

F.A. Day Middle School Newsletter

December 14, 2020

GREEN WEEK

Quotes of the Week

“I am not what happened to me, I am what I choose to become.”

- Carl Gustav Jung

“Learning is not a way of reaching one’s potential but rather a way of developing it.” ---Anders Ericsson

THIS WEEK’S QUOTE

This week we begin our parent/teacher conferences on December 16th. I have heard from some of you that you are concerned that child might be learning less content than in a typical year. There is no doubt that the constraints of this public health crisis have led to the creation of schedules that have resulted with less time with teachers than in a typical year. In response the Day teachers, in collaboration with their district colleagues, have worked to identify the essential understandings for each grade level and content areas. All grades and subjects have engaged in this work, so students will be prepared for the next grade level.

That said, while this crisis has posed some challenges, it has also created opportunities for our teachers to focus on critical skills that will create a stronger foundation for their students’ growth in years to come. In this school year, our students have learned the skill of organizing their time through Google Calendar and materials through platforms such as Schoology, bolstering their executive functioning to levels well beyond what is typical for their age. They have developed the ability to problem solve and think critically, and the independence to overcome barriers fostering their resilience and grit. While it is my hope that our children never have to experience the challenges and suffering of another such crisis in their lifetime, the skills that they

are learning, will be at their ready should they need to call upon them when confronted with any challenges that lay ahead.

In order to continue to build our children's resilience in the face of challenges, this year we are hoping to partner with Newton-Wellesley Hospital's Resiliency Project to offer resources for the students and families of Day, Their December newsletter is linked below. It includes opportunities for parents and educators to join conversations and workshops about building resiliency in our teens while supporting them through the days ahead:

[Newton-Wellesley Hospital Resiliency Project December Newsletter](#)

UPCOMING DATES:

Monday, December 14, 2020: Term 2 Progress Reports Share This Week

Wednesday, December 16, 2020: First Day of Parent Conferences

Monday, Dec. 21 and Tuesday, Dec. 22: Cohort B in Person Learning (Instead of Cohort A)

Thursday December 24, 2020 – Friday, January 1, 2021 Winter Recess

Monday, January 4, 2021- Classes Resumes

Wednesday, January 6, 2021: Parent conferences

Wednesday, January 20, 2021: Parent Conferences

Friday, February 5, 2020: Term 2 Report Cards

TERM 2 PROGRESS NOTES

Between now and December vacation, teachers will be sharing information about your child's progress with you. Please reach out to

teachers if you have not received information about how to access your child's Schoology account, which is where their current grades so far in Term 2 are housed.

Below are the dates for the beginning and ending of all of the grading terms this year at Day:

Semester 1 9/16/20 - 1/29/21

Quarter 1 9/16/20– 11/13/20

- Progress Reports Week of 10/23/20
- Report Cards Accessible 11/25/20

Quarter 2 11/16/20 – 1/29/21

- Progress Reports Week of 12/14/20
- Report Cards Accessible 2/5/21

Semester 2 2/1/21 – 6/24/21

Quarter 3 2/1/21 – 4/9/21

- Progress Reports Week of 3/1/20
- Report Cards Accessible 4/16/21

Quarter 4 4/12/21 – 6/24/21

- Progress Reports Week of 5/10/21
- Report Cards Accessible three days after last school day

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent/Teacher Conferences begin this Wednesday, December 16th. The other conference dates are 12/16, 1/6 and 1/20. The conference sign-ups will remain open until the last day of conferences, but **we will be suspending conference sign-ups 24-hours prior to each conference day in order to finalize teachers' schedules.**

As a result, conference sign-ups will be suspended this Tuesday morning, December 15th until the evening of December 16th. We will then again open up the portal for you to sign up for the January 6th and January 20th conference dates.

Please remember that you CANNOT book two conferences. You must choose between your child's ELA/Science Teachers or Math/Social Studies.

Each pair of teachers will be prepared to speak to your child's progress in each of the four subjects.

The information for the Parent Conference sign-ups is below:

How To Sign-Up For Parent-Teacher Conferences

Sign-ups began on Friday, December 4th at 8:00 p.m. and will end on Wednesday, December 23, at 8:00 p.m.

Parent Conference Dates are Wednesday, December 16, Wednesday January 6, and Wednesday, January 16th. 10 Minute meeting time slots including a link for your zoom conference.

Log online

to: <http://www.virtualparagon.com/day/conference/>. Enter the Password: **Daydragons** (case sensitive).

Follow the instructions on how to create your own account and to choose a conference time. If you need further assistance, please call your child's guidance counselor at 617-559-9123 or the main office at 617-559-9100.

