

NEWINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER



March 12, 2021

Dear NHS Parents/Guardians and Students,

As we look to fully open our doors to more students on Monday, here are some highlights this week. DECA celebrated their achievements, Dr. Harold Bright (father of teacher Leslie McLane) spoke to English classes about his experiences of being taught by William Golding (*Lord of the Flies*) in England, NHS held another impressive Covid Clinic, and students participated in Mindful Wednesdays” in either Mindful Breathing, Positive Mindset, or Motivational activities to help increase Social Emotional Learning across all disciplines.

Here is our latest news:

March 15 - 19: [HERE](#) is the calendar for the remainder of the year

Monday/March 15: Click [HERE](#) for ODD DAY schedule

Tuesday/March 16: Click [HERE](#) for EVEN DAY EXTENDED HOMEROOM schedule

Wednesday/March 17: Click [HERE](#) for REMOTE WEDNESDAY schedule (Conferences)

Thursday/March 18: Click [HERE](#) for ½ day ODD DAY schedule (Conferences)

Friday/March 19: Click [HERE](#) for EVEN DAY schedule

Four Day Reopening on Monday, March 15

We have been hard at work planning for our reopening and are excited to welcome back many more of our students. Our students and families can be assured that our health and safety protocols that have been in place throughout the school year will remain and we have also incorporated additional protocols for our full reopen. These changes and protocols are essential in protecting the health and safety of our school community (students, staff, and families). Below you will find a review and new information of our health and safety protocols and procedures. I ask that you please review this with your student prior to the start of our four day reopen on **Monday, March 15.**

Daily Schedule

Beginning, Monday March 15, we will begin our four day in-person learning for all students and families who opt for in-person learning. Beginning on **Monday, April 17**, we will move to a five day in-person model and we will no longer have a remote Wednesday for in-person learners. Please see below for our current schedules. It is important for remote learners to ensure they log-on at the specific times indicated on our schedules. Students were provided this calendar on their homeroom slides as well.

[HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR with BELL SCHEDULES](#) for remainder of the year.

Lunch and Cafeterias

To help support appropriate social distancing during lunch waves, we have added an additional lunch wave, have asked that Open Study students report to the library or lecture halls when not eating, and offered students the option to leave campus (permission form needs to be completed).

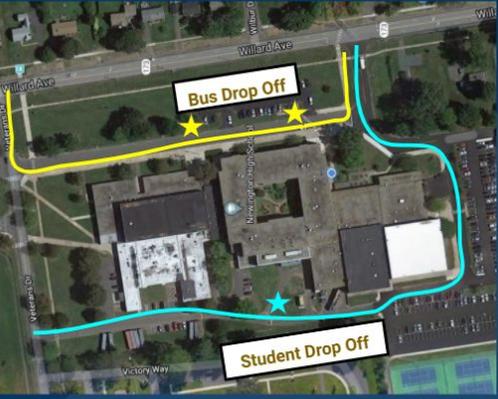
Once a student is seated in the lunch spaces, they may remove their mask to eat. Upon getting up from their seat, they must put their mask back on.

Drinking Fountains will not be available to students. Students should bring a water bottle to school each day and may use our water filling stations located on each floor.

Arrival/Dismissal

Outside Traffic Patterns - Student drop off is no longer at the gym entrance. Families are asked to drive around to the back of the building, pass the tennis courts, to entrance #26. Staff and signage will direct cars to the proper drop off location.

Dismissal: We will have staggered dismissal in an effort to maintain social distancing - Bus, Parent pickup, and walkers.



Student Arrival and Dismissal

Arrival: Drop off location for students will be in the back of the building.

If students are arriving by bus or a walker, you will use the entrances in the front of the building in order to maintain social distancing.

