



Newport Independent

Newportwildcats.org

Dear Newport Family,

The *Kentucky Academic Standards* (KAS) contain the minimum required standards that all Kentucky students should have the opportunity to learn. The standards address what is to be learned at each grade level. Be sure to review the KAS Family Guide To familiarize yourself with your child's standards

<https://kystandards.org/standards-family-guides/>

Tips to Help Your Child Transition Back to School

Establish Routines

- Set wake and bedtime for the school week
- Power off electronics one hour prior to bedtime
- Charge electronics to be school ready the next day
- Plan for morning school arrival and after school care

Communicate

- Talk with your child about their concerns, fears, and goals
- Be positive about the future and our shared ability to adapt to change
- Update your contact information the school has on file to ensure that we can reach you should your child need you during the day

Normalize Mask Wearing

- Talk to your child about the expectation of wearing a mask at school
- Try different types of masks to see what works best for your child- make it fun or have a personal touch
- Remind kids how to put masks on and take them off as masks should always cover the nose and mouth

Upcoming Events

September 10

Vaccination Clinic

September 22

Midterm 1 Ends

September 23

Kentucky High Attendance Day Competition

Important Announcement

Student Late Entry & Release

Newport Independent Schools utilize Raptor Technologies for students arriving late to school and for those that must leave prior to the end of the day. Adults signing students in tardy to school and those signing their student out early must have a valid ID or other form of identification. This information is not shared.

Those without identification the first time will meet with a site administrator for verification and manual entry.

We appreciate your assistance in this process. The safety of our students and staff is our highest priority.

COVID-19 Rapid Testing at School

Newport Independent School District has partnered with Ethos Laboratories (Newport, KY) to create a COVID-19 testing program that will ensure a safe return to school. This is a completely voluntary program that is supported by the State so **there is no cost to you**. We politely request that you enroll your children in this program to help accomplish the following goals for a successful school year:

1. Safe in person learning environment for the entire school year
2. Minimize the need to quarantine children at home for extended periods of time
3. Minimize absentee days due to COVID-19 for both teachers and students

By participating in this program, you will help us achieve our goals and keep our kids safe for in person learning throughout the year. Below is the link for you to enroll your children in this program with the instructions attached.

www.ethosbacktoschool.com

Please take time to create an account and register your child. Should you choose to participate, you will have the ability to unenroll your child from the program at any time. Active enrollment in the program will mean that if your child is ill you may have your child tested at school. You will be notified if your child tests positive. If your child is not part of this program, they would not be eligible for testing, and would likely be required to quarantine at home for the State's recommended period of time.



Our goal is to maximize participation in this program to give us the best opportunity to identify active infections early and prevent widespread outbreaks. This will lead to more consistent attendance days for your child and minimize any COVID-19 related absences for all students and staff.

If your child would become ill over a school break or weekend, you may contact the School Based Health Clinic at 859-291-1910 to schedule a Rapid Test appointment.

As always, we respect your decision and appreciate your ongoing support and participation as we strive to accomplish our goal of more in person learning days this school year. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me @ Jennifer.Stewart@Newport.kyschools.us

What is Non-Traditional Learning

The Non-Traditional Instruction Program (NTI) is a program that allows for learning to continue days when school would be canceled due to weather, safety, or illness for up to 10 days during a school year. Newport Independent Schools participate in NTI through a state approved Continuation of Learning Plan. Because of our rapidly changing winter weather and the potential for illness, it is suggested that families have an emergency NTI plan in the event school would be closed to in-person learning. We will do our best to provide school closure notifications as soon as possible to allow families to make arrangements.

If we are running on an NTI plan, students will be provided with instruction through their Google Classroom. Students will have the opportunity to be in virtual attendance by participating in the Google Classroom assignments, engaging in Google Meets, and working in their online digital programs as assigned. Students are able to request support from their teachers, principals, and school counselors. These activities allow for students to be counted as participating.

