



Northeast Kings Education Centre

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<http://www.nkec.ednet.ns.ca>

Principal- Kevin Veinot

September 2020

MISSION STATEMENT

Northeast Kings Education Centre believes in developing a learning environment that nurtures academic, physical, social and emotional growth.



Dear Students, Parent(s) / Guardian(s),

It feels so great to finally be back to school with all our students! Our teachers and support staff are so excited to teach and support our students in our school! We have only had a few days with our students but the many days of preparation over the summer has made the first days excellent. We have had a great start to the 2020-2021 school year!

We would like to give a very special "Titan" welcome to those students and families who are joining us for the first time. We have a fantastic group of 895 students and 85 wonderful staff. It is so great to have your child at our school! We know your child can have a very rewarding experience here when they embrace all that we have to offer. This is our 20th year of existence and we will make every effort so that it will be our best year to date! We are excited about the positive energy and commitment to teaching from all of our staff members. We have a great "family" of staff that are very caring and professional and will make the curriculum they teach engaging for your child.

We have had many restrictions placed on us through Public Health and the Department of Education but the bottom line is we are ready to provide the best education possible for your child. One of the restrictions we have that can impact your daily routine is that our school must remain locked until 8:40AM when our first bus arrives. This may cause an inconvenience for you but all schools have been given this expectation. We are also keeping our school locked throughout the day. A second restriction is that **we must keep visits from parents or guardians to a minimum and only under necessary circumstances will we have a face to face meeting and there must be a scheduled appointment time made before you can be let into our school. If you have a question please contact us at 902-582-2040 and if we need to meet we will arrange a time that works for you.** We have really increased our cleaning and disinfecting regime here at the school. We have hired another day custodian and all three custodians are straight out disinfecting high contact areas throughout the day. Within our classrooms we are disinfecting student desks and chairs a minimum of four times a day. Masks must be worn by all citizens in our school at all times. We are still business as usual aside from these expectations.

Our entire staff will be working towards school goals of creating a welcoming, positive and caring school climate and developing strategies to improve student learning. Our school vision is to support our students in developing the tools to achieve their potential. We invite you to remain informed about all initiatives and programs by reading the school newsletter monthly, logging onto our school website at: <http://www.nkec.ca>.

We have sent home a student registration form along with a media consent form for you to read through and make any changes to the information that we presently have for your child, including all contact information. Please complete these forms and sign each document so we can get the changes made and be current with your information. **It is very important to have current email and phone contacts for you so you can be informed of any changes to our school expectations.** With Public Health giving all public schools weekly expectations, we need to be accommodating and flexible. What we expect this week may change next week.

I encourage you to be supportive of your child's educational experiences by communicating regularly with your child's teachers and by supporting activities at Northeast Kings Education Centre. Also, feel free to contact the school at any time with your questions, ideas and concerns. It is through working together that we will provide the most effective school experiences for your child.

During this time, we continue to encourage everyone to follow Dr. Strang's and Nova Scotia Public Health's advice to practice physical

distancing. As a reminder, you can visit the COVID-19 website for the latest updates, learning resources, frequently asked questions and health resources for families at <https://www.nshealth.ca/coronavirus>

We are aware that we are all faced with uncertainty during this time of physical distancing and self-isolation. It is important to monitor and take care of your and your family's mental health. Please check out the resources our government has made available to help you with managing difficult conversations and supporting overall mental health during these difficult times at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/mental-health/>

We will continue to keep our families informed as we work through this plan to support our students with their learning. Take care of yourself and your family. Our thoughts are with you all during these challenging times. Stay safe and be healthy.

Sincerely,
Kevin Veinot
Principal

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome students, parents and guardians to this unique 2020-21 school year. I would like to welcome all returning Titans and extend special greetings to our new grade six students and any other students new to our middle school. The transition from home to school this year has been significant due to COVID-19 concerns; however I am very pleased to see all our students settling into positive routines and developing important relationships with peers and staff, including our new grade 6's.

First off, I would like to highlight some of the middle school changes that have occurred as a result of COVID-19. The biggest and most significant change is that of classroom cohorting. According to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, all pre-primary to grade 8 classes must be isolated by themselves and not have any contact with other students in school. What this means is that your child may not see many other students, possibly even their best friend, if they are not in their class. We realize that this will be a difficult and challenging situation for many students, but unfortunately, we will be unable to satisfy requests for class changes. I have asked all middle school teachers to spend time talking to their students about resilience and being strong in times of adversity.

