

NEW HEIGHTS SCHOOL

Academics • Balance • Citizenship
The Power of Choice

February 2023

Based on Principal

Semester 2

The 2nd quarter has just ended, which also means that we have just begun the second half of the school year. Overall, things are going well. In this newsletter you will find a list of students who are doing exceptionally well in their academic pursuits and who have made our school's version of an honor roll, as well as some reminders about things that we need or expect from our students and families as we move forward in the 3rd and 4th quarters. Some of these items will be things that you may have read or heard before, but we continue to reiterate them because we have several new students and families who have recently enrolled into the New Heights School community, but also because some of our existing students and families will benefit from the reminder. Sometimes during a season in life we get off track and might benefit from a gentle reminder of the expectations placed on us by the groups and organizations we belong to. Hopefully all of our students will have at least one parent who will read the monthly newsletters and if there is something in here that they feel applies to them, they will work with the student to help get them back on track.



Attendance

First, let's remind everyone that success in school begins with attendance. Although the pandemic has created a different and almost opposite way of doing things, school systems are trying to get students back to a more "normal" approach when it comes to school attendance. Strong attendance in school pays huge dividends and poor attendance in school most often causes problems that could potentially spill over into other key areas of life like school performance and future employment

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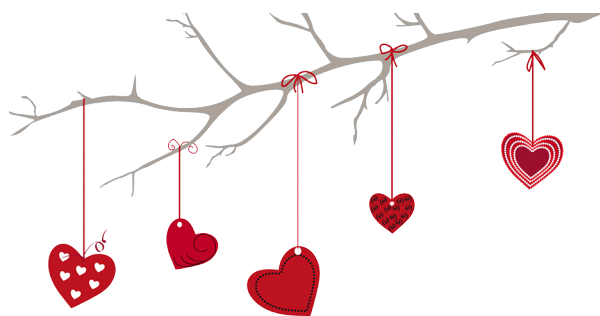
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IMPORTANT DATES

- Feb. 17th— Staff Development day, No School
- Feb. 20th— Presidents' Day, No School
- Feb. 21st— Board of Directors Meeting 4pm
- Feb. 24th— Elementary Science Museum Field Trip



habits. When our students attend school at a rate of 90% or higher, they learn more, get their assignments done at a higher level and get them turned in on time with a higher degree of accuracy-all equating to better academic performance and better grades. This, in turn, can and should directly lead to more success in other areas of life. School is the training ground for the world of work, which all of our students are expected to participate in as adults. The habits they form in their brains today can and often do have an impact on their adult lives. Treating school as unimportant or incidental will likely lead to treating work as unimportant or incidental. Students who don't attend school regularly learn less, find school frustrating and will likely perform poorly on school work and tests and the result will likely be failing grades and low self-esteem. Adults who frequently miss work don't get their assigned tasks done, get poor performance reports and will likely lose their jobs, also known as getting fired. So, you can see that we in education believe there is most often a direct correlation between attitude, effort and performance in school with future attitude, effort and performance in the workplace. Let's work together to give our students the best chance of success as adults by starting them off on the right foot as students by attending school at a high rate.



School Closures

School Closures for weather-related reasons

Just a reminder that school could close as a result of weather conditions that make safe travel to and from school difficult or even impossible. New Heights partners with Stillwater School District for student transportation bus service, so when Stillwater District Schools close school due to weather conditions, New Heights will also close, however, we do ask that parents try to be patient until we send out the official notice from the school before absolutely concluding that New Heights is closing too. Once we know that Stillwater made a decision to close, we will first notify our staff, then we will send an official notice to at least one parent of all students enrolled at New Heights via text message. We will also post our status on television channels 4,5, 9 and 11, and we will post our status for the day on the school's website and





Facebook page. Remember that when the school does remain open during a questionable weather event, parents should still make the decision that best fits your circumstances and comfort level regarding sending your child to school. Your decision will not be questioned when there is an obvious dilemma due to weather.

Student Engagement

Finally, I want to write about the topic of student



Spirit Week—February 13-16

 Monday, February 13th: Sports Day
 Tuesday, February 14th: Country Day
Wednesday February 15th: Tropical Day
Thursday February 16th: Fancy Day



engagement at school. At New Heights, we talk about the 4 B's; Be Present, Be Engaged, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible. The top portion of this letter was dedicated to the "Be Present" aspect of school, which relates to attendance. The next thing we need from our students aside from being at school is to be engaged in learning activities. Being engaged means to get actively involved in the school process. Being engaged means once you get to class, you separate yourself from people and things that can distract you from paying attention and doing your work. To be engaged means to actively listen, ask questions when confused or when you need clarification on a particular point. Being engaged means participating in class discussions or being an active member of a small group on assigned work. Being engaged means monitoring your grades and making sure you have not only completed an assignment, but that you turned it into the teacher in the format he or she expects. You can easily see that although we place a high value on being here at school, we place an equal emphasis on the actions a student should be taking aside from simply being here. Imagine having employees at work who show up, but do absolutely nothing. It is important that our students not only show up every day, but that they also become actively involved in their own education by doing the things mentioned above.

