

NEWINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER



January 15, 2021

Dear NHS Parents/Guardians and Students,

I hope you have a nice holiday weekend. It seems impossible that we are already wrapping up semester 1. We started our week with a beautiful sunrise (see the picture below), welcomed 60 new members into the National English Honor Society, and ended with a temporary change to our learning model. While this was a quick change, I am confident our staff was prepared to continue on with teaching and learning. Here is our latest news:



(courtesy D. Martincheck)

NEXT WEEK January 18 - 29:

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

Tuesday/January 19: Gold/Odd, no in-person classes

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

Thursday/January 21: Blue/Odd * 1st day of 3rd marking period, no in-person classes

Friday/January 22: Gold/Even, no in-person classes

Monday/January 25: Blue/Odd *note that odd and even days have switched and WE ARE BACK TO OUR HYBRID MODEL

Tuesday/January 26: Gold/Even

Wednesday/January 27: Remote Schedule

Thursday/January 28: Blue/Even

Friday/January 29: Gold/Odd

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR JANUARY OUTSTANDING STUDENT OF THE MONTH: Joshua Chrzanowski. Josh will be honored at the Superintendent's reception on January 28, 2021. Way to go Josh!!!!

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

Eric Biere
Emma Bonfiglio
Grace Canepari
Eric Flores

Andre Guillotin
Simran Kaur
Phuoc Le
Michael Lilley

Rachel Smart
Elena Timmons
Karissa Zocco
Marliese Zocco

SOME RECURRING INFORMATION:

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.

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

Message from School Counseling (Con't)

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.

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 or Lisa Bacon 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	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.

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

