

NEWINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER



February 19, 2021

Dear NHS Parents/Guardians and Students,

This was a short week, but we were certainly glad to get an extra day of learning in with our virtual snow day today. This week we held an extended homeroom to engage in a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) activity that centered around Awareness of Self and Others. Next week, we look to participate in 2 events:

On Thursday, February 25, we will join Newington Rotary to observe **Red X Day** - a day to call attention to the horrors of human trafficking. By definition, human trafficking is the illegal sale of human beings for the purposes of sexual exploitation and/or forced labor. It's estimated that more than 40 million people are trapped into the world of human trafficking across the globe. Newington is a hot spot for human trafficking with roads like the Berlin Turnpike which features miles of hotels, motels, some of which are known for sex trafficking. Staff and students (both in-person and remote), are asked to take a red marker or pen and draw a Red X on the top of their hands, take a selfie and post it on social media #ENDITMOVEMENT.

On Friday, February 26, we will help bring awareness toward Childhood and Brain Cancer by participating in Gray and Gold Day by wearing these colors. NHS Staff will make a donation to the Connecticut Children's Hospital to support Childhood and Brain Cancer Research. To learn more go to www.conquerbraintumors.org. Anyone who would like to make a donation of \$1 or more, please contact Ms. Tigno.

Here is our latest news:

February 22 - 26:

Monday/February 22: Blue/Odd Day

Tuesday/February 23: Gold/Even Day

Wednesday/February 24: Remote Schedule

Thursday/February 25: Blue/Even Day (**RED X Day**)

Friday/February 26: Gold/Odd Day (Gray and Gold Day)

Messages from School Counseling

SENIOR MID-YEAR TRANSCRIPTS: All Mid-Year Transcripts have been sent out on Tuesday, February 16th, for Students that have applied to Colleges.

Please note that it may take several days on the college's application "status portal" to acknowledge receipt of a student's midyear transcript.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to the Main School Counseling Department at 860-666-5611x1636 or 1637.

Parents/Guardians of students taking AP tests: Check your email for a message from Seth Korn, Director of School Counseling & Student Testing K-12 regarding important updates to AP testing this year.

12th Grade Parent/Guardian re: Scholarships

The Local Scholarship booklet for this school year has been released on the NHS School Counseling website (click [HERE](#) for link). This year students will be submitting their local scholarship applications online! Seniors received information on local scholarship application process during homeroom last Friday. Additional information on the local scholarship submission can be found on the NHS School Counseling website, School Counselor's Google Classrooms, and in this weekly parent newsletters.

The deadline to submit all scholarship applications is 3:00 p.m. Monday, March 22nd, 2021.

If you have any further questions, please contact your student's school counselor.

SOME RECURRING INFORMATION:

Newington Little League Spring 2021 Registration

Please click [HERE](#) for more information about registration or visit the website: www.newingtonll.com. If you have any questions, please contact NLL Registration Coordinator, Daniela James at 860-550-0949 or email her at danielabuko@gmail.com for more information.

SOME RECURRING INFORMATION (CON'T):

New COVID Guidelines to Return to Play for student athletes

The information below impacts all present and future NHS student athletes.

The Department of Public Health and the CIAC have provided further guidance regarding a student athletes ability to return to athletics. Click [HERE](#) to the link that outlines the NPS Return to Play procedures for any student athlete who has tested positive for COVID-19 along with guidelines for student athletes returning from quarantine.

Please reach out to the Nurse's Office (860-666-5611 x1164) or the Athletics Office (860-666-5611 x1621) for further information or guidance.

Outstanding Student of the Month: Congratulations to Andre Guillotin who was selected as February's Superintendent's Outstanding Student of the Month. Andre will be honored in a ceremony on February 25, 2021.

CONGRATULATIONS to NHS' February's Students of the Month:

Luke Brown
Maeve Ingram
Abigail Riggins
Colleen Whitman

Kalyna Del Rosario
Madison Massaro-Cook
Christopher Samarotto
Matthew Wozniak

Elizabeth Doll
Alexander Pushkar
Mikayla Vasi

Report Cards: NHS continues to no longer print report cards. You can find your student's final quarter 2 and semester 1 grades in the PowerSchool Student and Parent Website (not on the PowerSchool app). Once on the website, click on student reports and you can choose the report card you would like. If you would like us to print your copy, please contact the main school counseling office at 860-666-5611 x 1636 or 1637.

Class of 2021 Valedictorian and Salutatorian named: Congratulations to Joshua Akosa who was named Newington High School's Class of 2021 Valedictorian and Nghi Nguyen who was named Class of 2021 Salutatorian.

MASCOT Update: The mascot committee continues to meet monthly. We received over 100 submissions for mascot ideas. The committee is down to 24 and hopes to narrow that down to 5 or so at the next meeting on February 25, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Project Graduation: Want to get involved? Reach out to Co-Chairs Jen Ahern Mrs.J.Ahern@gmail.com or Lisa Bacon GnlBacon@gmail.com with any questions.

Senior class meetings: Administration met with each house office to review important information regarding graduation. Graduation is set for Tuesday, June 8, 2021 and will NOT move. (YAY!!!) We look forward to celebrating our seniors!!!! Seniors were reminded to fill out a form that has them write how they want their name to appear on their diploma, as well as information for their cap and gown. Additionally, seniors were reminded of the many supports we have in the building to get them through these last 5 months. This is not the time for procrastination. Please reach out to counselors or building administration for any support.

***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

