MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

The Return of the Sharks PK2-12 plan helps ensure a safe and healthy return to on-site learning at NSU University School. This plan was created with guidance and information from many agencies including the Florida Department of Education, Center for Disease Control, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Broward County Health Department, American Academy of Pediatrics, and Nova Southeastern University. As the COVID-19 guidance changes, we will continue to update our policies and procedures.

Our number one priority is the health and safety of all in our community. The key to this is the individual responsibility of each person to maintain critical hygiene protocols. As pointed out in the Florida Department of Education Guidelines and recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, keeping students in school is a priority. To accomplish this priority, all community members must follow physical distancing guidelines and wear face coverings at all times. Of critical importance is that anyone who exhibits any symptoms of illness MUST remain home and recover. With the use of BlendFlex hybrid technology installed by NSU, most students will be able to participate in classroom activities from home.

It will take collaboration and trust for us to provide a safe and exceptional educational experience. There may be times where temporary changes to this plan will occur including short term interruptions and brief usage of our Instructional Continuity Plan (previously referred to as Alternative Educational Plan). At times, we may need to adjust or cancel certain school activities. Hopefully, we all can continue to exhibit patience on a regular basis and continue to positively support each other in the face of these challenging times. I am confident that the faculty, staff, and administration will continue to provide the finest mission-appropriate learning at all levels from PK2 – 12! Thank you for your continued support of NSU University School. Feel free to contact any of the leadership team members below with questions.

Sincerely,

William Kopas, Ed.D.
wk128@nova.edu

Mission Statement

NSU University School cultivates a passion for learning and a culture of innovation. We provide a college preparatory education emphasizing personalized excellence in academics, extracurriculars, and service. Enriched by our university community, we empower students to embrace experiential learning, leadership, diversity, and inclusiveness while inspiring them to be responsible and engaged global citizens.

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RETURN TO SCHOOL

LEARNING OPTIONS

In conjunction with Nova Southeastern University (NSU), NSU University School has established a re-entry task force committee that is working diligently to develop a re-entry strategy that allows for flexibility, transparency and prioritizes the health and safety of our community. NSU University School is currently preparing the physical campus to support students in the fall of 2020, however, the administration recognizes that some families may not be comfortable with their child(ren) returning at that time. The administration has developed two different re-entry options for our families to navigate.

To ensure that all students receive the same learning experience and are able to interact with their teachers whether in the classroom or from home, NSU University School has invested in enhanced technology for every classroom to facilitate multiple modalities of instruction. The new equipment will provide a seamless bridge between the physical and virtual learning environment and enable teachers to use the latest video technology to enhance the instructional experience regardless of students’ location. This enhanced learning environment is referred to as a BlendFlex model which allows us to provide flexible learning environments to meet student needs. The BlendFlex model is an innovative course delivery method that offers Face-to-Face, Online, and Hybrid student experiences running simultaneously. The BlendFlex model allows for two types of learning options: learning on campus in a traditional classroom setting or learning from a remote location like home using videoconferencing type technologies including Zoom as well as Canvas.

OPTION ONE: ON-CAMPUS LEARNING

NSU University School administration is preparing for on-campus school operations to resume in August 2020. Students and faculty will be back on campus with adapted daily instruction schedules that will feel similar to the pre-COVID academic year. The community will follow specific health precautions that will be in accordance with our local, state, and federal requirements.

OPTION TWO: REMOTE LEARNING

We understand that even though we will return to campus, some families may desire or need an exclusively online option. Through the use of classroom video technology, students will follow their class’s daily schedule, just as they would if they were in the classroom. This will allow students to continue to have access to a rigorous, personalized academic experience while at home. Requests to enroll in this exclusively online instructional platform will be binding through October 15, 2020. Once a family opts into the BlendFlex option, they will not be able to switch to on-campus learning until the end of the quarter. The form that will enable you to request to enroll in this option will be available in ULink in the coming weeks.

