



## NORWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

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A message from Dr. Galligan

May 16, 2021

Hi Students,

I hope you enjoyed the beautiful weather this weekend. I have included an update to your families that went out on Friday. I have highlighted 2 important ones that you should definitely read. Also, for dismissal moving forward we will do the following:

1. Students who take bus at 1:35
2. Student who walk at 1:38
3. Students who go by car (either get picked up or drive themselves) at 1:40

This is important to help our buses get out on time to help with district transportation needs. Thanks!

May 14, 2021

Dear NHS Families,

Your students continue to make excellent progress this year and be leaders each day. Thank you for your support and continued flexibility. As we move into five days of in person learning on May 17, here are a few important reminders:

- **Schedule:** The NHS school day times for phase 3 (May 17-June 18) will be 7:45-1:40. All students will be dismissed between 1:35-1:40, with students taking the bus being dismissed first. Students will participate in six in person class periods and a brief lunch period during the school day. There will be no more “all remote” classes.
- **Remote Learning:** Any student in Cohort R (all remote) will continue to learn remotely for the remainder of the school year, with the same teachers and classmates they have had all year, just modified class times.
- **Lunch:** Student lunch periods will be shortened from their usual times as we are adding an extra lunch period. Meals will be available “grab and go” style from the cafeteria (hot, rotating options) and the gym (salads, sandwiches, pizza). Students may choose which location they want to pick up food from and which location they would like to eat in. When weather allows, we will have students eat outside as well. All spots will be spaced six feet apart and masks must be worn except while seated and eating. Adult supervision in each of these areas will help ensure student safety at all times. All meals (breakfast and lunch) will continue to be free of charge.
- **Aspen schedule view:** The new schedule rotation will show on student schedules in Aspen beginning on Monday. Some students may notice a “blank spot” on their schedule in the classes after lunch or on Wednesdays. In most cases, this spot will be populated with a PE/Health class or Academic support class that matches up with that period. For example, if a student has PE period 2, and then there is a blank spot during one period 2 session that week, the student will attend PE during that blank. If a student has a blank spot during the last two periods of the day and does not know what to do, that student should report to the dining hall and we will help them figure out the correct place to go. We are working hard to resolve this issue, but anticipate that some students will have “blanks” in their schedule on Monday.
- **Calling out sick:** Students who have chosen in person learning are expected to be present in the building each day. Per DESE guidelines, remote learning on a short-term basis will only be allowed for health related or Covid-related reasons moving forward. Guardians should contact the attendance line and report this information if it applies. If there is a true extenuating circumstance, a guardian should contact the student’s dean in advance to receive approval for short term remote learning.

And a few updates not related to the shift to five in person learning days:

- **MCAS:** Testing has been going well for our grade 10 students. A reminder that testing will continue for all grade 10 students on Monday 5/17 and Tuesday 5/18. Remote students are required to attend testing on these days as well. Please make sure your grade 10 students bring a fully charged chromebook to school on those days. Grade 9 students in Biology will be required to take the MCAS test in early June and will receive a notice with more specific information.
- **Senior Events:** We had a wonderful alternative prom event at NHS last Friday night. Thank you to all of the students, staff, and parents, guardians, and community volunteers who made it possible! Additionally, senior families can expect an update next week on graduation and class day details. We have been working hard with our central office and school leadership, the Norwood Health Department, and our student leaders to plan celebratory in person events that follow all of the state guidelines for graduations and events.
- **Health and Safety Update:** While recent updates at the federal level have provided new guidance regarding masks, please note that policies in Massachusetts and the Norwood Public Schools specifically have not changed at this time. As the policy has not changed, masks and distancing will still be required in school and at school-based events, even for fully vaccinated individuals. This includes extra-curricular activities, including athletics, for all participants and spectators. We thank you for your continued cooperation, and we will keep you posted on any updates to this guidance in the future.

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