

FAQs from Sept 9-10, 2020 for New Families

Questions on the document, please contact the PTSO at info@newtonsouthPTSO.org

	Category	QUESTIONS Submitted	Answer
1	Admin	Do students and parents have separate Aspen accounts?	Yes.
2	Admin	Will parent/teacher conferences be handled?	Yes. They will be conducted virtually.
3	Admin	Please describe in as much detail as possible how students needs for social and emotional development will be supported.	The focus for the first couple of weeks of school will be on community building and connection activities, both at the school-wide level and in individual classes. A system for book and materials distribution will be forthcoming in the next couple of weeks. Teachers will be providing feedback to students on a regular basis. We also have a successful flagging system where teachers indicate on a weekly basis which students are disengaged, struggling with the material, etc. Each week, there will be a weekly meeting with the house dean, counselors, support staff, school psychologists and a special education representative to discuss students who are struggling with recommendations for further supports for those students.
4	Admin	How will NSHS ensure that the new grading system does not penalize strong students, or create an even stronger incentive to take a full roster of AP classes?	Teachers will explain to students how the grades for their class. The grading system will be A/B/P/NG. The reason that we are not using +/- is that this instructional year prevents us from being able to get to the numeric detail that we were able to do prior to COVID. Additionally, with all of the stressors that our students are experiencing due to this crisis we are simplifying the grading process so that it is focused on student learning instead of arbitrary merit. Grading is not a topic that we have addressed in the past due to other topics that we have been working on . However, we have received feedback that our consistency around grading is something that we need to address. Therefore, we see this as an opportunity for us to become more consistent with our grading practices.
5	Admin	What's the procedure for finding a new principal? We had two other students at South and didn't realize there was a change this year.	Superintendent David Fleishman will set schedule. Typically a community is formed, including Administration, Teachers and Parents.

6	Admin	What is the best resource to help parents navigate what the student should be doing ?	Schoology is used for all student assignments. Your child should have an account. Some parents log on to the child's account to see status.
7	Admin	What would you recommend us to do to prep kids for High school Level of education so they won't be too shocked ?	Practicing independence to manage his/her/their school work is a key skill for high school and beyond. Support them in practicing executive functioning skills (they should have their own daily planner - electronic or paper) to track assignments and events in and out of school. Important to know that "failing" is OK - resilience allows them to thrive and find their way to succeed. High school is about exploring - subjects, extra-curricular activities, and the opportunity to find people connections and their passions.
8	Admin	On the virtual step up videos and the Q&A session there was only representation from Cutler House and Goodwin House. Why are only 2 of the 4 included. Will the deans/teams from these houses be doing any outreach to welcome the incoming freshmen?	Please visit the link below to see NSHS Virtual Freshman Step Up Day and Orientation. In-person activities to meet counselors/Deans and teachers is being developed. https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=30&ModuleInstanceID=4383&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=13064&PageID=53
9	Admin	Are you consider full in person return to school later this year if covid positive cases number will stay as they are now (below 1%)	NPS has to provide an updated plan for in-person high school in early November to the SC.
10	Admin	Since school will not resume in person for the foreseeable future, what must be trues for our children to return to school?	NPS has to provide an updated plan for in-person high school in early November to the SC.
11	Admin	Is there a plan for a possible return of in-person classes this year? If so, when would this possibility be put for a vote again?	NPS has to provide an updated plan for in-person high school in early November to the SC.
12	Admin	Since students will not return to class for the "foreseeable future", what must be true for them to return?	NPS has to provide an updated plan for in-person high school in early November to the SC.
13	Admin	Will there be a plan to move to a hybrid model at some point? And what will this decision be based on?	NPS has to provide an updated plan for in-person high school in early November to the SC.

14	Admin	Does school accept grade from CTY online course? How is it calculated as a part of GPA?	Contact the Registrar Marguerite Monahan at the main office at 617-559-6500 to determine if the organization is approved. Depending on the organization, a discussion with the Department Head may be required.
15	Distant Learning	Are all 9th grade students going to be taught by NSHS teachers on-line?	Yes. All classes that we "staffed" in March, based on Student Requests, are still running this September within the Full Remote Model. Course curriculum are being revised and adapted and we are committed to developing the skills and competencies necessary for future success in the content areas.
16	Distant Learning	Are all students in same class going to be zoom classmates just like in-person ?	Yes.
17	Distant Learning	Will there be formal classes on Wednesdays or it is a self-study time?	Wednesdays will not be office hour days. Teachers and department heads have been in discussion about the use of those shorter time blocks with options being some instruction, some small group work, or asynchronous work within the block periods. Teachers will share plans for Wednesdays when school begins.
18	Distant Learning	Do we need to get any school supplies?	There is no supplies list for high school. Each teacher will provide recommendations. PTSO recommends a daily planner to practice/improve exec function skills. Honors Math will require a calculator that the teacher will specify. School will announce information on pick up for textbooks.
19	Distant Learning	How will small music and theatre electives be handled ie improvisational jazz and into to theatre	Theatre is a major connection point to the broader South community for many of our students and we are working to safely make in person performances a reality. For up to date information on performances check this link: https://www.southstage.org/
20	Distant Learning	How will pottery / art class be delivered? What about supplies?	Teachers will provide information to students after Class lists and student schedules are released on Fri 9/11 On Aspen by 5pm.
21	Distant Learning	I have taken physics with engineering so how will the engineering part of it be taken care of. Also I have chosen Robotic. So how will that work	Teachers will provide information after the schedule is released.
22	Distant Learning	Will there be any science lab work this year	Teachers will announce information to their class on labs.

