



NEW HEIGHTS SCHOOL

Academics • Balance • Citizenship
The Power of Choice

October 2023

Based on Principal

Getting Started

As I continue to get older, I am sometimes amazed at how fast time passes by. The first month of school is in the books. Leaves are changing and Halloween is just around the corner. The school year has taken shape and our new “normal” has presented itself. There are lots of things to be grateful for so far, including the many great additions to our student population. You might be surprised to learn that slightly more than a third of our population is brand new to the school, which also means we have new enthusiasm, new energy, and new “unknowns,” at least for a while. I am pleased to say that the beginning of the year has gone smoothly up to this point. Students are attending regularly and they seem to be getting to their scheduled classes on time with no trouble. Teachers are not reporting any abundance of disrespect or work refusals, so, knock on wood, the start of the year seems to be one to celebrate.

Attendance Matters

Our students are doing their part so far when it comes to daily school attendance. New Heights requires its students to attend school at a rate of 90% or higher each school year. We know that, statistically speaking, students who are habitually absent from school learn less and earn poor grades when compared to students who attend school at a rate of 90% or better. We monitor the attendance rates of all of our students closely, and students who miss school at an excessive rate are at risk of missing critical information presented in class because they are not present in class, which then leads to poor grades as a result of learning less due to the absences.

Another thing to consider when it comes to attendance is that when children are in school they are programming their brains based on certain behaviors that lead to positive rewards or negative consequences. Students who miss a lot of school are at risk of becoming adults who miss a lot of work. We know that missing too much school results in less learning, less skill building and poor grades, and all of that can lead to poor self esteem. If our kids carry these patterns into adulthood, they will believe it is okay to miss work excessively because they never corrected this pattern. Missing too much work will get you fired, which leads to lots of problems, including homelessness and other physical and mental health related issues. Therefore, it is critically important to work with our young people to develop solid attendance-related habits that will likely follow them into their adult lives. Our students will eventually become



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IMPORTANT DATES

- Oct. 17 School Board Meeting 4pm
- Oct. 19-23 No School
- Oct. 26 Picture Day
- Nov 3– End of First Quarter



members of the workforce and they will be more productive, earn better salaries and will likely have more satisfying lives, in part, because they learned that attendance matters in their early years.

Please do all you can to ensure that your children are making it to school on time each and every day possible.

Fall and Colder Weather

True, we did have one of the hottest summers recorded over the past 150 years in our area, but if there is one thing we can predict living in this region, the colder weather will return... sooner rather than later. As fall rolls on, it is recommended that children dress in layers so that they can be comfortable at school under any situation until the heating season requires that we fire-up the school's boiler system.

Dressing in layers simply means having hoodies, sweatshirts, sweaters, pullovers, etc. available to put on or take off as the temps fluctuate throughout the fall. There will be warmer days and cooler days, but we don't over-react by turning the heating system on and off until the building temps would routinely drop to 60 degrees or colder. Heating a large building like a school isn't like heating a home, and the economy has made it expensive to heat the building, so we are simply letting everyone know that dressing sensibly in layers until the temps are routinely cooler is going to allow your children to be more comfortable throughout the early stages of fall. It is most typical that we fire-up the heating system somewhere around November 1st, but the actual outdoor and indoor temps will dictate when we start to heat the school.

It is also advisable for families to be prepared for our students in grades K-5 to have their outdoor gear at school by November 1st so that they can comfortably go outside for recess on any given day. Outdoor gear for K-5 students includes winter boots, hats, gloves/mittens, coat/jacket, snow pants, and anything else you may think of. It is always recommended that parents put their children's names somewhere on each item of clothing to prevent lost items, but that is up to each parent to facilitate.

School Breakfast Times

All New Heights students are invited and welcome to enjoy a free meal any or every morning they attend school...under the condition that they are able to do so during the times that we are open for breakfast. It is always tricky at the start of the school year, but now that we are into October, we are going to have to be firm about the times we open and close the cafeteria for breakfast for two main reasons:

1. *Our staff are not dedicated to meal service alone and have other areas of responsibility to attend to; and*
2. *ALL of our students are required to be either in class or homeroom at 9:05. So, students who desire breakfast will have to be able to obtain it and finish it between 8:45 and 9:05.*

Breakfast at school is an opportunity, not a requirement. Students arriving late to school will not be able to participate in the breakfast offering.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and, as always, feel free to contact the school with any questions you may have about any topic, whether it was covered in this letter or not.

Happy Fall!

Tom Kearney-Principal

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~

Food Service Updates & Reminders

A La Carte Items:

New Heights will have several types of items for sale as A La Carte throughout the school year to students in grades 6-12.

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.

