



FAMILY BULLETIN #3.1

September 1, 2019

www.nsd.org/northcreek

northcreekpts.com/

Running Calendar (please note - this is the best info we have but dates do change on occasion)

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
1	2	3	4 *1st Day for ALL 9th Graders!	5 *1st Day for all 10th, 11th & 12th Graders! *Senior Sunrise at Willis Tucker Park @ 6:15 AM	6 *ALL SCHOOL PHOTO DAY!!!	7
8	9	10	11 *Block Day (2,4,6)	12 *Block Day (1,3,5,7) *Natural Leaders Event (6:30 - 8 PM)	13	14
15	16	17	18 *Block Day (2,4,6)	19 *Block Day (1,3,5,7)	20	21
22	23	24	25 *Block Day (2,4,6)	26 *Block Day (1,3,5,7) *Curriculum Night/Open House @ 6 PM	27	28

ACTION ITEMS

1. School Starts at 7:30 AM - Sharp

As you know, the start time for ALL Northshore High Schools is **7:30 AM**. It's critical that all our Jaguars develop the habit of arriving on time as being on time to work is a habit everyone needs as adults. Please remember that "traffic" and "I overslept" and "construction" etc. are not excuses for being late. Traffic and construction are realities in the Puget Sound. Oversleeping is traumatic for most adults. Our teens need to set alarm clocks and get up in plenty of time to battle traffic and be on time for school as they would if they had jobs.

To be honest - we all need to work together to get our teens to school before **7:30 AM daily**. The more you emphasize this as families, the better off all our kids will be as they will be on time for learning at North Creek!

2. Senior Sunrise - Mark Your Calendars

Our 2nd Annual Senior Sunrise will be on Thursday September 5 at [Willis Tucker Park](#) @ 6:15 AM. Last year, we started a tradition where the entire Senior Class gathers to watch the sun literally rise on their senior year the first day of school - and then they gather again to watch the sun literally set on their senior year on the last day of school. **All Seniors should plan on attending.**

Parents of seniors: please consider sending your senior with a breakfast item that can be shared (donuts, OJ, milk, etc.) Last year, we had soooooo many donuts it was crazy - and wonderful! Also parents, we welcome as many of you as want to attend to help with the food and to support our kids as they begin their last year of high school.

We will gather at [Willis Tucker Park](#) at Picnic Shelter #4 (center of the map on the east side). There is TONS of parking near Picnic Shelter #4 (in red on the map).

3. Off Campus Lunch Form for Seniors (only)

As you know, North Creek Seniors who are in "good standing" have the privilege of going Off Campus for lunch. If you want to give your Senior this privilege (and if they meet the qualifications listed), please complete the form attached and return it ASAP (especially before Picture Day so that correct Off Campus Passes are printed). If you have not returned this form to the Main Office - or emailed/mailed a signed copy to Kristi Waligorski (KWaligorski@nsd.org), please do so ASAP.

4. Forms to review for ALL Families

Please review the forms attached:

- ❖ Permission to Withhold From Student Directory
- ❖ Pay to Play Fee (for athletics)
- ❖ Student Rights and Responsibilities
- ❖ Weapons Letter to Parents

If you want to withhold your student's information per the letter attached, please return the document (signed and appropriately indicated) by October 1, 2019. Please return ONLY if you do not want your student's information shared in one of the ways indicated.

NEWS and INFORMATION

1) 1st Day for 9th Graders

The first day of school for ALL 9th graders is Wednesday September 4th. This is a required day of school and is not an early release day (students will be at NCHS from 7:30 to 2:35). Students will go to all of their classes as well as engage in orientation activities designed to welcome them to North Creek.

If you have a 9th grader, please be sure they attend. As the kids will hear at orientation, there are three kinds of people in high school: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen and those who wonder “what happened?” Don’t let your 9th grader be one of those who wonder because they skipped this very important first day of school.

2) All-School Picture Day is Friday September 6

All Jaguars will be posing for a photo on Friday - whether it’s for their school photo or for their ASB/ID card. Even seniors will be sitting for a photo. Please be sure your student is dressed appropriately for school photos.

RUNNING START STUDENTS: We need to get photos of all of you as well. Please come to the Aux Gym any time between 7:30 AM and 2:30 PM Friday September 6 to get your photo taken. Again, all Running Start students are required to get a photo taken so that they have an ID card for school events, can be seen in our Student Information System, etc.

3) Fall sports are beginning!

Fall sports are a great time to build community and create connections between all our Jaguar families. Even if your student isn’t an athlete, attending events not only supports kids but also gives you the chance to meet other families, connect with friends, and build an inclusive and supportive Jaguar community that welcomes all families. The sports calendar is always at the bottom of the Family Bulletin and we encourage you to attend at least one event this fall - no matter whether your student is an athlete or not.

The first Home Football game of the 2019 campaign is coming up this Saturday, September 7 at Pop Keeney field @ 7 PM. We hope to see you all decked out in purple and in support of our Jaguars!

4) Curriculum Night / Open House (Mark Your Calendars)!

Our annual Curriculum Night / Open House is Thursday September 26 from 6:00 PM to 8:45 PM. This is a great opportunity to get to meet each and every one of your student’s teachers and to learn a little bit about what your child experiences in class each day.

Please remember, with 1700+ students at NCHS, we won’t remotely have enough parking (no high school in America has a parking lot large enough to accommodate all their families), so please consider walking if you live close by and carpooling if you live in a neighborhood with other Jaguar families. Overflow parking will be available at Fernwood Elementary (about a 3-block walk from NCHS).

