FAQ UPDATE: August 8, 2019

Q: What time does school start at Norwood Avenue?

A: 8:30 am. All students are expected to arrive no later than 8:25 am, but should not arrive prior to 7:55 am unless there is a scheduled club activity (This is found in the general Norwood FAQ).

Q: How will transportation work in the morning?

A: All students who are walkers to Ocean will be able to meet the bus at Ocean Ave to be shuttled over to Norwood. The shuttle bus will depart Ocean by 7:58 a.m. Please arrive five (5) minutes early.

The students who are eligible for a bus to Norwood and would be walkers to Ocean will have bus stops set up for them. The students who normally take the bus to Ocean will be on their regular Ocean buses. These buses will drop at Ocean then the students who need to be shuttled to Norwood will get on the designated shuttle bus at Ocean. Several of the buses may get to Norwood as early as 7:55 a.m.

Q: What about transportation in the afternoon?

A: In the afternoon there will be additional busses (2 big buses and 1 van) designated for Norwood to take the Ocean Avenue students home. We are still in the process of adjusting the routes as we don’t know how many students will need to be transported back to Ocean in the afternoon. Once we have this information we will be able to finalize the afternoon routes. For those students who are going to Scope at Ocean Ave. and those parents who request a shuttle back to Ocean will also be transported back to Ocean at the end of the day.

Q: Why did the Board decide on Norwood Avenue for the relocation of kindergarten and first grade classrooms?

A: Age-appropriate classroom space is available at Norwood, it is the closest school in proximity to Ocean Avenue, and grade level curriculum is readily accessible at the school.

Q: What other alternatives were discussed?
A: The Board discussed a number of other options, including leasing portable classrooms, moving the fifth grade to the middle school, and relocating two grade levels to the Brosnan building. Each of these options had a number of drawbacks, which are outlined in the PowerPoint presentation. The relocation of kindergarten and first grade students to Norwood Avenue is a temporary solution that will provide for a smooth transition.

Q: What will happen if construction on the new roof is not complete by January?
A: We anticipate that the new B-wing roof will be completed by the beginning of January so that all kindergarten and first grade classes will return to Ocean Avenue following the holiday break in December. Should there be construction delays, however, students will remain at Norwood until the roofing project is complete.

FAQs Regarding the Construction and Safety of Students at Ocean Avenue

Q: Will construction of the new B-wing roof occur during the school day and, if so, what is the district doing to ensure the safety of our students and staff?
A: Due to the need to replace the B-wing roof as quickly as possible, construction will occur during days when school is in session. We will take the necessary steps to limit the disruption to learning and will also work closely with our construction management firm to assure that all construction workers have the necessary security clearances to be working on school grounds. In terms of ensuring a healthy environment for our students and staff, we have been assured by our construction management firm that the area will be properly sealed so that dust, construction debris, etc. do not migrate into other areas of the building. We will also contract with our environmental consulting firm to periodically conduct air quality testing within the building.

Q. I understand that during these summer months, asbestos is being removed from Ocean Avenue as part of the roofing project. Will the district conduct air quality testing after this is complete to ensure a healthy environment for students and staff prior to school reopening in September?
A: Yes. As part of the asbestos abatement project, the district is required to conduct air quality testing prior to the start of school this fall. The results will be posted to the district website once completed.

Miscellaneous FAQs

Q: What will happen to the Investigate program currently housed at Norwood Avenue?
A: Last year the Investigate Program was located at Norwood Avenue. In order to create enough space at Norwood the Investigate program will be temporarily relocated to Bellerose Avenue Elementary School during construction at Ocean Avenue. Once the roofing project is complete, the program will have the option to return to Norwood.
Q: If a roofing issue exists in the B-wing at Ocean, could there potentially be a problem with other sections of roofing at the school?
A: No. The roof over B-wing was unique in its design plan, as the B-wing was not a part of the original building. The rest of the building has a different roofing design and construction. Out of an abundance of caution, engineers have inspected the other sections of roof and have not identified any potential safety issues.

Q. How will this move impact transportation?
A. Every child who meets the requirements per Board Policy will receive transportation. We understand that for families who will have children in both buildings that logistical challenges may arise. We are working on a plan and will share the specifics with the community once the details are finalized, likely by mid-August.

Q. I am concerned about how my child will handle this transition?
It is important to remember that we expect this to be a temporary situation. Of utmost importance is that your child will be in a nurturing environment with his or her teacher for the entire year even though the classroom and building will change. All educational services will follow your child and the building principals will work to ensure that school events and opportunities are accessible to students and families.

Q. Who can I contact if I have additional questions?
If it is a general question about the transition you can send an email to:
oceanupdates@northport.k12.ny.us

If it is an inquiry specific to your child, you can contact:
Sabina Larkin, Principal at Ocean Avenue Elementary School
(P) 631-262-6840 Sabina.Larkin@northport.k12.ny.us
Or
Michael Genovese, Principal at Norwood Elementary School
(P) 631-262-6830 Michael.Genovese@northport.k12.ny.us

*Please check back frequently, as we will continuously update this list of FAQs.