

North Kingstown High School Newsletter

March 15, 2021

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,

[Message from Dr Auger](#)

Over the last few days, we were notified by RIDOH of eight COVID positive students cases at North Kingstown High School. While we do not know if any of these cases constitute an in school transmission of the virus, it is also something we cannot rule out. While it is good that the cases are not within one classroom, bus, or team, this also means that the contact tracing and the number of close proximity students and staff who need to quarantine is at over 100. We believe a pause this week by moving the HS to Distance Learning will cover the quarantine time needed to bring our students and staff safely by Monday the 22nd. Please stay vigilant about social distancing, wearing masks, and washing hands in your daily interactions. This will help us to return to normalcy sooner rather than later. See schedule for this week of DL

Monday, March 15:

Professional Development Day. All students have **asynchronous** distance learning.

Tuesday, March 16 - Friday, March 19:

All students **synchronously** distance learn from 7:15 am to 12:50 pm.

Quote of the week!*

"You can still make something beautiful and something powerful out of a really bad situation"

Gabe Grunewald

Key *

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

Important Dates -

March - [Calendar](#) (CLICK HERE)

- 15 PD Day for teachers - Distant Learning for all students
- 16 - 19 All NKHS students Distant Learning
- 23 School Committee Meeting 7pm

April

- 1 PTSO Meeting 7pm
- 2 No School - Good Friday
- 5 Booster Club Meeting 7pm
- 13 School Committee Meeting 7pm
- 14 Grades 10 & 11 PSAT/SAT
Grades 9 & 12 Distant Learning
- 19 - 23 Spring Recess



[News from the Nurse*](#)

Welcome Daylight Saving Time

Things are changing every day and hopefully soon we will be able to move about more and more as the weather improves.

New travel guidance:

Going forward and until further notice, NKSD will follow the guidelines below based on the 3-5-21 executive order for domestic travel from Governor McKee. This will apply to all staff and students of NKSD. If you have questions about this new district protocol, please contact your school nurse. As we approach April break, our nurses will provide specific instructions for reporting negative tests (if needed) following travel.

NKSD Protocol for Return from Domestic Travel:

Any person returning to NKSD from locations with a high community spread rate as set forth on a list maintained by RIDOH at <https://covid.ri.gov/> must immediately self-quarantine for 10 days unless one of the following exemptions applies:

- a. the person obtains a negative COVID-19 test result from a specimen taken after arrival in Rhode Island; or
- b. the person (i) has received the final dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccination series no more than 90 days and at least 14 days prior to the date of the person's arrival in Rhode Island and (ii) is asymptomatic upon arrival in Rhode Island; or
- c. the person (i) was tested positive for COVID-19 from a specimen taken no more than 90 days prior to the date of the person's arrival in Rhode Island, (ii) had no COVID-19 symptoms previously, (iii) completed the isolation requirement in accordance with Executive Order 21-17 or its successor, and (iv) is asymptomatic upon arrival in Rhode Island.

The full executive order:

<https://governor.ri.gov/documents/https://governor.ri.gov/documents/orders/Executive-Order-21-22.pdf/Executive-Order-21-22.pdf>



Vaccines:

As many of you may know, school staff were vaccinated at the high school on Saturday- one more sign of progress. They will complete the series on Good Friday April 2nd. Many thanks to all the volunteers that made it happen.

Thank you for your continued support,
Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Linda Twardowski, Certified School Nurse Teacher

P: 401-268-6279, Email: linda_twardowski@nksd.net

PTSO

Next Meeting **Thursday, April 1 at 7pm**

The PTSO is in the early stages of planning Teacher/Staff Appreciation week. This year our goal is to reach all 163 staff and faculty members. They have given us so much of their care, concern, time, and patience, let's show them how grateful we are. If you would like to assist in making this possible please contact nkhsptso1901@gmail.com.

Looking to give back? Here is how you can help:

1. 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.
2. 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.



[NKHS Booster Club](#)

Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for tonight, **Monday, April 5, 2021 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 had to be purchased by December 31, 2020, in order for your senior athlete to apply for a Booster Scholarship.**

<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)


[NKHS Musical](#)

The NKHS Music Department will be digitally presenting the musical "Jekyll & Hyde" this spring. If you are interested in auditioning for the show please join the Musical google classroom for information on how to submit a preliminary audition. Here is the join code info:

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MjUzMjUwMjM2NzA4?cjc=6c5fj5r>

[Mason Tours:](#)

For 2202, we are off on a brand new adventure. June 28th - July 6th, 2022...we will explore NEW ZEALAND 🇳🇿: The Southern Island Trek on an exciting 10 day trip. Email Ms. Mason for daily itinerary & more details.



