

Alternative Learning Day (E-Learning Day)

Nettle Creek School Families,

According to Section 10-20.56 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/10-20.565, school districts may, by adopted resolution, utilize “e-learning days” in lieu of emergency days.

Previously, an “Emergency Day” sometimes called a Snow Day, was when school was cancelled due to dangerous weather conditions. Emergency days had to be added to the end of the school year for each school day missed. E-learning days provide an opportunity for students to have an instructional day even if the building is closed.

What is an Alternative Learning Day?

An Alternative Learning Day approach allows us to provide an “instructional day” even if our building is not open due to weather/road conditions/etc. On these days, teachers will send home assignments, lessons, and enrichment activities for students to complete. There may also be links established by teachers that allow students to complete work online at home. Teachers will be available via e-mail to answer questions. Please do not text a teacher with questions. They will respond within 30 minutes of receiving your email. They will be available from 9:00-11:00 and then 12:00-3:00pm.

Won't this look different at each grade level?

Each grade level looks uniquely different every day, so yes, this Alternative Learning Day may look different. Our teachers have collaborated and will continue to collaborate to collectively develop lessons that are grade level appropriate and a continuation of what has been happening in the classroom. You will receive an email from your child's teacher by 9:00am with all of the information you will need for your child to complete the assignments.

Will students that cannot complete the work online be penalized?

Absolutely not! We understand that internet and digital access may not be available to everyone and that some students may not be able to complete all online tasks assigned by teachers.

We also want to be clear, not all activities will need the internet to be completed. These days are meant to enhance learning and be formative in nature. However, to be counted as a day of attendance, you must email your child's teacher by 11:00 A.M. to state that you have received the assignments for the day. If your child does not return with the paper assignments completed, they will be marked as absent for the day.

****More information is provided on the following pages****

As always if you have questions, comments, or concerns please don't hesitate to email or call.

Mr. Merle Siefken, Superintendent/Principal
(815) 942-0511 merle.siefken@nettlecreek.org

E-Learning Day Plan

Nettle Creek CCSD #24C plans to utilize e-learning days on a case-by-case basis during the 2025-2026 school year, subject to approval by our district's Board of Education and as required by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Purpose of E-Learning Days

School districts are required to have five emergency days built into their calendar each year. Under Public Act 101-0012, districts may create a plan for the use of E-Learning days in lieu of traditional snow days or days taken for other emergency closures when the entire day is canceled. If implemented effectively, E-Learning days can help teachers continue with instruction by utilizing innovative methods that are already encouraged and supported.

District Philosophy

We believe that there is no substitute for site-based classroom instruction. With that in mind, we intend to be open for a full day of school as often as possible. However, we also recognize that some circumstances can make it unsafe or impossible for students to attend school. Traditional snow/emergency days and e-learning days will be utilized only as a last resort when the information we have available makes it necessary to close the school.

Notice

If we cancel school, an announcement will be made via ThrillShare, our notification system. This system generates automated phone calls and text messages to everyone in our database. The message will indicate whether it is an e-learning day or a traditional snow/emergency closure. We will also post a notice on the front page of our website, www.nettlecreek.org and through our local news media.

If the decision is made to call an e-learning day, the determination will be made by 9:00 P.M. on the evening before the closure. When possible, students will be notified at school the day before that forecasted conditions suggest the possibility of an e-learning day. That will allow students the opportunity to bring materials home.

If school is canceled for any reason after 9:00 P.M. the night before, then we will use a traditional snow day/emergency closure. Such days will be added to the end of the school year.

Communication and Availability on e-Learning Days

All electronic communications between students and teachers will occur through either Google Classroom or Nettle Creek e-mail accounts. Teachers are required to post assignments for all of their classes no later than 9:00 A.M. and students and/or parents MUST send an email to verify that they have received the assignments for the day no later than 11:00 A.M. This will be considered their attendance for the day. We do NOT expect teachers or other staff members to be in constant communication with students throughout an e-learning day. We DO expect teachers to monitor their e-mail periodically (every 30 minutes) throughout the day so that they can respond to student questions or concerns. Students and teachers do NOT have to be online at the same time.

Non-teaching faculty and staff members will be expected to utilize e-learning days as work-from-home days and, as with teachers, to check e-mail periodically and be available to answer questions.

E-learning day assignments and taking attendance

Students are required to email their teacher (this can be done by either students and/or parents) by 11:00 A.M. to verify they have received the assignments for the day. Teachers will then submit their attendance online in TeacherEase no later than 1:00 P.M. on that same day. Any student who has NOT emailed their teacher by 11:00 A.M. will be marked unexcused for the day.

Assignment Expectations

Teachers are expected to give reasonable assignments that do not overwhelm students. Students are expected to submit their assignments, either online or via paper, by the deadline indicated by each teacher, which will be no sooner than the start time of their next scheduled class (next SCHOOL attendance day). For K-5 students, this will be 8:15 A.M. For our 6-8 students, this will be at the beginning of their respective classes.

Student Online Access

Accommodations will be provided for students who do not have access to a device that would allow them to complete the missed work, provided that the student/parent informs the teachers of this circumstance. When sufficient advance notice of a potential e-learning day exists, paper copies of assignments will be provided to students who do not have access to a device. In the event that a student has difficulty accessing the internet or Google Classroom, the student will be given one additional day to complete the missed work, provided that this is communicated with the teacher.

