



RETURN TO SCHOOL GUIDE

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR OBJECTIVE:

To provide a safe learning environment for in-person education activities for the Fall of 2020, as well as providing an effective e-Learning option for our students if needed or desired.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020
THIS PLAN IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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New Summit Return-to-School Guide

Over the past three months, our task forces, committees, and teams— along with other professionals in the Pikes Peak region—have worked through numerous options to safely reopen our school.

New Summit staff has built our reopening plan guided by decisions that safeguard the strategic objective, mission, vision, and core principles in our "[We Believe](#)" statements.

Although COVID-19 has changed many plans and created much uncertainty, we remain committed to our overall objective, which is to provide a safe learning environment for in-person students and to provide an effective eLearning program for online students.

Please be aware that there may be changes and modifications in the days and months ahead. We are required to comply with orders from the Governor and the [Colorado Department of Health](#) and [El Paso County Public Health](#), as well as rely on guidance from the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) and the [CDC](#).

No matter what happens, we will continue with gratitude for your patience, encouragement, and support during these challenging times.

Overview & Executive Summary

School Mission: To build a safe educational community that emphasizes a love of learning and inspires and empowers students to reach New Summit.

School Vision: Boldly reaching New Summits while positively influencing the world

2020-2021 School Year Strategic Objective: To provide a safe learning environment for in-person education activities for the Fall of 2020, as well as provide an effective eLearning option for our students if needed or desired

New Summit students start school on August 24th, 2020, a week later than originally planned. This delay will allow for more professional development and training for our teachers, as well as more time to set up classrooms. Our [school calendar](#) for the year will remain the same.

A meet-the-teacher night has been planned for August 18. More details about this can be found [here](#). Our learning options for both Elementary and Middle School students will remain the same at this time, and families may choose to switch learning options at the end of the first semester.

Learning Options

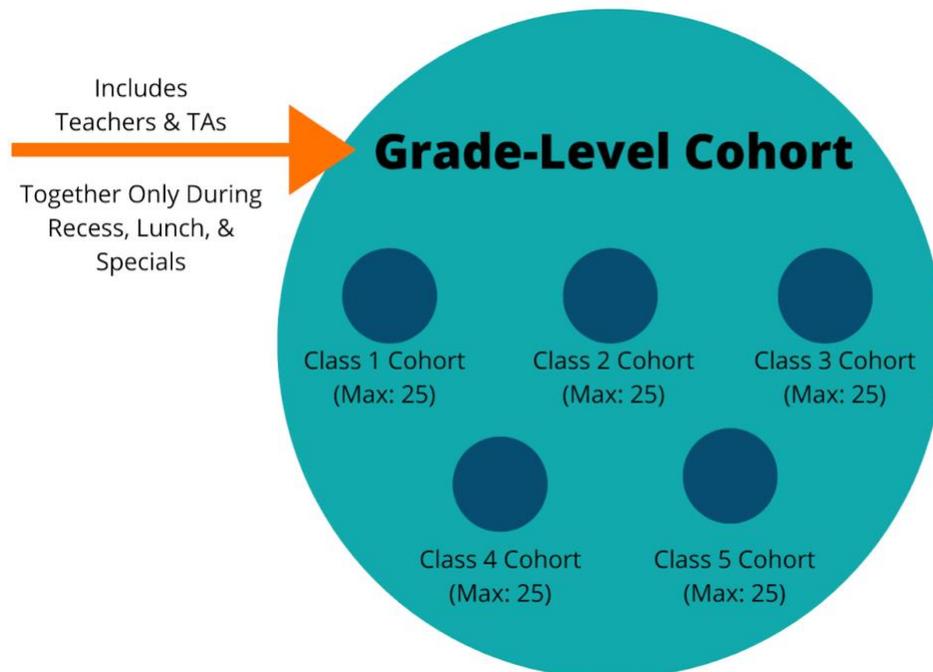
Full-Time In-Person Learning	Students attend class in-person 5 days a week.
Full-Time eLearning	Students attend school via eLearning.
Part-Time Homeschooling	Parents homeschool their students with the option of coming in 1 day per week for classes. Students would forfeit their full-time spot.

