

Northampton High School FAQ

Who do I contact if my child is having a bad day, a tough time in school and / or not doing well in class or school? We have many professionals to provide support for our students: guidance counselors, adjustment counselors, school nurse, special education liaisons and Associate Principals. The starting point to inform school of a bad day, an on-going struggle or a general concern should start with a contact with your student's guidance counselor. The guidance counselor will assist you with the concern at hand and involve any other school personnel as needed.

Who do I call if I have questions about my student's schedule? Any questions regarding your student's schedule should be directed to their Guidance Counselor.

How can I keep track of my student's progress? Northampton High School issues formal student updates every five weeks in the form of progress reports and report cards. We also utilize an online portal that allows parents the ability to check on their students' academic progress on a daily basis; teachers are expected to update the portal at least once a week.

My student is in need of extra-help; do teachers offer this type of support? Every student benefits from access to their teacher for extra-help. Every teacher is required to offer a minimum of two one hour extra help sessions per week. Specific days and times are provided to students at the beginning of the semester and to parents on parent night

How do I contact teachers and when should I expect to hear back from them?

Email and phone calls are the standard mediums for communicating with teachers. Emails should be used to initiate a quick response or initiate a person-to-person conversation. Email is not encouraged as an on going dialogue or medium to have in-depth discussions. Teachers are expected to respond to a parent inquiry within 48 hours or two business days.

How much contact is normal? Northampton High School issues formal student updates every five weeks in the form of progress reports and report cards. We also utilize an online portal that allows parents the ability to check on their students' academic progress on a daily basis; teachers are expected to update the portal at least once a week. We hope our basic structure of communicating performance meets most needs. However, at times situations arise that require a conversation with a school professional. We would define normal contact as communication that is aimed at alleviating any concerns or questions. Contact that is daily to weekly would indicate an ongoing issue that would require a meeting to resolve.

Are there parent-teacher conferences? There are no planned parent- teacher conferences at Northampton High School. At the beginning of each semester a Parent night is held. Parents will follow their students' academic schedules and sit in on 10-15 minute classes that will provide information on class expectations, areas of content, class syllabus, extra-help days and teacher contact information. This night is meant to provide an overview of the class for the parent, to better assist them in supporting their student, and is not meant to be a time for discussing individual students with teachers.

English is my second language. How do I get information about the school translated to my native language? Regardless of your language you are entitled to have all school documents and mailings of school information translated into your native language. The school is responsible for this provision. If you require any translation of documents or mailings, or require translation for any school related meetings, please contact your student's guidance counselor.

How do we encourage parent involvement? Parent involvement is a critical component of what we are able to provide at Northampton High School. The PTO, School Council and parent / booster clubs that support athletic teams, theatre productions and other extra-curricular clubs / activities are excellent venues for parent involvement.

Is there an attendance policy? Yes, there is an attendance policy. Each student and their family are expected to review and know our attendance policy. The attendance policy is clearly stated in the Parent-Student Handbook that is provided to each student on the first day of school and available on line on the Northampton High School main webpage.

How do I find out if my student has summer reading?

Summer homework assignments are listed by Department on the NHS website, www.northampton-k12.us.

What extra-curricular activities are there for my student? Northampton High School offers a wide and diverse program of extra-curricular activities. We offer twenty-six sports comprised of forty-seven teams and approximately thirty seven clubs. Our belief is that we have something to offer everyone and if there is something that a student has interest in, and we do not have, then we will try our best to support and add it as a club / activity.

How do I find out athletic information over the summer?

The athletic department maintains a web page that lists all athletic notifications. A link, *athletics*, on the main school webpage will connect you.

Who do I contact for financial assistance for athletics and student activities?

Questions about financial assistance for athletics should be directed to the Athletic Director, free or reduced lunch program to the School Lunch Director, and other areas of assistance to the Guidance Counselor. In general the main office is fully adept at directing parents to the appropriate high school or district professional to resolve any questions or concerns.

Are there specific activities for freshman? Yes, there are two activities specifically scheduled for freshman and their families. The first event is the Student-Parent Transition evening in August where students receive their class schedule, lunch schedule and a daily planner, go on student-led tours of the high school, and meet their guidance counselor. Students will receive an ice cream treat. Parents are provided an introduction to the high school administration and Guidance Department followed by a question and answer platform. The second activity is the freshman family picnic held an evening during the first week of school. This activity is our way of saying welcome to the community. We provide the beverages, hamburgers and hotdogs and families, by alphabet, provide food pot -luck style.

What are the main avenues for getting information about NHS activities, events and updates?

The daily bulletin is a document that is posted daily on our school website that details current and upcoming events and information. Hamp High Lights is a monthly PTO mailing that provides school updates and information. The athletic webpage provides updates and athletic department information. Typically each athletic team and club will develop an internal system of communication such as an email or texting group. In cases of immediate communication Northampton High School will use an automated call that is sent out to all families.

Where do I park my car for a school hours meeting? Where do I enter building? Unfortunately, visitor parking for Northampton High School is minimal and not necessarily convenient. On grounds we have four visitor parking spots just off the bus loop and four handicap parking spots just off of the bus loop on the left as you drive around the side of the building. Parking in the main parking lot is generally utilized for staffing and student parking. Public parking is available on Woodlawn Ave and on Route 9 directly in front of the building. All visitors are expected to use the entrance closest to the church and report directly to the Main Office.