



NEW HEIGHTS SCHOOL

Academics • Balance • Citizenship

The Power of Choice

April 2022

Based on Principal

Winter has broken and that means we are heading into the final stage of the school year-4th quarter. We can probably all agree that the past two years have been extremely challenging in all aspects of life, and we have seen some dramatic changes at school as well. If we consider the actual reasons for public school being in place, we will probably agree that it is time to start to get back to “normal” when it comes to expectations surrounding school. Some areas that need to be addressed are as follows:

Attendance:

Remember that there are many reasons why it is critical that students attend school at a high rate-90% or higher. The first reason is because students will learn more when they attend more. When students aren't in school to participate and engage in the classroom lessons, they can't and won't learn the material. Some might argue that they can make up the missed work on their own, or maybe that it isn't that important anyways, but that isn't actually accurate. One thing many people don't consider outside of learning of the content at school is the habits that are formed by students over the years they attend school. This is important because school is in place to prepare our youth for the world of work in adult life. That is one reason why school is scheduled similarly to work, meaning M-F for several hours during the day. Students are starting to form habits about their responsibilities, including attending school. If you miss too much school, you get in trouble, get assigned a truancy officer, and you may fail classes. Miss too much work as an adult and you'll get fired, meaning you won't make the money that you will need to take care of yourself and your family. So, remember that your children are expected to attend school every day they are healthy enough to attend. As we move toward the endemic, meaning the end of the pandemic, we are going to be enforcing the attendance aspect of school at a much higher level than we have been since the pandemic started, and for good reason. Many of our students are beginning to think of school as incidental and unimportant. We have to work together to change that level of thinking. Please work with the school to ensure that your child attends school each and every day he or she is healthy enough to attend. Their work futures may be dependent upon habits they are starting to form about attendance right now. Let's give them the foundation we all know they will need.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Based on Principal 1
- Based on Principal cont..... 2 & 3
- National Reading Month..... 3
- Upcoming Events..... 4
- Monthly Planner 5

IMPORTANT DATES

- March 31st— End of Quarter 3
- April 1st—No School, Grading Day
- April 5-7th—6-12 Math MCA Testing
- Board of Directors Meeting April 12th at 4 pm
- April 12-14th—K-5 Reading MCA Testing
- April 14th—Conferences 4-7pm
- April 15th—No School
- April 26-28th—5th, 8th, and 10th grade Science MCA Testing
- April 29th— K-5 Fieldtrip to Franconia Sculpture Park

Be Prepared for School

Today, too many students are continuing to bring things to school that are interfering, not only with their own education, but with the education of others in many cases. We have requested that only school-related materials make their way to school in our students' backpacks. We are still seeing way too many non-essential items coming to school. We are having conflicts with students bringing games, costumes, electronics, toys, and all sorts of other things that have no purpose in school. We have also seen contraband items like pop, coffees, snack foods, candies, and other items that are distracting the students in one way or another from focusing on their work at school. These things have presented issues in the past, which is why the student handbook has, for a long time, barred many of these items from school. The pandemic seems to have played a role in this because many of our students got very used to doing school from the comforts of home and being able to set their own schedules, but we are back to in-person activities full-time now and our students need to be reminded that there is a time for focus at school and there is a time for relaxation, game playing, and snacking. Please work with your children to ensure that non-essential items that play no role at school remain at home.

Dress Code:

Prior to the pandemic students were largely adhering to the dress code expectations of the school. There are many reasons for a dress code at school, but ours has a few key purposes. First, we need our students to come to school dressed appropriately. This means clothing should be neat and clean in

hello
SPRING

appearance, fit appropriately, meaning not too baggy or loose, not too tight as to cause distraction or discomfort, and not overly revealing, again, as to not cause an unnecessary distraction to the school process, and graphics and logos

must not contain messages that “common sense” dictates should not be at school, especially with students present as young as kindergarten. Again, school has many purposes, among them is building good habits. A good habit to form is meeting the organization's expectations, including the dress code, if you are a participating member of that organization. We also expect that our students will adhere to typically expected norms, such as remove hats and hoods while inside, remove coats and jackets while inside, refrain from things like wearing sunglasses or other outdoor ancillary items. Students are also expected to wear structured footwear while at school. Items like slippers, sandals, clogs, high heels or spikes, or any other impractical footwear styles are not allowed, primarily because we need our students to be able to function normally and safely while at school. In situations where we may need our students to evacuate the building for safety, they will need to be able to move quickly and safely with little notice—even just for a drill. So, please ensure that your child/children are coming to school in what probably looks like a typical pair of tennis shoes, sneakers, hikers, or other casual, but structured type of footwear.

