

# NORTHEAST ACADEMY ARTS MAGNET SCHOOL

TOWN OF GROTON  
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RYAN CHANEY  
Principal

STEPHANIE WHEELER  
Assistant Principal

August 24, 2021

Dear Families,

The clock is ticking! It's almost time to head back to school! I hope this letter finds you well and that you've all been able to enjoy these past few months safely. We may not be done with summer quite yet but I do want to begin sharing details about what to expect in the year ahead.

As a reminder, the first day of school for students in grades 1-5 is Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. That same week, Kindergarten screenings will occur at NEA with the first day of school for our K friends scheduled for Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Kindergarten families, please be on the lookout for a letter from the K team later this week. You may also begin calling our main office to schedule your child's screening.

Please read the following information carefully:

- As noted in the Superintendent's letter, 9:00 is now the start of the school day. We will begin opening car doors for Parent Dropoff at 8:45 this year.
- Teacher letters for students in grades 1-5 are being mailed later this week. They should arrive to you early next week.
- Northeast Academy (and all Groton schools) continue to be peanut and tree nut free. Please do not send your child to school with any peanut or tree nut products.
- We will also continue the practice of not allowing food from home for any in-class celebrations. Our food services department has a menu posted online to order from. Please coordinate with your child's classroom teacher.
- All students and staff will be expected to wear masks. No gaiters, valve masks or bandanas are allowed. Students will not be required to wear masks outside for recess.
- Layered mitigation strategies such as hand-washing and proper distancing (3 feet) are still in place. We will remain vigilant with these practices.
- Students will return to the cafeteria for lunch in smaller waves than previous years. We will utilize more tables and fewer students per table in order to accommodate proper spacing between students.
- We still encourage all families to conduct a basic health assessment in the morning prior to leaving for school. Please check your child's temperature before they head out.
- For the safety of everyone, classroom volunteers will not be used to start the year.
- Visitors will be very limited. Only those who support our curriculum or arts theme will be allowed entrance as a visitor. Anyone coming into the building to pick up a student must wear a mask at all times.
- Parent Pickup procedures will remain the same this year. We will begin this process around 3:15 and continue to utilize the second traffic circle. Students will be escorted out to you in the order

of your arrival. Drivers will be asked to show identification. Please stay in your car throughout the process.

- Tree House continues to run a before and after school care program here at NEA for our students. If you are interested in having your child attend, please call the main office.

With the return to all students being in-person for face-to-face instruction, it is important for everyone to understand that distance learning will only be utilized if a child is placed into quarantine. Distance learning will not look the same as last year. When children are in quarantine, they will still have access to the same online platform as last year – Seesaw for students in grades K-2 and Google Classroom for students in grades 3-5. However, classroom teachers will not be livestreaming their lessons for kids at home. Instead, an assigned staff member will act as the liaison between the child and classroom teacher. They will meet with the child (virtually via Zoom) to ensure their access to posted work and to help students with assignments as needed.

We are excited about the school year ahead! The pandemic will continue to impact our operations but we will forge ahead together as one big team just as we have since March of 2020.

Next week for students in grades 1-5, you can expect a letter from your child's classroom teacher with specifics about their classroom and materials you may need. Please bookmark your calendar for the afternoon of Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is when teachers plan to Zoom with their students for a virtual "Sneak Peak" into the classroom.

Please enjoy the remaining days of summer!

Sincerely,



Ryan Chaney  
Principal