

F.A. Day Middle School

Newsletter

November 2, 2020

Quote of the Week

“Adults also can talk about the importance of listening to learn rather than listening to respond, and show kids examples of productive disagreement..”

-----Phyllis

Fagell, Author of *Middle School Matters*

ORANGE WEEK

THIS WEEK'S QUOTES

This Tuesday our children will witness the conclusion of what has been a heavily contested Presidential election, evidence of a deeply divided nation. In a year when our children have been witness to or personally impacted by political conflict, acts of racism and a public health crisis, they need the opportunity more than every to join the conversation and air their questions and opinions. As adults, many of us are apprehensive about this challenging year coming to a crescendo this Tuesday, and so it is even more important that we model resilience and respect in our responses. Toward this end, I share with you yet another thoughtful article by Day graduate, Phyllis Fagell, on navigating the upcoming election with your children:

[Six Ways Adults Can Help Children Make Sense of A Divisive Election](#)

UPCOMING DATES:

Wednesday, November 11, 2020: No School – Veterans Day

Friday, October 23, 2020: Mid-Term Progress Updates (change in date)

Friday, November 13, 2020: End of Term 1

Monday, November 16, 2020: Beginning of Term 2 , Transition to Hybrid Model at the middle school level,

First Day of In-person learning for Cohort A
Students

Thursday, November 19, 2020: First Day of School for Cohort B Students

Wednesday, November 25, 2020: Early Release from School for Thanksgiving Break

Wednesday, November 25, 2020: Term 1 Report Cards are Posted

Thursday, November 26 – Sunday, November 29, 2020: Thanksgiving Recess

Monday, November 30, 2020: Classes resume

CHROMEBOOK DISTRIBUTION

6th Grade Chromebook Distribution will take place this Wednesday, November 4th and Thursday, November 5th from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Who will receive a Chromebook?

Every 6th grader EXCEPT for those who received a Chromebook this fall (August – October 2020).

- What if my child has their own computer?

We ask that EVERY 6th grade use a NPS issued Chromebook as they will be used as their 1:1 device in the building and at home for the duration of their time at Day Middle School

- What if my child received a Chromebook from NPS in the spring?

We ask that you bring that Chromebook with you to the pick-up this week and exchange it for the newer model being distributed.

- What if my child received a Chromebook from NPS in the fall (Aug – Oct)?

You WILL NOT receive another Chromebook in the distribution this week, but you still need to pick up your child's math workbooks

Who should come to the school for the 6th grade pick up of materials?

ALL 6th grade families. Even if your child already received a Chromebook this fall, you must come by to pick up the math workbooks being distributed to ALL 6th Graders.

Where should I pick up the workbooks and Chromebooks?

Please drive down Minot Place and drive all the way around the building to the right. Continue around the building until you come to the cafeteria entrance at Door #6 . Someone will greet you there and you will be given the Chromebook and/or Math workbooks. Please have your older NPS Chromebook ready if you are returning it in exchange for an older model.

What will my child receive with my Chromebook?

In addition to the Chromebook, your child will receive a charger.

When should I come to the building for the pick-up?

There is no need to schedule a specific time. We will have someone available from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday of this week at Door #6 on the left of the building to distribute the Chromebooks and math workbooks.

When will my 7th or 8th grade receive their Chromebooks?

We expect to arrange for pick-ups of Chromebooks for 7th and 8th graders the week of November 9th. More information to follow.

TRANSITION TO HYBRID ORIENTATION PLAN

Friday, November 6, 2020: Video Student/Family Orientation for Hybrid Model and DLA sent home (including safety protocols, schedule, arrival and dismissal protocols)

Monday, November 9, 2020: Parent Question and Answer Session on Hybrid and DLA at 7:00 p.m. See the link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://newton-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/84275462032>

Meeting ID: 842 7546 2032

Passcode: 947160

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.

DISTANCE ONLY INFORMATION

In the parent question and answer session this past week, parents who have selected the “Distance Only” or “DLA” option for their child had many questions about how we will be providing the one virtual meeting for their children when the hybrid students are in person. We are reviewing the numbers of DLA and hybrid students per team and will be able to communicate specifics to you about this plan within the next week.

PRINCIPAL VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

Principal Office Hours this week will be replaced by the evening parent Q&A session scheduled for Monday, November 9th. The link and information is described above. In the interim, please do not hesitate to reach out to me individually with any questions.

