

NES Connection

Northern Elementary New Year News - 01/01/2022



Gratitude Gateway: Featuring the Peters Family

The Peters Family brought holiday joy and festive fun to Gratitude Gateway this December! We are so grateful to the time and creative effort given to brightening up our central space, putting sparkle and spice into our day! Interested in contributing to our Gratitude Gateway Family Displays? Click on the button below to sign up!

Gratitude Gateway Display: Family Sign-Ups Welcomed

Interested in brightening up our Gratitude Gateway (Main Lobby) with a family crafted fun display?
[CLICK HERE](#) to sign up for a month! We are grateful for your kind, creative spirit!

This Week's Lunch Menu

Monday: Mac and Cheese

Tuesday: Cheeseburger on Roll

Wednesday: Hot Hambo on Roll

Thursday: Chicken Patty on Roll

Friday: Stuffed Crust Pizza

Lunch 2 = Tuna Fish on Roll



Lady Bears Basketball Events

Coach Clendaniel (KDG Teacher) and the Lady Bears Girls Basketball team invite students, staff and community to special events this January - NHS Gymnasium.

January 4: Teacher Appreciation Game, taking place between the JV 5:30PM and Varsity 7PM Game.

January 25: Pack the House to support the Lady Bears - 5:30PM JV and 7PM Varsity play against Waynesboro.

- All students K to GR5 have free entry for Pack the House Night.
- GR6-GR12 and adults may purchase tickets at the door. \$2 for students GR6-GR12 and \$4 for adults.
- Mrs. Clendaniel's Kindergarten Class will get photos with their Lady Bear JV pen-pal player following the 5:30PM game.
- Concession stand will be open.
- NYCSD staff enter free w/ ID badge.

Important Dates

01/03: HAPPY 2022! School Resumes- It's a Cycle Day 5

01/04: Come out for Lady Bears Basketball- 5:30PM and 7PM at the NHS Gymnasium.

01/04: PTO Meeting, 7PM NES Library

01/10-01/28: NYCSD Universal Screeners/Benchmarks

01/14: Early Dismissal at Noon; no lunch served

01/17: No School for students; Martin Luther King Jr. Day

01/19: End of MP2

01/25: Spirit Day: Show your Polar Bear Spirit: wear white or purple, don ears, or a PB nose!

01/25: Pack the House to support Lady Bears Basketball 5:30PM JV, 7PM Varsity, NHS Gym

01/30: PTO Skating Party 4PM- 6:30PM, Fountain Blu Skating Rink



2021-22 Kindness Calendar.pdf

Random Acts of Kindness serves as our Classroom Family Meeting focus at school. Check out the great ideas for spreading sunshine, here!

[Download](#)

3.2 MB

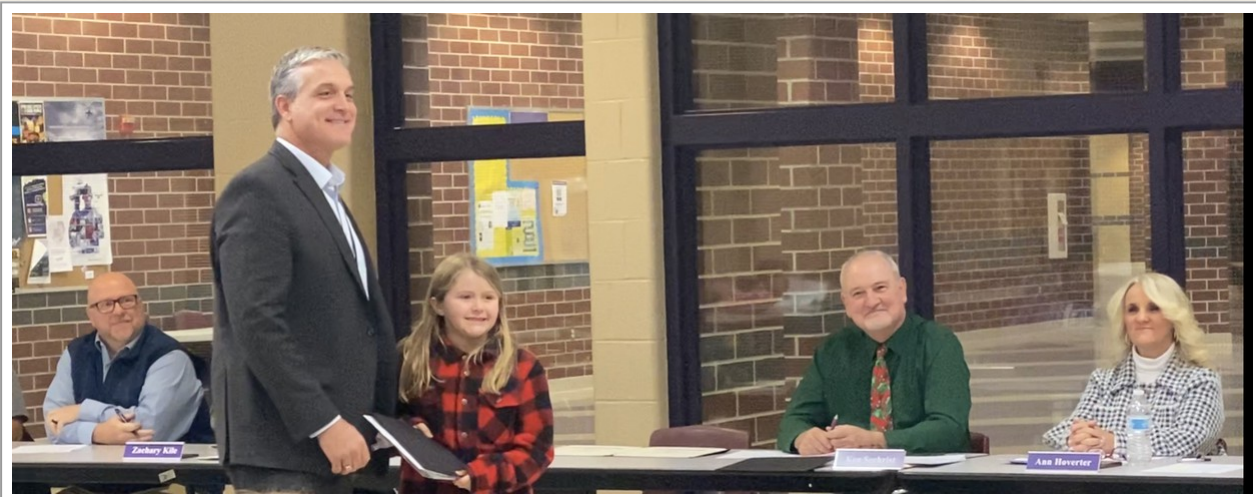
NES Appreciates YOU!

