

F.A. Day Middle School Newsletter

November 9, 2020

BLUE WEEK

Quote of the Week

“Because every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities. And to the children of our country, regardless of your gender, our country has sent you a clear message: Dream with ambition, lead with conviction, and see yourself in a way that others might not see you, simply because they’ve never seen it before. But know that we will applaud you every step of the way.”

---- Vice President Elect Kamala

Harris

“The nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.” ----Elmer Davis, reporter during WW III

BLUE WEEK

THIS WEEK’S QUOTES

This is an eventful moment in the lives of our children. Like all of us, our lives seemed to be in suspension awaiting the results of our Presidential election, and with every moment that we waited, we seemed to grow even more divided. It was a metaphor of our children’s lives in suspension, waiting for the opportunity to return to a sense of normalcy.

As we look to transition our children yet again on November 16th to the combined hybrid/distance only learning model at Day, what strikes me is the need to strive for unity in our community. Regardless of our political affiliations, it was comforting to hear the words of unity from our President and Vice-President elect. Even if you are not in agreement with Kamala Harris’ stance on issues, it is hard to ignore the power of the words spoken to our children by the first woman, first black woman, first woman of Asian descent, first child of immigrants to ascend to this high office. Just her

presence on the stage Saturday night was a testament to the possibilities ahead for all of our children. Her words were of hope for their future.

As we begin our transition to the next phase of learning for your middle school students on November 16th, please know that whether you have selected distance only or hybrid for your child, we are one community at Day. We will continue to strive to keep all of your children connected with each other and their amazing teachers regardless of their model as the details below describe, and will work to create more opportunities for our students to connect safely in person. Essential does not even describe the importance of social connections in the lives of our middle schoolers. So let's recommit to our children as we begin the next phase of our school year and lean on the strength of our community as we navigate the pathway forward together.

** On another, not entirely separate note, this week on November 11th, we celebrate Veteran's Day as a nation. I want to take a moment to thank the veterans in our school community for their service to our country. The freedom that we exercised on days like November 3rd, the right to free speech and to vote, are ones protected every day by the men and women in our armed services. Please join me in thanking them. Our advisory lesson on Tuesday will create opportunities for our children to honor the men and women who serve our country as well.

UPCOMING DATES:

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

Thursday, November 12th and Friday, November 13th – **No School** for Faculty PD

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 at 11:30 a.m. 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

CHROMEBOOKS

7th Grade Chromebook Distribution:

All 7th grade students who did not receive a Chromebook already this fall were notified via email this past week that they should pick up a Chromebook tomorrow - Monday, November 9th and Tuesday, November 10th. (*If you have a Chromebook from the spring, you should return it in exchange for the newer one)

If you are a 7th grade parent and DID not receive an email then you should already have a NPS Chromebook.

We still have 29 **6th Grade Chromebooks** that have not been picked up. Please stop by the school on Monday or Tuesday if your child is in 6th grade and does not have their Chromebook. 6th Graders are also picking up math workbooks and science materials.

Chromebook pick-ups are from 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at Door #6 – the cafeteria door. Follow the driveway down Minot Place round the building to the far left.

We are not as yet certain if 8th grade Chromebooks will be ready for pick-up as planned this Thursday and Friday, so please wait for further notification.

MEDICATION DROP-OFF FOR HYBRID STUDENTS

- A nurse will be available for parents who would like to drop off medications on the following days:

Monday November 9, from 8:00-9:00 and 3:00-4:00

Tuesday November 10, from 8:00-9:00 and 12:00-1:00

- Please include a completed medication permission form and include licensed prescriber signature (see Below)
- <http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/70889>
- Please note that we will be unable to accept medication without completed forms
- Parents should drop off medication at Door #6 -the cafeteria door. (Follow the driveway down Minot Place round the building to the far left.)

TRANSITION TO HYBRID ORIENTATION PLAN

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

The presentation is linked below along with the accompanying slide deck. ***The presentation includes information for BOTH distance only and hybrid families.***

(**Please watch the narrated version of the presentation linked below as it includes more details.)

[Narrated Family Orientation to Hybrid and Distance Learning at Day](#)

[Family and Student Orientation to Hybrid and Distant Learning at Day \(Slide deck\)](#)

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

Please continue to add your questions to this parking lot. I will use the parking lot questions to frame my response:

[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.

NEW GOOGLE CALENDAR ZOOM LINKS FOR HYBRID AND DISTANCE LEARNING

- By Friday, November 13th, your child’s teachers will share the Google Calendar links for the new class meeting times for both Hybrid and Distance Only Learning.
- Distance Only students and Hybrid students will have the SAME team teachers but will be in new sections on that team as a result of the need to create “distance only sections.” Most teams will have 3 hybrid sections and 1 distance only sections. Three teams: Emerald, Ruby

and Mint will have 4 hybrid sections and then create a 5th section for distance only sections that will take place during the break between the morning and afternoon sessions from 11:20 – 12:35 p.m.

- o Additionally, all students will have NEW arts rotation classes for Term 2 as the arts rotation classes switch every quarter. Arts rotation teachers will email students to introduce themselves.

TEACHERS WHO WILL BE REMAIN REMOTE

Some of the Day Faculty have been approved for a medical accommodation to continue to teach remotely. Those teachers will be emailing their students directly to notify them that they are teaching remotely. Hybrid students will be supervised by a building-base faculty member or substitute teacher for the one meeting time of that teacher's class. Distance only students will access all of their teachers remotely, so will not be impacted by this accommodation.

ADVISORY THIS WEEK

This week in advisory we will begin with goal-setting for the week, focusing on organization and catching up before the end of the term and in preparation for our new hybrid schedule. On Tuesday, the advisory group will engage in a discussion about the significance of sacrifice and the meaning of Veterans Day.

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](#)

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>

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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