

We're Off On Another Adventure

Welcome back! After 30 years teaching, I still look forward to the bustle of the first day. It gets too quiet here without our students. The challenges they bring with them and the surprising ways they rise to meet them make my work a joy!

There already is much to tell. Ask your student about the details. Rather than just “How was your first day?,” here are specifics you might ask your students about:

“What did your teachers say about how you will use the laptops?”—The school-owned devices started going home already. We are starting with seniors, but every student should have a computer by Friday, 9/8. If your student is absent and misses out, send them to the Library right away to pick one up. Freshmen will receive theirs on one of our block days (90-minute classes), when they can receive more training.

Watch for more information in coming weeks about laptops. Remember that these laptops are for your use as well. We encourage you to take a look at how your student is learning with these devices.

“What advice did your teachers have about doing well?”—Our staff generally talk on the first day about things that can help your student succeed in their class. You can help cement these tactics in your student’s mind by asking them to repeat a few to you.

Even more, attend Curriculum Night on Thursday evening, 9/14. We have a course summary (or syllabus) for each class, but teachers spend this open-house opportunity for parents on additional information, including offering tips for success. That advice includes what to look for and where to start if your student struggles in a class. Teachers also detail how you can contact them for information throughout the year.

“Tell me about some of the new students.”—Beyond our new freshman class of 440, we have 50 new upperclassmen. Help make our school a place that values everyone by encouraging your student to welcome these newcomers. When you ask questions, you make it natural for your student to want to know about their classmates.

When we offer a warm welcome to new students, we help create an environment where all our students thrive. Students feel they belong in a school culture that values everyone. Your student can really thrive only when they feel they belong.

“Tell me about the clubs and teams your friends are joining.”—Encourage your student to explore new possibilities, but most importantly, be sure they get involved in something beyond their classes.

To thrive, high school students need connections to people (adults and peers) that share their keen interests. They need opportunities to challenge themselves, even to the point of failing. Failure among these friends helps teens develop the resilience they will need to one day battle the “real” world.

Throughout the coming weeks, I will include short features about the staff resources beyond the classroom that we have at Newport to support students and families. See the first one below about Greg Mills.

Partner for Safety—Greg Mills

Officer Greg Mills of the Bellevue Police Department has been a Newport partner in safety for 17 years. I also consider him one of the kindest and friendliest members of our community. I have heard him say frequently, “I love being a part of the staff here, and I try to participate wherever I can.”

As our School Resource Officer, he looks out for our safety, but he also attends classes to answer student questions about search and seizure law, civil vs. criminal law, alcohol and drug laws, police procedures, and law enforcement as a career.

With law enforcement experience as a Field Training Officer, Detective, and SWAT team member, he has the skills for our occasional need of crime investigation. Generally, it is his presence that both deters crime and gives us a sense of safety from knowing he is here.

Should you need emergency help, always call 911 first, then look for him. His office is across the Commons from the Main Office.

Officer Mills wants families to know that as a Resource Officer, he has extra responsibility. “On the occasions when I find that a student has broken the law, my school-staff status gives me more leeway to work with the student, parents, and school staff to come up with appropriate consequences for the specific situation. I am here in part to help our students learn. I want them to understand how to be concerned and positive citizens.”

Limit Locker Contents

On the subject of safety, we ask that your students avoid bringing valuables to campus. Our lockers are here for their convenience, but there really is little need for them.

- Students have a school-issued laptop, which they should have with them in class.
- We don't issue many textbooks. When we do, we often also have classroom sets so that students can leave their copy at home.
- During their team season, athletes have access to a gym locker to store their gear and clothing.
- If they don't need to use it most days, it really shouldn't be with them at school.

Get a Hot Breakfast Every Morning at Newport

Remember that our cafeteria serves hot breakfast every morning starting at 8 AM for a small fee paid with their district lunch account. Students using the free and reduced-price meal program can use that for breakfast.

College Application News

New figures out this week from the government might surprise you. To how many colleges do you think most students apply? The number is surprising low at just one. Yes, one.

