Weekly Update 12/23
NORTH HIGH

Week 16 December 23rd, 2020

North High | 1595 Hopkins Road | Williamsville, NY 14221
From the entire Williamsville North Team, we wish you all a great Winter Break! We will see you in 2021!
MATERIAL PICK-UP OVER THE BREAK

If you need to pick-up materials over the Winter Break, you can the following dates/times:

12/28 - 10am-1:30pm
12/29 - 10am-1:30pm
12/30 - 10am-1:30pm

Come to the Horseshoe Entrance & ring the bell.

Wednesdays are not part of the A-F letter day cycle.

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December 16, 2020

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS REGARDING
THE COURSE SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE 2021/22 SCHOOL YEAR

We are starting to plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Our counselors will begin meeting with students in January to begin scheduling. The 2021-22 course catalog is currently available on WITS and on the school's website. The course catalog is designed to assist students in the planning process as they prepare to make course selections for the upcoming school year. It contains course descriptions for both required and elective courses available at North High School.

I encourage parents to be active participants in the course selection process. Courses that are selected should be at an appropriate academic level for the individual student. Students should challenge themselves to the best of their ability without compromising their ability to obtain a solid foundation in the course content. English, math, science, and social studies teachers will make recommendations regarding the next level of study in their specific content areas. If you wish to override a teacher recommendation, I strongly encourage you to contact the teacher who made the recommendation to have a conversation and discuss the rationale for the recommendation.

Often times we hear that students want to have an easy senior year because they have completed most of their graduation requirements. However, colleges want to see four years of math and science as well as rigorous coursework on a student's transcript. With the focus on college and career readiness, it is essential that students take four years of math and science. Our English and social studies departments also offer a number of half-year electives in addition to the multitude of courses offered by the art, business, music, second language, and technology departments. With the abundance of course offerings available at North, please encourage your child to take advantage of these offerings to explore potential college majors and career possibilities.

I also ask not only for your support in helping your child select the most appropriate courses, but also in discouraging them from dropping courses once school resumes in September. Please know that there is no guarantee that your child will be able to select another course should they decide to drop an original course they choose this spring.

You will receive an email once your child's course selections are ready to be viewed on WITS. You will then be able to approve your child's selections on WITS. Please note that the deadline to approve your child's course selections is Friday, February 12th.

If approval is received after the February 12th deadline, requests for changes to what was planned when your child met with his/her counselor may not be honored. Should you have questions about the course selection process, please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's counselor.

Sincerely,

Robert Corsillo
Principal
Digital Learning Expectations

Lessons being delivered remotely should not be recorded by students and/or shared publicly. The online learning classroom is intended for Williamsville North students to participate in. Any parent questions should be directed to teachers outside of the online classroom time. We encourage parents to continue to support their children by allowing them to independently attend synchronous class periods and assisting with homework and assignments outside of class time.

We are all adjusting to new learning experiences and new types of interactions. We all benefit when everyone shares the same expectations. Everyone is expected to adhere to all District Acceptable Use policies, whether they are using a District-provided device or a personal device.

Students are expected to continue to give their best effort on assignments. They will submit their own work and use online tools appropriately. They will also keep their login information and passwords private, with the exception of sharing them with their parents, guardians, or teachers when necessary.

We will all respect the intellectual property of others. Work created by a student is his or her own intellectual property. Work created by an educator is his or her own intellectual property and/or the intellectual property of the Williamsville Central School District. No work, whether printed, audio, or video, should be shared, published, or duplicated without the author’s permission.

There are expectations when interacting in a digital environment that apply to everyone participating in the conference as well as those who may be in the vicinity during the conference. Participation in video conferencing experiences is contingent upon adhering to these expectations. Participants in video conferences and everyone in the vicinity of the video conference will:

- wear clothing that is appropriate for school.
- use language that would be appropriate in a school setting.
- be on time and ready to participate.
- be in an environment conducive for learning, such as at a desk or table or sitting on a couch or chair.
- keep themselves and their devices stationary during the conference.
- respect the direction of the organizer of the conference regarding whether video is on or off and whether mics are on or muted.
- use their own name when signing in to the conference.
- check that the background appearing on screen is free of any items that would not be appropriate in a school setting.
- ensure that a parent or guardian is aware they will be participating in a video conference.
- notify any household members in the vicinity that a video conference is occurring and that their image may be seen and their voices may be heard.
- be mindful that the chat feature may be visible by other participants.
- respect the privacy of others by not recording or taking pictures of any portion of the conference.
- be aware of background noise and use a headset when necessary to prevent disrupting the conference.
- make their teachers aware of any concerns they have about online interactions.
- be mindful of the attire of any small children who may be in the vicinity of a video conference.
**Kindness challenge: Try to finish out the month of December being kind!**

