

NPSD - Virtual Learning Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Parents/Guardians

Who will participate in Virtual Instructional Learning?

All Pre K-12 students. (PK – 2 may have a blended approach – paper/online work)

What is Virtual Instructional Learning?

Students will not report to school but will engage in learning activities using digital resources. Students will engage with all classes scheduled on a typical day (including specials.) There is no set “seat time” - students complete work according to family schedule and individual ability.

Why is North Providence using Virtual Instructional Learning?

RIDE has asked districts to complete a Virtual Instructional Learning Plan. It will be used to maintain the momentum of learning. Providing opportunities for virtual instruction supports the district’s goal of integrating technology into instruction and 21st Century skills.

How and when will students and parents know if a Virtual Instructional Learning will take place?

This Virtual Instructional Learning Plan is in effect beginning Monday, March 23 and ongoing until further notice. Virtual Instructional Learning will be relayed through the school’s notification phone & email system, district website, and local TV/radio stations, as well as relayed through Google classroom.

How will students be informed about assignments during Virtual Instructional Learning?

Students will be able to access instruction via Google Classrooms. Google Classroom/Google Suite will be the platform used in grades 3-12 to post student assignments, facilitate discussions, and submit work. Students regularly access Google Classroom on typical school days. All teachers will post assignments on Google Classroom by 8:30 a.m. and will be available for online communication 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

How will students obtain assistance from teachers on Virtual Instructional Learning days?

Teachers will be available via their NPSD.us email directly from Google Classroom, video conference and other G suite applications. Google Classroom will be the platform used in grades K-12 to post student assignments, facilitate discussions, and submit work. Pre K is using Class Dojo to communicate to students and families. Using Google Docs, teachers will share assignments, documents, spreadsheets, and presentations with students, teachers and students will collaboratively edit those documents together in real-time. Collaborators on a document can view, comment on and make changes to the document. This allows users to communicate with collaborators about specific parts of a document without having to send an email or message them. Teachers add notes, suggestions, or questions for students in the document. Comments are an excellent way for teachers to add specific notes for the author/student who wrote the file.

Accessibility features are available on a Chromebook and are easily activated. All Chromebooks are equipped with both a microphone and a camera. See specific instructions at [Google's support site](#).

If students need technical assistance or have general technical questions and/or concerns, they may call the school Virtual Instruction Information Line: 401- 233 -1100 x 14452 or email virtuallearning@npsd.k12.ri.us. If needed, the message will be relayed to the teacher/principal.

How much time is the student expected to work online during the Virtual Instructional Learning Day?

No minimum or maximum amount of time is expected. Students should complete their work carefully, using the amount of time that is appropriate for them.

When will class assignments be due?

Assignments should be completed within the given Virtual Instructional Learning day. Teachers will determine those deadlines. However, this may be extended and adjusted based on need.

What if students do not submit their Virtual Instructional Learning assignments?

Assignments not completed by the deadline will have an impact on students' grade in each subject area. However, this may timeline be extended as needed.

How will Virtual Instructional Learning be monitored and counted for attendance?

Accountability for students will rely on submission and assessment of work. Teachers will assess the student's work and determine if the student has met the instructional goals. The actual amount of time online is less important than the work produced and/or created by the student to demonstrate learning and mastery of learning targets.

What if a student does not have access to the internet?

Currently, we are assessing home internet access through related school surveys. Cox is offering 30 days free internet connection connect@cox.com (March - April 2020). Teachers are aware that not all students have internet access at home and will provide accommodations when necessary for students without home internet access. Students without internet connection need to contact the school principal (home surveys re: internet/Chromebook access have been sent to all families.) "Paper-based" options will also be available to students, when appropriate.

Do students with identified special learning needs have an alternative means to access their education on Virtual Instructional Learning Days?

Yes, individual supports, services, and accommodations for students with an Individual Education Program (IEP), Individual Learning Plan (ILP), or a Section 504 Plan are reviewed, discussed, and agreed upon at the student's annual meeting, a Section 504 meeting, or general education plan meeting. Special Educators will make necessary accommodations and modifications for students with IEPs. Accommodations may include changes in the following: presentation of a lesson, instructional strategies, student response format and procedures, time/scheduling, and/or assignment structure. Modifications are the changes made to provide a student with opportunities to participate meaningfully and productively. Modifications may include changes in: instructional level, content/curriculum, and/or performance criteria. Students will also have access to special educators online during the virtual instructional learning days.

How does the North Providence School Department safeguard my child while online?

North Providence School Department takes student privacy very seriously. We meet all FERPA, COPPA, and CIPA requirements, and we filter student internet activity via Oshean's internet provider filtering system when students are logged in with their npsd.us username and password.

What training is available for how to access and use online services and resources?

North Providence Schools is a GSuite district. This means that North Providence students and faculty use Google's suite of education tools: Docs, Slides, Sheets, and Drawings district-wide. All students and teachers have been trained and use these products almost daily. Every employee and student is given a Gmail address and login and has access to the education tools and some core organizational tools such as individual Google Drive space, email, calendar, and others. Teachers and students interact on a platform called Google Classroom where teachers can distribute announcements, assignments, and email students. Students can see all of their work, access all related files, turn in their work, and email their teacher(s) directly.

As a guardian, you can choose to receive email summaries showing your student's progress in Google Classroom, can choose the frequency of the emails, such as daily or weekly, and can unsubscribe or remove yourself from Classroom at any time. Guardian email summaries include: missing work—work that's late at the time the email was sent, upcoming work—work that's due today and tomorrow (for daily emails) or work that's due in the upcoming week (for weekly emails), and class activity—announcements, assignments, and questions recently posted by teachers.

Because use of the GSuite of tools is embedded in our daily routines, teachers and students have frequent and ongoing opportunities to use the GSuite tools and to engage in learning opportunities to enhance their skills.

What if I have questions about assignments?

Please contact your child's teacher via their npsd.us email.

Teacher Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. on Virtual Instructional Learning Days.

Please note the above statements are subject to change. The North Providence Public Schools will continue to evaluate and strive for excellence in all Virtual Instructional Days. We will make necessary adjustments to accomplish this goal.