Dear Newton North Community,

I hope that this letter finds you well and that you are enjoying your summer. My wife and I just recently spent a week in Tuscany, which was beautiful and relaxing. As we boarded the plane to return home from Rome we bumped into a Newton North family. While one can travel half a world away it’s moments like this one that reminds me that the world is in fact quite small.

This summer North has been filled with excitement with the students in the Newton North summer programs, Newton Community Education camps, and Newton Sports Camps. At the same time, the custodial crew and administrative assistants have been hard at work preparing for next year. You will notice a new coat of white paint on the 4th floor, which will be a part of an ongoing project over the next few years to spruce up the wear and tear on the upper three levels. Thank you to the more than 300 students who used the Google form to correct errors in their schedule.

We look forward to seeing our students on the first day of school, which is September 4th. Students will notice that Main Street will be open for all juniors and seniors with new furniture arriving by the first day of school or soon after. Last year student leaders worked with members of the faculty to develop norms of behavior for both the Library Learning Commons and Main Street.

The norms support the purpose of the library primarily as an academic space and Main Street mainly as common space. Both the furniture and the space norms are interconnected with our continued work that focuses on our Civic and Social learning at North.

**Civic Learning**
Newton North graduates will:
1. take responsibility for their own actions
2. contribute positively to the school and larger community
3. understand the rights and responsibilities of a citizen in a democratic society and be thoughtful, reflective, active citizens.

**Social Learning**
Newton North graduates will:
1. treat others respectfully
2. show self-respect and self-advocacy.
Finally, this year we will have an opportunity to discuss two important future changes at Newton North: A one-to-one (1:1) Chromebook program and a possible new High School Schedule. Here are some updates on these two topics:

1:1 Chromebook program
Sometime during the middle of the year, every 10th grader will receive a Chromebook to utilize in their classes. Our goals for the program are as follows:

- Encourage student collaboration
- Improve access to a wider variety of resources
- Provide additional ways of teaching creativity and critical thinking skills
- Challenge students to adapt to new learning environments

There will be opportunities for us to discuss this program as a school community. In the meantime, please visit our 1:1 district webpage for a list of commonly asked questions.

High School Schedule
After nearly two years of work, the joint Newton North and South High School Schedule Team will present possible new schedules for a 6 ½ hour school day. During this process, there will be opportunities for students and parents to participate in the discussion.

Statement on Newton North Social Studies Department
This summer Fox News, as well as some websites, broadcasted some of our social studies teachers’ emails out of context. I wrote a statement that was only partially shared by Fox News. Here is the statement in its entirety.

At Newton North High School, we believe students should be able to learn about, engage in, and debate challenging and sometimes controversial topics in all of their classes. We work hard to create a learning environment that is inclusive, open, and safe for discussion of a wide range of perspectives. Over the past few years, speakers with diverse viewpoints have been invited to Newton North to share their opinions with students. These forums are always placed in the proper context such that students understand they are receiving opinions rather than facts.

The email exchange cited in the Federalist website demonstrates our teachers discussing ways in which to allow thoughtful discussion and exploration of different perspectives on controversial topics while ensuring students know that any form of hate speech is unacceptable. At no time is hate speech tolerated at Newton North. We support our teachers’ emails and ongoing dialogue about these values, and we support their right to grapple with these issues.

Our teachers are professionals who keep their personal political beliefs separate from their teachings in the classroom. They work to ensure that students learn to separate fact from opinion, to discern between different points of view and not agree with everything they see and hear, to challenge their own thinking and that of their peers, and to develop opinions through study and the testing of ideas.

Most importantly, Newton North High School focuses on teaching students how to think, not what to think.
We feel strongly that Newton North is both an environment that values the right to expression of all our students and community members, and has no tolerance for harassment or hate speech of any kind. If anyone has questions about how we ensure that we live up to both of these values, please contact me directly and I am happy to share more of how we strike this balance.

