



**Quote of the Week**

**“The beginning is the most important part of the work.” ---- Plato**

**Days of the Cycle Week of 9/9/19:  
Day 5, Day 6, Day 1, Day 2**

**THIS WEEK’S QUOTE**

This week the entire Day Faculty dedicated its time to creating a positive and joyful new beginning for your children. Their first impression of the new school community, team or classroom often sets the tone for a child’s perception of the year. Our focus this year as in the past two will be on creating and sustaining meaningful connections in support of student learning. My hope is that we were successful in beginning that during this ever important first week. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of our faculty or guidance staff if we can do anything to further support your children as they engage in what Plato refers to as “the most important part of the work,” – the beginning.

**IN THE CLASSROOMS THIS WEEK**

This first week at Day was about connections, routines and expectations. Students were greeted by their teachers on the first day of school and guided in the first three periods through community building activities, building tours, locker assignments, shared space expectations and safety drill review. Because of the tremendous efforts of our faculty, by Day 2, even our new members of the school communities seemed to be moving seamlessly through our building. The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades ended their days with community block this week, which in many cases involved outdoor community building activities. 8<sup>th</sup> Graders launched into exploration of the upcoming curriculum from

STEM labs and safety skits in science to an introduction to historical thinking and personal lens and civic engagement in social studies.

## **MORNING PROGRAMS AND ROUTINES**

**All students must continue to first report to the cafeteria in the morning before heading anywhere in the building. Students are not allowed to leave the cafeteria without obtaining a pass to their location from Mr. Harding or Ms. Romeo.**

### **Morning Gym:**

Morning basketball begins in the gym this coming week. Students must first check in with an Assistant Principal to get a pass to the gym. Morning gym is open by 7:15 a.m. **\*\* If your child plans to attend morning gym every day of the week, we ask that you submit a club payment by following the link below. No fee is required unless your child uses this club every day. THERE IS NO MORNING GYM ON FRIDAYS.**

**Here is the link to pay the one time club and/or drama fee:**

<https://www.newton.k12.ma.us//site/Default.aspx?PageID=1073>

**If you family is in need of a fee waiver, please follow the link below:**

<https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/1072>

**Morning library:** Students will be allowed to visit the library beginning this week from 7:30 a.m. – 7:50 a.m. where they can take out a book, do puzzles or print assignments. Library passes are available on a first come first serve basis from Mr. Harding or Ms. Romeo in the cafeteria.

**Computer Lab:** The computer lab will be available in the morning in a few weeks. We will announce when it is open for the year.

## **AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS AND CLUBS**

Our after school sports programming is beginning with the following events. Students must be registered in Family I.D. before tryouts. Fees will be due once final team rosters are established:

**Soccer:** 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls are eligible to tryout for the Day Soccer Teams. There was a boys' and girls' soccer information session this past Friday. Try-outs begin on Monday.

**Cross Country:** There are not tryouts for the cross-country team. Every student, in grades 6-8, who are interested are eligible to participate. There is an informational meeting scheduled this Monday, 9/9 after school from 2:40 – 3:00 p.m. with Coach Moran in Room 102A.

**Flag Football:** This year we are replacing tackle football with a co-ed flag football team at Day Middle School. There will be a brief informational session on Monday after school in the fitness room on the first floor.

CLUBS this year will be announced over the next few weeks. See the link below for more information.

Please note that before being able to tryout or participate in any sport, all student-athletes must have the following on file with the Day Middle School Athletics and/or Health Office:

- **Athletics Participation Registration/Sign-up – ONLINE REGISTRATION!** Families must register all student athletes providing permission and consent, contact info as well as medical information on [FamilyID](#). Registration for Fall sports through Family ID will be open from 8:00 AM on Monday, August 12 and close at 10:00 PM on Friday, September 13. Students will not be allowed to tryout or participate in practice until they are registered.  
**FamilyID:** <https://www.familyid.com/organizations/day-middle-school>
- **Physical Examinations** – Submit a valid **physical** to the FA Day Health Office. Physicals are valid for **13 months to the day of the exam** – students with expired physicals will be ineligible to participate until a current physical is submitted. Physicals can be mailed or submitted in person to the Health Office prior to the first try-out or practice.
- **Athletic User Fee (\$180/sport with \$540 family cap)** – User fees can be paid online through [UniPay](#) or by check made payable to City of Newton. User fees are due once final rosters have been determined. **(Note: Your Family ID account will always say you have a balance as UniPay does not “talk**