PREPARING FOR INTERRUPTIONS

Following the recommendations from our re-entry task force committee and trends from past pandemics, NSU University School is preparing for waves of interruption to on-campus learning. In the event that your child is sick, our local community experiences a spike in COVID-19 cases, or an interruption of physical operations occurs, a temporary shift to the Remote Learning Plan (as stated above) will happen immediately. If the temporary shift becomes more permanent, NSU University School will revert to the Instructional Continuity Plan.

Instructional Continuity Plan

In the event of a mandated stay-at-home order, NSU University School will revert to the Instructional Continuity Plan. Students will continue to attend classes remotely via Zoom, just as they would have done if they were in school or attending classes remotely via option two above. The mission of the school does not change while learning in this context. We will continue to cultivate a passion for learning and a culture of innovation and provide a college preparatory education emphasizing personalized excellence in academics, extracurriculars, and service.
The academic day will run from 8:40am-3:35pm. We have eliminated break to allow for longer passing times between classes.

Six academic courses will be taught during the school day.

There will be an option for a seventh elective course—one of several additional academic, performing arts, or athletics electives – meeting after school either virtually or in a blended learning format.

Students will not dress out for PE, and contact with equipment will be limited.

Academic extra help will be available for students by appointment in person and/or via Zoom.

Class sizes and classroom furniture will follow physical distancing guidelines. Due to physical distancing guidelines, students may alternate days between the classroom and other large spaces on campus utilizing BlendFlex technology.

Large gatherings will not take place until further notice. When practical, meetings, school events, assemblies, and performances will take place virtually.

Foot traffic in the hallways and between classrooms and buildings will be limited through the use of one-way hallways/stairwells.

Whenever feasible, outdoor spaces will be utilized for learning and socializing.

Learning experiences will closely mirror pre-COVID instruction.

Digital platforms have been added for students to use during the day to support the BlendFlex Model.

Pre-assembled boxed lunches, using single-use containers and utensils, will be served and students will rotate through classrooms, the dining commons, and outdoor spaces to eat. Lunch menu choices will be pre-selected online on a bi-weekly basis.

Parents will be required to provide face coverings for students in Grades 6-12. Face coverings will be required at all times including in the classroom, outside, and as children transition from one space to another in hallways and other closed areas. Faculty and staff will also wear face coverings.

Outdoor activities will take place on the playground or in other outdoor areas with a limited number of children and coordinated around an increased cleaning schedule.

Drop-off and pick-up procedures will be changed as visitors and parents will no longer be allowed in the building. Please stay tuned for additional details on the new drop-off and pick-up processes as we approach the start of school.
The academic day will run from 8:15am-3:10pm (for students in K-Grade 5) and 8:15am - 3:20pm (for Junior Kindergarten). Students with Middle and Upper School siblings can participate in ACT (Alternate Carpool Time) and will be released at 3:35pm. Sign up for ACT will be provided in My Backpack.

Canvas will be redesigned and will be the primary tool that students and parents in JK-Grade 5 use for academic information. The use of Canvas will replace a homework book in Grades 1-3.

Students in Grades 3-5 are encouraged to bring their own devices to use during the school day. This can be an iPad or laptop. We do not recommend Chromebooks. This is not required, however, and students who do not have a device will be provided with one when needed. Lockers will be provided for students in these grade levels.

Students will participate in their “specials” in their grade-level class, not by color group as we have done in the past. Specials will include art, music, PE, world languages, guidance, and innovation. Some specials will be taught in the regular classroom to avoid unnecessary movement of students during the day and to provide additional classroom spacing for physical distancing. PE will be offered outdoors, weather permitting.

In an effort to limit foot traffic and exposure to various classrooms, grades 3-5 electives including robotics, coding, digital photography and video production will be incorporated into the core curricular programming and will no longer be a pull-out program.

