

# NQHS FAMILY UPDATE



Communication in the era of remote and hybrid teaching and learning is both vital and challenging. Our plan at NQHS is to keep the information flowing so that students and families can be up to date about everything, right down to the small details, if needed. In the coming weeks, Mrs. Holland will release the first of her updates, highlighting achievements, accomplishments, and news among students and staff at NQHS. In the meantime, this far less flashy document will dig in with some technical but important details as we enter the second week of the year. A similar, if shorter, update will be shared each week. As always, please be in contact with questions that will help you understand this complicated situation a bit better!

## Coming Up

*September 23*

Early Release

*October 12*

No School

*October 13*

Transition to Hybrid Model

*October 14*

Early Release

*October 16*

Term 1 progress reports available in  
Aspen

*October 21*

Anticipated release of Back to School  
Night videos

## WiFi at NQ

Students and staff who opened the new year on site at NQHS will know that the WiFi in the building has presented some issues of connectivity. Fortunately, we will see some improvements with these issues over the next few weeks. On September 21, wiring and installation begins for 124 new WiFi access points, which essentially places one in each classroom and just about all offices at NQHS. We will notice incremental improvement as each point is installed. By the time the work is complete in about three weeks, we should be in a much better place.

## Wednesday Release Day

Wednesday, September 23, is an early release day for all students, whether remote or in-person. Dismissal is at 12:40 PM. This means students will attend five blocks: A-B-C-D-G, with E and F dropping from the schedule for the day. As on all days, a lunch break is scheduled from 11:20 to 11:50 AM. The early release of students will allow teachers to work on professional development activities in the afternoon.

## Transition to Hybrid Model

NQHS is scheduled to transition from the remote model of teaching and learning to the hybrid model on October 13. QPS is engaged in the process of collecting information from families about their choice to remain remote or to join the hybrid model. Once we have that information fully collected, we at the school can plan changes to our building schedule. Those changes mostly will involve identifying sections of courses as remote or hybrid and moving students among the sections to suit their choice of learning mode.

The following general points should help students and families begin to understand what those changes might look like.

*Option: Student remains remote*

- The fully remote student will continue to take all classes entirely virtually.
- If a remote student presently is in a section that is changing to hybrid, she will be switched to a section remaining remote.
- In instances of a single-section course that transitions to hybrid, the remote student may be able to join remotely. Details to follow.
- The daily schedule for remote students may not be the same as the one with which NQHS opened on September 16.

*Option: Student joins hybrid model*

- The hybrid student will take *some* classes entirely virtually; he will take the others virtually and in-person (some days they are virtual, other days in-person).
- If a hybrid student presently is in a section that is remaining remote, she will be switched to a section transitioning to hybrid.
- In instances of a single-section course that remains remote, the hybrid student will remain in the class and join it “*remotely-in-school,*” by accessing the class from a computer or device while on site at NQHS.
- The daily schedule for hybrid students will be different from the one with which NQHS opened on September 16.
- Students will attend NQHS in-person in alphabetical cohorts on Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday. All hybrid students will be remote on Wednesdays.
- On their in-person days, hybrid students will attend some combination of their

hybrid classes. They also may attend one or more remote-only classes.

- On their remote days, hybrid students will attend some combination of their synchronous (i.e., live) remote-only classes and will engage asynchronously (i.e., not live) in some combination of their hybrid classes. Asynchronous engagement will involve completing activities posted by the teacher on that day. These must be completed and submitted by a specific time that day.

No doubt these details are a bit overwhelming. In the coming weeks we will begin sharing with specific students and families all the ways they will be affected individually. We also will share tools that will help you make sense of your daily schedule.

## Term One Events/Benchmarks

The transition from the remote model to the hybrid model will occur in the middle of the first term. This will create circumstances in which all students' schedules will change while a term is still in progress. There also will be instances in which teachers change. These factors have led us to rethink scheduling of events like Back to School Night and Parent/Teacher Conferences.

### *Back to School Night*

Back to School Night provides parents and guardians an opportunity to meet their children's teachers and learn more about the curriculum, expectations, and requirements for each class. It does not make sense to hold this event, even virtually, before the transition to hybrid since there will be changes to sections and teachers. Our plan is to schedule the event for mid-October, about a week after the transition. This way parents and guardians can meet teachers and learn about the classes once they are more firmly settled. This will not be a live event; instead teachers will

record and post informational videos that will be made available to parents and guardians on or around October 21.

### *Parent/Teacher Conferences*

We typically hold the first parent/teacher conferences in mid to late October, prior to the end of the first term. For the same reasons that we are delaying Back to School Night, we will schedule conferences for just after term one ends. This will place conferences the week of November 16. These will be live virtual meetings between parents/guardians and individual teachers. We expect to offer times for conferences during afternoon hours on one day that week and during evening hours on another day the same week. More details to follow.

### *Midterm progress report and report cards*

Teachers will file midterm progress reports as scheduled between October 9 and 14. They will be released to students and families on October 16. These reports will capture a student's progress as schedule changes potentially are occurring. However, they also will provide a snapshot of progress as the schedule stabilizes for the second half of the term.

The last day of the first term is November 6. Teachers will input grades between November 6 and 10, with report cards released to students and families on November 13.

The first day of the second term will be November 9. The second term ends on January 29.

