

Dear Nokomis North Families,

Jan. 20, 2021

I want to first start by saying **THANK YOU** to all of our families and students for your flexibility this school year! We appreciate your communication, feedback and dedication to online learning! We know how challenging this year has been and appreciate the support we've been given reminding kids when to be online, helping with school work and troubleshooting technology! We have seen great learning growth in our students who are coming to their groups each day, and working hard to complete their Seesaw and Schoology activities each day. We couldn't have done it without you!

We are very excited to welcome Children's House and E1 students back to Nokomis North in person as well as continuing our VLS beginning **Monday, February 1st, 2021. We look forward to our E2 students returning in-person on Feb. 16th.** We are all working very hard to prepare for our students who are returning in -person school, as well as regrouping for the Virtual Learning School (VLS).

A reminder that **there is no school next week, January 25-29**, to allow staff time to prepare for in-person learning and the Virtual Learning School.

SPPS is following all of the requirements and recommendations laid out in the Minnesota [Safe Learning Plan](#). The latest information is posted at spps.org/reopen on a regular basis; please check back often and look for additional updates as we get closer to the start date.

[Back to School Timeline](#)

- **January 25-29:** No School for all students.
- **February 1:** Students in Children's House (Pre-K and Kindergarten) and E1 (1st thru 3rd grade) begin in-person learning at Nokomis North and continuing in VLS.
- **February 16:** E2 (4th and 5th grade) students begin in-person learning at Nokomis North and continuing VLS.

Nokomis Montessori North School Hours

In Person - School hours at Nokomis Montessori North are from 9:30am-4:00pm. Students may start to be dropped off at 9:15am. **Please look for the new drop off and pick-up procedures coming soon.**

Virtual Learning School - All classes will continue to start their day with a morning meeting. Some of the group times will have to change as we adjust groups but all information will be communicated by your child's virtual teacher.

School Contact Information

Relationships and timely communication is more important than ever in a distance learning

environment. If you have questions, or need to contact someone at school, please use the information below.

Main 651-744-7440 Attendance Line: 651-744-7443

Attendance Email: nokomis-attendance@spps.org

Please check our school website regularly,
<https://www.spps.org/nokomis> for information and updates.

SPPS uses Blackboard Connect to alert families about important school news and information, events, weather cancellations, emergencies and more through email, phone and text. Update your phone number, email and other contact information with our clerk -Ms. Paula at paul.mcGaughey@spps.org. or through iUpdate.) For more details, and to update your information, visit spps.org/onestop.

New Teacher and New Classes

We had to make changes to our classes in order to be able to staff both our in person school and Virtual Learning School. We are working to reassign students and teachers to their new in-person or Virtual Learning School classes. You will be receiving a welcome letter this week from your child's teacher. You will also have a chance to join an informal **Meet and Greet** with your child's new teacher, this is an informal welcome open house for you and your child to drop in to say hello, meet the teacher and other students in the class. All students in VLS and returning to in person will start with their new teacher on Feb. 1st.

You will receive a letter from your child's new teacher on Friday, 1/22/21.

Changes to Family Access at School (No visitors or adults may enter the building)

Students must be dropped off outside school building entrances. **Students cannot be escorted by family members to their classrooms or anywhere else inside the building.** In addition, families will not be allowed to have lunch, observe a class, volunteer, or engage in any other activities in school buildings. We acknowledge that these are difficult changes and we are all working hard to create safe and nurturing protocols and procedures so that your child feels safe, loved, and happy at school. We will communicate all the important details to families soon.

Transportation

Please look for a postcard in the mail next week with bus route information. Students will have assigned seats on buses to ensure spacing and assist with contact tracing. Face coverings are required for all K-12 students and bus drivers. Please send their post card with them on the first day of school. Our staff will then attach a bus tag to every child's backpack once they arrive at school. **If you are planning to drive your child, please look for the new drop off and pick up procedures coming soon.**

Health and Safety

It will take all of us working together to make sure that our students and staff stay healthy and safe during this time. We will be following strict health and safety protocols during this time.

If your student is experiencing any of the following symptoms we ask that you keep them home from school and fill out our online COVID reporting tool at daytonabluff.spps.org

- fever greater than or equal to 100.4° F
- new onset and/or worsening cough, difficulty

A red rectangular button with rounded corners containing the text "SPPS COVID-19 Reporting System" in white. There are small white dots to the right of the text, suggesting a continuation of the button or a graphic element.

breathing

- new loss of taste or smell
- sore throat
- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- chills, muscle pain, excessive fatigue
- new onset of headache
- new onset of nasal congestion or runny nose

Also if your child has come into close contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID or is waiting for results or has tested positive themselves, please fill out the form and keep your child home.

Once you fill out the online form you will receive written recommendations for next steps and later a nurse from SPPS will reach out to you.

If your student becomes ill while at school or reports any of the symptoms above, someone from the school health office will contact you and your student will need to be picked up immediately. Students will be placed in an isolation space separate from students who aren't showing symptoms until they are picked up. Please plan ahead and make arrangements for who can pick up your child if you are not available. While in the isolation space they may be with other students who are showing symptoms so we would like them picked up immediately to keep everyone as healthy as possible. It is very important that you contact our main office to make sure your contact information and your emergency contacts are up to date.

Bring iPads to school everyday

Seesaw and Schoology will continue to be used for sharing and collecting schoolwork, in addition to direct instruction and learning support for students learning in person. **Students will be expected to bring their iPads home each day, charge them overnight and bring them back to school the next day.** Review the Student and Family checklist for iPads at

spps.org/distancelearning. We thank you in advance for your support in helping your child build the ritual of bringing his/her iPad to school daily.

COVID-19 Student and Family Guidelines

Families should familiarize themselves with these guidelines, which are updated regularly and cover prevention strategies, health screening and monitoring, exclusion guidance, and the SPPS COVID-19 Reporting System.

In Person Learning FAMILY Info Session (Q and A with Ms. Terri)

In person learning will look different from what we have done in the past. To help families better understand what this will look like and answer questions we are hosting a virtual session just for you! Please join us on **Tuesday, January 26th, from 6 to 7pm.**

Google meet invite

[Join with Google Meet](#)

meet.google.com/wzz-bdcs-chf

Join by phone

(US) +1 901-942-8216 PIN: 516 340 965#

As a preview to that session, here are some of the safety precautions you can expect to learn about.

- Masks worn at all times inside by students and staff, except for when eating.
- Frequent hand washing throughout the day.
- Keeping kids together in cohorts and limiting their movement around the building during the day.
- Complete disinfecting of rooms every night.

Again, thank you for your continued support. We are truly grateful for your partnership!

Sincerely,

Terri Jackson
(Ms. Terri)

Principal