

# North Kingstown High School Newsletter

November 30, 2020

## Administration 2020 - 2021

Principal: [Dr. Barbara Morse](#)

Assistant Principal for Teaching and Learning: [Ms. Shivali Finkelstein](#)

Assistant Principal for Student Services: [Mr. Eric Anderson](#)

Athletic Director: [Mr. Chris Cobain](#)

Dean of Students: [Ms. Kathie DeLuca](#)

## Hello NKHS Educational Community,

NKHS has officially entered quarter two for this school year. This would mean the end of a half credit class or being halfway through a full credit class! Quarter one grades are now posted! We are extremely thankful for our dedicated staff who are continuing to do the hard work of instructing various groups of students ranging from in- person to full distance learning. We are equally proud of our students for persevering through a very different school experience this year. We are always thankful for the support from our parents and community members. Enjoy the updates in this newsletter for this week and have an outstanding holiday!

*Be safe and have a wonderful Thanksgiving from NKHS!*

### [Key](#) \*

*\* NEW information in the newsletter*

*\*\* UPDATED information in the newsletter*

## Important Dates

### December

- 2 Quarter 1 Report Cards Published on ASPEN  
SIT Meeting 2pm
- 7 School Committee Meeting 7pm

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## [News from the Nurse](#)

**Parents** - If you would like to schedule a test for **yourself** and you do **NOT** have symptoms please do so here [portal.ri.gov](https://portal.ri.gov) to self schedule. It may be 3-5 days until you are able to obtain an appointment but let's remember where we were just 7 months ago and feel blessed that testing is available. If you have symptoms of COVID-19 or believe that **you** have been exposed please contact **your** primary care provider to schedule an appointment. Your primary care doctor can most likely schedule you for a test the next day. We **strongly** recommend children be tested at the K-12 site.

I wanted to share the following explainer videos that RIDE and RIDOH have made that do a nice job of defining important components of COVID-19.

[What Are the Different COVID Tests](#)

[Is My Child a Close Contact of Other Students](#)

[What is the Infectious Period](#)

[What is the difference between being in quarantine or isolation](#)

Linda Twardowski  
Certified School Nurse Teacher

## [NKHS Student Recognition](#)


Please congratulate *Dean Balcirak, Ailey Costantino, and Caroline Hirsch* for being named the NKHS nominees for the Presidential Scholar Award. A total of up to 10 males and 10 females will be selected from Rhode Island. The 2021 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion.

Congratulations to *Sophia DeGenova* who has been selected as North Kingstown High School's DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Good Citizen. Sophia earned this prestigious award through her consistent demonstration of her dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism. We wish Sophia well as she represents NKHS in the DAR Good Citizens scholarship contest.

## [NKHS Teacher Recognition \(Updated Monthly\)](#)

### **Brendan Lamboy and Matt Lyons on their work with URI, CS and Govt courses.**

RIDE and College Board are launching an initiative called [Two Codes](#) to advance key educational goals;



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1. Understanding how the U.S Constitution works
  2. How Technology can power solutions to problems facing our world

We would like to recognize Mr. Brendan Lamboy and Mr. Matt Lyons at NKHS for collaborating with the University of Rhode Island on their Government and Computer Science initiatives closely aligned to the two codes partnership. Both educators will be attending remote meetings this fall to integrate and create Computer Science applications to work with Governmental needs. An example would be creating an App that calculates exiting polling results during political elections on a state or local level.

## [Yearbook](#)

### [Purchase Your 2020-21 Yearbook](#)

What a unique year to be at NKHS! Keep the memories of the struggle and perseverance of this year forever in your own copy of the yearbook. Purchase a yearbook now on sale for \$65 at the Jostens website through the link above or you can visit <https://www.jostens.com/>.

## [School Improvement Team \(SIT\) \\*\\*](#)

The School Improvement Team has filled the seats for the board, but anyone who wants to attend is welcome. Everyone's feedback is important! The first meeting which was postponed from November will be on Wednesday, December 2nd from 2:30 - 3:30.

