

NEWINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

November 25, 2020

Dear NHS Parents/Guardians and Students,

I want to wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving. I hope you are able to relax and enjoy your time. This week was not the same without the cohort of students in the building, but I remain hopeful we will be back soon. Students and staff participated in our spirit days (lots of neat outfits for Decades Day and we certainly loved Pajama Day), students wrote letters of appreciation, students enjoyed participating in breakout rooms, and our Drama Club One Acts were incredible!!!

Here is our latest news:

NEXT WEEK November 26 - December 4*(see more information on pages 2-3 below):

Thursday/November 26: NO SCHOOL - HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Friday/November 27: NO SCHOOL

Monday/November 30: Even

Tuesday/December 1 - Odd

Wednesday/December 2: Remote Schedule

Thursday/December 3: Odd

Friday, December 4: Even (Dr. Brummett will update our school community on plans moving forward.)

SUPERINTENDENT'S OUTSTANDING STUDENT OF THE MONTH:

Congratulations to [Ianny Cruz](#) who was selected as the "Superintendent's Outstanding Student of the Month" for the month of November and will represent Newington High School at a virtual ceremony on November 30, 2020.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SENIOR STUDENT-ATHLETES (updated):

Four (4) seniors have signed Division 1 Letters of Intent. They are: Madison Massaro-Cook who will play volleyball for Central Connecticut State University. Sam Geisler who will run Cross-Country for the University of Connecticut and Olivia Mullings will play soccer for University of Hartford. Zachary Nakonechny who will play baseball at Southern Connecticut State University. WAY TO GO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

MESSAGE FROM DECA: Although social distancing measures may prevent us from coming together, Newington DECA has not allowed these challenges to prevent the club from taking things to the "Next Level" (the 2020 National DECA theme). Club activities have continued to persist. Thanks to technology, students now have the opportunity to be more involved than ever, regardless of whether they

MESSAGE FROM DECA (Con't):

are in school or fully remote. The club took what was a difficult situation and decided to completely revitalize many initiatives and opportunities offered. To promote the continued success at the state DECA competitions, our current members created online videos, tutorials, training, and assessments to help prepare students for the spring competition. Now students can prepare during their free time and avoid schedule conflicts. Our chapter has also been able to do virtual activities, such as the "Pumpkin DECA-carating Contest" held in October, where we were able to show off our chapter's creative skills through the art of pumpkin carving and painting. Though amidst a pandemic it is nearly impossible to do any physical acts of community service, DECA has found a way to brighten the moods of our entire 217 faculty members by writing individual positive messages. Members felt it was very important to choose something that did not involve donations of any kind and was inclusive of all DECA members. Lastly, the Trading Post was turned into an online store and many students participated in creating advertisements for our Fall Frenzy. Students developed individual tasks with instructions so students could still be involved in our School Based Enterprise while maintaining all safety requirements. State and national DECA have also turned all conferences into virtual events. Much like other clubs, DECA wants to continue to provide opportunities to students even if this year is different. Being forced to rethink how we run is already and will continue to have lasting benefits for all members.

***TEMPORARY REMOTE INFORMATION:** As shared in Dr. Brummett's earlier communication, Newington Public Schools will transition to a full distance learning model beginning Monday, November 23, 2020 and continuing through Friday, December 4, 2020. On or before December 4, Dr. Brummett will update all families regarding the instructional model that will be implemented after December 4.

During the distance learning model, high school students will follow the [block schedule](#) every day *except Wednesday*. Just like the current hybrid model, students will be responsible for fewer classes most days but the time spent on each subject will be extended. Students can expect to spend about 75-90 minutes a day (time in Google Meet and independent learning) on each class. Advanced, upper level courses at the high school may require additional time to meet curriculum expectations.

- Students are expected to log on live to each class via Google Meet using the block schedule used during the hybrid model. Attendance will be taken.
- Students are expected to have their cameras on to maximize connection with the teacher and other students.
- Although class time is scheduled for 78 minutes, teachers might not keep students online for the entire time. Instead, teachers may provide instruction for the first portion of the block period and use the remaining time for students to engage in independent, asynchronous learning or small group instruction (extra help).
- Students may be assigned additional work beyond the school day.
- *Wednesdays* will follow the [remote learning day schedule](#) currently in place.

- Students need to be “in attendance” even when they are learning remotely from home. Students can be considered as being “in attendance” for a *class* by attending virtual classes, completing assigned work, and logging into other electronic systems as required by the teacher. For state reporting, a student can be considered “in attendance” on a particular *day* if he/she has attended for at least half the school day.

What you need to do to be <i>present</i> for a remote class
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sign on to the required Google Meet at the start of class 2. Keep your camera turned on and your face visible 3. Stay present throughout the entire lesson until your teacher tells you it is OK to log off
If the Google Meet with your teacher is short, then here is what you need to do to be <i>present</i> for a remote class
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sign on to the required Google Meet at the start of class 2. Keep your camera turned on and your face visible 3. Stay present until your teacher tells you it is OK to log off 4. Complete and submit the work assigned by your teacher to the best of your ability by the due date set by the teacher. Due dates for all assignments will be clearly communicated and/or posted.

RECURRING INFORMATION:

ACADEMIC UPDATE: Our second quarter at Newington High School is underway and our faculty, staff, and administration continue to express pride in our students for their adherence to safety guidelines and their flexibility to adapt to our different models of instruction. The purpose of this communication is to share information about midterm and final exams and our retake practice.

