

## *NWCS Parent eLearning Frequently Asked Questions*

Updated 11/11/2020

1. **Is there a 1-day notice to families prior to implementing eLearning?**
  - a. No, NWCS will immediately implement eLearning on days when schools are closed due to inclement weather or other unforeseen safety issues.
2. **When will teachers be available to students?**
  - a. Teachers will be available to students as listed per school:
    - LES and OES: 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM
    - NMS: 7:40 AM – 2:30 PM
    - NHS: 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM
  - b. If the eLearning day is also scheduled as a professional development day, the above-listed times may be adjusted.
3. **How will students access their learning on an eLearning day?**
  - a. Learning activities may be livestreamed via Microsoft Teams or posted via Schoology or Seesaw.
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 AM and 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.
  - d. School closings and eLearning days will be posted on our website, distributed via Instant Connect, Twitter, and Facebook as well as broadcasted on the following TV stations: **21-ALIVE/FORT WAYNE NBC; WANE-TV;** and the following radio stations: **WOWO; Hot Talk 1380; K105; Mix 97.3; WBCL; WAJI, WLDE.**
5. **Will K-2 students have their iPad?**
  - a. Yes. All students will need to take their iPads home each day in preparation for possible inclement weather.
6. **What if a student doesn't have internet access from home?**
  - a. Students, who are unable to access WiFi on eLearning days, are expected to consult with their teachers for the completion of required work. Absences and unsubmitted assignments will be addressed in accordance with regular student handbook practices.
  - b. 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.
  - c. 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.
7. **What if a teacher does not have Internet access?**
  - a. Teachers are expected to work from a location where they will have internet access. This location may be 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, 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 and student communication options on eLearning days will include, but are not limited to, phone calls, emails, chats via Microsoft Teams, Schoology, and Seesaw.
- b. During an eLearning day, teachers are expected to monitor student progress within the following time windows:
  - i. LES and OES: 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM
  - ii. NMS: 7:40 AM – 2:30 PM
  - iii. NHS: 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

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

- a. Unless otherwise specified by the school, all eLearning activities will be accessed and submitted electronically. Paper/pencil activities are not planned on being used.

**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.
  - i. Bobcat/Bear Care will be open 6:30 AM – 6:00 PM.
  - ii. 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.
  - iii. Normal Latchkey hourly fees do apply (\$2.50/hr.)
- b. A “Travel Warning” for Wells County could force NWCS to close Bobcat Care/Bear Care. In this event, the announcement will simply be: “School Closing – eLearning, Latchkey Closed”.

**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. Contact your teacher to inform him/her of the issue.
- b. 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?**
- 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?**
- Area restaurants (McDonalds, Wendy's, Ossian Deli, etc.) and Public Libraries
- 18. What happens if my child needs assistance?**
- Teachers will be available for emails and phone calls during their regular work hours.
  - Technology support line at 260-622-1611 can provide technology assistance.
  - Contact your child's school office, if necessary.
  - If your child needs assistance after eLearning time window, please 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?**
- The length of time depends on the particular activities assigned in each class.
  - 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?**
- Absences and unsubmitted assignments will be addressed in accordance with regular student handbook practices.
- 21. How do I, as a parent, know how my child is doing?**
- Use the same methods to determine this as you do now.
  - 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.
  - Ask your student.
  - Contact the teacher.
- 22. What about a charger for my K-2 child? Will the iPad hold a charge for 2 days?**
- If you do not have a charger for the iPad at home, one will be provided for you.
  - 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?**
- If there is damage to an iPad at home, there will be a \$49 charge to cover the repair.
  - This charge may be waived during the 2020-21 school year at the request of the parents.
  - 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?**
- Arranged absences on eLearning days function the same as regular school days.
- 25. What if a storm wipes out Wi-Fi for the area?**
- Students, who are unable to access WiFi on eLearning days, are expected to consult with their teachers for the completion of required work.
  - If there is a widespread 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?**
- Due dates for the submission of eLearning assignments will be communicated by each teacher.
- 27. How will students turn in their eLearning work?**
- 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 or Seesaw.

**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. Absences and unsubmitted assignments will be addressed in accordance with regular student handbook practices.