



Niagara Falls High School

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Niagara Falls, New York 14305-3309
Phone: (716) 278-5800



Mrs. Cheryl Vilardo, Chief Educational Administrator
Mr. Bryan Rotella, Administrator
Mrs. Valerie Rotella-Zafuto, Administrator
Mr. Nicholas Ruffolo, Administrator
Mr. Edward Ventry, Administrator

August 2, 2024

Dear NFHS Students and Families:

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! While there are still have many more warm summer days ahead of us, we are looking forward to welcoming students back in the fall. This letter outlines important information to get you and your student ready to have a successful year.

IMPORTANT DATES

 **Ninth Grade Parent and Student Orientation** - August 29 - 5:00 – 6:30 pm

 **Open House** – September 3 - 5:00 – 6:30 pm

First Days of School

9th grade – September 5 (A Day)

10th grade – September 6 (B Day)

11th & 12th grade and first day of BOCES – September 9 (A Day)

Note: Our Ninth Grade Orientation, Open House, and phased re-opening plan are designed to create a smooth transition into the school year, especially for our younger students. These opportunities will help students learn their way around, meet the staff, hear important information, and understand the expectations of being a high school student.

OPENING OF SCHOOLS

 **Schedules** will be accessible via the Student and Parent Portal starting on August 29. Ninth Grade students will also receive a paper copy of their schedules at Orientation. Schedules will NOT be mailed home this year. Students will report to their first period class on their first day of school, where they will receive a paper copy of their schedule. The schedule change request process will be shared with students on their first day of school. No schedules will be changed prior.

 **Lockers** - Students will receive their locker numbers and combinations on their first day of school.

 **Bus Information** will be mailed home from the Transportation Department the week before school begins. Please contact ssamuel@nfschools.net or gstewart@nfschools.net with any questions.

 **Supply Lists** are posted on the NFHS Facebook and Instagram Pages as well as the school website.

 **Paperwork** - Health forms, AUPs, Lunch Forms, and other paperwork will be distributed at Orientation and the first day of school. Have students return completed paperwork to their 1st period teachers ASAP.

IMPORTANT FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

 **Attendance** Students are expected to attend school every day unless they are sick. Students who attend school regularly are much more successful in passing their classes and Regents exams. Improving attendance will be a large focus this year, including the enforcement of our eligibility policy (see below). A written excuse must be sent with a student any time they are absent from school, arrive to school late, or need to be excused early.

 **Behavior** - The complete Code of Conduct can be found at www.nfschools.net under the “Parent and Guardian” tab. We ask that you review the code of conduct and emphasize the following points with your students:

Insubordination It is our expectation that all students will comply with the reasonable directions of any school employee and treat others with respect.

Cell phones and headphones/ear buds Cell phones can be used appropriately in the hallways and during lunch. They must be put away during instruction. For safety reasons, students must always follow the “one ear bud” policy so that they can hear directions from staff.

Class attendance Students are expected to attend their assigned class each period of the day, including study halls and lunch, and arrive before the bell rings. Students should only be in hallways during class time if they have a pass. We will conduct regular “hall sweeps” to encourage students to arrive to class. Students who are in the hallways during class without a pass may miss that class period and receive additional progressive consequences.

Appearance code Students' faces must be completely visible. Backpacks remain in students' lockers throughout the day. Students who violate the appearance code will be asked to modify their dress prior to returning to classes.

 **Daily Schedule** The school day will be 8:00 am – 2:35 pm. Students may enter school starting at 7:30 am to eat breakfast or for senior BOCES students. Extended day clubs will begin in mid-September.

 **Calendar Information** Check the NFHS website, social media, and the monthly newsletter for events.

 **Eligibility** - Students must pass four classes plus PE, have an 85% attendance to school, and be in good standing with discipline in order to participate in sports, theater, and extracurricular events such as dances and attending sporting events. Note that an unexcused tardy to school counts as .5 of an absence. Additionally, students must accrue a minimum of 4.5 credits at each grade level to be eligible for extracurricular activities (minimum credits of 4.5 for sophomores, 9 for juniors, 13.5 for seniors).

STAY IN TOUCH

Effective communication is key to student success! Enclosed are a list of key staff members' direct lines and email addresses. When contacting NFHS, it is always better to reach out to a person directly. Here are the other tools that we will use throughout the year:

 **Social Media** – Follow Niagara Falls High School on Facebook and Instagram

 **Monthly Family & Student Newsletters** – These will be sent via email, text message, and posted on social media

 **Remind** – Join the NFHS Family Remind by downloading the Remind App and using the class code “@nfhfamily”

 **Parent Portal** – Get up to date information on class attendance and grades as well as view progress reports and report cards. To sign up, visit www.nfschools.net and click on the “Parent and Guardian” tab to sign up. Email manthony@nfschools.net if you need assistance.

 **All calls/texts** - Not receiving calls/texts from NFHS? Please call 716-278-5800 to provide an updated number.

We look forward to working together to make this a successful school year!

Sincerely,



The NFHS Administrative Team – Cheryl Vilardo, Edward Ventry, Bryan Rotella, Valerie Rotella-Zafuto, Nicholas Ruffolo