

F.A. Day Middle School Newsletter

November 30, 2020

PURPLE WEEK

Quotes of the Week

THIS WEEK'S QUOTES

"Life imposes things on you that you can't control, but you still have the choice of how you're going to live through this." – Celine Dion

"Doing the best at this moment puts you in the best place for the next moment." – Oprah Winfrey

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." – Theodore Roosevelt

"When it rains, look for rainbows; when it's dark, look for stars." – Oscar Wilde

THIS WEEK'S QUOTES

On the eve of resuming school after Thanksgiving break I have heard from some members of our community with concerns about the changes in the world around us, with escalating positive cases and worry about exposure from travel. Our traditional Thanksgiving gatherings were indeed clouded with worries about travel and connecting with loved ones who have not been in our "pods" - a word I truly never thought would be used in this context.

At the Mann Household, like in so many others, there were family and friends who we missed dearly but whose exclusion from our dinner table was a sacrifice made out of love. While their absence was felt, we found comfort in memories of Thanksgivings past and inspiration in promises of hope for the future.

We cannot control how long it takes for all of our community to have access to a vaccine, or when the impact of this treacherous virus is minimized, but we can control our present. We can continue to support each other in the months ahead and focus on connecting with our students, and engage them in a supportive learning community so that while they may have memories of struggle and loss during these months, those memories will be countered by the memories of acts of love and kindness by the adults in their lives and the strength and resilience they developed to guide their pathway forward.

IMPORTANT NOTICE OF A POSITIVE CASE OF COVID-19 AT DAY

Please see the important notification for Newton Health and Human Services related to a recent positive case of COVID-19 at Day. I have both linked the letter here as well as included the body of the letter below for ease of access. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or our school nurses, Gayle Larson or Ann Garvin at the emails below with any questions:

larsong@newton.k12.ma.us or garvina@newton.k12.ma.us

[School Notice of Positive Case at Day](#)

Positive COVID-19 Case School Notification

Date: November 30, 2020

To Day Middle School Community,

This is to inform you that a person in our school community has tested positive for COVID-19. This individual was at school during their infectious period.

Although we cannot provide specific information about this person, if you/your child is a close contact, you will be notified by the Newton Health and Human Services Department (HHS) or another public health authority. Affected classes will receive a separate notification.

Close contacts are individuals who have been less than six feet from someone with COVID-19 for at least 10-15 minutes during the person's infectious period or someone who has had direct contact with infectious secretions of someone with COVID-19.

The school nurse will work with HHS to monitor cases and close contacts and will provide additional information as appropriate. Please contact the school nurse with any questions or concerns.

We will continue to be vigilant in adhering to the **four primary public health risk reduction pillars** to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our school community and to continue in-person learning.

Primary Public Health Risk Reduction Pillars

- Face Coverings: Cover your nose & mouth
- Physical Distancing: Maintain appropriate distance to prevent exposure
- Hygiene: Keep hands and the environment clean
- Avoid Exposure to Illness: Stay home if sick

Please continue to perform your daily health assessment and be alert for the following symptoms:

- Fever (100°F or higher), chills, shaking chills
- Cough (*not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough*)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Headache (*when in combination with other symptoms*)
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Fatigue (*when in combination with other symptoms*)
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (*not due to other known causes, such as allergies and when in combination with other symptoms*)

If any students or staff members experience any of these symptoms, do not come to school and contact your healthcare provider for assessment and possible testing. Please notify the school of your absence.

UPCOMING DATES:

Monday, November 30, 2020: Classes resume

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

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

Monday, January 4, 2021- Classes Resume

PARENT CONFERENCES

See important information about this year's parent conferences below:

[Parent Teacher Conferences 2020](#)

November 29, 2020

Dear Day Families:

This letter outlines this year's plans for parent conferences. The purpose of conferences is to offer parents and teachers an opportunity to share and discuss student achievement and progress. At the middle school level across Newton, conferences are held once per year in December and January. Please take time to read this letter to be sure you have the information you need to schedule your teacher conferences.

Here at Day we have a series of Wednesdays available for these conferences. This year's parent/teacher conferences will be held virtually via Zoom due to public health considerations. The conferences are designed as 10 minute check-ins with teachers to discuss your child's progress. **You must choose either your child's Science and English Teacher Pairs or the Math and Social Studies Teacher Pairs, not both.** Unfortunately, given the number of conferences requested, we can only accommodate a meeting with one of the team's pairs. The teachers that you will be meeting with will be prepared to talk about your child's progress in all team subjects. If you book a conference with all 4 team teachers, one pair will be chosen for you, no exceptions. You also will have the opportunity to meet one on one with any of your child's special education teachers and/or multi-team teachers (e.g. world language, fine arts, music, physical education, etc.).

We view parent/teacher conferences as a unique opportunity to support the prioritizing of our home/school partnership and communication between you and the teachers. If you need any assistance or if the conferences prove to be unacceptably limiting given your child's needs, please do not hesitate to call your child's Guidance Counselor.