WEDNESDAY'S SCHEDULE

In order to accommodate parent/teacher conferences, the students' schedule on the Wednesdays of Parent/Conferences will be adjusted as follows:

8:05 – 10:00 a.m. – Team Classes

**There is no flextime

10:00 – 12:10 p.m. – MT Classes and Lunch

10:00 - 10:40	8ROT	7WL	Lunch
10:45 -11:25	Lunch	7ROT	6WL
11:30- 12:10	8WL	Lunch	6ROT

Classes end at 12:10 p.m.

All classes except for students who are in school for service delivery will remain remote as is typical for all Wednesdays.

SNOW DAYS

As noted in Superintendent Fleishman’s email this past week, in the event of inclement weather, this year Newton Public Schools will be shifting to remote learning rather than shutting down school for the day. The district will be notifying families of this decision via postings on the NPS website and direct phone calls. I will also send out a notice directly to the Day families.

At Day, on the morning of a “snow day”, teachers will be sending out links to students who are in the hybrid learning model just for the one remote “snow day” via student Gmail. Hybrid students should check their email prior to 8:00 a.m. on “snow days” to look for Zoom links for their morning classes that day. Again, this is only for students who are in the hybrid model. Remote learning on “snow days” will not impact distance only students. They will use the same links in their Google Calendar.

Also, multi-team classes such as the arts rotation classes WILL NOT send out new links as students are already accessing these morning classes via Zoom links in a hyflex model.

ADVISORY THIS WEEK

This week we'll be digging deeper into the values of our community and school. We'll first explore community and school resources, and move into discussions around the meaning of values and actions. We'll look at the values of the Newton Public Schools as well as Day Middle School specifically, and discuss how these values relate to our behaviors.

COHORT A AND SWITCH DECEMBER 21st and 22nd

As a reminder, we will be inviting Cohort B students to learn in person on Monday, December 21st and Tuesday December 22nd instead of Cohort A in order to create equity in the number of opportunities for each cohort to learn in person.

Your children's teachers will communicate with the students about how this switch impacts their calendar links that week. They will include specific directions for students who are distance only as their classes will vary depending on their team. Please reach out to your child's teachers with specific questions.

For all students, the last day before December vacation will be Wednesday, December 23rd. Similar to every Wednesday, this will be a fully remote day for all students except for those who are in school typically for service delivery needs. Dismissal on December 23rd will be at the typical time for all students on Wednesdays – which is 1:30 p.m.

PRINCIPAL OFFICE HOURS

This week's Principal Office Hours will be on Friday, December 18, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. Please see the Zoom link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://newton-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/89503643279>

Meeting ID: 895 0364 3279

Passcode: 821878

Questions can continue to be added to our Parent Questions Parking Lot linked below:

[Parent Hybrid and Distance Only Questions](#)

Norms for virtual Principal Office Hours:

- To join, please click on the Zoom meeting linked above at your designated time.
- When you enter, you will be muted so that we can hear all participants one at a time. Please keep your microphone muted unless called on for a question.
- The video sessions will be recorded for those who cannot attend at the designated time.
- You need to use the chat feature to write questions.
- Please post your name on your screen in your Zoom settings as I will ask you to unmute so that we can have a dialogue about your question.
- This is not a “drop in office hours”. It is disruptive to add members while the session is going on, so I will only admit participants up to 3 minutes past the start time of the meeting.
- Please refrain from asking specific questions about your child or a faculty member out of respect for confidentiality. Any questions of that nature should be directed to me via an email so that a personal conversation can be scheduled.

REPORTING ABSENCES

If your child is out sick due to the above symptoms or for another reason, please contact Ms. Lori Gandolfo in the front office by phone or email first thing in the morning: 617-559-9102

gandolfol@newton.k12.ma.us

Our nurses, Ms. Ann Garvin or Gayle Larson, will follow up with a phone call if you have reported that your child is out due to illness.

Please make sure that you call the front or email Lori Gandolfo if your child will not be in school. It is ok if you or your child emails the teachers but you MUST also notify the front office of any absence.

HOLIDAY AND VACATION TRAVEL

We have heard from some hybrid families who would like their child to change to “distance only” because they are traveling for the holidays. As indicated earlier, we cannot make this change as it creates class sizes for distance only cohorts that are not manageable.

We can ONLY transfer a child to distance only from hybrid if your child is ill and needing to quarantine. We cannot accommodate a request for a transfer to distant only due to a quarantine related to holiday or vacation travel. This is a district-wide policy because of the planning that went into creating both distance only and hybrid sections that are safe and manageable.

Also, I ask that you please review the guidelines sent out earlier by our public health nurses:

[MA COVID-19 TRAVEL ORDER](#)

Also please review the letter I sent out to Day families on Friday, November 20, 2020 regarding requests for distance only linked again below:

[Parent Letter on Requests for Distance Only 11-20-20](#)

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED INFORMATION

CHARGERS AND EARPHONES

Please help your child create a routine around charging their computer the night before school, and remembering to bring their charger to school every day. For safety reasons, teachers are not allowed to shift student seating to move them closer to an outlet,

which makes charging computers during classroom time very challenging. We are finding that students are arriving to school with a computer already low in charge. They should be charging their computers at home after their last class in the afternoon, and ready their computers for the next day.

