

# Jaguar August Newsletter

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Day of School

This year, all students in all grades are required to attend school on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Also, please remember that until further notice from the District, all schooling is online rather than in person.

The schedule for the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school is below:

### **Wednesday 9/2/2020 Schedule (100% virtual – all online)**

- 8:00 – 10:00     Link Crew Orientation (all 9<sup>th</sup> graders and Link Leaders)
- Zoom links will be sent closer to September 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 10:30 – 12:00     Synchronous (live) Advisory (ALL students in ALL grades)
- Meet your Advisory Teacher and check in with all students (Advisory teachers will send out Zoom links to their particular students)
  - School-year Launch Video
  - Schoology tutorial for all students
  - Attendance expectations
  - Grading
  - Digital citizenship and expectations
  - Sign up for Counselor Reminds
  - Sign up for ASB Instagram account (and library Instagram account) so students can stay connected to school and messages going out
- 12:00 – 12:45     LUNCH Break
- 12:45 – 2:00     Asynchronous Assignment & Learning
- Practice logging into Clever and Schoology so students are ready for Thursday
  - Practice logging in to the Library
  - Scavenger Hunt Assignment!
  - Access Activities/Athletics Website
- 2:00 – 2:45     Office Hours / Check-in with Advisory Teachers (same Zoom link)

## Advisory/Jag Time

As you know from prior years, all students are enrolled in Advisory at North Creek which generates 0.25 credits per year for students. This year, Advisory will occur each Wednesday at 9 AM and will go from 9:00 – 9:45. All students are expected to attend Advisory (as it does generate transcript credit). Topics that will be covered in Advisory at North Creek may include (but are not limited to):

- Club Time (clubs are more important than ever)
- Social-emotional learning lessons (possibly run by ASB & Leadership students)
- Racial and Educational Justice lessons
- School business
- Healthy Youth Survey (if they ever get an online version)
- High School and Beyond Plan (a graduation requirement for all students in Washington State)
- Anti-bullying presentations (done by Counselors)
- Tabletop emergency drills/discussions

Please be sure your student knows they have Advisory (it's listed as 8<sup>th</sup> period on their schedules) and to earn credit, they need to attend weekly.

### Clever and Schoology

The District listened to parents and students about how hard it was to keep track of numerous different systems last spring and has moved to a single platform. The best analogy I have heard is this: Schoology is the room with all the stuff you need to do school and Clever is the keyring you need to get into the room. Schoology is our new learning management system. This tool provides students, parents/guardians and teachers a way to engage with learning materials from home, in the classroom and beyond. Families will be able to access course materials, grades, calendars and more! Invitations to create Schoology accounts will be emailed next week.

Students will login to Clever by going to <https://my.nsd.org>, clicking on student login, and entering their password. Families will go to <https://family.nsd.org> and entering your credentials that you set up through the district. From there, everything from Schoology to the student's Google Drive to TurnItIn.com etc. will be available to the student. Clever is the keys to many things you will want to access in the Northshore School District.

You should have received (or will receive shortly) an email invitation from Clever. Please follow the instructions in that email to activate your account. As this is a new platform, it is experiencing heavy traffic and some families may experience issues when logging in. We are working with the vendor to correct these issues as quickly as possible. If you have any issues logging in, please try again in 24-48 hours. While you will see Schoology in Clever, you will not be able to login until your account is created next week. If you did not receive an email invitation for Clever, first check your email's junk or spam folder, then contact the Student Technology Support Line at 425-408-7669.

Please note: you still want to have StudentVue and/or ParentVue access as there are things in StudentVue/ParentVue that are not in Schoology. The best solution is to use the same very strong password for both for ease of use.

### Community Building Days

Community Building is going to be more important than ever while we are in this remote environment. This year, as we start, we'll be focusing on Community Building as a major emphasis for the first five days of school (9/2, 9/3, 9/4, 9/8 and 9/9) while weaving in some content as well (part of building a community is building excitement about content). Beginning on Thursday 9/10, we'll begin focusing more on the content while still weaving in Community Building (which we'll continue to do for the entire semester as social-emotional learning is critical for academic success).

