

Subject: 09.11.2020- Message from Principal Jay Litwicki

Dear NPA parents and guardians,

With your help, support, and feedback we have successfully completed the first month of the 2020-21 school year. I know that all of us have faced frustration, overcome obstacles, problem-solved, felt overwhelmed, and persevered. We here at NPA continue to learn every day and, as always, we focus our attention on continuous school improvement. To that end, I want to update you on current goings on.

First, as people's lives have been upended by the pandemic, we have had some staffing changes at NPA. I'm happy to say that with the addition of new hire Ms. Gianna Wiggins our Counseling Department is solidified. She joins the current team of Program Coordinator/Guidance Counselor Carol Willis and School Psychologist Erin Gilmore. We are also in the process of hiring a Health Aide who will be instrumental in implementing our Covid Mitigation Plan and serving the needs of students and staff.

One of the things we've learned after a month of online school is that we need to add a policy addressing Zoom backgrounds to ensure that they are appropriate and don't distract from the learning process. This policy has been shared with staff as well. Please review it with your student(s):

Zoom Backgrounds
Zoom Backgrounds are a distraction to others

- **Must not reference**
 - **Drugs**
 - **Alcohol**
 - **Sex**
 - **Gangs**
 - **Offensive language**
 - **Offensive symbols**
 - **Violence or weapons**

Teachers and Administration reserve the right to determine what is considered disruptive to the learning environment.

Attendance is different in online learning. Please remind your students to self-report their attendance for every period (periods 1 -7, Advisory and Homeroom, if applicable) every day in their Infinite Campus student portal account.

Parents reported difficulty accessing the Parent Google Classroom. That information can now be found on the school website on the Resources for Parents page found in the Parents drop down menu. Please visit that page for information on Parent Portal and Infinite Campus. And while you are visiting the Infinite Campus parent portal, there is an important document there concerning technology titled Acceptable Use Policy. Please take the time to e-sign this for us! You can also use this account to track grades, complete registration, and pay fees.

Lastly (whew), the school calendar includes a teacher in-service on Friday September 25th, where we will solidify plans for the possible pivot to the Hybrid schedule developed this summer. I will keep you informed on that process. This in-service day requires us to adjust our weekly schedule. The schedule for the week of 9/21 – 9/25 is at the following link.

<http://northlandprep.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/NPA-Online-Learning-Schedule-Friday-Holiday-1.pdf>

Thank you for all you're doing during this remarkable time. Education today is more of a team effort than ever before and we couldn't do it without you on our team. The staff appreciates your efforts and your support.

Jay Litwicki
Principal
Northland Preparatory Academy

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