Vista Charter Academy
Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan

Address of School District: 711 - 32nd Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49548

District Code Number: 41909

Building Code Number(s): 08370

District Contact Person: Kristen Hekkema

District Contact Person Email Address: 4.khekkema@nhaschools.com

Local Public Health Department: Kent County Health Department

Local Public Health Department Contact Person Email Address:
adam.london@kentcountymi.gov

Name of Intermediate School District: Kent

Name of Authorizing Body: Bay Mills Community College

Date of Adoption by Board of Directors: 9/23/2020

Assurances

- The Academy will administer an approved benchmark assessment, or local benchmark assessment, or any combination thereof, to all pupils in grades K to 8 to measure proficiency in reading and mathematics within the first nine weeks of the 2020-2021 school year.

- Within thirty days after the approval of its Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan, and every 30 days thereafter, the Academy, at a meeting of its board of directors, will re-confirm how instruction is delivered during the 2020-2021 school year and will solicit public comment, at a public meeting, from the parents or legal guardians enrolled in the Academy.

- If delivering pupil instruction virtually, the Academy will expose each pupil to the academic standards that apply for each pupil's grade level or courses in the same scope and sequence as the Academy had planned for that exposure to occur for in-person instruction.

- If delivering pupil instruction virtually, the Academy will provide pupils with equitable access to technology and the internet necessary to participate in instruction.

- The Academy will ensure that students with disabilities will be provided with equitable access to instruction and accommodation in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations.

- The Academy, in consultation with a local health department, and district employees, will develop guidelines concerning appropriate methods for delivering pupil instruction for the 2020-2021 school year that are based on local data that are based on key metrics. A determination concerning the method for delivering pupil instruction shall remain at the Academy Board's discretion. Key metrics that the Academy will consider shall include at least all of the following:

  o COVID-19 Cases or Positive COVID-19 tests
  o Hospitalizations due to COVID-19
  o Number of deaths resulting from COVID-19 over a 14-day period
  o COVID-19 cases for each day for each 1 million individuals
  o The percentage of positive COVID-19 tests over a 4-week period
  o Health capacity strength
  o Testing, tracing, and containment infrastructure with regard to COVID-19

- If the Academy determines that it is safe to provide in-person pupil instruction to pupils, the Academy will prioritize providing in-person pupil instruction to pupils in grades K to 5 who are enrolled in the Academy.

- The Academy will ensure that two (2), 2-way interactions occur between a pupil enrolled in the Academy and the pupil's teacher or at least one (1) of the pupil's teachers during each week of the school year for at least 75% of the pupils enrolled in the Academy. The Academy will publicly announce its weekly interaction rates at each Academy Board meeting where it re-confirm how instruction is being delivered, beginning 30 days after approval of its Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan, and every 30 days thereafter. The Academy will make those rates available through the transparency reporting link located on the Academy website each month for the 2020-2021 school year.

- The Academy will create and make available on its transparency reporting link located on the Academy's website, a report concerning the progress made in meeting the educational goals contained in its Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan not later than February 1, 2021, for goals its expected would be achieved by the middle of the school year and not later than the last day of school of the 2020-2021 school year for goals the Academy expected would be achieved by the end of the school year.
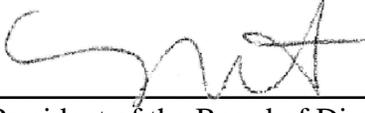
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President of the Board of Directors

 9/23/2020
Date

Introduction and Overview

Due to COVID-19, the 2020-2021 school year will look much different than previous school years, but our commitment to students and families remains the same. To best ensure a continuity of learning and to comply with PA 149 of 2020, our school has created a COVID-19 Preparedness & Response Plan and this Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan. Throughout the school year we may update our plans to best meet the needs of our school community and in accordance with applicable law.

Educational Goals

Grade Band	Subject	Proposed Benchmark	Proposed Goal
K-1	Math	NHA Numeracy Assessments (Fall, Winter, Spring)	Using the local NHA Numeracy Assessments as the district-selected benchmark for grades K-2 in math, the percent of students at or above a 3.0 (grade level) will increase from fall to spring, and progress will be measured using the winter assessment.
K-1	Reading	aimswebPlus (Fall, Winter, Spring)	Using aimswebPlus as the district-selected benchmark for grades K-2 in reading, the percent of students at or above the 25th percentile (Tier 1) will increase from fall to spring, and progress will be measured using the winter benchmark assessment.
2-8	Math & Reading	NWEA (Fall, Winter, Spring)	The median Student Growth Percentile for students in grades 2nd through 8th grade will be at or above the 50th percentile on NWEA's Measure of Academic Progress for fall-to-winter and fall-to-spring testing periods indicating a minimum of average growth.

