



May 1, 2020

Dear NHSP Families,

Jum'a Mubarak! One week of Ramadan has already passed. I hope you are all doing well and enjoying these special days.

Per our commitment at the beginning of this crisis, we are doing our best to keep our substantive communications to parents from Head of School on Mondays and Fridays. This week's email contains a number of important announcements and reminders. Please read carefully.

### COVID UPDATES

In his most recent update, Governor Newsom announced new details about reopening businesses and public schools in California. We are continuing to take note of these announcements on an ongoing basis to determine our plans for the coming weeks and months. We plan to send out an update on summer camp by mid-May, and other decisions regarding end-of-year procedures and celebrations as well as the plans for opening in the Fall will be forthcoming.

### CALENDAR – NEXT WEEK

#### **Monday, May 4 – All-school Assembly**

This coming **Monday, May 4**, from **8:30 – 8:50 am**, we will be holding an All-school Assembly for K-8 although PS and PK families are welcome to join. This will be a first, and we will see how it goes! Please go to [Mrs. Al-Sarraf's Meeting Room](#) (password: nhsp2020).

#### **Friday, May 8 – Minimum Day & Community Heroes / Career Day**

According to our regular school calendar, next Friday, May 8 is a Minimum Day. In our remote learning plan, we will be preserving this in order to provide special programming in the morning and in order to give our teachers the afternoon off as part of our annual teacher appreciation tradition.

This year's Community Worker/Career Day programs will have a special twist with a recognition of the frontline workers and heroes who are helping people every day during the COVID crisis. This will also be a chance to thank them for all they do. The City of Pasadena is also offering a virtual Ecohero Show for lower schoolers about how we can all be heroes in helping our environment.

#### **Lower School Schedule (K-4)**

9:00 – 9:45	<a href="#">Community Heroes</a>
9:45 – 10:00	Break
10:00 – 10:45	Ecohero Show <b>(PS-4)</b>
10:45 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:00	Classroom Teacher Sessions*
12:00 pm	Dismissal

*Updated 5/1/2020*

### **Middle School Schedule (5-8)**

8:30 – 9:30	<a href="#">Career Day with Frontline Workers</a>
9:30 – 9:45	Break
9:45 – 10:15	Advisory*
10:15 – 10:30	Break
10:30 – 11:00	Talent Show
11:00 – 12:00	Game Time

\* Links for Classroom Teachers and Advisory will be provided in the schedules for May 4-8.

### **ASSESSMENT POLICY DURING COVID-19 CRISIS**

After a great deal of research and discussion with educators (local and national) and NHSP school administration and faculty, we have devised a fair and equitable policy for capturing students' academic growth during third and fourth quarters given the remote learning environment. Please see attached NHSP Assessment Policy in the Time of COVID-19. Please review carefully to get a better understanding of how we are approaching traditional grading at this time.

### **RAMADAN AND EID AT NEW HORIZON**

Every year that Ramadan is inside the school year, we send out some guidelines to parents on what Ramadan can look like for different age groups and any special programming during this month. I made some changes to last year's communication in light of our current situation, and I hope it is helpful.

#### **Your Child and Fasting**

While it is important to include children in the spirit of fasting, **they are not required to fast until the age of puberty**. However, some training towards fasting is fairly common among children as young as preschool. Therefore, the school makes the following suggestions for fasting:

- Preschool - Grade 1 - Fasting occasionally from breakfast or morning snack
- Grades 2-5 - Fasting from breakfast and/or lunch or fasting the whole day 2-3 days a week
- Grades 6-8 - Fasting every day if they are physically able

Please keep an eye on your child who is fasting throughout the day to check if they are especially lethargic or having any difficulty. As we know, fasting is not meant to be a hardship, so students may need to modify their plans to fast if their body is not adapting.

Taking time for light physical breaks and resting/napping is a good idea during the remote learning day. It can help distract them from the fasting and re-orient the brain for learning. The current class schedule should allow students a bit more flexibility for sleeping after Suhur.

#### **Learning Continuity Plan**

We plan to continue the LCP class schedules for the various grade levels throughout Ramadan. Most work will continue to take place during the school day during class sessions or during independent learning time. This should allow students ample time after the school day to enjoy a break or Ramadan family activities.

#### **Special Ramadan Activities**

- Mind and Soul Time
  - Qur'an Circles for Grades 3 and 4 with Mrs. Eissa and for Grades 5-8 with Mr. Siler
  - Daily Du'as – Students will share a du'a in first period classes every morning (PS-8)

- Daily Adhan/Iqama/Prayer – As a reminder and help for keeping up with prayers, students will recite adhan and iqama at prayer time.
- Art Time
  - **Ramadan Poster Challenge (all grades) – Due by May 8**
    - Students can work with their families or individually to express messages about Ramadan
    - Take pictures and send to your teachers and/or in the comment section of the Facebook post
- Ramadan **Sadaqa Drive** (Promoted by Student Council)
  - This year’s NHSP Ramadan Appeal includes a 15% donation to Friends-in-Deed Food Pantry here in Pasadena serving at-risk neighbors and people experiencing homelessness. Students are encouraged to give from their own allowance to this effort along with their families.
- Eid ul-Fitr
  - **The school’s annual Eid Breakfast is officially cancelled.**
  - We are working with Student Council to design creative, fun, and virtual Eid activities for part of the day’s schedule on Tuesday, May 26.

I pray your Ramadan days bring you every blessing.

Sincerely,

Amira Al-Sarraf, M.S.Ed.  
Head of School