

October 28, 2020

NCA Families,

It continues to be a true joy to experience students on our campus each day. During the COVID pandemic, adhering to the guidance and regulations provided by OSPI, DOH, L&I, the Governor, and Thurston County Health Department requires outstanding dedication from staff, students, and families. Northwest Christian Schools of Lacey continues to honor its commitment to on-site instruction for our families.

Remote Winter Option

The *Remote Winter* option refers to the 15 days between holiday breaks. This option was mentioned in our 2020-21 Operational Plan, and would move our instruction to a remote platform between Thanksgiving break and Christmas break (11/30-12/18). We have put much thought, discussion, and prayer into this decision. Below are the factors that we have taken into consideration in this decision:

- Parent and Faculty Survey Results
- Current COVID rates in Thurston County and Washington State
- Number of students absent due to cold and flu symptoms

Other factors we considered:

- The winter season that naturally increases symptoms in students and faculty leading to student and staff quarantine absences
- Increase in travel and group gatherings around the holidays
- Ability for students and staff to visit with elderly family members without increased risk
- The health and safety of our students, faculty, and their families

Thurston County is seeing a dramatic increase in COVID cases, with a current rate of transmission that places our county into the high risk category. Our students, teachers, staff, and families are doing an incredible job of meeting the health and safety protocols and we have confidence in the system we have put into place. At the same time, a COVID transmission increase in our community raises the risk of COVID transmission on our campus.

Our survey results show that many of you want us to remain on-site for this 15 day period. There are also many of you who are very concerned about the risk involved for your family and our school staff during a time of increased travel and group gatherings due to the holidays. We have heard each of you. Every comment in the survey was read and considered in this decision making process. Your feedback matters to us.

With all factors taken into consideration, NCA and NCHS (K-12) have decided to move to the Remote Winter option for 15 days (November 30th through December 18th). Our goal at NCA is to remain on-site for the duration of this school year. We want our students on campus while balancing the health and safety of all. We fully intend to resume on-site instruction unless mandated to do differently. **Our return date for on-site instruction will be Monday, January 4th.**

NCA Remote Learning Plan

Throughout the summer of 2020, administration worked diligently to create an operating plan for on-site learning, as well as a plan for remote learning. Our faculty received training on remote learning best practices and online platforms. Special thanks to James Hall for his research and help in this area. Due to the impact COVID has had on schools, we prepared a plan for the possibility of a return to remote learning on our campus. We feel equipped, ready, and able to provide a quality remote learning experience for our students and families.

The ***NCA Remote Learning Plan is attached*** and it will answer many of your questions. In addition, each teacher will provide more detailed plans prior to November 20th.

We still have four weeks before Thanksgiving. We look forward to seeing your children on campus during this time. After you have reviewed the attached plan, if you have any questions, please reach out. Thank you for your continued support that you show in so many ways. As we all navigate through the many changes that COVID has brought into our lives, I continue to be thankful for this strong school community and for God's guidance and never-changing presence.

Blessings to you and your family today.

In His service,

Kim DeLeon

NCA Principal

