



NYA Reopening Frequently Asked Questions:

Throughout the summer and fall, NYA will monitor conditions and guidelines daily. We are ready to adapt depending on the most current health conditions. The following represents our current answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

How will the school screen and monitor students for symptoms of COVID-19?

Screening students, faculty, and staff is aimed at reducing the risk of having individuals with symptoms on campus. We are developing systems to help ensure students and faculty are free of symptoms before entering campus. These measures may include self-monitoring where students and staff are asked to answer questions related to symptoms or exposure to people with symptoms. It could also mean direct screening of students and staff through methods such as temperature checks.

What are ways in which students can effectively social distance themselves?

Social or physical distancing is one of the most effective tools at limiting the spread of the virus. It is not possible to ensure that all students, faculty, and staff members will be separated by six feet at all times, but there are many measures we can take to maximize distancing and prevent the spread of the virus. Accommodating students in the physical classroom setting is providing the greatest challenge for many schools. Our Health and Safety Team has completed an analysis of the capacity of each classroom given the current guidelines. Based on CDC guidelines, we have developed maximum capacities for each classroom on campus. We will be able to accommodate all of our students on campus simultaneously without converting to a split schedule format. Additional measures will also be taken throughout campus to encourage social distancing. We are designating entry and exit points in buildings to allow for one-way flow of traffic. Modifications will be made for large school gatherings, and protocols will be developed for facilities such as the learning commons, gym locker rooms, dining hall, and other public spaces throughout campus. Masks may be required for certain activities based on guidance and best practices from the CDC. All decisions will be based on the latest health and safety guidelines.

What additional measures will the school take to stop the spread of the virus?

In addition to social distancing we be taking additional measures to stop the spread of the virus. These may include:

- Regular cleaning and disinfecting of classrooms, bathrooms, common areas
- Wearing of masks based on guidance and best practices from the CDC
- Additional sanitizing stations placed across campus
- Plexiglass barriers placed at strategic locations throughout school
- The acquisition of PPE's (personal protective equipment) and additional health and safety equipment

- Reconfiguring classroom spaces and removing difficult to disinfect furniture
- Training for all members of the community

What is the difference between remote learning and hybrid learning?

Remote learning, or distance learning, is when students and faculty are off campus conducting lessons online. Hybrid learning is a combination of on campus learning and remote learning. For instance, some schools may be required to develop a split schedule (not all students on campus simultaneously). Given current guidelines, NYA will be able to accommodate all students on campus at the same time. Another form of hybrid learning that may be utilized if certain students or faculty members are not able to be on campus due to illness, symptoms, exposure to someone with symptoms, etc. NYA continues its investment in technology to ensure that we will be prepared to create a “hybrid” experience to temporarily accommodate these members of the community.

How will COVID-19 impact athletic programs?

Most of NYA’s Upper School athletic teams participate in the Western Maine Conference, governed by the Maine Principals Association (MPA). The MPA will be providing guidelines to allow summer activities led by high school coaches starting July 6. Coaches will be able to contact student-athletes with information on permissible activities. Currently, the start of preseason for fall sports is still planned to begin on August 17, 2020.

The Upper School Boys and Girls Varsity Hockey teams compete in the New England Preparatory Athletic Council League (NEPSAC). Practice for hockey does not begin until November 16, 2020. The NEPSAC is currently developing plans for a return-to-sport. NYA’s Travis Roy Arena is reopening for programs effective June 29.

Middle School programs begin on September 8, the first day of school. Current guidance is being developed by Cumberland County Conference (CCC) administrators with input from the MPA regarding the return-to-sport plan.

Lower School PE classes will take place while observing current social distancing guidelines and best practices.

Director of Athletics, Kelsy Ross, will continue to keep our coaches and families up to date with the latest information from the MPA and NEPSAC and on the Panther athletic and physical education program.

Will dining be available to students?

Dining services will be available to students in the fall with modifications to the menu and ordering process. Capacity in Safford will also be limited to allow for social distancing.