

North Kingstown High School Newsletter

December 21, 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,

While this is a short week for NKHS heading into the break, we are thankful for having our students and teachers in our building. While many schools and communities have had to shut down their buildings this week, we feel fortunate to be able to keep our doors open. We hope that everyone can have a productive short learning week and then enjoy the break with loved ones. This will be a challenging holiday season for many. Let this challenging time be an opportunity for us as a community to be there for each other and lets us think of something we can do for someone else during this crisis that may help them find some brightness in their lives. Have a great holiday season! Enjoy the quote below from Will Rogers



In time of crisis people want
to know that you care, more
than they care what you know.

Will Rogers

quotefancy

[Key *](#)

<i>* NEW information in the newsletter</i>
<i>** UPDATED information in the newsletter</i>

Important Dates - [December Calendar](#)

December

24 No School - Holiday Break Begins (12/24 - 1/3)

Statewide standards and curriculum for RI History and Social Studies

Our RIDE Student Advisory Board representative, Alexa Mitchell, has asked us to provide the link below to a survey regarding the student subcommittee work regarding RI History and social studies standards for curriculum across the state. Community input is very important in this work, so all are invited to participate in the survey. The survey closes on December 21st.

[RI History and Social Studies Standards Survey](#)

[Holiday Blessings](#)

Click above to see how you can support the students of North Kingstown this holiday season

[Blessings in a Backpack update*](#)


Change in Distribution Sites starting 1/7/21 - [click here](#) for more information.

[News from the Nurse*](#)

Dear Parent/Guardians and NKHS Community,

While NKSD is experiencing a short pause for in person learning, please know that the school nurses are available for any health related issues during this time.

Even though NKSD will be in full distance learning days for the week of January 4 through January 8th, school nurses will continue to monitor the COVID cases including quarantine time



for students and staff. We are also available to provide guidance to families and staff if needed. The contact for your school nurse is listed below. Please continue to inform us of any positive COVID cases or quarantine requirements of your household.

Quarantine Update -

We would like to stress that the RIDOH recommends Day 5 as the earliest day to get a test after a known exposure. A person may return to school after a 7 day quarantine period if they test on or after day 5 and have a negative result. Regardless of quarantine time continued symptom monitoring for full 14 days is required.

Attached is the quarantine update from RIDOH for further clarification: [REOPENING RI\](#)

Also attached is the quarantine calculator to determine quarantine time.

<https://www.ri.gov/search/result.php?q=quarantine%20calculator>

TRAVEL QUARANTINE REMAINS AT 14 DAYS AFTER YOU RETURN FROM A "HOTSPOT." PLEASE COMMUNICATE WITH ME SO THAT WE CAN HAVE YOUR CHILD RETURN SAFELY TO SCHOOL. YOU CAN NOT TEST OUT OF THE 14 DAY QUARANTINE!

Please remember that NKSD requires students and staff to quarantine if traveling to a hotspot. A negative test for COVID-19 does not eliminate the need to quarantine. Please let us know so that we can work with you and your student. The list of travel restrictions are updated weekly, here is the link to the most recent listing: [States with travel restrictions upon entry to Rhode Island.](#)

K-12 Testing Update -

Staff and children now have the option to **self-schedule** appointments at designated K-12 testing sites online through portal.ri.gov. K-12 tests can also continue to be scheduled through the test scheduling service at 844-857-1814, 7:30am - 9:30pm. The K-12 testing program continues to be reserved for students and staff who are symptomatic, close contacts, or classmates of a positive case. K-12 testing sites and other important information can be found on this RIDOH page [COVID Testing K-12](#)

We know that family gatherings have looked different this year, we know that some of you have lost loved ones this year, the sacrifices have been tough and seemed endless. The NK nurses are hopeful for the New Year, we have been receiving the exciting news of medical staff we know personally receiving the vaccine and we look forward to stepping up and getting our vaccine as soon as it is available to us.

We eagerly anticipate welcoming students back to in person learning as soon as safely possible.