New Summit Charter Academy Learning Options

Families may choose to switch learning options at the end of the first semester. In-person students who are ill and required to stay home will be supported by their regular teacher through Google Classroom. All in-person students will be learning how to use the Google Classroom platform during their in-person classes.

Learning Option A: In-Person

- 🕒 Five days per week. Similar to typical in-person learning schedules, with modifications for health and safety requirements and recommendations.
- 👥 Students and staff will be in grade-level cohorts (Middle School is considered 1 cohort).



- ☺ Students will have all regularly scheduled specials, electives, and recess times. Students will be attending specials with their grade-level cohorts each week. They will have the same special all week long, then switch to another special each week. They will continue to cycle through each special, one week at a time, for the remainder of the year.
- ☺ Students will be offered grab-and-go breakfasts and packaged lunches in the cafeteria. Students will sit together in the cafeteria with their grade-level cohorts and practice social distancing similar to in the classrooms.
- ☺ Masks will only be required for grades 5 through 8 and will only be worn when unable to social distance or in common areas (bathrooms, hallways, atrium, etc.).
- ☺ Students with IEPs, 504s, ALPs, and ELL services will still receive accommodations and support.

Learning Option B: eLearning

- ☺ Five days per week at home, learning utilizing asynchronous and synchronous learning and supports via online coursework.
- ☺ Students will be using a comprehensive, state-approved, NSCA teacher-supported online curriculum. NSCA staff will have the ability to supplement New Summit's approved curriculums as needed and when available from the classroom teacher.
- ☺ Students will be able to participate in similar specials and electives online. This will not be the same as in-person but will guide the student through similar activities available for the home environment.
- ☺ Each student will be assigned a classroom teacher as if they were doing in-person learning. The teacher will be responsible to support the learning coach with the grading, attendance, and participation in benchmark assessments and progress-monitoring assessments.
- ☺ Students will also be assigned a Learning Coach to support them during eLearning. The coach will be available to help guide students, answer questions, make connections, and support the students through the curriculum. The Learning Coach will work with the classroom teacher (co-teaching model) to make sure the curriculum lines up with and is as similar as possible to what the in-person students are doing while also supporting the differentiation needed for the student.
- ☺ Students with IEPs, 504s, ALPs, and ELL services will still receive accommodations and support.

Why is there no hybrid option?

Our goal has always been to have students in the building every day. All the options presented back in June were possibilities. After looking at the operations of a hybrid model, we realized we do not need a hybrid option due to the cohorts/groups that have been set up and the social distancing protocols we will have in place. If the state and local health departments require changes to the orders, we will look at hybrid learning as an option so students can still attend school in-person.

Full-Time In-Person Learning – Option A

The full-time in-person learning option is five days a week during the regularly scheduled school hours. Families do not need to sign up for or re-enroll for this option if they are already enrolled at New Summit Charter Academy. New families will be asked which learning option they choose at the time of enrollment.

School Hours:

- ☺ Elementary: 8:05 AM - 3:05 PM
- ☺ Middle School: 7:50 AM - 3:30 PM

Cohorts

In-person students and staff will be required to stay with and travel within their classroom and grade-level cohorts. Because there has been no defined number given to schools by the state, New Summit has decided to define our cohorts by grade level. These cohorts will all go together to recess, specials, lunch, and resource time.

The only exception to this is middle school because it is so small. Middle school (grades 6-8) will be together as one cohort. Middle school students will continue to switch classes/teachers for different subjects similar to last year; however, the schedule will limit the amount of movement and allow for social distancing.

Class Sizes

In-person class sizes have been limited due to the number of families who have chosen not to attend in-person. This will allow for more social distancing and more one-on-one support in the classrooms as needed. However, even if more families choose in-person learning, we will be prepared for our expected student-to-teacher ratio.