*to” Family ID). Fee Waivers are available and can be found [here](#).*

- **Intramural Fee (\$90/season: includes all clubs for year)-** Newton is introducing an intramural sports program to the four middle schools. Each sport will meet twice a week after school from 2:40-4:10 with the goal of skill building, teamwork, and introducing students to new activities. Though we have certain sports in mind we want to hear from you to gauge interest to best offer what Day students want to do. Please fill out the form [here](#): **Dates and Times:**

- Practice times: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 2:45 PM-4:00 PM

- Game schedules vary between 1-2 games a week from 3:45 PM-6:00 PM

- Games and practices are weather dependent. Check website and Twitter for updates

- **Informational Team Meetings:** All athletes must attend the coaches informational meeting prior to the season beginning. Information will be posted around the school, on the morning announcements, and on Day’s [After School Activities website](#). If an athlete is unable to attend the meeting they must contact the coach to make other arrangements.

### **Fall Team Sports (Sept 9-Nov 1):**

Co-Ed Cross Country (**no tryouts open to 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**)

Co-Ed Flag Football (**no tryouts open to 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**)

Boys Soccer (**tryouts open to 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**)

Girls Soccer (**tryouts open to 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**)

### **Winter Team Sports (Dec 2- Feb 14):**

Boys Basketball (**tryouts open to 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**)

Girls Basketball (**tryouts open to 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**)

## **Spring Team Sports (April 6- June 5):**

Baseball (tryouts open to 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Boys Lacrosse (tryouts open to 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Girls Lacrosse (tryouts open to 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Softball (tryouts open to 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Co-Ed Track and Field (no tryouts open to 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

## **INTRAMURAL PROGRAM SURVEY**

In an effort to make after school sports more inclusive this year, we will be offering an intramural program and would like to know what sports our students would be interested in. Please take a moment to complete a brief survey by following the link below:

**Google form:** <https://forms.gle/KAbMzgEacDBEewgQ7>

FA Day Snowsports: 6 weeks in Jan-Feb, open to 6th-8th Grade, limit 95 students

TBD - Possibilities include volleyball, ultimate frisbee, field hockey, rugby, badminton, floor hockey, ping pong, tennis, and pickleball. Let your choices be known by submitting Google form

## **CLUBS AND DRAMA**

Enclosed, please find information about after school club and theater arts opportunities at FA Day Middle School. The Afterschool Enrichment program offers a variety of dynamic programming through its clubs and drama productions. FA Day clubs and drama performances provide students with opportunities to explore and make connections with others who share a common interest. Here is what is important to know:

- **Club and Drama Registration/Sign-up – ONLINE REGISTRATION!**

Families must register all students providing permission and consent, contact info as well as pertinent medical information on [FamilyID](#). Registration for clubs and drama through Family ID will be open around the 3rd week of school. Club offerings will be finalized based on both student interest and faculty advisor availability.

**FamilyID:** <https://www.familyid.com/organizations/day-middle-school>

- **Club Meeting Times and Offerings** – Club meeting times vary and can be found in the descriptions found on the [Afterschool Activities website](#). Last years clubs are on the website to get an idea of what has been available in the past. Updates will be posted the second week of school, including information on where and when they meet. Please check the website as club offerings change as the year goes along. Students will ideas for new clubs are also encouraged – please contact [Mr. Comings](#) or [Mr. Murphy](#) with any ideas.
  - Clubs meet Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.
  - Morning clubs meet from 7:20 AM- 7:50 AM
  - After school clubs typically meet from 2:40 PM- 4:10 PM
- **Theater Arts** – FA Day offers opportunities both on stage and behind the scenes. There is a Fall play, Cabaret, and two Spring musicals (one for 7&8 graders and one for just 6th graders). The fall play has been cast, however Cabaret, which is open to all students, will be holding informational meetings and tryouts the second week of school. See Mr. Demarest with any questions.
- **Club and Drama Fees-** User fees can be paid online through [UniPay](#) or by check made payable to City of Newton. (*Note: Your Family ID account will always say you have a balance as UniPay does not “talk to” Family ID*). Please put your students name and activity in the info section if paying by check. Checks can be given to the advisor or the main office. Fee waivers, are available to all families in need of financial assistance. More information and forms are available on the newton site [here](#).
  - *\$60 Clubs Only- valid for the 2019-2020 academic year*
  - *\$100 Drama and Clubs*

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Afterschool Enrichment Directors by email.

