

NEWINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER



December 11, 2020

Dear NHS Parents/Guardians and Students,

Wow, another week down! I continue to be impressed with our school community. We collected over 110 gift cards for Newington Human Services in our Stuff-A High School drive, students look to create clubs that are inclusive and supportive in nature, as well as ones that bring about global awareness, and we look forward to our annual Utterly Ugly Sweater Day next Wednesday.

Here is our latest news:

NEXT WEEK December 14 - December 18:

Monday/December 14: Blue/Even

Tuesday/December 15: Gold/Odd

Wednesday/December 16: Remote Schedule*

Thursday/December 17: Blue/Odd

Friday/December 18: Gold/Even

***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.

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

Kathryn Damato	Elizabeth Doll	John Tyler Drozd
Dylan Durocher	Ashely Farinella	Mia Golec
Almira Juraldzic	Skyler Marziano	William Ofori
Hailey Pereira	Mia Peterson	Mariangel Quiros-Zeldon
Kilven Xhixho		

PROJECT GRAD COMMITTEE: We are in need of your help! Please consider supporting project grad by participating in a fundraiser. Contact Co-Chairs Jen Ahern Mrs.J.Ahern@gmail.com or Lisa Bacon GnlBacon@gmail.com. More detailed information will be sent in a separate email from Mrs. B

EXCITING NEWS: The Newington High School Computer Science Honor Society has been awarded a grant to support its outreach and service projects for Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 7 - 13, 2020). The NHS CSHS's plan includes educational opportunities for all NHS students to learn about the diverse collection of heroes using technology to affect positive change for our local and global society, Hour of Code activities for students to partake in, and access to the CyberStart America online Cybersecurity game. The grant comes from the Computer Science Teachers Association who partnered with Google, Infosys Foundation USA, and the National Cybersecurity Scholarship Foundation.

Additionally the Honor Society advisor, Mr. Christopher Kerr has been elected the 2020-2021 Vice President of the Connecticut Chapter of the CSTA. When asked for a comment on why Computer Science education is so important Mr. Kerr stated, "*The pandemic has truly shown how integral the Internet and technology have become for the health and wellness of our society and how important it is we prepare our students not for the jobs and challenges of today, but for the jobs and challenges of tomorrow. CS Ed Week and the Hour of Code open the door to students who may never step into a technology classroom. Perhaps this is where they'll find their voice in technology.*" Organized events like CSEd Week, a Computer Science Honor Society, and the rich assortment of technology classes offered at our school continues to place Newington Public Schools in a position to produce true 21st century digital citizens.

RECURRING INFORMATION:

SCHOOL COUNSELING INFO: The School Counseling Department held an information session for parents and guardians of 11th grade students to learn about post secondary planning, college research and application process. Linked here is a [video recording](#) of the event, [powerpoint](#), and [Junior Parent Post-Secondary Planning guide](#).

School Counseling Website Update: Parents/Guardians, there is now a parent resource section dedicated to you on the school counseling website:

https://hs.npsct.org/departments_programs/school_counseling/parent_resources

PSAT SCORE RELEASE: As you may recall, on October 14th, 10th and 11th grade students were given the opportunity to complete PSAT as part of our school day. The scores of this important test will be officially released by the CollegeBoard tomorrow, December 8th. During homeroom on December 9th, homeroom teachers will distribute student's PSAT test booklet back and provide general information/links about how to use your PSAT scores and Khan Academy free test preparation in order to practice skills ([click here to see lesson overview and resources that will be shared](#)). In the meantime, all students will need a CollegeBoard account. The account should be in the student's name and shared with parents to avoid problems when registering for future CollegeBoard tests.

To access your scores, go to collegeboard.org and log in if you already have an account from last year, or create an account if this is your first time. If you have previously created an account and do not remember your userID or password, OR, if you have more than one account and need to merge accounts, please call the College Board student helpline at 866-433-7728. High school personnel do not have access to student accounts.

When you access your score report, the first thing you will see is the total score, which is a combination of the Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing and the Math sections. These scores give an indication of how well students will do on the SAT and the areas that they will need to address in order to score higher on the exam in the future. To this end, College Board will instruct students to give permission to link their College Board and Khan Academy accounts. College Board has partnered with Khan Academy so personalized practice plans can be provided for each student once they link their accounts. The practice plans/tests will focus on the skills that individual students need to work on.

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.

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.

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

