



New Providence High School

Brian Henry, Principal

Tania Kelly, Assistant Principal

Vincent A. Carangelo, Director of Athletics

Jillian Shadis, Director of School Counseling

August 22, 2025

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to our new Pioneers and welcome back to all our returning students! I hope this letter finds you and your families well and that each of you have enjoyed the summer months. We have been hard at work preparing for the start of the 2025-2026 school year and are extremely excited to open up our doors to the students next Thursday, August 28th!

Our students will notice improvements within the building including a new look around the entire school as a part of our *Walls of Pride Project* with the help and support of our wonderful PTSA. We are very excited about the new designs and feel of the school that we know our students and community will be proud of.

Below please find important information for the opening of school as well as the school year:

- **The first day of school is on Thursday, August 28th.** Students should report to their Period 1 classes, which start promptly at **7:44 am**.
 - We will be running a [modified bell schedule](#) on the first day in order to allow our students to attend all eight of their classes to meet each of their teachers.
 - Students will be able to view their schedule on Wednesday, August 27th through the [PowerSchool Portal](#). In addition, both parents and students will receive an email with their schedule on the 27th.
 - **Grades 10-12-** Once schedules are finalized in PowerSchool, students can access their schedule for the first day using their iPads through PowerSchool in their browser and through the email they receive. Additionally, we strongly encourage our students to take a screenshot of their schedule using their iPads to be able to easily access and reference.
 - **Grade 9-** All Grade 9 students are asked to take note of their Period 1 class when they receive their schedules, as they receive their iPads at the start of the school day on the 28th. Once they receive their iPads at the start of the day, they will then be able to access their schedules via the PowerSchool portal in their browser, the email they received with their schedule, and/or the aforementioned screenshot. **All of this information was shared with our 9th grade students during yesterday's Orientation.**
 - Our Technology Department will also again share a Google Sheet Scheduling Aid with the students. Within the Scheduling Aid, once the students enter their period 1-8

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schedule, it will automatically organize their individual rotating schedule for the rest of the school year so they can reference it as needed.

- If there are any concerns with your schedule, please fill out the [schedule change request form](#) which can be found on the High School and Counseling websites.
- **The second day of school on Friday, August 29th** is an [Early Dismissal day](#) for students/staff. It will be an “A” day in our schedule. Lunches are **not** served on Early Dismissal days.
- We will then have a “B” day (full day) on **Tuesday, September 2nd** after the Labor Day weekend.
 - Please click [here](#) for our *Rotating and Drop Bell Schedule*, as well as the Delayed Opening and Early Dismissal Schedules, and click [here](#) for the *Rotation of Days Calendar*.
- **Drop-Off/Pick-Up**
 - Students who are being dropped off and/or picked up, can do so using Pioneer Drive or the Community Pool Parking Lot. Please review the following [Drop Off and Pick Up](#) link for some important reminders. If you have not traveled to the HS before, we recommend driving the area prior to school beginning on Thursday, August 28th to view the markings and designated drop off/pick up zones.
 - *As indicated in the Traffic link above, upon entering the drop off lane, parents MUST pull as far forward as possible on Pioneer Drive before allowing students to exit the vehicle. Please do not drop off students at the entrance to the front circle. By not dropping off at the entrance to the front circle, it alleviates congestion and build up on Pioneer Drive.*
 - *Please note that the front circle is not an area that can be used for dropping off or picking up students.*
 - *In addition, all students may only enter the building via the Main Entrance at the front of the school. At no time are students permitted to open up any exterior door in the building for another student or individual.*
 - Following the guidelines as set forth by the traffic signs and markings will ensure the safety of our students and allow the drop-off line to move quickly for parents/guardians. At no time should a vehicle be left unattended in the front of the school building. Additionally, for the safety and well-being of the children who attend OLP School, it is **imperative** that NPHS parents do not use the OLP lot for dropping off or picking up students. Also, please note that the parking lot behind the Summit Speech School, at the corner of Pioneer Drive and Balcom Road, is private property, as is the parking lot behind the NJ Sharing Network. Therefore, please do not drop off or pick up your student(s) from these lots. *We encourage families to utilize the Community Pool Parking Lot to drop off or pick up their student(s) as an additional option.* This will help provide better balance between drop off and pick up locations.
 - Please note that all classes begin promptly at 7:44 am.
 - Over the last two years, we purchased a number of new bike racks that are located towards the Main Entrance and by the Media Center. We continue to encourage this as an option for students.
 - The cafeteria is always available for any students who come to school early as a space to complete homework or study. Additionally, beginning at 7:15 am each day, the Media Center is another space available for students to complete work, utilize technology, study, or print documents.
 - On inclement weather days, many of our students who might normally walk or bike to school utilize motor vehicle transportation. This can cause traffic congestion, so please plan

accordingly in terms of arrival to school each day for the start of the first period class at 7:44 am.