Preparing Your Family for NTI

- Have an emergency plan for where kids will go during the day
- Create a workplace for learning- this may be your child's study and homework area that you already have in place.
- Talk with your child about the importance of engaging in learning
- When working virtually your child may still need notebooks, paper, pencils, calculators, etc. Please reach out to your child's FRC/YSC if you need supplies

- Reach out to your child's teacher should you need help. Please visit our school's staff directory to reach your child's teacher <https://www.newportwildcats.org/4/Staff> for email contact or call your child's school.
- If you have issues with technology or internet access, print instructional materials are available at each school. Please contact your school secretary so that we may assist in getting these materials to you.
- Time will be provided upon a return to school, up to 5 days, to assist students.

When Your Child is Ill

Should your student exhibit symptoms of Covid 19 while at school, the student primary guardian will be contacted via the telephone number provided to the school by a school staff member. If the primary guardian is unavailable the secondary contact, any emergency contacts, and potentially work numbers will be contacted to locate an adult. Students must be collected from school within a reasonable time and no more than one hour from the time of the initial call.

If your child becomes ill during non-school time, please contact the school nurse so that we may work with you to determine if your child may attend school. Our goal is to keep our students, staff, and families safe, and we thank you for your assistance.

Students who must quarantine from school may miss valuable instruction. Students have the opportunity to earn attendance by participating in instruction via Google Classroom. Teachers are already posting instructional videos, lessons, learning links, and assignments for students who are working from home. When students participate in learning their attendance is not impacted and the days do not count toward absent events.

Students who quarantine from school and choose not to participate, do not receive credit for the day and this is an absent event. If a child is ill and unable to participate in instruction there are options available to families to protect the student's attendance. Please reach out to your school if your child is going to miss multiple consecutive days.

Learning & Attendance

When students must quarantine, they have the ability to continue learning. Through Google Classroom, students may access lessons, learning links, and assignments daily. When students participate in learning daily, their attendance is not impacted.

2021 Advance Child Tax Credits

The IRS is reaching out to America's school districts and families to spread the word on the 2021 Advance Child Tax Credit payments, which could be up to \$1,800 per qualifying child. These payments are made automatically to taxpayers who qualified on their 2020 tax returns. The IRS are focusing efforts on low income families who may not be required to file tax returns. They have developed a tool that can not only help get these families the advance payments, but also help them get missed Economic Impact Payments (EIP). This could amount to over \$14,000 for a family of 2 adults and 2 children who may be struggling to make ends meet. Please visit the following for additional information. <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/advance-child-tax-credit-payments-in-2021>

Vaccination Clinic

Newport Independent, with our partner Well Care, will be offering COVID Vaccinations through Wild Health on September 10th at Newport High School in the school cafeteria. The Pfizer vaccination is open to any individual who is 12 years of age or older. Certain insurance providers are offering up to \$100.00 in gift cards for their members who receive vaccinations. **Be sure to reserve your appointment today at: [kyvax.wildhealth.com](https://www.kyvax.wildhealth.com)**

Parents/Guardians wanting their Newport student vaccinated have the option of this occurring during the September 10th school day once written permission is provided.

Kentucky High Attendance Day Competition

The “High Attendance Day Competition” date has been set for schools in the Commonwealth of Kentucky for **Thursday, September 23rd**. Elementary, middle, and high schools will compete in small or large school categories with the chance to win awards based on their attendance numbers on this date. Please help us make Newport Independent Schools a leader in High Attendance and ensure your child is attending school on the 23rd and every other day of the year!

KCHIP

With schools back in session, it's more important than ever for all students to have health care coverage. KCHIP can help. The **K**entucky **C**hildren's **H**ealth **I**nsurance **P**rogram provides free health insurance for anyone under 19 in low-to-moderately-low-income households. So, if your child (or a child you know) needs health care coverage, please look into KCHIP. It covers practically everything. And it's free. To learn about qualifications and how to apply, simply go to kynect.ky.gov/kchip or call (877) 524-4718.