Specials, Electives, and Recess

Students will have all regularly scheduled specials, electives, and recess times. Each grade-level will have one special per week instead of per day to reduce the amount of transition between different teachers, classes, and cohorts.

Cafeteria and Food Service

Students will be able to purchase grab-and-go breakfasts and pre-packaged lunches from our food service, Sodexo. Free and reduced lunch prices will still apply. Monthly menus will be provided. Students will be able to sit together in the cafeteria with their grade-level cohorts while practicing social distancing.

Masks and Social Distancing

Students in grades K through 4 will not be required to wear masks but are welcome to if they prefer. Students in grades 5 through 8 will be required to wear masks in common areas such as bathrooms, hallways, moving around their classrooms, or when social distancing is not possible. When students are sitting in class in their own space listening to their teachers' instruction, they will be given opportunities to remove their masks. The current state mandate is that students who are 11 and older must be wearing masks. Our intent is to comply with current local and state mandates.

Students in grades 5 through 8 who forget or lose their masks will be provided with a backup mask, however, we recommend that you send in an extra mask or have an extra one in their backpacks should they want or need them. Backup masks will not be provided to students in grades K through 4 since masks are optional for them. Masks will be provided to all younger students exhibiting signs of illness if deemed necessary by the health room staff in preparation to send those students home from school from the health room.

Students may wear cloth or medical face masks or neck gators that pull up over the face. As long as the masks are appropriate, any color or design may be worn. Please help your student practice proper mask hygiene by changing out disposable masks daily or using a clean cloth mask daily

If your student is unable to wear a mask, please email our school nurse and family practitioner, Sharon Begin, at Sharon.Begin@newsommitcharter.org to discuss specific options for your student.

Students will be able to lower their masks if they are outside or sitting at their desks AND are appropriately socially distanced. Teachers and staff will be able to lower their masks if they are in a room by themselves or if they are socially distanced from another person. Teachers will have both face masks and face shields provided to them and will be able to use face shields when teaching or communicating with students as they deem necessary to provide an appropriate education.

For younger children, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends 3 feet of social distancing if feasible. Measures will be taken to spread out the desks and face them in one direction. We will do our best to assure the 3-foot recommendation.

Special Services

All in-person students with IEPs, 504s, ALPs, and ELL will receive regular services and accommodations. If you have questions about what this will look like, please contact our Special Education Director at Cindy.Helling@newsommitcharter.org.

Social-Emotional Help

New Summit has always had and will continue to have a full-time counselor on staff who is both a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Licensed School Counselor.

Our school counselor, Mrs. Wise, is visible and accessible to all students, should they desire to process with her about anything they are experiencing, including thoughts and feelings regarding the pandemic. The students will also be given social-emotional lessons in their classroom as well as time to practice those skills with their classroom teachers.

Full-Time eLearning – Option B

New Summit is unaware of all the details of Academy District 20's eLearning plan. We have created a plan to make our students' eLearning experience meet the mission, vision, and core principles that New Summit families have come to expect from regular in-person learning.

The eLearning experience will not be the same as what students did this past spring, as it is an enhanced and more comprehensive version.

A third-party content and curriculum provider, [Colorado Digital Learning Solutions](#), is providing our eLearning curriculum online only. The content and curriculum are not the same as our school curriculum but are aligned with the Colorado Academic Standards. The classroom teacher and the learning coach will work together to load the appropriate courses for the student that aligns as closely as possible to the current learning happening in the in-person learning environment.

Families do not need to sign up or re-enroll for this option if they are already enrolled at New Summit Charter Academy. New families will be asked which learning option they choose at the time of enrollment.

Demo

Please read the following [information](#) on eLearning. You can also [watch a demo of the curriculum](#). If you would like to schedule a more personalized demo with Mrs. McClelland, please email her admin assistant at Amanda.Roderick@news Summit Charter.org.

Why did New Summit decide to purchase the eLearning curriculum from a third-party provider?

