

New Castle Community School Corporation

Community Education Center, 322 Elliott Avenue, New Castle, Indiana 47362

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To our New Castle Schools Families, August 16, 2019

We are planning to once again utilize eLearning in our schools k-12 this year. We will use this form of learning for **ALL** inclement weather days. **New this year will also be two (2) planned eLearning Days, one per semester.**

Planned eLearning dates will be: September 24, 2019 and March 11, 2020
*** Please note this a change from the original school calendar established for the year.**

These planned eLearning Days from home will allow elementary schools to have parent - teacher conferences and secondary teachers will be able to participate in building level professional development on those days.

This all continues to be possible thanks to our continued effort to bring blended learning experiences to our students through our 1:1 technology program. These school days from home will allow for less gaps in our students' learning as they will have real time lessons they are currently learning in class to complete from home. These days will again allow us to avoid using Spring Break days or days at the end of the year for makeup snow days, which would also come later in the year and not support current instruction. Lastly, having this designed ahead also allows families to safely plan ahead for spring break and the end of the year.

Also built into our calendar this year are device take home practice nights for elementary grades 3-6 and practice eLearning days at school for elementary grades k-6 in late August and September. Schools will communicate with you these dates as they come along.

Included in this letter is an updated FAQ with many specific details that we hope will answer many of your questions about how these eLearning days will look for your student this year.

Revised Planned eLearning dates and the FAQ can also be found on our corporation website.

<https://www.nccsc.k12.in.us/>

We look forward to continuing eLearning in our schools this year!

Dr. Shoemaker
Mrs. Smith
Mrs. Bergum

New Castle Schools eLearning FAQ

1- What is an eLearning Day?

The new Indiana Department of Education eLearning Day Program can be used on a day of inclement weather, on a make-up day for inclement weather, or on a planned day (professional learning for teachers, parent meetings, etc.). Additional information from the Indiana Department of Education about eLearning can be found at: <https://www.doe.in.gov/elearning/elearning-day-program>

New Castle Schools will be utilizing **eLearning Days for all snow days** during the 2019-2020 school year. We will also utilize **2 planned eLearning Days /one each semester** for elementary parent conferences and professional development for teachers at NCMS and NCHS.

Those dates are: Sept. 24, 2019 and March 11, 2020

2- How will my student receive assignments for the eLearning Day?

For grades 3-12, learning objectives, instructions, and assignments will be posted in the student's Learning Management System called Google Classroom. Students in these grades have regularly worked in these learning platforms, have practiced at school for eLearning Days, and elementary students have practiced taking their devices home and have practiced what an eLearning Day should look like in class as well.

Grades pre K -2 as well our Life Skills classes and Pre School kids will have packets of work and any needed supplies provided to them and will not complete assignments online.

3-How long is the assignment completion window?

All assignments, either paper or online, will be due 4 school days after the eLearning Day. Teachers will not designate class time when they return to school to complete work, but students do not have to turn in all work on the eLearning Day.

4-How is attendance taken on the eLearning Day?

All students will be counted present for the eLearning Day as long as all assignments are completed and turned in within the designated completion window. If a student fails to turn in any assignment by the completion date, the school secretary is notified and the student will be marked absent for that school day.

5-Will any of the school buildings be open on the eLearning Day?

For inclement weather days, no buildings will be opened on our eLearning Days. Since we are using these days for inclement weather, schools would not normally be open on those days.

For the planned eLearning Days, Two schools will be open to serve lunch on planned eLearning Days and that information is below.

6-What if I need to get in contact with someone on an eLearning Day?

Teachers will have set office hours on eLearning days and/or on the days we return from eLearning to help students as needed with assignments. Students can communicate with a teacher during these hours thru school email, Google Classroom or apps such as REMIND. Teachers will specify to families what is available for their students and families to communicate and their specific office hours beforehand.

7-Will additional student support and/or additional building hours be offered?

There will be a Tech Hotline available to students and families for any technology questions or problems from 8Am-8Pm on an eLearning Day. That number will be 765-593-6691.

8- Will lunch be provided at any building on eLearning Days ?

For inclement weather eLearning Days - No, there will not be food served at our schools on eLearning Days. This is also because we are using these days for inclement weather situations and our buildings are not usually open on those days as we consider the safety of families.

For the planned eLearning Days- Yes, *Parker and Wilbur Wright will be open to serve lunch to any New Castle Schools student from 11:30 AM- 12:30 PM.*

Other Resources to utilize for eLearning

- Should you be interested or in need of a low cost internet source for your home:
<https://www.highspeedinternet.com/resources/are-there-government-programs-to-help-me-get-internet-service>
- New Castle Public Library is a good place to work on eLearning lessons online if internet is needed or a problem at home.