

NCUHS School Opening Update

Chris Young • 18 days ago • Thursday, Aug 8 at 7:58 PM • **North Country Union High School**

Good evening everyone!

Well, this is not the 'back-to-school' message that I anticipated sending when we left school in June! Unfortunately, PCB mitigation work (summarized in this [Summer '24 PCB Letter](#) that was sent out July 22nd) in B and C - Wings has caused lots of questions and anxiety, including whether we need to pivot to remote learning to start the school year. I am writing this email to inform you that at last night's special board meeting, the NCUHS School Board answered that question and directed the administration to develop plans to **open school on time, in person, and in the safest way possible**. I hope we can agree that this is the best direction for our school community. We have been working hard to put that plan together so that we can present it to the board at their August 20th meeting and be ready for an August 27th opening for 9th graders and an August 28th opening for the rest of our students.

How we open school this fall will ultimately depend on the results of the air testing that will occur over the next few weeks. The following is a very general summary of the possible scenarios that we may face as we get test results back:

Scenarios	Impact
Most test results are within the state guidelines with no or minimal loss of spaces.	School begins on time and in person on NCUHS and NCCC Campuses.
Some test results are not within state guidelines and there is significant loss of spaces	School begins on time and in person on NCUHS and NCCC campuses with disruption to schedules and programs based on space needs and availability.
Most test results are not within state guidelines and there is significant loss of spaces.	School may be delayed and classes moved to off-site locations

These possibilities leave us with the unenviable task of developing a plan based on the worst-case scenario, which is that none of our classrooms in B - Wing and some classrooms in C - Wing are usable. We have started to develop plans that use every inch of classroom space, repurpose some spaces to use as classrooms, and access spaces off-campus for some groups of students. At this point, it appears that it is doable. However, we should all be prepared for significant changes to the spaces that are available to us, and that everyone will need to make adjustments and sacrifices in order for us to open on-time and in-person in the safest way possible. Given our track record of pulling together when the going is tough, I have no doubt that we will not only make the best of it, but that we will grow even stronger as a school and emerge an even more resilient community.

To be clear, it is also entirely possible that the mitigation efforts will be at least partially successful, and perhaps even wholly successful. If this is the case, it will alleviate the stress of moving classrooms and students and get us even closer to the opening that we would have envisioned for our staff and our students. So, please join me in hoping for the best but preparing for the worst!

We will be working with our school teams to develop the best plan that we can over the next week and a half and will present the plan to the school board at their meeting on August 20th. If you have any questions, concerns or ideas, please contact me directly to share your thoughts. We value your input and will do our best to address as many perspectives as possible in our work.

I hope you have a wonderful end to the summer, and thank you for your continued support of our school community

Chris Young
Principal, NCUHS