Using a third-party provider for a curriculum is similar to purchasing a textbook for in-person learning. We are not going to utilize the CDLS staff to support the eLearning students; rather, we'll creatively use New Summit staff to support eLearning students. To allow the eLearning program to operate smoothly, we needed a curriculum that was already fully developed to have a full-time eLearning option. It is too much to ask our classroom teachers to teach students in-person and online simultaneously, and we do not have enough staff to do both.

eLearning Curriculum

The full-time eLearning option is five days a week and will utilize both asynchronous and synchronous learning and supports via online coursework. Students will be using a comprehensive, state-approved, self-paced NSCA teacher-supported online curriculum. NSCA staff will have the ability to supplement New Summit's approved curriculums as needed and when available from the classroom teacher.

The curriculum is online, comprehensive, and interactive. There are some assignments and worksheets the curriculum allows to be done offline, if the parent chooses, to enhance learning or to reduce the time spent online. The curriculum in all grade levels provides various options for practice and learning.

Students will be able to participate in similar specials and electives online. This will not be the same as in-person but will guide the student through similar activities suitable for the home environment.

eLearning Curriculum

Colorado Digital Learning Solutions (CDLS)

www.coloradodls.org

Elementary Curriculum & Specials

www.coloradodls.org/elementarycourselist

- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Art
- Music
- Library
- Physical Education

Middle School Curriculum & Electives

www.coloradodls.org/courselist

- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Spanish
- Character & Leadership
- Physical Education
- Art
- Choir/Band
- Exploring Music
- Journalism/Yearbook

Each eLearning student will be assigned a classroom teacher as if they were doing in-person learning. The teacher will be responsible to support the grading, attendance, and participation in benchmark assessments and progress-monitoring assessments.

Students will also be assigned a Learning Coach to support them during eLearning. The coach will be available to help guide students, answer questions, make connections, and support the students through the curriculum. The Learning Coach will work with the classroom teacher (co-teaching model) to make sure the curriculum lines up with and is as similar as possible to what the in-person students are doing, while also supporting the differentiation needed for the student.

Students will follow the pacing and curriculum map similar to the grade-level classroom they are assigned to. The Learning Coach and classroom teacher will work together to ensure that the pace and curriculum are as similar as possible.

The eLearning students will still be expected to assess using our NWEA MAP test to identify the learning gaps, similar to the in-person learning students, and will be assigned IXL lessons to supplement their eLearning course work and fill the gaps in learning. The NSCA Learning Coach and classroom teacher will work together to ensure that the student's needs are being met and the student can progress appropriately.

School Hours and Time Commitment

Due to the learning needs of all students, eLearning will require a parent to be available to help the student navigate the program. Exact time commitments will depend on the student and their differentiated needs.

The average number of hours per day for a full-time student will be 4-6 hours of on- and offline work, depending on how quickly the student can get through the course work. This will vary by child. For half-day Kindergarten, time on and offline will average 2-3 hours, depending on the student.

Weekly Commitment



Amount of Time
3-5 hours per core course
1 hour per specials course



Computer-Based
Attending Office Hours,
collaborating with classmates,
reading, playing games,
listening to audio clips,
watching videos



Number of Assignments
2-4 per core course
1 per specials course



Hands-On
Handwritten worksheets,
coloring/matching worksheets,
projects, performing
experiments

Weekly Schedule

*Sample Weekly Schedule - Elementary

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Language Arts 1.01		Language Arts 1.02		
Math 1.01	Math 1.02	Math 1.03	Math 1.04	Math 1.05
Science 1.01			Science 1.02	
	Social Studies 1.01			Social Studies 1.02
	Art 1.01		Art 1.02	

Weekly Schedule

*Sample Weekly Schedule - Middle School

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
History 1.01	History 1.02	History 1.03	History 1.04	History 1.05
Math 1.01	Math 1.02	Math 1.03	Math 1.04	Math 1.05
Spanish 1.01		Spanish 1.02		
	Elective 1.01		Elective 1.02	
				IXL Supplement

Special Services

Students with IEPs, 504s, ALPs, and ELL services will receive regular services and accommodations

Technology

For families who may not have computers, Chromebooks will be issued based on a level of priority. We will send out a survey before school starts to assess each need. Due to the limited number we have, we are unable to issue more than one computer. There will still be a need for our in-person learning students to access our technology at school.