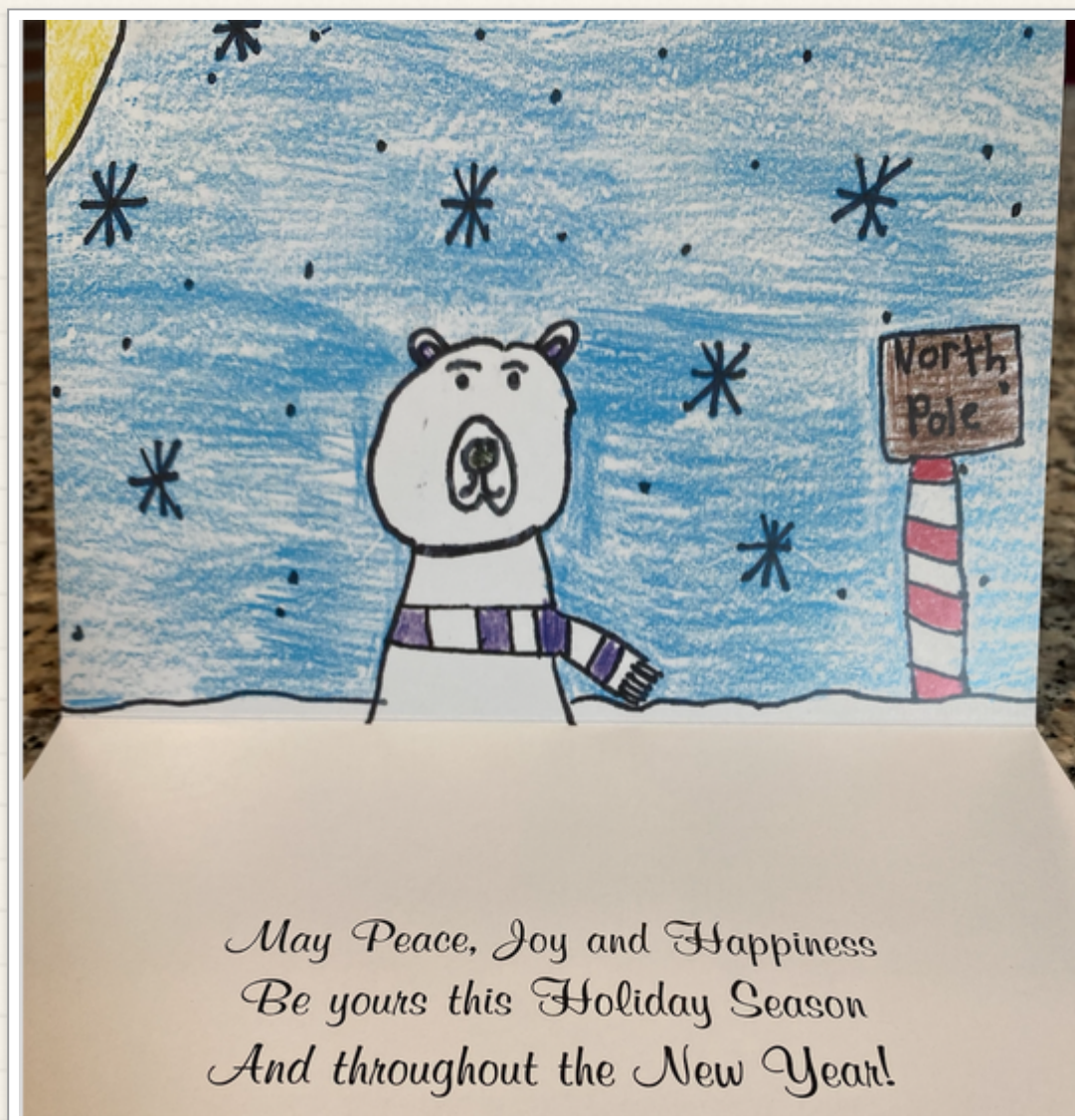
Our NES Family sends the warmest of wishes to you and yours; with deep appreciation for the continued support and encouragement you have given to our students, staff, and community. Our success, attendance, positive culture and care comes with your partnership and home collaboration. We are truly grateful for all that you do to keep our Northern Elementary Community happy, healthy and hopeful for 2022! (Wacky Wonderland Tropical Gear Day)



