

NIS January Family Update

January 9, 2018

“The systematic assessment of student learning outcomes is essential to monitoring quality and providing the information that leads to improvement.”
-Middle States Standard XIV.

Dear Families,

It is typically in January that we really pause as a staff to dig deep and reflect on the growth and learning of our students to date. We consider all of our assessment data to look at the progress the students are making across many areas and determine their rates of progress. We ask, “Are students making slow, typical, or ambitious growth?” This question can only be answered through the analysis of a variety of assessment data which comes not only from formal assessments such as tests and benchmark assessments, but also from teacher observations, work samples, conferencing notes, checks for understanding, and overall classroom performance. Without thoughtful and collaborative analysis of student progress, we will not know how well our students are learning, or where to improve our instructional practices.

In a few short months, our school will be participating in Next-Generation MCAS testing in grades 3 – 5 for English language arts and mathematics for the second year in a row. Grade 5 will also take the MCAS science test. During the months ahead, we will provide more information to you about this testing. In the meantime, we wanted to provide you with the MA DESE link to MCAS parent information as you may already have questions about the testing: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/parents/> . Further, we will also provide you with the NIS MCAS testing calendar in the coming week. As always, please refrain from taking planned days off of school for appointments/vacations during your student’s testing days. We hope to learn a tremendous amount from our second Next-Generation MCAS experience about our students, about how we can continue to enhance the quality of our provided educational experiences, and about the test itself.

Respectfully,
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1. **Nurse Notes** - Nancy Small, BSN R.N. 508-228-7290 x4107; Fax 508-228-1249

Please review the following information:

Hearing Screenings: Hearing screenings for the third grade are completed. If you received a letter from me stating your child needs further evaluation, please follow up with me after they have seen the physician.

Guidelines for Staying Home when Ill: A child should stay home for at least 24 hours to rest if the following symptoms are present the morning of school or the previous night:

- vomiting and/or diarrhea
- fever of 100 degrees or higher
- unusual rash
- itchy or reddened eyes with drainage
- poor night's sleep due to coughing, illness, etc.

The staff and other families appreciate your help in this matter.

Measures to take to PREVENT the spread of illnesses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizers
- Remember "cough etiquette"...cough into your elbow
- Wash hands after blowing nose or coughing
- Clean items that are frequently used by other such as phones, remotes, door handles
- Avoid close contact with others who are sick
- Stay home if you are sick.

Thank you!

2. Morning Arrival

Just a reminder that there is no opportunity for student supervision prior to 7:00 AM. If you are dropping your child off between 7:00 and 7:20, please sign them up to participate in Breakfast Buddies as the temperatures have continued to drop outside. Breakfast Buddies continues to be held for students through grade 5 in the NES cafeteria. Our NIS staff is arriving to school as late as 7:35 AM and not typically available to receive students earlier than this time. Thus, please have your students arriving to school early take shelter with the Breakfast Buddies program on our cold winter days.

3. Special Events this Week!

*Tuesday, January 9th - NIS Family Math Night- **Tonight!***

Please join us with your student(s) for NIS Family Math Night. Math activities and games will begin promptly at 5:30 PM and end at 6:30 PM. You are welcome to come at 5:00 PM and have a bite to eat in our school cafeteria. One of our NHS clubs will be selling pizza and water to support their program. Please refer to the email sent home last week for more information about this fun family evening.

Wednesday, January 10th - Parent University

Some of our selected fourth and fifth grade students will begin evening tutoring on Wednesday. Their parents are invited to a “Parent University” focused on supporting student learning at home. Invitations for this program have gone out. Please reach out if you might be interested in participating in the Parent University portion of our program on an upcoming Wednesday evening.

Thursday, January 11th - NIS School Council Meeting - 4:00 PM - Library

Our NIS School Council will meet and continue our work focused on family and community engagement through active communication. Currently our parent representatives for the NIS School Council are Pauline Cronin and Gina Heneke. Please reach out to them to learn more about our work!

Friday, January 12th - NIS Parent Coffee - 8:00 AM - Cafeteria

Special guest: Ms. Jessica Held, new NIS art teacher! Ms. Held will share out about what students are learning in art classes and explain our Arts Integration program.

4. Important Parent and Family Dates & Engagement Opportunities

Tuesday, January 9th: NIS Family Math Night; School Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 10th: Parent University begins

Thursday, January 11th: NIS School Council Meeting - NIS Library @ 4:00 PM

Friday, January 12th: NIS Principal's Coffee - NIS Cafeteria @ 8:00 AM

Monday, January 15th: No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Wednesday, January 24th: ½ Day of School - Professional Development

Thursday, February 1st: NIS ELL Family Night

Wednesday, February 7th: NIS Band Concert - 7:00 PM

Thursday, February 8th: NIS School Council Meeting - NIS Library @ 4:00 PM

Thursday, February 22nd: NIS Literacy Night

February 26th - March 2nd: No School - Winter Break