Grading and Attendance

We are required by the state to ensure that all students are meeting the attendance requirements set by Colorado, regardless of in-person or eLearning. This means full-time students must attend at least 160 days. Elementary students must have 990 hours of learning and middle school students must have 1080 hours of learning.

Like in-person learning, not all courses necessarily receive the same time equivalency. For example, in-person learning, and courses such as homeroom, orientation, and specials, may have fewer scheduled teacher-pupil instruction and contact minutes per day than eLearners. This is why the eLearning program uses an appropriate time equivalency for all courses.

Student Fees, Classroom Supplies, and Uniforms

E-Learning students will have the same school fees as in-person students. Uniforms can be purchased at a later date but will need to be provided if and when your students return to in-person learning. Classroom supplies needed for eLearners are limited; however, the full list will need to be purchased should students return to in-person learning in the second semester.

Materials

Materials will vary by course, and you will be need to supply them. The list below contains supplies for all grade levels and subjects.

- Printer
- Disk space on your computer as well as external device to back up your files (flash drive, external hard drive, CD-Rom, etc.)
- Cell phone to take photos of student work or scanner to scan student work
- Interactive Notebook (3-ring binder)
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Scissors
- Crayons and colored pencils
- Glue
- Tape
- Ruler
- Printer paper
- Multi-colored paper

Statewide Guidance

Planning for restarting the school year may seem like a moving target given the emerging epidemiological data and public health guidelines. Please be aware that there may be changes and modifications during the days and months ahead.

We are required to comply with orders from the Governor and the [Colorado Department of Health](#) and [El Paso County Public Health](#) and to rely on guidance from the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) and the [CDC](#). This includes what our process will be if/when a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.

Decisions about whether in-person instruction is suspended may be made in a variety of ways:

1. A statewide executive order or public health order may suspend in-person instruction (as was the case in the spring of 2020).
2. Local public health departments may issue a local health order suspending in-person instruction at a site or for an entire district.
3. A school district in collaboration with the local health department may decide to suspend in-person instruction due to the number of cases in the school or community.

Resources

Please visit the following websites to read in detail the school recommendations: Please be aware that guidelines are not mandates and our Health and Safety Team look at the recommendations and guidelines as options to consider for our school community.

- Colorado Department of Education: [Planning the 2020-2021 School Year](#)
- Colorado Department of Education: [2020-2021 School Scenarios](#)
- Colorado Department of Education: [Protocols for Protecting the Health of Students and Educators](#)
- Colorado League of Charter Schools: [School Supports](#)

- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment : [New Guidance on COVID-19 Cases and Outbreaks](#)

Health and Safety

School Access

The school will not be open to parents or the general public unless they have essential business inside the building. **This includes walking students to class on their first day of school.** There will be no non-essential adults or visitors in the building at this time. If a parent needs to speak with a teacher, this will be by appointment only through a virtual or phone option.

No volunteer hours will be required. This will be waived due to our being unable to have non-essential visitors in the building at this time. Parents and visitors will be encouraged to call the school or use the Flyer app for communication. General public access into the school building will be limited to essential visitors only.

Hygiene

Students and staff will be required to wash their hands frequently throughout the day. This includes the following times:

- ☺ When they arrive at school and before they leave school
- ☺ Before eating and drinking
- ☺ After going to the bathroom
- ☺ After any sneezing or coughing into hands or tissue
- ☺ Whenever hands are visibly dirty
- ☺ When moving between different classrooms or learning environments such as outdoor and indoor transitions, and going across to the gym

Extra sinks will be placed throughout the building mainly at entrances and exits. If a sink is not available, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be required, and we will ensure that hand-washing supplies are available at all times. Teachers and staff will be available to help younger students with hand hygiene as needed.

Food and drinks will not be shared between students, and staff will be encouraged to remain on-site for lunch and break times.