[Yearbook](#)

The NKHS 2021 yearbook will document an incredibly unique year together! Purchase your student's yearbook here: www.jostensyearbooks.com

Please feel free to email Ms. Holcroft with any yearbook-related questions at leslie_holcroft@nksd.net.

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

Thank You Mr Czabanowski, Mr Albenaz, and Ms Tavano for a successful first spirit week. This past week we had NKHS Trivia night and Amongst us game night. They worked hard and facilitated character day, Out of this world day, and Skipper Pride. Wednesday night was Disney Trivia night and later on the week, they will announce the Class of 2021 Skipper Supreme. Follow @NKHSstudentcouncil

[NKHS student recognitions **](#)


Mixed Chorus Project

Click [HERE](#) to view the performance of our very talented Mixed Chorus Class. Thank you to Ms Caiazza for sharing their amazing work with everyone.

NKHS students participating in DECA Career Development Conference

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about DECA - 83 NKHS students have begun competing in their chosen industry events since last Monday after preparing for months - today Rhode Island DECA distributed the CDC kickoff video (27 minutes) Click this [link](#). They are completing their exam phase then on to role plays/case study responses/ presentations and written projects (i.e. Start Up Business Plans). NKHS students have exceeded membership to become the largest chapter in RI - especially given this year's International Conference and Competitions won't be in Anaheim. This just shows the professionalism of our students here in NK. The future looks bright!

Thank you to **Mr Richard Garland** (Business CTE teacher at NKHS) for updating us with this information and he will update us with winners who move on to compete internationally and virtually in April.



Office of Teaching and Learning

School Day SAT and PSAT for Spring 2021 *

- SAT for Juniors and PSAT for Sophomores will be held at NKHS on Wednesday April 14, 2021
- All students attending NKHS are automatically registered through the State of RI
- This test is provided to all students by RIDE at no charge
- More details on testing schedule, testings rooms, etc to follow

See message below from RIDE on testing

Public School Students: It is expected that students attending public school in Rhode Island will participate in the required tests for their current grade level. Public school students are expected to participate in the PSAT 10 administration in grade 10, and the SAT School Day or the alternate assessments in grade 11.

For more information Click [HERE](#)


Parents please Click [HERE](#) for student privacy letter from Collegeboard in regards to testing

Practice Resources for students

[SAT Practice at Khan Academy](#) offers College Board-approved practice activities for students preparing for the PSAT and SAT.

AP Exam Schedule Options due to Pandemic **

NKHS AP Administrators and Coordinators conducted a thorough survey after the college board released AP testing options for students for May 2021 testing. We collected feedback from AP teachers and students on the various options ranging from dates to formats (digital or paper pencil). We have incorporated all the feedback to the best of our abilities to create a schedule to provide the best testing conditions for our students. Please click [HERE](#) for the schedule to view the date and venue for the tests. Please note that every test listed on this schedule is paper and pencil.




If you have any concerns with the dates for your test, please contact Ms Leslie Buckley (leslie_buckley@nksd.net) or Ms Beth Caromile (bethany_caromile@nksd.net)

One very important factor that was taken into consideration was a restrictive format within the digital exam which would prevent the student from going back to previous questions and also prevent students from reviewing their answers. The inability to review, correct or make changes within the test puts students using the digital format at a disadvantage.

If you have any general questions or concerns about the schedule created, please feel free to contact me directly at shivali_finkelstein@nksd.net

[RIDE Seeking Advisory Group Members for Health Education Framework Review *](#)

RIDE is contracting with the RI Healthy Schools Coalition and Cairn Guidance to facilitate the process of review and revision of the current [Health Literacy for All: The Rhode Island Health Education Framework](#). Health education curriculum, adopted at the local level, must be aligned with the RI Health Education Framework and associated Comprehensive Health Instructional Outcomes and is required for all RI K-12 students. The revised Framework will be rooted in standards aligned with the National Health Education Standards and emphasize a skills-based approach to health education where health topics and content provide context for the critical development of skills, competence and motivation needed to lead a healthy life. Stakeholders (K-12 Health Teachers, Curriculum Directors, Parents, Students, School Nurse Teachers, School Committee Members, Higher Ed HPE, Community Non-Profits & State Agencies) are invited to **learn more and apply for membership to the Advisory Group by completing [THIS FORM](#) by March 8, 2021**. Stakeholder advisory members will commit to participating in two virtual public meetings on **Tuesday, March 23 and Wednesday, May 19 from 3:30 – 5:00 PM**, to inform and guide the review process.