5) The North Creek Mission & Goals

The mission of North Creek High School is to inspire and develop students and staff to become stewards of innovation, collaborative problem solvers, creative thinkers, caring and compassionate citizens, environmental champions, servant leaders and social justice activists in service toward making a positive impact on our local and global community.

This is an aspirational statement as we know we are preparing our students for a world that does not yet exist (when I was a kid, having the ability to access nearly all of human knowledge by using my smartphone was science fiction!). These aspirations guide our work and urge us forward so that each and every student at North Creek is ready for that almost-unimaginable future.

Our goals at North Creek are quite simple (and yet quite ambitious):

- ★ Each and every student at North Creek High School will show at least one year's growth, if not more, in all academic areas (100% Growth)
- ★ Each and every student at North Creek High School will graduate on-time (100% Graduation)

These goals focus our efforts and give us guideposts as we go through the year. A quick story: Last year, at our Graduation Rehearsal, I gathered the Class of 2019 in the Main Gym bleachers for a class photo. As the photographer was setting up, one of the soon-to-be graduates asked me, "Dr. McDowell - did we make our 100% goal?" I was blown away! I can assure you that there are few high schools in the US where students know the school goal - and even fewer where they personalize and own it ("did we make our goal").

So, did we make our 100% goal? The answer is "no" - life sure does get in the way of some kids. We had one student from the class drop out junior year and a couple others moved away and never let us know where they re-enrolled (so they count as dropouts). Despite that, our on-time graduation rate was close to **98%** (a remarkable number) and I was able to tell the Seniors in those bleachers - each and every senior who walked the halls and took classes at NCHS all year during 2018-19 graduated - 100%.

Our mission and our goals - they aren't just words. They are our work, they are our passion, and they are our purpose for existing. I invite you to partner with us in our mission and help us with our goals so that 100% of the Class of 2020 and beyond walk that stage and get that diploma. We can't do it alone.

6) Natural Leaders Event - September 12 (Mark Your Calendars!)

The Natural Leaders are hosting a welcome event for the Latinx community on Thursday, 9/12 at 6:30 in The Commons. Please come out and meet the NCHS administration. There will be snacks and an opportunity to ask questions.

El Grupo de Líderes Naturales de NCHS tendrán un evento de bienvenida para la comunidad Latina el Jueves, 12 de Septiembre a las 6:30pm en la cafetería de la escuela. Por favor acompáñenos y aproveche esta oportunidad para conocer al equipo administrativo (director y subdirectores) de NCHS. Tendremos aperitivos y la oportunidad de hacer preguntas.

7) New “Topics” Classes at NCHS

To help us reach our 100% goals, North Creek is implementing new classes in Math this year designed to help all students succeed in mathematics. As we all know, math can be such a gatekeeper for kids. While NCHS has the very highest SBAC math scores in the District (we really do!), we can do better and we are trying a new innovative approach this year to see if we can get all kids to do well in math.

This year, we are trying out 3 new classes called Algebra I Topics, Geometry Topics, and Algebra II Topics. Students who may struggle in Algebra I (because they had difficulty back in middle school in Math 8), will be enrolled in Algebra I with their peers and will get the Algebra I Topics class which will help them with their homework, reteach them important topics, provide them support, and give them the time they need to learn Algebra. The same will be true in Geometry Topics and Algebra II Topics.

While these Topics classes do take up the space of one elective, the 7 period day has given all kids an extra elective. Moreover, kids who really bloom in during the course of the year will be able to leave the Topics class at Semester and take an elective during 2nd semester. Are all the kids going to be excited they have this class? Probably not - but I think we all know that feeling “stupid” in math is not a good feeling and I’d rather help and support kids with an extra class for a short time so that they build their confidence and realize that everyone can do math than do nothing.

If you see a “Topics” class on your student’s schedule, please celebrate that with your student and help them to understand that it’s one way NCHS is working to make sure they are part of the 100%!

8) AVID at NCHS

I am super excited to announce that North Creek will be joining thousands of high schools across the US in offering [AVID](#) classes to our students. “Our nation’s schools are full of students who possess a desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard, but many of them do not truly have the opportunity to be college-ready. These are often the students who will be the first in their families to attend college and are from groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education. [AVID](#) equips teachers and schools with what they need to help these students succeed on a path to college and career success. For one period a day, AVID students receive the additional academic, social, and emotional support that will help them succeed in their school’s rigorous courses.” [1](#)

North Creek will be offering two AVID classes during 2019-20:

- ★ College Readiness Through AVID 9 (for 9th graders)
- ★ College Readiness Through AVID 10 (for 10th graders)

If you see AVID on your 9th or 10th grade student’s schedule, I congratulate you and am extremely excited for your family. I have seen AVID work in my previous district and it’s a tremendous program! If your 9th or 10th grade student doesn’t have AVID on their schedule, but struggles to get the grades they want to get and needs the extra support, please feel free to contact your student’s counselor to see if there is any room left this year in our AVID sections.

READINGS & OTHER INTERESTING MEDIA

1. [North Creek possesses a deep, strong football squad](#)
2. [The Mysterious Vaping Illness that's 'Becoming an Epidemic'](#)
 - a. This is a CRITICAL article to read and have your teen read. It was the front page of the NY Times on Sunday. Kids and adults are literally starting to die across the country from vaping. Doctor's aren't 100% sure why because no one really knows what's in the chemicals found in vaping devices.
 - b. Please work with your teen to help them understand that vaping is NOT SAFE and they could be putting themselves in grave danger if they start to vape.

ATHLETICS CALENDAR

All Athletics Schedules and Locations can be found on www.kingcoathletics.com Here are our athletic games for this week. Some athletes will need to leave class early. Please note "Dismiss" times below for our awesome Jaguar sports teams.

Go, Jaguars!