Social Distancing

Plexiglas will be installed in front of all common area desks, including the front check-in desk and the admin office area, to separate office staff from other staff members as well as the general public. These desks will have a 6-foot area designated by signs, and colored tape will be used to mark the floor where people may stand and/or line up and indicate various flows and one-way foot traffic areas throughout the building.

There will be no “close greetings,” such as hugs, handshakes, and high fives. Students will be reminded to keep their hands to themselves at all times. We have posted and provided some fun alternatives to still be able to greet the students in a way we normally would.

We will incorporate more individual activities and activities that encourage more space between students and staff. For younger students, teachers will adapt group activities to minimize physical contact and reduce shared items. For adolescent students, teachers will minimize group activities and avoid activities that require physical contact. Recess and sports equipment will be purchased so that each grade level cohort will have their own.

Classrooms will be modified to accommodate social distancing and classes will be taught outside whenever possible, weather permitting. For younger children, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends 3 feet of social distancing if feasible. We are taking measures to try to spread out the desks and face them in one direction. We will do our best to assure the 3-foot recommendation.

Staff will stay 6-feet away from students and other staff whenever possible. The number of teachers, teacher assistants, and staff that interact with groups of students will be minimized to limit the amount of contact throughout the day. Shared staff spaces will have occupancy limits, and chairs or tables will be removed to ensure occupancy limits are not exceeded. Staff will be encouraged to only socialize with other adults in their cohort during school hours. In all in-person staff meetings staff will be a minimum of 6 feet apart. If this is not attainable, a mask will be worn.

At this time, assemblies and other school-wide events are on hold until further notice to avoid a large number of people gathering in one space.

Screenings

The screening protocols have been developed by our health team, who will give more clarification and training to staff before school begins. Their decisions will be guided by the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) and the state and local health department recommendations.

We also have several experts in the field of risk management who serve on our health and safety committee. These experts have developed a risk and decision matrix to help determine what protocols will be followed; for example, when someone has symptoms or if there is an outbreak within the school or one of the cohorts, what kind of closure will be implemented. These decisions will also be made in partnership with our local health department and guidelines by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Like with any other reportable infectious diseases, we will notify parents if there are positive COVID-19 cases within the school, a cohort, and especially within a class.

Each grade level will have a no-contact, infrared thermometer. Grade-level teacher assistants will be taking temperatures every morning and possibly again during the day. If a fever is suspected, the student will be re-checked with a hospital-grade oral thermometer with proper sanitizing protocols in place as is normally done in the school health room.

Health Room

Our health rooms are now set up so that students will be kept with their cohorts when being treated for any injury or illness. We also have an isolation room that will remain open for any student that is exhibiting probable COVID-19 symptoms. That student will then be kept

separate from other students until they can be picked up by their parent/guardian. This room will only be accessible to the health room staff.

Sick Policy

The school sick policy remains the same as other school years in regard to non-COVID-19 symptoms and illnesses. The guidelines for this can be found in our school handbook.

Some differences are that we will be sending students home from school more often due to symptoms and students may have to stay out of school longer. Siblings may have to be sent home from school even if they are not exhibiting any symptoms at the time. There may be more requirements needed from a pediatrician before students can return to school safely.

These decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis by the school nurse and with the assistance of the health department. The sick policy may change based on recommendations from local health experts and will require the collaboration of all New Summit families to ensure we don't have an outbreak of COVID-19 within our community. In cases of extended absences, students will be fully supported by their classroom teachers to make sure they do not fall behind academically and continue to feel a part of our school community.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

An electrostatic disinfectant will be applied before the first week of school by our school cleaning company, Jan Pro. The school will continue to be cleaned and sanitized as required by our local health department during the day and at night with normal night time cleaning procedures.

Increased cleaning will be implemented in high-traffic areas, common areas, and on high-contact surfaces such as door handles, stair railings, countertops, copy machines, water bottle fill stations, bathrooms, desks, keyboards, light switches, elevator buttons, and more. There will also be wipe-downs throughout the day and at the end of the day for all classrooms by the teachers.