**Nuts and Bolts**

Please help us have a smooth start to the school year by reading the following information:

1. Our Annual Information Book is now posted at [http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/nnhs](http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/nnhs) The book includes, but is not limited to, the Newton Public Schools 2018-2019 calendar, the Newton North calendar and schedules, letters from your student’s deans, athletics information, standardized testing dates, home-school communication guidelines, health information, calculator information, a subscription form for the Newtonite, bus schedules, the NNHS Directory and Policies, the open campus rules, PTSO information, school maps, drop/off and pick-up and student parking information.

2. Newton North is now on Social Media! Please like us on our Facebook page @nnhstigers and follow us on Twitter @nnhsprincipal and @nnhstigers. The purpose of our social media presence is to celebrate our students and promote the exciting learning and work going on at North. Interested in helping us to promote North? Use the hashtag #nnhstigers. As always we will use email and our website for updates and resources.

If you drop off your student on Tiger Drive, you may have noticed me welcoming students on Thursdays for “Positive Thursdays”. This tweet is one example of how we use Social Media to promote the positivity at North! **Please help this effort to celebrate our students and promote the great work in our school by logging into Aspen and giving NPS permission to use your student’s picture and publishing your student’s work.** With these permissions, we will not use the last name of your student. If you do not give NPS permission, please have a conversation with your student so they are aware of your decision.
3. Thank you to the more than 300 students who used the Google form to correct errors in their schedule. Your current course list for September is already available on Aspen. In order to access the list of courses you are enrolled in, you need to login to Aspen. We will hand out a full schedule on the first day of school for all students that will include teacher names. We communicate exclusively by email, so it is critical that you familiarize yourself with this system and make sure your contact information is correct. This is also the system we use to post report cards, the ‘Back-to School night’ schedule and midterm comments. If you have any trouble accessing this system, please contact your house office or the main office at 617-559-6200.

4. Upon review of your list of courses, if you are missing a required course or believe your schedule contains an error, you should attend Arena Scheduling on Wednesday, August 29 from 1:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. We highly recommend that you attend on this date to deal with scheduling mistakes and omissions prior to the start of school. Additional Arena Scheduling sessions are scheduled for the first week of school. At Arena Scheduling your counselor and the NNHS department heads will work with you to fix any errors on your schedule.

   o You SHOULD come to Arena Scheduling if:
      ▪ You are missing a required course or graduation requirement
      ▪ You were scheduled for a course that you did not request
      ▪ You have a schedule that is unbalanced between semesters and therefore you have too few directed studies in one semester and too many in the other.
      ▪ You are still under-enrolled

   o You should NOT come to Arena Scheduling if:
      ▪ You were scheduled for an alternate course request. This is not considered an error and your schedule will not be changed.
      ▪ You have changed your mind about a course. This is not considered an error and your schedule will not be changed.

5. The schedule for the first week of school is linked here. Please take a minute to review our opening days, as the schedule is different for the first week and includes school pictures being taken.

6. Freshman Parent Night is scheduled for Wednesday, September 12th, at 7 p.m. Ms. Stauss, the Riley House Dean, and I look forward to welcoming all of the parents/guardians of freshmen to North that night. During that night you will get an opportunity to meet your child’s school counselor.

7. Our PTSO is working very hard to produce an accurate directory that will be available at ‘Back to School Night’ on Thursday, September 20th. Please work with them to confirm they have the correct information. I encourage you to join the PTSO, as it provides much-needed support to our school. Also, please consider donating to the PTSO Student Assistance Fund. This fund ensures that all Newton North students are able to take advantage of our many offering and special activities including field trips. Even a small donation to this fund goes a long way.
I look forward to seeing you in a few weeks and working with you in supporting your Newton North student. I hope that you enjoy the rest of the summer.

Go Tigers!

Henry J. Turner
Principal
Newton North High School

Recognizing that we are a small world within a much larger one, we create opportunities for open-minded, honest communication about the broad range of human experience to foster social awareness, generosity and compassion.~excerpt from Newton North Mission Statement