Dismissal: Staggered dismissal - Bus, Parent pickup, and Walkers

Transportation

If your student is now attending school and requires bus transportation, please contact transportation. If you have contracted transportation and looking for updates, you may access the information the following ways:

- Parent Portal in Powerschool - "**Transportation Tab**" - this will give them the bus, stop location and approximate times. *(Must be from a computer NOT the Mobile Appt.)*
- District/School Website - "**Bus Routes**" - Those were updated with all the latest changes as of Wednesday 3/10/2021.

Chromebooks

It is essential students arrive at school with their fully charged Chromebooks. We will be extremely limited in our ability to share devices or issue a loaner to a student. Families may be contacted to bring a device to the school if the student arrives without a device. 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.

Face Masks

All students and staff will be expected to wear face masks (Bandanas and Gaiters will NOT be allowed) throughout the entire school day except whenever social distancing can be achieved: students and staff are outside or eating, playing musical instruments, engaged in physical activity (in physical education class). Face mask “breaks” will be scheduled throughout the day and generally will occur within the classroom when students are seated and 6 feet apart or behind plexiglass.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken every day. All students are expected to arrive to class on time or log into class according to the bell schedule if they are learning remotely. When learning remotely, students will be required to have their cameras on, unless otherwise instructed by their teacher.

Sanitizing

Wall hand sanitizer units are available throughout the building. Upon entry to class, students will sanitize their hands, retrieve a sanitizing wipe, and wipe down their learning space. They will also wipe down their learning spaces before leaving. We have added staff to support sanitizing efforts throughout and each evening, our custodial staff sanitizes all learning areas and desk shields.

Indoor Travel Routes

Students and staff will be expected to follow ALL one way staircase and hallway patterns. Routes will be clearly labeled and staff will go over this information on the first 2 days of school.

Main Entrance/Visitors

Visitors will not be allowed to enter the building (unless previously notified). If you need to drop off something to your student, please enter by the main entrance and follow the instructions.

NEWINGTON HIGH'S CLOTHING DRIVE

Looking to donate clothes, shoes, accessories, and home textiles? Drop them off this Sunday, March 14, anytime from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm in the front parking lot of Newington High School. The money raised from the clothing drives will be donated to the VA Medical Center.

UPCOMING SURVEY

In our ongoing efforts to gather relevant information to inform our district and school-wide continuous improvement, within the next few weeks we plan to anonymously survey students in grades 6-12 around the topics of equity, diversity and inclusion. Information from this survey will be used to guide our strategic planning in April, and consequent district and school improvement planning processes occurring throughout May and June. Please contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

DECA

I am so excited to share the successes of our competitors in an unprecedented year. DECA competitions were virtual. Newington had 16 competitors this year for the Connecticut State Career Development Conference. Competitions included both role plays and written events. Instructions and requirements were changed last minute and students encountered countless technical glitches. The commitment these students had to study and practice was extremely commendable given the circumstances. Of those competitors, 9 were finalists and 6 will move on to compete for the International Competition in April/May. See below for our winners.



Congratulations to the 2021 State Winners

Vendetti, James	1st	Innovation Plan
Thakkar, Vidhisha	1st	Business Services Marketing Series
Tran, Priscilla	2nd	Principles of Business Management & Admin
Gallicchio, Alexi	2nd	Food Marketing Series
Egoroff, Valerie	3rd	Principles of Finance
Johnson, Maya	3rd	Apparel and Accessories Marketing Series
Sullivan, Tym	4th	Automotive Services Marketing
Whitman, Daniel	5th	Entrepreneurship
Singh, Anusha	5th	Hotel and Lodging Management Series

SOME RECURRING INFORMATION:

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: Parent conferences for the spring will be held on **Wednesday March, 17** (5:00 ; - 8:00 pm) and **Thursday, March 18** (12:40 pm - 2:55 pm). Conferences will be virtual. Dismissal is 12:20 for students. Please email Mrs. Blanchard at lblanchard@npsct.org.

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 FLYER](#)

Click this for the [PARENT SURVEY LINK](#).

Click [HERE](#) for all Principal newsletters.

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