The Northwest Evaluation Association Measure of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP), a nationally normed and computer-adaptive test, will be administered to all grade 2-8 students three times in the 2020-21 school year, in the fall (within the first nine weeks of the start of school), the winter, and in the spring to determine whether students are making meaningful progress toward mastery of the standards. The NWEA MAP is aligned to the Common Core Standards and listed by the Michigan Department of Education as an approved testing tool.

The Academy will make available on its transparency reporting link located on the Academy's website, a report concerning the progress made in meeting the education goals not later than February 1, 2021 for fall-to-winter goal and not later than the last day of school of the 2020-21 school year for the winter-to-spring goal.

Instructional Delivery & Exposure to Core Content

Instructional Delivery
While in-person instruction is our strong preference, the safety of our staff and students remains our number one priority. Therefore, currently, Vista Charter Academy is operating in a hybrid learning environment. This decision was made by a partnership of school leadership, National Heritage Academies, and the school Board, and will be reevaluated as we continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation closely. Families were sent a survey at the end of the 2019-2020 school year that asked about their remote learning experience, how they felt about returning to school in the fall, and if they had regular internet access at home.

When possible or necessary, the school is prepared to transition to a remote or full in-person instructional model. Students and families also have a choice to enroll in our virtual select program if they do not feel comfortable returning to in-person learning. Leaders selected staff for the virtual learning program by first understanding staff interests in the various learning models. During planning or professional development, staff have the opportunity to share feedback to help inform, and potentially adjust, processes and procedures throughout the school.

In this hybrid learning model, students are divided into two separate groups – Group A and Group B. Group A will receive in-person instruction two days per week– for example on Monday and Tuesday, and Group B will receive in-person instruction on Thursday and Friday. All students will be remote on Wednesday. Families will be grouped together. We may modify the specific days each cohort attends to best meet the needs of our school community, but will ensure separate and distinct cohorts remain intact. Below is an example Hybrid schedule for our school.

Sample Hybrid Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group A	In-School	In-School	Remote	Remote	Remote
Group B	Remote	Remote	Remote	In-School	In-School

Content in both our remote and hybrid learning environments remains the same, only the mode of delivery shifts. In a hybrid environment, the mode of delivery will shift from synchronous small groups to in-person instruction. When in class, students will receive individualized and small group instruction focusing on their specific needs. When at home, students will connect with their teacher online, who will guide their learning by using an assignment schedule, high-quality instructional videos, and other learning resources based on their needs. The hybrid model will also continue to prioritize student engagement, consistency, and differentiation opportunities.

NHA has spent three years rolling out high quality and thoroughly vetted resources. These resources will continue to be utilized even when students are in a remote learning setting.

Exposure & Mastery of Core Content
When schools were closed in March of 2020 due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, NHA's Curriculum and Instruction Team immediately began to digitize all the necessary curricular components usually delivered via in-person instruction. This included all subject and grade-level specific scope and sequence documents and the litany of resources available to help our teachers and staff scaffold learning

via a virtual instructional model. The resources are now available to our staff, and all staff at NHA-partner schools via NHA's "Staff Virtual Learning Hub. We will use these resources and our online platforms to ensure that students are receiving the same exposure to content and academic standards and he/she would during in-person instruction.

Our teachers will be provided with information about best practices for blended learning, grade-level proficiencies, modes of student assessment and feedback, differentiated support opportunities for students, and guidance around daily instructional time. Teachers will continually monitor and assess students' connectivity and accessibility, attendance, and student work.

Classroom teachers will monitor mastery of curricular content, as measured through classroom assessments that are administered as part of the school's formative assessment program. The formative assessment process is designed to provide a mechanism for monitoring all students' academic needs and will allow teachers to adapt instructional methods and materials as necessary to optimize learning opportunities. We will use regular formative assessments, weekly quizzes, unit assessments every 3-4 weeks, interim assessments every 9 weeks, and benchmarking to demonstrate student mastery of subject matter. Instructional groups will be fluid, based on data. Our instructional model is to assess, analyze data as a team, plan, and teach. This is a continuous cycle as depicted below.

Students will complete standards aligned curriculum assessments (weekly quizzes, unit assessments, interim assessments) through EdCite, an online platform compatible with our Gradebook and student information system. EdCite allows our students to complete assessments virtually, or by paper/pencil method. Assessment results will integrate directly into our school's Gradebook, and NHA's Information and Analytics teams are currently undertaking an effort to eliminate the need for classroom teachers to manually enter scores upon completion of student assessments.

