



# Northeast Kings Education Centre

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

Principal- Kevin Veinot

September 2021

## 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 great to 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 our start-up run smoothly.

With the announcement from our Provincial Government that masks will be voluntary in schools on September 20<sup>th</sup> we will most likely hear from our Centre for Education regarding the expectations for masks in all our schools next week. Whatever the expectation is for our schools we will manage it well and proceed with teaching and learning as our yearly curriculum plans outline.

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 great group of 823 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 21<sup>st</sup> year of existence and we will make every effort so that it will be our best year to date! Our school was purchased this summer from the consortium that owned our building for the past 20 years. We are excited to have new ownership and we have put a new roof on our school, a new PA system in our building and new water fountains in our hallways.

There is a very positive energy in our school to start off and that energy is seen in the 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. 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>.

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 our 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. Stay safe and be healthy.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Veinot  
Principal

## MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome students and parents/guardians to the 2021-22 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. 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. The biggest positive change I have witnessed since school started has been the joy of our middle school students to play with all their peers at lunch and recess instead of being confined to a single class cohort. The positive energy on the playground can be felt by all.

Currently, we are still under an indoor mask mandate and will continue to wear masks until at least Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, according to public health. However, masks are not required to be worn outside and we encourage all students to stretch their legs and lungs at lunch and recess.

Since we are still in Covid phase 4, our cafeteria numbers have been reduced to 132 seats. This means that at the beginning of lunch period grade 7's and 8's may go to the cafeteria at the beginning of lunch to eat for the first half and the grade 6's can eat in the cafeteria during the second half. If a grade 6 student is hungry and wants to eat at the beginning of lunch, they may eat in their hallway, lobby or outside, but all garbage must be cleaned up.

One of our big changes in middle school has dealt with our schedule. We have officially moved from a 10 period (30mins) day to an 8 period day (40mins). This means there will be less transition and more teaching time for our students. We have already felt this positive change and will continue with an 8 period day.

Staff members have been working very hard with students to establish 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 be receiving 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.

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, or myself.

Pete Gebhardt  
Vice Principal

### **Modeling Appropriate Social Media Behaviours for our Children**

Social media has become an important means of communication and information for most is proving to be of importance for our technology has a significant part of the identity of this generation.



seeking people. It particular youth as become

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, Tik Tok, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, Discord, 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.

### **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 their well-being. "Vaping" is the act of inhaling and exhaling an aerosol, often called vapour, which is produced by heating a liquid with a battery powered device known as a vape, electronic-cigarette or vapour product. The liquid is often referred to as e-juice, and comes in a variety of flavours which youth may find appealing. It can be difficult for parents to know if their child is vaping. Some liquids are odourless and devices can mimic the look of common objects such as USB flash drives, pens and flashlights. Parents - become educated on the myths and facts of adolescent vaping and share this information with your children.

#### **WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?**

- Start a conversation. Talk with your children and teens about the risks of vaping. Check out <https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/takeaction.html> for tips.

- Educate yourself about vapour products.
- Be a positive role model. Don't smoke or vape around children.
- Don't buy or give vapour or tobacco products to minors.
- Keep vapour products, including their nicotine refills and empty cartridges, out of the reach of children and pets. Dispose of batteries in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

Together we can better protect our youth from the big tobacco companies marketing strategies targeting our youth.



#### **PARENT PORTAL**

Over the summer, changes were made to the Power School system. As a result, all Parent Portal accounts have been reset. In addition, any parent who was already in the student information system with an email address has had a PowerSchool Parent Portal account automatically set up for them.

To reset, or setup a new account, please click the following link and click, "forgot password."

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rea1oZVzeBSJxLG82w6gWURR\\_NFZeCb2JNk3RkZ-bc/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rea1oZVzeBSJxLG82w6gWURR_NFZeCb2JNk3RkZ-bc/edit?usp=sharing)

#### **NEWS FROM STUDENT SERVICES**

##### **Course Changes**

September is quickly passing and the students have done a great job of submitting their course change forms and appear to be settling into their classes. The deadline for final **course changes for first semester courses** is September 23<sup>rd</sup>, and for yearlong courses- Sept 26<sup>th</sup>. Students are asked to have their signed forms into Student Services by the 17<sup>th</sup> for processing.

Sincerely,  
Amy Garland MEd, CCPA  
Middle School Counsellor  
NKEC

##### **GRADS**

Grads are encouraged to join the "Potential Grads 2022" Google Classroom so that they can receive updates about anything grad related. The join code is: jzkfvk6

##### **2021-2022 YEAR BOOKS**

Don't miss out! Preorder your yearbook by Oct. 31 by going to <https://ybstore.friesens.com/stores/323965>

Any questions contact Mr. Priddle [fpriddle@gnspes.ca](mailto:fpriddle@gnspes.ca)

##### **ATHLETICS**

Welcome back to what we hope is a full year of school sports activities. Once again we are delighted to be offering a number of opportunities for your sons and daughters to get involved with some extracurricular activities. We are no longer the NSSAF, as we have been rebranded and have now fallen under the umbrella of the government. We have become School Sport Nova Scotia (SSNS), where things will look the same at the school level as in previous years.



Right now, we are in the fall season and the following sports are just beginning. Our Football team has been on the field since the end of August and is still looking for any interested high school athletes. Our Senior soccer teams will be starting the week of Sept 7th so watch for announcements and tryout times. These will be on the daily announcements that can be found on the school website. Our junior soccer programs will be up and running during the week of September 13th, along with

sign-up for Golf and cross country following shortly thereafter. The Senior boy's hockey team will be having their tryouts in Kentville on Sept 17th. See Mr. Duncan for more information.

We are still in phase 4 of the Covid protocols, so all rules and restrictions are in place as per the 4th phase.

If you have any questions about any of our teams please contact Ross Bentley or Dale Sanford, our Athletic Directors.

**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. Due to our recent pandemic, our band program has suffered, so there are some changes for this fall: We will have **three** high school bands **AND** a full middle school band. There will be a **HIGH SCHOOL** call out on Friday, Sept. 10 @ 1:40 for any interested high school student. They will have the opportunity to hear about the three bands and ask questions.

On Tuesday, Sept. 7 and Wednesday, Sept. 8, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm, parents/guardians will be able to come and register their music student for the band program. There will be registration packets to fill out and a chance to meet Ms. Helms, music director. The registration process takes about 5-10 minutes and you only need to attend one of the two evenings. If you are unable to attend either session, registration packets will be available for students to take home on Wednesday morning. Below is the current rehearsal schedule for our performing ensembles.

- Sr. Concert Band** – Mondays @ 3:20 – 4:45 p.m.
- Sr. Jazz Band** – Friday mornings @ 8:00 – 8:45 a.m.
- Beginning High School Band** – Woodwinds & mallet percussion – *Tuesdays* @ 3:20 – 4:30 p.m.
- Brass & other percussion – *Thursdays* @ 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, or family) who would like to learn to play a concert band instrument, will be gathering in the Music Room on **Thursday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

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@gnsps.ca](mailto:mhelms@gnsps.ca) or phone (902) 582-2055.



**DUKE OF EDINBURGH**

Did you know that NKEC offers the Duke of Edinburgh International Award? Youth 14-24 who already participate in many extracurriculars of physical activity, volunteer and skill development should consider adding the Duke of Ed award to their activities. Students can complete three levels of the award and earn high school credits along the way. We will be having an adventurous journey mid-September for all students enrolled in the Duke of Ed award. The journey will fit the requirements for part of

the bronze award. Contact Mme Comeau for more information about the award. You can also visit <https://www.dukeofed.org/>



SEPTEMBER – SEPTEMBRE - WIKUMKEWIKUS	
23	Last Day for First Semester Course Changes
24	Regional In-Service Day – No School for Students
30	Truth & Reconciliation Day – No School
OCTOBER – OCTOBRE - WIKEWIKUS	
1	Early Dismissal 12:15
8	Newsletter
11	Thanksgiving – No School
22	Provincial Conference Day (No School for Students)

**PATHFINDERS**



Are you looking to spend more time helping your community? Do you want to work on your leadership skills? Do you enjoy camping and the outdoors? We are looking for more girls to join our Pathfinder Unit and this could

be you!!

- Name of Unit:** Chase District Pathfinder Unit, Grades 7-9 (Age 12-14)
- Meeting:** Wednesday, September 15 (6:00pm – 7:30pm)
- Location:** Canning Lions Hall
- Contact Info:** Alicia at [Alicia.Rand@hotmail.com](mailto:Alicia.Rand@hotmail.com), Amy Dukeshire at [AmyDukeshireGuider@gmail.com](mailto:AmyDukeshireGuider@gmail.com) Rachel Hines at [Rach\\_babygurl@yahoo.ca](mailto:Rach_babygurl@yahoo.ca)
- “A positive space where girls are free to be themselves.”**