



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Families:

A lot has happened since our last Fact Finder edition, to say the least! First, a note of thanks. All of us who work in the building spend years learning our craft, both in school and every day, tweaking our expertise to match the students in front of us; however, given a few days' notice, you, our parents, have become like at-home instructors alongside our staff. Thank you!

Our teachers have made every attempt to vary their instruction so that there's a combination of interaction (e.g., Google hangouts) and independent student work. Our goal is to be as creative as possible while understanding that there's no substitute for in-person instruction with support.

There are many unknowns at the moment: Will we have summer school? What have our students "lost" relative to instruction? Will we have end-of-year celebrations? In the fall, will we all return and how different will school look, given that we have almost 1900 students?

The short answers are that the district and schools are making preparations for some type of summer school, however it may look. Teachers are teaching the "power standards," the content most critical to the course. We do have plans to celebrate our seniors (to be announced soon). The Commissioner of Education has provided general guidelines on what schools may look like and, as those guidelines evolve, we will communicate the plan.

I want to thank all of our students for transitioning to this new mode of learning, our staff for turning what we thought would be two weeks of lessons into several months of lessons, and you, our families, for your perseverance during this time.

We're glad you're here, even from a distance!

Reginald Roberts

Principal, Norwalk High School

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## **From the Nurses Office**

### **IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR CURRENT NINTH GRADE FRESHMAN.**

I hope you and your family are staying safe and healthy during this challenging time.

Ninth graders who are first time ninth graders during the 2019-2020 school year must supply the school with a form for a physical that was performed between July 1, 2019 and the beginning of their tenth grade.

Many of you have not done so.

If your child had a physical after July 1, 2019 please obtain a completed physical form from your pediatrician and scan or screen shot it to my email address: [corradinoj@norwalkps.org](mailto:corradinoj@norwalkps.org)

You may also mail it to Norwalk High School.

We are aware that as of March 15th it may be difficult to schedule a physical before school starts in August. Please contact your pediatrician now.

We are waiting for guidance from the Connecticut State of Education regarding directions for those of you who are unable to schedule a physical at this time.

This is a state requirement. It may be postponed but it will not be eliminated. This only applies to ninth grade physicals. Sports physicals will still be required prior to try-outs.

Please be sure you complete all of page one. Most pediatricians have the forms at their offices. If not it can be downloaded from the Norwalk High School website under NHS resources>nurse>forms.

If you have not had a physical as of this year please let me know and I will keep you informed of the state's guidance.

Jim Corradino BSN, RN



## Remote Learning

The English department has been collaborating daily to share best ideas and problem-solve obstacles during this challenging time. Luckily, most English students went home with an extra novel or a course textbook on our last day in school.

The English department's primary vehicle for instruction, communication and assignments is Google classroom. Some teachers are utilizing Google Hangouts, Google Meet, Zoom, AP Classroom and school email. Power School updates are still being made but please look for notes in Power School that indicate "late," "missing" or "incomplete" work.

Since our virtual learning plan has been extended for so long, teachers have also been making decisions about how to shift curriculum units to the next grade, moving novels to different units and making alterations to the overall scope and sequence of our program to ensure each student gets the full scope of education the English Department has to offer.

## Still Running English Initiatives!

- The department is still running its **Read across America** campaign to get students and teachers to pledge to read 20 new books in 2020. Join us and tag **#NHS20for20** on social media to share your recommended titles.
- Teachers are asking students to write letters to Seniors that will be distributed to more than 200 assisted living residents at Bridgeport's Spring Meadows.
- In an effort to convince kids to take a break from social media, we distributed a list titled "Stay Healthy and Happy" with links to websites for things like cooking classes, dance classes, free museum virtual tours and live streamed concerts.
- We are also still running our **Earth Day** poetry writing exercise, however, instead of a contest with prizes, we are collecting poetry to create a digital presentation of all the work.
- Check out student work through the **Creative Writing** school-wide **Google Classroom** page and look for them on **Twitter**. The links are:

Twitter Account:

[https://twitter.com/nhs\\_create](https://twitter.com/nhs_create)

Google Classroom Page:

<https://classroom.google.com/u/0/c/Mzg3MDQwNzE3NzZa>

Of course, ultimately, we cannot wait to return to Norwalk High.

