

Non-Traditional Instruction

Q: Why is the district implementing the Non-Traditional Instruction plan?

A: In a nutshell, the answer is “To improve student learning”. It is very difficult to maintain sequential, cohesive instruction when students are out of school in an unplanned manner such as a snow day. Therefore, HCPS students will be able to review taught concepts that will (a) keep material fresh in students’ minds and (b) will minimize instructional disruptions. In addition, while most students enjoy an occasional snow day, many students bore quickly and often involve themselves with counterproductive tasks or activities. Instructional projects will provide students a positive, intentional focus that will reinforce prior learning.

Q: How many missed days are included in the Non-Traditional Instruction plan?

A: The approval of our NTI plan from the KY Department of Education (KDE) allows for up to 10 missed days to be counted as instructional days. The actual number of NTI days called by Superintendent Howard will be entirely dependent of the weather and road conditions.

Q: When will the NTI days start?

A: Beginning December 5, 2016, Superintendent Howard may choose to use any day that school must be cancelled as an NTI day. The Superintendent will likely only call NTI days on days when road conditions on main roads are acceptable. We will announce days that will be used as NTI days using the Student Messenger call system, District Web-page, and Facebook and we will only use days that are not deemed to be extremely hazardous giving our staff an opportunity to report to work if they wish.

Q: How will I know when we are having an NTI day?

A: NTI days will be announced using the Student Messenger call system that we currently use to cancel school. The radio and district Facebook page will also be used to announce the NTI day.

Q: Will all days that school is cancelled be considered NTI days?

A: NO. NTI days will be clearly distinguished and will only be used on certain days that school is cancelled when road conditions permit.

Q: Can an NTI day be used when school is closed for reasons other than road conditions such as a flu outbreak?

A: Yes

Q: Will the NTI days have to be “made up”?

A: No. NTI days count exactly the same as a traditional school day for both teachers and students. Following each NTI day, the district is required to submit a variety of documents including lesson plans, participation rates for students, evidence of teacher participation, etc... to KDE in order to be allowed to count the NTI day. If the district meets its reporting requirement the NTI day will be counted.

Q: My child/student does not have access to a computer and/or the Internet. How will he/she do the work?

A: Every student will be given a paper/pencil packet which mimics the NTI day project as closely as possible. Students who do not have internet may complete the paper/pencil project contained in their NTI day folder for that particular NTI day.

Q: When are assignments due to be returned?

A: The district has established a five (5) school day window following an NTI day for submission of work. We established a longer than normal window to accommodate students who may need assistance from the teacher to complete the project and who may not have access to any form of communication with the teacher on the actual NTI day.

Q: How long should it take for my child to complete the NTI assignments?

A: Each student will work at his/her own pace so the time required to complete the work will vary depending on the child; however, our target time frame is approximately the same as the regular school day.

Q: Am I expected to teach my child new content while he/she is working on NTI assignments?

A: No. The NTI instructional materials are designed to review and reinforce previously-taught concepts and not represent new teaching components.

Q: What if my child has questions about the NTI work assignments or trouble while he/she is completing the work?

A: Classroom teachers will be available to assist students on all NTI days. Your child’s teacher will notify you about how he/she plans to communicate with students to answer questions about student assignments on the NTI days. This communication may include email or other electronic means or by phone. Teachers will be available from 8:30 until 3:00 with a break from 12:00 -12:30 for lunch.

Q: What should I do if I can’t contact my student’s teacher with a question or concern on an NTI day?

A: Every student will be given an NTI day folder which will include multiple methods for contact for your child's teacher. These methods of contact may include e-mail, class web-site chat access, phone numbers, etc... Each folder will also include alternate contact information in the event that your child's actual teacher cannot be reached. It is possible that a teacher may be sick, have a doctor's appointment, or other emergency that takes them away from the job responsibilities on the NTI day.

Q: What should a teacher do if he/she can't participate in an NTI day due to personal/family illness, jury duty, etc... or other reason indicated on the "teacher attendance card"?

A: The teacher has the right to use a sick day on the NTI day if circumstances prevent them from fulfilling their duties on the NTI day. The teacher should make their principal aware as early as possible if they are not going to be available on the designated NTI day.

Q: What if my child is sick on the NTI day?

A: Students have a five (5) school day window to make up and submit their work.

Q: What if my child is planning to do his/her NTI day project on-line but our internet is not working on the NTI day?

A: All students will have a paper/pencil NTI packet which can be used in the event of internet issues plus they can always fall back on the five day assignment completion window if necessary.

Q: Can my child come to school on the NTI day?

A: No. Schools will be closed to students on the NTI days. The teachers that choose to report to work will be busy in their classrooms communicating with students electronically and addressing concerns as they arise.

Q: Is it normal for parents to get a call or e-mail from their child's teacher on the NTI day?

A: Yes. Teachers have been instructed to maintain and submit a student contact log for each NTI day. Teachers are required to attempt to make contact with any of their students who have not contacted them. This contact may be in the form of a group message on Course-sites/Blackboard, e-mail, phone call, etc...

Q: Should my child attempt to contact their teacher on the NTI day?

A: Yes. Students should contact their teacher using the contact information found on their NTI day folder. A major part of our approval for the NTI day is documentation of contact with students.