How To Sign-Up For Parent-Teacher Conferences

Sign-ups will begin 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.

Sincerely,
Jacqueline Mann
Principal

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE ON CONFERENCE DAYS

We will be scheduling parent conferences on Dec. 16, Jan. 6, Jan, 20.

We have adjusted the schedule for students on these conference Wednesdays so that students will still see all of their classes, just earlier in the day. See the adjusted Wednesday schedule below **JUST** on the parent/conference Wednesdays listed above:

8:05 - 8:15 - Team Homeroom

8:15 - 10:00 a.m. - Team Classes- Teams will see all 4 sections

THERE WILL BE NO FLEX TIME/OPEN GYM

10:00 - 12:10 p.m. Multi-Team Grade Level Blocks and Lunches

No Student Classes after 12:10 p.m. on Conference Days.

CHROMEBOOKS

- **8th Grade:** Unfortunately, Chromebooks will not be ready for distribution to our 8th graders this week. We ask that any 8th graders with a device at home bring it to school for use. Students without a device will be provided with them.

8th Grade Students Without a Personal Computer to Use

- **6th and 7th Grade:** All 6th and 7th grade students should have already received their NPS Chromebooks. We have some that have yet to be picked up. If you have not picked up your child's device, please email Ms. Vitone at : vitonem@newton.k12.ma.us

ADVISORY THIS WEEK

This week we'll be starting conversations around a new theme: Community & School. We'll explore a bit about our home communities as well as our living spaces and begin to dive into some conversations about the value of bringing our home community values into our school.

SPIRIT GEAR

The PTO has asked me to announce that the deadline to order Day Spirit Wear is tonight at midnight. Please follow the link below or order your items.

<https://daymiddleschool.itemorder.com/sale>

TERM 1 REPORT CARDS

Grades for Term 1 Report Cards were posted in ASPEN on Wednesday, November 25, 2020. If you have any questions or have trouble accessing your child's report cards, please reach out to your child's guidance counselor.

SCHEDULES IN ASPEN

Student Hybrid Schedules will be visible in ASPEN as of Tuesday, November 24, 2020.

PRINCIPAL OFFICE HOURS

This week's Principal Office Hours will be on Friday, December 4, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Please see the Zoom link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://newton-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/83003724580>

Meeting ID: 830 0372 4580

Passcode: 424873

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.

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED INFORMATION

A FEW REMINDERS

- This week students revert to a typical schedule and begin their day with their period 1 class. For 7th and 8th grade this is an on-team class (math, ELA, history or social studies), for 6th grade it is a multi-team class (world language or arts rotation) (Faculty will be available to help students locate their classes)
- The first class begins at 8:05 a.m. Student walking to school **WILL NOT BE ADMITTED TO THE BUILDING BEFORE 7:55 a.m.** Please plan accordingly as students also should not wait outside of the building.
- Students taking the bus will be greeted and escorted into designated waiting areas before school begins.
- Grab and Go Breakfast is available for ALL students at no cost. Students choosing breakfast must enter through the Cafeteria Door #6 on the left of the building.
- This week Cohort A is in person on Monday and Tuesday morning from 8:05 – 11:20 a.m., while Cohort B will engage in asynchronous assignments provided by their teachers during the same block of time.

- The afternoon session on Mon., Tues, Thurs, and Friday is from 12:35 – 2:40 p.m. It is all remote for both cohorts and both distance only and hybrid.
- Wednesday is a fully remote day for all students except those students who are in school every day due to service needs.
- Grab and Go Lunches are also available for all students at no cost, even those leaving for the day, but food cannot be eaten on the bus.
- Please make sure your child brings their NPS Chromebook to school with a charger and their headphones. They should charge their computer the night before. **** 8th grade students do not have their NPS device as of yet. They will be allowed to bring in their own computers to school until they receive the NPS Chromebooks**
- Please have your child bring two masks to school. Masks should be worn at all time.
- Below is a copy of the health self-assessment (I was informed that the link was not working last week). Every family should help their child complete this self-assessment before entering the school building every day:

If you or your student is experiencing any of the following, please stay home and contact your health provider and notify the school:

- Fever greater than 100 degrees, chills, shaking chills
- New or worsening cough (not chronic)
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Sore throat not related to allergies
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches *
- Fatigue *
- Nasal congestion or runny nose
- **When in combination with other symptoms

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.

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 districtwide 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](#)

GOOGLE CALENDAR LINKS

All Day students should have been deleted from the Distance Learning Google Calendar links and received new links for the hybrid schedule. There will be Google Calendar invites for the following:

- In person classes with a room number (just event invite- some with Zoom links)
- Asynchronous work (just event invite – some with Zoom links)
- Virtual classes in the afternoon (calendar invites with Zoom links)

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>

Best,

Jackie Mann

F. A. Day Principal

jacqueline_mann@newton.k12.ma.us

(617) 559-9100

On Twitter: @JMannNPS