



NEW HEIGHTS SCHOOL

Academics • Balance • Citizenship
The Power of Choice

December 2023/January 2024

Based on Principal

Immunization Records...It's the law



I am confident that most of our parents are aware that The School Immunization Law in Minnesota requires all parents of students enrolled in grades kindergarten through 12 to show they have received certain timely immunizations or have an official exemption on file with their school, but we still have a high percentage of our families who are not in compliance with this requirement and we are obligated to get that corrected soon.

We have made several attempts to communicate with each of the families whose records need attention, but in some cases, we still haven't gotten a response. The school is required to report the immunization status of all of our children to the Minnesota Department of Health each year, and we hope to have the opportunity to demonstrate that our families are complying with this expectation. Be advised that school systems, in certain cases, will disallow students who are not in compliance with this legislation from attending school in person until the matter is resolved. So, I am writing in this month's letter as a final attempt to remind all parents that we need to work together to demonstrate that the school is in compliance with the education laws in state of Minnesota.

Here are the possibilities and options for all of our families:

- *Your family is in compliance with immunization requirements and the school has a record of all of your enrolled children's immunizations to date.*
- *Your family is in compliance because you have completed, and had notarized, an objection to the immunizations and that document is on file with the school.*
- *You are unaware of what immunizations are required and need assistance in knowing what to do.*
- *You do not want your child(ren) to receive the immunizations, but you do not know how to file the official objection.*

Attached, you will find a chart that illustrates, by age, exactly which immunizations a child is required to have if they are to be enrolled in a public school. Your family's primary physician or pediatrician

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IMPORTANT DATES

- Dec. 5—Elementary Field Trip
- Dec. 13—Board of Directors Meeting 4pm
- Winter Break December 25 - January 1
- Jan. 2 — School Resumes
- Jan. 15—No School- MLK Jr. Day
- Jan. 17—Board of Directors Meeting 4pm
- Jan. 19—End of Quarter 2/ Semester 1
- Jan. 22—No School Grading day
- Jan. 23-Sem.2/Q3 Begins



Based on Principal Continued

will also know exactly which immunizations are needed and will assist you. All you have to do is schedule an appointment to get this taken care of.

If you are not open to these immunizations, you will need to complete an objection form and have it notarized, then bring it to school after having it notarized and your family will be in compliance. Again, we at the school do not wish to disallow any child from attending school but, as a public school, we have rules to follow as well. It is critically important that our parents read this information and do your part to comply. If you still remain confused or uncertain about what to do, you are invited to call the school and we can guide you. Failure to act could result in students being disallowed from attending school until the matter is resolved.

Aside from this newsletter, the school will make one more attempt to contact each family who has one or more children who are not in compliance with this law. Our goal is to politely remind these families that we are obligated to comply with the law and we will make every effort to ensure that no child is disallowed from attending school due to a lack of compliance. If you are unsure about what this all means, please call the school at your first opportunity.

Winter Months

Be reminded that winter weather can cause the school to close for one or more days. That said, just because the snow falls does not mean we will cancel school. Living in the region makes us a bit crazy, but also makes us a bit hearty. So, when driving becomes dangerous, or the temps reach dangerous lows, school could get canceled for the day.

When weather threatens, we will post the closure and notify families in the following ways:

- Post on local news channels 4, 5, 9, and 11
- Post to Facebook
- Post to the school's website on the main page
- Send out JMC messages via text and email



As you can see, we will offer various ways of notifying our families, but you will have to be watching one of these platforms or you will not know we are closing. If you as a parent feel the weather or driving conditions are not safe to drive your kids, have them drive to school, or even to send them on the bus, you should keep them home and call the absence in and state the actual reason why you are keeping them home. We will understand. You may even do this because of a weather report, but that reason will likely be questioned. We have actually closed school due to a weather report that ended up not happening as forecasted...it never actually snowed. But, the worst that happens is that it would get recorded as an “unexcused” absence.

The point of this section is simply to remind you to be aware of the weather and make the best choice you can. Report the actual reason for the absences and the school will record it. Monitor the school's communication platforms when weather threatens.

Baby Counselor

Many of you have stopped by the school and recently had an encounter with Mrs. Massmann, our school counselor. You likely noticed she was getting closer to having a new baby. Well, that day has finally arrived. Mrs. Massmann is pleased to announce that she and her husband are the proud parents of their new baby boy Elliot, who arrived just after the Thanksgiving holiday. Aside from celebrating his birth, we are notifying our families that Mrs. Massmann will obviously be taking some time off so we will not have her on campus for the next few months. We know that she provides a lot of services to our students, but those services will not be available in the same form until she returns. We will provide an update in the next newsletter regarding her anticipated return date.

