



# NAHANT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

290 Castle Road

Nahant, Massachusetts 01908

Phone: 781-581-1600 Fax: 781-581-0440

*Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent*  
[tpierantozzi@johnsonschool.org](mailto:tpierantozzi@johnsonschool.org)

*Debbie Connell, Director of Special Education*  
[dconnell@johnsonschool.org](mailto:dconnell@johnsonschool.org)

*Kevin Andrews, Principal*  
[kandrews@johnsonschool.org](mailto:kandrews@johnsonschool.org)

## Comprehensive Re-opening Plan

Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools

### A. **Executive summary**

The Nahant Public Schools, with the Johnson Elementary School as its only school, will begin its school year on Monday, September 16th with three days of remote learning. These three days will be preceded by ten days of training August 31 through September 15, during which time staff will learn to practice health and safety protocols and create lessons that demonstrate best practices and work well in person and remotely.

Following this three day period, and in consultation with the Board of Health Nurse, we will move to our primary modality of teaching and learning, the in-person model. For families that do not select the in-person model (currently expected to be ~ 20% of the student body), our remote learning will be available. The remote model will also be ready for use in school-wide implementation should local health conditions require it.

Starting on September 21st all students whose families have chosen to attend in-person will return to in-person instruction. As noted prior to returning to in-person learning the Board of Health Nurse will be consulted.

The School Committee intends for the school year to continue with in-person learning as long as conditions permit. This will occur while a cohort of approximately 20% of the student body who have self-selected, will learn remotely.

Students learning remotely will access the content of their lessons through Google Classroom, which will contain resources identical to in-person lessons. In addition, audio and video of the class will be broadcast to students to allow for directed learning and class participation.

At the beginning of the school day, all staff and student's parents or guardians, will be required to attest to the presence of virus symptoms and exposure to known cases of COVID-19. The attestation process will be developed with input from the public health nurse, school nurse, and DESE and CDC guidance. This process will be available remotely online, and at all school entry points via a QR Code and URL accessible via portable devices prior to entering.

## B. Letter from the Superintendent



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August 14, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Community Members:

I am writing with an update on our planning process for the start of a new school year in the Nahant Public Schools. We plan to make changes in our school schedules and operating procedures to make a return to in-person learning both safe and successful. These changes are consistent with the school re-opening guidance provided by DESE, consistent with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP.org). While providing an option for in-person learning, we will also offer a robust remote learning option.

From August 31, to September 15, our staff will be doing professional development at the JES and communicating with students and parents/guardians about the school year.

We are scheduled to resume student learning on September 16, 2020. All students will be taught remotely on September 16, 17, and 18. This provides teachers an opportunity to implement remote learning to all students prior to welcoming in-person learners into the classroom.

Starting on September 21, 2020 all students are welcome to start in-person school with new safety protocols in place. There will also be an option for parents/guardians to choose remote learning for their child/children. High quality remote learning will be available for those who opt for this model.

Our planning process is guided by vigilant monitoring of public health data in Massachusetts and our community. The Commonwealth's careful and disciplined approach has enabled our state gradually to begin reopening, in part because of strong compliance with health and safety precautions. We are now applying those lessons learned to begin safely reopening our public schools.

The Massachusetts Department of Education has asked each district to submit 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 all employee unions impacted: teachers and paraprofessionals. We are on a very tight timeline until the August 14 deadline set by the DESE for submitting final fall plans.

The Nahant Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, limited English proficiency, sexual identity, disability or housing status.

Of course, we know that under normal circumstances, students will 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 remote learning presented enormous challenges, did not reach all students, and is not an adequate substitute for in-person interaction with teachers. When out of school, our students also lack access to the academic, 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.

Our process will be carefully designed to have students in school if their parents/guardians choose the in-person option and if the number of COVID-19 cases indicates a low risk to the school community. 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 all impacted unions for a hybrid learning plan, which would bring the students back into school buildings for in-person instruction combined with a robust remote learning program for students not scheduled to be physically in school by choice or due to health.

We recognize that the circumstances of every family and staff member are different, and that no plan ultimately will satisfy everyone in our community. Please be confident 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 attend to every detail and make adjustments along the way if the public health conditions or other variables change over time.

As we implement the final plan, we need your support for the plan that is implemented and your understanding if our plan requires adjustment based on the data. We welcome input and feedback from our stakeholders. We invite you to share your questions, comments, and ideas to help inform and strengthen our plans. 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, cooperation and understanding during these difficult times.

