



New Castle Area School District

420 Fern Street

New Castle, Pennsylvania 16101

(724) 656-4757

www.ncasd.com

Mrs. Debra DeBlasio
Superintendent of Schools

August 26th, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians & Students,

Welcome Back! We started a journey on March 13, 2020 that was and continues to be with much uncertainty. Covid -19 has changed us both personally and professionally. We have hit many hurdles and barriers during these times. As we encountered these situations, we have, and will continue, to work diligently to solve the problems as they arise.

The New Castle Area School Board of Directors, the administrators and I, as your Superintendent, are committed to providing a sound educational program for all students that embrace our mission to ensure health and safety, nutritional needs, social and emotional learning and quality instruction. The contents of this letter has very important information regarding next week's schedule: Sapphire parent and student portal access, food distribution, and technology policy agreements.

First Week Of School

The first day of school for students is Monday, August 31st. For this first week (August 31st - September 4th), each school will function on a modified delay schedule every day. The reason for this adjustment is to allow for our first food distribution, additional device assignments, targeted interventions and to allow students to ease back into school following a new virtual schedule. [Click HERE](#) to view student start times for each building for this week.

Google Classroom Access

On the first day of school, all students should follow their schedule and log into their google account and access their Google classrooms by clicking on the classroom icon or by going to classroom.google.com. Some classrooms have been set up with students enrolled already and some students may have to enter with a "join code" that will be sent via email throughout the weekend. For more detailed information on access Google classrooms [click HERE](#).

Sapphire Community Portal Access

Starting with the 20-21 school year the district is using a new student/parent portal called Sapphire. Today, information will be sent to all student email accounts containing their unique log in

information and PIN number. This will enable students to view their grades, schedules and other announcements. A separate email will be sent to parents/guardians accounts who have already registered a valid email address with the district. Parents will have to complete and submit an online application for access. Granting parental portal access may be initially delayed up to 7-10 days due to the high volume of applications. Parents are also encouraged to check their spam/junk mail folders too.

Technology Usage & Policy

Every year students and parents must read our District approved technology AUP policies and sign off prior to use. The three policies to review are [Policy 815](#), [Policy 816](#), and [Policy 237](#). Parents must read them and sign off using this [Tech Sign Off Form](#). All students in grades K-12 will review these policies with their classroom teachers during the first week of school and will complete a separate sign off form which will be listed as an assignment in their Google Classroom.

Food Distribution

Our food distribution program will start on Monday, August 31st. More information about our food distribution services can be viewed on the district website at www.ncasd.com and on the NCASD Food Services Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ncasd.foodservices/>.

Sincerely,

Debbie

Debra A. DeBlasio
Superintendent
New Castle Area School District