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IMPORTANT DATES

- * **Professional Development**
 April 3rd
 No School
- * **Board of Directors Meeting**
 April 8th
 3:30 pm
- * **Board of Directors Meeting**
 May 13th
 3:30 pm

Based on Principal

The first three quarters are in the books, and we’re in the homestretch and have fewer than 40 school days remaining this year. Overall, the year has been a good one. For the most part, productivity and grades have been good. The overall behavior of our students has also been good. Teachers have written fewer behavior referrals than in years past. That said, there are some things we would still like to see improve. The overall rate of attendance needs to improve. We still have students showing up to school habitually late, and there are too many students who have missed significant amounts of school, well beyond the school’s policy-based expectations and state laws regarding attendance. As we move forward into next year, we anticipate making some changes as to how we handle excessive absences, but it is clear that something needs to happen with that topic. Other than that, it has been a successful year through the first three quarters, and we anticipate the fourth quarter to be calm and productive.

Start and Dismissal Time Changes for Next Year

You may have heard that Stillwater district is going to make yet another adjustment to their transportation service, which will have a minor impact on the start and dismissal times for New Heights. As of now, we expect to begin school about 30 minutes later than this year, which means dismissal will also be 30 minutes later. Currently, the start and dismissal times are 7:55 and 2:25. We are planning for the start and dismissal times to be 8:20-2:50 next year, which is sort of in between our old times and this year’s start and dismissal times. Maybe this will be the sweet spot for our students by not having to start too early or too late. Getting out of school at 2:50 is also a favorable time, allowing plenty of time to be able to do things after school. As for the calendar, school will continue to start earlier in August like this year, but students and staff will enjoy finishing the year and starting summer break ahead of Memorial Day. Hopefully those times and dates will work well for your family next year.

Stay On Track!

As we are beginning the 4th quarter, we want to encourage our students to remain diligent and stay on track until the end of the year, and to not start to celebrating too early. We will start to wind things up about 2 weeks before the end of the school year and lighten things up, but we will expect our students to continue to attend regularly and get to school on time each day. Let's finish strong!

Energy Drinks

For whatever reason, we have seen a lot more energy drinks, pop, and coffee-based drinks making their way into the school this year. We have not allowed these items in the school for students for many years because they tend to make a mess, and it encourages the spread of ants and other critters when they are spilled in classrooms, hallways, and restrooms. We will remind students of this expectation for the remainder of this year, but we will return to a more strict enforcement of the policy next year by disallowing these beverages in the school for students altogether. Aside from the mess they make, these items are poor when it comes to basic nutrition and go against the school's required Wellness Policy (found on the school website). Some students are consuming more than one energy drink per day and that level of caffeine is not good for anyone, let alone a young developing person. So at this time we are simply trying to inform our parents that this change is coming next year, so hopefully we can get more compliance than we currently are.

Cell Phones and Devices

You are likely aware of the ongoing conversation regarding students, cell phones, devices, and social media in the news.

Those of us who have been in education since before the internet and smartphones were so pervasive will reflect back on what school was like before all of this and refer to that time as...the good ol' days! That said, people, even young adults, are starting to realize how detrimental these devices can be in many aspects of our lives, but especially for children and school. You've probably heard about bans on these devices in some schools and even in some countries around the world, at least until kids reach a more mature age and can manage them better. New Heights will be making changes next year for our students in grades K-8 by disallowing cell phones or tablet use altogether once they arrive on campus. Currently we allow any student in grades 6-12 to bring phones to school, maintain possession of them, and check them during passing time and during lunch. This is a bit more permissive than Stillwater district schools. We, however, believe these devices are causing issues between some students, and many students who have these devices are demonstrating a lack of engagement when it comes to classroom activities and schoolwork, quite likely connected to their desire to be on their phones rather than to do their schoolwork. We feel we will get much more cooperation and production from our students if the phones are disallowed during the entire day, which will also include tablets, smart watches, and headphones. There are still too many opportunities for students to get distracted by these devices, and it makes it hard to focus on the schoolwork assigned each day in class. So, be mindful that next year there will be stronger limits placed on cell phones and other electronic devices, whether the state legislature passes any new laws or not. We will make sure our families are aware of these coming changes before school starts next year.

Sincerely,
Superintendent/Principal Tom Kearney

ELEMENTARY HIGHLIGHT

In preparation for the concert, students have been working hard learning a variety of songs that celebrate the spring season and the United States. They've been practicing singing, playing recorders, drumming techniques and performance skills, and are excited to showcase what they've learned.