In order to keep the meeting secure from disruptions from online trolls, only those with nksd.net emails, board members, and those who pre-register will be admitted to the meeting. Those who are not on the board or do not have nksd.net emails can register at: <https://forms.gle/9mHdYHfPmvfffSQy9>

## [DECA Fundraiser](#)

Calling all students, parents and faculty! The North Kingstown DECA Business Chapter needs your help! Come in to the Chipotle at **1200 Quaker Ln** in East Greenwich on **Saturday, December 19th** from **5:00pm to 9:00pm**. Bring in [this flyer](#), show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause in order for 33% of the profit to be donated to NK DECA. Online orders are also accepted, using the promo code **L4QAA8L**.

Let's show some love to one of our schools most successful clubs during these difficult times!



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### [From the Student Assistance Program](#)

Mrs. Ferretti, North Kingstown High School Student Assistance Counselor is available for education, support and early intervention for students and their families. Is your student having difficulty coping with social isolation, stress, anxiety, using unhealthy coping skills or using substances as a way to relieve stress?

Mrs. Ferretti is a confidential resource to talk about concerns or stressors, and come up with some concrete ideas and solutions for positive change. Please fill out a referral form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Xc98xMGn1qOYL-BU83fU8COwMpo2yfRIhjobYyOOqAI/edit>  
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Hidden in Plain Sight- an interactive display of providing parents with signs of risky behavior and possible drug use and the tools needed to have constructive conversations

<http://spc-hips.com/>

Please feel free to reach out via phone or email with any questions or concerns

Jaime-Leigh Ferretti, MA  
Student Assistance Counselor  
401-268-6251  
Jaime\_Ferretti@nksd.net


### [Emerging Trends in Youth Vaping: What Schools Need to Know](#)

Rhode Island Student Assistance Services is pleased to present Emerging [Trends in Youth Vaping: What Schools Need to Know](#) , a 7-module, self-paced e-training developed for educators, Student Assistance Counselors, administrators, prevention specialists, and parents.

We are at risk of erasing all of the progress we have made in eradicating youth tobacco use. According to the Youth Risk Behavior Study in 2019, 30% of our high school students are using an electronic vapor product, an e-cigarette! Did you know that young people who have ever used e-cigarettes are 5 times more likely to be diagnosed with Covid-19? And young people who have ever used e-cigarettes plus conventional cigarettes are 7 times more likely to be diagnosed with Covid-19. We are at a critical tipping point, but we can turn this epidemic around through education. Upon completion of pre-test, each module, and post-test participants will earn 3 contact hours.

### [Leave Your Legacy at North Kingstown High School from PTSO Board](#)

The time you've spent at NKHS has provided experiences and memories that will last a lifetime. Commemorate your years as a Skipper with a brick engraved with your custom message. Your



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brick will be installed in the Skipper wheel brick walkway and will become part of the NKHS campus forever.

Do you have a coach, teacher, or mentor whom you'd like to thank? A commemorative brick in their honor is a special and meaningful way to say thank you and is a gift that will bring joy for years to come.

- Celebrate a graduate
- Honor a coach or mentor
- Thank a teacher

The NKHS brick program is run by the PTSO. Your purchase will help fund student programs, classroom needs, and improvements to campus. In addition to celebrating your time as a Skipper, your [brick purchase](#) will help pay it forward to younger students

## [Office of Teaching and Learning](#)

### [PSAT test for all juniors at NKHS January 26, 2020](#)


- Juniors will have the opportunity to take the PSAT test at NKHS on January 26, 2021 during the school day. Ms Finkelstein will send a form to all juniors to register for the test after the Thanksgiving break. Stay tuned!
- Students in grades 9, 10 and 12 will be on distance learning that day.
- All teachers will be involved in proctoring or assisting with the PSAT test that day and will post lessons for students to complete.
- The original day was a B day on the calendar but is now switched due to PSAT as a DL day. Please note of this change to the school calendar

### [Weekend SAT Dates](#)

We will be administering the **Saturday, SAT**'s at North Kingstown High School on the following dates for 2020-2021:

- December 5
- May 8
- June 5

Any student who wishes to take the Saturday SAT must register through the CollegeBoard website, <https://www.collegeboard.org/>.