23	Distant Learning	How will curriculum be delivered? will there be emphasis on - opportunities for live small group discussions, individual support etc rather than independent learning which was quite problematic in the spring.	Teachers have professional development sessions starting on 8/31 and learning new online tools to use so they can finalize their plan for their classes. South is committed to finding new ways to teach and engage this year. We understand the concerns from last Spring.
24	Distant Learning	How the tests are going to be done?	Our educators are working together collaboratively to determine new and different assessment techniques and formats that will both be better assessments and decrease cheating.
25	Distant Learning	Will classes be recorded?	NPS policy does not allow us to record remote classes.
26	Distant Learning	How will the classes be? Will there be a zoom class with their own Newton South teachers and classmates? This is our most preferred way of distance learning.	Newton South will start school on September 16 with Full Distance Learning Model - all classes for students will be on Zoom, GoogleMeet, etc. High Needs students will have in-person learning and have been contacted by Special Education Department
27	Distant Learning	Will 9th graders have homework?	Homework outside of the school day footprint will be much less than in previous years. More specific guidelines will be developed by each department but as a school, we are committed to providing a robust remote in-class learning environment while building community and connection between faculty and students and between students and their peers.
28	Distant Learning	Please provide the teacher's expectation for homework on a daily basis	Homework outside of the school day footprint will be much less than in previous years. More specific guidelines will be developed by each department but as a school, we are committed to providing a robust remote in-class learning environment while building community and connection between faculty and students and between students and their peers.
29	Distant Learning	Will the school be communicating classes are optional, like in the spring? Kids like mine then felt it wasn't necessary to go.	High School starts on Sept 16 with Full Distance Learning model. Zoom attendance will be taken daily and recorded in Aspen by teachers
30	Distant Learning	physical education in person outdoors?	High School starts on Sept 16 with Full Distance Learning model. Teachers will communicate specifics on class.

31	Distant Learning	How do we handle absences of late starts?	Attendance will be taken in each class each day. Families will be expected to contact the house office to excuse absences if/when a student is sick. Teachers will contact home about class cuts. Teachers will inform deans about students with attendance issues. Parents can view attendance data in Aspen.
32	Distant Learning	How do you envision academic strategies working in the context of distance learning?	90 minute blocks will include a mixture of instructional strategies including direct instruction, small group work, and independent work. Students will NOT be on zoom all day. Educators will be responsible for their students and their learning during this block. Attendance will be taken in each class in Aspen this year. Students are required to attend each of their classes. The footprint of the day will be similar to our "pre-pandemic" school day. The design of the schedule is based in part on the research on remote instruction that exists. The longer blocks provide for a greater variety of instructional techniques and fewer "transitions" during the day.
33	Distant Learning	Will Zoom guidelines be provided? Ie. whole face should be visible, no eating....	Yes. Teachers will set expectations. Clothing should be school appropriate. "Cameras on" is expected. However teacher will checkin if the student's camera is off. We absolutely want all students to be able to fully participate while respecting that not all students may want to share their homes with their classes. We are encouraging our educators to get to know each of their students well so that they can understand and respond to individual needs with respect to cameras. We are expecting educators to work with their classes around norms of respect and attentiveness during class. Students should still respect the "educational space" that they are entering.
34	Extra Curricular	Will theater productions happen at all this year?	Theatre is a major connection point to the broader South community for many of our students and we are working to safely make in person performances a reality. For up to date information on performances check this link: https://www.southstage.org/

35	Extra Curricular	Will academic clubs (math team, science team) be meeting in person/ zoom?	<p>We will have an updated list of clubs that are running for the 2020-21 school year on the NSHS website by the end of September (under student activities tab). We are currently working on determining when clubs will meet, with the most likely scenario after school hours Mon-Fri. We are hoping to have opportunities where clubs/activities can meet at school at some point, but to start the year, we are asking that all clubs meet virtually only. We will have a protocol in place where faculty advisors supervise the setting up of virtual club Zoom or Google Meet meetings and we will continue to use Family ID for students to register for clubs. Student leaders of clubs and any student that joins clubs this year will need to follow the NPS technology use protocols and we are looking into the possibility of using student and parent waiver forms specifically for virtual meeting use.</p>
36	Extra Curricular	What is the plan for extra-curricular activities such as debate?	<p>We will have an updated list of clubs that are running for the 2020-21 school year on the NSHS website by the end of September (under student activities tab). We are currently working on determining when clubs will meet, with the most likely scenario after school hours Mon-Fri. We are hoping to have opportunities where clubs/activities can meet at school at some point, but to start the year, we are asking that all clubs meet virtually only. We will have a protocol in place where faculty advisors supervise the setting up of virtual club Zoom or Google Meet meetings and we will continue to use Family ID for students to register for clubs. Student leaders of clubs and any student that joins clubs this year will need to follow the NPS technology use protocols and we are looking into the possibility of using student and parent waiver forms specifically for virtual meeting use.</p>