### Counselor Alpha Breakdown - NEW

We are very excited to welcome Jeff Dennis as a new Counselor at North Creek! Because we are adding Jeff, we have had to change the alpha breakdown for students. That new breakdown is below.

- Students last names starting with **A - Bl**: **Mr. Dennis**
- Students last names starting with **Bo - E**: **Ms. Francisco**
- Students last names starting with **F - I**: **Ms. Frane**
- Students last names starting with **J - Me**: **Ms. Gutheil (formerly known as Ms. Lundberg)**

- Students last names starting with **Mi - Re: Ms. Vela**
- Students last names starting with **Ri - Th: Ms. Boi**
- Students last names starting with **Ti - Z: Mr. McCausland**

## Daily Schedule

For this year's online learning, you can find all the daily schedules for students by going to the NSD home page and clicking on Northshore Learns 3.0. The daily schedules can also be found by using the link below:

- <https://www.nsd.org/northshore-learns/teaching-learning/schedules>

Basically, school starts at 8:00 AM daily and ends at 2:45 daily (except on early release Wednesdays). Our high school students need to treat this schedule like they would if we were on campus. The best thing for kids is to have a regular schedule where they get up, eat breakfast, get themselves cleaned up, brush their teeth and be ready for class at 8:00 AM. They are obviously teenagers and they won't "like" it, but a regular schedule is comforting whether they admit it or not.

## Devices for Remote Learning

If your student needs a computer or internet access, please complete this [Device Request Form](#). You may also submit a request to replace a District device already in your possession. This link will also be available on the home page for North Creek high school.

After your request is approved, your school will contact you with information on how and when to pick up your device(s). Note that WiFi hotspots are only available for families that do not have any existing internet access.

## Grading

As we all remember, grading last spring in Northshore Learns 2.0 was based on engagement. This fall, in Northshore Learns 3.0, we are returning to "regular" grading based on student learning and achievement. This means students will have assignments and be expected to do work, write essays, complete math assignments etc. Each teacher will be sending home a syllabus for their class which will explain the work and grading specific to that class.

The overarching grading practices this year (for all NSD high schools) is as follows:

- We will use the A, B, C, D or F grading system.
- Plus and/or minus grades can be given (A-, B+, etc.).
- Each grade band will have the same range depending on the system being used
  - if a teacher is using a 100 point scale, and a A is 100-90, B is 90-80, C is 80-70, D is 70-60, then F must be 60-50 so that each band is 10 points – in other words, 50% will be the lowest grade
  - if a teacher is using a rubric for scoring, their scale may be 4 (A), 3 (B), 2 (C), 1 (D), and 0 (F) – all grade bands are 1 point
- Extra credit will be allowed only for activities based on identified academic standards.
- With specific qualifiers designed by teachers, students will be allowed to retake exams and revise assignments.

Please remind your student(s) that there will be a time after COVID19 and that transcript grades will count towards getting to the future they want. Passing classes is still crucial to graduation and getting a diploma is required for just about any future a student can think of, including enlisting in the military.

### **JBC Newsletter**

North Creek is fortunate to have a phenomenal Booster Club Organization. They are so supportive of our athletics and activities! Please check out the latest information from the Jaguar Booster Club (JBC) by clicking the link below:

- <https://mailchi.mp/090d04ea3063/jaguar-booster-club-newsletter-volume-9390714>

### **Materials Pick Up & School Photo Plans**

In this unprecedented time, we are having to invent new systems to pass out needed materials to students and to take School Photos. While we are still working out details, I want you to put the following dates/times on your calendars for materials pickup and school photos for the fall:

#### **Materials Pick Up and School Photo Days**

- Tuesday September 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> graders
  - Last Names A – D: 11:45 – 1:00
  - Last Names E – L: 1:00 – 2:00
  - Last Names M – R: 2:00 – 3:00
  - Last Names S – Z: 3:00 – 4:00
- Wednesday September 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Graders
  - Last Names A – G: 12:40 – 2:00
  - Last Names H – O: 2:00 – 3:00
  - Last Names P – Z: 3:00 – 4:00
- Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Graders
  - Last Names A – G: 12:40 – 2:00
  - Last Names H – O: 2:00 – 3:00
  - Last Names P – Z: 3:00 – 4:00
- Friday September 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Graders
  - Last Names A – D: 11:45 – 1:00
  - Last Names E – L: 1:00 – 2:00
  - Last Names M – R: 2:00 – 3:00
  - Last Names S – Z: 3:00 – 4:00

I hope you can re-arrange your calendars so you are available to come to NCHS for materials pickup and School Photos during these times. As you can imagine, distributing materials to 1800 students via car-window pickup will be challenging. The grade breakdown is important as so many materials are common to a certain grade (e.g. 9<sup>th</sup> graders read one novel while 12<sup>th</sup> graders read a different novel, etc.). Having families arrive by grade makes the entire process faster and easier for families!

Questions I know you are asking:

- QUESTION: I have more than one student in high school. Can I come to the school just once for all my kids? ANSWER: Yes!

- QUESTION: I have tried and tried to rearrange my calendar for the time listed but just can't. Can I come at a different time if I just can't make the specified time? ANSWER: Yes!
- QUESTION: I can't make any of the pickup days. When can I get materials? ANSWER: These 4 days are all school days and we hope that all students/families are available. We may have makeup days later in September but please know that students will not have the materials they need unless they get them during these four days.
- QUESTION: Can a family friend pick up materials for my student? ANSWER: Yes – but your student will still need to get a School Photo at some point.

Finally, School Photos this year will be taken by expert NCHS staff and offered FREE to all families. Details on accessing the photos will be sent in future communications.

## **PSAT**

As you probably know, each year we give the PSAT to all our 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders (and a very few 9<sup>th</sup> graders who opt to take the test) in October. This year, as you may expect, is very different due to the ongoing pandemic. As of this writing, the College Board is not offering an online PSAT and rather is still requiring on-site, in person testing. All NSD high school principals discussed this and none of us are comfortable having in-person testing at our school sites in October. We just don't see that as safe for students or staff who would need to be on campus. We have been working with the College Board and they recently gave us this information:

“We understand many schools are utilizing virtual instruction options and that plans continue to evolve this fall. For schools that are unable to administer the PSAT/NMSQT in October, College Board will also be offering the PSAT/NMSQT this winter, which will be used for programs administered by National Merit Scholarship Corporation. You'll receive another email with more details by the end of the month.”

I'll be sending out more information about the Winter Administration of the PSAT as we receive it from the College Board.

## **PTSA**

North Creek is so fortunate to have an amazing and supportive PTSA. Oftentimes, the PTSA will assist with communications during the school year. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Lauren Lewis at [northcreekhighschoolptsa@gmail.com](mailto:northcreekhighschoolptsa@gmail.com).

- Here's the link to the PTSA newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/9fb4c8230b37/nchsptsawelcomeback>
- Here's the link to the new PTSA website. <http://northcreekhighschool.ourschoolpages.com/Home>

## **Schedule Changes**

As it says in our Course Catalog for registration (<https://northcreek.nsd.org/counseling/course-registration>),

“It is critical for families to understand that the choices made by students during registration are considered to be final. Courses that are offered and staffing for the following year are based on the choices students make during the registration process.

Schedule changes may be made on a limited basis for the following reasons within the first 10 days of school:

- A graduation requirement must be added
- Administrative withdrawal is requested
- Incomplete schedule
- Duplicate classes/obvious errors
- IEP/ELL placement issues

In keeping with District procedures, classes may be dropped only during the first 10 days of the semester and only for very specific reasons listed above. Courses dropped during this 10 day window are not listed on the transcript and the student is transferred to another class.