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If you receive free or reduced lunch, you qualify for a fee waiver. Please contact Ms. Florenz for the information. You may also find additional here: [SAT fee waiver](#)

If you have any questions, please email Ms. Florenz, who is the **Saturday**, SAT coordinator, at [rosemarie\\_florenz@nksd.net](mailto:rosemarie_florenz@nksd.net)

### [Fall Learning Opportunities Directory from RIDE](#)

In an effort to support students and families, RIDE created a “**Fall Learning Opportunities Directory**,” which is an attempt to capture all of the wonderful learning opportunities taking place across the state, compiled into an easily accessible format, and open to **all students** statewide. We hope the following offerings can enhance learning opportunities for students during these unprecedented times. If you have any questions pertaining to the opportunities below, please contact the organization directly. If your organization has any Fall Learning Opportunities not reflected in this directory, please contact Wendy Wallace at [wendy.wallace@ride.ri.gov](mailto:wendy.wallace@ride.ri.gov).

### [CTE Program News for Engineering and Robotics](#)

The Academy of Engineering and Robotics offers students two great after school activities: **NORTH Robotics** and the **Technology Student Association (TSA)** as part of the Career and Technical Student Organizations. We are excited to say that both organizations will be offering virtual competitions later in the year. Any student who is interested in becoming a member of either or both organizations is encouraged to contact Mr. Powell at [richard\\_powell@nksd.net](mailto:richard_powell@nksd.net). For more information please see a brief description of each organization below.

**NORTH Robotics** - Students involved in NORTH Robotics compete in the FIRST Tech Challenge competition each year, a competition where students design and build robots to compete against other teams in a competitive game which is different each year. NORTH Robotics is the largest school associated program in the state and has teams win the state competition each of the last two years to qualify for the World Championships. This year we are meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays afterschool in virtual meetings as we prepare for remote competitions later in the year. You can click on this link to find out more about the FIRST Tech Challenge including information about this year's game.

**Technology Student Organization** - TSA is a student organization aimed at enhancing leadership and career opportunities in the STEAM field (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) by integrating concepts learned in school to extra-curricular competitions and other programs. This year, Rhode Island TSA will be holding Virtual Competitions in categories such as: Computer Aided Design, Engineering and Architectural Design, Coding and Cybersecurity, Photography, and Fashion Design. We will be meeting virtually after school on Wednesdays this year. You can check out this link to find out more about TSA.

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Mr Powell, Science/Engineering Teacher, District STEM Coordinator  
Engineering and Robotics CTE Curriculum Coordinator

### [NK SELAC 2020](#)

NK SELAC is a collaborative partnership group consisting of various North Kingstown Educational community members that strive to enhance the educational experience of our students. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

### [ARC \(ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER\) Message from Mr Silveira](#)

I am happy to announce that ARC, Academic Resource Center, will be starting on October 6th. It will run virtually every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00-3:00pm to help any student who needs help with History, English, Math, Science, and Spanish. In addition, we will have teachers to work with students who may benefit from help with organizational skills and support . Please click [HERE](#) to view the flyer for more information.

Rob Silveira, ARC Coordinator

### [Multimedia and Journalism](#)

The Current Wave is being published solely online this year. The Multimedia Journalism class has been hard at work publishing articles, with some contributions from the COM students. Please check it out at [www.currentwave.org](http://www.currentwave.org).

