Online Questions submitted through March 23, 2020

1. **If the system decides to open the school and parents start to send the children sick are you going to call the parents to pick up the child or they are going to let it pass like so many times before?**
   - Schools will not reopen until the Governor, Commissioner and local health officials designate the schools safe for both students and adults. If the virus is still circulating, schools will not be able to open.

2. **What is the district’s plans/thoughts to when it may be safe for our youth to return to a classroom learning environment? Have they considered maybe extending distance learning to April 20th? Believe this would allow the state to have a stable finger on the pulse of where we stand with COVID-19 spread.**
   - The district is committed to following the guidance of local, state, and federal officials regarding school closings. The district has communicated the decision to extend Distance Learning until at least April 17, 2020. This decision is in line with the Governor’s order that schools must remain closed until (at least April 20th). The Superintendent will continue to send weekly updates to the NLPS community keeping everyone apprised of the most recent guidance from the Governor as these changes weekly.

3. **Will school be closed for the rest of the year?**
   - No one knows this answer yet. School districts are given mandates and guidance from state officials. Weekly updates to the school community will continue to be shared every Friday.

4. **No questions. I would want more information on SAT testing but understand everything is moving quickly and the safety and health of our students and faculty are most important.**
   - Please view Superintendent’s weekly messages (Under COVID-19 Communications) and also information regarding SAT and AP classes on the drop downs, per grade level. A lot of information on this topic has been shared.

5. **I got an admission letter to the National Honor Society. Who do I turn it in to and where?**
   - First, CONGRATULATIONS! Second, please contact your high school guidance counselor through email. Each person’s email is found on our website and is also posted in the Superintendent’s letter to students and families dated, April 3rd.

6. **Does it look like the school will reopen after March 31?**
   - Currently, New London Public Schools will remain closed until at least April 17, 2020. Future updates concerning the re-opening of schools will be forthcoming based on the guidance the district receives from the Governor and Commissioner. Updates will be provided by the Superintendent every Friday (at least).

7. **How will we help students with distance learning if they have no internet available?**
   - We have provided information about accessing Wifi/Internet through social media platforms and on our website. If you need more information the Tech Helpdesk can assist: The helpdesk telephone line 860-447-6084 or send an email to support@newlondon.org
8. Will we be closing our school and switching to online like some other schools have?
   - Yes, NLPS is implementing a Distance Learning Plan. You should have received communication about this. If you are not getting emails from the school district please call or email: 860-447-6084 or send an email to support@newlondon.org

9. Just worried as all districts are about the kids getting back into the routine of things come next year. Also how will you determine whether a child passes or fails?
   - We will get through this together. Keeping strong connections and regular routines will help everyone. Students should work to complete their assignments and activities. Teachers and administrators will be reaching out regularly to help. The first few weeks of establishing Distance Learning focuses on establishing routines and relationships for effectively communicating and working together. Students should not be worried about grades at this time. More information will be forthcoming.

10. What are you gonna expect out of parents for home schooling a child with a learning disability & Adhd? Some districts are expecting children to be logged on from 8am-4pm. It is impossible for parents who are still working.
   - Students will be given assignments and teachers will be available to connect and answer questions from 9:00-4:00. A student does not need to complete his/her homework during this time, however, and can choose to do it in the evening. Flexible learning conditions are in place.

11. Will the kids still have a graduation?
   - If the climate is safe, we will be able to come back and have a regular graduation. If not, we will be sure to work hard together to do something creative and meaningful to this year’s graduating class, virtually. The Superintendent and the administrative team at the high school will be connecting with the Student Council to map out a variety of plans. These will be shared.

12. When will online learning be implemented and how will it affect my Senior? Will they be able to get all of their requirements for graduation?
   - Online learning has begun. Yes, if students keep up with assigned lessons, they will meet graduation requirements.

13. Are the schools being cleaned, sanitized & disinfected by properly trained personnel?
   - Yes, all district facilities are being cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected by the custodial staff. Staff have received detailed training from their supervisor, who works closely with our healthy officials.

14. How can we get a chrome book for our children to do work on?
   - If you were unable to attend one of the dates for technology distribution, please call or email: 860-447-6084 or send an email to support@newlondon.org to set up an appointment to pick up a device.