Students will be provided with a personalized set of materials to use during learning activities rather than sharing materials, whenever possible.

All students in JK – Grade 5 will need to bring their own backpacks to school. Backpacks should be small enough to fit in a cubby space. Rolling backpacks are prohibited.

The Media Center will be open before and after school for book check-out/return. The Media Specialist will provide lessons during the day to students in the classroom.

Class sizes and classroom furniture will follow physical distancing guidelines. Grade-level groups of students will remain together throughout the day.

Large gatherings will not take place until further notice. When practical, these communal events will be adapted to an online platform.

Foot traffic in the hallways and between classrooms and buildings will be limited.

Whenever feasible, outdoor spaces will be utilized for learning and socializing.

Learning experiences will closely mirror pre-COVID instruction.

Digital platforms have been added for students to use during the day to support the BlendFlex Model.

Pre-assembled boxed lunches will be eaten in classrooms using single-use containers and utensils. Lunch menu choices will be pre-selected online on a bi-weekly basis.

Parents will be required to provide face coverings for students in Junior Kindergarten – Grade 5. If Junior Kindergarten students do not use see-through face coverings (as suggested on the face coverings page that follows), then face shields will also be required in JK only, as these will be especially important for students learning phonics and word pronunciation. Face coverings will be required at all times including in the classroom, outside, and as children transition from one space to another in hallways and other closed areas. Faculty and staff will also wear face coverings.

Grade-level groups will be formed for After Care and After School Activities.

Recess will be held on the playground or in other outdoor areas with a limited number of children and coordinated around an increased cleaning schedule.

Drop-off and pick-up procedures will be changed as visitors and parents will no longer be allowed in the building. Please stay tuned for additional details on the new drop-off and pick-up processes as we approach the start of school.
The academic day will run from 8:30am – 3:00pm (for full-day students) and 8:30am – 12:45pm (for half-day students). Before Care will begin at 7:15am and After Care will run until 6:00pm Additionally, After School Activities (formerly known as Just for Kids classes) will be available from 3:15pm – 4:15pm on select days. Grade-level groups will be formed for Before Care, After Care, and After School Activities.

Movin’ and Groovin’ and Music programming will be taught in the regular classroom to avoid unnecessary movement of students during the day.

Class sizes and classroom furniture will follow physical distancing guidelines and child care licensing requirements. Students will stay with the same group of children throughout the academic day.

Recess will be held on the playground or in other outdoor areas with a limited number of children and coordinated around an increased cleaning schedule.

Large gatherings will not take place until further notice. When practical, these communal events will be adapted to an online platform.

Foot traffic in the hallways and between classrooms and buildings will be limited.

Whenever feasible, outdoor spaces will be utilized for learning and socializing.

Learning experiences will closely mirror pre-COVID instruction.

Lunch will be eaten in classrooms and students who order from Yummy in My Tummy will continue using single-use containers and utensils.

Parents will be required to provide face coverings for Preschool students. If students do not use see-through face coverings (as suggested on the face coverings page that follows), then face shields will also be required, as these will be especially important for students learning phonics and word pronunciation. Face coverings will be required at all times including in the classroom, outside, and as children transition from one space to another in hallways and other closed areas. Faculty and staff will also wear face coverings.

Handwashing protocols will be increased and sanitizing stations will be placed in all classrooms.

Drop-off and pick-up procedures will be changed as visitors and parents will no longer be allowed beyond the main lobby. Please stay tuned for additional details on the new drop-off and pick-up processes as we approach the start of school.
Effective immediately and until further notice, all faculty, staff, and students on campus must wear a face covering at all times. The use of a face covering can potentially slow the spread of COVID-19 and help people who may unknowingly have the virus from transmitting it to others.

