

# ***Newton Independent School District***

## **Moving Forward Details**

**2020-2021**



Newton ISD looks forward to welcoming students back as we begin the 2020-2021 school year. We know parents and students have numerous questions regarding the implementation of health and safety measures this fall. This document is intended to answer those questions and reassure parents and students that we will not only meet the required guidelines but that we will also make every effort to provide a positive school experience and a sense of normalcy. For questions or additional information, contact information is provided at the end of this document.

### **Overview**

Newton ISD plans to reopen with face-to-face instruction beginning on September 8, 2020. Remote instruction will begin Monday, September 8, 2020. Students choosing to participate in remote learning will be expected to be in attendance and submit assignments on Monday, September 8th. Unlike the 2020 spring semester, the requirements of remote learning will be significantly more demanding. Daily student participation and completion of work at home will be required.

### **Learning Options:**

Newton ISD families may select from two options:

Face-to-Face or Traditional Instruction

Online Instruction

### **Registration:**

All students will need to register for the 2020-2021 school year. All parents will be required to register their children for the preferred method of instruction. Parents have been asked to make a firm decision in their selection of instructional delivery so that campuses will be able to staff and plan accordingly. A change in instructional placement may only be made at the end of the grading period. Please be aware that frequent changing of instructional settings may have a negative impact on a student's academic success.

To move from one instructional setting to another, parents must notify the campus in writing 2 weeks before the grading period ends or by the following dates in each grading period:

- October 5th
- November 9th
- January 11th
- February 15th
- March 29th

### **Remote Instruction Considerations:**

- Students must have access to reliable high speed internet. It is the parent's responsibility to provide internet access.
- Students must have access to a computer or laptop; a mobile device will be insufficient to access the necessary programs and complete the required assignments. The district will provide a chromebook.
- Students who select remote learning will not have the option of participating in extracurricular activities.
- Students and parents should complete the recommended training for remote learning that will be available on the district's website.
- Daily completion of assignments is required for progress monitoring and attendance.
- Students must meet the 90% attendance rule set by the state or risk loss of credit for the semester. Truancy laws will be applicable to those enrolled in remote learning as well as face-to-face instruction.
- Students must maintain their instructional placement for the duration of the grading period.
- Remote instruction is not homeschooling. Students will be enrolled at Newton ISD and will be accountable for the same standards and requirements as those students enrolled in face-to-face instruction.
- Students enrolled in remote instruction will be required to participate in state assessments administered on campus.
- Texas Department of State Health Services has not waived the vaccine requirements for students, even those enrolled in remote learning.

## **Extracurricular Considerations:**

Students who choose to participate in extracurricular activities (such as those listed below) must select face-to-face instruction.

- All UIL Activities
- Ag Metal Fabrication
- CNA
- FFA
- Culinary Arts
- Student Activity Groups (Student Council, FCA)
- FBLA
- Robotics
- CTE Courses where in-person instruction is required for participation
- Courses for industry certification

## **Health and Safety Protocol for 2020-2021 Reopening**

- Staff and students/parents will self-screen daily for COVID-19 symptoms. If experiencing symptoms, students and staff should stay at home.
- Temperature checks will be conducted randomly for students and staff.
- Visitors will be screened prior to entering the building.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be readily available on all campuses.
- Face coverings are required by the Governor's Order for 4<sup>th</sup> grade and above.
- Face masks or face shields are acceptable and the student must be able to put on the mask or shield without assistance. Masks may not be bandana print.
- Students will eat lunch in the cafeterias.
- Elementary students will have recess.
- Social distancing will be practiced when possible.
- Hand washing and or hand sanitizing will be required frequently throughout the day.
- Students will be restricted from sharing personal items and supplies.
- Visitors will be required to wear masks.
- Individuals, other than staff or students, are asked to limit their campus visits to essential visits only.
- Until further notice, visitors will not be allowed to eat with students.
- Until further notice, classroom parties will not be allowed.

- Open House and other back to school events will be adjusted to provide better options for social distancing.
- Desktops will be cleaned between class changes.
- High traffic areas will be cleaned frequently.
- Unless guidelines change, buses will run as normal. To better accommodate social distancing, those parents who are able to provide transportation are encouraged to do so.
- Students must wear a mask on the bus.
- Buses will be sanitized before and after each route.
- Bus windows will be cracked to increase air circulation as recommended by state guidance. Air conditioners on buses will be utilized.
- Students will have recess. Outdoor activities and recess are encouraged.
- Water fountains will not be utilized by students due to health reasons. Students may bring a clear water bottle labeled with their name and it may only have water in the bottle.

**For questions or additional information, please contact your child's campus:**

Newton High School	409-420-6600 ext. 2
Newton Middle School	409-420-6600 ext. 3
Newton Elementary School	409-420-6600 ext. 4
Transportation Department	409-420-6600 ext. 6