Also, we only have a limited number of headphones to lend to students. We ask that you remind students to bring their headphones to school every day. If you are able, it is helpful to purchase a back-up pair. Headphones with embedded microphones are particularly helpful for the study of world languages if you are able to purchase them for your child. As always, we will provide headphones for your child, but cannot continue to replace them after the initial time.

FLEX BLOCK OFFERINGS

We are please to announce that we are expanding our enrichment offerings for the Wednesday flex block time – 9:35 – 10:00 a.m. Please see the links below. These offerings are open to all students:

ART CLUB with Ms. Horner

Time: This is a recurring meeting 9:35 – 10:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://newton-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/87063822745>

Meeting ID: 870 6382 2745

Passcode: Horner

Mrs. Horner's Art Club Zoom Link

Drawing Studio with Ms. Edwards

Sherry Edwards is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://newton-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/87404802656>

Meeting ID: 874 0480 2656

Passcode: studio

Running Club

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://newton-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/85176774380>

Meeting ID: 851 7677 4380

Passcode: Dayrunners

Yoga

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://newton-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/82496144264>

Meeting ID: 824 9614 4264

Passcode: church

Sports Talk with W and the Lunin

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://newton-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/81314429803>

Meeting ID: 813 1442 9803

Passcode: sportstalk

Strength and Conditioning Training

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83409037427?pwd=ZXFaNiNETXVhVjVPRVFoa1lPLOTOT09>

Meeting ID: 834 0903 7427

Passcode: powell

SAVE THE DATE: PTO PARENT FORUM

The Day PTO will be holding a Parent Forum on Thursday, January 14th at 7:00 p.m. Join the PTO to offer feedback and learn more about how you can become involved.

STUDENT REQUEST FOR DISTANCE ONLY

As indicated in the letter to the Day Community on Friday, November 20nd linked below, we can only honor a transfer of a student to “distance only” from hybrid if there are circumstances related to health.

[Parent Letter on Requests for Distance Only 11-20-20](#)

I ask that you do not put your child in the position of asking their teacher to join distance only classes as the teacher will have to deny this request, and it places both the students and teacher in a challenging position. I continue to ask that all of these requests be directed to me at mannj@newton.k12.ma.us

FORJ HAPPENINGS

Families Organizing for Racial Justice (FORJ) is a group of diverse Newton families helping our children learn about issues of power and inequality and **how to stand up for racial justice**.

We seek to generate **understanding** and **curiosity** about the differences in our society, and to work together towards **racial equity**.

If you are interested in getting involved with FORJ at Day Middle School, please email FORJ@daypto.org.

Please see the upcoming FORJ events listed below:

LISTEN:

Nice White Parents- A five part podcast about building a better school system, and what gets in the way. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/introducing-nice-white-parents/id1524080195?i=1000485298545>

DO:

Celebrating the Legacy of METCO: Raise Your Voice for Racial Equity, Friday, December 11, 4-6pm

Featuring a virtual tour of the new METCO HQ in Nubian Square, and a panel of METCO storytellers who are bringing the unique perspective of the nation's largest voluntary school desegregation program to a wider audience: Mike Mascoll (METCO alum/filmmaker, *On The Line: Where Sacrifice Begins*), Dr. Susan Eaton (*The Other Boston Busing Story*), Jennifer De Leon (*Don't Ask Me Where I'm From*), and moderator Shelly Hinds (METCO alum, Board member, and Lincoln/Sudbury METCO Director). [Register here.](#)

READ:

WATCH: Adam Ruins Everything - The Disturbing History of the Suburbs <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e68CoE7oMk8>

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AT DAY WEBSITE

We are in the process of updating our club and after school activities website. On the link below you can find a list of our current in person and virtual clubs as well as the link to paying your club fees or apply for financial assistance. The club fees are \$60 for the school year which covers unlimited participation in Day clubs. The drama fee is \$100 but also includes unlimited participating in any clubs at Day for the year. The information on how to enroll is included in the above-linked slideshow.

[Extracurricular Activities at Day](#)

How does your child sign up for a club? They should email the club adviser listed on the slides linked below. The adviser will share a Schoology Group link with your child to join the club.

[Day Middle School Clubs Fall 2020](#)

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB:

The Newton Boys' and Girls' Club is offering a program called "Out of School Time Program" which offers enrichment programs for middle

school students and compliments the schedule of NPS middle schools. See the link below:

<https://www.newtonbgc.com/outofschooltimeprogram>

I wish a very Happy Hanukkah to all who celebrate the holiday!

Best,

Jackie Mann

F. A. Day Principal

jacqueline_mann@newton.k12.ma.us

(617) 559-9100

On Twitter: @JMannNPS