



Dear Families,

It has come to my attention that some of you are not receiving our emails through our mass communication software (Swift). Therefore, I've decided to take the time to send you a letter containing some important dates and information that you will need to know for the upcoming weeks. First and foremost, we will start the school year in a Remote Learning fashion on **September 14, 2020**. The focus of the first week will be to train students and families on how to use our remote learning software and access remote learning materials. Remote instruction will begin the week of September 21st. This holds true for all students, with the exception of our Early College scholars (3 or more college classes in Fall 2020) who will begin their classes on **September 9th**.

As many of you know, students have the opportunity to learn in either a synchronous (Monday-Thursday) or an asynchronous (Monday-Friday) format. Synchronous classes allow students to follow their normal schedule where they will have a live teacher for all 7 instructional periods of the day. Asynchronous classes allow students to access classroom materials and work at their own pace, without teacher support. While students have the option Monday through Thursday to attend synchronous classes, all students will participate in asynchronous learning on Fridays. Teachers will host office hours to support students on Fridays.

All students (with the exception of Early College) will be expected to attend a grade level Morning Meeting starting at 8am, where their attendance will be counted and daily announcements will be made. Early College students will continue receiving information and updates through their Phoenix Fire sessions. Student schedules, student account and login information, and the school calendar will be mailed out on September 9th, and should arrive at your homes between September 10th to the 12th.

Students who are new to the school must set an appointment to meet with Ms. Jean (Enrollment Counselor) in-person prior to September 11th, if they have not already done so. It is important to note that all students are eligible to attend our school regardless of where they live once they have been accepted. If you applied to our school and have moved to a different city or town since that time, your child will still be allowed to attend New Heights. Transportation will not be granted outside of Brockton, Taunton, or Randolph, but your child is still eligible to come to our school. Ms. Jean can be reached at: 508-857-4633 x1304. Families can bring materials to the school without an appointment between the hours of 8am-5:30pm. Please note that families without an appointment may have to wait outside prior to being seen. So please plan accordingly.

We will also begin distributing student chromebooks the week of September 8th. Parents and guardians can pick up the chromebooks from 12pm-7pm on September 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th. Friday is also available for pick-up, but must take place between the hours of 8am-4pm. **Any child who has not turned in his or her chromebook will not receive one of our new models until they do so.** 11th and 12th grade students are expected to keep their current chromebooks since they were updated last year. If Early College Scholars do not have a chromebook, please plan to come in on one of the dates listed above. Chromebooks will be pre-assigned to a student so that they are picking up the chromebook that has their name on the carrier. Parents will drive in, give their scholar or scholars names to a staff member, drive to the back and retrieve their child's chromebook. They will then sign a form stating that they have read our technology policy. Finally, parents will be offered our optional insurance package which costs \$50. This insurance policy will cover any broken or damaged chromebooks. Families who choose not to purchase the insurance will be expected to pay \$300 to replace the item. We will send out Swift messages and post these events on our website closer to the dates, but please mark these events on your calendar.

We also purchased mobile hotspots for families who do not have reliable internet. Early College students can begin picking up these hot spots from 8am-6pm August 31st-September 2nd. All other students will have the opportunity to sign out mobile hotspots during our chromebook pick-up hours as stated above. Only students who have turned in their chromebooks will be eligible to borrow a hotspot. We will not assume that any child needs a mobile hotspot, unless it is requested during Chromebook pick-up times. If you would like to sign out a mobile hotspot, additional paperwork will be required at that time. Please be prepared to review and sign documents when you arrive.

The state recently released a memo stating that all students need to receive a flu shot during the Fall 2020, given the similarities in symptoms between Covid-19 and the flu. The state feels that it's important that all children get vaccinated as close to the start of the school year as possible. Please provide documentation to Nurse Rena once the flu shot has been completed. Doctors' offices can also fax the report directly to Nurse Rena at: 508-510-3354. It is important to note that this is a State mandate and not a school mandate. I realize that there are many families that are uncomfortable with vaccinating their children. The state has not yet given guidance for how we as a school should handle this. It is our belief that parents have the right not to follow this mandate, but we will provide you with more information of what steps need to be taken if families choose not to adhere to this policy.

We will be sending you your child's schedule in a variety of ways. Student schedules will be mailed out from our school on September 9th. Parents will learn how to access their child's schedule through PowerSchool at our Parent Information Meeting on September 8th and we will be sending schedules through email on September 10th. Students will have the opportunity to attend up to 7 periods of classroom instruction and student activity blocks each day. Our homeroom period will begin at 8am and will consist of a daily Grade Level Morning Meeting. Periods 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are where students take their writing, composition, math, science, history, and math lab classes. During period 3, students will

have the opportunity to participate in virtual clubs or receive educational services. Students who do not need educational services and do not wish to participate in virtual clubs, can use this time as a "screen break".

Virtual Open House meetings will be held on the following dates:

- September 14th: 6th and 7th grade
- September 15th: 8th and 9th grade
- September 16th: 10th and Dual Enrollment 11th/ Dual Enrollment 12th

This will be families' opportunity to meet all of the staff by grade level and learn instructional and behavioral expectations. We will be sending out the links in our September 9th mailing and through a Swift message.

I realize that this is a lot of information for one letter, but I thought it was important for us to get you a list of important dates and events so that families can plan accordingly. We are also in the process of scheduling additional tech trainings for parents, so please continue to monitor our messages and website. Our weekly Monday night meetings will continue to take place at 5:30pm (Please email Ms. Tracey at [mtracey@nhcsb.org](mailto:mtracey@nhcsb.org) for link). I highly encourage all to attend to receive our newest updates. I want to thank all of our families for their belief in our mission and support of our school. Together, we will get through this pandemic and hopefully be stronger as a result.

Sincerely,  
Omari Walker  
Principal/Executive Director