Featured Artist: Taylor Spahr

Northern Elementary leader, Taylor Spahr's polar bear art submission was selected to frame the inside of our Northern York County School District holiday card. Taylor was recognized by the NYCSD Board of Directors on 12/21/2021. We are so proud of Taylor's contribution and her festive depiction of Polar Bear Holiday Spirit!





New Family Member in 2022

On 12/21/21, the Board of Educators approved Mrs. Kirsten Good, joining our Northern Elementary Family on 01/03/2022. Mrs. Good will fill the role previously held by Mrs. Armbruster, who has moved closer to family in Ohio. We are grateful for Mrs. Armbruster's dedication to NES and wish her the very best as she embraces new opportunities ahead. Mrs. Good recently moved to Dillsburg PA. She enjoys hiking, hunting, fishing and making crafts. An active individual, she played soccer in college and has been teaching for five years. She looks forward to joining our NES Family and we warmly welcome her arrival.



Toys, Trinkets, Personal Devices not permitted at school

As we enter the new year, we thank you for reminding your children to leave toys, trinkets, personal devices at home. These items are not permitted at school and create disruption when lost, traded, or broken. We will remind our children of this expectation and greatly appreciate the support you give to this at home.

Masks still required on District Transportation

The PA Supreme Court's decision to lift the masking mandate does not impact the federal directive requiring all passengers and drivers to wear masks on school buses and vans.

including on buses operated by public and private school systems; these requirements remain in effect.

NES LEADS: Monthly Focus

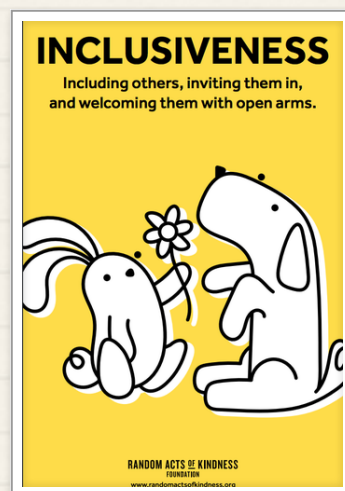
Power Word and Profile of a Graduate Focus

Our NES Community will be unpacking this month's power word:

Inclusiveness, paired with our Profile of a Graduate C's:

Collaboration and Creativity.

- Reviewing the concepts of respect and caring. • Explaining what it means to include others. • Exploring what it means to be fair. • Understanding the connection between kindness and inclusiveness.
- Building skills to be includers. • Treating others fair. • Being kind by including other people. • Recognizing what makes us special and what makes us unique.
- Recognizing how teamwork requires inclusiveness. • Connecting all of the kindness concepts studied so far: Respect, Caring, Inclusiveness • Applying problem-solving strategies to help make different situations fair, equal, and/or equitable for everyone involved.



