



NORTH EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT

50 EAST DIVISION STREET • NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428
TELEPHONE (814) 725-8671 • FAX (814) 725-9380

Dr. Michele Spurgeon Hartzell, Superintendent
Mr. Brian Emick, Assistant to the Superintendent

Mr. Jeffrey Fox, Business Manager
Mrs. Shelley Allen, Administrative Assistant

November 2, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians of North East School District Students,

We have had a great start to the school year and have shared a lot of Picker Pride to our Facebook page and website. We hope you will continue to support our students and programs throughout the 23-24 school year.

As the winter season approaches, we want to assure you that the school district takes the decision-making process to cancel or delay the start of school very seriously. The safety of our students and staff is the most important consideration when making this decision. Weather conditions throughout our district may vary greatly depending on where you live. If at any time you feel the weather conditions where you live are not safe for your child to attend school, please keep them at home. If you have a young driver, please speak to them regarding severe weather conditions and remember that bus transportation is available in lieu of driving in snow and ice.

In most instances we will begin with a “two-hour delay” and monitor the conditions very closely from that point. There are times when the decision can be made the night before and when it is possible, this will occur. Rarely will a decision be made to send students home early from school once they are here. Our buildings are safe and supervised places. Once a decision is made, the district’s Sapphire phone notification system will be activated. There may be times when we could transition to remote learning; please make sure to have a plan in place for this situation. The remote schedules are located on the district website.

Please log in to the Sapphire parent portal and make sure your contact information is correct or make changes as needed. Weather related messages will also be posted on the district’s website and official Facebook pages as well as through local radio and television stations. The website will be our first place of notification.

Please note that if we have no school or dismiss early due to inclement weather, the buildings will be closed to the public. All practices, games, events, after school and evening activities will be cancelled. There may also be times when school has been in session for the full day but evening activities must be cancelled due to the weather. This information will be posted on the district website and official Facebook page as well as through afternoon announcements to the students.

We ask for your patience as buses may be delayed due to weather conditions. Again, we will do our best to keep you informed. If you have any questions about any of the information contained in this letter or need any other assistance, please feel free to call your child’s respective building administrators or call my office directly at 725-8671.

Please see the reverse of this letter for some additional important reminders for the 2023-24 school year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michele S. Hartzell, Superintendent



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

ACADEMIC CALENDAR and PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

- The end of the first marking period was Wednesday, November 1, 2023.
- Report cards will be available at parent/teacher conferences on November 9 and 10, 2023.
- **November 9 and 10 are early dismissal days for students**, for parent/teacher conferences.

NORTH EAST HIGH SCHOOL PLAY

- The school play “Clue” will be held November 3 – 5, 2023. Please check the district website at www.nesd1.org for times and ticket information.

DRUG-FREE CAMPUS

- Please be reminded that the North East campus is a drug-free campus 24/7. No tobacco or vaping products are permitted on campus, including in vehicles.

CAMPUS SPEED LIMIT

- The North East campus speed limit is 15 mph 24/7. We have a lot of winter activities with students on campus and it gets dark early. Please make sure to be aware of the crosswalks as well as students walking and/or riding bikes around campus.

MOBILE DENTIST

- The mobile dentists are coming to our schools in December! This program is offered at NO COST for district families. Whether your child is on CHIP, ACCESS, or covered by private health insurance, the cost of dental treatment for your child is covered. For questions, please contact the appropriate school nurse:

N.E. Elementary Center
N.E. Middle School
N.E. High School

Mrs. Kiersten Lawrence
Mrs. Mindi Fisher
Ms. Christie Austin

klawrence@nesd1.org
mfisher@nesd1.org
caustin@nesd1.org

CHIP HEALTH PLAN COVERAGE FOR PA KIDS

- Thousands of Pennsylvania kids under 19 could potentially lose CHIP health plan coverage if they fail to renew their eligibility now that the public health emergency has ended. CHIP families are again required to complete their renewal information using the state COMPASS system to maintain their child’s state coverage.

Highmark HEALTHY KIDS can provide helpful detail and assistance for those families who need to complete their CHIP renewals or no longer qualify for Medicaid. All kids who are under 19, residents of PA and a U.S. citizen, U.S. national or qualified alien and do not qualify for Medicaid, are eligible for CHIP, regardless of income.

For additional information on CHIP health coverage, please visit the PA Department of Human Services website at www.dhs.pa.gov/CHIP/Pages/CHIP.aspx or contact Cami Burns directly at camellia.burns@highmark.com.

P-EBT Program

- The deadline for parents/guardians to contact the Department of Human Services (DHS) family P-EBT support center if they have questions about their child’s P-EBT benefits is November 30, 2023: 877-343-0179 or online at <http://www.pennebt.com/>