



April 2021

## Back to School

4th Quarter has begun and students are finally back in school. It is encouraging to see so many of our students choosing to return to in-person learning despite the concerns and awkwardness of having to remain in one classroom for the entire day and having to wear masks for the vast majority of the day. While these things are less than ideal, most of us agree that it is still worth it to get back to something that resembles “normal” schooling and being able to resume many of the important relationships that have been formed here at New Heights between students and their classmates, but also between students and their teachers. While many of our students have returned to in-person schooling, there are still many students who have chosen to remain on the distance-learning plan for the remainder of the school year.

While our teachers are now extremely busy during the school hours portion of the day, they will still be sending out virtual lessons through Google Classroom as before. Keep in mind that it will be harder to get support from our teachers now during the school day as it simply isn't possible to facilitate in-person teaching and deliver distance-learning support at the same time effectively; in fact, it's impossible. That is the primary reason why we can only offer 4 days of in-person classes to our 7-12 grade students each week. The teachers absolutely need the additional time on Fridays to prepare lessons, grade student work, and meet with the distance-learners who are requesting assistance. I simply mention these things so that parents of students opting for distance-learning understand that the better option is to come to school for in-person lessons and support.

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### IMPORTANT DATES

- Board of Directors Meeting  
March 16th via Google  
Meet 4 pm
- March 25th— End of  
Quarter 3
- Spring Break March 26—  
April 2nd



## Based on Principal Continued from page 1

While the governor is still allowing families to make the choice to remain at home, parents should keep in mind that the effectiveness of distance-learning simply isn't the same as being at school in person and attending school the way it is designed. We respect the choices of our families and will do what we can to provide as much support as possible, but it simply isn't the same.

### Spring Conferences

Each year New Heights offers two evenings, one in the fall and one in the spring, for parents to come to school and meet with teachers for a conference regarding student progress. We were unable to offer in-person conferences in the fall and we sadly find ourselves in the same situation this spring because of the rules surrounding Covid 19. Whereas we are not prohibited from holding conferences in person, we feel that it is the better option to not hold the conferences in person and notify our parents that anyone wishing to conference with any teacher should contact those teachers directly by email and request either a phone conference or virtual conference via Google Meet. We do not have to limit this opportunity to one evening, but will extend this offer to families indefinitely, which is to say that at any point this spring you feel you would like to visit/conference with a teacher, you are invited to notify whichever teacher(s) you would like to visit with and he or she will happily schedule something with you at a time mutually agreed upon to discuss the pro-

gress of your child. I would hope you already know that the invitation to conference with us is always in place. I am simply reminding you that we are here and ready to discuss the academic and social progress of your child any time you feel it is needed.

### Enrolling for Next Year

You will soon receive a request for information regarding your school of choice for next fall.

There are no definitive orders from the governor yet as to exactly what form school will take, but we do expect that school will resume as "normal" next fall. We do not anticipate a distance-learning option and New Heights is not pursuing an online endorsement. There may be limited opportunities for some students to do some learning from home, but we are currently planning for 5 days of in-person learning each week and for students to come on campus for the school experience as would normally occur. Please be watching for our request for information in the next few weeks and kindly respond so we know what to expect next fall.

***Tom Kearney-Principal***



# Academic Honors for 3rd Quarter

## PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Students with an A in all 6 classes will be recognized as Principal's Award Students.

## HONOR ROLL

Students with an Grade Point Average of 3.5 or above will be recognized on the Honor Roll.

## HONORABLE MENTION

Students with a Grade Point Average of 3.0 or higher will be recognized as an Honorable Mention.

### Principal's Award

#### Students:

**Josiah Kummer** (6th Grade)  
**James Cinader** (7th Grade)  
**Elizabeth Granlund** (7th Grade)  
**Addabelle Brown** (8th Grade)  
**James Schuster** (8th Grade)  
**Abbie Bell** (9th Grade)  
**Camden Briggs** (10th Grade)  
**Zainah Mansour** (10th Grade)  
**Madalyn Suchy** (11th Grade)  
**Grace Tacheny** (11th Grade)  
**Amanda Richardson** (12th Grade)  
**Jacob Schneider** (12th Grade)  
**Sam Steele** (12th grade)  
**Taylor Suchy** (12th Grade)

### Honor Roll Students:

**Gavin Braun** (7th Grade)  
**Brooke Hatch** (7th Grade)  
**Brett Wedan** (7th Grade)  
**Hannah Emison** (8th Grade)  
**Donovan Perez** (8th Grade)  
**Aspen Stevens** (9th Grade)  
**Charlie Torres** (9th Grade)  
**Ethan Wadding** (9th Grade)  
**Kyle Brown** (10th Grade)  
**Mykaela Collins** (10th Grade)  
**Madison Drum** (10th Grade)  
**Elijah VanLoon** (11th Grade)

### Honorable Mention

#### Students:

**George Colarusso** (6th Grade)  
**Grace Warolin** (7th Grade)  
**Joshua Emison** (8th Grade)  
**Harvey Torres** (8th Grade)  
**Jillian Briggs** (9th Grade)  
**Emily Busta** (10th Grade)  
**Gavyn Groebner** (10th Grade)  
**Brady Wegge** (10th Grade)  
**Adriana Bendix** (11th Grade)  
**Jasmine Kunde** (11th Grade)  
**Jacob Roslin** (12th Grade)





# New Teacher Feature ~ Ms. Stephanie Kocer



## 1. What inspired you to become a teacher?

I have had some wonderful teachers in my life that taught me the magic of storytelling and inspired me to want to teach young people about that magic. I also love learning and in teaching I get to continuously be learning from my students.

## 2. What do you enjoy most about teaching?

I love those "aha!" moments where students find themselves identifying with a character in a story or words in a poem.



## 3. What is the most exciting thing you've ever done?

Honestly, I think it might be deciding to teach! I worked in the nonprofit world in marketing/communications for several years before deciding to make a career change to teaching, and it's been a really exciting, challenging thing that I'm so grateful for!



## Congratulations!

Elijah VanLoon, a New Heights 11th grader, was recently Sworn into the Army.



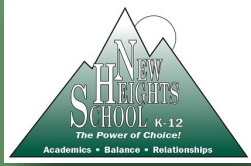
## 4. What is something people would be surprised to know about you?

I'm from Austin, MN - Spamtown!





## 5. What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I love to read, go to the movies, play tennis, and spend time with my fiancé and dog, Cooper.





# April Monthly Planner

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue   | Wed  | Thu  | Fri   | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|-----|
| 28  | 29  | 30  | 31   | 1  | 2   | 3   |
| No School—Spring Break  |   |   |  |  |   |     |
| 4<br> | 5<br>Classes Resume   | 6<br>3-6 MCA Math Test  | 7<br>3-6 MCA Math Test                         | 8<br>3-6 MCA Makeup Math Test                | 9   | 10  |
| 11  | 12  | 13<br>7, 8, 10th gr. MCA Reading Test<br>Board of Directors Meeting via Google Meet 4pm | 14<br>7, 8, 10th gr. MCA Reading Test          | 15<br>7, 8, 10th gr. MCA Makeup Reading Test | 16<br> | 17  |
| 18  | 19<br> | 20<br>7, 8, 11th gr. MCA Math Test  | 21<br>7, 8, 11th gr. MCA Math Test<br>ACT Test | 22<br>7, 8, 11th gr. MCA Makeup Math Test    | 23  | 24  |
| 25  | 26  | 27<br>5th & 8th gr. MCA Science Test  | 28<br>5th & 8th gr. MCA Science Test           | 29<br>5th & 8th gr. MCA Make up Science Test | 30<br> | 1   |