



Positively Guiding Today's Youth
Into Tomorrow's World

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Dear Parents:

Thank you for your patience as Nauset Youth Alliance works with, and awaits decisions from, the school district and school committee. We have also been working with the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC), our licensing body, meeting their guidelines for reopening.

Our reopening guidelines were devised with the health for students and staff first and foremost in mind and will result in various changes. The overarching principles are:

- promote healthy hygiene practices
- intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation
- ensure physical distancing
- limit sharing
- train staff

The training includes NYA staff joining with the faculty and staff of Stony Brook and Eddy Schools in their training sessions to ensure that there is consistency in, and adherence to, policy and protocol. That said, there is one major difference between the protocol the schools will be using and that which NYA will follow and that has to do with the composition of cohorts. The school will be limiting students to classroom cohorts while NYA cohorts will be composed of students within the same grade. Like the school, the NYA grade cohorts will be groups unto themselves and will not interact with other NYA grade cohorts during their time at NYA.

There was a lot of discussion at the NYA Board level and with the superintendent about the different approaches. The decision was made that while NYA occurs in the school buildings it is an after school program and a separate entity from the school day. It is important that parents opting to send their child(ren) to Nauset Youth Alliance understand the difference in composing cohorts as there will be exposure to students outside of their school-day, classroom cohorts.

EEC also requires us to implement various risk-reduction strategies. As I already mentioned, these risk reduction strategies include limiting the contact that students have with others. Group sizes are restricted to ten students and, as previously stated, groups may not have contact with other groups. It is not only possible, but probable, that we will have to wait list students if their enrollment would require the adding of a new group as we will not put children from different grades in the same cohort. Registration will be done on a first-come basis.

Activities will be separated to prevent mixing of groups and large gatherings of students is prohibited. Parents, guardians, and other visitors will not be allowed into the space occupied by students. When parents come to pick-up their child they will use the buzzer at the respective schools to inform the staff they are there and who they are picking-up. We will then bring the child outside to you. Parents

waiting outside must maintain social distancing from others who might be waiting and must wear a mask.

We will have increased cleaning and sanitizing. Since EEC guidelines prohibit sanitization to occur with students in attendance we will be closing at 5:30 pm to allow time for this sanitizing. To prevent students' belongings from touching, each student will have a storage bin for their belongings. We will reduce quantity of items shared by students by providing them with their own craft and art supplies which will be stored in these bins.

Activities will promote social distancing whenever possible and we will provide alcohol-based hand sanitizers before and after each activity. Students and staff must wear cloth face coverings at all times other than when eating or during "mask breaks" which will occur outside and with students distanced at least 10 feet apart. Families must provide a sufficient supply of clean masks and face coverings for their child to allow replacing the covering as needed. The masks should be clearly marked with the child's name and clearly distinguish which side of the covering should be worn facing outwards so they are properly worn each day. Non-compliant students will be sent home.

Snacks will be served in pre-packed containers. Water fountains will be closed; students should bring individual, refillable water bottles (clearly labeled with their name!). We will utilize the outdoors as much as possible, including doing homework and eating snacks outside when the weather permits, and maximize fresh air intake and ventilation of all indoor spaces.

While we will be operating at a substantial deficit we have opted not to change the fee from \$20 per day (if a child attends three or more days a week; \$22 per day for those attending only one or two days) because we understand how critical after school care is for working parents. We will be charging a one-time \$25 fee for the individualized supply packets. Families attending NYA agree to adhere to all the terms and conditions expressed here, in the NYA Handbook, and in the registration portal. Failure to do so will result in the child's immediate dismissal from the program without refund.

We will be opening registration once we have final approval from the Brewster School Committee and the superintendent. The registration portal will open on Monday, August 31st. We will be posting updates regarding registration on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/NausetYouthAlliance>). We ask families register by Tuesday, September 8th so we can move ahead with planning accordingly.

The changes being made are for the health and safety of students and staff during this unprecedented pandemic. We appreciate your understanding that we must plan for the greatest good and are limited in our ability to meet individual desires. If you have any questions, thoughts, or concerns please email drost@nausetyouthalliance.org.

We are excited about reopening and look forward to seeing children thriving again at Nauset Youth Alliance.

Sincerely,



David M. Rost
Executive Director
Nauset Youth Alliance