Thank you to Mrs. Elizabeth Kenworthy for her leadership and guidance to maximize the talent of our students in our Journalism class!

### [Music Department](#)

The CTE Music Academy is working with the Communications Department to keep music performance happening during Covid-19. We are happy to share these videos with our school community.

Since we cannot gather together and commend our talented musicians with applause, we encourage our supporters to send the students an email if you enjoyed what you heard.

We hope to be sharing more in the near future.

Thank you for your support - NKHS Music

["The Avengers' Theme", composed by Alan Silvestri and performed by cellist Carolina Roy carolina\\_roy@students.nksd.net](#)

["My Love" written and performed by Kyle Takata](#)  
[kyle\\_takata@students.nksd.net](mailto:kyle_takata@students.nksd.net)

["Always" by Keshi, performed by Dylan Gentile](#)  
[dylan\\_gentile@students.nksd.net](mailto:dylan_gentile@students.nksd.net)

## [Art News \\*\\*](#)

This week is your last chance to enter the CelebratingArt Contest:

- Submit 1 piece for a chance to be published in this book!
- Due: **December 5th**
- <https://www.celebratingart.com/students>
- Contact [janice\\_strain@nksd.net](mailto:janice_strain@nksd.net) for more information
- OR contact [emily\\_callaghan@nksd.net](mailto:emily_callaghan@nksd.net)
- Ceramics students from the first quarter ----> Don't forget to come pick up any work that is not going into a show and take it home!
- Check out the work on display in the Fine Arts Hallway!





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## Office of Student Services

### Attendance

If you hear a new voice when you call the attendance office it's because Jenny DeBlois has moved to a new position in the IT department. While we will miss her dearly, we have found an outstanding replacement in Kerry Langlois.

If your child cannot attend school on their in-person day, we need to know. Please call the office and we can make a simple note in Aspen. Attendance office contacts are listed below.

- 401-268-6239
- Kerry\_Langlois@nksd.net

We expect your child will attend school on their in-person day. Choosing to attend virtually has a significant impact on the teachers' ability to plan and teach efficiently.

**All students who arrive after 7:15 will need to check in late the Student Services Office**

### Hidden In Plain Sight - A Virtual Tour of A Teenage Bedroom


We normally partner with the Couth County prevention coalition to offer many things. While COVID restrictions have limited what we can do, I was pleased to see a virtual "Hidden in Plain Sight". We normally offer this on parents night.

[Click here](#) for additional information/

[Click here](#) to start your tour.

### \*\*Chromebook Refresh

**New Chromebooks** have been issued to 9th and 10th grade students. If your child has yet to receive their new device, we can assist.



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- In-person learners can stop into the Student Services Office anytime to get their new device.
    - Please bring your old Chromebook and Charger with you.
  - Full time distance learners can pick up their device at the IT building, which is behind the NKHS practice fields.
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### [See Something Say Something](#)

The links below remind students how to anonymously report something they are concerned about. Please share it with them. Given the increase in mental health issues recently, this information has become increasingly more important. [To report something, click here.](#)


Below please find links to instructions for educators to create classes, access and play the recently updated SS-ARS student training videos:

- [Student Training Instructions for IN PERSON viewing \(students in physical classrooms\)](#)
- [Student Training Instructions for DISTANCE viewing \(students at home or in remote location\)](#)
- [Student Training Instructions Video – Helpful Hints \(editing/changing class info\)](#)

There are three (3) versions of the SS-ARS student training video..

