

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## Number of incoming kindergarteners at NACS factors into staffing plans for its new and existing elementary schools

NACS opens kindergarten enrollment early this year

**Fort Wayne, Ind. (Monday, Feb. 8, 2021)** – Northwest Allen County Schools opens kindergarten enrollment several weeks earlier than normal this year in hopes of gaining a clearer picture of how many new students to expect for the 2021-22 school year.

"Having an idea of how many kindergarteners to anticipate helps us immensely on several levels," said Dr. Gloria Shamanoff, assistant superintendent. "Not only does it give us sense of staffing needs for kindergarten, it sets into motion a process that impacts all of our schools—from resources like technology to instructional assistants and teachers, plus much more. This year is different due to the opening of Aspen Meadow."

To enroll, NACS follows state statute which requires that the child must be at least 5 years old by Aug. 1, of the current calendar year. The child must live within NACS attendance areas; parents will be required to show proof of residency.

The enrollment process includes confirming the child's minimum age of being 5 years old by Aug. 1, receipt of documents such as birth certificate, immunization records, proof of residency, needed court documents for custody information and a photo for general identification purposes. Documentation may be uploaded online during the enrollment process or mailed to the school directly.

NACS will update each student's assigned school based on the attendance area changes made last year to accommodate Aspen Meadow Elementary. NACS personnel will adjust school allocation based on the enrollment year and then directly notify affected families. In late July, fall registration will open to allow parents and guardians to submit additional information such as emergency contacts, medical information, and various permissions. This information will be posted to the NACS <u>Registration Information</u> page.

## **Committed to safety**

NACS follows and enforces the health and safety guidelines provided by the Allen County Department of Health, and consults with them as well as other local public health experts and physicians regularly as

(MORE)

Northwest Allen County Schools believes in providing a healthy and safe learning environment that engages, supports, and challenges each learner in a culture of achievement and excellence.



(NACS open kindergarten enrollment, p. 2)

CDC and state COVID restrictions change. NACS believes that in-person learning is the optimal experience for a vast majority of students, so the district continues to follow the guidelines diligently to keep students in the classroom and when they cannot, for whatever reason, the staff works to provide meaningful remote learning instruction.

NACS encourages parents to keep their children home if they are unwell, that parents set the example of wearing masks, and maintaining physical distance of 6 feet or more. Additionally, we encourage everyone to continue cleaning high-touch surfaces and washing hands frequently.

More information about NACS kindergarten enrollment may be found online: kindergarten enrollment.

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