Ring in 2021, Yes, Please! Stay safe and healthy,

Linda Twardowski

phone: 401- 268-6279, fax; 401-268-6517, email: linda_twardowski@nksd.net

[NKHS Student Recognition](#)

[All-State Music](#)

Please join us in congratulating the following musicians for their acceptance in the 2021 All-State Music Ensembles. Our students auditioned virtually this year and we are excited to share that 51 students were accepted with 11 being ranked #1 on their part. We are very proud of all of those who auditioned under these challenging circumstances.

Jr. Band: Zachary DiBiase (alto sax #1), Ellie Clark (alto sax), Quinn O'Connell (trumpet)

Jr. Jazz Band: Quinn Kennedy - trumpet (#1), Luke Laplante* (trumpet)

Jr. Mixed Chorus: Sophia Jones* (soprano #1), Amanda Birkett (alto #1), Addison Ralphs (soprano)

Sr. Band: Layne O'Connell (bass clarinet #1), Aroo Jang (flute), Eva Junge* (trumpet), Julia Totten (flute), Kyle Takata* (tenor sax), Mackenzie North (mallets), Nicole Oldmeadow (oboe)

Sr. Jazz Band: Dan Ventura (piano #1), Kyle Takata* (tenor sax #1), Eva Junge* (trumpet)

Sr. Orchestra: Carolina Roy* (cello #1), Audrey Voccio* (double bass), Breanna Sheahan-Nguyen* (cello), Jacob Gagnon (violin), Jillian Blaser (viola), Joey Confessore (double bass), Lily Prescott (violin), Maris Leese (viola), Peyton Barlow (double bass), Rachel Tagen (violin), Virginia Martin* (violin)

Sr. Mixed Chorus: Alex Davis* (tenor #1), Alison Birkitt (soprano), Andrew Kardos* (tenor), Anna Blaser (soprano), Charles Burke (tenor), Chelsea Gartland (alto), Emma Donnelly* (soprano), Isabella Rocheleau* (soprano), Kasha Bissell* (alto), Keturah Blaser* (soprano), Lauren Thole (alto), Mackenzie North (alto), Madison Pella-Sabourin (alto), Michael Vento (tenor)

Sr. Treble Chorus: Molly Wren* (soprano #1), Caleigh Pearce* (alto #1), Alexa Johnsen* (soprano), Ashley Powers (alto), Cassidy Snyder (soprano), Haley Roeske (alto), Haven Hardie* (alto), Kylie Shea (soprano), Kyra Tougas* (soprano)

*Denotes Music Academy CTE students

[Presidential Scholar Award](#)

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.

[DAR Good Citizen](#)

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.

[Yearbook](#)

Yearbook Senior Ads:

A senior ad is a space in the yearbook that you can purchase and very easily personalize for your graduate. It's a unique way to honor your student and make them feel special. A student ad can include photos, memories, and a message from you that your graduate will have forever. The deadline for purchasing an ad for your senior is **Friday, January 29th**.

[Purchase a Student Advertisement](#)

[Buy A Brick](#)

Commemorate your years as a Skipper with a custom engraved brick. Your brick will be installed in the Skipper wheel brick walkway and will become part of the NKHS campus forever.

<https://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/nkhsbricks>

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



We would like to recognize **Ms Wendy Valente** for taking the initiative on a new opportunity offered by URI for NKHS Computer Science students to receive URI credits. NKHS can now offer college credit in partnership with URI for AP Computer Science Principles, AP Computer Science A, and Cybersecurity courses. If students earn a grade of C or higher, they receive 4 transferable college credits. Our students now have the opportunity to leave high school with 12 computer science college credits. This program is free for RI public high schools through the PrepareRI initiative. (Private schools must pay \$340 per student per class.)

Ms Valente contacted NKHS Administration in April 2020 when this opportunity was released by URI. She attended the workshops to learn about this initiative and has put processes in place for this to be a reality for our students. Ms Valente volunteered to attend all workshops required by URI to keep our partnership with URI. We are so thankful for her enthusiasm and dedication for our students.