Tony Pierantozzi, Superintendent

## C. **In-person Learning Model**

The in-person learning model is the preferred model of the Nahant Public Schools. Using the in-person model, students receive in-person instruction full time in the school building. Health and safety protocols will be in place consistent with the most conservative health and safety requirements and guidelines issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). This will include the wearing of masks by all students and staff when indoors.

We will have a subset of students whose families have decided to continue in a remote learning model while most of the school population returns full time. Based on a survey which was completed by 90% of our families, 80% of our students' families would like their student to learn in-person, while 20% have selected our remote learning option.

### **Classroom Setup and Hardware**

Students will have an assigned classroom desk in their grade-level classroom. Students will be seated 6' apart, with all students facing toward the point of instruction. The teacher will utilize technology to send the audio and video of the lesson to students who are learning remotely.

In the classroom, "community supplies" will be divided amongst students, and placed in marked bins with the students names on them. These will include items such as scissors, rulers, pens, pencils, colored pencils, glue sticks, crayons and other desk supplies.

Classroom math and science tools will be stored in a second set of bins. These will include math counters, fraction bars, and other tools that are used by students in their classwork.

Physical distancing will be maintained across all learning environments.

### **Teaching and Learning**

All lessons will be designed using a Universal Design for Learning framework that includes clear lesson objectives and learning targets, with multiple pathways for students to access new content, interact with or practice the new skills, and demonstrate their learning.

When students are learning from home they will attend regular, required synchronous (live) Zoom sessions, based on a schedule set at the beginning of the school year to eliminate timing conflicts for at-home learners.

Lessons will also be developed with a "flipped classroom" model in mind. Here, content is provided asynchronously through pre-recorded video, slides, and written material. This is then followed by

synchronous in-person or video/audio sessions focused on guided practice, discussions, or other interactive activities, or assessments.

Music and Physical Education will be taught outside whenever weather permits. In cases of inclement weather, music will be taught in the cafeteria. Here, windows can easily be opened and fans used to bring exterior air into the building.

## **Social and Emotional Learning and Connections**

Establishing/re-establishing connections/relationships among students, parents/guardians, staff and administration will be one focus for the ten day training period, and will continue to be a focus during the first weeks of school.

These activities will be virtual for parents and guardians. On a rotating basis, students who will take advantage of the in-person education will be invited into the school to meet with their teachers. This meeting will comply with all of the requirements of social distancing and health and safety.

We will create a “get to know your educators and helpers” (slide deck or videos), to enable students and families to begin to become familiar with the school staff. There will be daily morning meetings during which our Responsive Classroom and Second Step Program will be utilized. Additional topics will be developed to include COVID-19 social emotional issues.

Morning Meeting will take place at the appropriate distance of 6’, and often outdoors. Physical distance will be monitored and reinforced at all times, and masks will be worn by all individuals in the building, and whenever a mask break is not being taken. During Morning Meeting items will not be passed from student to student, nor will hands be shaken. These will be replaced with other activities and movements, such as bows, imaginary balls to toss, and entirely new Morning Meeting games. Students learning remotely will participate using the audio/video connection.

## **Scheduling**

During “specialist” classes, teachers will come to the student’s classroom. The student will not need to visit another classroom for these classes. Each classroom will be equipped with a set of materials required to teach art, music, and STEM. Additional materials may be delivered to the classroom by the specialist teacher. Students learning at home will require advance notice to collect materials. In some cases, a “materials pickup” will be scheduled.

Students will have twice daily mask breaks. One will occur at their snack time, when they will visit their assigned outdoor location for snack. If weather is inclement, large spaces within the building will be utilized. A second break will occur in conjunction with recess. Additional mask and movement breaks will be scheduled by the teacher, according to a frequency set by the administration.

## **Protocols**

### COVID 19

In cases where staff or students exhibit symptoms of COVID 19, or have been exposed to those who have tested positive for the virus, CDC Protocols and DESE metrics will be used to develop procedures and protocols. The local BOH and School Nurse will take the lead on the development of these procedures. These will be based protocols detailed in the document issued on July 17th [linked here](#).

( <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FNAILBLEqkjjBI7OnBSgL3iUbVnODJEK/view?usp=sharing> )

Students and families will be educated subject to the COVID 19 Protocols. Parents and guardians will sign the COVID 19 Supplement to indicate that they have reviewed and support the COVID 19 Safety Protocols. These protocols include but are not limited to the following :

Masks must be worn at all times;

Students and staff will be required to use hand sanitizer or wash hands upon entry to the JES;

Students and staff will use hand sanitizer or wash hands with soap and water prior to leaving the classroom;

Prior and following all meals and snacks;

Prior to leaving school at the end of the day;

Other protocols will be put in place based on recommendations and guidance documents from Federal and State agencies, and from local health officials.

