



NEW HEIGHTS SCHOOL

Academics • Balance • Citizenship
The Power of Choice

November 2022

Based on Principal End of Quarter 1

Dear Families, it's hard to believe that Halloween has already passed, which means the first quarter of the student school year is about to end. This Friday will mark the end of the first quarter, as well as the first official grading period for our students. In most cases, the quarter grades are simply a snapshot of the halfway point of the semester grade but, in a few cases, students in grades 6-12 will receive permanent quarter grades because we are making a change to the schedule and a few courses will end with the quarter's end. In any case, we have been working with our students to make sure that they all have the support they need to successfully close out the first quarter grading period. For the most part our students seem to be doing pretty well. We are happy to see that most students have very good rates of attendance. They have also indicated in surveys that they believe that their teachers care about them and are generally willing to assist them in understanding the class material. Overall, we expect that the vast majority of students in grades 6-12 will pass all of their classes with respectable grades.

K-5 Adjusting Well

Students in grades K-5 have also made the most of their time getting adjusted to life as full-time students again. The teachers have been working hard at helping our students to navigate through all the challenges that school can present, both social and academic. The overall rate of attendance for our younger students is also very good, which should mean higher levels of skills acquisition and more success in each skill area for each student. Once the opening quarter has passed by, we expect our elementary students to settle in for the long journey ahead. We are generally very pleased with the progress our elementary students are making.

Parent/Teacher Conferences November 8th

All of our parents are invited to visit with the teachers during our parent/teacher fall conference day, which is scheduled for Tuesday November 8th from 1-6pm, except in cases where parents may have been contacted by the K-5th grade teachers for a scheduled time earlier on the 8th or on another day. Parents of students in grades 6-12 are invited to come by the school on November 8th starting at 1pm and meet with as many of your child's teachers as you like. The format for the 6-12 grade conferences is "open," which simply means the parents can visit with the teachers as they are available or "open." Parents will get a copy of your child's schedule from the main office when you arrive.



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IMPORTANT DATES

- Nov. 4—End of Quarter 1
- Nov. 7 — No School Teacher Grading day
- Nov. 8—No School Parent/Teacher Conferences 1-6 p.m.
- Nov. 15— School Board Meeting 4 pm
- Nov. 23-25—No School Thanksgiving Break



The schedule will inform you of your child's classes and room locations. All classes for 6-12 grade are located on the top floor except for phy ed, which obviously meets in the gym. We will let you know where the gym teacher's conferences will be held when you arrive. Parents can simply stop by each teacher's room and enter the space as long as there isn't already a conference taking place. Parents can expect each conference to last about 10 minutes, meaning you could potentially meet with all of your child's teachers in about an hour if all goes well. Remember, there could be a brief wait for some teachers as they will be conferencing with other parents, but there is typically only a short wait as each conference is respectfully limited to 10 minutes per child. If you plan on attending conferences, please be reminded that our conferences will end promptly at 6pm so give yourself plenty of time and arrive early enough to get your conferences in.

Cold Weather Gear

Cold weather is on the way and we want to remind parents of students in grades K-5 that it is time to make sure your children have cold weather gear at school to wear for outdoor recess. Cold weather gear consists of a head covering or winter hat- (preferably not ear muffs), snow pants, mittens or gloves, as well as winter boots. We think it is important to get our students outside for some fresh air and play time each day, but in order to do that we have to get the students layered up to keep them warm and dry. As a rule, we will take them outside for recess every day as long as the temperature is above zero Fahrenheit. Please make sure to get the cold weather gear to school if you haven't already done so and it is also a good idea to put your child's name on each item of clothing. We tend to have a pretty large and unclaimed lost and found each year by spring time. The way the current economy is, we doubt that many of you can afford to waste dollars replacing winter snow gear, so consider labeling the clothing to save yourself the unnecessary expense of replacing it.



