NEWINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

February 26, 2021

Dear NHS Parents/Guardians and Students,

Here we go again. Seems like just yesterday I was saying "Can you believe it's February?" and now we are heading into March. This week, students worked on electron configuration, learned how to determine when a Power Series will converge, and participated in Red X Day.

Here is our latest news:

March 1 - 5:

Monday/March 1: Blue/Odd Day
Tuesday/March 2: Gold/Even Day
Wednesday/March 3 Remote Schedule
Thursday/March 4: Blue/Even Day
Friday/March 5: Gold/Odd Day

IMPORTANT SURVEY

Please make sure to fill out THIS SURVEY before the end of the day on Monday, March 1, to let us know if your student will be full in-person or fully remote as of March 15.

POWERSCHOOL PARENT RESOURCES

Please click HERE for for a quick tutorial on how to access your Parent PowerSchool Account

HUMAN SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Please click HERE for information on a FREE program offered to students through Newington Human Services Youth Services Coordinator/Challenge Course Manager, Rik Huggard

MASCOT UPDATE

The mascot committee met last evening and narrowed the choices down to 4. Students and staff in grades 5-12 will be surveyed in March and the committee will review their feedback at the next meeting on March 25, 2021 at 6:00pm.

PAC MEETING

The next Parent Advisory Council meeting will take place on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 7:30am. The link to this meeting will be sent out in my next newsletter.

SOME RECURRING INFORMATION:

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(CON'T):

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

SOME RECURRING INFORMATION(CON'T):

***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.

SOME RECURRING INFORMATION(CON'T):

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.

SOME RECURRING INFORMATION(CON'T):

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.

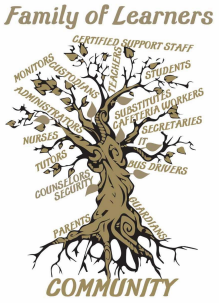
Here is the Student Guideline for you to follow if your child is sick.

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,

Terra A. Tigno

Ms. Terra A. Tigno
Principal