[From the Student Assistance Program](#)

Jaime-Leigh 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: Students Form: <https://forms.gle/SG5LBhMFMtFpp7jDA>

Parents Form: <https://forms.gle/G895LYHYDD9cwp5Q6>

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 or Jaime_Ferretti@nksd.net



Office of Teaching and Learning

Virtual open house for 8th Grade students and families **

NKHS held a virtual open house from 6pm to 7.30pm on Thursday December 17, 2020. We want to thank our department chairs and teachers that facilitated informational sessions. We also want to thank students and families that participated that night. If you were unable to attend or have additional questions, feel free to use the document below to reach out to the appropriate department chairs. Appendix A has links to contact information for each department.

Please click this link to review information pertaining to [8th grade virtual open house for NKHS on Dec 17, 2020](#)

RTI (Response to Intervention) process during Pandemic to mitigate learning loss

Administration at NKHS took a deep dive into the quarter one performance data on our students. We found a significant correlation between students that are failing that are not physically in front of their teacher and peers interacting and learning on a regular basis. We understand that the realities of the Pandemic has prevented our students from receiving a consistent structured access to school that helps maximize their learning. However, we must still recognize that school is continuing through this Pandemic and the best we can do is put all our efforts and resources into providing students with the utmost support we can as educators to mitigate learning loss for our students. Administration has take the following steps to continue to support student learning;

- 1) Administration, School counselors and support staff will schedule meetings with students, families, teachers as needed for students that are presenting significant grade or attendance concerns. The purpose of these meetings will be to identify current barriers to student success, and to work with families on how to provide necessary support that will lead to improvement.
- 2) Ms Finkelstein will continue to process requests for families that may want to switch their student from full distance learning to hybrid model. Please email her if you plan on making the switch (shivali_finkelstein @nksd.net)
- 3) In an effort to increase student engagement, we are asking all students to leave their cameras on during their virtual attendance for the duration of the class unless otherwise

authorized by their teacher. Google Meets have added a new feature so students can blur or add a background to maintain privacy of their home environments. If student cameras are broken on their school issued device, please contact Ms Rowland in the media center for assistance to get it fixed as soon as possible.

If students wish to hide their backgrounds, they may follow the instructions below:

- How to Blur Your Background on Zoom:
<https://nerdschalk.com/how-to-blur-your-background-on-zoom/>
 - Change Your Background in Google Meet:
<https://support.google.com/meet/answer/10058482?co=GENIE.Platform%3DiOS&hl=en>
- 4) This data has also been shared with our instructional leadership team and our teachers for further discussions and reflections on how we can as educators continue to support our students to the best of our abilities.
 - 5) We also encourage our students to advocate for their needs, reach out to their teachers with questions, continue to participate, meet deadlines, assume responsibility for their own learning and use resources that will help them become independent learners.

[PSAT test for all juniors at NKHS January 26, 2021](#)

NKHS will host PSAT for juniors on January 26, 2021. Juniors interested in taking the test must;

- 1) Complete [THIS](#) form by December 22, 2020. Students must use their NKSD email to access this form. External emails will not work
- 2) Pay \$20 to cover the cost of the test. Please pay in an envelope with a check made out to North Kingstown High School. The check can be dropped off outside the guidance office starting 12/14/2020 until 01/6/2021. You may hand the check to a staff member (Ms Finkelstein or Ms Tetreault) before or after school everyday for the dates given above. Please put student first and last name on the envelope with subject line of PSAT Jan 26, 2021

[Deadline to fill in the online registration form is 12/22/20. Deadline to pay for the test is 1/6/21](#)

If you have any questions, contact Ms Finkelstein via email (shivali_finkelstein@nksd.net)

[Opportunity from URI](#)

The University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography (GSO) is holding a competition to rename its new research vessel.

