Norfolk County Agricultural High School

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July 31, 2020

Dear Norfolk Aggie Families:

I am writing with an update on our planning process for the start of a new school year for Norfolk County Agricultural High School. We are tentatively scheduled to resume student learning on September 16.

Our planning process continues to be guided by a vigilant monitoring of public health data in Massachusetts and we are encouraged that indicators about the virus continue to move in the right direction. The Commonwealth’s careful and disciplined approach has enabled our state to gradually begin reopening, in part because of strong compliance with health and safety precautions. The question now on all of our minds is how and when we apply those lessons learned to begin safely reopening our public schools.

As you have heard, the Massachusetts Department of Education has directed districts to submit by today, a preliminary plan that addresses the feasibility of three options for serving students at the start of the school year. Those options include a full return to daily, in-person attendance, a hybrid plan combining in-school learning with some remote learning, and finally, a 100% remote learning program. Each district's final plan, approved by the School Committee, is due to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) by August 14. Given the significant changes these plans will require in the way schools operate, we also must negotiate our proposal with our teacher union. We are on a very tight timeline until the August 14 deadline set by the DESE for submitting final fall plans.

Of course, we know that under normal circumstances, students would be best served in schools every day, interacting with their peers and engaged in live classroom learning. While our educators and families worked incredibly hard last spring to implement remote learning, we know that approach presented enormous challenges, did not reach all students (particularly those with the greatest needs), and is not an adequate substitute for in-person interaction with teachers. When out of school, our students also lack access to all of the academic, vocational, mental, and physical supports that help ensure their social-emotional well-being, particularly in navigating the effects of trauma during these tremendously challenging times. Therefore, we believe our families and students deserve more than a fully remote learning plan.

In order to adhere to the school re-opening guidance provided by DESE, consistent with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the American Pediatric Association, we also do not believe we can safely meet physical distancing requirements with all students and staff in the buildings at the same time. **However, we do believe we can make significant changes in our school schedules and operating procedures to make a partial return to in-person learning both safe and successful.** This approach will require strategies to ensure physical distancing, as well as a series of other critical health and safety measures, including wearing face coverings, washing hands frequently, cleaning and sanitizing facilities, screening regularly for symptoms of illness, and staying home from school when sick, among others. Our planning process includes a comprehensive set of strategies and investments to minimize the risk of transmitting the virus.

As a result, we will pursue negotiations with our union for a hybrid learning plan, which would bring the students back into school buildings for in-person instruction in smaller, socially distanced groups on a rotating basis, combined with a robust remote learning program on the days students are not scheduled to be physically in school. This plan also enables us to bring a
subset of students in greatest need of in-person instruction and support, back to school every
day – but also in smaller, distanced settings with all other precautions in place.

We recognize that the circumstances of every family and staff member are different, and that no
plan ultimately will satisfy everyone in our community. But rest assured that we are working
diligently to explore every option available to us, that we remain guided by the science to keep
our students and staff safe and healthy, and that we will be prepared to make adjustments along
the way if the public health conditions or other variables change over time.

We will keep you informed about our progress in developing a final plan and in our negotiations
with the union. We will continue to post updates on our website and social media. I am confident
that we can prioritize both safety and learning as we prepare for the start of a successful school
year. Thank you for your patience and cooperation in these difficult times.

Stay well,

Tammy Quinn Ed.D.

Superintendent/Director
Dear Aggie Family:

In March we were forced to make an unprecedented move to close Norfolk County Agricultural High School (NCAHS) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ensuing months found our teachers exemplifying their professionalism and commitment to meeting students' social, emotional and academic needs by adapting to remote teaching platforms many were unfamiliar with navigating. As the months continued, teachers were involved in professional learning opportunities and continually adapting. Additionally, parents and guardians supported students like never before which proved to be a vital part of student learning. Finally, our combined efforts following health guidelines enabled the state of Massachusetts to flatten the COVID-19 curve and allow students to potentially return to school this Fall. As you are aware, Commissioner Jeff Riley has requested we send preliminary reopening frameworks that include 100% return, hybrid, and remote models by July 31, 2020. Additionally, Mr. Riley has requested the final plan for reopening to be shared with you August 14, 2020.

Today, we are sharing the model that is aligned with guidance from the local health department, Center for Disease Control (CDC), and the commissioner. Considering the health situations in the state continue to evolve and realizing that conditions could dictate a change at any time, our goal as an administration team was to be able to immediately pivot to appropriate learning models at any given moment.

