

Dear Parents,

As families and students settle in at home to keep themselves healthy and slow the spread of COVID-19, we have the following updates and resources to help make the transition to the potential Distance Learning as smooth as possible.

Technology Update

- NS has conducted a survey to see what the student's technology needs might be during school closures. Please reach out to the NS office if you are in need of a computer.
- All students in grades 5-8 have NS User Account and email.
- All students in grades K-4 have NS User Account.
- All classroom teachers and subject specialists have created Google Classrooms and sent the invitations/instructions to students to join them. We hope that you have connected with your student's teacher/s through Google Classrooms. If you haven't done that yet, please do it as soon as possible. Google Classroom will be our platform for Distance Learning.

Academic activities and resources during school closure

To be clear, NS students were given academic assignments of enrichment matter during the 8 days of the school closure (March 17-27). They were highly encouraged to complete the assignments to keep their minds active during closures, establish online contact with the teachers, set into routines of doing daily academic work, etc. Elementary students are not expected to complete lessons that will impact their grades during this current school closing time.

Important Days

- Spring break will take place from March 30-April 3.
- April 6 is the first day of the 4th quarter. Currently, it is a plan that Nasha Shkola will begin its Distance Learning on April 6th with students and teachers staying at home. MN Governor will be giving all schools in Minnesota direction regarding his expectations for the duration of closing and physical return of students to school.
- NS will release Distance Learning plan and send information to parents next week about what Distance Learning will look like for students and the specific expectations will be.

Communications

NS school building is closed to public. School staff and teachers can be reached over the phone or email. Please email teachers with questions. They are all checking email regularly. Also, please check your email regularly for important updates and information.

Standardized Testing

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced on March 20, 2020, students impacted by school closures due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic can bypass standardized statewide assessments for the 2019–20 school year. The U.S. Department of Education has made a waiver process available to any state that is unable to assess its students due to the ongoing national emergency, providing relief from federally mandated assessment, accountability, and reporting requirements for this school year. Minnesota is in the process of applying for this waiver.

Meals available for any child

We want families to know that **ANY child who is 18 years or younger** can receive meals being distributed in many locations throughout Twin Cities Area by all public school districts. The child doesn't need to be a particular district student to receive these meals. Different district have different schedule for meal distribution. Here are the links to find a meal distribution that might be near your house.

Minneapolis Public Schools

https://cws.mpls.k12.mn.us/uploads/meal_pickup_sites_covid-19_3_16_20.pdf

Anoka Hennepin Schools

<https://www.ahschools.us/domain/11880>

Osseo Area Schools

<https://district279.org/covid-19/287-home/covid-19/1758-plan-for-access-to-meals-march-18-27>

Wayzata Public Schools

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mVLK5ydWHtEs7RkRhFC2D1uETo4cINBq/view>

Eden Prairie Public Schools

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1585320373/edenprorg/ejmg2vjwhxcg22mpddzv/FoodForKidsFlyer.pdf>

Shakopee Public Schools

Districtwide meal pickup: Shakopee Public Schools will distribute bag lunches for **all children** in a drive-up fashion from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Shakopee High School. The food pickup is located on the north side of the building (17th Avenue).

Independent School District 728 (Zimmerman, Elk River, Otsego, Rogers)

<https://www.isd728.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=22&ModuleInstanceID=27&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=33199&PageID=37>

St Michael Albertville School District

<https://www.stma.k12.mn.us/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=3447&ModuleInstanceID=7888&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=11717&PageID=5489>

Meal Delivery by Sign up

Inna Bly is conducting a survey among families that qualify for free and reduced lunch for meal delivery. Please get in touch with Inna Bly via email inna.bly@nashashkolamn.org or school phone 763-496-5550 (leave a voicemail)

COVID-19 Support: Options for Reduced Rate or Free Internet Access

Comcast (Cable based internet)

- Will offer [Internet Essentials](#) for 2 months - apply online or call the numbers listed below
- Begins March 16, 2020
- Eligible households are NEW customers only
- Must have students in grades K-12 and/or college
- After the first two months expire, you can cancel the service or keep it as a regular paying Internet Essentials customer

- In 7-10 days you will receive an easy to use self-install-kit that includes a cable modem with a WiFi router
- No term contract or credit check and no shipping fee for equipment
- Requirements: one or more members of your household must be eligible for public assistance programs such as:
- National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- Housing Assistance
- Medicaid
- Snap
- Others
- Those interested in enrolling are asked to [apply online](#)
- The website also includes the option to video chat with customer service agents in American Sign Language. There are also two dedicated phone numbers 1-855-846-8376 for English and 1-855-765-6995 for Spanish.

Comcast Xfinity WiFi Free For Everyone (Un-verified)

- Xfinity WiFi hotspots across the country will be available to anyone who needs them for free – including non-Xfinity Internet subscribers.
- For a map of Xfinity WiFi hotspots, visit www.xfinity.com/wifi.
- Once at a hotspot, consumers should select the “xfinitywifi” network name in the list of available hotspots and then launch a browser.

CenturyLink - Lifeline (Phone Line based internet)

- Contact support via