Andy Comings [comingsa@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:comingsa@newton.k12.ma.us)

Mark Murphy [murphym@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:murphym@newton.k12.ma.us)

## **DATES FOR THE UPCOMING FALL PRODUCTIONS**

Due to a miscommunication on my part, there has been some confusion with the dates of the upcoming fall productions and tryouts. My apologies. Below are the corrected dates:

**Fall Play: *Hamlet*** – Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**Fall Cabaret:** Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

***Tryouts for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade musical, Fiddler on the Roof will begin the week of November 25<sup>th</sup>.***

## **LATE BUS**

NPS offers a late bus for students living in Newton and Boston. The late bus routes do not follow a typical bus route, and students will need to walk a further distance to their home. The late bus is **ONLY** for students staying after school for clubs, athletics or teacher meetings. It departs at 4:15 p.m. every afternoon **EXCEPT FOR TUESDAYS**. (On Tuesdays there are no after school activities for students due to teacher professional development). We will have copies of late bus routes at the buses this week to help guide students who are staying after school for sports tryouts.

## **MATH FEE THIS YEAR**

The Illustrative Math Program at the middle school level requires online resources and/or consumable workbooks for each unit. For this to be sustainable over time, the district is charging \$12.00 per student per year, which will help to offset the consumable costs of the program. The payment of \$12 can be sent in to your child's homeroom teacher in the first few weeks of school. Checks should be made out to Day Middle School. Cash can only be accepted if you send in exact change. **Financial assistance is available by contacting your child's math teacher or guidance counselor.**

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

## **CARS ON ALBEMARLE**

If you are picking your child up on Albemarle, please do not park in the bus loading zone. Also, please do not pass the buses when they are parked in that zone as students are loading on the bus. Students cross between the buses at a crosswalk and it is a safety hazard if cars try to pass buses as students are loading. No cars are allowed to pass the parked buses on Albemarle from 2:35 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

## **SEPAC**

The Special Education Advisory Council for Newton Public Schools would like me to share with you their calendar of meetings for the 2019-2020 school year. All are welcome:

### OPEN board meetings:

All meetings start at 7:30pm

Room 217 Ed Center, 100 Walnut Street

September 10, 2019

October 17, 2019

November 19, 2019

December 17, 2019

January 16, 2020

February 22, 2020

March 12, 2020

April 14, 2020

May 14, 2020

June 2, 2020

## **SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE INFORMATION**

As most of you have heard by now, we have a new food service in Newton Public Schools. My previous email had information on how to offer feedback to our parent representative on the advisory board, Allison Kessler. Allison has asked me to also share the link below where parents can view the menu for each school:

<https://schools.whitsons.com/ma/newton-public-schools?page=menu>

Finally, if your family is in need of free and reduced lunch fees, please follow the link below on the NPS web site.

[https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=6739&dataid=9680&FileName=FY20\\_Application\\_Directions\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=6739&dataid=9680&FileName=FY20_Application_Directions_FINAL.pdf)



If you are not able to access the form online, please reach out to your child's guidance counselor who can offer assistance.

### **PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED INFORMATION**

**(Each week I may continue to publish information that was in last week's newsletter in case it was missed, but I will note that this is "previously published" so that parents can skip over it if they have already read it.**

### **UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES TO VISIT DAY**

In the first two months of school, we offer two opportunities for parents to visit the school, meet our faculty and the adults your child will be interacting with every day, and learn about middle school curriculum and expectations. The dates and times of those events are listed below:

#### ***Back to School Night***

Our annual Back to School Night will be held at Day Middle School on Thursday, September 19, 2019. The evening will begin with an optional parent information session on After School Sports and Clubs in the Day Auditorium at 6:00 p.m. led by the program's coordinators, Mr. Mark Murphy and Mr. Andy Comings. Then, beginning at 7:00 p.m., you will have the opportunity to follow your child's schedule and hear from each of your child's teachers. We will share your child's schedule with you in advance and your evening will begin with a presentation by your child's homeroom teacher.

#### ***Parents Visiting Days***

We have scheduled our annual Parent Visiting Days in October again this year. Each grade level will be assigned a morning when they will be invited to observe their child's classes in action. More information will be sent home about this event. For now, please save the dates below:

***8th Grade Parent Visiting Day: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 from 7:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.***

***7th Grade Parent Visiting Day: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 from 7:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.***

***6th Grade Parent Visiting Day: Thursday, October 17, 2019 from 7:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.***

We look forward to opportunities such as these throughout the school year to strengthen our home/school partnership in support of our children.