1. **Say Something - ARS: Core Training** (for students who have Not been previously trained in SS-ARS and will view video in-person with teacher present)
2. **Say Something – ARS: Refresher** (for students who were previously trained in SS-ARS during the 2019-20 school year and will view video in-person with teacher present)
3. **Say something – ARS: Distance Learning** (for students who will view video from their home/remotely)

### [\\*Blood Drive](#)

- December 8/9th in the back gymnasium
  - Only students and staff can participate
  - RIBC has very strict COVID safety protocols
  - More information to come...
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# [Guidance Department](#)

## [NKHS School Counselor Caseloads 2020-2021](#)

### **[Grade 10 and 11 Guidance Department Lessons - November 18th and 19th - 1pm](#)**

School counselors facilitated virtual lessons to grade 10 and 11 students as part of their ILP (Individualized Learning Plan) last Wednesday and Thursday. Topics that were covered include graduation requirements, academic plans, and post high school planning. All students were expected to attend on their designated day (see below).

Group B Students: Wednesday, November 18 at 1pm

Group A Students: Thursday, November 19 at 1pm

### **[Grade 9 Guidance Department Lessons - November 4th and 5th - 1pm](#)**

School counselors facilitated virtual lessons to grade 9 students as part of their ILP (Individualized Learning Plan) this Wednesday and Thursday. Topics that will be covered include graduation requirements, academic plans, linking academic plans to possible majors/careers. All grade 9 students were expected to attend on their designated day (see below).

Group B Students: Wednesday, November 4 at 1pm

Group A Students: Thursday, November 5 at 1pm

### **[College Application Virtual Drop-In Sessions](#)**

A school counselor will be available every Wednesday from 1:00 - 1:45 to help students with their College Applications. Students can drop in to the session via a google meeting link shared on the Class of 2021 Guidance Google Classroom.

### **[Virtual College Visits](#)**

College admissions representatives meet with our students to share information and answer questions about their college/university and the specifics of their application process. See the calendars below for the list of participating schools and the link to join the session.

\*\*[November Virtual College Visits and other virtual college fairs/open houses](#)



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[\\*\\*Decemember Virtual College Visits and other virtual college fairs/open houses](#)

### College Application Deadlines

Seniors are asked to notify their school counselor of an upcoming college application deadline two weeks in advance in order for the counselor to process and submit their portion of the application on time. Please see the table below for notification deadlines. An invitation to the student's common application account and selection of a decision plan is considered proper notification.

Application Deadline	Counselor Notification Deadline
December 1, 2020	November 10, 2020
December 15, 2020	December 1, 2020
January 1, 2021	December 7, 2020
January 15, 2021	December 23, 2020
February 1, 2021	January 15, 2021
March 1, 2021	February 5, 2021


**Monday, November 30 6pm - 7pm - [College Financial Aid Virtual Workshop](#) hosted by Senator Jack Reed.** This is a free workshop for students and families interested in learning more about the college financial aid process.

### FASFA Assistance

[RISLA's College Planning Center](#) has been providing "free" FAFSA completion assistance since 1998 and would like to get their appointment calendar filled early so they can help as many families as possible.

Plan ahead and [book your appointment](#) today. Appointments are free and available 7 days a week. [Spanish](#) speaking counselors available upon request.

[Click this link](#) for a list of items you will need to have on hand for your appointment(s).



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## Scholarship Opportunities

### \* Hispanic Heritage Foundation's (HHF) 2020 Youth Awards

The deadline for the Hispanic Heritage Foundation's (HHF) 2020 Youth Awards educational grants program is Sunday, December 6th! Senior Hispanic/Latino students are encouraged to apply.

The 22nd Annual Youth Awards will award students with up to \$1000 to fund their higher education or a community-based project. Recipients will be selected for their accomplishments in the classroom, community and for their excellence in various educational categories. Recipients will also be celebrated in virtual ceremonies.

Students can apply at [www.hfyouthawards.com](http://www.hfyouthawards.com).

## Athletics, PTSO, Clubs, Activities, Etc...

### Athletics

- Governor announces a pause from 11/30 to 12/13
  - **Winter Sport Registration is open!!!**
1. Athletics is asking everyone to upload a copy of your updated physical.(this is new)  
When you login to your family account there is a column that allows you to update your physical on file for each of your athletes. (take a picture of the front page and upload or scan into PDF and upload)
  2. Winter sports start date TBD....Stay Tuned!
  3. All student athletes need to submit a hard copy of the NEW Assumption of Risk form signed and notarized for this school year. Fall athletes that have submitted do not need to resubmit.

