

NEWINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER



February 26, 2021

Dear NHS Parents/Guardians and Students,

We are entering our last week of Blue and Gold Cohorts and are excited that students will be returning for four (4) full days. As we prepare for this, here's what else is going on. This week we held a very impressive Covid Clinic, students use Word Clouds for their Do Now Activities relating to the Theory of Continental Drift, and staff have fun dressing up as Krazy Kool Kids.

Here is our latest news:

March 8 - 12:

Monday/March 8: Blue/Odd Day
Tuesday/March 9: Gold/Even Day
Wednesday/March 10: Remote Schedule
Thursday/March 11: Blue/Even Day
Friday/March 12: Gold/Odd Day

Monday March 15 - All in-person learners return to school on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays until April 9. After April break, all in-person learners return to school Monday - Friday. Students will be handed our new calendar and bell schedule and information will be posted on our announcement slides.

Outstanding Student of the Month: Congratulations to **Karissa Zocco** who was selected as March's Superintendent's Outstanding Student of the Month. Karissa will be honored in a ceremony on March 29, 2021.

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

Brandon Baglan
Emma Bonfiglio
Holly Bonfiglio
Lucy Campbell

Gigi Ginlewicz
Paul Misko
Margaret Pizzella
Alyssia Rodriguez

Brianna Sanchez
Dan Thomas
Carissa Toth
Maggie Woods

PARENT CONFERENCES

On Monday, March 8, you will receive an email with instructions on how to sign up for parent conferences from HS Notify. If you do not receive this email by 5 pm on the 8th, please email Mrs. Blanchard at lblanchard@npsct.org High School Conferences will be held Wednesday, March 17 from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm and Thursday, March 18 from 12:40 pm - 2:55 pm.

You will need a PowerSchool Parent Account to register for conferences. If you do not have one, please reach out to your student's counselor and ask for the "Parent Portal Account Creation Letter". This letter has a case sensitive access ID and password you will need to set up your account linked to your student. Additionally, you may click [HERE](#) for a quick tutorial on how to access your Parent PowerSchool Account.

PARENT SURVEY

We'd love to hear how we are doing. Please complete this parent survey by April 2. Our goal this year was 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." We look forward to hearing from you. Thanks!

[PARENT SURVEY LINK](#)

[PARENT SURVEY FLYER](#)

PAC MEETING

The next Parent Advisory Council meeting will take place on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 7:30am. Here is the link: meet.google.com/idj-ghhv-eby and here is the phone number: (US) +1 601-526-1269 PIN: 571 517 726# if you would like to join. Dr. Brummett will be presenting her budget.

SOME RECURRING INFORMATION:

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.

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.

Messages from School Counseling (Con't)

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.

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 athlete's 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.

SOME RECURRING INFORMATION(CON'T):

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.

SOME RECURRING INFORMATION(CON'T):

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.

SOME RECURRING INFORMATION(CON'T):

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,

Terra A. Tigno

Ms. Terra A. Tigno
Principal

Family of Learners

