

9th Grade Parent Orientation Outline

Wednesday, September 30, 2020 via zoom

Dr. Holtzman (Principal), Mr. Caldarero (Dean), Mr. Hidasi (Guidance Counselor), Ms. Corrigan (Guidance Counselor)

1. ADMINISTRATIVE:

- a. Introduction of the Deans and their role
- b. Monitoring attendance: The attendance office needs to be notified if a student will be absent, regardless of whether the student is scheduled to be home or in school.
- c. Students are required to wear a mask and have a visible student ID at all times.
- d. Web resources for parents:
 - i. Parent portal now has live grades for you to view. Therefore, there are no longer Progress Reports. Please make sure to check your child's progress throughout the year. Instructions and video were sent out via email from Dr. Holtzman to assist you.

2. ACADEMIC LIFE:

- 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 (at least twice a day), 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 “family” room as opposed to their bedroom.
- c. A **Transcript** is a permanent record of their high school performance.
 - i. Only final course grades are reported on the transcript. Note that marking period grades are letters, final grades are numerical.
 - ii. Honors by Achievement is available for ninth graders in English and Social Studies. To be discussed with students in November.
- 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. Once added as a “guardian” you will be able to monitor work completed and upcoming assignments. To monitor grades, please log into Parent Portal.
- e. **Life after High School (“College planning”)**
 - 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).

3. 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. Via Zoom for now (no in person meetings)
 - ii. Google Classroom codes are available on website- under Students, then Clubs & Activities.
 - iii. Please encourage your child to get involved! It is so important for students to be connected to school activities, meet new people with similar interests, and further explore their passions.
- c. **Resources:** In addition to your child's counselor, there are two full-time psychologists, and a social worker who are also available to support students.

4. COMMUNICATION:

- a. Parents and faculty should be working together as your child's “team” and we encourage you to contact any one of us with questions or concerns.
- b. In addition to monitoring your child's Google Classroom and gradebook, feel free to email a teacher or counselor directly if you need additional information or clarification.
- c. Utilize the school website and parent portal for updated information on school happenings.