## News from the NHS Art Department

Since the NHS online learning experience began our Art Students have experienced rich lessons that are creative and engaging. NHS Art Teachers are working diligently to provide assignments for students to learn practical application of the principles and elements of art and design as well as creatively respond to the COVID-19 pandemic through their artwork. The NHS Art Teachers care about our students' health and well-being as well as academic success! We strive to help our students succeed and have fun with their assignments.

The NHS Art Department will provide multiple opportunities for students to showcase their artwork in May and June.

There will be a "Neighborhood Art Show" May 22-25. Students are invited to hang artwork in their home windows, facing out, for all to see. Students can walk or drive by classmates' homes to view and enjoy others' artwork as well.

The NPS Arts Manager Dr. Katona created a platform for students to submit creative work to be viewed by all. Parents and Guardians can e-mail a jpeg/ photo of their child's artwork to [Katonaj@norwalkps.org](mailto:Katonaj@norwalkps.org) to post on the NPS site. Your e-mail is your permission to post your child's artwork. If you want your student's, name, grade, school, art teacher or class posted please mention this as well in your e-mail.

This year the City Wide Art Show will be a "Virtual Art Show". Each Art Teacher district wide will submit 7 pieces of artwork to this City Wide Virtual Art Show. The show will be posted May 29<sup>th</sup> and be comprised of artwork primarily from the online learning period.

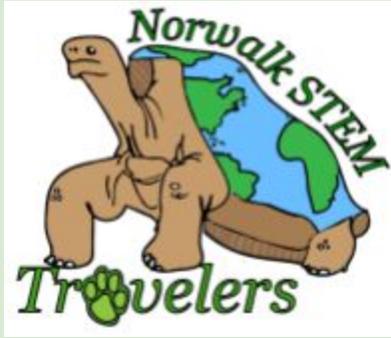
Lastly, our NHS Art Department will post an online Google slide show "NHS Selected Art From Home" on June 3<sup>rd</sup> to the NHS Website. Each art teacher will exhibit 5 slides of the best of online learning artwork.

It is exciting and heartwarming to participate in your child's art making process and resilience during this difficult time!

**Best wishes to all for good health!**

**-The NHS Art Department-**





The Norwalk STEM Travelers are still coming to terms with our cancelled South Africa tour last month. The impact of Covid-19 on our global community will be lasting and will forever change the travel landscape as we know it. If this incident has taught us anything, it is that we are more alike than we are different- this epidemic has spared no race, class, age, or gender. The grief and loss in our community, as well as the world as

a whole, will be shared among us indefinitely.

Despite this challenging time, we are determined to push forward and continue to offer the best academic experiences possible. We cannot resign ourselves to indefinite confinement and must choose to plan for the days and months ahead. After surviving this unprecedented situation, what better way to celebrate our new normal than by exploring a new corner of the globe.

2020 marks the 12-year anniversary of the Norwalk STEM Travelers. We are pleased to announce that we are still planning our Spring 2021 tour destination to Iceland. Our organization was founded in 2008 to facilitate and support global exploration in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. The NST has toured locations such as Ecuador and the Galapagos, Costa Rica, Iceland, Greece, Belize, and South Africa, completing research for further application both in and outside the classroom.

Now included as an extra-curricular option in the Interdisciplinary Global Engagement Pathway, students completing a project along with our tour can be eligible to receive elective credit, work towards the fulfilment of their Capstone requirement, as well as receive a Certificate of Global Engagement from the State of Connecticut.

Also, any student that received a travel voucher from a cancelled EF tour is eligible to enroll on this tour. For more information on the NHS STEM Travelers, past or present tours, please visit:

<https://sites.google.com/norwalkps.org/thenorwalkstemtravelers/home>

or contact Ms. Engle at: [englec@norwalkps.org](mailto:englec@norwalkps.org)

This tour is open to all incoming 8th graders and NHS students, currently in 9th, 10th, and 11th grade.