Now that you have a heightened level of awareness of what is expected of our students with regard to attendance and engagement, perhaps you could visit with your child and ask them how they feel they are doing when it comes to attending school on time each day and also about their beliefs regarding their level of engagement at school. We have frequent communication with our students about attendance and engagement, but it might prove to be beneficial to have our parents supporting these concepts with them at home as well. If you have questions about these topics or if you would like to learn more about how to support these topics, feel free to contact me at school at your convenience.

Tom Kearney-Principal

February



Minnesota State Testing—March & April

As of now, according to the Minnesota Department of Education, there will be MCA state testing this spring.

The *MCA Reading* is for grades:

3-8th and 10th.

The *MCA Math* is for grades:

3-8th and 11th.

The *MCA Science* is for:

5th and 8th grade, as well as students enrolled in Biology.

*If you **DO NOT** want your student to participate in state testing, please fill out the Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing form that is found on our school website.*

These tests will be administered in March and April.

New Heights School

**HANDLE WITH
CARE**

If your family is experiencing difficulty at home, we would like to provide additional support at school.

We understand that you are not always able to share details and that's okay. If your child is coming to school after a difficult night, morning, or weekend, please text the school counselor "Handle With Care" or enter you and your child(ren) name(s). Nothing else will be said or asked. This will let me know that your child may need extra time, patience, or help during the day.

**SCHOOL COUNSELOR
CONTACT INFO
ANNAH MASSMANN**

651-300-4007

HELLO
February

Quarter 2 Academic Honors

Principal's Award:

*Students with an A in all 5 classes will be recognized as **Principal's Award Students.***

Ellen Gruba (8)
Cody Siewert (8)
Elizabeth Granlund (9)
Natalie Gruba (9)
Alivia Johnson (9)
Gus Campbell (10)
Emily Mai (10)
Abigail Bell (11)
Claire Herder (11)
Emily Busta (12)
Brady Wegge (12)

Honor Roll:

*Students with a Grade Point average of **3.5** or above will be recognized on the **Honor Roll.***

Donald Blackwell(6)
Katrina Collette (6)
Landon Stillwagon (6)
Alaina Aldrich (7)
Dan VanDyke (7)
Alisa Collette (8)
Gavin Braun (9)
Eloise Campbell (9)
Maria Costilla (9)
Derek Kirby (9)
Jocelyn Schmidt (10)
Camden Briggs (12)

Honorable Mention:

*Students with a Grade Point average of **3.0** or above with no D's or F's will be recognized as an*

Honorable Mention

Addyson Morris (6)
Aquantis Thirston (6)
Abri Bell (7)
Dorothy Viera (7)
Desirae Larson (8)
Omar Walker (8)
Donovan Perez (10)
James Schuster (10)
Vannessa Koeckeritz (11)
Andre Maruska (11)
Kyle Brown (12)
Madison Drum (12)
Zander Harper (12)
Johnathan Olafson (12)
Kolby Warrington (12)

Semester 1 Academic Honors

Honor Roll:

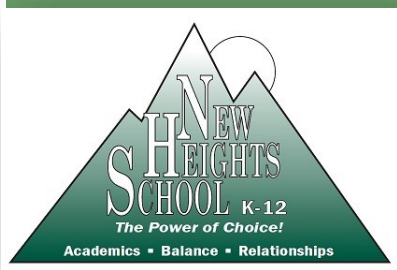
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Donald Blackwell (6)
Katrina Collette (6)
Landon Stillwagon (6)
Alaina Aldrich (7)
Dan VanDyke (7)
Alisa Collette (8)
Ellen Gruba (8)
Cody Siewert (8)
Gavin Braun (9)
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Honorable Mention:

Students with a Grade Point average of **3.0** or above with no D's or F's will be recognized as an **Honorable Mention**

Addyson Morris (6)
Abrianna Bell (7)
Dorothy Viera (7)
Evelyn (Cole) Axelrod (8)
Cora Harding (8)
Desirae Larson (8)
Brooke Hatch (9)
Donovan Perez (10)
James Schuster (10)
Jillian Briggs (11)
Mathew Granlund (11)
Vannessa Koeckeritz (11)
Amanda Augustine (12)
Kyle Brown (12)
Madison Drum (12)
Johnathan Olafson (12)



February Monthly Planner

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2 Groundhog Day 	3	4 
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Superbowl Sunday	13 Sports Day 	14 Valentine's Day 	15 Tropical Day 	16 Fancy Day 	17 No School Staff Development Day	18
19	20  President's Day	21 Board of Directors Meeting 4pm	22	23	24 Elementary Field Trip Science Museum	25
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
March						

Upcoming Events:

March 20-24— No School, Spring Break

April 7th—No School, Grading Day

April 6th —End of Quarter 3

April 10th—No School, Conferences 1pm to 6pm