



651-439-1962

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## IMPORTANT DATES

### \* Thanksgiving Break

November 26-28

No School

### \* NHS Culver's Night

November 25<sup>th</sup>

A portion of the profits from 5-7pm at the Stillwater Culver's will be donated back to New Heights. Join us for dinner to help fundraise for the school!

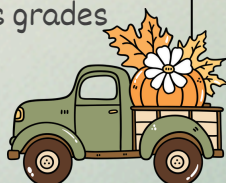


## Based on Principal

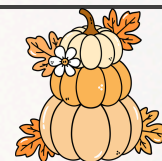
### End of 1st Quarter Considerations

The end of the 1st quarter has come and gone and we are off to a great start with Q2. That also means that grades were given to all students K-12. Grades are a measurement of work completed along with the quality of work completed. However, there are other things to take into consideration when it comes to the evaluation of students. There are times where the school is communicating to parents about things that need attention; things that need to improve, even when the grades look good. As a general guideline, elementary students in grades K-5 will receive grades that measure certain skills that the teacher has been working on with the class during a grading period and the grades won't typically be letter grades, but numeric grades instead. The grades will largely be based on mastery or progress toward those skills. Elementary report cards will also have more elaboration, meaning written detailed comments made by the teachers that explain things at a higher level, typically explaining how the progress is going so far. Secondary grades will have a letter grade assigned; A, B, C, D, F, W, Inc., and P. Here is a breakdown of what the letter grades have historically meant: A-Superior; B-Above Average; C-Average; D-Below Average; F-Failed to Meet Minimum Standards; W-Withdrew From The Class Before Completion; Inc.-Incomplete, meaning the student can still turn in work for a grade; and P- Pass. Incomplete is rarely used and is used only for special circumstances. I don't believe any student had an Incomplete grade for 1st Q.

Earlier I mentioned that grades are one measurement of student progress, but grades alone do not tell the entire story. Other factors that could impact the complete evaluation of a student, and more importantly learning levels (which is what we are actually striving for), are things like engagement levels, interaction in class with teachers, classmates and the curriculum, attendance levels, attitude, behavior, cooperation, and timeliness/punctuality. So, one of the reasons we have historically held conferences is to look deeper into our students' whole experience and progress at school with more detail than the report card can communicate. For example, a student may have A's and B's for work completed, but may also have behavior problems, social problems, poor attendance, or the student may have been given extreme leniency by being allowed to turn work in late routinely. There are reasons why teachers and school systems will allow for this, but the goal would eventually be to get the student to work toward being more punctual in completing assignments and handing them in on time. At school, this type of leniency is common, but the world of work may be less forgiving toward people who are habitually late, don't complete work or who are commonly off-task and not engaged. So, whereas the grades you are seeing may look good, we encourage parents to also consider attendance, behavior, and attitude as things that are equally as important as grades when looking at the whole student.



## Conferences



Conferences for students in grades 6-12 were held on Friday 10/31. The turnout was very low. Conference turnout over the years, for whatever reason, has diminished to the point where we will be considering alternative ways to provide information to parents of students in grades 6-12 other than holding a single conference day moving forward. More than likely the school will notify parents that the school will have a conference window of two weeks. Parents will be encouraged to monitor grades through the JMC App and then contact any or all of their child's teachers via school emails and request a conference with each of them individually. These conferences will most likely be conducted over the phone or a virtual platform such as Zoom or Google Meet at a time mutually agreed upon between the individual parent and teacher(s). This format provides more opportunities for parents because of the arbitrary times the school has chosen to offer the one day in-person conferences. We recognize that parents often have busy schedules and that they, for whatever reason, can't make it to conference day; which is why we are going to move toward a more flexible format geared toward the potential of getting higher levels of communication between the school and home. Watch for announcements about this in future newsletters later in the school year.



## Arrival and Dismissal Times

Here is a friendly reminder about our arrival and dismissal times. We expect that our students will arrive on time and will be ready for the start of the school day, which begins at 7:55. Doors open for students at 7:35. Students wishing to have school-offered breakfast need to be at school and in the cafeteria before 7:50 in order to have sufficient time to get breakfast, eat it without rushing and still make it to class before 7:55. Dismissal time is 2:20 for students in K-5 and 2:25 for students in grades 6-12. We expect that all of our students will have left the campus by 2:40. New Heights does not offer before and after school care, so it is imperative that parents who provide transportation to and from school are aware of and abide by these times. Thank you.