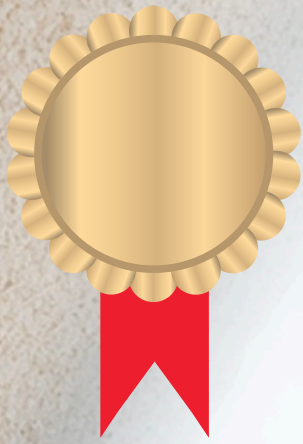
**Spring
Music Show**

Friday | 17 | April
1:00-2:00 pm

Music and Treats

New Heights K-5 will be performing at
First United Methodist Church
813 Myrtle St W, Stillwater, MN 55082

Parents can arrive at 12:30 PM to help with setup and may take their child or children home after the show, but they must inform their child's teacher.



Quarter 3 Honor Roll



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

Kell Nelson (6)
Brecken Aldrich (7)

Rylin Ellison (8)
Alastair Larson (10)
Evelyn Schultz (10)

Dan VanDyke (10)
Emma Leathem (11)

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

Charlee Carter (6)
Trent Kircher (6)
Cylus Brake (7)
Charlie Cain (7)

Kobe Ladd (7)
Mae Palmer (7)
Micaiah Rosengren (7)
Sam Teske (7)

Landon Stilwagon (9)
Albino Bucio (10)
Gavin Braun (12)
Brooke Hatch (12)

Honorable Mention: Students with a Grade Point Average between 3.49 and 3.0 are recognized as students on the Honor Roll

Chloe Stilwagon (6)
Madeline Dahlin (7)
Aaliyah Francis (7)
Jax Hill (7)
Mya Lange (7)
Jens Nelson (7)




Grady Frye (8)
Imarian Hearst (8)
Maks Kircher (8)
Beni Rivera (8)
Ben Evenson (9)
Kaelyn Boorman (11)

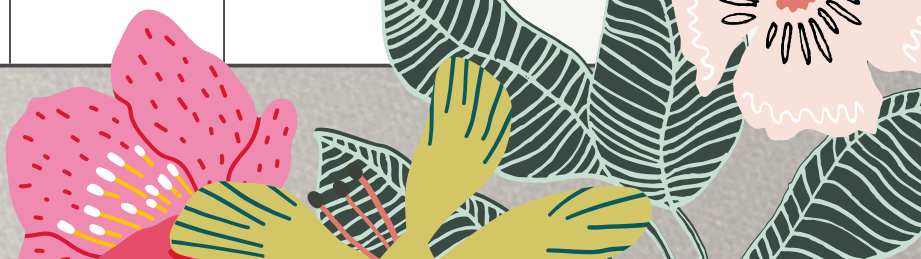
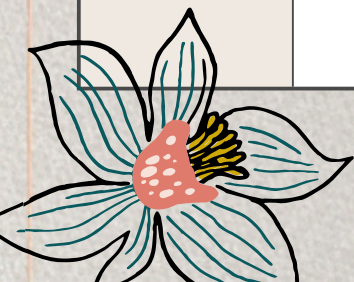
Cheri Johnson (11)
Jake Poppert (11)
Andrew Benson (12)
Ash Stanaway (12)
Sam VanDyke (12)
Matty Winch (12)

New Heights School

APRIL

2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			Secondary Advisory 3 rd Period		No School - Staff Professional Development	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Math MCA Test Grades 3-8 & 11	Math MCA Test Grades 3-8 & 11 Board of Directors Meeting 3:30pm	Math MCA Makeup Testing		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
					Elementary Concert 1-2pm 	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Reading MCA Test Grades 3-8 & 10	Reading MCA Test Grades 3-8 & 10	Reading MCA Makeup Testing	 MINNESOTA ZOO Elementary Field Trip to MN Zoo	
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
		Secondary Fastbridge Testing	Secondary Fastbridge Testing	Fastbridge Makeup Testing		



New Heights School

MAY



2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
					Spring Formal Dance 9-12th Grade	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Elementary Fastbridge Testing	Elementary Fastbridge Testing	Fastbridge Makeup Testing	Elementary Field Day	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			Board of Directors Meeting 3:30pm		Secondary Park Afternoon	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		K-5 Picnic Last Day K-5 Only	12 th Grade Graduation	Last Day 6-12 Valleyfair	Staff Grading Day	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



ORDER A NEW HEIGHTS SCHOOL YEARBOOK!!

Order your yearbook here or on the
school website!

Soft cover (before tax)

\$22.80

Hard cover (before tax)

\$32.45

***To ensure delivery before
the end of the school year,
order by April 15th!***



NEW HEIGHTS SCHOOL

Academics • Balance • Citizenship

The Power of Choice