NEWTON SACRED HEART

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When does the school day begin?

The school day begins at 7:45am with Homeroom, an important morning meeting.

When does the school day end?

MIDDLE SCHOOL: The school day ends at 3pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, and at 2:30pm on Wednesdays and Fridays.

UPPER SCHOOL: The school day ends at 3:30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, and at 2:30pm on Wednesdays and Fridays.

How to I report an absence, late arrival, or early dismissal?

ABSENCES: If a student is going to be absent, tardy or dismissed early, parents/caregivers should notify the school before 9am by submitting an attendance note on the Veracross Parent Portal or calling the school directly. MS: (617) 559-4750; US: (617) 559-4700

LATE ARRIVALS: If a student arrives late to school (after 7:45am), she is to report immediately to the MS Welcome Desk or Front Desk (for US). Late arrivals may only be excused by a note from a medical provider.

EARLY DISMISSALS: Students may not leave before the end of the school day without permission from a parent/caregiver. Students must sign out at the MS Welcome Desk or Front Desk (for US). Please make every effort to align early dismissal times with the end of the class period to reduce distraction to classroom learning. (Student schedules are available in the Veracross Parent Portal.) If a student returns to school after dismissal for an appointment, she should check back in at the MS Welcome Desk or Front Desk (for US) and present a note from a medical provider.

How do I know if school is cancelled?

In the event of inclement weather causing school cancellation or delay, an email and text message is sent to all parent/caregiver email addresses and phone numbers on file with the school, as well as student email addresses. Cancellation and delay information will also appear on the school website, on the school's social media, and in the school cancellation listings on local news stations.

What should students wear?

Newton Sacred Heart does not use a formal uniform. Students should dress comfortably and appropriately. More detail can be found in the Student Handbook.

Certain events during the school year, such as liturgies, require more formal dress. These will be indicated in advance.

On Opening Day, students typically dress up. Please note that all students in both the Middle and Upper Schools take their school photos on Opening Day.





Do students have access to lockers?

All students are assigned a locker or cubby to store their belongings. Each student is also assigned a mailbox.

Does my student need to bring a laptop to school?

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Students are assigned a school-issued Chromebook for each school year.

UPPER SCHOOL: Students are required to have their own personal laptop computer.

Please review the Bring Your Own Device and Academic Technology policies in the Student Handbook on Veracross for guidance.

What is the cell phone policy?

MIDDLE SCHOOL: In order to help our students be fully present and engaged, cell phones, smartwatches, and earbuds/headphones are collected during Homeroom and returned to students at the end of the day. If you need to reach your child during the day, please call the MS Office at (617) 559-4750.

UPPER SCHOOL: Phones must be turned off and put away. Students are not allowed to have their phone physically on their person during school hours. Younger students begin the school year with additional scaffolding to store their devices in assigned containers in their locker area. Personal accountability for one's cell phone is a privilege which can be earned and revoked. Students are free to utilize headphones at their discretion during unscheduled periods, and may only use them during class time with teacher permission.

Where can students park during school hours?

Student parking is limited and restricted to assigned areas, with seniors having priority. Cars must be registered with the school and have a valid parking sticker. Class Deans help students navigate this process.

What is an Advisor?

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Middle School advisories have six to eight students and an assigned faculty advisor. Throughout the year, they gather regularly for a wide range of activities and discussions intended to foster social and emotional growth and community connection.

UPPER SCHOOL: Each student has an academic advisor who helps plan her academic program. The advisor is the primary point of contact between home and school and is available for consultation throughout the school year.

Is there a physical education requirement?

MIDDLE SCHOOL: All students in Grades 5-7 are enrolled in Dance & Movement, which fulfills the PE requirement. Students in Grade 8 who are not enrolled in Dance must complete two seasons of Athletics. Participation in the school musical counts as a season. Students may also participate in a fitness club or Liturgical Dance as a season.

UPPER SCHOOL: Each student must complete six seasons of

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Athletics, or equivalent. Participation in the school musical counts as a season. Athletes not involved in the interscholastic athletic program must participate in the dance program, the fitness program, or a comparable outside-of-school physical education activity with documentation approved by the Athletic Director.

What are the requirements for participation on a sports team?

Interscholastic sports begin in Grade 5 with opportunities for students of all abilities, from beginner to recruited athlete. All sports require students to try out for a place on a team. Before trying out, all students must submit the required health forms for participation to the school nurse. Team participation will require about one hour per day for MS and up to two hours per day for US, depending on the season, team, and event schedules. Competitions are usually held on Wednesdays, Fridays, and occasional Saturdays. Practice and competition schedules are available on the school website and updated daily. All weather-related changes will be posted on the updated practice schedule, typically by 1pm of that day. **newtoncountryday.org/athletics**

All students will be provided with a team uniform for participation. It is the students' responsibility to keep track of this and turn it in clean and timely at the end of the season. For some sports, the school will also provide equipment and gear, though students may plan to use their personal materials where appropriate.

All Upper School athletes are required to purchase the official Falcon Nike warm-up to wear for competitions. Scan the QR code to order.

Do students have recess or free periods?

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Recess is held daily either before or after lunch. Recess is held outside as long as the temperature is above 45 degrees and not raining. Students should bring appropriate outerwear, especially if it snows and they wish to go sledding.

UPPER SCHOOL: Students have a daily W.I.N. (What I Need) period either before or after lunch, plus a few additional W.I.N. periods and unscheduled class blocks throughout the ten-day cycle. These periods are set aside for students to exercise wise freedom, often choosing to meet with a teacher, collaborate on a project, complete assignments, or take a mindful break.

When do students eat lunch?

Every student has an assigned lunch period each day. MS lunch and recess take place from 11:30am-12:30pm and US lunch and W.I.N. period take place from 12:30-1:30pm. Lunch is included in tuition. The Dining Commons offers a wide variety of food choices. All allergen information is posted daily at the entrance to the Dining Commons. Daily lunch options and a link to the lunch menu can be found at **newtoncountryday.org/parents/lunch-menu.**

Is there after school supervision?

The MS After School Program is available until 5:30pm. Any MS student staying on campus more than 15 minutes after school or after their afternoon athletics or theater activities will need to sign in to the After School program. Boston Bus Evening Departure will be supervised until the bus departs at 6pm.

When will my child receive their schedule and books?

Students will receive their class schedules on Opening Day. A list of courses was emailed to parents/caregivers in July, along with instructions on purchasing textbooks.

Course Placement or Changes: Upper School students may request schedule changes during the Change Request period, which lasts for the first two cycles of classes. Not all change requests are feasible, for instance, if a requested course is already full. If the list of courses appears to list an error, students or parents may call the school and leave a message for the Academic Office.

Where can I learn about summer work and school supplies needed for the fall?

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Summer work assignments and school supply lists for all grades can be found on the Veracross Parent Portal.

UPPER SCHOOL: Students can access their summer work assignments on the Veracross Student Portal or their grade level Google Classrooms. Students will learn about the specific recommended school supplies for each course during the opening week of classes. Most courses require loose-leaf paper, a binder, pens, pencils, and highlighters. Additionally, colored pencils, scissors, and a glue stick come in handy. The school provides all students with an assignment planning book.

What to access on the Veracross Parent Portal

- Student Attendance Requests (absences, late arrivals, early dismissals)
- Daily Student Schedule
- Progress & Class Reports
- Advisory Letter
- Report Cards
- Summer Work Assignments
- School Supply Lists
- Transcript Requests
- Magnus Health Portal
- Student/Family Directory
- Faculty/Staff Directory
- Review & Pay Invoices
- Student Handbook
- Carpool List
- Virtual Bookstore

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