Things to consider when choosing a face covering for your child:

- Choose a mask with a good seal that fits your child’s face comfortably as they will be wearing them for the entire school day.
- The face mask must cover your child’s nose and mouth and fit securely around the face.
- Please select a solid-colored mask or one with an appropriate pattern. Masks with words, slogans, or pictures will be prohibited. The administration reserves the right to request that a student change the mask if it is deemed not appropriate for school.
- Parents with younger children may want to consider a mask that allows the teacher to see a child’s facial expressions, as these will be especially important for students learning phonics and word pronunciation. If JK children do not have a see through face covering, then a face shield will be required.
- Your child is welcome to wear a plastic face shield if you wish but must still wear a mask.
- Bandanas, neck gaiters, and masks that have a valve or vent will not be allowed.

Your child may remove a mask briefly, as needed, to drink water and eat snacks or lunch during the day. Students will be asked to put their mask back on after completing these activities.

For more information about face coverings, please see the chart below or refer to the World Health Organization Guidelines on how to wear a face mask.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and Intended Use of Face Coverings/Masks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloth Face Covering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposable Mask</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical-Grade Surgical Mask</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N95 Respirator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home-made or commercially manufactured face coverings that are washable and help contain wearer’s respiratory emissions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercially manufactured masks that help contain wearer’s respiratory emissions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDA-approved masks to protect the wearer from large droplets and splashes; helps contain wearer’s respiratory emissions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide effective respiratory protection from airborne particles and aerosols; helps contain wearer’s respiratory emissions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intended use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required for campus community use in non-healthcare settings (office spaces, general research/work settings, shops, community areas where 6’ physical distancing cannot be consistently maintained. Must be replaced daily. (While likely necessary for ingress and egress, not required when working alone in an office).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>These masks are reserved for healthcare workers and other approved areas with task-specific hazards determined by EHS.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ON CAMPUS HEALTH
PROTOCOLS & PRECAUTIONS

We are following all federal, state, and local orders as well as recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Florida Department of Health, Florida Department of Health in Broward, and advice from our own world-class medical and health care experts. The best experts agree—we must all continue to take the most prudent steps possible to protect ourselves, our families, and the people around us. We are all in this together. What you do has an impact on others. NSU officials strive to create the safest possible environment for our community. As new data and understanding of the coronavirus (which causes the COVID-19 disease) continue to evolve, our policies and protocols may need to be updated periodically to keep up with new knowledge and recommendations.

Physical Distancing
- In our efforts to minimize possible transmission, on-campus visitors will be limited to those who are critical to school operations. Parents will be required to pick-up and drop-off in the designated carpool areas.
- Class sizes and classroom furniture will follow physical distancing guidelines.
- Large spaces may be repurposed as learning spaces.
- Foot traffic in the hallways and between classrooms and buildings will be limited.
- Campus signage will be used to encourage proper physical distancing.
- Meetings, events, assemblies, and performances may be adapted to online platforms.

Health Protocols
- Staff and students will have their temperatures taken upon campus arrival. Those who present with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher or COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home to self-isolate, recover, and recuperate. NSU University school will follow the latest guidelines regarding students return to campus.
- Upon arrival, visitors who are critical to school operations will have their temperature taken and answer screening questions.
- Students who develop COVID-19 symptoms during the day will be isolated until a parent arrives.
- New sanitizing stations have been added throughout the school. Staff and students will be prompted to clean their hands throughout the day.

Sanitizing Measures
- Hand sanitizer stations have been added in every classroom, all entrances and hallways, and most common areas.
- High touchpoint areas (door handles, desks, bathrooms, etc.) are scheduled for more frequent cleaning throughout the day.
- Custodial staff will disinfect all areas every evening.

Personal Responsibility
- Parents should monitor their children’s health and make decisions about school attendance, accordingly. If your child is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19, or any other cold or flu-like symptoms, we ask you to keep them home until the symptoms dissipate.
- Additional signage will be in place promoting everyday protective measures.
PERSONALIZING THE
EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

NSU University School cultivates a passion for learning and a culture of innovation and we will continue to do this for the 2020-21 school year. We provide a college preparatory education emphasizing personalized excellence in academics, extracurriculars, and service.