Information on Weather Impacted Delays or Closures

As we approach the winter months, the chance of a two hour delay or a Snow Day is likely. To assist in your preparation, an outline of each possibility is provided below:

TWO HOUR DELAYS

- If the District operates under a 2 hour delay, students will be picked up by their assigned transportation 2 hours after their usual pick-up time. *For example, if your child is usually picked up between 8:15-8:25, the new pickup time will be 10:15-10:25.*
- Parents using our student-drop-off area each morning, may release their children to the building between 10:45AM-11:00AM.
- Lunch is served.

WEATHER IMPACTED CLOSURE = REMOTE LEARNING

If significant winter weather is anticipated, students will bring their school device home. Should a closure be called, the District will communicate the type of closure occurring:

1. **Traditional Snow Day:** full closure with no instruction or assignments for students. The Snow Make-Up Day would be tacked on for completion at the end of the year.

OR

1. **Modified Remote Learning Snow Day:** virtual instructional day via Seesaw and Zoom; modified to provide flexibility for families at home and counts as an instructional day of school. This is the type of snow closure that will most likely be in place.

Schedule for Weather Impacted Remote Learning Day:

- 9:20-9:30AM Students use their devices to access Classlink and click on the Zoom tile of their homeroom teacher. We recommend that students join the Zoom tile in advance of 9:30AM to navigate any glitches.
- 9:30AM At the Zoom Meeting the Teacher will remind students of the cycle day/their encore; take attendance and set the tone for the day. The teacher will additionally review the Seesaw Assignments posted for students to complete.
- There will be 5 Seesaw Assignments for completion: Math, Reading, Writing, Science or Social Studies and Encore.
- Following the classroom meeting, students will be released to complete the Seesaw Assignments. Since these are independent tasks, students and families have the flexibility for when these assignments may be completed.
- Classroom teachers will offer three Zoom sessions as options for for students to join throughout the day. If your child needs assistance or support with the Seesaw Assignments posted, they should join their teacher's Zoom link to get that direct support.
- Zoom Hours for Instructional Support: 10:00AM-10:30AM; 11:30AM-12:00PM, 1:00PM-1:30PM
- Students will need to complete all 5 assignments to receive credit for the day. Assignments must be completed within 2 weeks of the snow day for credit.
- Please see the at-a-glance schedule attached.

EARLY DISMISSAL DUE TO WEATHER

Should the District be required to release students early, due to impending weather, District communication will be sent to families by email and phone. Please ensure that the contact information in your child's Sapphire portal is accurate.


- All after-school activities are cancelled.
- **After-school care is not available in these situations.** Students in After-School Care Program will need to be picked up by a parent and/or guardian at dismissal time. The parents of our MLC students should provide information on who will pick up their child via note to school, email to nesoffice@northernnyork.org, or phone call to 717-432-8691 x1500. Students may be picked up via our [Car Rider line](#) in the back of the building. To assist with this process, parents picking up should be prepared to provide the name of the student being picked up and their license, as needed.
- Since these situations occur quickly and without much notice, it is best practice to have a back-up plan.
- Students in GRK and GR1 may not be released from a bus without an adult to receive them, unless written consent from the parent is received and on file.
- Upon receipt of District communication, if the family plans on picking up their student - a call to the school office is necessary. 717-432-8691 x 1500 or an email to

nesoffice@northernnyork.org. NOTE: The office cannot ensure receipt of information if received during dismissal time.

Have questions? Please reach out to get clarification.


WEATHER-IMPACTED

REMOTE LEARNING DAY



CLASS MEETING AT 9:30 AM
Students will sign in to their class meeting on Zoom with their homeroom teacher. Zoom is on ClassLink.