We know students will have extensive needs due to learning loss from school closures in the 2019-20 school year. These assessments will help teachers identify learning gaps, inform teachers and school leaders of what standards may need to be re-taught in each grade level, and aid in designing paths of individualized instructional needs.

Our school actively engages parents/guardians in their children's learning. Prior to each school year, we make parents and each student aware of grade-level performance expectations. Student progress against those goals are communicated to parents regularly through direct teacher communication, progress reports, report cards, and parent-teacher conferences. This information is also available via our online parent portal, which is automatically updated as teachers add grades into our online Gradebook. Our use

of online tools like Gradebook and Parent Portal allow us to seamlessly communicate with families on student progress regardless of our mode of instruction.

Virtual Select Option

Virtual select learning is a form of remote learning for students who will not be attending in-person classes for a portion, or all, of the school year. Students participating in virtual select learning are held to the same academic standards for their state as students attending school in-person.

A student's day will not be 100% with the virtual classroom teacher, but the virtual teacher will set the weekly schedule and pace for virtual learners. All virtual learning will include real-time small group instruction from the teacher (at least) five times a week using a video conferencing tool. When the student is not participating in small group time with the teacher, there will be assignments posted in Google Classroom to work on independently. Children with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan will have appropriate accommodations provided.

Exposure & Mastery of Core Content

The virtual learning program is paced by the classroom teacher so learning milestones are achieved throughout the year, just as they are for in-person instruction. All assignments are expected to be turned in on, or before, the posted due date. Assignments are tracked and counted towards daily participation and can be used for attendance purposes. Unless the child is ill, or there are other approved circumstances, all work is to be submitted on time. Students who are participating in Virtual Select will be exposed to core curricular content and assessed in the same manner (although entirely virtually) as those participating in our hybrid environment. More detail is available in the section above titled "*Exposure & Mastery of Core Content.*"

Equitable Access

Technology and Internet Access
At the end of the 2019-20 school year, NHA conducted a survey to our families regarding at-home access to reliable and effective Internet as well as internet connected devices. While most of our families indicated they have these necessities, it is imperative that *all* our students have reliable access to learning opportunities when receiving instruction virtually.

To best facilitate remote and virtual learning, during the 2020-21 school year, NHA will be providing each student with a Chromebook or laptop device. In addition, if any of our families do not have a home internet connection, we will use a few strategies to get those families connected. If a family is exploring high-speed internet options, we have recommended they use cabletv.com, smartmove.us, or EveryoneOn to find the best affordable internet or cable provider for their area. EveryoneOn also identifies internet access locations, such as public libraries, that offer free internet access. To use this tool, families simply enter their zip code into the search bar and click enter. We also shared with families that many providers offer discounted home internet service, if applicable, through Lifeline, a federally subsidized program. Eligible customers can get a discounted rate towards their bill. If families are unable to get internet connection through one of the means above, or other community resources, NHA has a limited supply of internet cellular hotspots for those who qualify.

Our Library Technology Specialist (LTS) will be the school's technology support lead. Families will have the contact telephone number and email for the LTS. Additionally, NHA will support each individual school with a 1-800 hotline number for additional technology support. To safely manage device repairs/replacements during period of remote instructions, our LTS has received training on the safe handling of returned materials, has cleaning/disinfection supplies provided by NHA/Aramark, and has procedures to follow for the packaging of devices for replacement.

Students with Disabilities

Students who are identified with a disability under IDEA or Section 504 will be provided with a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). Students with disabilities that require the support of an IEP or Section 504 Plan will access the same learning opportunities that are offered to general education students. In collaboration with the parents/guardians and as school re-opens, for students with IEPs, contingency Learning Plans (CLPs) will be completed and as necessary, revisions to the IEP, as directed by state guidance, to ensure provision of a FAPE. If the IEP cannot be implemented as written, a CLP will be developed and/or revised to describe how the team will provide the necessary support and services, given the child's unique needs, in the environment they are accessing their education. Individualized accommodations, as identified in the student's IEP/CLP or Section 504 plan will be shared with classroom teachers to ensure provision of accommodations and modifications (when appropriate) that allow students to access learning opportunities. School to home communication is as vital as ever, and special education providers will work diligently to establish ongoing two-way communication with families/guardians.

Child Find responsibilities remain in effect in all learning environments. If a student is suspected of having a disability under IDEA or Section 504, school staff will follow typical procedures to determine eligibility. Safety precautions will be in place while conducting necessary evaluations of students.