### Class Movement

In cases where a group of students is to move to a new location, the transition will occur through a “send and receive” model, replacing the typical student line. One at a time, students will be given permission to walk to the next activity or location. This will be required when attending PE and Music, which will be held outdoors, and on the way to dismissal and to mask breaks.

### Drills

To accommodate distancing during evacuation drills, we are reviewing all of our protocols and identifying changes and updates that are required. To conduct this work our Crisis Team is working closely with our Fire Department and Police Department to develop new routines and procedures.

### **Facilities Use**

#### Covid-19 Isolation Room

A room has been designated for staff and students who exhibit Covid-19 symptoms during the school day. It will be staffed and contain appropriate PPE and meet other safety requirements.

#### Outside Groups and Visitors

Volunteers and visitors will not be permitted to enter the building unless for school-related business or maintenance. Use of the school facility by outside groups after school hours will not be permitted.

Visitors that are permitted to enter, such as contracted service providers, will be required to attest that they have not exhibited symptoms of Covid19, nor have been in contact with people who have tested positive for the virus. They will complete a health screening form, provide their contact information, and list the locations in the building which they intend to visit. Whenever possible these visits to JES will be scheduled after dismissal or outside of school hours. They will be required to wear a mask at all times while in the school and perform hand hygiene upon arrival.

This health screening form will be completed using an electronic device to access a Google Form, by scanning a QR code or entering a web address. In addition, the website link to the form will be posted and viewable outside of the building. The information, which includes a person's name and contact information, will be used for contact tracing purposes, as needed. After the visit to the Johnson Elementary School, or any time, visitors must agree to contact the school if they begin to exhibit symptoms of COVID 19.

### Deliveries

Items that are delivered to school, including student items such as lunches, sneakers for Physical Education, etc., will be left in a weather-safe box outside of the school door, for staff to deliver.

### Stairways

The stairway located in the center of the building, nearest Door 12, will be designated as an "Up" stairwell, and will only be used for staff and students needing to go up to the top level. The stairway located at the end of the building, near Door 11, will be designated as a "Down" stairway.

The elevator will not be used by students unless medically necessary. In this case, appropriate disinfecting protocols will be used.

### Hallway

The hallway will be marked and divided into two sides. Each side will be designated for one-way traffic to facilitate distancing. In locations where students may need to stand and wait, a marked location will be identified.

### Bathrooms

Each grade level will be assigned to specific bathrooms.

Kindergarten students will use the bathroom in their classroom.

Students in grades 1 and 2 will use the ground floor bathroom.

Students in grades 3-6 will use the bathrooms located on the top floor.

Only one student will be permitted to use the bathroom at a time. Outside of bathrooms there will be "Wait Here" signs spaced 6' apart to indicate where students must wait until the bathroom is available.

Bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected daily, and disinfected periodically throughout the day.

## Disinfection and Cleaning

During the school day the day custodian will utilize a hand-held atomizer and wipe down method in order to disinfect high-touch surfaces. In the evening, all classroom surfaces and rooms will be sanitized using a similar, but larger, device and method.

Students and teachers will be responsible for keeping their workspace and materials clean during the school day, and sharing of materials will be eliminated. Additionally, hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms, and time made for handwashing and sanitizing. All CDC, DESE, and BOH guidelines will be followed regarding sanitizing and cleaning. These protocols will be evaluated and adjusted as required. Sanitizing stations will be provided throughout the building. A touchless water bottle filling station is available to students. Appropriate use will be reviewed as part of the orientation program. Drinking stations will have their nozzles turned off or covered.

## HVAC

All classrooms at the Johnson Elementary Elementary school have windows which will be utilized to bring exterior air into the classroom. Univent filters will be cleaned, sanitized, or changed as necessary.

## Lunch

Students will eat lunch outdoors, or in their classroom during inclement weather. Lunches provided by the school will be delivered to the hallway outside of their classroom. Barrels will be brought to the hallway so as to eliminate lunch refuse from being thrown out in the classroom and to facilitate cleanup. During outdoor lunch periods students will be expected to dispose of trash in barrels provided.

## Recess

Social distancing will be required of students who opt to remove their mask during recess. A designated "mask free" area will be identified, in order to facilitate appropriate supervision and social distancing.

## Arrival

Masks are to be worn upon arrival at campus or when exiting a vehicle. Students will be permitted to enter the building beginning at 7:45 and will not be considered tardy until after 7:55. They will be permitted to enter through doors 1, 4, 12 and 14, which will be supervised by a staff member. These doors will continue to be open and supervised from 7:55-8:00. Students arriving after 7:55 will be considered tardy, and their names recorded for input into our student database. After 8:00 tardy students will enter through door 1.

