



Frequently Asked Questions:

NCS Plus and NCS Online

How exactly are NCS Plus and NCS Online different? The newly announced NCS Plus is a classroom complement *but not a replacement for the traditional, on-the-ground classroom*. While it is synchronized with on-the-ground classroom instruction, it will support both the “flipped classroom” model of learning and “distance learning” *but not “online education”*. NCS Plus is maintained by on-the-ground classroom teachers whose primary focus will be their on-the-ground students. These teachers will be provided with staff support and resources but families need to recognize that it will not be as robust and rigorous an experience as the on-the-ground classroom. However, using NCS Plus would allow for that student’s space within the on-the-ground classroom to be held until they return. Northwest Christian School Online is very different from NCS Plus because it is an asynchronous, online learning experience that will feature a wholly separate staff of online teachers and a different tuition price point. While NCS Online students will have the opportunity to participate within some aspects of the school’s culture (chapels, extracurricular clubs, a limited number of sports programs, etc.), many extracurricular, athletic, and fine arts opportunities will be reserved for on-the-ground students only.

What are the costs associated with NCS Online and NCS Plus? NCS Plus is included within on-the-ground tuition and the only students that have access to it are those enrolled within traditional on-the-ground classes. This is because NCS Plus is designed to be a virtual extension of and support for the on-the-ground classroom. In terms of NCS Online, August 2020 will see the launch of the elementary online school and in August 2021, the middle school and high school online programs will be launch. The annual tuition for elementary online school will be \$5,000.

Are admissions requirements different between NCS Online and the on-the-ground campus? No. Whether online or on-the-ground, Northwest Christian is committed to its covenant model of admissions. This means that in either forum, we will continue to require that applicants submit pastoral reference forms, sign the school’s statement of faith, etc. Additionally, online applicants will need to complete all the other aspects of the admissions process: placement testing, family interview, etc.

If a family decides to start the school year at home via NCS Plus, what is the process? The key to successful transitions will be communication. If a family decides that they wish to start the year from home using NCS Plus, parents must send an email to NCSPlus@ncsaz.org by Saturday, August 8th. At that point, the student's principal will reach out to your family.

If a student starts the year within NCS Plus and the family decides to return the student to the on-the-ground classroom at some point, how does that happen? The window of opportunity to transition from NCS Plus to the on-the-ground classroom for families that elect to start the school year at home is the first of each month. If a family decides to transition a student back to the physical classroom, they must alert Michelle Reddy one week in advance of the first day of the month that they wish to return. But, keep in mind, based on your circumstances, a more accommodating schedule can be determined in cooperation with the principal.

Can a student start the year within NCS Online and then eventually transition back to the classroom? It is possible but there is no certainty. Because NCS Online is a wholly separate program, enrolling within NCS Online does not reserve a space within the on-the-ground classroom for a student. Further, the few open spots that exist within on-the-ground classrooms are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Also, parents should recognize that NCS Online is an asynchronous academic program. This means that although academic standards are the same and the online curriculum is largely the same, the pacing between NCS Online and the on-the-ground campus may be different.

Will the absence policy be different for NCS Online, NCS Plus, or for the on-the-ground campus in the coming year? For the on-the-ground campus, the absence policy will be consistent with the past and with what is explained within the NCS Parent Student Handbook. If a family elects to start the year from home using NCS Plus, the absence policy will look the same: students will be expected to be engaged within the NCS Plus virtual classroom on a daily basis. NCS Online will have policies that are largely consistent with the on-the-ground campus but there will be some distinct differences. NCS Online will have a unique Parent Student Handbook that will be published later this summer.

What exactly is the Northwest Christian Biblical Worldview Institute? Kicking off in August 2021, the NCBWI will present exciting new opportunities for secondary students enrolled within both the Northwest Christian on-the-ground program and NCS Online. These opportunities will exist on several fronts. First, NCBWI will allow for expanded online electives that are rooted in different areas of specialization. Examples include: military preparation, theological studies, first responder preparation, healthcare, creation science, pre-law, worship ministry, YoungLife leadership, and more. These courses are being developed by recognized experts in these fields (authors, pastors, police officers, ROTC leaders, doctors, fire fighters, and others) and in cooperation with curriculum developers at Grand Canyon University and a newly established, expanded curriculum

team at Northwest Christian. These courses will be facilitated using Grand Canyon University's LoudCloud learning management system. NCBWI will also give rise to the new Northwest Christian Distinctive Diploma program. As part of a partnership with Grand Canyon University, Arizona Christian University, and a growing number of other Christian universities, Distinctive Diplomas will be awarded to high school graduates that use their high school years to focus on a specific area of study that aligns with an area of study at the university level. Students in pursuit of Distinctive Diplomas will also be connected to opportunities at the university level which include new scholarships, potential dual enrollment, on-campus learning opportunities at the partner universities, and more. Additional information regarding this new Distinctive Diploma program will be announced as we move through Fall 2020.

What if I have additional questions or concerns? Any additional questions/concerns should be directed to Geoff Brown, NCS Superintendent, by either calling/texting (623)225-5573 or emailing gbrown@ncsaz.org.