

August 2026

Dear NFHS Students and Families:

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! And to our 9th grade families, welcome to Niagara Falls High School!

We are looking forward to opening our doors to students starting next week. This letter outlines important information to get you and your student(s) ready to have a successful year.

IMPORTANT DATES

 **Ninth-Grade Orientation for Students and Families – Wednesday, August 26th – 5:00pm - 7:30pm**

 **Open House – Thursday, September 3rd – 5:00pm – 6:45pm**

 **First Days of School**

9th grade – Wed, September 2nd (A-Day)

10th grade – Thu, September 3rd (B-Day) - **9th Grade also in attendance**

11th & 12th grade (and first day of BOCES) – Tue, September 8th (A-Day) - **All students in attendance**

OPENING OF SCHOOLS

 **Schedules** will be accessible via the PowerSchool Student/Parent Portal on or before August 26th. Schedules will **not** be mailed home, but 9th grade students **will** receive a paper copy of their schedules at orientation. On the first day of school, students will report to their 1st period class where they will receive a paper copy of their schedule (staff will assist those who are unable to access the portal.) This will ensure students receive the most up-to-date schedule as schedules are modified until the opening of schools. **The schedule change request process will be shared with students on their first day of school. No schedules will be changed prior.**

 **Lockers** - Students will receive their locker numbers and combinations on their first day of school. Information will be printed on student schedules.

 **Bus schedules** are included in this mailing. Stops and pickup times for regular arrival (8:00am) are listed on one side. Information for early arrival (7:30am) is listed on the back side. **Senior BOCES students who choose to ride the bus to school must take the 7:30am arrival bus.** Also, any student who would like to arrive early for breakfast may ride the early busses. Parents of students with door-to-door transportation will be notified separately by the school. Please contact ssamuel@nfschools.net with any transportation questions.

 **Supply Lists** will be shared with students by their teachers on the first day of school.

 **Daily Schedule** The school day will be 8:00 am – 2:35 pm. Students may enter school starting at 7:30 am to eat breakfast if they choose. Senior BOCES students must arrive by 7:45am. Extended day clubs will begin in October.

 **Eligibility** - Students must pass four (4) classes **plus** Physical Education, have an 85% attendance to school, and be in good standing with discipline to participate in sports and extracurricular events such as dances and attending sporting events. Additionally, students must accrue a minimum of 4.5 credits at each grade level to be eligible for extracurricular activities (minimum credits of 4.5 for sophomores, 9 for juniors, 13.5 for seniors).

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

 **Attendance** - Students are expected to attend school every day unless they are sick. Students who attend school regularly are much more successful in passing their classes and exams. **A written excuse must be sent with a student any time they are absent from school, arrive at school late, or need to be excused early.**

 **Student Conduct** - The complete NFCSD Code of Conduct can be found at www.nfschools.net under the “Parent and Guardian” tab. We ask that you review the code of conduct and emphasize the following points with your students:

Cell phones, headphones/ear buds, and wearables – Last year, New York State implemented a **Distraction-Free Policy** for all New York State schools. **What does this mean at NFHS?** Cell phones, ear buds, headphones (Beats), wearables (such as Apple watches, etc.) **must be in a bookbag or drawstring bag prior to entering NFHS each day.** The **bag must be stored in the student's locker for the entire day.** This includes lunch, hallways, study halls, and BOCES dismissal times (until exiting the building). **Devices may NOT be stored in pockets or purses or hand bags.** **Please see the one-page graphic included in this mailing for more information on this policy and how banned devices will be stored and how this policy will be enforced.**

Class Attendance – Each period of the day, students are expected to attend their assigned class, **including study halls and lunch**, and arrive before the bell rings. Students should only be in hallways during class time if they have a pass. **We will conduct daily “hall sweeps” approximately 30 seconds after the bell rings.** Students who are in the hallways during class without a pass may miss that class period and receive additional progressive consequences.

Appearance Code - Students' faces must be completely visible. Backpacks must remain in students' lockers throughout the day. Student attire must be in accordance with the NFCS Code of Conduct at all times.

STAY IN TOUCH

 **Calendar Information** Check the NFHS website, social media, and the monthly newsletter for events.

Effective communication is key to student success! When contacting NFHS, it is always better to reach out to a person directly. When you call the main line, please listen to all options as our menu has changed. Other tools we use:

 **ParentSquare**– ParentSquare is now the primary communication tool for the Niagara Falls City School District!

- More information will be shared via all call/text

 **Social Media** – Follow Niagara Falls High School on Facebook and Instagram

 **Monthly Family Newsletters** – These will be sent via email, text message, and posted on social media

 **Parent Portal** – Get up to date information on class attendance and grades as well as view progress reports and report cards. To sign up, visit www.nfschools.net and click on the “Parent and Guardian” tab to sign up. Email kbradberry@nfschools.net or rsims@nfschools.net if you need assistance.

 **All calls/texts** - Not receiving calls/texts from NFHS? Please call 716-278-5800 to provide an updated number. If you are receiving calls, but NOT texts, please email Mr. Ventry at eventry@nfschools.net

We look forward to working together to make this a successful school year!

Sincerely,

Edward Ventry, Bryan Rotella, Katharine Popovice, Danielle Zona, and Michael Corsaro
The NFHS Administrative Team