Midterms and Final Exams:

For the 2020-21 school year, both midterm and final exams will be eliminated. After soliciting feedback and input from students, teachers and support staff, and Board of Education members, the school administration believes it is in the best interest of students to not prepare or sit for exams. Both teachers and students face several challenges at this time including high stress levels, ensuring security of exams in a remote setting, and the need for as much instructional time as possible. Students enrolled in *some* UCONN/ECE and Project Lead The Way (PLTW) classes are required to complete midterm or final exams based on the requirements of the course. Teachers will plan to administer these assessments during the regular school day.

Retakes:

Retakes have been a practice at Newington High School since the 2017-18 school year. The purpose of retakes is to allow students a second opportunity to relearn and reassess to demonstrate mastery. The following are guidelines for retakes at Newington High School, which will be updated on December 7, 2020:

- Students may request a retake for all end-of-unit summative assessments. However, this practice is not applicable in AP, UConn/ECE classes, some assessments where testing conditions cannot be replicated (for example, in a culinary class).
- Retakes are only available when a student has not demonstrated mastery of standards-based concepts and skills. Mastery is defined as an “87” or a “3” on most rubrics. Teachers will communicate to students if all or only portions of an assessment are eligible for a retake.
- The higher grade of two assessments will prevail however, the highest grade that will be entered into PowerSchool for the retake is an 87.
- Students must complete a retake request form. These forms are available from all teachers and are department-specific. Students can expect variability for retake eligibility based on the department and course.
- Updated guidelines (effective December 7, 2020) are posted on our website and can be found [here](#).

Work Expectations:

We understand that this school year continues to be challenging for all students. However, we maintain high expectations for all students to complete work, meet deadlines, and put forth their best effort in all academic areas. Students are encouraged to always reach out to their teachers if there are extenuating circumstances that prevent them from meeting expectations and/or deadlines.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM SCHOOL COUNSELING:

- **Junior Week Workshops:**

Each year, the NHS School Counseling Department looks forward to hosting Junior Workshops to support students as they develop their post-secondary plans. We are excited for this year’s Virtual [Junior Week](#), which will take place November 30th through December 4th, with each day offering a different activity. The activities for Juniors for each day will include:

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM SCHOOL COUNSELING (Con't):

- **My Options Monday, 11/30:** Complete the Do What You Are Interest Survey on Naviance to gain a better understanding of what career opportunities best align with your personality and interests.
- **Tour Tuesday, 12/1:** Register for one Virtual Post-Secondary Institution Tour or Info Session of your choice.
- **What's Next Wednesday, 12/2:** Solve your way out of the NHS Junior Virtual Escape Room!
 - **PARENTS-** Join the NHS School Counseling Department for the 11th Grade Parent Program at 7pm
 - Link to Join: <https://meet.google.com/jnt-jssc-xuo>
 - Live Stream: <https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/5a5f4d1a-5500-4c82-95fb-ec82ecf95f8f>
 - Join By Phone: (US) +1 636-649-4579 PIN: 246 060 962#
- **Thrifty Thursday, 12/3:** Complete the Payback - Financial Literacy Activity.
- **Feel Good Friday, 12/4:** Wear your college or career gear and post your gear for your peers to see! Students and staff will share their photos [here](#).

Please contact your student's school counselor with any questions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NHS' NOVEMBER'S STUDENTS OF THE MONTH:

Padraig Brown
Grace Cooper
Zachary Liebl
Aaron Schneider

Catherine Cala
Rebecca Fisher
Aron Mouthaan
Michael Silva

Joshua Chrzancoski
John Gieras
Maggie Pizzella
Alycia Szarzanowicz

PARENT ENGAGEMENT GOAL: Help us help you. Our goal this year is to increase the percentage of parents who indicate "My child(ren)'s teachers help me understand how I can best support my child(ren)'s learning at home." Click [HERE](#) for more information on how you can help your child.

Remember - your student's camera should be on at all times. Please make sure all household members are aware of this. Students become easily distracted when others are around, so please ensure they have a quiet space, away from distractions.

WEDNESDAY'S REMOTE SCHEDULE

*Time	Period
7:30 - 8:20	Get ready to start your day. Set up your home workspace for learning. Organize your learning materials (chromebook, notebook, pen, calculator) and try to be free from distraction.
8:25 - 8:45	Period 1
8:50 - 9:10	Period 2
9:15 - 9:35	Period 3
9:40 - 10:00	Period 4
10:05 - 10:25	Period 5
10:30 - 10:50	Period 6
10:55 - 11:15	Period 7
11:20 - 11:40	Period 8
11:40	Google meets are done for today! If you have any remaining work to complete, first take a break and have lunch before completing assignments.
1:45 - 2:40	Extra Help: Teachers have open office hours. Use the Google Meet code or link provided by your teacher to reach out for extra help. If you know in advance that you need extra help, reach out to your teacher in advance to schedule a specific time to meet.

Attendance: Please refer to Dr. Brummett's Parent Notification.

[English](#)

[Portuguese](#)

[Spanish](#)

[Vietnamese](#)

Message From the Health Office

A reminder to all parents. If your child is out sick, you **MUST** get clearance from the school nurse **PRIOR** to sending your child back to school. Your child will need to see the school nurse prior to going to their first class upon reentry to school following an illness.

Here is the [Student Guideline](#) for you to follow if your child is sick.

Additionally, parents/guardians or students can not decide to Temporarily Remote their child/self for any reason. If a student chooses to log into a google meet, but is supposed to be in-person, they will be marked absent, but can remain in the meet to get their work. Parents/guardians should contact the school nurse should they feel their child should be temporarily remote.

Chromebooks: Students should bring their charged Chromebooks and chargers to school. If you students are in school and have an issue with their Chromebook, they may report to the library. Otherwise, [HERE](#) is the form to complete.

Thank you for your continued patience, flexibility, and support. Please feel free to contact the main office during regular operating hours (7:00 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Ms. Terra A. Tigno
Principal

Family of Learners