Students withdrawing on day 11 or beyond (no matter what the reason, including medical reason - except in extreme circumstances like breaking a leg during a semester when the student has PE) will have the course listed on their transcript with an F grade, 0.0 earned credit, and the potential amount of credit (.50). The course, grade, and credit earned **cannot be removed** from the student's transcript.

Year-long classes will not be dropped at any time during the year unless there are exceptional extenuating circumstances approved by the principal. Full-year classes are exactly that: Full Year.

You can avoid any issues with dropping classes by choosing your classes very, very carefully at registration time and remember - if you choose a class and you get that class, you will be keeping that class no matter what."

## School Supplies

Every year the Northshore School District and North Creek High School evaluate the list of needed school supplies for students to bring. In recent years we have worked to reduce the amount of money and time parents spend purchasing items, while still providing those basics needed for academic success. This year, as we start in an online format in the midst of a pandemic, that task seems even more important.

At this time, we ask that **all students** have at their disposal writing utensils (pens and/or pencils) paper for note-taking, and a way to organize their subjects. This last item can be a series of bins or boxes, a notebook, an accordion folder, or some other way in which students can learn and practice keeping track of important work.

It is important to us that these items not create a burden on family budgets. For 18 years, many of our families have received extra help with school supplies, and that assistance will continue this year. The Northshore Schools Foundation has collected, organized, and distributed school supplies to families who have needed them. We want to thank NSF as well as the many businesses, families, and individuals who have contributed. If you would like to order supplies from NSF, please use the following link: [requesting school supplies](#). Similarly, if you would like to contribute to their school supply drive, please use the following link: [donate school supplies](#).

## Seniors!

First and foremost: the great Senior Class of 2021 has NOT been forgotten! We love our Seniors and we know just how disappointing this is for them (as it was for the Seniors last year).

Second, Counselors will be reaching out to all our 12<sup>th</sup> graders this fall to make sure they know what the kids are thinking with respect to post-high school plans etc. There will be a time after COVID and our 12<sup>th</sup> graders need to think about their plans for after they graduate. Additionally, we will still be having College Visits (virtually of course) and those college visits will be on Tuesday & Friday afternoons after 6<sup>th</sup> period (during the Flex Time) and on Wednesday's after Advisory.

Third, we are crossing our fingers (and our arms and legs) in hoping that we get at least some time back on campus this school year. We have reserved a Prom location for Prom 2021 and we have Angel of the Winds reserved for Commencement 2021. If we all wear our masks, maintain physical distance, etc. we might just get there!

Seniors – hang in there! Be safe and know that North Creek staff cares deeply about you!

## **Sports**

As you have probably heard, the state organization that runs sports (the WIAA) has both delayed the start of all sports and re-arranged the seasons in which sports are played. While there used to be three seasons (fall, winter, spring), there are now four seasons (Season 1, 2, 3 and 4). According to the WIAA website ([www.wiaa.com](http://www.wiaa.com)), nearly all sports are scheduled to occur in Seasons 2, 3 and 4 which begin basically in January 2021. More information will be coming from the District soon, but families should anticipate that there will likely be no formal sports until 2021.

I encourage any student that would like to participate in future athletics please take the advantage of this time to register in Final Forms. If you have any questions feel free to send an email to Athletic Director, Mr. Jefferson, at [mjefferson2@nsd.org](mailto:mjefferson2@nsd.org).

## **Technology Support**

Parents should contact the Student Technology Support Line at 425.408.7669 for Clever or Schoology login issues. Our teams in Technology are still learning these tools and appreciate the patience of our community as we work hard to address issues as quickly as possible.