With our primary goal being safety for students, teachers, and staff, we are presenting school reopening as a hybrid model that will have approximately fifty percent of the students on campus during any given week. We also understand that some may choose to participate in remote learning for the school year. Regardless, at the recommendation of Commissioner Riley, students will begin the first day of school on September 16th. This time allows a deserved two weeks of training for teachers to be better prepared to teach remotely and guide students in health and safety protocols. Equally as important, the hybrid model provides the best possible scenario for social distancing and limited contact in common areas. Further, it provides the important opportunity for students to engage in hands-on learning in vocational classes and immediate feedback from all teachers and peers in each of their classes. You will find detailed information related to the school reopening in the provided comprehensive document.

It is imperative that we all work together to make this year a success for our students. We can help ensure our continued success following health and safety guidelines provided by local health officials. Your understanding and patience is greatly appreciated as we strive to keep everyone safe and healthy while maintaining the best possible education during these times for our students.

Ron Driskill EdD
Principal
Norfolk County Agricultural High School
III. Executive Summary

For those who prefer an abbreviated version of our Norfolk County Agricultural High School Back to School Plan, this section is for you! Our school community’s desire for information is as varied as the unique learners we serve. We developed a lengthy plan to satisfy those who are interested in the planning process and want access to the detailed information. We realize it can be overwhelming for some within our Aggie community. Here’s what students, families, and staff need to know about the upcoming 2020-2021 school year!

1. Please be aware that the official first day on campus for students in cohort A is September 16th while students in cohort B will begin remotely on September 16th. The first day on campus for students in cohort B will be September 22nd while students in cohort A are learning remotely. You will be notified by August 31st of which cohort your student(s) is assigned. Lastly, the school year for students has been reduced to 170 school days and 935 hours. This Memorandum of Understanding was released by Commissioner Riley on July 27, 2020.

2. The overall health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. The State recently issued guidelines on overall health as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic. Essentially, the guidelines indicate that all students and staff must maintain social distances of three to six feet, as well as wearing face masks for grades 2 through 12. Please know that the State will continue releasing more guidelines in the next few weeks. Please refer to these DESE COVID-19 Guidelines for further information.

3. When students are on campus for learning, they will participate in a full day of school (7:45am to 2:20pm) unless otherwise noted as an early release day as a short day schedule.

4. Students are grouped in cohorts by alphabetical order according to last name. Special education students, English Language Learners and other high needs students have been given the option of attending in-person learning full time.

Norfolk County Agricultural High School reserves the right to make changes necessary to this 2020-2021 School Reopening Plan, as we continue to weigh options, consider new guidance from the State and DESE, and gather feedback from all relevant stakeholders from the Aggie community.

IV. Getting Started: What You Need to Know

Please note that this “Back to School Plan” is subject to change due to changes in the health and safety recommendations by the State of Massachusetts, as well as the CDC.

On July 27, 2020, Commissioner Riley announced that all school districts will “have 10 additional days at the start of the 2020-2021 school year to prepare for the reopening of schools.” This Memorandum of Understanding essentially emphasizes the importance of the
health and safety of students, families, and school faculty members. Please note that the 2020-2021 school year for students will be 170 days/935 hours.

The state’s Transportation Guidance continues to be a major factor in the formation of a working strategy on providing Norfolk Aggie’s three models of instruction and learning. The strategy will continue to provide safe conditions for all students and staff traveling by bus. All busses in Massachusetts will have limits to their maximum occupancy. We are committed to addressing these bus capacity issues. Also we will continue to be in compliance with the mandates from the state. Please click onto the hyperlink above for more information on the State’s guidance on bus transportation.

In accordance with the June 25, 2020 Department of Secondary and Elementary Education’s Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance, the following are the three “Back to School” reopening models:

1. In-Person Learning: All students return in person with safety modifications
2. Hybrid Learning: Students learn both in-person and remotely
3. Remote Learning: All learning takes place remotely

Guiding Principles

In the earliest stages of the “back-to-school” planning process, we identified and prioritized the following guiding principles that drove our decision-making. These key features have been incorporated into the Norfolk County Agricultural High School 2020-2021 Back to School Plan.

1. Health and safety of our entire school community.
2. A comprehensive plan that is in compliance with the DESE.
3. Matters of equity when addressing the needs of our students.
4. A plan that takes into account the needs of all stakeholders.
5. Normalcy for all of the stakeholders with regard to scheduling prior to the pandemic.
6. A “back-to-school” plan that is flexible and sustainable.