FIVE SEESAW ACTIVITIES
Students will complete five Seesaw activities for the day: Reading, Math, Writing, Science or Social Studies, and Special.






ZOOM OPPORTUNITIES
There are three optional Zoom timeslots to connect with your child's teacher today with any questions about the assignments:

10:00 – 10:30, 11:30 – 12:00 , and 1:00 – 1:30

CYCLE DAY

Your child's teacher will share the cycle day and you will complete an activity for the Special class your child has in Seesaw.






CONNECT WITH TEACHER
If you have questions, please reach out to your child's teacher via e-mail or Seesaw.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF THE SNOW DAY FOR ATTENDANCE TO BE COUNTED.




2021 Weather Impacted Closures - Family.pdf

 [Download](#)
86.9 KB



Updated Accessing ClassLink from Home 2021-2022.pdf

 [Download](#)
272.5 KB

NES Bus Safety and Expectations

BUS SAFETY FOCUS

On 12/01/2021, our school wide safety meeting focused on safe behaviors for travel on bus and vans.

- Students were reminded of bus expectations including:
- Back and bottom on seat
- Facing forward (body out of aisle)
- Body next to window if seated alone
- Quiet (inside) voice with seat mate
- Hands and feet to self
- Stay seated until vehicle comes to a complete stop
- No seat changes
- No eating, drinking or toys on the bus
- Listen to driver

Children are additionally reminded of these expectations during our end of day announcements and are provided reminders from drivers before and during the runs.

The [Transportation Handbook](#) additionally outlines student expectations and the steps we take to supporting a safe environment on the bus.

By this time, students have had coaching conversations that include modeling of appropriate seating and our focus on leadership extends to the bus and vans.

Our students recognize that it takes their leadership with responsible choices to support a safe and caring community. Grade 5 student leaders have been selected to assist our youngest Cubs and we will continue to foster a partnership for older and younger students through bus buddies and reading mentors.



NES 12-01-21 Bus Safety.pdf

[Download](#)

81.1 KB

NYCSD Covid Update and Information

[Click here for important information, related to NYCSD current status, mask mandate and Health and Safety Plan.](#)

When should a student stay home from school?

Students should remain home from school if they are

- Experiencing 1 or more symptoms from Group A,
- Experiencing 2 or more symptoms from Group B, or
- Taking fever reducing medication.

Group A 1 or more symptoms	Group B 2 or more symptoms
Cough Shortness of breath Difficulty breathing New olfactory disorder New taste disorder	Fever (measured or subjective) Chills Rigors (severe shivering) Myalgia (muscle aches) Headache Sore throat Nausea or vomiting Diarrhea Fatigue Congestion or runny nose

Health and Safety: Close Contacts in the School

The Board of Directors voted to approve a change in the implementation of the Health and Safety Plan such that close contacts without symptoms may return to school immediately if wearing a face covering.

Close contacts without symptoms that return to school will wear face coverings for 10 days from the day of close contact or 7 days from the day of close contact with a negative test result administered on day 5 or later. With the mask mandate lifted, this requirement remains in place for close contacts without symptoms that return to school.

For this practice to be safe and effective, families need to ensure that students with [COVID symptoms](#) do not come to school.

Individuals with symptoms must remain at home. The District will continue to report positive cases and contact trace. Positive cases will still be required to isolate as directed by the DOH.

