



NEW HEIGHTS SCHOOL

Academics • Balance • Citizenship
The Power of Choice

November 2024

Based on Principal



End of Quarter 1

I am writing this document with only 3 days left until the end of first quarter. It is hard to believe how fast time is flying by. A lot has transpired during the first quarter, including the return of our school's health office attendant Anna Ochs, but we also saw the completion of our brand new accessible playground after 4 long years of effort. The project was completed about two weeks ago and our students and local community members are enjoying climbing and playing on all of the fun new equipment. We are very grateful for all the amazing things that are happening here at New Heights this fall and that all of you have chosen New Heights as your academic Home.



Conferences

Of the many things we want to write about, first we want to remind everyone that the end of the first quarter and grading period is October 31st...Halloween. There is no school on Friday November 1st for all students, but there is also no school on Monday November 4th for students in grades K-5 because that is the day we are conducting conferences for our K-5 students. Teachers should have contacted each household of K-5 students to schedule a time for them to come to school and conference with the teachers about the progress your child has been made over the 1st quarter of the school year. Students in grades 6-12 will still attend school as they normally would on Monday Nov. 4th.



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IMPORTANT DATES

- Oct. 31st—End of Quarter 1
- Nov. 1st — No School
Teacher Grading day
- Nov. 4th—**No School** for
Grades **K-5** due to
Elementary Conferences
- Nov. 11th—Culver's Night
- Nov. 13th— Board of
Directors Meeting 4 pm
- Nov. 15th— Secondary
History Museum Field trip
- Nov. 21st—Secondary (6-12)
Conferences 4-7pm
- Nov. 27-29th—No School
Thanksgiving Break

It has recently been decided that we will conduct in-person conferences for students in grades 6-12 on Thursday November 21st from 4pm-7pm.



(continued from page 1)

These conferences are held in what we call an “open format,” simply meaning that parents do not need to have a scheduled time, but can come to the school at any time between 4 and 7pm and can pop-in to meet with any open teacher for a period of 10 minutes per teacher. This style allows for parents to come at the time that works best for them and each parent can decide to visit with as many or as few of their child’s teachers as they see necessary. There may be short wait times with certain teachers, but this flexible format seems to work best for us at New Heights. Please plan to attend the conference day that is allocated to your child’s grade level. We hope to see you there.

Attendance Reminder

Parents are reminded that New Heights expects all students to attend school at a rate of 90% or higher each school year. To break that down, students can afford to miss school for 4 days per quarter, 8 days in a semester, and 16 days total for a school year as a general guideline. Of course, we understand that



things are going to happen and some students aren’t going to meet this expectation. In those circumstances we ask that parents are up front about things such as family vacations or other circumstances that arise and communicate with the school about these events so we are aware in advance. Most important is the concept that children are in a period of life where they are starting to build habits and form opinions about how the world works. Believing that attendance at school isn’t important or that missing 20%-40% of the school year is okay will not serve them well later in life.

Thank You needs to be expressed to all families for doing your part this year! Let’s keep it up. It is truly making a difference.

In review of our current year’s attendance, we are very pleased that we have very few students whose attendance is already of concern. Our families are communicating with us about family events and we have every reason to believe that our students and their parents respect the school’s policies and expectations and that literally every family at the school is trying to do their part to ensure they their children are getting to school at a high rate and are participating in valuable learning opportunities each day possible.

Clothing Reminder

Thank you parents for doing a nice job in monitoring the clothing choices of your children prior to sending them off to school. Remember that our primary goal is to avoid unnecessary distractions here at school by avoiding clothing styles that are negative in messaging and branding, and by avoiding overly-revealing clothing styles that shouldn’t be present at school. Our priorities are centered on the physical and emotional safety of our students so that they can focus on their school work and complete their school assignments to the best of their ability. That is difficult to do when students come to

November

school and make the day about them and their fashion choices rather than about the real reason school is open each day. Things have been very good around the school, especially during the month of October.

Let's be reminded that ripped and torn clothing along with overly-revealing clothing styles may have a time and place to be on display, but school is not among them. Also remember that if you have a question about a style or certain garment, feel free to call the school or send a photo and I will be happy to give you an opinion as to whether or not it should make its way to school. We are having a very good start to the year. Please continue to do your part. It is helping and it is appreciated!