Students with Special Needs/Accommodations

Students who require special accommodations to complete their assignments will be given the appropriate time after their return to school to receive those accommodations.

Plan Modifications

It is possible that modifications will need to be made to this plan. We will communicate any plan changes as they occur.

Total Days Used

The total number of e-learning days used and traditional snow/emergency days used will not exceed five days. It is possible that we may still utilize late starts or interrupted days, which count as days that do not have to be made up at the end of the school year.

School Access

On an e-learning day, as with traditional snow/emergency days, the Nettle Creek CCSD #24C campus will be CLOSED. No students, parents, or employees are to be on campus without administrative approval. No access to lockers or other parts of the school will be provided.

Extra-Curricular Activities/Practice

All extra-curricular activities (games, contests, practices) that would occur before or after school, will be canceled on an e-learning day.

Questions

Students or parents who have questions about e-learning days should always feel welcome and encouraged to ask questions of their teacher(s) and/or administration.

]E-Learning Day Planning Sheet

Teacher Name/Class: Mrs. Martin/Kindergarten

Date: 1/23/26

Have questions?: sarah.martin@nettlecreek.org or through Class Dojo or Showbie

Subject: Morning Meeting

Assignment: Log on to Zoom and follow along with lesson (10:00)

Materials Needed: Dry erase sleeve with writing paper, marker and eraser, Zz circle chart

Subject: Reading

Assignment: Watch video posted on Showbie of Mrs. Martin reading. Draw a picture and label something you notice about the book. Draw a picture and write one question about something you wonder about the book. Parents may help sound out words but please don't do the writing for them. I will be reading, School, Then and Now.

Materials Needed: Notice/Wonder paper and markers/pencil

Subject: Math

Assignment: Practice counting to 100

Draw and answer questions: Draw 4 snowmen on your paper. Draw hats on your snowmen. Draw 2 more hats for the snowmen that melted yesterday. How many snowmen did you draw? Label this on your picture. How many hats did you make? Label this on your picture. Which number is greater? Which number is less?

Complete Lesson 28 Problem set, comparing numbers.

Materials Needed: paper, pencil, Lesson 28 worksheets

Subject: Stations

Assignment: 1 Math IXL from skills plan, 1 Language Arts IXL from skills plan, pick 6 heart words and do one word activity from the list provided

Materials Needed: Ipad, IXL log in, Sight word/work work ideas sheet (found in folder)

Subject: Writing

Assignment: Scrambled Sentences- Cut out the word cards and put them in order to form a sentence. Students should be able to read the words pretty independently. Copy the sentence onto the writing paper. Draw a picture to match the sentence.

Materials Needed: scrambled sentences sheet, scissors, writing paper, pencil, crayons/markers

Subject: Science/Social Studies

Assignment: OPTIONAL: Watch Generation Genius weather video. Fill out Weather Watcher worksheet.

Materials Needed: Weather watcher worksheet, pencil, markers/crayons

All assignments are due by 8:15am the following day. If the above assignments are not completed and turned in, it will count as an unexcused absence.

K-2 E-Learning Expectations

Teacher Expectations

All assignments will be posted by 9am on an E-Learning Day
Hands-on materials will be sent home the day prior to E-Learning (If able)
Available from 9-11 and 12-3 to assist students and families
Provide a 30 minute live meeting

Student Expectations

E-Learning Work is completed by the next school day
Be Ready, Be Respectful and Be Responsible - this is a school day
Attend a 30 minute live meeting or watch the recording when able

Family Expectations

Check in with your teacher for attendance by 11:00am
Contact teacher with questions on assignments for the day
Check email and communication apps for any pertinent information
Check student work when completed
Attend a 30 minute live meeting or watch the recording when able

3-5 E-Learning Expectations

Teacher Expectations

All assignments will be posted by 9am on an E-Learning Day
Hands-on materials will be sent home the day prior to E-Learning (If able)
Available from 9-11 and 12-3 to assist students and families
Provide an open google meets link via google classroom

Student Expectations

E-Learning Work is completed by the next school day
Be Ready, Be Respectful and Be Responsible - this is a school day
Join google meet when you need assistance with your assignments or if you have questions
Check in with your teacher via google forms for attendance by 11:00am

Family Expectations

Make sure your child has checked in with their classroom teacher by 11:00am for attendance and work for the day
Contact teacher with questions on assignments for the day
Check email and communication apps for any pertinent information and/or missing assignments
Make sure your child has a workspace that is conducive to student learning

6-8 E-Learning Expectations

Teacher Expectations

All assignments will be posted by 9am on an E-Learning Day
Hands-on materials will be sent home the day prior to E-Learning (If able)
Available from 9-11 and 12-3 to assist students and families
Provide a Google Meet schedule for all students

Student Expectations

E-Learning Work is completed by the next school day
Be Ready, Be Respectful and Be Responsible - this is a school day
Join Google Meet for daily class schedule

Family Expectations

Make sure your child has logged on to start the day at 9:00am
Make sure your child has a workspace that is conducive to student learning
Check in with your child to make sure they have all E-Learning assignments completed

Unpredictable circumstances may still require us to use “Emergency Days” that will be added to the end of the year. We reserve the right to call an “Emergency Day” instead of an “E-Learning Day.”