In the event that there is more than one student arriving after 8:00 at door 1, the students will be required to wait in a line with 6' spacing, marked on the cement outside of door 1.

Parents and guardians are to remain outdoors during arrival and dismissal, will maintain a minimum of 6' physical distance, and will be required to wear a mask, unless they remain in their vehicles.



## Dismissal

Students in grades 3-6 will be dismissed individually from their classroom starting at 2:15 and will exit the building using door 4, unless they have a sibling in grades PreK-2. In this case, they will exit the building using door 12.

Students in grades K, 1, and 2 will be led to their outdoor pickup location by their teacher, where they will be dismissed to their parents. These locations will allow for appropriate distancing.

## **D. Hybrid learning model:**

Due to the state-wide option available to parents/guardians, the JES hybrid option will be utilized starting on September 21. Approximately 80% of the students will be in-person starting and 20% learning remotely. There will be no student attendance rotation, initially, unless required by the COVID 19 data. The JES Hybrid Model was developed to accommodate family selection of remote learning. The JES Feasibility Study demonstrated that there is the capacity to offer in-person learning to 100% of the students with 6' of physical distancing. Therefore, our school building contains adequate space to provide safety accommodations for all students and staff to attend in-person.

In the event that our school is closed and required to go to an all-remote model, the Board of Health will be consulted to determine if high-needs students will be able to attend school in-person according to a frequency and schedule that meets the students' needs. If the BOH prohibits all in-person learning, a regular, rigorous remote schedule will be developed for the high needs and special education students.

At the JES, a hybrid model, with rotating in-person education, will not be used.

## Changes across the two learning environments (in-person and remote):

The primary difference between in-person and remote will be student location. In both models, all lessons will be posted in Google Classroom using Google Slides. The slides will contain learning objectives, links to video and other internet resources, as well as worksheets and assessments. In cases where handwriting and computation are required, students both in-person and remote will utilize identical workbooks.

In the JES hybrid model, students with IEPs will participate in in-person instruction, if approved by the Board of Health, while other students learn remotely. Some High Need students may still be educated remotely based on the choice of their families.

## **E. Remote learning model**

In this learning model, remote learning is the default mode of instruction for all students, though some high needs students may be served in-person full time or through a hybrid model. Structured Learning Time requirements apply to remote learning.

### Learning Platform and Curricula

As with our previous models, in the Remote Learning Model teachers will use Google Classroom and Google Slides in order to provide robust teaching resources and content for lessons. The Nahant Remote Model is based on the teacher providing a live video and audio stream from their classroom at the school. This will facilitate the teacher's access to materials, while also facilitating transitions to other teaching models, such as hybrid or in-person.

Links to online resources will be provided in a consistent manner, within the Google slide show of the lesson. In addition, the manner in which material is to be "turned in" will be consistent. This will facilitate the management of assignments, and tracking of completion of assignments. Grading will be consistent with in-person assignments.

A common list of standards-aligned online curricula have been identified, and will be listed for use by families and staff members. As with all teaching and learning, remote academic work will be rigorous and aligned to state standards.

To facilitate access to these online resources, students and teachers will have a secure, common system to store and manage passwords for online resources. Every effort will be made to utilize a Single Sign On system.

### Synchronous Learning Schedule

Students learning from home will access content online, prior to attending synchronous discussions and guided practice. Students and family members will receive a schedule for remote learning, as well as expectations for remote learning by September 14, 2020. The expectations will be age-appropriate.

The audio/video schedule during all-remote learning will follow the school-day schedule of the class. Students will be expected to be online during scheduled synchronous learning sessions and meetings during the school day. A set schedule will be created across the grades for required synchronous sessions in order to accommodate families with multiple students at different grade levels attending remotely, simultaneously.

Students learning remotely will not be required to be online with video and audio when they are reviewing content or conducting independent practice.

### Communication

Communication between the parent and teacher will occur through email and phone calls, as needs arise. In addition, teachers will hold weekly help-sessions for parents working with students at home. At the start of the school year, prior to the first day of teaching and learning on September 16th, the classroom teachers will hold an online meeting with all parents and guardians in the grade. This will be similar to the “fall open house”. In addition to the curriculum and expectations a portion of the time will be spent introducing all families to the online platforms that will be used by the class. An additional meeting will be offered for parents of remote learners prior to September 16th.