100% In-Person Learning

The In-Person Learning model essentially keeps the NCAHS school hours of 7:45am to 2:20pm where every student of NCAHS is on campus participating in in-person learning in the classrooms and shops in accordance with state-mandated health and safety protocols and practices.

HYBRID LEARNING MODEL--A percentage of students on campus for Hybrid In-Person/Remote Full-Day Learning (Student Groups A and B by alphabetical order by last name)

This model provides our students and staff with a combination of in-person and remote instruction and learning experiences.

In Person Learning
• A percentage of all four grade levels on campus for no less than four full days per week (except for state and federal holidays or any other school closures). Every Monday is dedicated to remote learning and office hours for teachers where appropriate to their schedule.

• Teachers will be on campus for all five days of the week other than for state and federal holidays or any other school closures.

• Group A (Last names A-Lee) on campus during Blue/Green/Red/Yellow week 1 beginning September 16th

• Group B (Last names Leo-Z) on campus during Blue/Green/Red/Yellow week 2 beginning September 22nd.

• Teacher and student schedules have been modified to 4 long blocks (2 academic and 2 vocational courses each day) in order to minimize transitions and cross contact between students and includes the addition of the What I Need (WIN) Block which is scheduled from 7:45 to 8:15am every school day.

• Special education students, English Language Learners and other high needs students have been given the option to attend in-person learning all four days a week.

Remote Learning A percentage of all four grade levels partake in a remote learning platform for four full days per week. Every Monday is dedicated to Remote learning and Office Hours for all students.

• Teachers will be on campus for all five days of the week other than State and Federal holidays, as well as other school closures.

• Group B (All Grades) on campus during Blue/Green/Red/Yellow week 2 beginning September 22nd.

• Group A (All Grades) on campus during Blue/Green/Red/Yellow week 1 beginning September 16th.

• Students will be required to complete assignments for their teachers and to attend Google sessions, when scheduled.

• Continuity and normalcy with a typical school day.

Remote Learning Expectations. The following are expectations for the group of students at home accessing the remote learning curriculum and instruction:

• All students are required to follow their daily, color-day schedule

• All students are expected to access every class for the first 15 minutes of class via Google Meets, including WIN Block at the beginning of the school day.

• Please note that students are encouraged to remain on Google Meets for the duration of the class. However, this is not a mandate but only a suggestion.

• Every Friday, students are required to follow their daily schedule

It is important to review the Daily Color Day Schedule which can be found on the school’s website and calendar.

Below is a helpful visual as to what a typical week of school will look like for our students and teachers. Again, every Monday will be dedicated to remote Learning/Office Hours. The color day on Monday will rotate each week starting with a blue day on the first full week.
**Week 1**

**Group A  Determined by last names**

- Blue/Monday
- Blue/Tuesday
- Green/Wednesday
- Red/Thursday
- Yellow/Friday

**Week 2**

**Group A**

- Green/Monday
- Blue/Tuesday
- Green/Wednesday
- Red/Thursday
- Yellow/Friday
PLAN C: Remote Plan

Using this scenario for 100% remote learning with current COVID-19 conditions (Gov Baker Phase III), faculty and staff would report to their school buildings and conduct remote learning teaching from their classrooms or offices. Paraprofessionals would support and social emotional staffing would do the same.

This plan may be adjusted to maintain consistency with the Hybrid Model that was approved if we are forced to adjust to a 100% remote plan.

100% Remote Learning

Each Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday students will work independently and access digital curriculum resources via Google Classroom. The first 15 minutes of each day, students will be required to access the virtual classroom via Google Meets for attendance, questions, and clarifications by the teacher. Monday, students will engage in a total of 3 hours of real-time instruction with teachers and peers via Google Meets.

Priorities for Remote Learning

1. Provide an equitable amount of synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning in a remote setting (hybrid or In-Home learning).
2. Regular communication between teachers, students, and families.
3. Provide grade-level instruction in all content areas included in the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks.
4. Provide opportunities for all students to engage in enrichment opportunities and receive intervention support as needed.

In order to prepare for the full range of possible learning environments during the 2020-21 school year, Norfolk County Agricultural High School seeks to meet the foundational technology
needs for teachers, students, and families. The following goals were established so that every student has adequate access to technology to engage in effective remote learning.

