



August 26, 2020

Dear North Metro Flex Academy Parents/Guardians,

I hope that you and your family are doing well, staying healthy, and are ready to return to another year of learning feeling rested, refreshed, and recharged. This will definitely be the year to practice what it means to be a “Flex” school. Spring of 2020 challenged staff and students to find a new normal for learning. What I have most learned through this process is how much I appreciate the expertise our teachers bring to NMFA, the ways in which our students continue to work hard to grow, and overall, appreciation for the little things in life - giving a high five, a hug or being able to laugh out loud with many people around. What I most appreciate about NMFA is how even under circumstances we have never experienced we are still a learning and caring community.

Normal is such a simple word and it is our goal at NMFA to not only find our new normal, but to use this time as a learning experience that will forever impact the learning environment of NMFA. Our fall may not be “normal,” but our learning will not only continue, but it will thrive. We are excited to move on to the next phase of learning under Covid-19 and we know all returning and new students to NMFA will be welcomed with open arms (from 6 feet away) to our community. The school has made updates to our technology platforms, our building spaces, and our existing HVAC system. We will continue to provide a safe and academically supportive environment. The fact that we are now a 1:1 technology school will only increase our ability to meet the needs of all of our students.

We would like to thank you for your patience as we continue to finalize our plans. We are trying to make decisions in the best interest of students, families, and staff. As we prepare for the upcoming year, our priorities will focus on:

1. Supporting our students in a caring environment
2. Rigor, relationships, and educational equity.
3. Keeping our students and staff members safe.
4. Providing the best school experience for our students.

Based on the number of COVID-19 cases in Ramsey and Washington counties, we have options for how we can begin the school year. Each plan will reduce the number of students in classrooms. This will allow us with flexibility to shift between educational models as needed, and enable us to provide quality instruction to our students that may not be in the building.

Distance Learning: Students are learning from home through both synchronous (all together at the same time) and asynchronous (recorded) education and instructional activities.

Hybrid Learning: Students will be educated for two half-days in the building, either on a Monday/Thursday format, or a Tuesday/Friday format. Wednesday will be a day where all students will engage in distance learning from home. Students will be assigned to a specific weekly schedule which will be sent to you by teachers. The school day will be from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in person, and will finish with two hours of distance learning at home.

I am confident that our students, staff, and families will come together to make this a truly great school year.

Therese Privette

Principal