



NAZARETH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Dear Families,

As we look towards the upcoming start of the school year, there is a great deal of uncertainty and we recognize that this uncertainty can be stressful, especially as families are faced with making decisions regarding their children's educational plans for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. The District has been working hard to provide options and choice within the constraints of the complicated logistics of high school scheduling.

The high school master schedule is very unique in respect to our K-8 buildings. Students in the high school do not travel as a single class from classroom to classroom when transitioning between classes. Classroom dismissals may not be staggered to assist in reducing the number of students transitioning to their next class. To address the number of students in each classroom the administration performed a scheduling exercise to reduce the class sizes. Based on this exercise we found that approximately 40% of our high school students would not be able to be scheduled for at least one of their preferred courses.

Based on the following conditions:

1. Understanding the high school master schedule is unique in respect to our other buildings;
 2. Students do not transition as a single class from classroom to classroom together;
 3. The inability to stagger classroom dismissals to reduce hallway traffic;
 4. Significant number of students in the hallway during transition;
- and
5. The inability to provide individual schedule needs for our students;

high school students will report to school every other day. In doing so, the district will be able to provide a much safer learning environment for our employees and students.

Students will report every other day with assignments to be completed at home on non-attendance days. The alternative day schedule will occur every day. There will not be a day in which all students are not in attendance. Therefore, students will be physically at school three days one week and two days the following week in a typical 5 day school week.

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Students attending CIT will continue to attend CIT every day. Transportation services will be provided for our CIT students every day.

Students with individualized education plans will attend school every day unless a modified plan is agreed to with the IEP team.

Transportation services will continue to be provided to all high school students on days they are required to be on site.

The Blue Eagle Cyber Academy will continue to serve as an alternative option for our high school families who feel the online setting would better fit their families' needs. Students in the Blue Eagle Cyber Academy will continue to receive daily instruction in both a synchronous (live) and asynchronous (independent) format. These schedules may include courses of the following types, depending on student enrollment and staffing availability:

- Blue Eagle Cyber Academy courses taught by Nazareth Area High School teachers
- IU 20 Virtual Program courses when the course requested is not available through the Blue Eagle Cyber Academy
- The option to attend one of the in-person high school courses if the course is not available in either the Blue Eagle Cyber Academy or the IU 20 Virtual Program

In order to begin the high school and Blue Eagle Cyber Academy scheduling processes, we have asked families to give us an indication of their intentions regarding enrollment in the Blue Eagle Cyber Academy. We recognize the difficulty in making this decision at this time. However, be assured that your selection can be modified moving forward either before the start of the school year or after the school year has started, with the understanding that it can take up to two weeks for the enrollment change to be finalized. Requests for enrollment changes, from August 10th on, should be sent in writing to the building principal. Once the Blue Eagle Cyber Academy student schedules are released, families with questions and concerns will have the opportunity to discuss alternative scheduling options with high school staff. The process and timeline will be communicated by the high school administration.

The high school modified schedule will be added to the overall school re-opening plan as part of the Health & Safety Plan for Board consideration.

Respectfully,

Dr. Dennis L. Riker
Superintendent of Schools
Nazareth Area School District