

August 2021

Dear Eighth Grader and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to the 2021-2022 school year. Hopefully, you had a restful and enjoyable summer and are ready to return for an exciting year at Newtown Middle School. I am looking forward to seeing you, as well as working and learning together. I am confident that this will be a great school year!

If you take a bus to school, please refer to the Newtown Bee school supplement for bus routes and times, or contact the All Star Transportation Office at 203-304-9779.

Please note that for the first 3 days of school, we will be dismissed at 11:32 AM. A grab and go lunch will be provided. We will resume our 2:32 PM dismissal time on September 2nd.

Mask Policy: Everyone must wear masks regardless of vaccination status while inside certain settings, including schools and public and private transit, pursuant to an order from the commissioner of the Department of Public Health.

Walkers: If you would like to allow your child to walk home from school, please be sure to check the box in your PowerSchool portal (Signatures and Opt-Outs page). This generates a list of students with permission to walk. In the event of an emergency requiring the need for your child to walk home, and you have not given this permission in PowerSchool, please call 203-426-7642 to make arrangements. Students who walk home after school without parent permission may/will be subjected to a school consequence.

Early Pick up policy: If a parent must pick up their child early from school please email 24 hrs. in advance NMSAttendance@newtown.k12.ct.us. If less than 24hrs please call (203)426-7638 and let us know the student name and time of pick-up. Upon the parent's arrival to pick up their child, please wait in the vestibule of the main entrance and your child will meet you there to check out with the security guard.

UNPLANNED DISMISSAL FROM NURSE After the nurse contacts the parent(s) and arranges for the student to be picked up, the student will remain in a designated room in the Nurse's Office. When the parent arrives at NMS, they are to park along the school building and call either the nurse at (203)426-7636 or the C Wing Office at (203)426-7638 to inform us that they are here and their student can be dismissed.

Students, your new schedules will be posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal beginning Monday August 16, 2021 (<https://newtownps.powerschool.com>). You can access the Parent/Student Portal by using the same password you were assigned last school year. If you need assistance, please call Mrs. Lisa Petrovich in our school counseling office at 203-426-7644.

Students, please note your homeroom teacher and classroom number which are printed on your schedule so you will know where to go when you arrive on the 30th. There will be plenty of staff members in the hallways to help you find your homeroom.

If you have an opportunity, please visit our school and district websites, www.newtown.k12.ct.us as they contain a lot of helpful information such as our Parent Student Handbook. In the handbook you will find pertinent information about the school as well as school rules and policies. Please pay particular attention to the section on Dress Code as this may be helpful when selecting your school attire.

Also, please be aware that any personal property, particularly those of a technical nature, are brought to school at the student's/family's own risk. Newtown Public Schools is not responsible for any damage, theft or loss. While we allow students to bring cell phones to school, they are to be put away during the day. If a student needs to use their phone it can only be used at the discretion of a staff member.

Additionally, completing homework on a nightly basis is one of the keys to student academic success. The expectation is for students to complete their work on time in order to receive credit and the maximum benefit from completing the assignment.

This school year we have adopted a new Bell Schedule. Students will have an additional period each day as World Language will be held every day. We will be following a **6** Day Cycle Schedule for our Unified Arts as we have done in the past, with two new classes: Kitchen Science and Project Adventure and Beyond.

We are looking forward to developing a positive working relationship between home and school in order to provide your child with the best opportunity to be a successful student at Newtown Middle School.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Einhorn, Principal

P.S. Parents, please see the enclosed invitation to our Grade 8 Open House, which is scheduled for Thursday, September 2nd, from 6PM to 8PM. (At this time, Open House is an in-person program and will not be held virtually. Any change to this will be communicated to you via email.)