



COVID-19 Operations Written Report for Novato Charter School

Local Educational Agency (LEA) Name	Contact Name and Title	Email and Phone	Date of Adoption
Novato Charter School	Nikki Lloyd Director	nllloyd@nUSD.org (415) 883- 4254	6/10/2020

Descriptions provided should include sufficient detail yet be sufficiently succinct to promote a broader understanding of the changes your LEA has put in place. LEAs are strongly encouraged to provide descriptions that do not exceed 300 words.

Provide an overview explaining the changes to program offerings that the LEA has made in response to school closures to address the COVID-19 emergency and the major impacts of the closures on students and families.

As a Public Waldorf School, guided by the core principles of Public Waldorf Education, NCS provides a curriculum that is experiential and artistic. This developmental approach creates a love of learning throughout the grades. We incorporate a “slow-tech” approach to media and do not introduce computers until 3rd grade. During the school closure caused by COVID-19 NCS immediately transitioned to a distance learning program ranging from paper packets in the lower grades to a more extensive online learning program in third through eighth grade. While remote teaching was brand new to us when the school closure began, we have been determined to offer a rich curriculum that engages and challenges our students and holds to our values as a school. It has been a process of trial, evaluation, adjustment, and reevaluation.

When the closure began in March, remote learning was deployed for our 5th through 8th grade students. The students were provided Chromebooks and the teachers set up Google Classrooms as a platform for their teaching. With the news that remote learning would continue, the 3rd and 4th grade teachers also moved to Google Classrooms for their teaching. Our Kindergarten through 2nd grade students have continued with paper packets and using Google Classroom platform as a place to access the packets, video and audio recordings posted by their teachers, and to join real-time virtual meetings with the teacher and classmates.

To better understand the major impacts on our students and families we sent out an all-school survey requesting feedback regarding the distance learning program. One primary hurdle that we continue to face is not having enough Chromebooks to offer to our students. We are working with NUSD to resolve this. Like all schools, our families have been impacted in a range of ways and the impact of campus closure varies greatly from family to family. Families long for the structure that on-campus learning provides and our students miss the in-person contact with their teachers and peers.

Provide a description of how the LEA is meeting the needs of its English learners, foster youth and low-income students.

During the school closure caused by COVID-19, NCS has continued to provide curriculum through our distance learning program. This program ranges from paper packets in the lower grades to a more extensive online learning program in third through eighth grade to all students including our English Learners and low-income students. Faculty members have connected directly with students and families to ensure they have access to the tools needed to access the curriculum through paper packets, Chromebooks, Wifi needs, and technical support. Though the FANS program, parents have access to daily meals as needed.

Provide a description of the steps that have been taken by the LEA to continue delivering high-quality distance learning opportunities.

It has been a priority for NCS to continue to deliver high-quality distance learning opportunities. We have worked within the lower school and middle school groups to offer a variety of ways to engage with our students. In addition, our faculty members are working with their classes to find the best way to address the needs of their individual classes.

In the Kindergarten through second-grade classes, no school work has been done on the computer. We have provided paper packets, accessed via Google Classrooms or picked up at school using social distance measures. Faculty have used Google Classrooms to access audio and video recordings, and the students participate in weekly Zoom meetings 1-2 times per week

Our 3rd and 4th Graders are doing about half to three-quarters of their work on the computer, using Google Slides, Docs, or for 4th, Khan Academy. Other work is written on paper (or main lesson books) at home and pictures will be taken to upload to their teachers or the papers will be turned in. Google Classrooms is a platform for students to access recorded videos of teachers reading books, leading an activity,

introducing material, explaining assignments. There are also live connecting sessions and practice material to interact with via docs, slides, and Khan Academy. The students participate in weekly group calls via Zoom.

In fifth grade, all assignments communicated via Google Classroom and students use their main lesson books to make written entries. Their Math work is done on IKnowIt.com or Big Ideas Math and ReadWorks.org is used for language arts. The teacher provides video tutorials uploaded to Google Classroom and weekly individual Zoom meetings take place with the teacher for each child. In addition, extra support is also provided for students who need it using Zoom.

Our Middle School students receive all of their assignments via Google Classroom and have weekly live lessons with the class teacher. In addition, they participate in weekly live lessons for movement and music classes. They also have regular live study hours for math and main lesson. Fridays are used for special projects to allow students to be creative.

All teachers kindergarten through 8th Grade, identified two Essential Standards for ELA and mathematics. Essential Standards were identified by Novato Unified School District as the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) that students need to master in preparation for the CCSS that will be presented to the student in the next school year. The teachers focused the remote lessons on building competency with each identified Essential Standard. The teachers will report on participation and progress of each student's progress on the Essential Standards during remote learning.

Provide a description of the steps that have been taken by the LEA to provide school meals while maintaining social distancing practices.

At the onset of distance learning, NCS offered school meals for families to pick up here on campus. All NCS families were notified through email and in our weekly newsletter that meal service would continue through the duration of the campus closure. In addition, we contacted all of the families who participate in the Free and Reduced meal program and scheduled times for them to pick up their meals. We were able to maintain social distancing practices by scheduling pick-up times and placing the items in a safe location for the parents to retrieve without coming into close proximity to NCS employees. Once the campus closure was extended, NCS worked with NUSD and the FANS program to offer school meal pickup at the district locations. NCS families are notified weekly regarding the location, menu, and pickup schedule for the meals. Families have been able to receive their meals at five NUSD campus locations throughout Novato. One of the locations is within very close proximity to our campus which ensures that there was not an unnecessary burden placed on families to pick up food. The FANS program has been essential in maintaining food services to all students in Novato and we feel fortunate to have such a dedicated partner to work with.

Provide a description of the steps that have been taken by the LEA to arrange for supervision of students during ordinary school hours.

In our newsletter, the notice is posted for parents who are in need of care to call the statewide consumer education hotline at 1-800-KIDS-793. In addition, there is a referral to the website for the California Childcare Resource and Referral Network:

<https://rrnetwork.org/>

<https://rrnetwork.org/family-services/find-child-care>

In addition, NCS has informed our essential workers of pop-up childcare options.

In June, we administered the Youth Truth Survey to the 6th through 8th-grade students to gain further understanding of the distance learning experiences for our students.