

Dear Newcastle Families,

At the start of each school year there is great excitement for the first day of school. While this year will not get started in a traditional manner, we are still excited and filled with emotions and desires for that first day with our students.

The first day of school, August 14th, will start at 8:00 am in a virtual environment (details to come). Our teachers will be ready to meet their students on-line with excitement for the year ahead. While there are many questions and challenges that come with distance learning, our staff and school are committed to providing high-quality learning. We learned a lot from the previous school shutdown, and we are excited to engage students in new ways. For example, we are offering both synchronous and asynchronous learning. Using a set schedule, students will receive live instruction and engage daily with their teacher (synchronous). Students will also have access to asynchronous learning where they can view previously recorded instruction and schoolwork outside of designated learning times. Here is a [link](#) to drafted schedules. Our main emphasis will be English Language Arts and Math. Within this schedule, intervention and RSP will be integrated. (At the bottom of the schedule there are tabs showing grade-level ranges.)

During the school day, our staff will be working from the school. We believe that the classroom and all of the resources provided to staff on-site are a part of the toolbox teachers use to educate. We also believe in the power and professionalism of our educators to collaborate while observing safety protocols. We have learned so much from our experience with crisis learning and the power of the village needs to be harnessed to apply those lessons learned this past year. We are stronger together!

Amongst our teaching team we have some new faculty to introduce. In 6th grade, I would like to give a big welcome to Mr. Chuck Larsen and Mrs. Carson Percival. In fourth grade, we welcome Mrs. Kelly Dufour, who will be partnering with Mrs. Bales. Lastly, Mrs. Hall-Nicholas is making the jump from 6th grade to 2nd grade, partnering with Mrs. Clifton. They are all excellent teachers bringing a great repertoire of experience to our students.

To kick the start of the year off, here are a few more important details:

Classroom teacher assignment:

Families will be emailed by 4pm, August 7th, with classroom teacher placement.

Technology and textbook roll-out:

Students in grades 1-8 will receive a Chromebook and TK/K will receive an iPad. Pick-up for devices and textbooks will be held at the upper campus “drop-off” circle (by the gym). Please come by the school at one of the designated times:

- Tuesday, August 11th

By last name:

- A-J: 4:00 pm -5:30 pm
- K-Z: 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, August 12th - extra pick-up time for those who cannot make it on Tuesday.
 - 5:00 pm -6:30 pm

When coming to pick up your child's device, all families will be asked to sign a technology use agreement. If you can fill out and bring the [Acceptable Use Policy](#) in advance, it will speed up the process. One form is needed for each student. We also offer in-house insurance for Chromebooks. ([Chromebook Insurance](#)).

First day of school (August 14th):

On the first day of school, teachers will be ready to see their students at 8:00 am on-line. Instructions for this will come in the days before school.

Attendance:

Teachers will be tracking daily attendance. This will happen through the monitoring of students completing daily work.

Discovery Club:

Discovery Club was just approved through their licensing to provide daycare from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. They will have limited capacity and will run at a cost of \$165 per week. More information to come as soon as it is received.

School Messenger:

School Messenger is our mass communication system for sending emails, text messages, and pre-recorded messages to families. Over the summer there were glitches in the system. Those have since been fixed. If you know of someone not receiving school information, please let our office know at 916-663-3307.

Thank you for your support and patience as we navigate uncharted territory. We believe in our staff as they rise to the challenges of supporting our students and community no matter what the year ahead brings. We are in this together.

GO KNIGHTS!

In your service,

Dave Cory

Principal