## **AFTER SCHOOL RESOURCES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENTS**

Below is a link of after school resources for middle school students compiled by Newton Health and Human Services:

- Afterschool resource listing from Newton HHS
- <http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/84326>

### **See also the resource below:**

**The Highlands After-School Program** offers an exciting option for children in middle school. HASP has great activities in the Hyde Gym and at the home base at Brigham House in Newton Highlands. Transportation is arranged from school daily. For more information, please call 617.999.4617 or visit our website: [www.highlandsafter-schoolprogram.org](http://www.highlandsafter-schoolprogram.org)

## **PRINCIPAL'S COFFEE AND DAY PTO**

It was wonderful meeting so many new Day Parents at our first Principal Coffee on Monday. As I mentioned at the coffee, our PTO will be sponsoring a series of such events, and they will be sending out a survey to solicit your feedback on topics of interest. The next Principal's Coffee is Thursday, October 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Day Library.

Please support the PTO by giving them feedback and volunteering whenever possible. Form more information follow the link below:

<https://www.daypto.org/>

## **CONNECTING WITH THE DAY COMMUNITY**

### ***Weekly Newsletters***

Beginning next week, you will receive weekly newsletters via email that will highlight upcoming events and share important information about your child's experiences here at Day.

### ***Web Site***

The F.A. Day Middle School web site will include most information, including the weekly newsletters, as well as our event calendar and important updates and links to emails. The link to the school web site is below:

<https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Domain/26>

### ***After School Programs***

Our vibrant after school sports and clubs program will begin by the end of September, and in some instances earlier. Information about sports tryouts and club offerings will be updated on the web site below:

<https://sites.google.com/newton.k12.ma.us/eee/home>

### ***Twitter***

I use Twitter to send out pictures of school events and quick updates. You can follow me on Twitter at:  
@JMannNPS

### ***Email Addresses***

The most efficient way to reach any faculty member once school starts is via email. All faculty email has the same pattern:

[Firstname\\_lastname@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:Firstname_lastname@newton.k12.ma.us)

### ***Schoology and Teacher Web Sites***

A majority of teachers here at Day use Schoology, which is an online interface that allows them to post interactive homework and curriculum. Students are given log in information to Schoology in most classes within the first few weeks of school. Most teachers also use Schoology to post mid-term progress reports, which are updates on students' academic progress in between the formal report cards. Report cards are issued four times a year, and can be accessed through the ASPEN family portal.

### ***Day Middle School PTO***

Another way to stay connected with the Day School Community is to join the Day PTO. They send out information about school events and offer opportunities for families to become involved.

Below is the link to the PTO web site:

<http://www.daypto.org/>

## **SAVE THE DATE:**

Wednesday, September 11, 2019: Day School Council at 3:00 p.m.  
Thursday, September 19, 2019: Back to School Night at 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, September 25, 2019: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to D.C. Parent Night at 6:30 p.m.  
Friday, September 20, 2019: Picture Day  
Thursday, September 26, 2019: Early Release – Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.  
Monday, September 30, 2019: NO SCHOOL – Rosh Hashanah  
Thursday, October 3, 2019: Principal’s Evening Coffee at 7:00 p.m. in the Day Library  
Week of October 7, 2019 – Mid-Term Progress Updates  
Wednesday, October 9, 2019: No School – Yom Kippur  
Thursday, October 10- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social at 6:00 p.m. Day Gym  
Monday, October 14, 2019 – No School – Columbus Day  
Tuesday, October 15, 2019 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Visiting Day  
Wednesday, October 16, 2019 – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Visiting Day  
Thursday, October 17, 2019 – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Visiting Day  
Thursday and Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019- Fall Play  
Wednesday, October 30, 2019: Early Release Day -Teacher Professional Development  
Friday, November 1, 2019: Flu Clinic  
Monday, November 11, 2019: No School – Veteran’s Day  
Tuesday, November 12, 2019: Term 2 Begins  
Wednesday, November 13, 2019: School Council at 3:00 p.m.  
Friday, November 15, 2019: Term 1 Report Cards Posted  
Thursday, November 21, 2019 and Friday, November 22, 2019: Cabaret at 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, November 27, 2019: Early Release for Thanksgiving Break – No Lunch  
Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019: No School Thanksgiving

All the best,

Jackie Mann  
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