



Our best. Your best.

Below is your Monday update for the week of October 19, 2020.

A message from Kent, Muskegon and Ottawa Superintendents

The percentage of COVID-19 tests returning positive is increasing in West Michigan. While the transmission of the virus is not yet occurring in schools, the increase in the number of positive cases in the community will have a negative impact on schools. The superintendents of Kent, Muskegon and Ottawa have created a shared letter for students and their families that reminds us all to be diligent in stopping the spread of COVID-19. Please look for this letter to arrive soon in your email. To further understand the rise of positive cases and their effect on K-12 districts, please view the Kent County [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) (hosted by the Kent ISD and KCHD).

Student Attendance and Engagement

Strong school attendance is critical for academic success. It is also a legal requirement under the Michigan Compulsory Attendance Law for students between the ages of six and eighteen. In Northview, we want all students (in-person and virtual) to be successful learners. As we near the end of the first marking period - which is also the end of many first semester classes for our 7-12 students - it is important to reiterate the importance of active school participation. Please make sure that your student attends school on a regular basis. Please make sure that they join live, virtual learning sessions and regularly participate in classroom activities.

For those students who haven't been engaged, it isn't too late to take the steps necessary to become engaged. The very first step is to respond today to the teachers and staff members who are reaching out and offering opportunities to get you back on track. Parents, if you are not sure about your students level of engagement, please review their information in ParentVue, or contact one of their teachers, a counselor or the principal.

Does Northview plan to return to a traditional 5-day per week schedule?

In order to provide more clarity around the 2020-21 school calendar, we would like to remind families that Northview intends to maintain the 4-day in-person/1-day virtual learning schedule for DK-6 students and the 2-day in-peron/3-day virtual learning schedule for 7-12 students for the entire first semester (through January 15, 2021). This is for several reasons:

We use Wednesdays to allow our custodial staff extra time to fully disinfect all of our school buildings. Each classroom and common area is disinfected with the Clorox 360 machines every Wednesday.

This year, our teachers are truly teaching bell-bell. Many of our teachers have no daily prep time, no opportunity to collaborate with colleagues and no time to eat lunch on their own. This packed schedule is so that we can maximize the in-person instructional time each day in core curricular classes while still allowing for a full

schedule of enrichment classes such as band, art, music, library and computers. Wednesdays allow our instructional staff time to prep for virtual and in-person instruction and time to collaborate with colleagues.

Although we are pleased with the relatively low incidents of school-related COVID cases in Northview thus far, we know that the increase in county rates could force Northview to close classrooms or buildings. It is important that all of our staff and students remain confident in virtual learning. Our Wednesday virtual learning days are not 'days off'. They are important to ensure that everyone maintains an agility around remote instruction. In the event that we do have to close our doors, we won't have to stutter start our way into a new schedule. Our team will be confident in any transition.

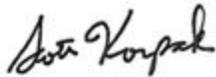
Free Virtual Tutoring through GVSU

Free virtual tutoring services are available to K-12 students throughout the state of Michigan. Tutors are comprised of volunteer GVSU community members and include faculty, staff, students, alumni, retirees, etc. Volunteers have indicated grade bands and subjects they are comfortable working with and must pass a GVSU background check prior to working with students. To ensure continuity of services, there will also be a handful of students who are hired to work consistent tutoring hours and service those most in need. To find a tutor, visit the [GVSU Find a Tutor](#) page.

Northview Virtual Update

The website, [We Are Teachers](#), provides an exceptional list of at-home learning resources for all grade levels. Designed for both parents and teachers to use, this is an extensive list of sites to add to your child's development and learning at home. Resources are listed in ABC order and by categorical grade levels, with grades K-5 making up the top half of the list and grades 6-12 consisting of the bottom half. Please peruse and try out new sites at home with your child - and enjoy!

Sincerely,



Dr. Scott Korpak
Superintendent