Rapid Covid Tests are available in the main office for families who are interested. *Call the main office for more information.*

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End of Semester 1

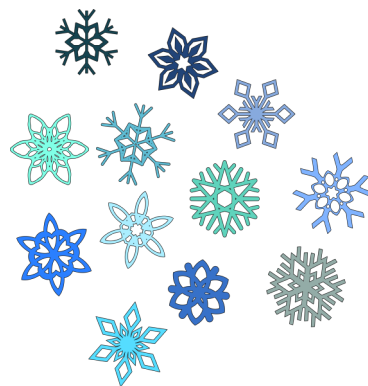
We are combining December and January into this one newsletter, so you will not have a letter reminding you when the semester closes. This will serve as your reminder. The 2nd quarter and 1st semester end on January 19th—about 3 weeks into the new year. All school work needs to be turned in for grading by the end of the day on Jan. 19th, so parents will simply want to set a reminder to chat with your children, especially those in grades 6-12, about attendance, attitude, and completing and turning in their school work. We do not send our kids to school to get good grades, we send them to school to learn. But, grades typically reflect how well students are learning. There isn't always a direct correlation between grades and learning, but it is the system in place for now. So, if you want either maximum learning to take place, or you just want to see good grades, engage with your kids to keep them on the tracks and hopefully you will see the

outcome you are looking for later in January.

Questions?

We can't cover all the topics people are interested in within this letter, but we remind all of our families that you are invited to contact the school at any time when you have questions or concerns about school-related topics. We can't guarantee that you'll be satisfied with our answers, but we will do our best to provide you with the information you need, whatever it may be. Thank you all for choosing New Heights. Happy Holidays from all of us at New Heights!

Tom Kearney—Principal



Elementary Puppet Show

This is the second year our elementary students were asked to attend an advanced screening of the *Gingerbread Boy* story at the Stillwater Public Library.

Secondary Field Trip to the Science Museum

Grades 6-12 went to the Science Museum in early November. They were able to explore the exhibits and see the Omni-theater movie, "*Reasons for Hope.*"



BREAKFAST REMINDER:

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



LUNCH REMINDER:

Lunch is ordered during Homeroom each day (from 9:05am to 9:15am) each morning. **If your student will be arriving late, please call to inform the office of BOTH the late arrival and your child's lunch order for the day.**

Academic Honors for 1st Quarter



PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Students with an A in all 6 classes are recognized as Principal's Award Students.



Benicio Rivera (6th Grade)

Elizabeth Granlund (10th Grade)

Claire Herder (12th Grade)

Landon Stilwagon (7th Grade)

Samuel Larson (10th Grade)

Vannessa Koeckeritz (12th Grade)

Sadie Goff (8th Grade)

Jocelyn Schmidt (11th Grade)

Andre Maruska (12th Grade)

Kaelyn Boorman (9th Grade)

Abbie Bell (12th Grade)

Dylan Smith (12th Grade)

HONOR ROLL

Students with a Grade Point Average of 3.5 or above are recognized as students on the Honor Roll.

Liliana Englund (8th Grade)

Omar Walker (9th Grade)

Samuel VanDyke (10th Grade)

Alastair Larson (8th Grade)

Gavin Braun (10th Grade)

Emily Mai (11th Grade)

Tyler Mathias (8th Grade)

Maria Costilla (10th Grade)

Ally Poppert (11th Grade)

Max Mogel (8th Grade)

Alivia Johnson (10th Grade)

Jillian Briggs (12th Grade)

Dan VanDyke (8th Grade)

Kidus Yohannes (12th Grade)



HONORABLE MENTION

Students with a Grade Point Average of between 3.0 and 3.49 and did not receive any D's or F's are recognized as deserving an Honorable Mention.

Alexander Hofmann (6th Grade)

Bella Jawor (8th Grade)

Eli Schollmeier (11th Grade)

James Viera (6th Grade)

Jayda Sneen (8th Grade)

James Schuster (11th Grade)

Katrina Collette (7th Grade)

Eloise Campbell (10th Grade)

Curtis Wesely (11th Grade)

Aquantis Thirston (7th Grade)

Brooke Hatch (10th Grade)

Will Carlson (12th Grade)

New Teacher Feature:

MR. RAGAN – SCIENCE TEACHER



1. What inspired you to become a teacher?

There's a lot of things that inspired me to become a teacher. When I was a high school student, I helped tutor my classmates while I took physics and chemistry. I found out I was pretty good at it and also really enjoyed it. My

science teacher also took an interest in me and asked me to be his Teaching Assistant in my senior year, which really influenced me. It also helps that I come from a family of teachers (grandparents, parents, and siblings).

2. What do you enjoy most about teaching?

My favorite thing about teaching would be a toss up between two things. The first is when a student asks a really good question and I know their curiosity has taken over. Even if I don't know the answer to their question, we can figure it out together and that is a great learning experience. The second is when I can see that a student has made a connection between something in the classroom and something they see in their



everyday life. That "lightbulb" moment when they say "Ohhh!" is priceless!

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

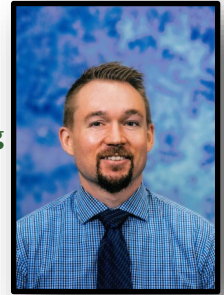
The most exciting thing I've done recently was attend a week-long residency this July in the bay area of Maryland. It was a course for science teachers learning more about Oceanography. We got to do so many cool things including help rebuild an oyster reef, go out on a research ship, hunt for fossils on a beach, and tour the labs at Pax Naval base.