<https://web.uri.edu/gso/research-vessel-name/>

The deadline for entries is **December 31, 2020.**



To learn more about the research vessel, including classroom activities click [here](#).

[Catch with the Coach](#)

Click [HERE](#) to watch the 4th inning of Catch with the Coach with our NK Buddies President and Senior Caroline Hirsch.

Courtesy - Coach Quinn and Mr Aaron Thomas

[Art News **](#)

Art news with Ms. Callahan and Mrs. Strain...

Click [here](#) to enjoy art work by Art 1, 2 and 3 classes

[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](#)

Academic Resource Center started October 6th. It runs 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

[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

[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.

- 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.

Having issues with a Chromebook during the pause?

Enter a helpdesk ticket via email: DL_helpdesk@nksd.net

[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:

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- [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)

[EdOC bulletin](#)

On behalf of the RI Education Operations Center, please [click here](#) to find their Back-To-School Bulletin dated Dec. 9, 2020.


Inside, you'll find information regarding how to protect students and others from COVID-related identity theft, along with travel guidance.

[Just receive your license and need parking?](#)

Juniors, [click here](#) to fill out your application

Seniors, [click here](#) to fill out your application

Once your child has filled out the form, bring a copy of their license, registration, and proof of insurance to the student services office. We will provide a sticker and a spot number.



Guidance Department

NKHS School Counselor Caseloads 2020-2021

****Teacher Recommendations**

Believe it or not, we are beginning the scheduling process for the 2021/2022 school year. Teacher recommendations for semester 1 core courses are published on ASPEN and will be viewable until January 15. Semester two teachers will make recommendations in March.

Students will have the opportunity to override a semester one teacher's recommendation. Override forms for semester one recommendations will be due January 15. We advise students to be cautious about overriding a teacher's recommendation. Teachers take into consideration their observations of each student as a learner and the expectations in the next sequential course when making recommendations.

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.

****There will be no drop-in session 12/23/2020.***

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
January 1, 2021	December 7, 2020
January 15, 2021	December 23, 2020
February 1, 2021	January 15, 2021
March 1, 2021	February 5, 2021

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).

***Scholarship Opportunities for Class of 2022**



The [College Board Opportunity Scholarships](#) are now open for class of 2022 students. The program lays out six simple steps that all students can take to get to college.

For the class of 2022, the College Board Opportunity Scholarships program will help even more students plan for college, address affordability concerns, and connect them with other scholarship opportunities. Here are a few key changes to the program for the class of 2022:

- More than 7,000 students will earn a scholarship each year, nearly double the number of winners in previous years.
- All scholarship steps for the class of 2022 will be awarded for the same amount: \$500. The Complete Your Journey award will remain \$40,000.
- There's a new Explore Scholarships step to help students find scholarship opportunities that may be a good fit for them. And there's a simplified Practice for the SAT® step that will guide students to begin personalized SAT practice just for them.

At least half of all the scholarships—over \$2 million each year—are awarded to students whose families [earn less than \\$60,000 per year](#).

We encourage you to share this information with your juniors and have them [sign up](#) for the program. Their first step is to make a starter list of six colleges they're interested in, for a chance at \$500.

[Athletics, PTSO, Clubs, Activities, Etc...](#)

[Athletics](#)

- Winter sports **Postponed**....Stay Tuned for **New Start Date** and Tryout schedule!

-
- Approved Sports for winter season: B/G Basketball, B/G Swim, B/G Indoor track, B/G Hockey, Gymnastics
 - **Postponed Winter Sports:** Cheer and Wrestling
 - **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. 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

Athletic Director: Chris Cobain (christopher_cobain@nksd.net) 401-268-6281

[NKHS Booster Club](#)

Our December Booster meeting will be tomorrow night, Tuesday, December 8th at 7:00pm. The meeting will be a Zoom call - if you would like to attend, please reach out to 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) 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)

3) 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:

<https://northkingstownhs.rschooteams.com>

4) 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

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 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

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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