## Attendance Expectations

Here again is a friendly reminder of the school's expectations regarding student attendance. The school, in accordance with state and county expectations, expects students to attend at a rate of at least 90%. As we have stated before, to break this down to simple terms, students should miss no more than 4 days in 9 weeks, or 4 days per quarter. That would add up to 8 days per half-year and 16 days total for a school year. Of course we know that things don't always align with expectations, but we want parents and students to be aware that these are our expectations and the school may notify parents when the attendance levels look concerning.

*Sincerely,*

*Superintendent/Principal Tom Kearney*



## Teacher Feature



### Robyn Radke Kindergarten-1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher



#### 1. What inspired you to become a teacher?

During high school, I signed up for a peer counseling class because I was interested in becoming a teacher. In this class we would go to the neighboring elementary school for a period each day. I worked with ESE, Kindergarten and 2nd grade students. It was such a great learning experience for me. I enjoyed going every day to help them learn and do their best. I loved how excited they became when I would come to visit. At the end of each year I would become emotional saying our goodbyes...that's how I knew I wanted to become a teacher!

#### 2. What do you enjoy most about teaching?

Seeing how much growth each student makes from the beginning of the year. And I love how we become our own little family.



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

Sailfishing in Mexico! I caught a huge swordfish that took 30 minutes to reel in.

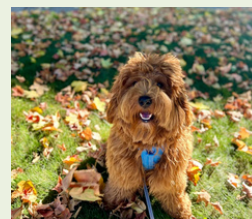


#### 4. What is something people would be surprised to know about you?

I was a basketball player in highschool and we made it to the state final 4. I've been snorkeling and fishing in the Florida Keys for 30+ years!

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

Camping, gardening, yoga, reading, hiking, boating.



happy  
FALL

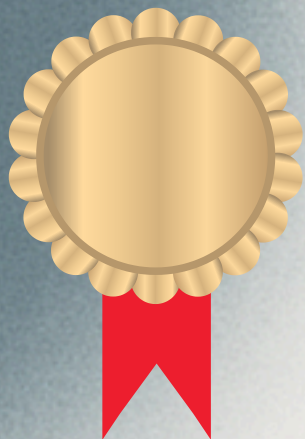
# October Field Trips

## *SECONDARY - COMO ZOO & PARK*

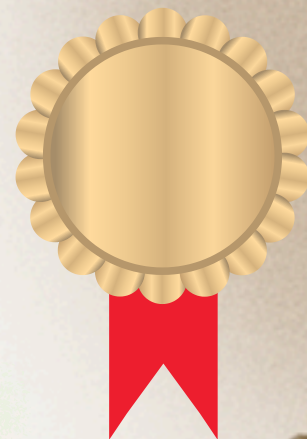


## *ELEMENTARY - AXDAHL'S FARM*





# Quarter 1 Honor Roll



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

Trent Kircher (6)

Albino Bucio (10) Alastair Larson (10) Evelyn Schultz (10) Gloria Teske (10)

Lucia Riviera (6)

Rylin Ellison (8)

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

Charlee Carter (6)

Jens Nelson (7)

Dan VanDyke (10)

Kell Nelson (6)

Micaiah Rosengren (7)

Kaelyn Boorman (11)

Chloe Stilwagon (6)

Sam Teske (7)

Emma Leathem (11)

Brecken Aldrich (7)

Maks Kircher (8)

Jake Poppert (11)

Cylus Brake (7)

Beni Riviera (8)

Gavin Braun (12)

Jax Hill (7)

Landon Stilwagon (9)

Brooke Hatch (12)

Kylah Molina (7)

Ruth Tabora (9)

Sam VanDyke (12)

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

Charlie Cain (7)

Aidan Breitbarth (8)

Cheri Johnson (11)

Madeline Dahlin (7)

Imarian Hearst (8)

Omar Walker (11)

Aaliyah Francis (7)

Ben Evenson (9)

Andrew Benson (12)

Dalila Houlberg (7)

Alyssa Gunderson (9)

Bre Phetteplace (12)

Mya Lange (7)

Isayah Foley (11)

Ash Stanaway (12)

Mae Palmer (7)

Matty Winch (12)

# NEW HEIGHTS SCHOOL

# November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Board of Directors Meeting 3:30pm	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 NHS 	26 SCHOOL BREAK	27 Happy Thanksgiving	28 	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

## Upcoming Events:

December 23<sup>rd</sup>: End of Quarter 2

December 24<sup>th</sup> - January 2<sup>nd</sup>: No School - Winter Break

January 5<sup>th</sup>: No School - Teacher Grading Day

