



Back-to-School 21-22

Safe Start

Welcome to a new school year!

New Branches Charter Academy is committed to safeguarding the health and well-being of our students and staff while continuing to provide a safe, engaging, and positive learning environment. Our team has been working closely with the Kent County Health Department to evaluate current COVID-19 trends and CDC recommendations for the 2021-2022 school year. This is an ongoing process and will continue to be evaluated and updated throughout the school year.

Thank you for your continued support in making this a great school year for our students!
Terry Larkin & Kristen Crawford

Parent Options

Face Masks

- Masks are required for all students and staff at NBCA until further notice. Thank you for providing a mask for your child(ren) each day.

COVID-19 Vaccine

- Receiving the COVID-19 vaccine is the personal choice of parents and students, and it will not be required for students to attend school.

Current Mandates

School Transportation

- Masks are required on the bus for all students and staff. Students must wear a mask at all times. Please come prepared with a mask upon boarding the bus.

Masks

- The Kent County Health Department is currently mandating that masks be worn in all Pre-K through Sixth Grade buildings. Due to this mandate, masks must be worn by everyone inside our building.

Quarantine & Contact Tracing

- We will continue to support the local health department in their requirements for reporting positive or probably COVID-19 cases. We encourage you to visit our website for School Updates as they occur <https://newbranches.org/school-updates/>
- The local health department will be communicating any required quarantines based on testing status:
 - **Positive COVID-19 test in last 90 days:** will not be required to quarantine unless symptoms develop
 - **Unvaccinated students and staff:** will be required to quarantine if there is a positive or probable case in their household or are connected to an outbreak. The health department will notify all individuals and requirements regarding quarantine.
 - If your student is ill, please do not send them to school. Call the office by 8:30 am to report any absences and reason for the absence, (616)243-6221.
 - Students are expected to continue learning during a quarantine period. The classroom teacher will coordinate the learning plan with parents if a student must be quarantined. If a student is too ill to learn during quarantine, an arrangement will be created between the teacher and parent to complete and submit all missed assignments.

Learning & School Services

Classes & Teaching

- Classes will be in-person with a normal schedule. Visit our website for a copy of the calendar www.newbranches.org. We will cohort classes as much as possible. All students will have access to Canvas, our learning management system. Daily schedules, assignments, and resources will be posted on the classroom teachers page for students and parents to access.

Food Services

- A free breakfast and lunch will be provided for all students and will be eaten in the classroom.

Athletics

- We will not be running fall sports (volleyball) due to high rates of COVID in the county. We will re-evaluate the risk for winter and spring sports closer to the start dates of the boys and girls basketball seasons. All students will have the opportunity for movement and outdoor activities through Environmental Science, Physical Education classes, and daily recess.

Mitigation & Safety

- Robust cleaning, sanitizing, and mitigation strategies have been implemented in addition to limiting visitor access, daily staff and visitor health screenings, school supplied PPE/hand sanitizer, and arrival and dismissal procedures that help decrease congestion.
- We will continue to emphasize education for students and staff on best practices for preventing the spread of germs and viruses and staying home if they feel sick.