1. Ensure that every individual student and educator has access to an appropriate device and adequate internet access to use for remote learning.
2. Establish uniform digital technology platforms promoting safe and effective use throughout the year.
3. Provide training for students, families, faculty and staff
4. Name a technology lead to create, implement, and monitor technology systems throughout the year.
5. Monitor progress by developing mechanisms to collect and integrate feedback on the learning platforms (e.g. administer a regular survey, hold focus groups.

Collaboration tools: Common collaboration tools for staff and students are identified as:

Face-to-face communication (e.g. Google Meet)

Document collaboration (e.g. Google Documents)

File-sharing (e.g. Box, Dropbox, Google Drive)

Calendar-sharing (e.g. Google Calendar, iCalendar)

Content platform(s): For asynchronous and supplemental learning materials, common content platforms (such as Khan Academy) that educators use for direct and/or supplemental instruction will be utilized. (e.g. readings, videos, tutorials, and games) and that can be integrated with the district learning management system.

Single-sign on platform: Google has been chosen as the platform for remote learning to enable an access point for students and families seeking to make accessing remote learning as simple as possible.

Training and Support for Students, Families, and Staff Members

User testing on Google will be provided. In the event of full In-Home learning, support will include online resources that include clear, concise instructional videos, and technical support resources that will be available on the school website. Continued support will help ensure stakeholders to accomplish the following:

- Log on to their device and use technology tools and platforms safely and effectively
- Access ongoing technology support (both for hardware and network issues)
- Access curriculum and content
- Assign and/or complete and submit assignments and receive feedback
- Monitor course progress and student performance (such as grades and assessment results)
- Engage with their teacher(s) for instruction and interact with other students
- Access services and accommodations for students with disabilities
- Access services for English learners
V. Health and Safety

What We Know about the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic is a serious health matter. As of July 2020, as well as the writing of this report, there are 3,698,161 cases in the United States. Total deaths number 139,659. Here in Massachusetts, there are currently 106,882 confirmed cases, with 8,123 deaths.

Recent metrics, however, seem to hold promise. During a press conference held on June 23, 2020, Governor Baker announced positive trends on data comparisons dating back to April 15, 2020 including the following:

- 93% decline in the Seven-Day average of positive test rates
- 74% decline in the Three-Day average of COVID-19 patients in hospitals
- 84% decline in the Three-Day average of COVID-19 deaths

How the Virus Spreads

Coronaviruses are respiratory viruses and are generally spread through respiratory secretions (such as droplets from coughs and sneezes) of an infected person to another person. 3

There is preliminary evidence of airborne transmission in which the virus spreads in the much smaller particles from exhaled air, known as aerosols.

Because of this data, it is vital to do what we can to improve ventilation and encourage outdoor activities when possible. Given the nature of the pandemic, it is important that all members of the school community practice proper social distancing, as well as wearing masks at all times.
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Preparedness

The Aggie is actively securing supplies of personal protective gear at levels that comply with or exceed the requirements of DESE Advisory of June 5, 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>Total Units On Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disp. Gloves (10 boxes of 100)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disp. Masks 3 layer woven (2000 per case)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disp. Mask with Clear insert (432/case)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face Shields</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrostatic Sprayers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrostatic Backpack Sprayers</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand Sanitizer</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand Sanitizer filler</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand Sanitizer 8OZ, 24/CS</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Contact Sanitizer 105 bottle</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol wipes 50/pack, 24 pack/case</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effersan Disinfectant Tablets - 100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, virus shields have been installed in a number of areas where interaction between groups may occur, such as administrative reception areas and school offices. Additional virus shields will be installed as needs are identified.

In cases in which face coverings or masks are not possible, strict social distancing or 6 feet is required and a medical note covering the issue of wearing a mask will be sent to the supervisor or principal.

Parents/caregivers will be responsible for ensuring that their students leave the house wearing a face covering (protective shield) or mask. The Aggie recognizes that issues may arise to prevent this, and under no circumstances will a student be denied access to school due to not having a mask. Additional backup masks will be made available for students who need them. Families are encouraged to wash reusable masks daily and to label their children’s masks to avoid confusion.

Staff are also encouraged to provide their own masks that must meet CDC guidelines found on Guidance for K-12 School Administrators on the Use of Cloth Face Coverings in Schools If not possible, the district will provide backup masks for staff as well.

