

Upper School New Parents Frequently Asked Questions

Congratulations, and welcome to the Nueva Upper School! Here's a list of commonly asked questions. Please don't hesitate to call the Admissions Office at (650) 235-7119 or your regional buddy coordinators if you have any other questions.

How do you help students and parents ease into the Nueva community?

Students and parents will be able to become acquainted with members of the community by attending new family events and connecting with their buddy family prior to the start of school. All students will participate in a grade-level advisory trip the week prior to the start of class; this trip will be held the week of August 24. Additional details will be sent to families later this spring. Throughout the year, all teachers, advisors, and school staff will work closely with families to shape the student's high school experience together. Please speak with your student's teacher(s), advisor, grade dean, and/or the Upper School Division Head if you or your student needs extra support at any point during the year.

When is the first day of classes?

After the advisory trips, classes begin on Monday, August 31 for Upper School students. The week prior, there will be a mandatory 'pre-term' day when students will receive their laptops and take part in a campus-based orientation.

Are there any preseason athletics?

Fall interscholastic athletic teams (girls volleyball, co-ed cross country, and girls tennis) begin preseason practice on Monday, August 10. Each team will have their own preseason schedule, which will be communicated over the summer. Students participating on these teams are expected to attend all preseason practices.

How should students and parents expect to communicate with teachers, advisors, and staff?

Nueva teachers and colleagues welcome open communication with students and parents. Advisors will be assigned over the summer. If you have specific questions, feel free to contact your teacher(s) or advisor directly. Teachers will provide an overview of their curricular plans at the US Back to School Night on September 17 at 5:30 p.m. (It is important to attend this event.)

When is feedback on student performance given?

Nueva offers three teacher conferences per year as well as frequent feedback and quarterly progress reports. The first conferences are on November 6 and 13, the next are January 29, and the last are June 14 and 15 after school ends. The first conference is an opportunity for teachers and parents to exchange information about a student's progress. Our students are an integral part of parent-teacher conferences and often are asked to lead them, reflecting on their personal and academic goals. At subsequent parent-teacher conferences, you will meet with and receive narrative evaluations from teachers and advisors. There are also grade-level Community Dinners on various themes and parent coffees for informal conversations.

When do students choose and sign up for courses, electives, activities, arts, and athletics?

Sign-ups for classes will happen in May. The Upper School Assistant Division Head will contact students with course descriptions and directions on how to sign up online. Students will have a chance to join clubs (or start one!) at the Clubs Fair in the fall after classes start. An athletics interest survey for the 2020-2021 school year and fall interscholastic team sign-up forms will be sent to students and families in May.

When will students know their class schedule?

Class schedules will be provided to students and parents in late August. We endeavor to finalize individual schedules by the first day of school.

What are the drop-off and pick-up times for school?

Classes start promptly at 8:45 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m., with athletics and activities after school. Bus, carpool, and parent drivers generally drop off as early as 7:00 a.m. A student's athletic and extracurricular schedule will determine their departure time each day.

Parent Drop-off/Pick-up: Please observe traffic guidelines to ensure a safe and steady flow of traffic. Park in designated areas and spaces on the San Mateo campus and never on public streets adjacent to the campus. *Reminder: Students cannot drive to or from school, nor park anywhere in the San Mateo development (including campus parking), per our agreement with the Bay Meadows corporation and the City of San Mateo.*

Caltrain: We encourage anyone who can, to take the train! Passes are given to students before the first day of school. The Hillsdale Caltrain station is a short walk along South Delaware Street to the Nueva Upper School campus. Additional information will be provided over the summer.

Bus: Multiple routes (north and south of campus) are offered to minimize trip time and maximize convenience. The bus is a safe, fun, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly way for students and faculty to travel to and from school. Additional details and sign up for our bus service will be available over the summer.

Carpooling: Families with children in similar grades or regions regularly arrange carpools. We encourage carpooling, so please check in with other families who live nearby for more information. A list of families and their locations will be provided by May.

What are the athletics and physical education requirements?

The Upper School Physical Education and Athletics Program supports Nueva's core educational goals and helps students capture the social, emotional, and physical benefits of healthy competition. To fulfill their graduation requirement, students are required to participate in two of three seasons per year for all four years of high school: Fall (September–November), Winter (November–February), and Spring (February–May). Students may choose one of the following to fulfill the requirement: participation on a Nueva interscholastic team (counts for two seasons of credit), enrollment in a Physical Education class, or enrollment in a supervised Outside Activity.

What are the student lunch options?

Lunch is included in tuition and made fresh each day in the Café with many healthy options, including vegetarian and gluten-free choices. Students can also bring their own lunches. For a nominal fee, family members are welcome to eat in the Café by checking their names at the register. Nueva is a nut-free campus. Please do not pack any items containing ground or tree nuts and their derivatives for snacks or lunches.

What happens with injury or illness at school?

Our school nurse will attend to minor scrapes, injuries, and illnesses. If your child is unable to return to class, you will be called to come pick them up from school. Students may return to school after 24 hours with no fever or vomiting. We call emergency services as needed. All faculty and staff are first aid and CPR certified. **Parents must complete, sign, and submit Nueva's Emergency Information Sheet by May 15.**

What's your policy on absences and lateness?

You must contact the school at (650) 235-7100 to report absences and tardies. If your child arrives late, they also need to go to the entrance desk to sign in. If an extended absence is unavoidable, please notify the Head of Upper School.

Can parents volunteer in the Nueva community?

Yes! A list of volunteer opportunities will be added to your Nueva homepage over the summer and will be updated in the fall with more options. Volunteer jobs range from supporting teachers with classroom lessons, helping with field trips, to organizing special events, and offering lessons or even workshops in an area of expertise. The Nueva Parents Association (NPA) is the major coordinating instrument for school-wide events and other areas of parent involvement. Please attend Tea on the Plaza on the first day of school at our Hillsborough campus to meet NPA parents and discuss your interests and availability. Teachers will discuss other opportunities on Back to School Night.

Who can I contact with additional questions?

- Diane Rosenberg, Head of School
(drosenberg@nuevaschool.org)
 - CC: Caron Anscombe, Upper School Executive Assistant
(canscombe@nuevaschool.org)
- Stephen Dunn, Head of Upper School
(sdunn@nuevaschool.org)
 - CC: Gina Ruiz, Upper School Division Assistant
(gruiz@nuevaschool.org)
- Hillary Freeman, Dean of Student Life
(hfreeman@nuevaschool.org)
- Claire Yeo, Upper School Assistant Division Head
(cyeo@nuevaschool.org)
- Chris Wade, PK-12 Athletics Director
(cwade@nuevaschool.org)