



# Neskowin Valley School

## Reopening Campus Planning

**Neskowin Valley School is committed to doing everything possible to safely reopen our campus for Fall 2020.**

Given all of the work we've done over the past weeks, we have a clear sense of the challenges of reopening - both those we can control and those we cannot. We are guided by a clear goal - to do all we can to ensure the safety of students and members of our school community - and we are optimistic that we will be able to open safely for the 2020-21 school year. We will continue to communicate Neskowin Valley School's reopening plans, including any possible changes, throughout the summer.

---

*Opening schools in the fall is a complex, evolving process. Below are some FAQ's that NVS is able to address with the information that we know at the time of this draft.*

### **When will the NVS school year begin and should we expect any other changes to the school year calendar?**

The [2020-2021 school year](#) will start on August 31, 2020. This is earlier than in past years, however, due to the long break from in-person schooling and a late Labor Day this calendar year, we feel like this is the best scenario. Starting school at the end of August will also allow us to maintain our typical end of school schedule with our last day of school falling on June 11, 2021, rather than a week later on June 18th. (See attached the 2020-2021 School Calendar.) We recognize that this may create some conflicts with existing summer plans and wanted to share the date early to accommodate rescheduling. School events outlined on the calendar are subject to change or cancellation due to COVID regulations. As we learn more about the requirements and restrictions of group gatherings, this information will be shared with parents.

### **What resources/guidelines will NVS follow to determine any changes to the reopening status?**

All public and private schools in Oregon are required to follow the guidelines outlined in the Oregon Department of Education document, [Ready Schools, Safe Learners](#). We are actively monitoring federal and state public health guidance as medical experts continue to learn more about the virus on a daily basis. We are monitoring schools, camps, and other organizations that have reopened to understand what they are learning as they navigate the new challenges in student safety and will be planning our reopening guidelines accordingly.

### **What kind of social distancing guidelines and expectations can students and parents expect when they return?**

Parents will be required to drop off and pick up their children outside of the school building to help maintain stable cohorts and social distancing requirements. NVS staff will be facilitating the safe drop off

and pick up of students each day. A daily health screening of all students and staff will be required prior to entering the building.

Each classroom will be considered a stable cohort and will have limited interaction with other teachers, students, and staff. Classrooms will be set up to allow for required social distancing and schedules will be established to minimize the number of students in shared public spaces at one time. Students will eat lunch with their cohort either in classrooms or outside. Specific entrances, exits, and bathrooms will be assigned to each classroom. Face-covering or shields will be required for all staff on campus that come within 6 feet of a student. Students will have the option to wear a face-covering or shield while on campus. Outside, social distancing protocols will be in effect.

Based on current requirements, the reopening plan will restrict parents, volunteers, and visitors from entering the school on a regular basis. A process that requires all visitors to schedule a visit, sign in/out, participate in a mandatory health screening, and all social distancing and face-covering guidelines will be strictly enforced. Visitation will also be restricted to necessary building access such as building maintenance, scheduled parent-teacher meetings, etc.

### **How will the quality of the overall student experience be maintained?**

It is our strong belief that the quality of the student experience is rooted in the on-campus experience. We have a time-tested approach of investing in the lives of our students and engaging them in an outdoor education model that cannot be found elsewhere. Our mission to teach students to explore, discover and create while being immersed in the outdoors, to uphold the small classroom experience, and to offer each child an individualized approach to education that values and nurtures their individuality has not changed.

### **What training will be available that supports the health and safety of our students and community?**

We have included additional staff workdays in our 2020-2021 calendar to allow for proper staff training on all new policies, protocols, and expectations that are established to keep our students and school community safe. Upon returning to campus, students will also receive guidance and training, including the basics such as proper handwashing and social distancing with peers, as well as more specific expectations regarding classroom conduct. All staff will regularly guide students to ensure that they understand the expectations required to keep the community safe.

### **Will parents have a chance to share their re-opening concerns?**

Yes. We encourage you to share your thoughts, questions, and concerns via email [info@neskowinvalleyschool.com](mailto:info@neskowinvalleyschool.com), in order to ensure that your ideas are explored during our planning process. Our reopening plan will be submitted to the state no later than August 15, 2020.