15. In the event that the schools remain closed for a longer period of time, is there any plan for the services our special needs kids receive?
   - Yes, special service plans are now in place. If you did not hear from your child’s case manager yet, please contact Dr. Kelsey at kelseyv@newlondon.org
16. Just curious to see if there is any way Spring Break can be taken away and end school earlier. While I love homeschooling I also have a full time job that has not closed.
   - As of right now, the district will remain closed during the scheduled April Break of April 10, 2020 – April 17, 2020. Various unions, and Board of Education, have contributed to this year’s approved master calendar.

17. My son is in first grade, has a lot of services through his IEP-parent conference was on the Friday that it was determined to close until further notice and during that conference it was stated that my son was below school average. What does this mean for my son? How can I help him learn more, plus work since both parents are essential?
   - We are here to support your child. Please contact his classroom teacher who will explain the variety of differentiated services available to him.

18. Did they find a way to prevent getting sick from the sickness that is going on right now?
   - The CDC and local officials continually provide guidance for best practices to help protect yourself as much as possible. Please visit the CDC website for the most up-to-date information: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

19. Will students be allowed to wear masks and gloves if necessary to protect themselves on return back to school?
   - Students will not come back to school until the Governor and health officials deem the environment safe. If the environment is safe, no masks or gloves will be needed.

20. Is all of the staff safe and healthy? Has anyone been tested for or diagnosed with the Corona Virus? Will parents be notified if any school faculty/staff/personnel/administrators tests positive for the virus?
   - Specific individuals health conditions are protected under HIPPA law. The entire district will continue to follow all orders from the Governor and safety protocols from our Health advisors. No one who is sick, or has been exposed to someone who is sick, should leave their house.

21. Is school based health open?
   - The School Based Health Center at Winthrop School is open by pre-made appointment. The phone number for families to call to make an appointment is: 860-437-4555.

22. Can assignment titles/ and expectations be posted in powerschool or on a specific site? I have three children and I am having a hard time keeping track of everything that needs to be done. A detailed syllabus would be helpful and a way to track if the student has submitted the assignment would be helpful. Should students send emails/ pictures of completed work to their teachers or should they wait until the entire packet is completed? Will there be any quizzes or tests? Do students have homework with all teachers (including electives) or just core classes? I have not heard from all teachers.
   - Thank you for sharing this idea. We understand that you are receiving a lot of information from a variety of people at this time. Hopefully, by now you have received direct communication from your child’s teacher. Assignments will be posted on Monday for each class and students should aim to have them completed by Friday. Curriculum content leaders will collaborate with building Principals to see how they can best capture and post these in one place. Thank you for sharing this feedback and idea!
23. How will the students properly finish the school year by returning on April 20, so close the end? Will the students be required to repeat the grade? What about seniors and graduation and credits?
   - Student should not worry. Their job is to log into their Distance Learning platform and complete the assignments in the modules assigned weekly. Administrators, teachers and support staff are available to help students from 9:00-4:00. They, too, will be joining students’ virtual classes to check in during class times as well.

24. My child is in special education and requires a one on one, will I be reimbursed for filling this role?
   - No. Teachers and support staff will be in touch with you regularly to be sure your child is receiving direct instruction in the areas aligned to goals listed on the IEP.

25. No material was provided for elementary students
   - Materials are virtual. The elementary program is described on our website. All students are using the SeeSaw platform to complete Distance Learning programming. Please visit the district’s website, www.newlondon.org and visit the Extended School Closure Resources tab or use this link: https://www.newlondon.org/extended_school_closure_resources/distance_learning (Please click on this link or cut it and paste it into your web browser’s address line in order to access the information.) Choose your child’s/children’s grade level and there you will find the learning materials you need.

26. How will you assure that students are taught to all grade level standards to prepare for the next schoolyear if school does not reconvene prior to this academic year?
   - Teachers and curriculum leaders continue to work hard to ensure students have a robust educational program, aligned to required content standards, through virtual means. Teachers will be connecting with students and families regularly to share feedback on how each child is progressing towards mastery of grade level standards.

