



Sussex County Educational Services Commission  
**NORTHERN HILLS ACADEMY**



10 Gail Court

Sparta, New Jersey 07871

Phone: 973-579-6980; Fax: 973-579-1086

**Andrea Romano**  
Superintendent

**Greg Farley**  
Principal

**Erin Siipola**  
Business Administrator

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March 27, 2023

Dear Parent(s) and Guardians(s),

Happy Spring! We just wanted to send out some helpful tips and reminders regarding the health and safety of all our students as the weather gets warmer.

During rainy and cool spring days, please send your child to school dressed appropriately for the weather. We strive to have the students go out for fresh air and exercise when the weather permits. We do have guidelines to follow as to when it is safe to have the children outdoors. Please dress your child in layers as the building temperature fluctuates from room to room.

**HEALTH OFFICE REMINDERS: Some reminders from our Nursing Department....**

In addition to educating students, one of our goals at NHA is to keep students healthy enough to be in the classroom and ready to learn. Here at NHA we frequently reinforce hand washing and other infection control measures such as cough and sneeze etiquette.

We are vigilant about tracking and trending absences and illness at school and work closely with the teachers and custodial staff to keep all classrooms as healthy as possible. When you call the school to inform us of your child's absence, it is helpful to indicate the reason for absence such as cold symptoms, stomach virus, strep throat, etc. This is helpful information for the school nurse to have as she monitors the illnesses that may occur at school.

Children should remain home if they have a fever above 100°. They can return to school once they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication such as Tylenol or Advil. The same goes for vomiting and/or diarrhea; your child should have no symptoms for at least 24 hours and be able to tolerate eating and drinking before returning to school.

If your child has been diagnosed with a contagious disease, he/she must remain out of school until they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours or until the child has been medically cleared to return to school. The school nurse should be informed of this so she can track the disease and obtain proper documentation. This is especially important as we care for the immunocompromised and medically fragile students in school.

The above guidelines protect children from coming in contact with germs and also protect your child from returning to school too soon after recovering from an illness. It bears repeating often that **hand washing is**

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**the single most effective way to prevent illness.** Getting adequate rest is paramount. When your body is tired and not well-rested, it is much harder to fend off germs and illnesses.

### **Clubs and Activities 2023**

We are getting ready to once again start up some more of NHA Clubs and Spring Events/Activities. Clubs and events being held, will primarily be held outdoors when the weather permits. All clubs are held during regular school hours. Your child's teacher will be communicating with you, if your child is participating in a club or not. Not all grade levels or programs participate; many clubs are year-long and you may already know about them. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher via email. Please see below for some upcoming events and activities.

Some other upcoming dates I would like to remind everyone:

- March 31st - End of 3rd Marking Period
- April 6th - Early Dismissal for Spring Recess. (Dismissal Procedures start at 12:45pm)
- April 7th - April 14th - No School- Spring Recess
- April 18th - Spring Fest at NHA: Drumming Our Way into Spring
- April 19th - Parent Presentation, Work-Based Learning & Community-Based Instruction information session - NHA's future plans and activities
- April 28th - 1pm - Autism Walk-a-thon for Autism Acceptance Month & Student's Craft Sale  
Outdoors: Parents welcome to attend.
- May 1st - May 5th - Staff Appreciation Week
- May 4th - Early Dismissal (Staff In-Service)
- May 12th - 12:30pm - 1:30pm Tea with a Special Friend (Mom's/Grandma's/Special Friend)
- May 29th -No School- Memorial Day
- June 3rd - Field Day
- June 9th - Donuts & Derby (Pinewood) (Dad's/Grandpa's/Special Friend)
- TBD - Finalizing dates - Graduation & Awards Ceremony

We understand that many of our families have had financial difficulties over the past year, but as you do your 'Spring Cleaning,' please keep NHA in mind. I have included **some** donation items we are currently looking for at the school on the next page. As always, thank you for your diligence in helping to keep everyone safe and healthy at NHA.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Greg Farley  
Principal

Andrea Romano  
Superintendent

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### **Donation Wish List**

Here are a few new or gently used items the school is looking for:

- ☼ Bubbles
- ☼ Seeds
- ☼ Garden tools
- ☼ Sidewalk Chalk
- ☼ Garden Gloves- child size
- ☼ Potting soil
- ☼ Board Games
- ☼ Lawn Games
- ☼ Outdoor Seating Options (outdoor chairs)