



# Newton North High School

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NEWTONVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS 02460

**Scott Heslin**

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*Executive Assistant*

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Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians of the Class of 2023,

Welcome to Newton North and to Beals House! My name is Scott Heslin and I am excited to be your Dean beginning this September. I had a great time meeting all of you on Step Up Day in June and I look forward to getting to know all of you over the next 4 years. On Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:50 am, your school year will start with Freshmen In Transition (FIT), a program designed to help students become familiar with North. NNHS offers many supports, programs, and extracurricular activities to help students connect with their peers and the community. Our faculty and staff are committed to helping a diverse group of students, with a wide range of learning styles and interests, experience academic and personal growth. All expect and encourage students to work hard, take responsibility for their learning, behave respectfully, and advocate for their needs. I believe each and every student has the ability to meet these expectations. It is important to me that we get to know each other, as I believe consistent communication and collaboration between home and school are necessary to help all students succeed. My door is always open and I sincerely encourage you stop in and say hello. Please review the following information:

**Beals House Office, Room 277, (617) 559-6330:** The House office is your destination for most issues that you would have addressed in the Main Office in middle school. Ms. Cheryl Stover, the Beals House Administrative Assistant, is always available to help with any questions or concerns.

**Attendance:** Good attendance is vital to learning and performance in high school. Thus, we expect all students to report to all classes, on time every day. Please read the attendance policy and procedures published online. We ask that families notify the Beals House of any student attendance issues (absences, dismissals, late arrivals) before 10am the day of the issue. Please do not jeopardize receiving credit for a course by failing to follow the attendance policy and procedures. 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). On many occasions last year, 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 from school. When students are dismissed from school, the expectation is that they have left the building. If students are seen in the building during a period when they have been excused from school, their absence will be considered unexcused.

**Homeroom (HR):** HR meets for 10 minutes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and attendance is mandatory. HR is a great opportunity to connect with your peers and homeroom teacher and hear announcements about school events.

**Schedule:** You will review your schedule in homeroom on the first day of school. All freshmen must remain on campus at all times during the school day. During your study halls, you will be assigned to a classroom where you will be expected to study and/or complete homework.

**X-block (the last block on Mondays and Thursdays, ends at 3:20pm):** Students and teachers reserve and use X-block for extra help and consultation. Please do not schedule appointments during X-block as it is part of the school day.

**Locker Assignment:** Your locker is for your use only and is your responsibility for the next four years. Do not share or swap lockers. Use your locker to store your books and coats.

**Electronic Devices:** All devices must be turned off and put away during classes. Students are not permitted to check voice mail, text messages, email, or social media during class time.

I am looking forward to starting the school year and wish all of you a relaxing and wonderful rest of summer. See you on September 3<sup>rd</sup>!

Sincerely,

Scott Heslin