A supply of face shields is also being secured for teachers and students for whom mask use is problematic, or to provide extra protection for teachers in instances where students are not wearing a mask or need will be in close proximity. Even with face shields, the wearing of a mask is a best practice.
School Safety Protocols

The Norfolk County Agricultural High School school administration is collaborating with the school’s Task Force, Walpole Board of Health, and following Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines to develop protocols to keep our students and staff safe. Prior to opening, the following changes have been made or are currently underway: The comprehensive Safety and Facilities Manual can be accessed on the school website here

2. What To Do When Sick
   ● Employees showing symptoms of COVID-19 while at school will be asked to return home
   ● The school nurse, administrator, or designee will be called and escort students showing symptoms of COVID-19 while at school will to the new office space (Principal’s administration assistant office)
   ● Parents will be notified and asked to remain in their vehicle when picking up student
   ● Medical releases will be required for any individual returning to school after being quarantined

3. Face Coverings.
   ● Cloth face coverings are required to be worn by all staff, students and visitors on campus. Students are expected to have their own face coverings but the school will have extra if needed.
   ● All individuals must wear a face covering during classes, labs, and while in any building. Students who blatantly disregard safety protocols will be subject to disciplinary measures as outlined in the Student Handbook including a removal from the school setting for a specified amount of time engaging in remote learning.
   ● Some students, or staff, may be unable to safely wear a cloth face covering because of certain medical conditions (e.g. developmental, respiratory, or other conditions). In such cases, if face shields cannot be worn due to professional medical advice, effective social distancing measures will be effectively implemented.

4. School Nurse
   ● Plexiglass barrier in office
   ● Ventilation system inspected according to industry standards
   ● Proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplied
   ● Redesigned office space for individuals exemplifying COVID-19 symptoms (e.g. Principal’s administration assistant’s office)

1. Handwashing Protocols
   ● Individuals will use hand sanitizer upon entry and exit of every building.
   ● Additional hand sanitizers have been installed in common areas
   ● All bathrooms will be cleaned multiple times daily and restocked with soap and sanitizer
   ● Students and staff will be trained in proper handwashing techniques
   ● Handwashing signs will be prominently displayed in restrooms and common areas
2. **Classrooms/Guidance Department**
   - Ventilation systems will be inspected and windows tested for ability to be easily opened
   - Desks will be wiped with sanitizing wipes between each class by students before dismissal
   - Plexiglass barrier will be installed for the student services office front desk
   - Sanitizers will be available in every classroom
   - Desks will be placed at least 3 feet apart and facing the same direction to ensure students are not facing each other
   - Teachers will be consulted regarding the removal of extraneous furniture and clutter to be removed from classrooms to allow for more distancing of desks where needed.

3. **Buildings**
   - Staggered after-school dismissals will be implemented to minimize face-to-face interactions and reduce student traffic when retrieving dogs or meeting teachers for after school assistance - no after school activities
   - Hallways will be marked for one-way entry and exit to help reduce face-to-face interaction
   - Students will have designated areas in the gymnasium, library, and Main Conference Room (MCR) while spaced 6 feet apart before school begins
   - Water fountains will have signage restricting their use to filling of water bottles or provided cups
   - The school has purchased three industrial misting devices designed to quickly move from room-to-room and spray through a hand-held wand. They are designed for preventative maintenance
   - The maintenance staff will continue to clean and sanitize daily

4. **General Guidelines**
   - Gloves will be worn when sharing equipment. (e.g. tools, driving machinery)
   - Gloves should be removed before leaving the class area and hands washed or sanitized after removal.
   - Training will be supplied for proper removal and disposal of gloves
   - Signs will be posted in highly visible areas promoting effective measures of reducing the spread of COVID-19

5. **Parent/Student Expectations**
   - Students who are home for a designated period of time as determined by medical professionals but otherwise asymptomatic will be supported to continue learning at home
   - Parents/Guardians will be asked to remain in the vehicles when retrieving their student
   - Parents/Guardians are responsible for monitoring their student(s) each morning and keep them home if they have a fever of 100.4.
   - Development of guidelines for students and parents/guardians will be placed on the school website that emphasize the importance of hand washing and other individual protocols

6. **School Closure**
● In the event of any confirmed positive case of COVID-19, local and state health officials will be consulted for guidance

7. Teacher/Staff Policies

● Beginning August 1, 2020, any teacher or staff entering the state will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days or have a negative COVID-19 test within the last 72 hours. Travel restrictions do not include travel from Connecticut, New Hampshire, Hawaii, Maine, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island or Vermont. Complete details can be found by accessing https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order#lower-risk-states.

