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Hello Northpoint Students, Families and Community,

Last Thursday the Arizona Department of Health recommended county-specific public health benchmarks to determine if schools are safe for reopening. Yavapai County did not meet the three benchmarks, and we have reviewed the information among staff and our Governing Board. Northpoint will return to in person learning on **October 5th, 2020**. Distance learning remains an option for any family who would prefer to continue learning from home throughout the semester. The online student’s schedule will switch to match the ‘traditional’ schedule of 8:30-3:30 for High School and 8:00-3:30 for Middle School. (Online is currently on a 9:00-3:00 schedule) **Please let me know if you are leaning toward staying online through the first semester.**

Benchmarks

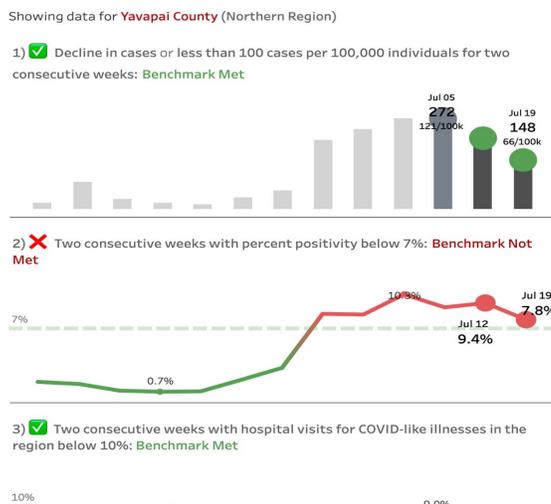
The benchmarks must fall within the moderate or minimal spread category in all three benchmarks (number of cases, percent positivity, and COVID-like illness) for two weeks in order to provide hybrid learning (some students in physical buildings and some students distance learning). Specifically, ADHS recommends the following benchmarks be met prior to offering any in-person learning:

Number of Cases: a two week decline in the number of cases or two weeks with new case rates below 100 per 100,000.

Percent Positivity: two weeks with less than 7% positivity.

COVID-like Illness Syndromic Surveillance: two weeks with hospital visits due to COVID-like illness below 10%.

Below is the [reported data for Yavapai County from the ADHS website](#).



Northpoint's Plan

Based on these metrics, Northpoint intends to use the 3.5 day week of October 5th as our re-entry into in person, on site learning. Please note this is based on the current data continuing in a downward positive trend. This timing would allow the metrics to continue to the minimal level for an average of two weeks and provide transition time for parents to plan and teachers to shift instructional models and implement additional health and safety protocols in preparation of all students on campus.

Now that the metric is established, we will be able to watch the COVID data and update you on what we hope is progress toward the full reopening. The benchmark indicator we did not meet was regarding spread within the community of Yavapai County. We can each do our part to observe physical distancing, wear face coverings and keep the numbers moving down! This will determine if we can have our long-anticipated, happy and awkward in person reunion on October 5th. We are Crew, not Passengers.

Lastly, a reminder that information on our Mitigation Plan, On Site Learning Program, and other COVID related information can be found on our website. www.northpointacademy.org

We will continue to keep you posted as information is available. Thank you for your patience and support.

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