Another significant change is to the way we conduct lunch and recess. This year, lunch and recess time will be divided. Our grade 6 students will have a separate lunch and recess break from the grade 7 and 8 students, who have their breaks at the normal time. During these breaks, all classes will have two areas of the school where they may go, an indoor and outdoor spot. Every week, these locations will rotate to give all students an equal chance to use the school's facilities.

This year, your child will not have access to a locker and for the most part, and minus PE or specialist, classes will be situated in the same classroom. As a result, our classrooms may be a bit cluttered with book bags and jackets, so I ask that all students come to school with the least amount of stuff in their possession as possible.

Staff members have been working very hard with students to establish new safety rules, positive routines, to promote strong organizational skills and reinforce the importance of working hard in class. As teachers and educational assistants, we encourage students to put forth their best effort daily, think independently and seek support whenever necessary.

All Middle School students will receive a Titan Agenda. This agenda booklet is a terrific tool that we want all students to use to track homework, assignments, important dates and their daily schedule. In the agenda, you will also find useful studying and organizational suggestions, a multiplication table and other helpful tools. Please check your child's agenda routinely.

Google Classroom is an invaluable tool for teachers to provide digital information to their students, as well as provide a digital location for most of your child's course work and resources. Please reach out to your child's teacher and ask them to sign you up for the Google Classroom parent notification.

In addition, access to the Student/Parent Portal is an effective tool that allows students, parents/guardians access to attendance info, student schedules, assignment due dates and assessment results. The Portal is a terrific tool. Please contact the administrative office to gain access.

This year, we have been able to acquire enough chromebooks for each individual student in our building. However, in the middle school, these chromebooks will be housed in the classroom for school use.

Northeast Kings Education Centre believes in developing a learning environment that nurtures academic, physical, social and emotional growth. If you have questions or concerns regarding your child's development, or wish to provide valued perspective and information that may assist middle school staff, please contact the school and speak with your child's homeroom teacher, guidance counselor (Ms. Garland), or myself.

Pete Gebhardt
Vice Principal

Modeling Appropriate Social Media Behaviours for our Children

Social media has become an important means of communication and seeking information for people. It is proving to be particular importance for as technology has significant part of the this generation. Unfortunately, increased technology has also resulted in new social issues. It is sometimes used as a means of cyber-bullying or an exchange of inappropriate information. It is up to us, as adults, to serve as proper role models with regards to technology use. We need to teach our children to respect the use of technology and to be good digital citizens. In order to do this properly, we as adults must also learn to be good social citizens and to model appropriate use of social media. We must use social media tools like Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Instagram, etc. appropriately, because our children are watching and emulating our behaviours. Please be advised that inappropriate use of technology falls under the Provincial School Code of Conduct. Inappropriate use of technology and social media can result in serious consequences for students. Inappropriate use of technology and social media may also fall under the Criminal Code. We have recently seen criminal charges resulting from the sharing of inappropriate photos. Please be informed and help to inform your children.



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technology

Vaping and the Concern We have for Your Child

The use of vapour products has been on the rise with youth. We are seeing many students who have never smoked before using vapes here at our school and this is really concerning us about



PARENT PORTAL

For parents and guardians who would like access to the PowerSchool Parent Portal, please contact the administration office for assistance in setting up your account.

NEWS FROM STUDENT SERVICES

Course Changes

September is quickly passing and the students have done a great job of submitting their course changes and appear to be settling into their classes. The deadline for final **course changes for first semester courses** is September 21st, and for yearlong courses- Sept 28th. Students are asked to have their signed forms into Student Services by the 18th for processing.

Welcome: Amy Garland

My name is Amy Garland and I would like to introduce myself to you as the Middle School Counselor at NKEC. I am entering my 14th year with the AVRCE and I am thrilled to be your school counselor! I look forward to working with you and your child this year, and I will make every effort to see that your child receives as much personal assistance as possible.

The School Counseling program at NKEC includes a variety of services for ALL students and is designed to assist with interests and issues related to the stages of student growth in the areas of academic, career, personal, emotional, and social development. Services that will be available to students include, but are not limited to: small group counseling sessions: divorce, grief, study skills, friendship/social skills, and anger management (if you feel that your child needs assistance in

any of these areas please let me know). Individual meetings to help students adjust to school or help with personal issues on an as needed basis.

If you have any questions regarding the Middle School Counseling Program, please contact me directly at 902-582-2066 or email me at agarland@gnspe.ca. You can also access parent resources on my website <https://sites.google.com/gnspe.ca/agarland-justbreathe/home> I look forward to working together with you this year to help ensure your child's success in school and life in general. We are going to have a great year!