- **Communication** - Throughout the school year, we will communicate electronically with parents/guardians. Please make sure you add NPHS@npsdnj.org to your email address book so that you will receive these communications. If, during the school year, you are not receiving electronic communication or you change your email address, it is important that you contact the High School Main Office so that we can update your account accordingly.
- **Process for completing Returning Student Registration** - You should have already received an email (sent on Friday, August 15th) from the District Office with a link to your [PowerSchool parent portal](#) to update your child's student information and electronically sign annual permission forms and the acknowledgement of school district policies for the 2025-2026 school year. Once logged into your parent portal, navigate to **FORMS** on the left side and then the **ENROLLMENT** tab to complete this process. At the end of each page under Enrollment, click SUBMIT to move on to the next page. It is imperative that you complete your Returning Student Registration prior to the start of the first day of school, Thursday, August 28th. Please note that you will need to complete this process for each child enrolled in the school district. **If you have not received this email or are having trouble accessing your PowerSchool parent portal, please contact the Main Office immediately.**
- **Attendance/Attendance Reporting through PowerSchool** - All parents/guardians are asked to report their child's attendance through PowerSchool.

****NEW UPDATE****

All parents/guardians received a [Student Attendance Communication from Mr. Ugliodoro](#) this past Tuesday, August 19th outlining changes to [Attendance Regulation 5200](#) for the 25/26 school year. We ask all parents/guardians to note section "B" number "2" (pages 5-6) in the regulation on what constitutes excused absences versus unexcused absences. As shared in the letter, beginning this school year, student absences due to illness will only be recorded as "excused" when they are accompanied by a note from a doctor or physician. Please note parental notes are not considered "excused" absences. Our goal remains to ensure our students' presence in school on a daily basis to optimize their learning experience.

- **Cell Phones** - As shared with all K-12 parents/guardians, students, and staff via [Dr. Zirpoli's August 12th communication](#), beginning this school year, students are not permitted to possess or use cell phones, smartwatches, or any other non-school issued electronic device during the duration of the school day, as per [District Policy 5516](#), [Regulation 5516](#). Students who choose to bring a cell phone/smartwatch to school are expected to store the phone/smartwatch in their locker, with it turned off/silent as to not be a distraction to their learning and the instruction during the school day. ***Students who use or possess a cell phone and/or smartwatch during the course of the school day, will be subject to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, an administrative detention (Saturdays).*** More information on disciplinary interventions can be found in the [NPHS Student-Parent 25/26 Handbook](#) under the Cell Phone/Electronic Devices section ([pages 7-8](#)).

In alignment with the latest research on adolescent well-being, our decision as a district to move toward a cell phone-free school environment is grounded in our responsibility to prioritize students' academic focus, social development, and emotional health. Research has shown a clear and concerning rise in anxiety, depression, and social disconnection among teens, much of it tied to

excessive phone use and life lived primarily in the “virtual world.” By intentionally removing the constant pull of cell phones and smartwatches during the school day, we aim to help students:

- Reclaim face-to-face social interactions that are essential for developing empathy, resilience, and strong peer relationships.
- Reduce distractions and increase focus, fostering stronger academic habits, and deeper learning.
- Strengthen their psychological well-being by creating healthy boundaries with technology and promoting presence in the school environment.

All of this information will be reinforced with our students during the opening class meetings.

- **Health and Safety Procedures and Protocols**

- Please see the below health information from our school nurses:
 - As in the past, we will continue to follow our Nursing Office Protocol. Parents should report illnesses to the school nurse via PowerSchool Absence reporting. If you have any health related questions, please contact Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Abbatemarco, our School Nurses.
 - **NURSING OFFICE PROTOCOL** - The school nurse(s) will determine when students need to be sent home. Parents are strongly encouraged to have a plan in place in the event their student needs to be picked up from school.
 - In most cases, ill students can return to school when fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication), and vomiting or diarrhea have been absent for 24 hours. *Students should be feeling well, able to fully participate in the school day, and tolerating normal meals.* Please reach out to the school nurse(s) with any specific questions regarding the return to school after an illness.
 - Our school nurses, Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Abbatemarco, will review medical situations and communicate with families prior to the child(ren) returning to school. If your student has a medical condition that may require care during the school day, please contact the school nurse(s).

- **Water** - All water-filling stations throughout the building are accessible to students to fill up their water bottles throughout the school day. We encourage all students to bring their own water bottles daily and to utilize the filling stations as needed.
- **Visitor Procedures** - Located in each of our schools' security vestibules will be a self-service kiosk (iPad), where visitors will be asked to scan their government issued ID. Navigate 360, our visitor management system, can scan state IDs, passports, green cards, and other countries' IDs. In the event that a visitor does not have one of these IDs, the front office staff will enter their name and date of birth manually into Navigate 360. The visitor's name and date of birth will then be scanned through the state and national sex offenders database. Once the visitor is cleared to enter our school building, they will receive a temporary visitor badge from the front office staff to wear while inside the building. At the end of the visit, we ask that the visitor scan their badge at the self-service kiosk, return the visitor badge, and exit the building.
- **Lunch** - Students are permitted to utilize the following spaces to eat:
 - Cafeteria
 - High School Courtyard (outdoor space)
 - Four Hallways around the High School Courtyard

