

Welcome back



Hello Northley Families!

Welcome back to a very unique kick off to the school year. We hope that you are doing great out there. We miss you all. This is the first virtual start in the history of Northley Middle School and we are ready. The first days of school will be about connecting students with teachers, teams, counselors and friends.

Teachers will be contacting students and families to ensure all have successfully linked to Schoology and are able to access daily classes. Teachers will take time each day with “how to” demonstrations so students understand the new routines that go with virtual education and mastering the software systems we will be using daily. We will also use this time to assess skills and content levels in order to customize our teaching to ensure we are addressing any gaps in learning.

We have made changes to our schedule for virtual learning. The changes include extended homeroom and lunch periods, asynchronous assignments on Wednesday and other additions that support student virtual learning. We will follow this same schedule when we have the opportunity to return to the building. The “bell” schedule is posted on the Northley website. Classes will follow the schedule and will begin and end at the designated times. Teachers will be taking attendance.

Northley is now more than a school building. It is a learning center. Our Learning Center reaches out to Aston, Brookhaven, Parkside and beyond. It is a center where students will access and process new information in a variety of learning formats. There will be opportunities and time for support, activities around Social Emotional Learning (ESL) to support wellness, and new venues and means of communicating and collaborating.

Most important, Northley remains strong because of families and community working together to provide our students with the opportunity to be their best. School is not closed. Learning is open for all. WE ARE NORTHLEY!!!

Mr. Joel Alutius
Northley Middle School Principal





Virtual learning for all

While the 2020-2021 academic year is beginning virtually, we know that we can make the first month of learning productive and meaningful. Our new strategies for delivering virtual learning will ensure that your student is prepared with the technology and support, academically and emotionally, they need to succeed. We plan to engage our students so that they can master the communication, critical thinking, and collaborative skills they need to thrive virtually-- and in the classroom. Here are some suggestions for helping your student prepare for this new way of virtual learning Penn-Delco curriculum taught by Penn-Delco teachers.

Prepare for daily learning



It has been some time since your student has been in a classroom. Getting back to school in September is hard enough for some, let alone after an unusual end to last school year! Now is the time to prepare your student for the rigors of learning again. Begin by developing a routine that ensures your student gets the rest they need while preparing for a normal, structured school day learning with their teachers and classmates and on their own.

Define a work space



Some families may have multiple children learning at home. Prepare to create a regular work space for each of your students so that they have room to access any supplies, books and use their Chromebook. A quiet, clear space where they can Zoom with their teachers and classmates as well as stay organized is key. Revisit supply lists and Chromebook distribution dates to be ready on September 8th.

Be present



Be prepared to be signed in each day for your first class/period. There are short transition periods between each class and there may be some group or asynchronous learning times as well. Students are responsible to be present at the start of each class and be present for the entirety of the class.

Participate



Students will be expected to engage during class demonstrating they are attentive and ready to participate. Students must also be accountable for coursework requirements both in and outside the classroom.



Student Accountability

Attendance and participation



- Students will login promptly at the beginning of each daily class period ready to be marked present and to learn.
- Students will actively learn and participate in their virtual classes as they would during in-person instruction, contributing to the class in a respectful and productive manner.
- Students will be attentive to the assigned daily tasks and learning activities confident in the goals and objectives, and ready to complete and submit work according to established due dates and timelines.
- If unsure, students will reach out for assistance according to established teacher directives for support.

Assignments, feedback, and grading



- Students will experience tasks and assignments that facilitate active engagement with course content in both synchronous and asynchronous settings.
- Teachers will provide individual, timely, and meaningful feedback on learning.
- Students will complete regularly assigned tasks and assessments and leave each class with an understanding of independent work expectations at the close of each period.
- Students will receive numeric grades in all classes similar to in-person instruction.



Student Schedule Sample

Virtual learning will occur on a modified schedule to what your student is used to in-person. Periods will be **42 minutes long** on M/T and Th/F. Homeroom will be **37 minutes long** and we will not be using a block or rotating schedule. Once students return to the classroom, there will be a 15 minutes built into the end of the day to ensure a safe dismissal.

