



NEW HEIGHTS SCHOOL

Academics • Balance • Citizenship
The Power of Choice

March 2023

Based on Principal

March is upon us, which means several things, including predictably unpredictable weather, slippery sidewalks and roads, leprechauns and shamrock shakes, daylight savings time, March Madness, and oh yeah...SPRING BREAK! With so many things capable of distracting us, it is easy for any of us to get off track. This is also a particularly tough stretch of the school year. Our students

can start to get restless having been cooped up all winter long. Parents, you might consider spending some time chatting with your kids to remind them of their responsibilities at school, including having good attendance, maintaining a good attitude, paying attention and participating in class, being respectful to all people and property, asking for assistance when needed, and generally being responsible by completing assignments and turning in quality work. Once March passes

by, spring will be here and with spring comes the 4th and final quarter of the year. Let's work together to help our students stay focused during this challenging but hopeful time of year.



Personal Electronic Devices

Parents are reminded that New Heights provides each student with a Chromebook to use to complete schoolwork when technology is needed. Our policy doesn't allow for students to take these devices home, so you may not have known that your child has access to a school-sponsored electronic device whenever one is needed at school. You may also not be aware that we do not want students to bring their personal tablets or devices to school, especially in light of the fact we provide Chromebooks for school activities. Students who bring in their own devices typically have non-school related programs downloaded to them, which is not helpful at school; in fact, they distract our students from doing their schoolwork altogether in most cases. Additionally, schools tend to have secure networks which only allow recognized and authorized devices to connect and we won't allow personal devices on the network. Please work with us to limit unnecessary distractions at school by checking with your child to make sure he or she is not bringing in tablets or laptop devices. If they are bringing them, they more than likely have already been asked to not bring them anymore by one or more staff members. If you have questions about this topic, don't hesitate to call and chat with the principal.



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IMPORTANT DATES

- Board of Directors Meeting
March 14th
- Spring Break March 20–
March 24th





Based on Principal Continued

Homework/Following Instructions

Parents are reminded that New Heights, as a general rule, does not assign daily homework to students in any grade. There are many reasons for this. Of primary importance, the research about homework practices informs us that homework does not make for better students, it simply makes students do schoolwork for a larger segment of their time and also causes a lot of unnecessary stress in the home. We believe that there should be a premium placed on getting the assignments done during the time spent at school. This process will engrain in our students' minds the concept of compartmentalizing certain aspects of life, such as doing work when and where work is expected to be done. School is also where the most direct and beneficial level of support is found; the teachers. We appreciate when parents try to assist students in completing missing assignments, but there are situations where it isn't necessarily helpful. Math is a great example of how doing the assignments at school with the support of the teacher is much better than taking the work home and getting help from willing parents. Here's why. Parents often realize as they sit down to assist their children with math that many aspects of schoolwork have changed over the years. Math is a great example because over the years, math problems have evolved and when parents realize they don't know how to do the math the way it is taught in schools today they tend to revert back to what they remember and teach their children how to solve the problems the way they learned it back in the 90's or even the 80's. In cases like this the issue is simple, our students aren't solving the problems the way our teachers are teaching it today. There are dozens or even hundreds of different types of math curriculum out there today. We expect our students to learn how to follow certain step-by-step problems through the particular approach we use, which is a skill the business community expects schools to teach. Imagine if you are at work and your company requires you to follow a specific set of steps in the manufacturing process, but you go rogue and decide you have a better plan and do things your own way. That will likely lead to all sorts of problems. At work you could get in a lot of trouble, or even get fired. At school, it will lead to getting a poor grade on assignments or tests because you didn't follow the taught procedures. Remember, there are processes we teach at school and we are here to support our students in class when they are confused or struggle to grasp the concepts; that's one of the main purposes of school. Part of the learning process is learning how to follow a set of given instructions step-by-step and then demonstrating that you can do it. We realize there are students who struggle with certain concepts, but we are here to assist them to gain these skills. If for some reason you do get into a situation where you are assisting your child with some schoolwork, remember that the assignments will have some expectations around completing the work in a particular manner as assigned. Rather than to be quick to teach an alternative, preferable way to get the assignment done, first consider sending your child back to school with encouragement to ask the teachers for assistance. If you feel compelled to try to assist, do your best to follow the examples we provided in our instructions or contact the teacher directly and ask for some support or guidance in how to complete the work. We appreciate our parents' efforts, but remember, our school work is not designed to be completed at home. We prefer that our students do the work during the time provided in class and that they learn to ask for support from the teachers when confused. Those are the secondary skills gained when we follow the process.



~ Principal Tom Kearney





March Monthly Planner

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 	13 Secondary Reading MCA	14 Secondary Reading MCA BOD Meeting 4pm	15 Secondary Reading MCA	16 Secondary Reading MCA	17 	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
						
26	27 School Resumes	28 	29	30	31	

Upcoming Events

No School—April 7th Grading Day

No School—April 10th Conferences

Spring Conferences—April 10th: 1pm-6pm

Rescheduled Elementary Science Museum Fieldtrip: April 14th