NSU University School teachers understand that every child learns in his or her own way, so they continually develop instructional approaches in order to reach every learner. They know that a “one size fits all” education never really fits and places value on fostering both academic and personal growth in each and every child. They take great pride in getting to know their students and supporting them to become lifelong learners. Enriched by our university community, teachers empower students to embrace experiential learning, leadership, diversity, and inclusiveness while inspiring them to be responsible and engaged global citizens. With teachers taking a personal interest in each student’s life, NSU University School students are encouraged and inspired to exceed expectations in the classroom, online, and beyond.

DIGITAL TOOLS

My Backpack will continue to be our school’s main information system. Parents and students can access grades, school announcements, and more.

Canvas will continue to be utilized for NSU University School students to manage their work, discussions, and assignments. All class assignments, videos, and announcements will be housed in the Canvas Classroom.

Zoom, a video conferencing platform, will continue to be used to provide LIVE (synchronous) virtual class meeting space.

Nearpod is an online learning platform that creates an inclusive and immersive learning experience by allowing students to actively participate in every lesson.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING TOOLS

Various other online platforms are used to enhance learning for students and contribute to the lessons prepared by teachers.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As we get ready for the new school year, our faculty is engaged in a robust summer of professional development that includes on-campus and remote technology training through our very own Summer Learning Institute. Just as we promote lifelong learning with our students, we encourage our faculty to continue to explore new ideas and grow.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE COUNSELING

In grades 6-12, school counselors and college counselors have been meeting with students about academic placement and providing support for students who have questions about upcoming programs and classes. The College Counseling department continues to offer support to students and families as well as numerous programs to help students as they explore colleges and make important decisions regarding their future. If your child would like to schedule an appointment, please reach out to their counselor for more information. Please also continue to check ULink for the latest college counseling programs and announcements.

ORIENTATION SCHEDULES

Parent/Student orientations will be offered virtually beginning the week of August 5th, 2020. Orientation schedules will be published in the next few weeks.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING — A NOTE FROM DR. CAPRONI

In my eight years as Consulting/Supervising School Psychologist here at NSU University School, I have gotten to know most of our staff and many of our families. It is truly a privilege to be a part of this community of caring educators, talented students, and involved parents.

As parents, we are always struggling to balance our kids’ academic, social, and emotional well-being. Clearly, this ongoing pandemic has not made our jobs any easier! We may sense that our kids now need additional support and guidance to cope with their day to day challenges in ways that are psychologically (and physically) healthy. Please be assured that anticipating and responding to your children’s social and emotional needs is of paramount importance. As many of you know, our Psychological Services Team under my direction provides supportive individual and group counseling as well as consultation and psychoeducational advisories. We work closely with our guidance staff, teachers, administrators, and office staff who provide uniquely caring and responsive sources of mentorship and support.

While we cannot control many of the challenging stressors facing our kids today, we can strive to model for them healthy, resilient ways of coping. They learn much more from what they see us do than from what we say to them. Self-care is easy to overlook in stressful times, but it is nevertheless of the utmost importance to our families. Remember the lesson from your last airplane trip: in an emergency, always put on your oxygen mask first, then see to your child’s.

— Peter Caproni, Ph.D.
MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCE

Handshakes and hugs aren't a good idea, but a wave and a "Fins Up" are!

USE A FACE COVERING

Cover your mouth and nose and avoid touching your face.

WASH YOUR HANDS, PLEASE

Spend at least 20 seconds and use plenty of soap and water.

DON'T FEEL WELL? STAY HOME!

Monitor your symptoms and call your doctor early on.

KEEP IT CLEAN

Clean and disinfect all surfaces and objects you frequently touch.

Be a Smart Shark.

NSU Florida

NSU University School
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY