

THE FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE...

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. Hidasi (Guidance Counselor), Ms. Corrigan (Guidance Counselor), Ms. Snyder (Administration)

1. ACADEMIC JOURNEY:

- a. Students are encouraged to **appropriately challenge themselves with their academic program**. While academics is the most important thing, freshmen should try to achieve a balance between their schoolwork and extracurricular activities (and of course along with personal, family and social lives).
- b. **Establish good student habits** – this includes but is not limited to: checking school email regularly, constantly being engaged with their Google Classrooms, seeking extra help when needed (ideally before being prompted by teacher/parent), and time management. We suggest that students complete their work at home in a monitored space (not their bedroom).
- c. A **transcript** is a permanent record of their high school performance.
 - i. Marking period grades are letters; final grades are numerical.
 - ii. The transcript only includes final grades.
 - iii. Honors by Achievement is available for ninth graders in English and Social Studies.
- d. **Google Classroom for parents:**
 - i. To monitor your child’s work, email at least one teacher to be added as a “guardian” on Google Classroom. Be familiar with your child’s academic responsibilities by having them regularly show you their Google Classrooms.
- e. **Parent Portal** has live grades to view. Please make sure to check your child’s academic progress throughout the year. This should supplement monitoring Google Classroom.
- f. **Planning and preparing for life after high school**
 - i. Counselors work closely with students throughout the next 4 years
 - ii. Presently, freshmen should be focused on becoming engaged in high school: doing their best in classes and getting involved in extracurricular activities (in school and/or community).

2. GETTING TO KNOW NH:

- a. Advisory is a weekly seminar for freshmen run by trained Peer Leaders (upperclassmen). Various discussions take place to help freshmen adapt to life in high school.
- b. **Extracurricular Activities:**
 - i. List of all clubs & activities with day/time of meeting, and Google Classroom codes are available on NH website. *Club Fair for 9th graders will be held 9/20 during Advisory
 - ii. Please encourage your child (as much as we do) to get involved! It is vital for students to be connected to North High, via school activities, where they meet new people with similar interests, and further explore their passions.
- c. **Resources:** In addition to your child’s counselor, there are three psychologists, and a social worker who are also available to support students.

3. COMMUNICATION:

- a. The most important element in high school is what goes on in the classroom. You are encouraged to contact a teacher if you have any concerns as it pertains to a particular course.
- b. Parents and faculty should be working together as your child’s “team” (administration, deans, counselor, mental health providers).
- c. Utilize the school website and parent portal for updated information on school happenings.