



Norwood High School – Principal’s Update August 24, 2020

Dear NHS Students and Families,

I hope you are all healthy and enjoying some semblance of a summer break, even during these still uncertain times. For our incoming freshmen and all students and families that are new to NHS, allow this to be an official welcome to Norwood High School. It truly is an honor and a privilege to serve the Norwood community as Principal of Norwood High School. I am confident that you will find NHS to be a caring community where staff, students, parents, and community partners all work together to provide a top-notch education for all of our children. And while this year will absolutely be challenging at times, please know that we are all working together on your behalf. There is lots of information in this message pertaining to the school reopening plans. I encourage students and families to take a look at it together.

Reopening Plan: As you know, on August 10, the Norwood School Committee identified a hybrid model as its preferred model for a safe return to school. If you have not done so, I encourage you to take some time to read through the [NPS Reopening Plan](#). It goes over the many safety protocols that will be implemented and presents detailed information as to what the hybrid (and remote, if needed) models will look like at Norwood High School. Details about which cohort your student will be in are forthcoming. Please note that at the high school level we will not be able to accommodate requests for changing cohorts at this time. The new start date for students is Thursday September 17.

Remote Learning Academy (RLA): The RLA is for students and families who are choosing a remote only option for their child. You should have received a message from Superintendent Thomson letting you know that if you would like to choose this option, you must do so before Tuesday 8/25 at 6 PM. Currently, we anticipate classes in the RLA to be a combination of those taught synchronously by NPS staff and courses offered through an online education platform. Please note that while we will make every effort to meet student course requests in the RLA we cannot guarantee that a student would be granted all requests. For more information on the RLA at Norwood High School, please visit the link below. Scroll to the bottom for a registration link. If your child will be attending school in the proposed hybrid model, you do not need to take any action at this time. Only those wishing to enter the RLA need to fill out this form. [NPS Remote Learning Academy Information and Registration](#)

Class Meetings: This Thursday 8/27, we will be hosting a series of class meetings for students. Deans, counselors, and administrators will give an overview of the reopening plans to date and answer questions that students may have. Students, please keep an eye out for more information sent to your school email.

SAT: Norwood High School is tentatively registered as a host site for the SAT on Wednesday October 14, 2020. Stay tuned for more information from our guidance team.

Athletics: Last week, DESE and the MIAA released new [Athletics Guidelines](#) that took the first steps in allowing interscholastic athletics to run this year, with many modifications and safety regulations. Please note that there are still many steps that the school, district, and league need to take to determine how and when athletics may begin in a safe way.

Student Schedules: Please be patient with us as we work through the student scheduling process this year. In a normal year, the creation of a high school schedule is a monumental task that begins in March and goes all through the summer. This year, we are constructing the high school schedule to allow for a lower cap on all in person classes to maintain social distancing while also creating a Remote Learning Academy. We are trying our best to meet your schedule requests, but this process will take more time. I will keep you posted as to when we expect student schedules to be released. Additionally, while we try to meet as many course requests as possible, this year will present additional challenges in doing so and may result in more unmet requests than other years. We ask for your patience, understanding, and flexibility as we move through this process.

New Student Orientation: We are working on putting together a program for our New Student Orientation. This will likely be a combination of a remote meeting, with the option for students to visit the building at select times as we get closer to our starting date of September 17.

While Superintendent Thomson will communicate district updates on the reopening plans, you will be hearing from me more frequently with important updates as school approaches. In the meantime, please reach out with any questions or concerns. I recognize that you have important decisions to make, and that this “back to school” year is more confusing and anxiety provoking than any other. Please know that all of us at NHS are here to support you. I hope that you can enjoy the remainder of summer as a family. See you soon!

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