

September 4, 2020

Dear Norwell High School Community,

The members of high school staff have returned to school this week and are working as diligently and quickly as possible to prepare for the start of school on September 16th. Now that the structure of our hybrid learning model has been established, our teachers are invigorated to adapt their curriculum and instructional practices to meet this unprecedented structure. Additionally, we are finalizing our plans for safety procedures, learning & grading expectations, and bolstering our social and emotional supports. We are keenly aware that the key to establishing a thriving learning environment is to first create the safest and most supportive school community as possible.

While we continue to finalize our plans, I would like you to be aware of the following information to support the reentry process and invite you to an information session I will be holding on Wednesday, September 9th.

Parent Zoom Meeting - Wednesday, September 9th

- I will be holding a parent/student meeting to provide you with a thorough description of the information in this email as well as additional details of our reopening plans. This meeting will be held next Wednesday at 4:00pm. If you are unable to attend at this time, the meeting will be recorded and available on our website for your convenience.
- Please use this [link](#) to join the meeting on Wednesday.

Meeting ID: 837 7638 4011 Passcode: Norwell

Student Schedules:

- **Cohort or schedule changes:** A Herculean effort has been made to adapt our original schedule by evenly splitting all classes into two cohorts while maintaining student course selections. In order to meet social distancing safety guidelines, we can not exceed twelve students in each class. At this point, that goal has been achieved. Unfortunately, the delicacy of this newly created schedule will not allow us to alter cohorts or assigned courses as there simply is not enough flexibility to balance any changes.
- **Release of schedules:** It is our plan to have schedules released today September, 4th.

- **Homeroom changes:** Students will notice that homeroom/advisory assignments have been shifted as a result of having to balance the cohort schedules.

NHS Bell Schedule Information:

- Please use this [link](#) to see our schedule information. This page includes the schedule rotation as well as the bell schedule.

COVID-19 Student-Parent Handbook Insert:

- The [COVID 19 Student-Parent Handbook](#) includes safety procedures and student expectations. The sections of this COVID-19 Handbook Insert supersedes sections of the Student-Parent Handbook for 2020-2021 until rescinded.

Norwell Public School's Calendar:

- Here's a link to the [Norwell Public School's calendar](#)

9th-Grade Orientation:

- All 9th-grade students and families should have received an informational email from Assistant Principal Greenberg with personalized information as to the time of their orientation. These orientations are scheduled at specific times to allow students to meet classmates in their advisory/homeroom and their assigned peer educators while maintaining social distancing in the building during the tour.

Parking:

- As a result of the hybrid schedule, there will be enough availability of parking spots for students who drive to school. Students can park in Lot A, Lot B, and on the street in white line spots on a first-come/first-served basis. Note: students cannot park in assigned teacher, staff, or visitor spots that have yellow lines. Parking fees will be waived for the 20-21 school year.

Bus Information:

- The bus fee will remain at \$250 and will be due by a date to be determined, likely early October in order to remain a rider.
- Bus route information should be available in Aspen by early next week for any families that requested a bus on the August survey. Routes are still being developed but we expect that we will be able to accommodate most riders that requested bussing, priority being given to those living furthest from the High School.

September 16th - First day of school:

- The first day of school will be a Blue Day where all students in the Blue Cohort will attend school in the building. Students in the Gold Cohort will be expected to attend

remote meetings on this day as part of their orientation to school. On September 17th, students in the Gold Cohort will attend classes in the building while students in the Blue Cohort will be expected to attend our remote orientation sessions. Additional details will be forthcoming.

Message from NHS PTO:

- The Norwell High School PTO is getting organized for this unique school year. We recognize the need for finding new methods of communication to discuss ways we can support the staff, students, and families, so we've created a Norwell High School PTO Facebook page. We will post information here about school updates and we will host it as a "closed group" for current NHS students and families only, to share questions, concerns, and ideas with the NHS community.
- We will be hosting monthly zoom meetings this year with Marc Bender and will look for creative ways to connect us all as a community. More information about dues and meeting dates will be sent out once we have details.
- For more information, visit the website (link:<https://www.norwellschools.org/Page/944>) or join our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/635334494048303>

Norwell Scholastic Arts Society:

- The Norwell Scholastic Arts Society would like to affirm our dedication to enriching the arts in Norwell public schools by supporting our students and faculty in all of their creative endeavors. Such extraordinary times challenge us to become our best selves and we are here to encourage you. If you would like to become involved with our organization, support our mission or have a special request, please contact us at grants@norwellarts.org

Thank you for your continued patience and support.

Marc Bender
Principal
Norwell High School