and appreciated. It has been quite a journey for all of us since last March, and now we approach yet another phase of learning during this pandemic.

We will welcome students in grades PK-2, all self-contained special education, grades 7, 9, and 10 students back to the buildings for hybrid instruction beginning Monday, March 1, 2021.

We will welcome students in grades 3-6, 8, 11 and 12 back to the buildings for hybrid instruction beginning Monday, March 8, 2021.

The building principals have been in touch with cohort information and reminders for the next weeks, but details can also be found below.

[Elementary Schedule](#)

[JHWS Information](#)

[NHS Grades 9 and 10](#)

[NHS Grades 11 and 12](#)

[NHS Counseling](#)

Each decision that has been made since March 13, 2020 has been with a focus on the health and safety of the students, staff, and community. We have acted with an abundance of caution, consulting with medical, legal, local and state agencies during each phase of what started as two weeks, and has extended beyond any of our imaginations. Throughout, we have endeavored to recognize each constituency's perspectives, input, and very real struggles to juggle and balance work and care for families. It is our intent to continue to be responsive to the many competing concerns. Much has been learned since the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic, with guidance changing on an almost daily basis.

What we have detailed here is our most up-to-date information, and we will continue to communicate when things inevitably change.

Virtual Students

If you've selected to continue 100% virtual instruction for your child, please continue with the protocols as you've done since March 2020.

Health and Safety Reminders

Please remember that masks, social distancing, daily completion of the electronic screening tool, thorough hand washing and staying home when you are sick continue to be imperative to fighting COVID19, and other illnesses.

Student COVID-19 Testing

As communicated on February 4, 2021, COVID-19 testing of the general population of PK-12 students is **not required** for the return to the buildings. Only faculty and staff were required to test prior to return. Students in grades 7-12, who are participating in district athletics or in-person school clubs, **are required** to test prior to the first meeting. This is scheduled by the district and those participants would be notified of the date and time. Surveillance testing will continue for the remainder of the school year.

Testing is available to all PK-12 students as a service prior to returning to the buildings. Please complete the form [here](#) to request a testing time on one of the dates. Testing will be done in district, and scheduled beginning tomorrow, Saturday, February 27, in acknowledgement of the return to the buildings. The testing will be performed with the use of a nasal swab PCR test that will offer results to you within 24 to 36 hours. Your child is asked to quarantine following the test until receiving results. If your child's test is negative, he/she may return to the building on the next school day. If the test is positive, your student will be required to isolate for 10 days from the testing date prior to returning to the buildings.

There should be no out of pocket cost to your family. Our partner, Bergen New Bridge Medical Center, will bill your insurance (if applicable) or the federal grant program available for eligible uninsured patients. Any additional responsibility beyond those programs will be paid by the Nutley Public Schools.

If a family wants to pursue COVID-19 testing on their own, there are a number of sites in Nutley, and throughout Essex County that offer free testing. If you have questions or require additional information, please email StudentCovidTesting@nutleyschools.org

Student Entry

Students must continue to complete the daily screening tool in Realtime by 7:45AM. All students will also have their temperature taken prior to entering the buildings. If your child receives a high temperature warning, they will exit, wait several minutes and try again. If the temperature remains 100 degrees or above, a parent will be contacted and your child must leave the premises.

Mask/Snack/Other Breaks

Masks must be worn indoors at all times. There is no eating or drinking with students or others in the classroom or other indoor spaces. Mask breaks are encouraged for all individuals, but mask tolerance has built up tremendously during this pandemic.

Elementary staff and students may bring their own water bottles and snack. Time for staff and student outdoor mask breaks will continue to be built into the schedule. If no masks are worn outside, social distancing must be enforced.

Secondary staff and students may bring their own water bottle. Students will be dismissed individually to take a mask break or drink.

Meal Distribution:

With students and staff returning to the buildings, we have modified meal distribution. Beginning Monday, March 1, Grab & Go bags with breakfast and frozen lunch meals will be available for all the students attending school. Information can be found on our website [here](#).

Return from Travel

Although the pandemic remains virulent, and New Jersey strongly discourages all non-essential interstate travel at this time, we recognize some families may choose to travel. If you travel, based on the most current CDC guidelines, students must quarantine following your trip. Please notify your building principal immediately if this is your plan. COVID testing should be scheduled following your return, and you must quarantine following testing and while awaiting your results for a total of 7 days. If your test is negative, you may return to the school building on the next school day following your 7-day quarantine. If your test is positive, you will be required to isolate for 10 days from the testing date prior to returning to the buildings.

Childcare Options

Right at School is offering program options here in the district to help with child care. You may choose from full or half days, one to five per week. The days begin at 8AM and run until 5PM. As enrollment increases, we will expand to additional school sites. The program is currently at Yantacaw and Washington. Please use the following link for additional information.

<https://rightatschool.com/districts/nutley-nj/>

You can also contact jessica.schneider@rightatschool.com to register.

Pandemic Response Team

As we return to the buildings, the school Pandemic Response Team, led by the Building Principal will reiterate information regarding health and safety protocols, and provide updates as things change. The District Restart and Recovery Plan and related Policy 1648 remain posted on the district website.

Thank you for your input, patience and collaboration. As parents, your partnership has contributed to our district continuing daily instruction and operations. Your guidance has been invaluable as we considered all of the many details necessary to finally return to the buildings in some capacity. We appreciate your support of the Nutley Public Schools and your patience with the limitations and requirements. Each of us has been impacted in numerous ways in providing the best possible education for our students, while also mitigating the significant health and safety concerns presented for students, staff, and the community.

As we approach our students' return, please know that the Nutley Public Schools' full faculty and staff have responded, as they always do, exhibiting exceptional care and concern for the health and safety of all, a passion for providing the best educational opportunities possible, and supporting each other and your students with empathy and grace. There are no words or enough special honors to convey the thanks from a grateful learning community.

We recognize and acknowledge the efforts of all involved, and look forward to continuing to work together as we introduce each next phase of our plan. We are truly #Nutley Stronger Together and we look forward to seeing your children back in the buildings!

Sincerely,



Dr. Julie Glazer
Superintendent of Schools



Mr. Charles Kucinski
Board of Education President