

November 30 - December 3, 2020

Grade 7 and 8 Students Move to Online Learning!

All parents should have received an update from Northern Lights Public Schools in relation to Grade 7 and 8 students programming moving into Scenario 3 (online learning) effective **November 30 through January 11**, inclusive. Grades 4, 5, and 6 will continue with in-person learning at this time, as well as our Grade 7 and 8 students with significant needs who will continue with in-person Life Skills programming.

Some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Online Learning at Aurora

Q: Will learning look like it did last Spring when schools were closed?

A: No. Aurora staff have been readying our programming for the possibility of this scenario since our August startup, and we are prepared to provide **rigorous programming**. Our teachers will continue to cover the curricular outcomes in the program of studies for all subjects students are currently enrolled in. **Attendance will be taken** in the morning and the afternoon, and students will be expected to follow a daily timetable, participate in online classes and complete and submit assignments and assessments. Students will be assessed on what they have learned and their next report card will include assessments and evaluations already completed, including those undertaken during the four weeks of Scenario 3 learning. Assignments and projects will demonstrate a high level of academic rigour. Generally speaking, it is not expected that students will spend their entire day online connected to their teacher in a synchronous learning environment. Instead, instruction will likely be a combination of **synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities**. For instance, students may connect with their teacher and the rest of their class online and participate in a synchronous learning opportunity followed by a period of time spent completing an assignment on their own, watching a video or accessing a resource. They may also have opportunities to connect with their teacher one on one or in smaller groups throughout the day. When instruction is synchronous it will be recorded and shared so that students who are unable to connect at that time can view the content later.

Q: What if my child does not have a device? What if our Internet connection is poor or not available?

A: Chromebooks can be purchased through <https://nlsd.schoolcashionline.com/> Contact the school directly if your family cannot afford to purchase one at this time, and we can sign one out

for your family until the January 11 return. If you have no Internet access, call or email your child's teacher directly to make arrangements for alternate modes of delivering curriculum.

Q: My child says they can't access their Google Classroom or says they don't have any work in Google Classroom. What should I do?

A: If your child attended regularly prior to now, your child probably CAN log in and likely DOES have classwork. Go to this helpful [Google Classroom Instructions for Parents](#), and check out these videos for parents who are unfamiliar with Google Classroom. This will help parents support their child in their learning. When all else fails, contact your child's teacher.

[Google Classroom for Parents \(2020 remote learning overview\)](#)

[Google Classroom: A Guide for Parents](#)

Q: What does the January 11 return look like? Do we have an extended Winter Break?

A: The NLPS calendar has not changed. All students from K-12 have classes starting on **January 4, 2021**, though for that first week, we will be in an online environment from Grade 4 through 8. Teachers will program via Google Classroom for that week. All students from K-12 return to in-person learning on January 11, 2021. If this changes, you will receive communication as new information becomes available.

Q: Can I just register in Learning Together Anywhere (LTA)?

A: No, not at this time. The next opportunity to move into or out of the LTA program will be in March of 2021. Contact [Art Smith Aviation Academy](#) for more information.

Q: My child is not in grade 7 or 8, but I am keeping them home for now just to be safe. Will they have work to do?

A: We appreciate your caution in these uncertain times and will still expect you to support your child's learning at home. While your Grade 4, 5, or 6 child's teacher will be working with the in-person learners, check their Google Classroom as teachers update them with materials, notes, activities, learning games, homework, and assignments. Email your child's teacher and they will continue to assess any learning your child is demonstrating.

COVID-19 Update: Outbreak Status

As most of you are well aware, our school has been affected by the recent rise in COVID-19 cases in our geographical area, as we have now had more than 2 cases connected to our school and [AHS has declared outbreak status](#) at our site. Parents remain our primary source of information related to confirmed cases. If your child has received a positive test result, contact the school directly and immediately at 780 623 4129; after hours, please email conal.donovan@nlsd.ab.ca so we can begin our safety procedures and communication plan as soon as possible to reduce the spread.

If staff or students have not been identified as a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case

but develop symptoms as listed on the daily screening tool, please self-isolate at home and complete the AHS COVID-19 online assessment tool or call Health Link at 811 as soon as possible to arrange for COVID-19 testing.

To help minimize spread of any respiratory virus we always recommend the following:

- Make sure everyone in your household washes their hands with soap and water often. If soap and water are not available, you can use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if hands are not visibly dirty.
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- Use a tissue when you cough or sneeze and throw it in a garbage bin lined with a plastic bag. Wash your hands immediately after that. If you don't have a tissue, sneeze or cough into your sleeve.
- Stay home if you're sick. If your kids are sick, keep them home from school.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are used often and shared by everyone in your home such as door knobs, light switches and bathroom taps.
- Practice physical distancing outside the home (at least 2 metres) and wear a mask in public spaces if social distancing is not possible.
- Ensure your child's immunizations are up to date, including their annual influenza immunization.

For further information regarding COVID-19, please visit the [AHS website](#) for COVID-19 or call Health Link at 811 if there are any questions.

Now that we have had some positive cases in our community, some students and parents have confused the self-isolation requirements. **All individuals identified as close contacts are legally required to self-isolate for 14 days from their last exposure to this case to prevent the risk of spread to others.** It is also recommended that all staff and students identified as close contacts be tested for COVID-19 as a result of this exposure. To book an appointment for testing, they can go to <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16944.aspx> or call 811 toll-free.

NOTE: A negative test result does not mean that the staff or students who are close contacts can come back to school, because they are required to self-isolate for 14 days.

If you were directed to isolate because of close contact (known exposure) to COVID-19, you are still legally required to quarantine for the full 14 days, regardless of test results. If you tested negative and have no known exposure to the virus, you are not legally required to quarantine, but you should stay home until your symptoms resolve so you don't infect others.

Last, we want to thank all the parents for the patience, understanding, and kind words in the face of the distressing news that their child may have been in contact with a positive case. We also appreciate when you book a COVID test immediately, as the sooner we have more information, the better we can plan to protect all our families in Aurora. Go to [AHS's Info for Close Contacts](#) for more information.

Please remind your child to follow school rules for masking, distancing, and hand-sanitizing. Students must properly wear masks whenever directed by staff, and students must comply in order to enhance our safety while at school. We have been sending home any students who do not comply with our safety guidelines, as they cannot continue in-person learning at Aurora without complying with our safety rules and staff direction.

Call for Parent Volunteers!

While BINGO operations are temporarily suspended due to the confirmed cases in Lac La Biche County, our future dates for BINGO worker days in 2021 are: **Jan 22, Feb 19, Apr 29, May 16, June 27, and Aug 28!** Enjoy a free meal while watching the bingo action and helping out the students of our school! The shift runs from 5pm to about 9pm and we require three people to work the shift. Free food and wonderful people make for a great Sunday night out. Please call or text our amazing and hard-working BINGO Fundraising parent volunteer coordinator Joyce Cloutier at (780) 623-8203 if you are able to volunteer.

Pre-Order Lunch and Snack Cards

All lunch orders must be made by midnight on the **Saturday before** that week of school. Go to <https://nlsd.schoolcashonline.com/> to order for lunches or for concession cards. Our breakfast program still runs with all safety precautions in place.