Parents/Guardians of students identified as close contacts to a positive case in school, will receive a notification by email and automated phone call or text (if this is selected in the Sapphire Portal). Individuals with questions may reach out to nesnurse@northernnyork.org or nesoffice@northernnyork.org

NES Year of Community Informational Smore

[Click here to review important NES information about building procedures and more.](#)

Our Daily Schedule

- 8:00AM = school office opens
- 8:45AM = students are released into the building from buses, vans, and car rider drop off
- 8:45AM-9:00AM = grab and go breakfast
- 9:00AM = official start of the school day, which includes the *National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance* and *NES Leadership Pledge*
- 9:00-9:15AM = Classroom Family Meeting
- 10:45-1:30PM = recess and lunch periods for K-5
- 3:30PM = van riders and car riders are dismissed by groups
- 3:40PM = bus riders are dismissed
- 4:00PM = school office closes

Important Procedural Reminders

School Supplies

Basic school supplies are provided to your child by the district and students do not need to bring materials from home. Students are welcome to bring their own book bag and lunch box from home.

Personal Items

Students are reminded to leave toys and other valuable items at home. Students are not permitted to swap or exchange personal items at school.

Birthdays

Students are celebrated via school-wide recognition and classroom tradition (e.g. song, sticker, crown, etc.) on their birthdays. **Snacks and treats from home are not permitted for classroom celebration. We do not share birthday invitations from home unless the entire class is invited.** The PTO celebrates students in their birthday month via the Birthday Books Program, inviting students to select a brand new book for their personal library!

Important Medication Reminders

Medication Reminder to Parents

Student medications may not travel to/from school with students. If your child has a medication that must be dispensed at school, please communicate this to the school nurse NESnurse@northernnyork.org and deliver this item to the school between the hours of 8:30AM-4:00PM.

Families may visit the [District Health webpage](#) to review the medication policy and to obtain the medication order request forms that must be signed by a physician. Families who need this information printed for them should contact the school office to make this request: NESOffice@northernnyork.org

Reach out to Mrs. Krammer, school nurse, with any questions at 717-432-8691 ext. 1502.

Check out our NES PTO Facebook Family

PTO EVENTS: SAVE THE DATE!

SKATING PARTY NIGHT: January 30, 2022, 4PM- 6:30PM Fountain Blu Skating Rink.
Our PTO is working hard to fundraise and foster community at NES! Thank you PTO!

NES Parent Teacher Organization: Board and Meetings

Co-President: Erin Stein erin_stein@yahoo.com

Co-President: Lydia Flinner lflinner815@gmail.com

Vice President: Tanja Worrall tmworrall86@gmail.com

Treasurer: Kiely Holcomb kiely23@hotmail.com

Secretary: Jen Sultner, newly elected.

We wish to thank Mrs. Amy Harlacher for her fantastic support over the last few years as secretary!

Interested in supporting the PTO in some capacity? Reach out to our members at nespto1@gmail.com.

We invite you to attend our PTO Tuesday Meetings, held in our **NES Library** from **7PM-8PM** on the following evenings:

- **January 4, 2022**
- **March 8, 2022**
- **May 3, 2022**

This is a fantastic opportunity to offer ideas, partner further, and add to our NES Community. Unable to attend? PTO Minutes will be attached to this NES Connection quarterly. We look forward to collaborating with you this year!

CLICK HERE: Survey Family Feedback/Strategic Planning

Have a few moments to help NES grow? Consider sending us anonymous feedback that will aid in strengthening our approach. Highlight ideas that allow us to grow, spotlight areas you are pleased with, offer insight on ways we can improve.

NES needs your feedback: Please click on survey above.

We are seeking the feedback of all parents/guardians as we gear up for Strategic Planning at NES and NYCSD. Please take the survey linked below, to provide our school and district with important feedback. Your input is vital and valued. Thank you so much for supporting us in this way.

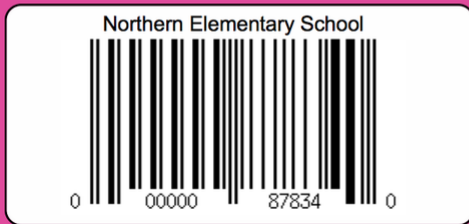
Box Tops Rewards Help NES

Our school gains funds from your regular shopping! This does not impact your account in any way. **Box Tops Rewards** earns cash for our school. This program has moved to a mobile application. Download the app by [clicking here](#).

