

Dear NOMMA Parents and Guardians:

We hope this correspondence finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe.

The NOMMA Leadership Team has worked tirelessly conducting research and coordinating with other educational and governmental institutions to develop a plan to reopen school for School Year 2020-2021. Out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of our cadets, teachers, employees, parents and the entire local community, and in an effort to remain consistent with recommendations and guidelines set forth by Orleans Parish government and health officials, **NOMMA, with the support of the Board of Directors, will begin the new school year using a fully virtual model of instruction.**

The School will closely monitor developments associated with the COVID-19 virus, continue to assess health data, and reevaluate circumstances on a frequent, and recurring basis. We recognize the critical importance of getting our children back to school in a traditional classroom setting as soon as conditions allow, and we are eager for their return.

Our parent and teacher surveys have helped us to better understand your concerns and preferences and enabled us to make well-informed decisions moving forward. Our overarching intent is to provide a high-quality academic and learning experience while ensuring the health and safety of our cadets, teachers, employees, and parents to the maximum extent possible.

We will start the school year fully virtual (online distance learning.) We considered and analyzed three (3) models of instruction: fully virtual (online/distance learning), hybrid (consisting both on-campus and online delivery of instruction), and traditional. We are prepared with well-developed and comprehensive plans to safely implement each mode of instruction and will be able to transition from one to the other as conditions warrant.

For School Year 2020-2021, NOMMA will move to a 4 x 4 Traditional Block schedule instead of the A/B Block typically used by NOMMA. This means students will take four courses, 90 minutes in length, every day for the first semester and take four different courses every day for the second semester. This allows cadets to take fewer courses each semester, which should help cadets better focus on their course work while reducing stress, especially in an online environment, but still result in a full eight courses taken per year.

As we begin the new school year in the fully virtual model, cadets will remain at home and will engage in virtual learning activities that are primarily delivered through Google Classroom learning management system. Live-streamed, teacher-led instruction and peer collaboration will be scheduled each week and throughout the day to expand students' opportunities to engage with content and interact with teachers and classmates. Daily student participation in the learning activities will be required. Instructional time may also be dedicated for independent learning activities. A structured schedule will be provided to students indicating required times for participation in live instruction.

In this protocol, cadets must participate in a daily morning check in with an assigned educator via phone or video. Student participation in virtual learning is required 5 full days per week. Attendance will be taken during morning check-in and for each class daily. Unlike the spring of

2020 blended learning plan, attendance will be mandatory for all daily check-ins and live sessions.

Cadets should expect 6 hours of course work per day plus daily communication with an educator. Students will have an opportunity to participate in tutoring time with a teacher when needing additional assistance. Tutoring or live online sessions will be available for cadets 4 days a week.

When the decision is made to transition to a physical return to the classroom, if we are still in Phase 2, NOMMA will transition to a “hybrid” model of instruction, which includes a combination of traditional and virtual education. In the hybrid model, cadets will be assigned designated days to receive on-campus classroom instruction (1-2 days per week); when not on campus, cadets will participate in mandatory virtual learning through a variety of assignments, activities, and assessments.

In the hybrid model described above, no more than 25% of the cadet corps (approximately 250 students) will be physically present on campus on any given day in order to adhere to social distancing guidelines and comply with other health and safety best practices to the maximum extent possible. This will result in approximately 5-8 cadets in a classroom for each period of instruction. Additional details will be provided when we reach this stage.

NOMMA has made preparations for our cadets’ physical return to campus with an emphasis on health and safety measures, including a deep cleaning/disinfecting of all spaces, placement of signage addressing proper social distancing and hygiene practices, and strict arrival, dismissal, and transition procedures. Details will be provided to all parents and guardians in advance of a return to campus.

Cadet Orientation is scheduled to take place during the week of 10 August. Additional, detailed instructions regarding NOMMA’s plan and schedule for cadet orientation will be disseminated in the coming weeks.

Laptops and internet access devices will be issued to cadets on designated days during the week prior to orientation. This will be coordinated via separate correspondence and robo-call.

The school year calendar is available at our website (nomma.net) or by clicking [here](#).

We will provide additional information as appropriate during this fluid situation. Be sure to check NOMMA’s website and the below links for the latest information.

<https://nomma.net/>

<https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/strong-start-2020>

<http://ldh.la.gov>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

We fully understand these are not ideal conditions for any of us. We have developed this plan to provide a meaningful learning experience while balancing concerns for health and safety under these challenging circumstances. This remains a dynamic situation, so please be flexible and

work with us as we try to optimize the NOMMA experience for your cadet(s). Know that the entire NOMMA team, including administration, teachers, Marines, counselors, deans, front office personnel, and support staff remain fully dedicated to the education and well-being of your cadet.

Please continue to protect yourself and your family members and follow recommended best practices to ensure your health and safety.

Thank you for all you do for your cadet's educational success and for your support during this challenging period for our city, state, and nation.

Col Chris Schlafer, USMC (Ret)
Commandant
New Orleans Military & Maritime Academy