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<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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<td>1. Share the Kindness Calendar with others and spread kindness</td>
<td>2. Contact someone you can’t be with to see how they are</td>
<td>3. Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment</td>
<td>4. Give kind comments to as many people as possible today</td>
<td>5. Make a gift for someone who is homeless or feeling lonely</td>
<td>6. Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about</td>
<td>7. Leave a positive message for someone else to find</td>
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| 8. Do something helpful for a friend or family member | 9. Notice when you’re hard on yourself or others and be kind instead | 10. Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them | 11. Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today | 12. Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank | 13. See how many different people you can smile at today | 14. Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one |

| 15. Contact an elderly neighbour and brighten up their day | 16. Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to | 17. Practice gratitude. List the kind things others have done for you | 18. Give away something that you have been holding on to | 19. Buy locally and support independent shops near you | 20. Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated | 21. Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you |

| 22. Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed | 23. Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness | 24. Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh | 25. Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself! | 26. Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature | 27. Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat | 28. Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy |

| 29. Turn off digital devices and really listen to people | 30. Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why | 31. Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2021 | Let’s look beyond our differences and help each other. Every act of kindness matters | #DoGoodDecember |

*Action for Happiness*
YOUTH ALLIANCE FOR EDUCATION

It is easy to feel powerless as a young person today. We are in the middle of a global pandemic which we can’t control. There was a presidential election, but you couldn’t vote. Nationwide protests about racism and inequality are held and you can’t attend. Inequality exists in your classrooms and in your schools and you are frustrated. While you may be young, your voice matters and you deserve to be heard. You are not powerless. **Apply to the Youth Alliance for Education** and be a part of creating real change in education in Western New York.

**Who should apply?** Students in grades 7-12 from public schools in Western New York who are able to commit for the 2021 calendar year and have an interest in having their voices heard in transforming education in WNY. Seniors planning to graduate in 2021 are also eligible to apply.

**How will members be selected?** A committee will review applications and select members from a variety of schools and districts.

**What will the YAE do?** Members will participate in developing an annual agenda organized around their ideas and concerns related to equity in education. They will identify priorities and goals, and will engage in research projects, policy analysis, and the development of policy recommendations.

**When and how will the alliance meet?** With the support of GSE faculty, YAE will meet virtually beginning in January and shift to in-person meetings when public health guidelines allow. Transportation assistance will be available when the group is able to meet in person.

**How do I apply?** Visit ed.buffalo.edu/yae.

**Application deadline:** Apply by January 18, 2021 for priority review. Applications will continue to be accepted and reviewed beyond the deadline.
On Wednesday December 16th, The Section VI Executive Committee voted to further delay the start of winter sports until January 18th. This pertains to the sports of boys and girls bowling, boys swimming/diving, and alpine ski. All other sports are still on hold until school districts receive further guidance from state officials.

Additionally, the Section VI Executive Committee also voted to canceled the Indoor Track and Field 2020–21 season.

The Athletics Office wishes everyone a happy and healthy holiday season!
SOCIAL EMOTIONAL STRATEGY OF THE WEEK:
Creating New Traditions

Nothing is more comforting in times of stress and uncertainty than traditions. Traditions connect us to our loved ones, remind us of our past and ground us in practices that are predictable and reassuring. With the health and safety concerns surrounding us this year, many winter and holiday traditions have come to an abrupt end.

There are so many special holidays this time of year. Hindu families that look forward to celebrating Geeta Jayanti through dances and celebrations will be disappointed in the absence of fairs and festivals. Little ones who have been waiting all year to sit on Santa’s lap and whisper their wishes in his ear have lost out on that opportunity. Yezidi families can still observe the Three Day Fast of December, but it won’t be accompanied by the traditional merrymaking with friends and neighbors. These celebrations are so intertwined with our faith, culture and identity, it is hard to imagine a year without them.

When traditions such as these are absent, it creates a sense of loss and grief. Children, whose sense of normalcy has already been shattered due to changes with school, sports and other activities, take another hit when the things they most look forward to disappear. Anxiety feeds on uncertainty and the unknown. It is crucial that children know what to expect over the coming weeks. Many children (and adults) know that holidays won’t look the same year. However, it is important for children to have an understanding of what they will look like. While there isn’t a perfect solution for this loss, creating new traditions may be our best substitute. Having a plan and communicating that to children is extremely helpful, particularly when you can include them in the planning process. Ask them what the most important part of your winter traditions is and work together to create an alternate. Once children know what to expect, much of their anxiety diminishes.

This year’s multi generational cookie bake and exchange might have to be replaced with a virtual gingerbread house making competition. Perhaps Kwanzaa’s traditional harvest feast with extended family can be replaced with a private feast and donations to a soup kitchen in the spirit of Ujima. My children and their cousins will be putting on a virtual Christmas concert this year for relatives in New York, Florida, California and England. The plan itself is less important than having a plan. Be creative and see what you can come up with. Better yet, see what your kids can come up with!
Important Reminders/Updates:

- COVID TESTING INFORMATION:
  
  Here is the link to the district’s COVID Testing Procedures:
  

Below are videos outlining both district testing sites; (Williamsville North & Williamsville South).

North: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUPlIw8TZQ4&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUPlIw8TZQ4&feature=youtu.be)

South: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7V0tluaSlc&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7V0tluaSlc&feature=youtu.be)

Important Links:

- Free & Reduced Lunch Application
- Health/Wellness Tips & Information
- Williamsville SEPTSA Information
- Williamsville North Webpage
- Williamsville North PTSA
- Williamsville North Guidance Office
- Williamsville North Hyflex Informational Packet
- Williamsville North Library Webpage