Student Illness at School

Finally, we want to remind all parents, but especially parents of students in the upper grades, that students who aren't feeling well at school are required to report to the health office of the school before being dismissed for illness. In the modern cell phone era, we are having too many students bypassing our procedures by contacting home and getting excused from school without involving a school official. In some cases, we have had some students contact a parent and leave the premises without anyone notifying the main office or health office of the issue. The school is responsible for the wellness and safety of all enrolled students in attendance each day and we require that students follow the established procedures prior to leaving school. So, we are asking that if parents get contacted directly by your child and he or she is asking to get dismissed from school, for any reason, but especially because they aren't feeling well, please refer them back to the main office or health office so that a school official can assist them and document the event accurately. When appropriate, the school will contact the parent and request that the child get picked up at the parent's earliest convenience. Students who leave school without following the process will be recorded as unexcused or truant from school in accordance with Minnesota's school attendance laws. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Drop-off/Pick-up

Parents who drive their kids to and from school are reminded that the school buses and small vans that provide transportation to our students have priority to use the space immediately in front of the school on Everett Street North. The buses and vans need to have access to those spaces for several reasons, so unless you are doing a quick drop-off in the morning, meaning you are not parking and entering the school, avoid using the spaces between the signs that are positioned on the front lawn. If you are coming to school after 9:15 and before 3:15 you may use those spaces, but otherwise you are invited to park outside of the signage or across the street. Thank you for your cooperation.

New Heights Fall Conferences

Conferences for New Heights will take place on

Tuesday, November 8th from 1pm to 6pm.

Elementary (K-5) conferences will be scheduled ahead of time with teachers.

New Teacher Feature: MRS. PURCELL Fourth/Fifth Grade

1. What inspired you to become a teacher?

From the time I was in second grade, I knew I wanted to be a teacher. I think I was having a hard time reading or learning to read. My teacher, Mrs. Larson, was so patient and kind to me. I remember being in her small group being and being so cared for and supported. She impacted me so much that I knew one day I would do the same for other students.

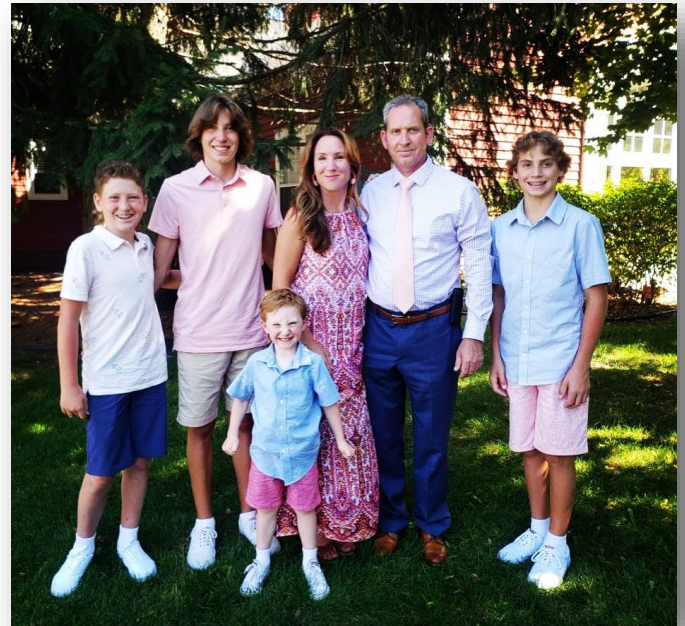
2. What do you enjoy most about teaching?

I love forming relationships with students, and watching them grow as a whole person. My favorite thing is when a student is working hard to get something and you can see that ahhh haaa moment click in their brain. That is really a cool thing to be a part of.

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

I think the most exciting thing I have ever done is visit Paris with my husband. There are many adventures to be had there!

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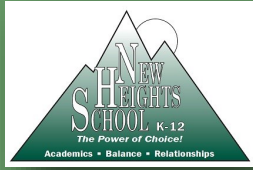


4. What is something people would be surprised to know about you?

I love flowers, if I wasn't a teacher I would open a flower shop!

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

I actually do not have much free time at the moment..... I am a Mama to 4 boys! I do get to go to a lot of hockey and lacrosse games. When I find a few minutes of free time I like to garden, read and go on hikes. Any time spent with my family is my favorite free time activity.



November Monthly Planner

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

Upcoming Events:

*Holiday Break— December 22 - January 4; students return on Jan 5.

