



NEW HEIGHTS SCHOOL

Academics • Balance • Citizenship
The Power of Choice

September 2025

Based on Principal

Welcome Back

Welcome to the New School Year everyone! The new school year has begun and at the time I am writing this letter, we are nearing the end of the 8th day of school already! Our students have handled the transition from summer to school life very well so far. They also aren't complaining much about the new start time, which is a lot earlier than our former start time. Most students are arriving to school on time, which is great. I'm not sure how much the time of day is impacting behavior, but so far our school days have been very orderly and quiet. So, from a variety of vantage points, we seem to be off to a great start to the new school year.

Each year has its own feel, largely due to two factors: new students and new staff. This year, we have a nice group of new students who seem to be fitting in and finding their "spot" here at school. We also have 4 new staff members who are getting acclimated to the environment at New Heights. As a quick introduction, here are the names and roles of our 4 new staff members: Robyn Radke is our new K and 1 teacher; Brenna Barwald is our new 2-3 teacher; Harmony Gonzalez is our new elementary special education teacher; and Tyler Auge is our new 6-12 social studies and language arts teacher. Each of them has a story to tell and you will learn more about them in either this newsletter or in a future edition in the coming months. They have each been making solid contributions so far and we believe they will all do great things during their time here at New Heights.

School Security

I'm sure you are all aware of the tragic event that occurred at Annunciation Catholic School and Church in Minneapolis on August 27th. That event, as many prior school tragedies have, prompted parents to wonder if New Heights has a safety plan in place. The answer is "of course we do," but so did Annunciation. Schools are required to have safety and crisis plans in place. Many of the aspects of a good school safety plan includes the involvement of local professionals such as members of the police department and fire department. Our current plan is in the review and edit stages, but that process was already occurring well before the event at Annunciation.



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IMPORTANT DATES

- Sept. 10— School Board Meeting 3:30pm
- Sept. 22— No School, Staff Work Day



Our school has an excellent safety record, but that is not a reason to relax and simply assume we will continue to have a safe school without future consideration. Having a safe school requires a commitment to safety, which includes the school's staff, parents and students, as well as local community members. Even still, there are things that can happen. It is my belief that there is something about our school, its size, and our reputation that helps you feel the school is a safe place for your child(ren). For some, our safety record may be the main reason for enrolling. I/we make the safety of our students and staff the primary priority. We will continue to be vigilant in ensuring that our students, your children, have a happy and safe school experience as long as they are here!

Cooperation Needed

As you are likely aware, there are several things that public schools are obligated to do to remain in compliance with the government's expectations and requirements. Some of those things require the cooperation of our parents. For example, there are certain things we have to collect, such as medical records, shot records, financial information in certain cases, and other types of information that, to be honest, is awkward to ask for. In some cases the school doesn't want to be the organization that has to ask, but we are required to do so. So, if the school requests certain types of permissions or information from one or both parents about your child(ren), please know that we are simply trying to obtain things that the state or federal government requires of the school and, in certain cases, may even threaten to withhold funding for lack of compliance. As the world gets more and more complicated, the school can be put into an awkward situation. Please try to cooperate in a timely manner with these requests to assist the school in remaining compliant. It will be greatly appreciated.

New Start and Dismissal Times

So far the transition to the earlier bell times has not caused much trouble for our families...or so it seems. Our doors will open each morning around 7:35, at which time students can enter the school and either go to a classroom or the cafeteria. Breakfast is available starting at 7:35 and we expect that all students will be in the building and in homeroom or their main classroom by 7:55. So far it has been very impressive to see that most of our families are already in sync with our new schedule. Please keep it up!

School dismisses each day at 2:25. New Heights does not offer a before or after school program, so please make arrangements to have your child picked up by 2:45 each day. Many of our staff members have commitments outside of school, so there is little support available beyond dismissal time. If you pick your child up after school each day and you know you are going to be late, please notify the main office by calling the school's main number: 651-439-1962 and be prepared to give an ETA so we know when to expect you.

Thanks again for trusting and choosing New Heights School!

Tom Kearney

Principal/Superintendent

FUNDRAISING FOR NEW HEIGHTS SCHOOL

***OfficeMax/Office Depot is
fundraising for New
Heights!***

Office Max/Office Depot in
Stillwater is giving New
Heights 5% back on qualifying
purchases in store.

~OR~

Order online using our school
code: 70055224



Introducing Brenna Barwald



1. What inspired you to become a teacher?

What inspired me to become a teacher is the impact one can have on a child's life. The opportunity to build lasting relationships with students and guide them as they grow into confident, capable individuals is what truly inspired me to become a teacher. Knowing that I can play a role in helping children discover their potential and become the best versions of themselves is extremely special.

2. What do you enjoy most about teaching?

What I enjoy most about teaching is witnessing those “aha!” moments with students. Seeing their eyes light up as they accomplish something they’ve worked hard on—and watching them take pride in their efforts and achievements—is incredibly rewarding. It’s those moments that make teaching truly special.

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

The most exciting thing I have ever done is hiked Mount Brown in Montana. It had the most beautiful views!



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

Something people would be surprised to know is that I used to ride a dirt bike!

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

In my free time I love to bake, especially with sourdough, golf, and go on walks!



Attendance:

If your child will be absent, please remember to call Anne Humphrey at 651-439-1962 to report it to the main office or email attendance@newheightsschool.org

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 important informational texts aren't mistaken as spam.

844-575-7269

Food Service Updates & Reminders

A La Carte Items:

New Heights will have limited items for sale as A La Carte throughout the school year to students in **grades 6-12 only**.

These items are available at an additional cost to families as they are not a part of the free meals program.

If you DO NOT want your child(ren) purchasing A La Carte items, please let the school know in advance.

FREE MEALS PROGRAM

Free Meals are available to **all students** this year. This includes both breakfast and lunch throughout the school year.

****Please note:** This program does not include ala carte items or milk-only purchases.

For more information please contact Lindsay Berberich at 651-439-1962 or Lberberich@newheightsschool.org.



Lunch Ordering:

- School lunches will be ordered each morning for the current day in homeroom.
- If students will be arriving late, they will need to call in their order before 9:20 am to receive a school lunch on that day.

Educational Benefits-Important Info!

*Please remember to fill out the application for *Educational Benefits (meals)* even though meals are free for all students this year. The school receives certain types of funding based on those applications, so they are very important.

Milk Purchases:

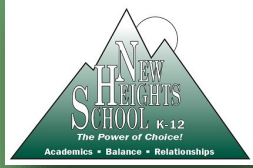
Milk purchased without a lunch costs \$0.65

If your student would like to purchase milk, please deposit funds to their lunch account.



BREAKFAST UPDATE:

New Heights breakfast will be available from **7:35 am—7:50 am** in the school cafeteria. In the case of late buses, exceptions can be made to allow students to eat in those circumstances.



September Monthly Planner

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 No School— Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Board of Directors Meeting 3:30pm	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Student Council Meeting Fun Friday Grade 6-12	20
21	22 No School— Staff Work Day	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

Upcoming Events:

October 16-17: No School—Fall Break

October 20th: No School—Teacher Grading Day

October 21st: No School Grades K-5—Elementary Conferences

October 31st: No School—Secondary Conferences