



Newton North High School

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Dear Newton North community,

I hope that this letter finds you well and that you are enjoying your summer. This summer, my family and I had the opportunity to spend some time in the Netherlands. For my wife, it was a work trip. So my mission was to keep our nine-year-old daughter entertained. Therefore, the trip included long bike rides exploring Amsterdam, a search for the best pancakes and croissants, and many rounds of our new game *Qwixx* (highly recommended).

Additionally, we visited several Dutch museums, and I was amazed by the “kid-friendly” nature of all of them. Each museum used different strategies to create a fun and engaging experience for her. At the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam’s largest art museum, they used a scavenger hunt to help my daughter find art that could grab her attention. At one point, we spent a lot of time chatting about the 17th-century painting of a toilet that we were viewing. In the 17th century house of the artist Rembrandt, the curators created an audio guide specifically for children. Finally, we explored the DOMunder in Utrecht, which is a 2,000 year old underground museum. We used a gigantic explorer’s flashlight to search through the ruins of a Roman Fortress and Gothic Cathedral. While my daughter was skeptical at the beginning of all of these museum visits, she walked away curious and talking about what excited her the most.

These museum visits with our daughter reminded me that the most effective learning experiences occur when students are engaged and having fun. Whether it is in the classroom, or through our extra-curricular activities, I am very proud that Newton North is a fun and dynamic school where our educators engage students with creative instructional strategies and students can pursue their passions. I am always moved by the exciting learning that happens at North!

I hope that this is a fantastic school year for our students and that they develop new relationships with classmates and staff members, that their thinking is challenged, they develop new skills, and that there are many moments of joy and fun.

We look forward to seeing your students on the first day of school, which is Tuesday, September 3rd.

Here are a few updates and reminders for the beginning of the school year.

1:1 Chromebook program

Last year all students in the classes of 2021 and 2022 received a Chromebook. In September, students in the class of 2023 will receive their Chromebooks. Our goals for the program are as follows:

- Encourage student collaboration
- Improve access to a wider variety of resources
- Provide additional ways of teaching creativity and critical thinking skills
- Challenge students to adapt to new learning environments

Please go to the [1:1 Initiative Webpage](#) for more information about the program, the district digital citizenship work, and insurance information.

High School Schedule

After nearly two and a half years of work, Superintendent David Fleishman endorsed the schedule recommendation from the Newton North and South joint Schedule Committee. The plan is to implement the new schedule in the 2020-2021 school year. As a faculty and staff, we will focus much of our professional work this year on adapting to the new schedule.

Furthermore, we will work with staff and student groups to help begin to build the Newton North culture around this new schedule.

Nuts and Bolts

Please help us have a smooth start to the school year by reading the following information:

1. Our [Annual Information Book](#) is now posted on the [NNHS website](#). The book includes, but is not limited to, the Newton Public Schools 2019-2020 calendar, the Newton North calendar and schedules, letters from your student's deans, athletics information, standardized testing dates, home-school communication guidelines, health information, calculator information, a subscription form for the Newtonite, bus schedules, the NNHS Directory and Policies, the open campus rules, PTSO information, school maps, drop/off and pick-up and student parking information.
2. Students will remember that Main Street is open to all juniors and seniors. Over the last two years student leaders worked with members of the faculty to develop norms of behavior for both the Library Learning Commons and Main Street. The norms support the purpose of the library primarily as an academic space and Main Street mainly as common space. Both the furniture and the space norms are interconnected with our continued work that focuses on our Civic and Social learning at North.
3. Newton North is now on Social Media! Please like us on our Facebook page [@nnhstigers](#) and follow us on Twitter [@nnhsprincipal](#) and [@nnhstigers](#). The purpose of our social media presence is to celebrate our students and promote the exciting

learning and work going on at North. Interested in helping us to promote North? Use the hashtag #nnhstigers. As always we will use email and our website for updates and resources.

If you drop off your student on Tiger Drive, you may have noticed me welcoming students on Thursdays for “Positive Thursdays”. In September you will be asked to review a number of student permissions in Aspen. **Please help this effort to celebrate our students and promote the great work in our school by giving NPS permission to use your student’s picture and publishing your student’s work.** With these permissions, we will **not** use the last name of your student. If you do not give NPS permission, please have a conversation with your student so they are aware of your decision.

4. Thank you to the more than 200 students who used the Google form to correct errors in their schedule. Your current course list for September is already available on Aspen. In order to access the list of courses you are enrolled in, you need to login to Aspen. We will hand out a full schedule on the first day of school for all students that will include teacher names. We communicate exclusively by email, so it is critical that you familiarize yourself with this system and make sure your contact information is correct. This is also the system we use to post report cards, the ‘Back-to School night’ schedule and midterm comments. If you have any trouble accessing this system, please contact your house office.
5. Upon review of your list of courses, if you are missing a required course or believe your schedule contains an error, you should attend Arena Scheduling on Wednesday, August 28th from 1:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. We highly recommend that you attend on this date to deal with scheduling mistakes and omissions prior to the start of school. Additional Arena Scheduling sessions are scheduled for the first week of school. At Arena Scheduling your counselor and the NNHS department heads will work with you to fix any errors on your schedule.

You **SHOULD** come to Arena Scheduling if:

- You are missing a required course or graduation requirement
- You were scheduled for a course that you did not request
- You have a schedule that is unbalanced between semesters and therefore you have too few directed studies in one semester and too many in the other.
- You are still under-enrolled

You should **NOT** come to Arena Scheduling if:

- You were scheduled for an alternate course request. This is not considered an error and your schedule will not be changed.
- You have changed your mind about a course. This is not considered an error and your schedule will not be changed.
- You are requesting a level change. Level changes do not occur at arena.

6. The schedule for the first week of school is [located here](#). Please take a minute to review our opening days, as the schedule is different for the first week and includes school pictures being taken.
7. Freshman Parent Night is scheduled for Monday, September 23rd, at 6:30 p.m in the auditorium. Mr. Heslin, the Beals House Dean, and I look forward to welcoming all of the parents/guardians of freshmen to North that night. During that night you will get an opportunity to meet your child's school counselor.
8. Our PTSO is working very hard to produce an accurate directory that will be available at 'Back to School Night' on Thursday, September 12th. Please work with them to confirm they have the correct information. I encourage you to join the PTSO, as it provides much-needed support to our school. Also, please consider donating to the PTSO Student Assistance Fund. This fund ensures that all Newton North students are able to take advantage of our many offering and special activities including field trips. Even a small donation to this fund goes a long way.

I look forward to seeing you in a few weeks and working with you in supporting your Newton North student. I hope that you enjoy the rest of the summer.

Go Tigers!



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Recognizing that we are a small world within a much larger one, we create opportunities for open-minded, honest communication about the broad range of human experience to foster social awareness, generosity and compassion.~excerpt from Newton North Mission Statement