## **Zoom**

### ***Expectations***

Teachers will be sending out their expectations for Zoom for their classes, but our overall expectations for students are as follows:

- Students should be up and out of bed, ready for school each day at 8 AM (or 9 AM on Wednesday)
- Students should have a learning area they can use in their home which should be a space where, when the camera is on, students are comfortable with the background behind them (a blank wall is great, closet doors are good, etc.)
- Students MUST have their full, appropriate first and last name as their Zoom name (no silly nicknames)
- Students should, to the extent possible, have their cameras ON as they “enter the Zoom room” so the teacher knows it really is them and not a Zoom-bomber. If they are comfortable leaving their camera on after that because they have created a safe learning area, they should (again – to the extent



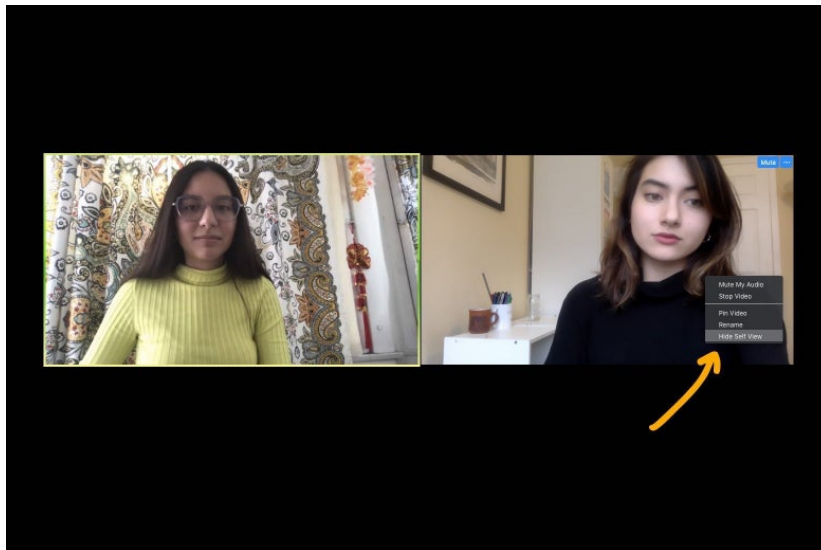
possible). For students who are uncomfortable seeing themselves on camera, please see the “Self View Off” information below.

- Students should never share Zoom links or passwords with anyone else unless given specific permission to do so by their teacher!
- Students should always log out after they are finished – especially if they are using a shared device.

### ***Self-View Off (SUPER IMPORTANT GAME CHANGER!)***

When we went to online learning last spring, we noticed that many, many students would have their cameras off and were uncomfortable having their cameras on. Research since then has shown that one reason students don’t like having their camera on is because they have to look at themselves all day long. It would be like having a mirror attached to each desk at school – super awkward! I know that I don’t like seeing myself either.

The good news is that on Zoom you can hide yourself *without* turning off your camera. Others can see you, but you won’t be staring at yourself—the closest you’ll get to the experience of talking in person. If you’re in Gallery mode (the *Brady Bunch*–style view), all you have to do is right-click your video or click on the three blue dots to display the menu and choose “Hide Self View.”



Gallery mode. Photo illustration by Slate. Photo by Chloe Hadavas.

If you’re in Speaker mode (where the person talking is the largest screen), that same option will appear, but clicking on it won’t actually do anything. Instead, you’ll have to enter full-screen view, then hover over your image, where a small menu will appear at the top. Choose the icon on the left, which reads “Hide thumbnail video” when you hover over it. The thumbnail will then become a text box that indicates who’s speaking.



Speaker mode. Photo illustration by Slate. Photo by Chloe Hadavas.

If you eventually happen to miss your own image—or if you just want to double-check that you’re not being captured at an unflattering angle, or that your pile of laundry isn’t in view—you can always right-click any user’s display and choose “Show Self View” in Gallery mode. In Speaker mode, you can return to the box indicating who’s speaking and click the middle icon in the menu.

It might not cure Zoom fatigue, but it will free you of the burden of having to see yourself, yet again, for hours on end.

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## Closing

In closing, I know this was a long newsletter and I hope you see how much work the North Creek staff is putting in to help make this a great year for our kids! Our teachers are preparing to have great classes for our students and I know they are looking forward to seeing them at materials pick as well as in their Zoom sessions!

On behalf of all the NCHS staff, thank you for reading and thank you for all you do for your kids and for supporting all our Jaguars! Let’s make it a great year!

Eric

Dr. Eric McDowell  
Principal, North Creek High School