27. How will the children make up for lost education and experience? My son is in kindergarten and he loves school.
   - We are all saddened by the loss of educational experiences for students everywhere. The district will be doing its best through these unprecedented times to provide an interactive, engaging and positive distance-learning experience. Virtual face-to-face connections are a part of our programming.

28. Are you currently cleaning the schools for reopening? Do you need help from parents to clean the entire school?
   - Our custodial staff is working hard to clean all buildings throughout the district. Should we have a need for volunteers, we will post an advertisement on the website to reach out. Thank you!

29. When is the freshman science fair for STEM students?
   - Please contact our Assistant Director of STEM/Science, Ms. Janet Farquhar at frquharj@newlondon.org.

30. Will I need access to a printer for my 5th grader?
   - We do not believe so. At this time, week 1 of virtual learning, there are no distance-learning activities which will require a printer.
31. Are the iPads that will be distributed to the kids be set up where the kids can only access specific programs? I don’t want my kid going all willy nilly on the interwebs.
   • Only the district has the ability to download apps to the iPads, however, there is access to the Safari web browser on iPads. We ask that parents be vigilant in checking on their students and the use of their devices while they are at home.

32. What is the plan for continued education if the schools don’t reopen for the remainder of the year?
   • The district will continue to offer Distance Learning for all students.

33. Will the kids have to return the learning packages by April 17?
   • No. These packets were not required, however, students were encouraged to complete them.

34. Just wondering if I could make a suggestion. I think a nice suggestion would be that once students are online doing distance learning, there should be an area they could request to do work with a teacher or paraprofessional they are used to working with. Our paraprofessionals and tutors spend more time with our students than any other employee. The students respect and look up to our paraprofessionals and tutors for help with work or just to listen to them. Somehow could we help support our students with the comforts they miss from school? I know personally I have worked with the same student in a self-contained behavior room for nearly four years as a special education paraprofessional and to say how much we have worked for his growth in being in control to the point that he is in inclusion a lot of his school day. I obviously worry about him. I imagine students like these would love a chance to do homework with staff they respect a hundred percent.
   • All support staff, including paraprofessionals, are working with us full time. They should be working alongside your child’s classroom teacher to continue to support ongoing education. If you have not heard from your child’s paraprofessional, yet, please contact his/her special education teacher (or homeroom teacher) as these teachers give guidance and assignments to the paraprofessionals. We are blessed to have so many fabulous employees working with our amazing students.

35. Have you thought about having children attend school, but in shifts where they could sit alternating desks. Similar to the White House briefing where they have orange blocks on the backs of the chairs where the media is allowed to sit. Even if kids could come 1 or 2 days a week on their allowed day, it would make a big difference in some of their lives.
   • The district is following the guidelines set forth by local, state and federal health officials, which limits the number of people that can be in a room at a time. Unfortunately, this would not be possible for the district to do.

36. Why are you making hourly employees collect unemployment?
   • No hourly employees are collecting unemployment. All have active work assignments. If there are any specific questions regarding staff and pay, please contact the Human Resources Office for more information.

37. How can we helpful?
   • The single most important way that you can help is to adhere to the guidance established by the federal, state, and local health agencies. Your health and well-being matters! Please visit the district’s website often. There you will find information about ways you can help as needs arise.
38. I cannot find the info for the new food drop-offs.
   • The information is located on the district’s website, www.newlondon.org here:
     https://www.newlondon.org/extended_school_closure_resources/child_and_nutrition_information
     (Please click on this link or cut it and paste it into your web browser’s
     address line in order to access the information.)

39. Are 8th graders going to have their "graduation" or is that canceled? What about Fame the musical?
   • I know this is difficult, but this is not something we can answer at this time. As soon as
     we have more information, we will share it. Schools cannot reopen until the Governor
     deems them safe.

40. The meals being delivered is a great idea, however that is taking groups of people out of their
    homes to wait for the arrival. Exposing many people. Other districts are delivering it to homes
    to minimize exposure. Drop the meals, ring doorbell and walk away. Less people exposed.
    Currently that would be groups of more than ten people.
   • While the district and Child Nutrition Program continue to review the procedures, due
     to the number of families in New London that are utilizing the meal distribution, this is
     not something that the CNP staff currently has the capacity to do.