Sincerely,
Amy Garland MEd, CCPA
Middle School Counsellor
NKEC

GRADS

Grads are encouraged to join the "Potential Grads 2021" Google Classroom so that they can receive updates about anything grad related. The join code is: [4nt5xaz](#)



2020 YEAR BOOKS

2020 yearbooks are currently being printed and will be delivered to the school around the end of September. Pre-ordered books can be picked up at that time. Any questions contact Mr. Priddle

fpriddle@gnspe.ca

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Welcome to all new and returning students to the NKEC Music Department!! We are excited to have many opportunities for your students to participate in the music program at our school. Band registration will take place in a different format this fall due to restrictions from the Covid-19 protocols. There will be an ALL-HIGH SCHOOL call out on Friday, Sept. 11 @ 12:00 noon for any interested high school student. They will have the opportunity to take home a registration packet to fill out and bring back to the Music Room. Below is the current rehearsal schedule for our performing ensembles.

Sr. Concert Band – *BRASS and PERCUSSION STUDENTS* - Mondays @ 3:20 – 4:30 p.m.

WOODWIND STUDENTS - Wednesdays @ 3:20 –

4:30 p.m.

Sr. Jazz Band – *ALL MEMBERS* - Tuesdays @ 3:20 – 4:30 p.m.

Jr. Concert Band will rehearse during their regularly scheduled class times.

At this time, our adult concert band: **North Mountain Concert Band** for any adults (parents, grandparents, friends, family) who would like to learn to play a concert band instrument, **will not be able to meet due to restrictions placed on the school.** If that should change, you will be notified via this newsletter about the opportunities to join.

For any of you who are nervous about your student participating in a performance ensemble, I have been working with the Nova Scotia Band Association, Canadian Band Association, Nova Scotia Department of Education/Arts Consultant, and the National Association of Music Educators to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for your concert/jazz band student. There will be safeguards put in place and adherence will be mandatory for our groups to experience success during these trying times. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, you may contact Maggie Helms at mhelms@gnspe.ca or phone (902) 582-2055.

ATHLETICS

The NSSAF is following the lead of the provincial sports organizations in regards to what sports can be offered. At this time they are offering golf, baseball and volleyball as sports that can have competition. Soccer and cross country can have practices as long as they remain in groups of less than 10 and follow other mandatory regulations. If we are going to offer competition for sports teams at Northeast Kings this year we are going to need even more support from parents to drive their children to away events as the restrictions on driving have increased as a result of COVID. We need to be reminded that this whole situation is very fluid and flexibility by everyone is paramount for success.

As long as all protocols are met, Northeast Kings Education Center supports the NSSAF and the promotion of having our student-athletes back on the court, field and ice. It is going to require more effort from more people in order to make this work, but the athletic department and the administration of Northeast Kings are ready to do their part to facilitate school sports.



SEPTEMBER – SEPTEMBRE - WIKUMKEWIKUS	
14	Parent Orientation Virtual Meet 7:00pm (Gr. 6-8)
16	Parent Orientation Virtual Meet 7:00pm (Gr 9-12)
17	Grade 12 Parent Info Virtual Meet 6:30pm
21	Last Day for First Semester Course Changes
29	Regional In-Service Day – (No School for Students)
OCTOBER – OCTOBRE - WIKEWIKUS	
1	School Photo Retakes
9	Newsletter
12	Thanksgiving – No School
23	Provincial Conference Day (No School for Students)

Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Schools

To reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 in schools, students should not be in school if they feel unwell or are exhibiting new health symptoms such as fever or cough. For a full list of COVID-19 symptoms, visit <https://when-to-call-about-covid19.novascotia.ca/en>

If your child starts to feel unwell or exhibit new health symptoms while at school, the following measures will take place:



Monitor your child until you arrive



Have them wash their hands



Give them a mask to wear



Escort them to an isolation room/area in the school



Call you to come pick them up

811

Advise you to complete the 811 online assessment: <https://when-to-call-about-covid19.novascotia.ca/en> or if unable to access the online tool, call 811

By contacting 811 you will be advised if your child needs to be tested for COVID-19. If testing is not required, your child can return to school after they are symptom-free for 24 hours.



If a COVID-19 test is required, your child will be required to isolate until the test results come back.



If the test is positive, public health will follow up and provide support and will advise when your child can return to school.



If the test is negative, your child can return to school 24 hours after they are symptom free.

For a full list of COVID-19 symptoms visit <https://when-to-call-about-covid19.novascotia.ca/en>

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