

City School District of the City of Niagara Falls – New Teacher and Staff Orientation 2021
August 23 – 26, Niagara Falls High School

The attached schedule for New Teacher/Staff Orientation contains a variety of workshops to suit the needs of teachers at various levels as well as noninstructional staff. Some are mandatory for all new staff, while others pertain only to certain grade levels or departments. The brief workshop descriptions below include the intended audience for each. All staff should make their selections such that by the end of the week they have attended all required sessions as well as those that meet their individual needs. In order to ensure adequate space and materials, each participant should register for all sessions. A schedule with live registration links will be posted on Monday, August 9.

Required workshops:

Technology: Introduction Microsoft Office 365 – August 23
Student Ownership of Learning: Learning Targets – August 24
Trauma 101- August 24

Technology: Introduction to Microsoft Teams – August 25
Diversity 101 – August 26
Human Resources New Employee Orientation – August 26

Workshop descriptions:

Monday, August 23
Technology: Introduction to Microsoft Office 365 – Audience: All employees. This session will provide an overview of the essentials to using Microsoft Office 365, the district Learning Management Platform. Commonly used applications will be reviewed, including Outlook for District email.
Elementary Mathematics: Introduction to Investigations Grades Kindergarten to 2 – Audience: Elementary classroom and consultant teachers assigned to grades Kindergarten, 1, and 2. Investigations is the primary resource used for teaching grades Kindergarten to 5 mathematics.
Elementary Mathematics: Introduction to Investigations Grades 3, 4, & 5 - Audience: Elementary classroom and consultant teachers assigned to grades 3, 4, & 5. Investigations is the primary resource used for teaching grades Kindergarten to 5 mathematics.
Elementary Mathematics: Introduction to Go! Math- Audience: Elementary Classroom and Consultant teachers in grade 6. Go! Math is the primary resource used for teaching grade 6 mathematics.
Elementary Science: Introduction to the New York State Science Standards and NFCSD Curriculum - Audience: Grades K, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 teachers. Science Standards will be presented along with District curriculum maps, resources and instructional protocols.
Technology: Creating a Teacher Website - Audience: Teachers, Counselors or Social Workers. This session will walk the participant through the steps necessary to build and utilize a personal district website.
Elementary Mathematics: Braining Camp – Audience: Elementary teachers grades Kindergarten to 6. Braining Camp is a supplemental, online resource which enables teachers to augment their instruction with digital manipulatives. Students can use the digital tools and share their work with the teacher and peers.
PowerTeacher – Attendance, Grading and Reporting - Audience: All instructional staff with classroom responsibilities. PowerSchool is the district’s Student Information System. The PowerTeacher training session will cover use of gradebook, report card input, and daily attendance taking.

<p>Classroom Management and Post-Pandemic Social Emotional Learning - Audience: All instructional staff. The presenter will share a variety of strategies for creating a positive, supportive classroom environment which addresses students' social-emotional well-being in addition to academic demands.</p>
<p>Tuesday, August 24</p>
<p>Student Ownership of Learning: Learning Targets - Audience: All Instructional Staff. The presenter will focus on providing the participants with an understanding of what Learning Targets are, how to create targets and use them to guide instruction.</p>
<p>Trauma 101 - Audience: All staff. This session will provide an overview of the nature of trauma and how to promote an environment of healing and recovery. The workshop will be facilitated by the Institute on Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care at the University at Buffalo.</p>
<p>Wednesday, August 25</p>
<p>Building Relationships with Restorative Practices - Audience: All Instructional Staff. Presenters will highlight restorative practices which can be used to proactively build relationships, build community and respond to conflict within the classroom.</p>
<p>Technology: All About Teams - Audience: All Employees. This session will provide an overview of the essentials to using Teams, including scheduling and managing Teams meetings, managing Team folders, adding/sharing Team content and more.</p>
<p>Elementary English Language Arts- Foundations. Audience: Elementary Teachers Grades K, 1, & 2. This session will provide teachers with the instructional routines needed to implement Foundations, the district's Primary grade Phonics and Skills program.</p>
<p>Elementary English Language Arts - Journeys Grades Kindergarten to 2. Audience: Elementary Teachers Grades K,1, & 2. This session will provide an overview of incorporating the different components of Journeys, the district's primary ELA resource for grades Kindergarten to 5, in the Reader's and Writer's workshops.</p>
<p>Elementary English Language Arts - Journeys Grades 3, 4, & 5. Audience: Elementary Teachers Grades 3,4,5. This session will provide an overview of incorporating the different components of Journeys, the district's primary ELA resource for grades Kindergarten to 5, in the Reader's and Writer's workshops.</p>
<p>PowerTeacher – Attendance, Grading and Reporting - Audience: All instructional staff with classroom responsibilities. PowerSchool is the district's Student Information System. The PowerTeacher training session will cover use of gradebook, report card input, and daily attendance taking.</p>
<p>Elementary Mathematics: Exemplars – Audience: All elementary teachers grades Kindergarten to 5. Exemplars are Standards-based, complex math problems embedded within the elementary curriculum. Exemplar tasks are the core content of elementary students' mathematics portfolios. This session will cover Exemplar protocols and scoring.</p>
<p>Mentor Sessions by Level: Audience: All instructional staff. This session will enable new teachers to break into small groups with a mentor in their same curricular area and level to answer questions and discuss new teacher needs. Sessions dependent on staff availability.</p>
<p>Thursday, August 26</p>
<p>Human Resources – Orientation for New Employees</p>
<p>Diversity 101 – Audience: All District Employees. The National Federation for Just Communities works with groups across WNY to raise awareness of issues around social justice, including equity and equality for all members of society.</p>