[Message from RI Commissioner of Education- Support for students during Pandemic](#)

The pandemic has impacted every aspect of our lives, in particular, student learning. Fortunately, there's a solution available to help struggling students catch up, and it's been around for millennia: tutoring.

RIDE is excited to announce this week an innovative partnership with Sal Khan, founder of Khan Academy and Schoolhouse.world. [Schoolhouse.world](#) is a new online platform from Sal Khan, the founder of Khan Academy, that matches students around the world with free tutors. The tutors provide small-group math and SAT prep tutoring for students in grades 6-12, building on the Khan Academy curriculum. Rhode Island is one of two state-level partnerships offering this opportunity to students across the state. Registration is now live on the All Course Network (ACN) and [students can sign up here on EnrollRI](#). There is no deadline for students to sign up (though schools will still need to approve their enrollment via the ACN), no cost to LEAs or students, and no requirement to participate. Please help us spread the word to your students, teachers, parents, and communities! [More information on the partnership can be found here.](#)

Students can sign up for these free tutoring opportunities, along with SAT prep courses through RIDE's recently launched [#EnrollRI platform](#).

[Progress Report Dates](#)

We have added some additional progress report dates to enhance our communication of grades. See important dates below


Progress Report Dates for quarter 3 : **March 10 and March 31 2021**

Quarter 3 ends on **April 13 and grades are due April 27 2021**

Quarter 4 starts **April 14, 2021**

Progress Report Dates for quarter 4: **May 7 and May 28 2021**

Semester 2/ quarter 4 ends on **June 23, 2021**



[FREE after School Program for High School Students Interested in Careers in the Arts](#)

FirstWorks after school pilot program through RIDE's All Course Network, Behind the Curtain, introduces viable professions in the arts to high school students. Instructors include actress Lynnette Freeman, musician Kim Trusty, singer Becky Bass, director Patricia Hawkrige, actor/director/theatre manager Ricardo Pitts-Wiley, make-up and wigmaker Amber Voner, Renaissance Dance with Catherine Bodner, dance improv with nikki lee, stage design with architect Caitlin Dippo, lighting design with Amanda Motta, Props Master Michael Getz, festival curation with Chachi Carvalho, arts management with Lisa Utman Randall, cruise ship stage management with Jan Melzer Thomas, and auditioning tips with Tyla Collier. All of the instructors have a connection to Rhode Island; some were born here, others moved here, but all make a living working in the arts!

Please share this registration link with your high school students and any parents or educators who know interested high school students: <http://first-works.org/education/behind-the-curtain/>

[Catch with the Coach **](#)

Click [HERE](#) to watch the 6th inning of Catch with the Coach with our Senior Isabella DeGregory Courtesy - Coach Quinn

[Fine Arts News **](#)

Art competitions below to enter for ALL NKHS students!

You can't win if you don't enter!

If interested email janice_strain@nksd.net or emily_callaghan@nksd.net

CelebratingArt is now open for artwork digital submissions Due April 1st

<https://www.celebratingart.com/students> It is Free to enter but you can only submit one piece!

[Lindsay Ann Burke Poster Contest](#)

All entries must be brought to room 133 by April 1st **Pick up the paper for this show in room 133!**

Click [HERE](#) to view the New Virtual Art Gallery Show titled: "Lion VS Lamb"



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

Academic Resource Center runs virtually every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00-3:00pm. It's 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

SurveyWorks!

The Rhode Island Department of Education is administering its yearly SurveyWorks Family Survey, which is an opportunity for parents/guardians to provide feedback about their child's school and learning environment. The survey results are most useful when all parents/guardians participate, so your participation is valued very much.

Responses are anonymous and cannot be linked to any individual.

Additionally, students in grades 3-12 will have the opportunity to give feedback about their learning environment. There will be no sensitive questions about drug and alcohol abuse and sexual activity. NKHS students will complete their surveys during Advisory on March 3rd (A-day) and March 4th (B-day). Full-time distance learners will also complete the survey on their respective day but from home.