### High Needs Students

Students who typically receive additional support from special education teachers and/or paraprofessionals will continue to do so, via video and audio feeds. In addition, they will have remote video sessions with their service providers, such as SLP, OT, Adjustment Counselor. Families of students who have IEPs and are learning remotely may select to have their student receive some of their special education services in-person, if permitted by the BOH and dependent on health conditions in the community.

Families who are not able to provide a device for their student will be provided one on loan.

### Attendance

Students attending remotely will be expected to attend school regularly and devote approximately five hours per school day to rigorous and robust lessons. Attendance will be taken during synchronous learning sessions, when the student joins with remote video and audio.

### Participation

Students learning remotely will be able to participate in the in-person class. This will be done through an online platform, such as Google Chat. Students will additionally participate through the video and audio connection to the classroom.

### Technology Platforms

The primary method of delivering lessons will be through Google Classroom. The school will utilize IXL and Khan Academy for mathematics, Reading A-Z will supplement our literacy program, Mystery Science for science, and PBS for social studies. In addition to this, YouTube and other online resources will be utilized.

Workbooks from our publishers will also be utilized for remote instruction.

### Staffing Model

The remote lesson content provided to the students remotely will be as similar as possible to content provided to the in-person student. Lesson content will be created by the grade-level teacher, who will also provide an audio and video stream to the student learning remotely.

### Instructional Materials

A touchless pickup system will be put in place for students who need to pick up school tools and materials to use at home.

### Switching to In-Person Instruction

Families who would like to move from the remote learning model to in-person instruction will be required to provide written notice to the school principal and classroom teacher 10 school days prior to their intended re-entry date. This will provide the school with the time required to make the necessary facilities adjustments, as well as time for the student to be oriented to the new routines and protocols.

## **F. Out-of-school time plan**

### (a) Before and After school

When possible, no sooner than two weeks after in-person learning begins, the Johnson School will be offering both a before and after school care program. Students will be assigned to small groups which will meet consistently. The members of the group will not change. Attendance will be taken to facilitate contact tracing.

### (b) 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning

We do not qualify for this funding source, and do not utilize the 21st Century Learning Grant.

### (c) Weekends

A weekend workshop program will be proposed at no cost to the students, with an emphasis on remote learners but open to in-person learners and remote learners. JES staff will be offered these positions. This program will be designed to apply the skills being taught in school in an engaging, enriching way. Materials for these workshops will be provided by the school, and available for pickup by remote learners.

## **G. Student supports and professional learning:**

### Safety, Wellness, and Social Emotional Supports

Prior to September 16th students will meet their teacher online or in-person (mode will be based on parent/guardians decision) to make an initial connection. Prior to September 16th, students who will be learning in-person will also have an opportunity to visit the school in small groups with their classmates, in order to learn and practice new routines and protocols.

During the August 31-September 15 our staff training/professional development period, staff members will receive training on these new procedures and protocols. The staff will also take part in training related to maintaining physical and mental wellness and Covid-19 associated trauma.

### Planning and Instruction

Staff members will be involved to assist in the development of a plan and schedule for the Staff Training/Professional Development Period. Staff members will be invited to spend brief periods of time during in-person academic days in order to discuss the success and areas to improve. (Instructional Rounds Model)

## Assessment

Within the first two weeks of school students will complete remote assessments that will be used to identify any learning gaps that they might have. During the Staff Training/Professional Development Period, teachers will work to develop best-practice methods to close the learning gaps. Professional development in this area will focus on how to conduct formal and informal assessments remotely, and how to conduct informal assessments remotely.

### **F. School Calendar with start date and PD days prior to opening**

August 31st - All staff report

August 31st - Sept 15th - Professional Development and Training

August 31st - Sept 15th - Communication and Meeting with Students, Parents and Guardians remotely and in-person

Sept 16th-Sept 18th - Remote Learning for All Students, K-6

Sept 21st - First day for in-person learning, including Preschool. Remote learning continues.

H. **Other:** Information in this section should be determined by the context of the district.

The feasibility assessment determined that the Nahant Public School System and the Johnson Elementary School is in a unique position to utilize in-person teaching and learning this fall. It has been established that all of the registered students could attend in-person while maintaining 6' physical distance.

There are a number of indoor and outdoor spaces that can be utilized by classes as needed.

I. **Certification of health and safety requirements:**

We certify that we will meet the final health and safety requirements issued by DESE.

This will include the guidance issued by the DESE to respond to a variety of scenarios, following specified protocols. Those protocols are detailed in the document issued on July 17th [linked here](#).

( <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FNAILBLEqkjjBI7OnBSgL3iUbVnODJEK/view?usp=sharing> )