

UPDATE FROM THE NMRSD SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE FEBRUARY 4, 2018

PLEASE FIND ATTACHED AN IMPORTANT LETTER FROM THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIR.

NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the NMRSD School Committee will be held on Monday, February 12, 2018; at North Middlesex Regional High School at 7:00 p.m. Agenda items will be included in a future weekly update.

NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

The next meeting of the North Middlesex Regional High School Building Committee will be held on Monday, February 12, 2018; at the high school at 5:00 p.m. Agenda items will be included in a future weekly update.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday, February 8th: Parent Information Night for 2018-19 Kindergarten.

Thursday, February 8th: College Admissions Seminar, NMRHS Performing Arts Center

Friday, February 9th: Teacher Talent Show, NMRHS Performing Arts Center

NORTH MIDDLESEX SNOW DAY EXTENDED LEARNING PILOT PROGRAM UPDATE

The snow day extended learning program used its first of a possible five days on Wednesday, January 17, 2018. We would like to thank the staff, students, and families for jumping into this pilot so quickly. There is much positive feedback from this first day, but as with any pilot, there is room for improvement.

To address some of the frequent questions received regarding the first pilot day, we have updated the Frequently Asked Questions to help give some more clarification and guidelines for all involved. The questions updated are below:

****What is structured learning time?**

Per the state of Massachusetts Structured Learning time shall mean time during which students are engaged in regularly scheduled instruction, learning activities, or learning assessments within the curriculum for study of the "core subjects" and "other subjects." In addition to classroom time where both teachers and students are present, structured learning time may include directed study, independent study, technology-assisted learning, and presentations by persons other than teachers, school-to-work programs, and statewide student performance assessments.

Guidelines from the DESE were updated recently and can be found using the following link:
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/redesign/asld-memo.html>.

****How will students know what their extended learning assignment will be for the snow day?**

Teachers will determine if they will assign a short-term, unit-based or long-term assignment and will give this out to students either at the beginning of winter, before the snow day or post or email no later than 9:00 am on an extended learning snow day.

Assignments may be given in packets or hard copy, or they may be sent out using technology that the class is familiar with using at other times during the year (google classroom, Aspen, etc.). Some teachers will also post their assignments on the school or district website as well, in the event the hard copy is lost or forgotten at school. However, if your child does not have access to technology or the technology frequently doesn't work consistently then please contact your child's teacher to request that hard copies be sent home.

****How much time should each assignment take?**

The snow day extended learning program focuses on quality of learning, not quantity. Teachers will provide assignments, which meet the DESE definition of structured learning time. Assignments will be reasonable in length for the developmental age and grade level of students, and we are mindful of the unique opportunity for family time on school cancellation days. Emphasis is placed on the quality of learning experiences, not on

quantity or compliance.

Estimated times for schoolwork completion per grade span will be:

- K-2 – approximately 60 minutes
- Gr. 3-4 - approximately 90 minutes
- Gr. 5-8 – approximately 20 minutes per subject area that would have met on the cancelled cycle day
- Gr. 9-12 – approximately 30 minutes per subject area that would have met on the cancelled cycle day

REMINDER: Some teachers may provide options for students to complete assignments over a period of time. The teacher will determine and communicate when the work is due.

**If my child is scheduled for a Special (Art, PE, Foreign Language, Music) on that day will they have assignments?

Your child will have assignments given to them by their Specialist teacher, or it will be integrated into an assignment.

Although assignments for specials may come home before the snow day, your child is only responsible to complete assignments if they would have had that class on the Extended Learning Snow Day. They do not have to complete assignments for classes that would not have taken place on those days.

The full list of “Frequently Asked Questions” is attached or you can view it on our district website under the Extended Learning tab.

As a district, we support the Growth Mindset and believe that, as we teach our students, there is power in the word “yet”. This pilot is not perfect yet, but with the professional staff at North Middlesex, our excellent students and the feedback and support of families it is our hope that it will only continue to get better.

MESSAGE FROM NMRHS PRINCIPAL TAYLOR

Mark your calendar! Our annual Program of Studies evening is coming up on Thursday, February 15th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity for families to talk to our faculty about the curriculum, and get advice and suggestions for course selection. Teachers and guidance counselors will be available to talk about specific courses, explain the difference between college prep, accelerated and advanced placement options, and support families with planning student course loads in preparation for college admission. I hope to see many of you at NM on this evening.

MESSAGE FROM PROJECT GRADUATION

Comedy Night – Join NMRHS Project Graduation on Saturday, February 10th at 7:00 p.m. for a night out. Enjoy a night of laughter in the high school auditorium.

COVER - \$25 @ door / \$20 advance purchase / \$25 advance PREMIUM Reserved seating.

Contact any committee member for tickets – see the event on our Facebook page NMRHS Project Graduation.

Contact pgnmrsd@yahoo.com or Kris Bouchard at 508-736-5116 for further information.

NORTH MIDDLESEX SCHOOL DISTRICT GATEWAY FUNDRAISER

Save the Date: Saturday, April 28, 2018

Pepperell VFW

55 Leighton Street, Pepperell, MA

\$5.00 admission

(Tickets may be purchased in advance at the door.)

50/50 raffle, theme basket raffles, and gift card raffles

Live music and dancing!

For more information, email Mike Lavoie at mlavoie@nmrsd.org or call 978-587-8713, ex. 1520.