Remember why we go to school:

This might be one of the biggest areas in need of redirection. Especially since the pandemic, it seems like a lot more students

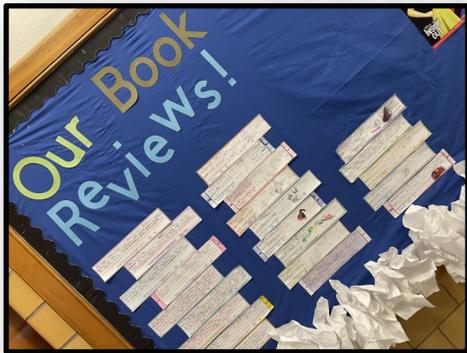


are complaining about how hard school is and they are rejecting and refusing to do much of the work. Again, part of this is that lessons and school-related time commitments had to be lightened during the early stages of the pandemic, primarily because most students are not well-equipped to learn at home with less support and structure than they get at school. This issue has hurt students of all ages around the globe. Students need to be reminded that school is supposed to be challenging. If it was too easy, there would be no reward in the achievements. I sometimes compare going to school with going to the gym. We go to a gym to do various exercises to strengthen our bodies for other challenges that will occur in real life. The way we get stronger is to do exercises that offer resistance. We go to school to strengthen our minds so that we do things that are also going to offer challenges in real life. If we don't offer our students challenges that require some effort, they won't grow enough to be able to face those adult challenges that we all know will be waiting for them later in life. This is the time for students to come to school ready to engage in challenging school-related activities designed to help them grow. The good news is that New Heights is designed to provide the assistance each one of our students needs to overcome the challenges typically found in the school environment. We need them to come to school ready to engage and accept the challenges our teachers offer them.

I hope you took the time to read this entire section and further hope that you will work with your child/children to help them get back on track for this last quarter of the school year.

Tom Kearney-Principal

Elementary Celebrated National Reading Month



Students got their picture taken when they were reading to show different spots in the classroom where they like to read



Mrs. Lindquist's kindergarten and first grade class kept track of how many minutes they read on the door of their classroom using shamrocks!



Ms. Geil's 4th and 5th grade class wrote reviews for each book they finished and posted them in the hallway.



Upcoming Events~

Elementary students will be taking a fieldtrip to Franconia Sculpture Park on April 29th

New Heights Yard (gym) Sale!

This summer, New Heights School will have a Yard Sale to benefit the potential *North Hills Inclusive Playground*.

The Yard Sale will take place on:

**June 16th from
9am to 6pm**

~and~

**June 17th from
8am to noon**

Spring Conferences

K-12 Parent Teacher Conferences will take place Thursday, April 14th. They will be held from 4-7pm.

Elementary Teachers will schedule specific times with families.

Secondary Teachers will be available in an Open House Format.

Elementary Field Day
will take place for grades K-5 on May 12th (Weather permitting)

Makeup day: May 19th





April Monthly Planner

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
28	29	30	31 End of 3rd Quarter	1 No School Grading Day
4 4th Quarter Begins	5 6-12 Math MCA Testing	6 6-12 Math MCA Testing	7 6-12 Math MCA Testing	8
11	12 K-5 Reading MCA Testing Board of Directors 4pm	13 K-5 Reading MCA Testing	14 K-5 Reading MCA Testing Conferences 4-7 PM	15 No School
18	19	20	21	22 
25	26 5th, 8th, and 10th grade Science MCA Testing	27 5th, 8th, and 10th grade Science MCA Testing	28 5th, 8th, and 10th grade Science MCA Testing	29 K - 5th grade Field Trip Franconia Sculpture Park