● Sick leave will not be assessed for any person mandated to self-quarantine

8. OSHA Compliance

Norfolk Aggie staff members will partake in three days of school safety/PPE training at the start of the school year. Staff will review all safety protocols to ensure the safest return to school possible. As recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), safety protocols are being developed to address the following:

Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in school and on the bus
What to do if sick
Handwashing
Wearing masks/face coverings
Bus Safety
Overall School Considerations

This additional information has provided a framework for the safe return to school for our students with regard to in-person learning.

Norfolk Aggie is fully committed to our goals of providing a safe working environment that is in full compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards.

Students and staff will review the guidance provided by the United States Department of Labor. As recommended by the United States Department of Labor, further safety protocols have been provided with regard to frequently asked questions (FAQs) on the following:

COVID-19 FAQ with regard to OSHA compliance within our high school

VI. School Facilities

As previously stated, our goal is for the safe return for all of our stakeholders. Variations in classroom and shop sizes, especially in our older buildings have been taken into consideration in our planning. We are fortunate to have this campus-style learning environment with which we can take advantage of our newly built and newly renovated buildings, as well as our vast grounds where excellent instruction and learning often takes place.
We understand that our Aggie community is quite eager to return to our campus to instruct and learn within our buildings. However, we did take into serious account members of our school community that have expressed concerns about issues such as air quality, safe and proper spacing, and the overall sanitation of our vast campus.

Created with the consultation of medical experts, these safety protocol requirements will be practiced and maintained throughout our campus. Below is a comprehensive guidance on the overall school facilities and operations. Within this document, guidelines are provided for preparation of our learning spaces, various modifications to our facilities, recommendations on improved hygiene methods in bathrooms, and developing and sustaining operational protocols such as food services within and away from the cafeteria.

Here are the State guidelines and requirements for our Aggie Campus Facilities and Operations.

**Food Service**

School meals are often critical to the overall health and well-being of students. We believe that students need nutrition in order for them to learn and succeed in their classrooms and shops. And this is particularly true during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are committed to continuing to provide nutritious school meals to our students.

Students from all four grade levels (i.e. 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th) will eat their lunches during their individual lunch times at one of three locations: Cafeteria, Library, or the Main Conference Room. This plan will maximize student health and safety during their lunch periods. Staff will ensure that proper distancing is practiced by students while eating their lunches. Please note that the Library and Main Conference Room have been converted into appropriate areas in which students can have lunch. Students will be divided into these three locations at a later date. Online tools such as Google Forms and other Apps will be used for students to place their meal orders (both lunch and breakfast) for the next day.

**VII. Equity**

During this period of school closure, some students and families have been more vulnerable than others. As a school community we recognize that COVID-19 has created new gaps in the learning process. The development of our plan for the coming school year maintains our focus on our most vulnerable group of students, while closely monitoring the impact on traditionally successful groups.

It is our collective responsibility to ensure that all students receive what they need to learn and thrive, both academically and vocationally. We also strive to meet the social and emotional needs of every student. This coming school year will push us to provide unique opportunities to better serve our student populations, as well as providing necessary support for all of our families.

**English Language Learner (ELL) Supports**
Norfolk County Agricultural High School’s teachers and counselors have and will continue to connect with our English Language Learners.

As we begin the 2020-2021 school year, the Aggie’s ELL teachers will continue to assist our English learners in their language acquisition and support these students in developing their linguistic skills to succeed in their content classrooms and shops. This will happen in a variety of ways, whether in-person or remotely, depending on the needs of the student.

**Special Education**

Our Special Education teachers have particularly close connections and relationships with the students under their care; therefore, ongoing communication and meaningful partnerships with families continues to be important to us. As we move into the start of the new school year, special educators will be collaborating with related teachers, instructional assistants, and other support staff to ensure that recommendations for learning activities are appropriate and accessible whether they occur in-person or remotely. Teachers will continue to collaborate to provide students with all of their particular IEP services.

Students on an IEP or 504 Plan, along with their peers in general education, will be assessed on a regular basis to evaluate their particular skills, as well as gaps in their skill sets. In addition, Special Education progress reports and data toward overall performance will be reviewed on a regular basis. Please review the DESE [Information and Resources for Special Education](#).