The drinking fountain will be out of order; however, the water bottle fill station will remain open so students can refill their water bottles. Any other shared items where cross-contamination is possible will be removed.

Wall-mounted dilution stations (with concentrated sanitizer) will be installed on each floor of the building so staff has access to sanitizer bottle refill stations. All faculty, staff, and custodians will be provided instruction, training, and supplies so they can adhere to the cleaning protocols developed for the school.

School Safety Drills

School safety drills and exercises are a vital component in preparing students, teachers, and staff for potential emergencies. These safety drills will continue to be conducted as required by Academy School District 20.

The first fire drill of the school year will be conducted within 10 days of the beginning of classes and every month after. Lockdown and bad-weather drills will continue to be conducted once per semester.

Modifications for school safety drills due to COVID-19 may include the following:

- ☺ Scheduling additional time to conduct each drill
- ☺ Practicing the evacuation in a slower, more methodical process while emphasizing appropriate personal, physical distance
- ☺ Sequencing the release of classrooms to reduce the number of people evacuating at any given time
- ☺ Expanding evacuation rally points to accommodate social distancing
- ☺ Directing students to wash/sanitize their hands before returning to their classrooms

Drop-Off and Pickup Process

This year's drop-off process will, for the most part, remain unchanged, as far as being able to drop students off at either the lower, middle or Xfinity lots. Social distancing protocols will be in place once students have entered the school.

Drop off time, for Middle School students, is **NO EARLIER than 7:35 am**. Drop off times for Elementary School students is **NO EARLIER than 7:50 am (EXCEPTION - if a Middle School student has Elementary School siblings)**. In this case, those Elementary School siblings may be dropped off also **NO EARLIER than 7:35 am**. Those Elementary School students will enter the school and report directly to their homeroom where their teacher will be waiting for them until their start time at 8:05 am.

Drop off and pick up zones are as follows: **Grades K thru 1st** will utilize the same lot as last year - the **lower main lot**. **2nd and 6th grades** will utilize the **middle (Pre-K) lot**. **3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th grades** will use the **Xfinity lot**.

As for the pickup process, we are partnering with a third-party company and will be implementing a new school release application called "Curb Smart," which will allow for students to remain in their classrooms until their guardian(s) arrive at the school. At that time, they will be released to meet their awaiting guardian(s) at their designated pickup location either by car or by meeting a parent to pick them up in-person waiting outside because the parent elected to park and opted to not use the pick-up lines. If you are waiting for your student during this time, please practice all social distancing requirements.

The pickup application is currently in the developmental stages. Once the development of this application has concluded, families will be notified regarding the pickup process.

Social-Emotional Learning

Our Conditions for Learning Committee is focusing on connections, engagement, social-emotional learning, and the mental health and emotional safety of all staff and students. A significant focus for this team has been the social-emotional learning and well-being of the entire New Summit community.

New Summit has always had and will continue to have a full-time counselor on staff who is both a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Licensed School Counselor. She has extensive experience in helping children to overcome difficult time periods and trauma in life. Our students will process through and overcome the pandemic all while learning skills that will pertain to any hardship that they experience in their lives.

Our school counselor, Mrs. Wise, is visible and accessible to all students, should they desire to process with her about anything they are experiencing, including thoughts and feelings regarding the pandemic. The students will also be given social-emotional lessons during their eLearning, as well as time to practice those skills with their classroom teachers.

We want to make sure there will be various opportunities for eLearning students to participate and interact with other eLearning and in-person students. We understand that families have chosen New Summit and want to engage in New Summit's community. We believe the mix of eLearning and connections with the classroom teacher will provide this, and we will continue to update you as we have more details on how we will be connecting all students.

Curriculum

New Summit, along with this committee, decided to implement a Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum called **MindUp** in all grades. Implementation of this curriculum will allow our students to all receive consistent Social-Emotional Lessons regarding topics that pertain to overcoming hardships in life, such as the pandemic. MindUp is a comprehensive, evidence-based curriculum that allows classrooms to easily implement 15 lessons about social and emotional awareness that enhance psychological well-being and promote academic success.

