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August 4, 2021

Dear NBCA Families,

We hope you are having a wonderful summer! We have been busy planning for the fall and we are eager to share our plans with you. Throughout the entire 20/21 school year and continuing into this summer, our leadership team has been monitoring the guidance and recommended protocols of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Kent Health Department to ensure your child's safety, our top priority. Safety has always been and will always be of the utmost importance to NBCA as we navigate plans to allow for your child's learning success.

### **In-Person Learning**

This fall, NBCA is returning to in-person learning for the fall. We will not be offering a virtual program. We know how critical to student learning it is for students to be present in school. We are so eager to see all your children face-to-face this fall and are ready and equipped to welcome them back into our classrooms.

### **Health and Safety**

We will continue to follow protocols that have kept us safe, including daily health screening and positive case reporting, disinfecting spaces frequently, and regular hand washing and sanitation. We will encourage students to social distance and be considerate of others' space. We will request that you not send your child to school if they or anyone in your household is sick. Below are the health and safety protocols we will implement for the 2021/22 school:

- **Masking:** Masks are highly recommended but not required per recent guidance from the Center for Disease Control. To date, the county health department has not issued a mask mandate in response to this new recommendation.

Therefore, in the absence of a new law or mandate, parents/guardians will make decisions for their student(s) regarding facial coverings, COVID-19 testing, and vaccinations. It is important to note that some students and staff may still choose to wear masks even if they are not required to do so, and we support them in this choice.

Face masks are required on school buses. The Department of Public Health issued an [order](#) that required face masks to be worn by all people while on public transportation, including school buses.

- **Screening:** We will continue to screen for symptoms daily for all people entering the school building. Staff and visitors will continue daily Crisis Go check-ins before entry. Parents and guardians will be asked to screen their children daily for COVID symptoms before sending them to school.

- **Social Distancing:** We will continue to encourage social distancing when practical.
- **Cleaning and disinfecting:** We will continue to clean and disinfect surfaces frequently, multiple times a day.
- **Building Updates:** Over the summer, we have deep cleaned all classrooms, and provided HEPPA air filters for all classrooms.
- **Reporting:** School programs must report positive cases of COVID-19 to the local health department within 24 hours.
- **Contact Tracing:** Schools are required to notify close contacts of their exposure to a positive case after reporting this to the local health department. The local health department will continue to provide guidance on the next steps.
- **Quarantine:** People who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 should quarantine and monitor themselves for symptoms for 10 days following exposure. The local health department has the authority to mandate quarantine. If you show any symptoms of the virus, you should immediately isolate and get tested. Fully vaccinated persons who meet the criteria are no longer required to quarantine following exposure to someone with COVID-19.

Throughout the next few weeks, we will monitor COVID-19 numbers for our area and will continue to evaluate any additional guidance from the CDC and the local health department. Final decisions about protocols for the upcoming school year will be based on information about local COVID numbers. Prior to the start of the new school year, we will provide additional communication to keep you updated.

### Helpful Links

Please visit the NBCA school website, [www.newbranches.org](http://www.newbranches.org) for class supply lists and the 21-22 school calendar.

### [State of Michigan COVID FAQ](#)

Thank you for your continued support of our school. We are excited about the upcoming school year, and we are eager to see all of the students back in the classrooms on August 25. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

In Partnership,

Terry Larkin & Kristen Crawford  
Administration