**VIII. Technology**

Norfolk Aggie is proud to announce the reinstitution of the Norfolk Aggie Technology Committee. This active, working group consists of stakeholders from throughout our school community. This committee has, and will continue to meet on a regular basis throughout the summer and into the new school year. The Norfolk Aggie Technology Committee will gather and analyze data in order to meet the technological needs of every student and family.

**Tech Tools for Use**

We are committed to maintaining a core selection of digital technology tools in order to make remote learning equitable and accessible to our students. We aim to enable our selection of technology tools to be easy for families to access. Focus will be primarily on:

- [Google Classroom](#)
- [Google Meets](#)
- [Screencastify](#)
Deploying Devices for Students

Norfolk Aggie was committed to serving the technological needs of our students when the pandemic arrived, causing schools such as ours to close. Currently, the decision has been made to provide every student with Chromebooks that are being ordered when available. We administered surveys to our families that sought to identify and address particular needs. Loaning Chromebooks were among the needs of our families. We developed a plan that disinfected and deployed Chromebooks in a timely and safe manner in order for students to receive their devices. We are committed to continue this practice for our families in need of Chromebook devices. We believe the plan was highly successful and will be replicated with slight revisions based on any new data we will have gathered from now to the start of the new school year.

Google Classrooms and Other Teacher Websites

Google has been determined as the teaching platform for the 2020-2021 school year. The decision helps streamline remote learning while still allowing teachers and counselors to continue to post a variety of communication tools with students and families in order to share important information related to student learning and achievement. All teachers and counselors will continue to use a variety of web-based tools and sites as one form of communication where important information is found that will thoroughly explain how to contact the teacher, share information such as assignments, as well as detailed information about instructional tools that teachers are using with students. Norfolk Aggie is committed to providing updated professional development learning throughout the school year in order to enhance the curriculum, instruction, and assessment within our classrooms and shops.

We encourage our students and families to continue to avail themselves of the many sites and resources our educators have made available. You may access our school’s website at http://www.norfolkaggie.org/

Academics--http://www.norfolkaggie.org/academics/teacher_websites

Vocational--http://www.norfolkaggie.org/vocational

Student Services--http://www.norfolkaggie.org/departments/student_services

As a district, Norfolk County Agricultural High School will continue to be committed to follow student data privacy laws in order to keep our students safe during their remote, online learning experiences. We are also committed to continue to investigate appropriate instructional tools and platforms that will support the curriculum and that are safe for students to utilize.
IX. Reimagining Instruction and Learning

On March 13, 2020, School Superintendent Dr. Tammy Quinn announced a two-week closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The following week, Governor Baker extended the period of school closures through April 5, 2020. And, on March 25, 2020, he announced closures through May 4, 2020. Lastly, on April 21, 2020, Governor Baker announced that all schools in Massachusetts would be closed through the end of the 2019-20 school year.

During this timeframe, Norfolk Aggie created a thoughtful plan for teachers to provide instruction and learning for all of our students. You may access Phase III Final here. Given the suddenness of the school closure, and the major differences between in-person/hands-on learning to that of remote learning, Norfolk Aggie engaged in trying to evolve and adapt its instruction and learning throughout the months of March to June. We are continuing this very work this summer. This evolution necessitates a new way to look at our program of study, potential redesign of our curriculum, and an adaptation of new professional development opportunities to our staff and faculty.

Gathering information is critical to move forward in order to have a productive and successful 2020-2021 school year including a survey administered to the Aggie Faculty on June 26, 2020, the Norfolk Aggie School Reopening Task Force met on July 23, 2020, and the administration team met twice every week since the initial school closing of March 13th in order to collaborate and create a reimagined instruction and learning program.

Based on the data received from the above-mentioned examples of information gathering, some challenges faced prior to school closure continue to be challenges during remote learning. Conversely, new challenges in our school’s remote learning program have been identified. These challenges are, but are not limited to, communication, differentiation, consistency, and rigor. Moreover, some teachers needed more support and development in providing suitable remote learning platforms for their students.

Norfolk Aggie is committed to provide instruction and learning that will meet the varying needs of our student population. We are committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment, both in-person and remotely. In the DESE Guidance released on June 25, 2020, Commissioner Riley/DESE expects school systems to consider a range of options, from a full return to in-person learning, to a hybrid learning model, to fully remote learning. We will make every effort to give our students the highest quality of education possible, with the understanding that instruction and learning will not look the same as it once did previous to COVID-19.