This particular curriculum was chosen due to the focus on brain science, mindfulness, distress tolerance, and regulation. Part of this curriculum will include 5 minutes of mindful breathing at the beginning and end of each day, along with 20 minutes of social-emotional learning taught by the classroom teacher each day.

Here are some of the potential benefits of utilizing this curriculum:

- 😊 Improved self-control and self-regulation skills
- 😊 Strengthened student resiliency and decision making
- 😊 Bolstered enthusiasm for learning
- 😊 Increased student academic success
- 😊 Increased positive social skills such as empathy, compassion, patience, and generosity
- 😊 Being part of a classroom that is infused with joy and optimism
- 😊 Reductions in peer-to-peer conflict
- 😊 Increased distress tolerance skills that allow students to think before they respond to a situation

To learn more about this curriculum, read the [MindUp Flyer!](#)

Along with this curriculum, teachers and staff will...

- 🧑‍🏫 Implement “relationship week” to focus on building relationships with their students.
- 🧑‍🏫 Receive training and resources on trauma practices and strategies and relationship-building
- 🧑‍🏫 Send out school-wide assessments to determine what needs are present for all students (in-person and eLearning) as they return to school.
- 🧑‍🏫 Address needs based on a needs assessment and the outcome data
- 🧑‍🏫 Be instructed in and given ongoing reminders about self-care, mindfulness practices, and taking care of their own mental health.
- 🧑‍🏫 Contact all students new to New Summit to help support and connect them to the school.
- 🧑‍🏫 Work to create cohorts and protocols for all students who need resource and/or literacy intervention.

Here are other expectations:

- 🧑‍🏫 Meaningful engagement with eLearning students
- 🧑‍🏫 Teachers will form a relationship with the students in their class who have opted for eLearning so that the relationship has already been established if that student switches to in-person learning for the Spring semester.
- 🧑‍🏫 Encouraging eLearning students to be involved with their class at least twice a month
- 🧑‍🏫 Making sure eLearning students have an ongoing connection with their assigned teacher and access to the same emotional supports that are offered to in-person students
- 🧑‍🏫 One grade-level representative per grade will reach out to any students who may have lost contact or struggled during the spring eLearning time.
- 🧑‍🏫 Connections with new incoming students including possible welcome kits, information, and other fun items

Our School Counselor and her intern will be available to meet with any student who needs additional support with processing this difficult time. Please contact cortnie.wise@newsunmitcharter.org for more information or to schedule some time with her!

Technology

For families who may not have computers, Chromebooks will be issued based on a level of priority. We will send out a survey before school starts to assess each need. Due to the limited number we have, we are unable to issue more than one computer. There will still be a need for our in-person learning students to access our technology at school.

Please review the technology and software requirements below to ensure that your child is prepared to access their lessons and participate in any synchronous learning activities.

- 🧑‍🏫 Elementary course technology and system requirements click [here](#)
- 🧑‍🏫 Middle school course technology and system requirements click [here](#)

- Lightweight devices such as Apple iPads, Google Chromebooks, and tablets have limited support for Java or Flash which still appear in a small percentage of the eLearning courses. Students will need extra work-around steps or alternate browsers to engage with some portions of those courses.
- We recommend students have a Windows or Mac-based computer available to complete coursework if your selected mobile device does not meet the needs of the course.

Not all students will be receiving a computer from school. There is a level of priority that we will internally consider when allowing a student to check out a computer for use in eLearning this fall.

Due to the high demand for technology all over the country, the purchases we have made are delayed considerably and may not be available until November, at the earliest. We also want to point out that our computers are Chromebooks, which may cause a workaround for some of the lessons that your student will be in since the curriculum uses Java and Flash at times.

Please fill out the survey [here](#) if you need a computer for eLearning.

Conclusion

While there is no perfect plan, we believe this plan has best met New Summit's mission, vision, and school year objective. We look forward to seeing our students soon and know we will have a strong start to the 2020-2021 school year!