Link your Weis Club Card to Support NES!

Wish to support our NES Cubs each time you shop? **Just one step needed:** present the unique barcode in this email and ask the cashier to scan the barcode and your Weis Club card. That's it, no other steps required!

Our school's code



www.weismarkets.com

End of Day Car Rider Pick Up Information

[Click here to sign up for a Car Rider Vehicle Registration Tag.](#)



NES 2021 Parent Pick Up Drop Off Information.pdf

[Download](#)

465.1 KB

Northern Elementary Website

Missed a Sunday Smore Connection or wish to visit your teacher's website? [Click here to access our School Website.](#)

Family Resource: Polar Cares

Polar Cares is a clothing closet to be used by NYCSD families. Polar Cares is organized and kept up by the Kiwanis Club of Dillsburg and members of the NYCSD staff. There is clothing and shoes for infants through adults, along with underwear and socks in the closet. We also have a toiletries closet and cleaning supplies as well.

There are 3 ways families can visit the Polar Cares Closet.

1. Make an appointment through the polar cares email donatepolarcares@gmail.com
2. Contact Mrs. Surubaru, psurubaru@northernnyork.org -school counselor, for an appointment.
3. Visit via the monthly Polar Cares events that will begin in October.

Important: Reporting Student Absences

Reporting your child's absence:

Please communicate student absences, early dismissals and car rider pickups by:

- **PREFERRED** = emailing nesoffice@northernnyork.org
- calling our main office: 717-432-8691 x1500,
- or if before 8AM, calling our hotline: 717-432-8691 x 5555

Important Note: *Please do not send emails regarding absences, early dismissal and/or car rider pickups to Mrs. Gayman or Ms. Cal's email address. We wish to ensure that your information is received, and if sent to those emails, they could be missed when these individuals are out of the building. Please send to: nesoffice@northernnyork.org. Thank you for your assistance and understanding.*

Please communicate to the school whenever your student will be:

- absent for the day
- picked up early for an appointment
- absent for an educational trip
- quarantining due to close contact outside of school


Medical providers may fax or email an excuse to our school office: **FAX 717-432-7329** or email to NESOffice@northernnyork.org

Verifying your child's absence =

Please send in an excuse (written or digital) within three days of the student's return to school. If an excuse is not received within three days of the student's return to school, it is considered unlawful. Please see the PDF file below and our NYCSD Elementary Handbook for specifics regarding student absences.



NES 2021 Process for Reporting Student Absence (1).pdf

 [Download](#)
431.5 KB

Sapphire Parent/Community Portal Information

[Click here to access or create your Parent Portal](#)



New Community Portal Account Directions_2022.pdf

 [Download](#)
311.1 KB

NES Connection Opportunities

Ways to Stay Connected

Website: Our website at www.northernpolarbears.com/northern has a wealth of information about our school, along with updated calendar, teacher websites, and more. Please bookmark this site and visit often!

Smore News: Our school news can additionally be reviewed weekly at this link: [NES Connection](#).

Sapphire Parent/Community Portal: Please take a moment to ensure that your contact information is accurate in the [Sapphire Parent Portal](#). The primary email address listed in our system is used to send out weekly messages. If you wish to receive text message updates from NES, please ensure that "SMS" is checked by your cell phone number in the contact information in the Parent Portal.

Twitter: For daily highlights of school events and happenings, be sure to follow us on Twitter [@NESPolarBears](#)!

Facebook: Follow the [NES PTO](#) on Facebook!

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in your child's educational journey at NES. We look forward to connecting with you and your family in 2021-2022, our Year of Community!

NYCSD Parent Handbook

2021-2022 Parent Handbook. This document may be downloaded or viewed as a PDF on the website.



NYCSD Approved 21-22 School Calendar.pdf

[Download](#)
146.0 KB



Northern Elementary School

[@NESPolarBears](#)

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