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

Some things people might be surprised to know about me is that I'm an artist and have a Masters of Fine Arts in Ceramics. I also have a second degree black belt in Shotokan Karate and have studied martial arts for most of my life.

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

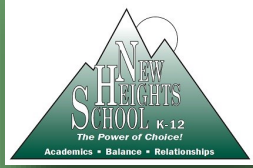
I enjoy spending my free time hanging out with my cats, making weird sci-fi sculptures out of clay, or training in martial arts.





STUDENT COUNCIL AND ELEMENTARY THANKSGIVING CARDS

Before Thanksgiving, the Student Council Members and the Kindergarten through fifth grade students were able to work together to make Thanksgiving cards. These cards were then donated to the Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Stillwater.





December Monthly Planner

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27 	28	29	30	1	2 
3	4	5 <i>Elementary Field Trip</i>	6	7	8	9
10 	11	12	13 <i>Board of Directors Meeting 4pm</i>	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 
24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26	27	28	29	30

Winter Break~ No School Dec. 25– Jan. 2



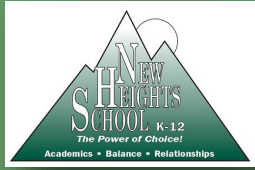
School resumes: Tuesday, January 2!

No School: Monday, January 15—MLK Jr. Day

End of Quarter 2/Semester 1: January 19

No School: Monday, January 22 —Grading Day





January Monthly Planner

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Winter Break ~ No School	1 Winter Break ~ No School	2 School Resumes	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 	15 No School— MLK Jr. Day	16	17 Board of Directors Meeting 4pm	18	19 End of Sem.1 / Quarter 2	20
21	22 No School— Grading Day	23 Sem.2/ Quarter3 Begins	24	25	26	27
28 	29	30	31	1	2	3



Upcoming Events:

February 16—No School (Staff Day)

February 19—No School (President's Day)



Are Your Kids Ready?

What Minnesota's Immunization Law Requires

Immunization Requirements

Use this chart as a guide to determine which vaccines are required to enroll in child care, early childhood programs, and school (online, home school, public, or private).

Find the child's age/grade level and look to see if your child had the number of shots shown by the checkmarks under each vaccine. The table on the back shows the ages when doses are due.

Birth through 4 years Early childhood programs & Child care	Age: 5 through 6 years ^③ For Kindergarten	Age: 7 through 11 years For 1 st through 6 th grade	Age: 12 years and older For 7 th through 12 th grade
Hepatitis A (Hep A) ✓			
Hepatitis B (Hep B) ✓✓✓	Hepatitis B ✓✓✓	Hepatitis B ✓✓✓	Hepatitis B ^⑦ ✓✓✓
DTaP/DT ✓✓✓✓	DTaP/DT ^④ ✓✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓ tetanus and diphtheria containing doses ^⑥	✓ Tdap & DTaP series or catch-up series
Polio ✓✓✓	Polio ^⑤ ✓✓✓✓	Polio ^⑧ ✓✓✓	Polio ^⑧ ✓✓✓
MMR ✓	MMR ✓✓	MMR ✓✓	MMR ✓✓
Hib ✓			Meningococcal (ACWY) ^⑨ ✓ & booster
Pneumococcal ^① ✓✓✓✓			
Varicella ^② ✓	Varicella ^② ✓✓	Varicella ^② ✓✓	Varicella ^② ✓✓

It's not too late! If your child has fallen behind on their vaccinations, talk to your doctor or clinic to catch them up.

Immunizations recommended but not required:

COVID-19

For all children in an eligible age group

Influenza

Annually for all children age 6 months and older

Rotavirus

For infants

Human papillomavirus

At age 11-12 years

- ① Not required after 24 months.
- ② If the child has already had chickenpox disease, varicella shots are not required. If the disease occurred after 2010, the child's doctor must sign a form confirming disease.
- ③ First graders who are 6 years old and younger must follow the polio and DTaP/DT schedules for kindergarten.
- ④ Fifth shot of DTaP not needed if fourth shot was after age 4. Final dose of DTaP on or after age 4.
- ⑤ Fourth shot of polio not needed if third shot was after age 4. Final dose of polio on or after age 4.
- ⑥ One dose must have been pertussis-containing (i.e., DTaP or Tdap) and one dose must have been given after the fourth birthday. If the first dose in the series was given before age 12 months, then four doses are needed.
- ⑦ An alternate two-shot schedule of hepatitis B may also be used for kids age 11 through 15 years.
- ⑧ At least one dose must have been given after the fourth birthday. If the third dose was given before the fourth birthday, a fourth dose is needed.
- ⑨ One dose of meningococcal ACWY is required beginning at 7th grade. The meningococcal ACWY booster dose is recommended at 16 years and required for 12th grade students.

Exemptions

To enroll in child care, early childhood programs, and school in Minnesota, children must show they've had these immunizations or file a legal exemption.

Parents may file a medical exemption signed by a health care provider or a non-medical exemption signed by a parent/guardian and notarized.