



Neshaminy School District

Administrative Offices • 2250 Langhorne-Yardley Road • Langhorne, PA 19047

September 3, 2020

Dear Neshaminy Secondary Families,



Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year! On Tuesday, September 8, 2020, students will begin the school year in an online learning environment. Although our goal is to return to school for in-person instruction, we are scheduled for Online Learning during the month of September. This letter provides details for both students and parents on how to begin the year successfully.

As a District, we will continue to use Canvas as our Learning Management System (K-12) to help coordinate Online Instruction for students and teachers. Canvas is a Learning Management System that connects all the digital tools and resources teachers will use to deliver instruction in one place. Think of it as a blank “canvas” where teachers build/create lessons. The Canvas Platform becomes the launch point for seamless integration with the educational tools/apps.

Canvas:

All students will use Canvas for both asynchronous and synchronous days. To access Canvas, students should follow the steps below:

How to access Canvas:

1. Students will log into their Neshaminy Device with their District ID and Password.
 - Please contact your child’s school if they do not have their login and password.
2. Go to Clever. 
3. Once in Clever look for the Canvas App and click on it. 
4. The Canvas login screen will appear.
 - Student’s login and password should automatically appear after a few seconds.
 - If it does not appear, students should use their ID and password that was used to login to their device, just remove the @neshaminy.org from the six digit ID for the login name in Canvas.
2. Students can access each course from their Canvas Dashboard.
3. Zoom Synchronous Classroom links can be found in the following locations:
 - a. Canvas Calendar (The calendar can be found on the tool bar located on the left hand side within Canvas).
 - b. Canvas “To Do” List
 - c. Teachers may also have a Zoom link on their homepage
 - d. Teachers may also place the link in a Canvas announcement

September Calendar:

The September calendar below outlines both asynchronous and synchronous days. Monday through Thursday students will work asynchronously in Canvas and every Friday students will participate in period-by period synchronous Zoom classes.

- Canvas Course work will be posted for the entire week by 6:00 AM every Monday.
(Next week Canvas lessons will be posted by Tuesday morning due to the holiday on Monday)
- Students can begin working asynchronously once work is posted.

Although the work Monday through Thursday is asynchronous, we expect students to log into Canvas each day to work on their lessons. We understand based on family situations that the times students participate may be different on an asynchronous day. The overall goal is for students to participate in all Online Learning lessons and assignments as both attendance and grading are required this year. Unlike Online Learning in the spring, we are no longer following a pass/fail method of grading.

SEPTEMBER 2020 (Online Learning with Staggered Student Orientations)				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
7 Labor Day *No School	8 Students K-12 First Day of School <i>(Synchronous Welcome Meetings)</i>	9 All Grades Asynchronous Online	10 All Grades Asynchronous Online	11 <i>All Grades Online Synchronous Instruction (Test Run)</i>
14 <i>In School Orientation</i> <i>Grades K, 5, 9 Blue</i> All Other Grades Asynchronous Online	15 <i>In School Orientation</i> <i>Grades K, 5, 9 Red</i> All Other Grades Asynchronous Online	16 <i>In School Orientation</i> <i>Grades 1, 6, 10 Blue</i> All Other Grades Asynchronous Online	17 <i>In School Orientation</i> <i>Grades 1, 6, 10 Red</i> All Other Grades Asynchronous Online	18 <i>All Grades Online Synchronous Instruction</i>
21 <i>In School Orientation</i> <i>Grades 2, 7, 11 Blue</i> All Other Grades Asynchronous Online	22 <i>In School Orientation</i> <i>Grades 2, 7, 11 Red</i> All Other Grades Asynchronous Online	23 <i>In School Orientation</i> <i>Grades 3, 8, 12 Blue</i> All Other Grades Asynchronous Online	24 <i>In School Orientation</i> <i>Grades 3, 8, 12 Red</i> All Other Grades Asynchronous Online	25 <i>All Grades Online Synchronous Instruction</i>
28 Yom Kippur *No School	29 <i>In School Orientation</i> <i>Grade 4 Blue</i> All Other Grades Asynchronous Online	30 <i>In School Orientation</i> <i>Grade 4 Red</i> All Other Grades Asynchronous Online	1 All Grades Asynchronous Online	2 <i>All Grades Online Synchronous Instruction</i>

Asynchronous (Canvas) Days:

Asynchronous lessons and assignments will be posted in each Canvas course. During asynchronous days, students are working independently at their own pace. Lessons are not live, but instead are self-paced in Canvas.

