

NWCS Parent eLearning Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 1/17/19

1. Does NWCS still have to have a 1-day notice to conduct eLearning?

- a. No, NWCS will conduct eLearning on days when schools are closed due to inclement weather provided that K-2 students have been able to take home an iPad.
- b. It is possible for NWCS to close school and then need to make up the missed day.

2. When will teachers be available to students?

- a. Teachers will be available to students by at least 9:00 AM and until 3:30 PM on eLearning days.
- b. If the eLearning day is also scheduled as a professional development day, these times may be adjusted.

3. How will students access their learning on an eLearning day?

- a. Learning activities will be available to students by at least 9:00 AM on Schoology on eLearning days.

4. What is the time frame of announcing an eLearning day?

- a. The announcement of eLearning will occur at or near the same time school closings are announced, which is typically between 5:00 - 5:45 AM in the morning of the day the closing occurs.
- b. The day will be announced as a "School Closed - eLearning Day."
- c. If the day is announced as "School Closed", that day will have to be made up on a built-in snow day during the year or at the end of the year.

5. Will K-2 students have their iPad?

- a. Yes. K-2 students will need an iPad for eLearning days.
- b. K-2 will take an iPad home beginning approximately Dec. 1st. They will continue to take their devices home until it is unlikely for school to close due to inclement weather.
- c. Also see #31.

6. What if a student doesn't have internet access from home?

- a. Each teacher will provide a phone number for students to call when assistance is needed. Teachers will return phone calls as quickly as possible to students who leave a message.
- b. Although not required, students may access the internet from public libraries or businesses that provide free Wi-Fi access if they choose to do so.

- c. For students who are unable to access the internet on eLearning days, they will have a five-day grace period to complete learning activities.

7. What if a teacher does not have Internet access?

- a. Teachers will work from a location where they will have internet access.
- b. Teachers may work from their home, another location that enables them access to the internet, or from their classroom at school.

8. What does an eLearning lesson look like? How much time should students expect to be engaged in learning?

- a. NWCS strives to have a meaningful day of learning on an eLearning day.
- b. Meaningful time should fit into the amount of time that is normally allotted for a class/subject.
- c. Generally, any class should include:
 - i. at least one clear objective
 - ii. a period of time for instruction
 - iii. time for students to engage in a learning activity
 - iv. time for checking for understanding
- d. The characteristics of a typical eLearning lesson could vary depending on where the previous learning had ended.

9. What will eLearning look like for special areas (art, music, related arts, special areas etc.)?

- a. As much like a regular school day as possible. This may require a student to work on a project, conduct research, read and/or write about a topic.
- b. Elementary special area classes will have a schedule on Schoology to follow as to which special (art, music, etc.) students will be participating in on the eLearning day.

10. Will NWCS have a technology support line available?

- a. Yes, from 7:30 AM - 4 PM. Please dial 260-622-1611 for technology support. If there happens to be no answer, please leave a voice mail. A staff member in the Technology Department will return your call as soon as possible.

11. Teachers are expected to “actively communicate with students”, what does that mean?

- a. Teachers will communicate with students/parents through a variety of methods which include, but not limited to, phone calls, emails, chats via Schoology, etc.
- b. Teachers are expected to monitor student progress throughout an eLearning day.

12. Could students have a mixture of technology-based and paper/pencil activities?

- a. Yes. The best technology for learning is not always electronic.
- b. In most cases, students will use more than just their iPad during eLearning.

13. May my child physically attend school that day?

- a. Lancaster and Ossian Elementary students in grades K-5 who have completed the latchkey enrollment form and bring their iPad to participate in eLearning may attend Bobcat/Bear Care during eLearning days.
- b. Lunch will be served like a regular school day. Students may purchase a lunch in the cafeteria like a regular school day or they may bring a packed lunch.
- c. Normal Latchkey hourly fees do apply (\$2.50/hr.)
- d. Bobcat/Bear Care will be open 6:30 AM – 6:00 PM.
- e. Note: see #32 because it is possible that Bobcat Care/Bear Care could be forced to close.

