

NHS Principal's Update 3/22/20

Dear NHS Families,

I hope that during this uncertain time, each of you has been able to find some time to connect with your families. As I helped my own kindergartner take the training wheels off his bike last week – he fell a few times, kept working at it, and ultimately worked it out on his own - I thought about how important it is to find moments like that to appreciate and hold onto right now. I hope you have a few like that to carry you through.

Below, I have updated many of our previous NHS news items and added a few new ones. I hope that it brings some clarity to what is a confusing and unprecedented situation for all of us.

- **Academics:** On Thursday 3/12, NPS announced a closure for six days. At that time, our staff did an amazing thing – they completely transformed from a face to face learning atmosphere to a virtual one in a matter of 24 hours. Their hope was to keep learning alive for the week-long closure. I am very thankful to work with such a dedicated group of educators who puts our students first every day. I am also grateful to the students who have put in a tremendous amount of work so far, and hope that they sustain this effort. I have heard from many of you about how grateful you and your students are for these learning and enrichment opportunities. Thank you!

Throughout the course of the week, as we learned the closure would be extended by the state, we also received more clarification from state officials about the types of virtual work public schools can offer right now. These learning opportunities are meant for enrichment, to prevent regression, and allow students to dig deeper into their learning. Work will not be graded or count towards academic credits, but teachers will provide valuable individual feedback to students who complete the enrichment work. I hope you can appreciate that since this has never happened before, some people (staff, students, parents) may have expected otherwise. This is understandable, and I appreciate your patience, understanding, and flexibility as we work through this. As such, staff will be using Monday and Tuesday to re-calibrate these learning and enrichment opportunities on a departmental basis. Students can use these two days to re-visit the enrichment opportunities from last week but no new enrichment opportunities will be posted. On Wednesday, 3/25, all of Norwood Public Schools will post updated enrichment opportunities for students to engage in. I encourage all of our students to take advantage of this and stay engaged in their learning. Perhaps it is possible that if the closure extends beyond the three scheduled weeks, the federal and state guidance around this may change. If that were to happen, we will again be flexible and provide the best educational opportunities that we can for all of our students within the appropriate guidelines.

- **AP Testing:** Please see the attached link for the latest update from the College Board regarding AP testing. Of note is the fact that, "Traditional face-to-face exam administrations will not take place. Students will take a 45-minute online free-response exam at home." We will forward more information as it becomes available. <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/news-changes/coronavirus-update>
- **Counselor Appointments:** Our guidance, adjustment, and career counselors will make themselves available for virtual appointments. Please reach out to your counselor by email to arrange.
- **District Updates:** Visit <https://www.norwood.k12.ma.us/updates> for district wide information from the superintendent during the closure and <https://sites.google.com/norwood.k12.ma.us/mustang-technology/home> for educational and academic resources during the closure.
- **Internet Access:** If you are a student or family without reliable internet access at home, please fill out the following Google form. We will do all we can to help you get set up. <https://forms.gle/iciyjacNd5NsFCn58>
- **Lunch:** Free grab and go lunches continue for any student 18 or under, at the following locations, Monday-Friday 11 am – 1pm: Balch Elementary School, 1170 Washington Street Callahan Elementary School, 90 Garfield Ave

Again, thank you all for your continued support. Please continue to encourage your student to continue the process of social and physical distancing from others and to refrain from gathering with peers. If you or your student need anything at all, please reach out.

Best,
Hugh T. Galligan, Ed.D.
Principal, NHS
#4As5Cs1Team