



November 5, 2020

As NKC Schools plans for the remaining six weeks of school prior to winter break and the new year, we want to express gratitude to our entire community for a successful start to the 2020-2021 school year. It has certainly been an unusual and challenging time for all. As we've learned more from the health department, our gating criteria committee, survey results and through Dr. Clemens' school visits with staff members at each site, we have continually improved our systems to better serve students and staff. We encourage and commit to ongoing communication, as your suggestions and support are integral to the success of all.

The time has come for families to consider what learning option might best suit them as we enter second semester. (While students return from winter break on January 4, second semester begins January 19.) NKC Schools will continue to offer [three learning options for students](#): in-person, virtual via NKC on Canvas, and virtual via SchoolsPLP (grades K-8). There are a few factors that might influence your decision:

SEMESTER COMMITMENT

Since the first day of school, NKC Schools has allowed students to move between face-to-face and virtual learning modes rather seamlessly. While these choices will still be available in best meeting each student's and family's learning needs, the frequency of shifting between learning scenarios has created staffing challenges in supporting all learners effectively. To improve the learning environment for both face-to-face and virtual students, declarations made for second semester will stay in effect from January 19 through the last day of school (currently scheduled for May 28). As always, extenuating circumstances will always be considered to best serve our families.

IN-PERSON LEARNING SCENARIOS

At this time, elementary buildings are open five days a week. Secondary schools are currently operating in a hybrid model that allows for two days of face-to-face contact with three days of virtual learning. This will remain the case for the remainder of first semester. NKC Schools is looking for opportunities to increase face-to-face contact with students in the future, so long as it's safe to do so. When considering the in-person option, plan for the current scenario to continue, with potential expansion of face-to-face time if conditions allow. If in-person learning time is increased for secondary students, all students selecting in-person instruction would follow the expanded schedule. We appreciate our partnership with the Kansas City Health Department and the Clay County Public Health Center as we navigate the complexities associated with COVID-19.

If you are pleased with your current learning scenario, you need not do a thing. The default selection will be what you are doing currently. **We ask that all families who wish to make a change to their selection, do so by Monday, November 23.** To declare your student's learning option, please visit the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). Once logged in, click *Enrollment Selection* on the left menu.

Again, we thank you for your partnership as we find new ways to best meet your needs.