

Information highlighted in green was updated after originally posted (NC Schools: Temporarily closed through Friday, May 1st)

From March 16th through **May 3rd**, New Castle school buildings will be closed except for essential staff. This action will help prevent the potential spread of COVID-19 and will allow for our custodial and maintenance staff to deep clean buildings and buses.

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

How was this decision made? Although Henry County has not had a positive case of COVID-19, statistically, the more the virus spreads, the greater the likelihood someone here will contract it. To consider every aspect of this decision, the corporation worked directly with the Henry County Department of Health and took advisement from the Indiana Department of Health, the Governor's office, as well as the Indiana Department of Education.

Will every day we miss be scheduled as eLearning? NO. We will have eLearning on Mondays and Wednesdays of the weeks of March 16th, **April 6, April 13, April 20, April 27 with assignments due the end of the day each Thursday of the week** (Teacher office hours will be 10:00-2:00 on Mondays and Wednesdays during eLearning days). Teachers will also be mindful of family needs and communication and will respond in a timely fashion on the established waiver days. **From March 16 until May 1st**, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays have been designated as "waiver days" which the Governor made available yesterday afternoon. We are hopeful and are planning for a return date of **May 4th** for students and staff. A copy of the new modified schedule is posted under the COVID-19 banner on our corporation website.

Is there help if I have technology needs during this closure? Yes. Our tech team is ready to help between the hours of 8am -8pm. The Tech Hotline is 765-593-6691. For additional internet needs go to:
<https://www.internetessentials.com/>

Medications: How do I pick up my child's medication if the schools are closed? During the week of March 16 or April 6, medication may be picked up by a legal guardian or parent. Please call your child's school ahead of time and arrange a time with the office staff to pick up the medication.

Field Trips: Are all field trips cancelled from March 16th through the end of this school year? Yes, however, it is possible the 6th grade Washington DC trip may be moved to the spring of 2021, thereby making it a 7th grade trip to DC. More information regarding this **change has been mailed to families and is on our website under the Resources tab.**

What else has been cancelled or changed? In addition to Field trips this year, the following have been cancelled due to our temporary closure: The Elementary Track Meet, all events and practices (scheduled or optional) between March 16-**May 1st**, (including Band, Chorus, Drama, Athletics, Speech, etc.). Additionally, this closure would include any leases or outside organizations which use New Castle School facilities. The Elementary Math Bowl will be held at each school instead of the NCMS gym. **All mandatory State Testing has been cancelled for this academic year.**

Is the Girls Gymnastics State Finals Meet Cancelled? **No**. Our Ladies Trojans compete as a team at the state finals for the first time in nearly two decades and the second time in school history! They have demonstrated phenomenal tenacity and resilience and we wish them all the best. This event will be televised

but unfortunately, no spectators are allowed. We will have a police escort for the girls this Saturday morning leaving New Castle High at 7:15 am. Honk if you see them going to the event!

Has the date of Kindergarten Round-up been changed? Yes. K Round-up has been moved from April 8th to May 6th.

Prom: Will we have prom? We are holding off on that decision until the week of April 6th. By then we will be able to assess the status of the virus' impact.

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 has given all employed students the opportunity to complete alternative assignments if families do not want them to work. We will work with students on their employment status. Students can work with program instructors regarding specific situations.

All field trips have been canceled at this point, including competitions. Transportation will not be provided for April testing. Students are able to transport themselves to test sites. May testing will be decided in April. Students should communicate with instructors with testing questions. ***If students choose not to take industry certification exams, this could impact their Technical Honors Diploma eligibility.**

Early College Class Schedule

- Early College classes will not meet the week of March 16th.
- Early College will have virtual classes on March 23-26.
- The Early College semester will now end on May 14th.

Virtual classes are held through Ivy Learn. Students need their Ivy Tech username and password in order to login to Ivy Learn. For more information regarding Ivy Learn, Please contact Whitney Chriswell at wcatron@ivytech.edu.

Food Pantry: Will the Food Pantry days be discontinued? No. We will 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 have another drive thru meal pick up on **Wednesday, March 25th at Wilbur Wright, Eastwood Elementary and Parker Elementary from 2:30p.m. until 4:30 p.m.** FREE meals will be given to ANY student under the age of 18. They do not have to attend these schools to participate. Parents must 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