14. Will eLearning Days impact after school activities?

- a. On eLearning days after-school activities will be treated the same as if school were closed.
- b. After school activities will be determined case by case depending on the weather and road conditions that exist in the afternoon of the eLearning day.

15. What if my iPad isn't working properly?

- a. Call the technology support line at 260-622-1611. Tech support will be available from 7:30 AM - 4 PM.

16. What if Area 18 classes (NHS students only) are in session and NWCS is not?

- a. Students are to follow NWCS closing and not attend those classes.

17. Where can I access Wifi for free if I don't have it at home?

- a. Area restaurants (McDonalds, Wendy's, Ossian Deli, etc.)
- b. Public Libraries

18. What happens if my child needs assistance?

- a. Teachers will be available for emails and phone calls during their regular work hours.
- b. Technology support line at 260-622-1611 can provide technology assistance.
- c. Contact your child's school office, if necessary.
- d. If your child needs assistance after 3:30 PM, email the teacher or leave a voice-mail on their classroom phone. The teacher will contact the student by the next day.

19. How long will students be expected to work on eLearning Days?

- a. The length of time depends on the particular activities assigned in each class.

- b. Students will be expected to participate in learning activities for approximately the same amount of time as they would on a normal school day.

20. Does my child need to start and finish working at the normal school time?

- a. This is a decision the student and his/her parent(s) should make.
- b. NWCS would recommend that students participate and complete learning activities during the time scheduled for an eLearning day, but it is not required.
- c. As a safety net, each student has up to a 5-day grace period to complete the assigned work, if difficulties arise during eLearning. The grace period is not intended for students to have an excuse to not participate in eLearning.

21. How do I, as a parent, know how my child is doing?

- a. Use the same methods to determine this as you do now.
- b. You will have access to Schoology, the learning management system most teachers are using. If you do not have the information necessary to set up your account, please contact your son/daughter's school office.
- c. Ask your student.
- d. Contact the teacher.

22. What about a charger for my K-2 child? Will the iPad hold a charge for 2 days?

- a. If you do not have a charger for the iPad at home, one will be provided for you.
- b. Parents will be responsible for the charger to be returned to school after each use.

23. Will my K-2 child's iPad be covered if there is accidental damage?

- a. If there is damage to an iPad at home, there will be a \$49 charge to cover the repair.
- b. This charge may be waived during the 2018-19 school year at the request of the parents.
- c. Note: Never leave the iPad lying flat on the floor or under anything that could fall on it.

24. Can my child work, make a college visit, or take care of other items on an eLearning day?

- a. Students can do the same things on eLearning days as they do on regular school days.

25. What if a storm wipes out Wi-Fi for the area?

- a. If there is an internet outage that causes substantial problems, NWCS may decide that school will just be closed and a make-up day will be used.

26. When will the eLearning work be due?

- a. eLearning will be due on the date assigned by the teacher.

- b. However, a grace period of 5-days will be in place after the eLearning day, if necessary for students who experience technical difficulties.

27. How will students turn in their eLearning work?

- a. Each teacher will direct the students as to how to submit their work.
- b. In most cases, the learning activities will be turned in using Schoology.

28. Will students be able to access lessons before-hand to download at school?

- a. Maybe. If teachers are able to have lessons available prior to an eLearning day, students may be able to download them onto their iPad.

29. What do ICE students do?

- a. Follow current procedure of an agreement between the parents and the employer on whether or not the student reports to work.

30. What if students don't do the work?

- a. If the eLearning lessons and activities are meaningful and important for their learning, it is important that they participate.
- b. The same consequences will be in place as a regular school day when students choose not to do the learning activities.

31. If K-2 students have up to a 5-day grace period to complete learning activities, can students bring an iPad home during those five days?

- a. K-2 iPads will be going home daily so students will have them who need to make up work.

32. How severe will the weather have to be for the buildings to be closed? (i.e. No Bobcat/Bear Care, buildings not open, etc.)

- a. This depends on several factors but will typically occur when the county's travel status is "Warning". Bobcat/Bear Care would close, but eLearning might continue.
- b. This notification would occur at the same time a school closing would be announced.