To see sample surveys, visit SurveyWorks at [Surveyworks.ride.ri.gov](https://surveyworks.ride.ri.gov). As in previous years, all surveys are anonymous and taking the survey is voluntary. The topics include School Safety, School Climate, Valuing of School, & Rigorous Expectations.


All surveys are available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

To access the Family Survey for North Kingstown High School, please visit the following website and choose North Kingstown High School from the dropdown menu:

<http://bit.ly/ridefamily>

If you have more than one student enrolled at NKHS, you only need to complete one survey. However, if your students' experiences are different, you are more than welcome to complete separate surveys for each student.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. The results of these surveys help us tremendously as we plan for future improvements and initiatives, and we greatly appreciate your support!



[Attendance](#)

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/Tech Issues**](#)

Having issues with a Chromebook?

If you're a full time distance learner, enter a helpdesk ticket via email: DL_helpdesk@nksd.net. The IT help desk will respond to you in a responsible amount of time.

On your in person day, you can also bring your Chromebook to the media center for repairs. Our media specialist, Mrs. Rowland, can assist you. *We can now loan you a Chromebook while yours is out for repair.*


[License and Parking Information](#)

Need a parking spot?

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.



[Strengthening Families Program **](#)

The SFP curriculum is an 11-week virtual course with 90-minute sessions designed for families with children 7-17. Parents learn to increase desired behaviors in children by using attention and rewards, clear communication, effective discipline, substance use education, problem solving and limit setting. Children learn effective communication, understanding feelings, social skills, problem solving, resisting peer pressure, consequences of substance use, and compliance with parental rules. Families engage in structured family activities, practice therapeutic child play, conduct family meetings, learn communication skills, practice effective discipline, reinforce positive behaviors in each other, and plan family activities together.


[See Something Say Something - Anonymous Reporting](#)

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)
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Guidance Department

NKHS School Counselor Caseloads 2020-2021

Scheduling for the 2021/2022 School Year

Students were emailed information about the scheduling process for the 2021/2022 school year today, Monday, March 8.

School counselors will hold informational sessions for students on Wednesday 3/10 and Thursday 3/11 at 1pm to discuss the scheduling process and to guide students through the completion of the course request form. Please encourage your students to attend. Links to the meetings are included in the information emailed to students today.

Beginning the week of March 22, school counselors will meet with students individually to...

- Review an updated student transcript
- Review the course request form
- Discuss high school and post high school goals
- Enter course requests into ASPEN


Please refer to the [2021/2022 Program of Studies](#) to view NKHS course descriptions, programs, and policies.

***Internship opportunity through the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Newport**

[Undersea Technology Apprentice Program \(UTAP\)](#)

****Junior Year Post High School Planning Night**

Thank you to all that attended this event last Thursday night. We are holding a follow up Q&A session to answer any additional questions that you may have after attending the Post Secondary Planning evening or reviewing the [Post Secondary Planning Slides](#).



Please use the following link to join us virtually. [Tuesday, March 2 at 1:00 p.m.](#)

If you are unable to attend but have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact your school counselor.

CCRI - Running Start Program

The CCRI Running Start Program applications are now available for next year. Students in the Running Start Program attend CCRI classes full-time during their senior year.

[Applications](#) are Due April 1, 2021. High school counselors need the application by March 19, 2021 to submit for the April 1 deadline.

Semester 2 Level Changes

All semester 2 level changes must occur by March 12th. Level change requests must be submitted in writing to the student's school counselor by March 5th. In order for a level change to be approved all possible avenues for success must be attempted which includes completing all assignments and seeking out extra help from the teacher. Please see Page 16 of the Program of Studies for more details.

Virtual College Fairs

NACAC will be hosting a series of virtual college fairs this winter/spring. Please see the link below for more information. [NACAC College Fairs](#)

****Scholarships**

Please encourage your seniors to review the scholarship list below frequently. Please see Ms. Florenz in the Guidance Department with questions about scholarships.

[2020/2021NKHS Scholarship Document](#)

[Previous Posts from Guidance](#)



Athletics

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

Binex Rapid Testing for Winter Athletes has started. All winter athletes must test weekly in order to participate. COVID testing form must be completed 1 time by each winter athlete and parent. [HERE](#)

Stay tuned!! For updates regarding Fall season #2 and Spring

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 Form](#)

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