

# NEWINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

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January 8, 2021

Dear NHS Parents/Guardians and Students,

Happy New Year! I am happy to say goodbye to 2020. Our staff and students continue to impress me with all they are doing. Trout eggs arrived for our Environmental classes, students learn how to work with our new recording boards, and alumni participated in our annual Shark Tank Competition. Here is our latest news:

### **NEXT WEEK January 11 - 15 and more:**

Monday/January 11: Blue/Even

Tuesday/January 12: Gold/Odd

Wednesday/January 13: Remote Schedule

Thursday, January 14: Blue/Odd

Friday, January 15: Gold/Even

Monday/January 18: NO SCHOOL/OFFICES CLOSED MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Tuesday/January 19: Gold/Odd

Wednesday/January 20 Remote Schedule \* 2nd marking period closes

Thursday/January 21: Blue/Odd \* 1st day of 3rd marking period

Friday/January 22: Gold/Even

### **Message from School Counseling**

Central Connecticut State University Dual Enrollment

Are you interested in earning college credit while you are a student at Newington High School? If so, you may be eligible to enroll in evening courses at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU).

Newington Public Schools and CCSU have established a partnership agreement that allows Newington High School students the opportunity to take up to two evening courses per semester, four per academic year, to earn university credit if the student earns a grade of "C" or higher. Please see these forms: [Dual enrollment form](#), [CCSU new student information](#), [Taking College Courses in High School](#) for more information and the registration process.

## Message from School Counseling (Con't)

### 2021-2022 COURSE SELECTION PROCESS

#### Teacher Recommendations & Course Registration/Requests:

Over the next few weeks teachers will begin informing students of course recommendations for the 2021-2022 School Year. *On February 1st- February 10th* the Course Registration/Request feature on student's PowerSchool Grading Portal will open. Students will be able to request courses during that time for the 2021-2022 school year and also see teacher recommendations. If you have any questions on a teacher's recommendation for next school year please contact them prior to the course registration/request window. If you or your student have any questions on registration process or courses selection please contact their school counselor. There will be video screencasts on the course selection process for the 2021-2022 school year shared in the next few weeks.

#### Course Selection & College Credit Night

Parents and guardians of students in grades 8, 9, 10 & 11 are invited to attend the Newington High School Virtual Course Selection & College Credit Night on January 19th at 6:30 p.m. (meeting links coming soon). This activity highlights programs offered at Newington High School, student resources, scheduling, course registration, earning college credit while attending NHS, and graduation requirements. If you have additional questions related to this event, please contact the Main School Counseling Office at Newington High School.

## SOME RECURRING INFORMATION:

**MASCOT CHANGE:** As a follow up to Dr. Brummett's email, the committee is seeking input from the greater Newington Community regarding the next mascot. They have identified that it should be unique to Newington, have some relevance to the community's history, and symbolize strength, pride, and fun.

If you would like to contribute ideas for a new mascot, please complete the form linked here [Mascot Ideas](#).

**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](mailto:Mrs.J.Ahern@gmail.com) or Lisa Bacon [GnlBacon@gmail.com](mailto:GnlBacon@gmail.com). More detailed information will be sent in a separate email from Mrs. Blanchard.

**\*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	<b>Extra Help:</b> 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.

**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*