Use that tidbit to help your student set expectations. Our counselors generally recommend that students apply to several, including one “stretch” school, where competition might make it difficult to get in, and one “safe” school, where admittance is generally assured.

You can help your student prepare for these decisions by encouraging some research in advance of their senior year. Help them to think about both academic and extra-curricular aspects that are important to them and then explore the options.

Rally Round Your Student

Don't miss Curriculum Night on Thursday, 9/14, at 6:30 PM. Meet your student's teachers and hear their tips for success in their classes. Become your Knight's Ally.

Plan to buddy up. Organize a carpool with a neighbor or friend. We do not have enough parking on site. Watch for alternative-parking news next week.

Fair Event Packs in Resources

The Bellevue School District, Bellevue Schools Foundation and Bellevue PTSA Council will host a Back to School Fair on Saturday, 9/9, from 10 AM to 4 PM at Bellevue High School to introduce the community to the new Superintendent, Dr. Ivan Duran.

Multiple community resources will be available and classes will be held for families about Synergy, school funding, and American education system. [Click here for more information.](#)

Bell Schedule

You can [find the full bell schedule on our website](#), but we have two important changes to note:

1. Wednesday - SNACK TIME! 20-minute Nutritional Break at 11:30 AM on Wednesday.
2. Thursday – Newport TV/Announcement/Activity period – 10 minutes. (Lunch decrease of 5 minutes; no instructional time impact)

Also Note:

- Tutorial runs 7:55 to 8:25 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- Classes start at 8:30 AM Monday through Friday.
- Classes end at 3:30 PM on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. On Wednesday, classes end at 1:25.

No More +/- on Grade Reports

Bellevue Schools will no longer use +/- grades on report cards. This approach aligns report card grades with universal high-school-transcript grade formats. Student transcripts are the standard school performance record that colleges and employers use in applications.

Standard transcripts have not used the +/- designations for at least 20 years.

A joint team of teacher union representatives and district leaders reached consensus on the recommendation to no longer use +/- grades on report cards.

Join Online & Make a Visible Difference for Your Knight

Newport High School PTSA is enrolling all members on-line using PT-Avenue. No more forms to complete. [Please click here](#) to self register. Email newporthighptsa@gmail.com if you have questions.

Shop the Newport Grad Store; Volunteer to Help

On Saturday, 9/9, the Class of 2018 will host the annual garage sale fundraiser. Shop and support our seniors at both 3 & 7 Newport Key in Newport Shores from 9 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, 9/9.

Please consider donating your items (tax deductible) for our sale! All proceeds will go towards tickets to the all-night graduation party for scholarship students.

Clean out your garage, closets, etc., and bring your unwanted treasures for our sale. Volunteers will set up from 3 to 7 PM on Friday, 9/8. Please deliver your items then to 3 or 7 Newport Key. If that time doesn't work, please contact Suzi Kuenster suzikuenster@msn.com to arrange for another time.

Need help moving your larger treasures? We are happy to arrange a pickup by our volunteers.

Volunteers needed. [Sign up online](#). Deliver equipment for the sale and/or volunteer your time. There are many ways to support our seniors! Students can earn community service hours for their work.

News from Our PTSA

- Save the date for the first PTSA meeting on Wednesday, 9/20, at 7 pm in the Library.
- Visit gradknight.com to support the Class of 2018 GradKnight's Garage Sale and Poinsettia/Wreath Sale.
- Ski Swap is coming Friday and Saturday, 11/10 and 11/11 at Newport High School. Opportunities to consign and purchase ski gear while supporting the PTSA.

KCLS Library Offers 'Life After High School'

From SAT prep and college application essays to freshman success tips and career planning, King County Library System (KCLS) offers free support for high school students and families. Check out the course descriptions, locations, and dates and times on the [KCLS website\(kcls.org/teen-subject/life-after-high-school-resources/\)](http://kcls.org/teen-subject/life-after-high-school-resources/).