(RIIL mandate)Assumption of Risk Link below

[https://www.riil.org/sites/riil.org/files/files/Private\\_User/ri/Assumption%20of%20Risk%202020%20-%20NEW.pdf](https://www.riil.org/sites/riil.org/files/files/Private_User/ri/Assumption%20of%20Risk%202020%20-%20NEW.pdf)

Athletic Director: Chris Cobain ([christopher\\_cobain@nksd.net](mailto:christopher_cobain@nksd.net)) 401-268-6281



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## [NKHS Booster Club](#)

Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday, December, 7 2020 at 7:00PM. The meeting will be a Zoom call - if you would like to attend, please reach out to [NKBoosterClub@gmail.com](mailto:NKBoosterClub@gmail.com) for the link.

### **Ways to Support Athletics:**

**1) Join the Booster Club!** The easiest way to support the athletics programs is to become a member of the Booster Club. There are 3 levels of membership with special rates this year due to our abbreviated seasons. Follow the link below to purchase your membership! Any blankets purchased with your order will be delivered to your address. Membership cards will be mailed. **Parents of senior athletes - memberships purchased by December 31, 2020, allows your senior athlete to apply for a Booster Scholarship in the spring.**

<https://north-gear.square.site>

**2) HOLIDAY POP-UP SHOP!** Order gear for the holidays by December 6 - free shipping direct to you on orders over \$50! Follow the link:

<https://cholliecaps.com/collections/nkhs-holiday-pop-up-store>

**3) Follow Boosters on social media for the latest sports information:**

**Facebook:** North Kingstown Athletics Booster Club (NKBoosterClub)

**Instagram:** nkboosterclub

**Twitter:** @ NKBoosterClub

@NoKingstownHS (NK Athletics Twitter account)

**4) Any varsity athletes looking to order a letterman jacket?** Reach out to Boosters ([NKboosterclub@gmail.com](mailto:NKboosterclub@gmail.com)) by November 30. We will be setting up a specific date / time for you to come and place your orders but we need to know the level of interest in order to keep the number of people appropriate on the order day(s).

**5) Winter sports registration is open!** All athletes (new and returning) must complete a new Assumption of Risk Form (unless you handed one in for a fall sport). Follow the link to register:

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<https://northkingstownhs.rschooteams.com>

6) Send Boosters any pictures from the fall or throwback winter sports as we gear up for the next season - we love to share on social media! Send to: [GetsocialNK@gmail.com](mailto:GetsocialNK@gmail.com)

## **PTSO**

Looking to give back? Here are a few ways your support can help us:

1. Stop and Shop's A+ Rewards Program, register your card with North Kingstown High School ID #06982. Follow the links below for instructions in English and Spanish. Don't forget, your friends and family can support us as well.

[Stop and Shop A+ Welcome/Supporter letter \(English/Spanish\)](#)

[Stop and Shop A+ How to sign up \(English/Spanish\)](#)

Or visit our [website](#) found under the Parents tab on the NKHS page

2. Make a difference while you shop, simply shop at [smile.amazon.com/ch/27-2188788](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-2188788) or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app and AmazonSmile donates to NKHS PTSO.

3. The NKHS PTSO offers a simple way for parents to support our programs via a **tax deductible** donation. Our direct donation drive provides the majority of the funding for the PTSO- last year our donations were spent on teacher grants and staff appreciation. For further financial information please visit our website-from the NKHS school page, go to the parents tab then select PTSO or email us at [nkhsptso1901@gmail.com](mailto:nkhsptso1901@gmail.com)

Please consider [donating to help](#) us continue providing funds for our grant program.

Join us on Facebook for updates: search groups for "NKHS PTSO".

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