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.
- 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:

**Please remember to fill out the application for educational benefits meals even though lunches are free for all this year.*

Milk Purchases:

Milk purchased without a lunch costs \$0.65

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



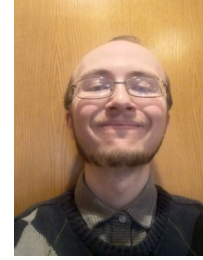
BREAKFAST UPDATE:

New Heights breakfast will be available from **8:45 am—9:00 am** in the school cafeteria. In the case of late buses, exceptions will be made to allow students to eat.

New Teacher Feature

Each month we will feature one of the new teachers at New Heights to help our community get to know them a little better. First up, Mr. Osterbauer!

MR. OSTERBAUER – SOCIAL STUDIES & ENGLISH



1. What inspired you to become a teacher?

Since I was very young, I always loved learning about social studies, especially history, and sharing that information with others. Whether it was the World Wars, American Civil War, or Ancient Rome, I remember always being intrigued by studying the story of humanity and telling anyone I could find what I had learned. (Even if--like my older sister--they didn't want to listen.) As a result, alongside seeing that the US needs teachers and reflecting on how my favorite teachers have helped me become the person I am today, it was a no-brainer to transition from student to teacher.

2. What do you enjoy most about teaching?

The thing I enjoy the most about teaching is seeing students get an "a-ha" moment where they have the light bulbs go off in their heads, understanding something new. From something as "small" as identifying that Japan is indeed in Asia to something "big" as the reasons for the start of the Italian Renaissance, I find great satisfaction in helping students understand the world around them. Social studies is essentially the study of everything in existence. While one could only hope



to learn a fraction of "everything," I'd like to think that helping students understand just a fraction will help create a better tomorrow.

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

Sadly, I have never gone on globe-trotting spy adventures, received a message that will self-destruct in five seconds, or anything of the sort. As a result, I will have to say the most exciting thing I have ever done is probably surviving being the youngest child in my family. It is an exhilarating adventure that continues to this day. Oh--and of course--deciding to teach at New Heights is quite exciting as well! :)

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

I have created my own expansion pack for a history card game called Chronology. The game's objective is to place ten historical events in chronological order before anyone else. I decided to make my expansion pack because the original version of the game I bought mainly covered events from just the last three centuries. Since I didn't create the game, I can't sell it. However, I have made over five-hundred cards covering ancient times to the present. I love showing off my creation to friends and family!

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

While I am "contractually obligated" to love everything social studies, when I am not studying history, politics, geography, or anything like that for fun, I love watching movies, listening to music, taking long walks, and hanging out with friends and family.

Attendance:

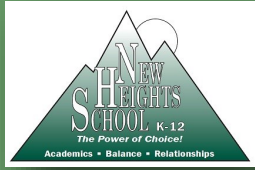
If your child will be absent, please remember to call Anne Humphrey at 651-439-1962 to report it to the main office or email

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 the texts aren't mistaken as spam.

844-575-7269



October Monthly Planner

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Board of Directors Meeting 4pm	18	19	20	21
22	23 No School—Staff Day	24	25	26 Picture Day 	27	28
29	30	31 	1	2	3	4

No School—Fall Break 



Upcoming Events:

New Heights School 2023-2024 Calendar

JULY S/T							AUGUST S3/T9							SEPTEMBER S18/T19						
Su	M	T	W	TH	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	TH	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	TH	F	Sa
						1			1	2	3	4	5						1 No School	2
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4 No School	5	6	7	8	9
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21 Staff day	22 Staff day	23 Staff day	24 Open House	25 Staff day	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28 Staff day	29 1st day	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29 Staff Day	30
30	31																			
OCTOBER S19/T20							NOVEMBER S18/T19.5							DECEMBER S18/T18						
Su	M	T	W	TH	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	TH	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	TH	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3 Q1 Ends	4						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6 Grading	7 Q2 starts	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19 No School	20 No School	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23 Staff Day	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22 No School	23 No School	24 No School	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25 No School	26 No School	27 No School	28 No School	29 No School	30
														31						
JANUARY S20/T21							FEBRUARY S19/T20							MARCH S15/T15						
Su	M	T	W	TH	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	TH	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	TH	F	Sa
	1 No School	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3						1	2
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14	15 No School	16	17	18	19 Q2 S1 Ends	20	11	12	13	14	15	16 Staff Day	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
21	22 Staff Day	23	24	25	26	27	18	19 No School	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21 Q3 Ends	22 No School	23
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29			24	25 No School	26 No School	27 No School	28 No School	29 No School	30
														31						
APRIL S22/T22.5							MAY S20/T22							JUNE						
Su	M	T	W	TH	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	TH	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	TH	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					26	27 No School	28 Grad Day	29 Last day	30 Staff Day	31 Staff Day		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30														30						

School in session

Non-School-Teacher Prof Days

Non-school/duty days

Student instructional days 170
Teacher work days 184