



Newton North High School

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NEWTONVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS 02460

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Dear students and families of the class of 2021,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you are enjoying your favorite summer activities. While I certainly appreciate the break, I also look forward to beginning a new school year. A unique perk of being a student, and also of working at a school, is the ability to get a fresh start each September.

For students and families of Barry House, the thought of starting eleventh grade may feel like a mixed blessing. While students might look forward to starting school, they may also be concerned about junior year, which is often described as “the hardest year.” Whether it be the junior thesis, the SATs, or thinking about college admissions, junior year can be a stressful time for students.

I encourage students to work on a balance of pushing themselves academically, while also allowing time to engage in fun extracurricular activities. If that balance ever feels out of reach, please know that I am available to support students, as are your counselors and teachers.

Juniors are eligible for open campus privileges at the start of the school year. In order to earn them, juniors must earn grades of C- or higher in all of their classes, have no N’s or I’s on their report card, and demonstrate good citizenship. Juniors with open campus privileges may leave campus during their free periods and cancelled classes.

Juniors **ineligible** for open campus will be enrolled in study halls. A parent may opt their child out of open campus privileges by contacting me at (617) 559-6320 or sandersa@newton.k12.ma.us.

There will be one change to the school policy regarding excused absences. In order for an absence from *one block in the middle of the school day* to be excused, parents and/or guardians must provide proper documentation (i.e., from a health provider). We have seen an increased pattern over the last few years when students felt unprepared for a test or wanted to work on assignments for other classes, they asked their parents/guardians to excuse them from school. The school does not consider those legitimate reasons to be excused. When students are dismissed from school, the expectation is that they leave the building. If students are seen in the building during a period when they have been excused from school, their absence will be unexcused.

Communication between home and school is essential, so please contact Ms. Perruzzi or me with questions or concerns.

Enjoy the rest of summer. Ms. Perruzzi and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Sincerely,

Aaron Sanders, Jr.