Asynchronous lessons will:

- provide approximately 30 minutes of learning/assignments per course/content areas.
- include teacher-made videos.
- include assignments that will also be used for attendance purposes.
- include assignments that will be graded for content/accuracy.

Synchronous (Zoom) Days:

For the month of September, the first day of school (Tuesday, September 8, 2020) and then each Friday thereafter are scheduled as Synchronous (Zoom) days. Students are expected to attend Synchronous Days using Zoom.

Expectations:

- All Secondary students (Grades 5-12) should attend each Zoom class following their period-by-period schedule during normal school hours.
- Attendance will be taken.
- Student are expected to behave appropriately during Synchronous Zoom classes. Zoom expectations will be reviewed by each teacher.

Synchronous lessons will:

- run approximately 30-45 minutes.
- include teacher directed instruction per course/content area.
- provide opportunity for class discussion.
- be recorded.

Office Hours/Clinics:

Teachers K-12 will offer Office Hours/Clinic on asynchronous days (Monday – Thursday) for thirty minutes. Teachers will provide a Zoom link in their course for students to join the office hour/clinic. Specific times of individual office hour/clinic will be posted in each Canvas Course.

Purpose of Office Hour/Clinics:

- Social/Emotional Wellness Check-Ins
- Clarify expectations for assignments
- General Q&A pertaining to your class
- Provide support as needed

From time to time, conflicts are going to occur with teachers' schedules, trainings, and meetings. If for some reason, an office hour/clinic needs to be changed and or canceled; teachers will make the necessary adjustments and provide an announcement in Canvas for students. New Zoom links will be provided for the new time offered.

Attendance:

Attendance will be taken during asynchronous and synchronous days. We are required to keep attendance for all instructional days by the Commonwealth. Teachers will take daily attendance for each course.

Synchronous Zoom Attendance:

- Teachers will take roll based on students in the Zoom Class.

Asynchronous Attendance:

- Teachers will take roll based on assignment/task submission.
- Assignment submission does not provide students with a participation grade, but instead may be used for both attendance and a grade.

- Assignments will also be graded separate from the attendance.

Teachers will begin taking attendance on September 8, 2020. We understand that this may present challenges for some families. Students are encouraged to participate in their Canvas lessons daily. However, attendance will still be granted if the assignment is submitted for asynchronous work during the given week, not specifically that day it was assigned.

For synchronous days, students are expected to attend live Zoom classes as the virtual face-to-face environment presents the most engaging, interactive experience than other options. We will gauge attendance in the live lessons on September 8 and September 11, 2020. If your child is unable to attend these live sessions, we will develop an alternative to the Zoom days beginning on Friday, September 18, 2020.

Executive Summary for Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at the start of the school day:

Students should:

1. log in to their Neshaminy Device with your ID and Password.
2. review and follow their student schedule.
3. access Canvas for each course.
4. click on Zoom Synchronous Classroom Links in their Canvas Calendar to participate in all course scheduled for their first day of school.

What parents can do to help?

- Remind your child to charge their device.
- Update your parent communication in Home Access. Please make sure your email and cell number are entered correctly.
- Ask your child to check his/her Neshaminy email daily (Secondary Students).
- Be patient as we all work through all situations.

Finally, you will receive additional information regarding bell schedules, rotations days, and staff office hours/clinic schedules from your building principals tomorrow in preparation for next week. You will also receive information regarding grading from individual schools and teachers in the coming weeks.

Please use the following guide for asking questions or concerns:

- Student schedules, attendance, grades, and/or staff office hours:

Please contact the Principal at your child's school

SCHOOL	PHONE NUMBER
Neshaminy High School	215-809-6100
Maple Point Middle School	215-809-6230
Poquessing Middle School	215-809-6210
Sandburg Middle School	215-809-6220

- General questions:

Please consider "Asking Trish" at 215-809-7777 or questions@neshaminy.org

For problems and/or questions with Chromebooks, Clever, Canvas, and/or joining Zoom classes, please call **Neshaminy's Remote Learning Hotline 215-809-6390**. The hotline will be open to parents and students everyday next week beginning September 8, 2020 during the hours of 8:00 AM- 3:00 PM.

If you are new to Neshaminy and would like to participate in our Live Stream sessions demonstrating how to use the Chromebook and access Clever and Canvas, and Zoom links, please join us tonight at 6:00 PM and or tomorrow at 12:00 PM.

Click on this link to access the Live Stream session: <https://live.myvrspot.com/st?cid=YjVhMm>

Thank you for your continued support of Neshaminy and our online instructional programs.

Sincerely,

Michelle Burkholder
Assistant to the Superintendent/Director of Elementary Education
mburkholder@neshaminy.org
215-809-6555