Teacher opens lesson (synchronous learning)

- outline expectations, objectives
- live instruction
- guided practice, student participation, other activities



Students work on content (synchronous and asynchronous learning)

- Reading
- independent practice
- collaborative projects
- teachers answer questions, provides guidance, and checks on progress



Lesson ends

- students engage in independent and/or group assignments to demonstrate learning
- homework may be assigned



Information you can use



Class schedules

The Northley academic class schedules will be available beginning August 28th on Skyward. Related arts are scheduled classes and not electives this year. We will make changes if you would like to add band or chorus or drop band or chorus. They are the only changes that will be made.



New student (6th grade) orientation

A unique beginning for our newest Vikings! With the virtual start to school this year, we anticipate there being **two orientations** for our 6th grade. The first will include a video and zoom meeting with Mr. Alutius on **September 2nd at 6:30 pm**. Starting September 8th, our 6th grade staff will begin with “Get To Know You” Activities and On-Line learning tools tutorials.

By the end of the first week, our 6th grade will have met and interacted with all of their teachers. The tutorials will include how to use Schoology, how to access email accounts, the Northley Schedule, Social Emotional Learning and other items unique to 6th grade. Our second orientation will take place upon our return to the building. The first days at Northley will include tours of the building, lunch room procedures, locker tutorials, library visits, getting to know the staff at school and celebrating their first days.

Back to school night (virtual)



The Northley Back to School Night will also be a virtual event for our parents and guardians to meet our teachers and counselors! We anticipate having our staff host online meetings for each of their classes, so our families can meet our staff and acquire important information. **Northley Back To School Night will be held on September 15th from 6:30 to 8:30.**



Northley Bell Schedule

Northley will be following a structured “bell schedule” each day, so students and teachers will be working synchronously (at the same time) at specific times throughout the day. For example, a period 1 class will start at 8:40 am and end at 9:22 am. There are 3 minutes between classes—just like at school—for bathroom breaks and to log in to the next virtual class. Classes are **42 minutes long on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday**. Wednesday is a shortened schedule for students, with classes at 15 minutes. Once students return to the classroom, there will be a 15 minutes built into the end of the day to ensure a safe dismissal.

Bell Schedule: Mon/Tues - Thurs/Fri

	Period	Time Range
	Homeroom	8:00 - 8:37
	1	8:40 - 9:22
	2	9:25 - 10:07
	3	10:10 - 10:52
Grade 6 lunch →	4	10:55 - 11:37
Grade 7 lunch →	5	11:40 - 12:22
	6	12:25 - 1:07
	7	1:10 - 1:52
	8	1:55 - 2:37
Viking →	9	2:40 - 2:55

Bell Schedule: Wednesday

Period Time	6th grade	7th grade	8th grade
8:02 - 8:44	PBIS, CTBN, S.E.L. Lessons during Homeroom		
8:47 - 9:02	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1
9:05 - 9:20	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2 related arts
9:23 - 9:38	Period 3	Period 3 related arts	Period 3
9:41 - 9:56	Period 5 related arts	Period 4	Period 4
9:59 - 10:14	Period 6	Period 5	Period 6 related arts
10:17 - 10:32	Period 7	Period 7 related arts	Period 7
10:35 - 10:50	Period 8 related arts	Period 8	Period 8
10:50 - 2:55	Asynchronous Lessons for Students		



Information you can use



Chromebook & Text/Material Distribution

The Penn-Delco School Board of Directors graciously supports our 1-to-1 learning initiatives by providing, for the first time, a Chromebook device for every Northley Middle School student. Every middle school student will receive a Chromebook and charger to use for the duration of the school year. Any technical difficulties from logging on to a broken screen, can be addressed through our Help Desk at support@HelpDesk.pdsd.org. Students are reminded to exercise extreme care and caution with the Chromebooks. The devices are the property of the Penn-Delco School District. Any damage or replacement costs are the responsibility of the student. While 8th grade students have had their devices distributed, **6th and 7th grade students will be receiving theirs prior to September 8.** We will be contacting you on dates for distribution. Text book information is forthcoming.



Homeroom links

Next Friday, September 4th, we will provide the links for each homeroom on Opening Day. Students will log in to homeroom and receive information from their teacher regarding Schoology and how to access their classes. This link will be for the first day. They will be able to access their homeroom through Schoology for the remainder of our virtual sessions.



Student and parent resources

Online resources

[Reopening information](#)

[Virtual learning information](#)

[Schoology \(log-in, use, etc\)](#)

[COVID-19 updates](#)

[Penn-Delco Calming Room](#)

[Pupil Services/Special Education](#)

[Northley Middle School Guidance Department](#)



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