

Updated April 6, 2020

Per Governor Holcomb's executive order, New Castle school buildings will be closed for on site instruction through the end of the school year. Below are updated guidelines to assist families in our continuous learning plan for our students.

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

How was this decision made? We continue to follow the guidelines and mandates of Governor Holcomb, the Department of Education and the Henry County Health Department.

Will every day we miss be scheduled as eLearning? NO. Beginning the week of April 6th, we will have eLearning days on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays each week through the end of the year. The last student day for instruction will be Friday, May 22, 2020. Teacher office hours will be 10:00-2:00 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during eLearning days. Teachers will also be mindful of family needs and communication and will respond in a timely fashion on Tuesdays and Thursdays. A copy of the new modified schedule is posted under the COVID-19 banner on our corporation website. All grade 3+ assignments for eLearning will be due by 11:59Pm each Friday to count for attendance. No new graded assignments will be assigned on Fridays.

Will students and teachers be able to interact LIVE on eLearning days? Yes. Teacher and student devices for grades 3+ will be enabled to use ZOOM starting the week of April 13, 2020. This will allow teachers the possibility to interact live with their students for instruction or to video lessons and activities to post to their Google Classroom. Grade k-2 students may also utilize ZOOM as possible by families through home devices. Schedules for LIVE ZOOM meetings will be communicated by each building and teacher.

Will extra school supplies be provided? - Yes. Watch for our first school supply distribution the week of April 13 to support this extended at home learning. The location, time and procedure will be communicated ahead.

What will k-2 students do for eLearning once their current packets are complete? We will communicate the plan for continuous learning for k-2 students very soon through your building principals and teachers in preparation for current packets to be completed during the week of April 20.

Is there help if I have technology needs during this closure? Yes. Our tech team is ready to help between the hours of 8am -6pm. The Tech Hotline is 765-593-6691.

For additional internet needs go to: <https://www.internetessentials.com>

or

- [Comcast COVID-19 response](#): offers free WiFi for 2 months to low-income families; all Xfinity hot-spots are free to the public during this time.
- [Charter Free Internet offer for 2 months](#)
- [AT&T COVID-19 response](#): offers open hot-spots, unlimited data to existing customers, and \$10/month plans to low-income families.
- [Verizon COVID-19 response](#)

- [Sprint COVID-19 response](#): provides unlimited data to existing customers. Starting Tuesday, 3/17/2020 will allow all handsets to enable hot-spots for 60 days at no extra charge.
- [T-Mobile COVID-19 response](#): Unlimited data to existing customers. Coming soon, will allow all handsets to enable hot-spots for 60 days at no extra charge.

We are also exploring the possibility of expanding our WIFI capabilities to reach the parking lots so parents without internet access may drive to any school parking lot and students would be able to log on.

Medications: How do I pick up my child's medication if the schools are closed? Please contact your school and arrangements will be made with your principal for you to pick up medication on days we have allocated for staff entry. Administrators will be in buildings at scheduled times and can meet you at the school door .

Will I be able to retrieve basic items from my child's desk/locker? - Yes. We will plan and communicate toward the end of the school year how to get those items .

Has the date of Kindergarten Round-up been changed? Yes. We will keep you posted how we will enroll our next Kindergarten class as the COVID19 constraints are lifted.

What else has been cancelled or changed? All school sporting , co-curricular , and extracurricular activities have been canceled for the rest of this school year.

Prom and Graduation: Will these things take place? Unfortunately, due to recent Executive Orders and the declaration of National Emergency in response to COVID-19, prom and graduation ceremonies will not occur as originally planned. Families should not purchase tickets or attire for them. We know these events are milestone events for our students and we will continue to discuss options for these activities to potentially take place after the COVID19 social restraints are lifted.

Are there event and calendar changes I should know about in the Career Center? **Yes**. The New Castle Career Center will follow the same eLearning plan as New Castle School Corporation. NCCC has removed students from clinical sites and no longer has a requirement for students to be employed. Students should contact instructors regarding certification testing.

Career Center Early College Classes

Early College students must continue with assignments, online participation, projects, and tests in order to earn credit. English and Communication courses count as the high school graduation requirements for English 12 and all courses will be on the high school transcript. The Early College courses will conclude May 16. Students should be participating in Ivylearn daily.

For more information regarding Ivy Learn, Please contact Whitney Chriswell at wcatron@ivytech.edu.

Food Pantry: Will the Food Pantry days be discontinued? No. As of April 6th, we will continue to still have food pantry days at the usual schools and at the regularly scheduled times. Distribution will take place outdoors instead of inside, however. Below are the schedules:

- Eastwood - 3rd Wednesday of every month - Will have one Wednesday, March 18th - Drive up (weather permitting)
- Parker - 3rd Monday of each month - Will have on Monday, March 16th - Drive up
- Wilbur Wright - 2nd Thursday of every month - Had one for March last night

New Castle School Food Service Meals: Will meals be provided during the time of temporary closure?

Yes. New Castle Food Service will offer free meals to our students during the extended school closure. We will continue to have a drive thru meal pick up at Wilbur Wright, Eastwood and Parker from 2:30p.m. - 4:30 p.m. each Wednesday. FREE meals will be given to ANY student under the age of 18. **Students do not have to attend these schools to participate . Families may pick up at any site. Parents do not have to have the students with them when they pick up meals.** Pick up will be at the front entrance of each building. Parents will not need to leave their cars to pick up meals. Questions about this service should be directed to Dee Orick, Director of Food Service at 765-521-7240 or dorick@ncweb.me . Please continue to also watch social media and listen to one call communication for weekly updates and guidance to this process.

School Corporation Playgrounds are closed until further notice. This pertains to playground equipment areas only. At this time, open areas remain open to the public but social distancing must be followed as established by the CDC.