ADVISORY THIS WEEK

This week in advisory we will begin to explore a new theme; Relationships and Stories. After beginning the week with a check in and goal setting, we'll

then move on to share aspects of our future stories, by relaying some of our hopes and goals. We'll also then share some stories about our personal and family values and culture, in order to continue to build relationships and connections with our advisory group

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED INFORMATION

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](#)

CHROMEBOOK UPDATE

As many families have reported, there have been some issues with accessing Zoom on Chromebooks. Our Technology Director, Steven Rattendi, has shared the following information to help with this issue:

Many of you were aware that the newly issued student Chromebooks (mostly to elementary) were experiencing significant issues with Zoom.

Please see the notification below which includes a solution implemented late in the afternoon on Wednesday, October 21:

[Zoom Issues with Newly Issued Chromebooks - Solution](#)

In short: we have pushed out an operating system update that will fix a bug in the operating system installed on the Chromebooks that resulted in poor performance of the Zoom app. This solution will also be shared with families of students in grades 3, 4, and 5.

Students will need to restart their device once the new operating system downloads. The link above includes information on updating the OS on a Chromebook.

OPTIONAL OPEN GYM TIME

Please remind your child of the optional PE offering On Wednesdays from 10:05 – 10:40 a.m. our PE Department is offering optional virtual “open gym” sessions during this flex block. I will be emailing students directly with links to these sessions. Students who are not in an ensemble groups and who do not wish to participate in one of the virtual open gym sessions can enjoy “off screen” free time from 10:05 – 10:40 a.m.

The links are below:

Running Club

Calling all runners! Join Mrs. Tague for some running practice and motivation. Want to train for a 5K? This is a great first step- all ability levels are welcome!

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 851 7677 4380

Passcode: Dayrunners

Yoga

Join Ms, Church for some yoga. Yoga is widely practiced for health and relaxation. We will focus on breathing control, simple meditation, and the adoption of specific bodily postures. It's time we all took some time out and relaxed.

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

W and the Lunin will be flexing their expansive sports knowledge to facilitate discussions about current events in the wide world of sports. Expect a weekly highlights recap, opinion polls, open mic forums for students, as well as Mr. Lunin's Fantasy Corner. Tune in on Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 813 1442 9803

Passcode: sportstalk

Strength and Conditioning Training

Work on your speed, athleticism, vertical leap, agility and overall fitness with Mr. Powell! We will be doing a variety of strength training activities, plyometrics, and speed and agility work designed to not only help you in all of the sports you play, but also in your overall fitness. Have fun, push yourself, learn new exercises and work on your strength and conditioning!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83409037427?pwd=ZXFaN1NETXVhVjVPRVFoa1PLotoQT09>

Meeting ID: 834 0903 7427

Passcode: powell

We are also working on a drop-in art club during this time. More information to follow.

ABSENCE, TARDY AND DISMISSAL PROTOCOLS

Tardy/Absence Policy:

What is considered "tardy"?: If a student participates in less than half of a Zoom class either by arriving late or leaving early, then that student will be marked "absent" from that class.

What is considered “absent”for the day? If a student is absent more than half of the school day the student will be marked “absent for the day.”

Notifying the School of Absences:

Even though most of our students are learning in virtual classrooms, teachers are taking attendance every class. If your child is expected to be absence or late to a class or needs to be dismissed early from classes, we ask that you call the absence line at Day: 617-559-9102 or email Ms. Gandolfo at gandolfo@newton.k12.ma.us

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/outofschooltimprogram>

HELP DESK

The Help Desk is no longer running, as we have been successful in getting most students fully engaged in online learning. We greatly appreciated your flexibility as we navigated some of the frustrations of technology glitches.

Should your child experience technology issues going forward you should email the familytechsupport@newton.k12.ma.us

I also encourage your child to email teachers directly to notify them of your difficulties.

FORJ (Families Organizing for Racial Justice)

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Tuesday November 19th 6:30pm-8pm - Housing Inequities with special guest Richard Rothstien author of “The Color of Law, A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America.”

Here is the 2020-2021 [FORJ City-Wide Meetings Calendar](#)

Best,

Jackie Mann

F. A. Day Principal

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On Twitter: [@JMannNPS](#)