Cell Phones and Devices

Just letting you know that cell phone infractions and device infractions are currently occurring less frequently compared to years' prior. We are putting a lot of effort into reducing the amount of unnecessary distractions at school. While cell phones have their purpose, they are not needed at school. Whereas students may have them, they are not allowed out or in use during class. As long as students can possess them without feeling they need to check them every few minutes we will continue to allow them to carry their devices (grades 6-12) and not have to turn them in except in isolated cases. For now, just be reminded that we are holding firm to this expectation. In cases where you feel the need to communicate with your child during school hours, consider reaching them during non-class times, which will require that you get those specific times from your child. Otherwise you are invited to call the school's main number and leave a message for them. We will deliver those messages with no interruption to class. Working with us on those matters will be appreciated.



Winter Gear

Soon our elementary students will be needing snow gear for recess. As the temps drop, we require that our students have snow pants, hats, mittens or gloves, and winter boots. These items need to be at school every day because we expect, except when the weather is too cold or wet, that all students in grades K-5 participate in recess. Parents should put the name of the child on literally every item of gear to prevent loss and the cost of replacing these items. Things get lost, even in a small school like New Heights. Writing the names of your children on the gear will help us to keep track of it and avoid having to call home with bad news about lost items. **Parents should probably have cold weather gear at school by November 10th**, if not sooner.



North Hill Inclusive/ Accessible Playground



New Heights School is proud to present our latest update to the playground. Rubber surfacing and new structures have been installed and are ready to be played on!

*Thank you to all who
donated and helped us to
raise the funds to make this
possible.*



The students and community members are loving being able to spend time on the new inclusive equipment!

Text Alerts

New Heights occasionally sends out text alerts to families for various reasons. The alerts are sent through our student management system JMC which shows up on your phone as an 800 number. We recommend adding this number to your phone contacts so that the texts aren't mistaken as spam.

844-575-7269



New Teacher Feature

Ms. Anderson – 4th & 5th Grade Teacher



1. What inspired you to become a teacher?

I've wanted to be a teacher since kindergarten, inspired by playing school at home with my sister. My teachers throughout K-12 also encouraged me by allowing me to take on tutoring and teaching assistant roles. I always enjoyed helping my classmates understand new concepts, which motivated me to pursue this path further. Making a difference in someone's learning journey has always been gratifying.

2. What do you enjoy most about teaching?

I enjoy teaching 4th and 5th grades, especially math and social studies. I love seeing students get excited about learning and watching their progress. It's fulfilling to witness those "aha!" moments when concepts finally click for them. I also appreciate students' unique personalities at this age—they're curious, creative, and developing strong voices of their own, making teaching even more fun.

3. What is the most exciting thing you've ever done?

The most exciting thing I've done is paragliding off a mountain near the Matterhorn in Zermatt,

Switzerland. This was my first time leaving the country, and it felt like jumping into a whole new world, quite literally! The stunning views from above and the rush of the wind were unforgettable, and they fueled my passion for adventure.

4. What is something people would be surprised to know about you?

I have a 6th-grade brother, and I was born and raised in Stillwater. Some would call me a "Stillbilly," a term for those who plan never to leave the area and have deep roots here. Teaching in my hometown and even student-teaching at my school was a full-circle moment I'll always cherish.

5. What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I love hiking with my boyfriend and dog, Willow, dining out, and traveling in my free time. I also enjoy photography, capturing moments while traveling. I like to unwind by reading a good book or journaling, and I'm always up for trying out new restaurants or exploring different cuisines.



Daylight Savings Time
Ends on November 3rd!

*Set clocks back for an extra
hour of sleep!*



JOIN US FOR A SCHOOLWIDE



**Culver's
Night!**



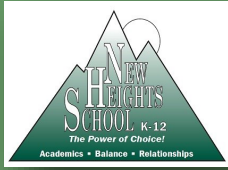
**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO NEW HEIGHTS
INVITE EVERYONE YOU KNOW TO
COME OUT AND SHOW YOUR
SUPPORT!**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH

5-7PM

1725 MARKET DRIVE STILLWATER, MN

55082



November Monthly Planner

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30 <i>HALLOWEEN</i> 	31 End of Quarter 1	1 No School—Grading Day	2
3 Daylight Savings Time 	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 	12	13 Board of Directors Meeting 4pm	14	15 Secondary History Museum Field Trip	16
17	18	19	20	21 Secondary Conferences 4-7pm	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 	29	30
<div>  Thanksgiving Break—No School </div>						

Upcoming Events:

December 13th: Elementary Field Trip to Wargo Nature Center
 *Holiday Break— December 23 - January 1; students return on Jan 2.