- In addition, our students can visit the Media Center and/or their teachers during Professional Period, however, there is no food permitted in the Media Center.
 - *Open Lunch*- Grades 11 and 12 students are permitted to take part in our Open Lunch program with parental consent. Information regarding the Open Lunch program for our Junior and Senior students was distributed to these parents on Friday August 1st and again this morning.
- **Picture Day** - Pictures for grades 9-11 students will be taken on **Wednesday, September 17th**, during Physical Education classes and Lunch. Parents/guardians will receive the proofs directly from Positive Image Photography.
- **Lockers** - Each student and their parents/guardians received their locker information via an email communication yesterday, Thursday, August 21st. [Here is a sample](#) of what everyone received which includes the locker assignment, combination, and locker locations. In addition to yesterday's correspondence, students can access their locker information in two additional places at any time. It will be included on the student schedules and there is also a "Locker Info" tab in PowerSchool where they can access their locker number and combination. At the beginning of Period 1 on the first day of school, all students will be provided time to locate their lockers and practice their combinations.
 - In an effort to group student locker locations by grade levels, some student lockers may have changed from a previous year.
 - Students may not congregate around the lockers or loiter in the hallways or bathrooms at any time.
- **Social Emotional Learning (SEL)/Mental Health** - As part of our educational program we will continue to place a high emphasis on all of the needs of our students, including academic, social, and emotional needs. Please find additional resources for you as parents, and for our students below.
 - [NPSD Parent/Student Social Emotional Learning Website](#)
 - [District Mental Health Personnel Contact Information](#)
- **Class Meeting Schedule and Senior Class College Meeting** - On **Friday, August 29th**, the administration and counselors will hold our opening class meetings to discuss a variety of important school-related items with our students. Students will be called down over the PA system at the following times:
 - Grades 9 and 10- 8:33 am
 - Grades 11 and 12- 9:18 am (**Followed directly by our Senior Class College Meeting*)
- **Senior/Student Parking** - On Friday, August 1st and again this morning, all senior students and families should have received Senior Parking information including the Senior Parking application. **To start the school year**, parking spots for Seniors will be in the student lot on a first come, first serve basis. Please note there are teacher assigned parking spots in this lot as well. Students are only permitted to park in spots **133-197** to start the school year. **This option is limited to our 12th grade students only.**
 - Both 12th and 11th grade students are permitted to park in the Community Pool parking lot each and every day of the school year.
 - Student parking is **prohibited** in the following areas at all times:
 - The Summit Speech School/Indigo business center
 - NJ Sharing Network parking lot
 - Any business parking lot
 - Our Lady of Peace Church/School

- Please note “On-the-street parking” has a two or three hour maximum depending on the location. If you choose to park there, then you are subject to receive a ticket from the NPPD. You may not leave school during the school day to move your vehicle.
- **9th Grade iPad Distribution** - We will distribute all 9th grade student iPads during Period 1 on the first day of school (Thursday, August 28th). Students will be called down over the PA system from their Period 1 classes in order to receive their iPads in the cafeteria.
- **HS Back-to-School Night** will be on **Thursday, September 18th** and will begin at 7:00 p.m. More information to come on Back-to-School Night.
- **Club Fair** - We will hold a Club Fair on **Thursday September 25th** during the last block for all 9th grade students and new entrants. Our club advisors and student leaders are excited to share the many amazing co-curricular opportunities available at NPHS.
- **Testing/Assessments**
 - The PSAT will be offered to 10th and 11th grade students on **Wednesday, October 1st**. A special schedule for all other students will be forthcoming in September.
- **PTSA** - The PTSA would like to invite parents/guardians to attend the **first PTSA meeting on Monday, October 6th at 7:00pm** in the High School Media Center. Becoming a member of the PTSA is a great way to stay involved in the school community and support our students. Please review the [PTSA Welcome Letter](#) for important PTSA information and a helpful back to school checklist! Please note the PTSA has a [WEBSITE](#) , [FACEBOOK PAGE](#) and [INSTAGRAM](#) account where all information can be found.

Please visit the [district website](#) as well as the [High School website](#) for additional updates and plans throughout the course of the school year.

A special thank you to all of our students, families, community members, administration, Board of Education, faculty, custodial/maintenance staff, and teaching staff for their efforts this summer to prepare for the start of this school year. It has been a true team effort and once again our Pioneer spirit has been on full display.

On behalf of the entire High School Administration, faculty, and staff, we wait with eager anticipation for our students’ return to school next week. We are excited to meet our new Pioneers and be reunited with familiar faces. The staff and administration look forward to a positive and successful 2025-2026 school year.

Enjoy the remaining days of the summer!



Brian Henry
Principal, New Providence High School