37	Extra Curricular	Do any of the after school activities exist during elearning?	We will have an updated list of clubs that are running for the 2020-21 school year on the NSHS website by the end of September (under student activities tab). We are currently working on determining when clubs will meet, with the most likely scenario after school hours Mon-Fri. We are hoping to have opportunities where clubs/activities can meet at school at some point, but to start the year, we are asking that all clubs meet virtually only. We will have a protocol in place where faculty advisors supervise the setting up of virtual club Zoom or Google Meet meetings and we will continue to use Family ID for students to register for clubs. Student leaders of clubs and any student that joins clubs this year will need to follow the NPS technology use protocols and we are looking into the possibility of using student and parent waiver forms specifically for virtual meeting use.
38	Extra Curricular	Sports and clubs? There needs to be a way for existing members to reach out to newbies and try to onboard them. My daughter would be joining, but would be very reluctant to seek them on her own. It would be great if there is a clear path toward this for freshman.	Typically Sports teams will reach out via email and the PTSO will post those announcements in our weekly newsletters. After SC votes on Fall Sport on 9/14, coaches will send out information.
39	Extra Curricular	How will speech and debate clubs be conducted?	<u>See previous questions on clubs. Also visit https://southspeech.weebly.com/</u>
40	Extra Curricular	Please describe in as much detail as possible the structure and timing of extracurricular activities, clubs, theater, team-building, etc.	Please see previous questions on clubs. Visit SouthArts.org website for updated on theatre program.
41	Extra Curricular	How will students be able to connect with clubs and activities?	Please see previous questions on clubs.
42	Extra Curricular	How do students participate in extra curricular clubs and activities?	Please see previous questions on clubs.
43	Extra Curricular	How will 9th graders learn about clubs and various ways to get involved at South?	Please see previous questions on clubs.
44	Extra Curricular	Will there be club activities in person? If so which ones?	Please see previous questions on clubs.
45	Extra Curricular	Will have access to clubs like debate club, Robotics club. If so will it be virtual or in person	Please see previous answers on clubs.

46	Extra Curricular	Are there going to be clubs available for remote or in-person participation?	Clubs will reach out after school starts. Club Fair will be done virtually this year.
47	Freshman	Is there an orientation planned for students entering 9th grade?	<p><u>Yes, we are exploring opportunities for an outside, in-person, meet and greet for 9th graders to meet some teachers, counselors and deans. More details will be forthcoming as plans are finalized. Please visit the link below to see NSHS Virtual Freshman Step Up Day and Orientation.</u></p> <p>https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=30&ModuleInstanceId=4383&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=13064&PageID=53</p>
48	Freshman	What is the plan for incoming freshman to connect with their peer?	<p><u>Yes, we are exploring opportunities for an outside, in-person, meet and greet for 9th graders to meet some teachers, counselors and deans. More details will be forthcoming as plans are finalized. Please visit the link below to see NSHS Virtual Freshman Step Up Day and Orientation.</u></p> <p>https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=30&ModuleInstanceId=4383&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=13064&PageID=53</p>
49	Freshman	When is the in-person orientation for freshmen?	<p><u>Yes, we are exploring opportunities for an outside, in-person, meet and greet for 9th graders to meet some teachers, counselors and deans. More details will be forthcoming as plans are finalized. Please visit the link below to see NSHS Virtual Freshman Step Up Day and Orientation.</u></p> <p>https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=30&ModuleInstanceId=4383&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=13064&PageID=53</p>

50	Freshman	What type of orientation opportunities will there be for 9th graders who have had no exposure to South (no siblings that have previously attended).	Yes, we are exploring opportunities for an outside, in-person, meet and greet for 9th graders to meet some teachers, counselors and deans. More details will be forthcoming as plans are finalized. Please visit the link below to see NSHS Virtual Freshman Step Up Day and Orientation. https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=30&ModuleInstanceId=4383&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=13064&PageID=53
51	Freshman	Will freshman have a step up day?	Yes, we are exploring opportunities for an outside, in-person, meet and greet for 9th graders to meet some teachers, counselors and deans. More details will be forthcoming as plans are finalized. Please visit the link below to see NSHS Virtual Freshman Step Up Day and Orientation. https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=30&ModuleInstanceId=4383&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=13064&PageID=53
52	Freshman	My son is new to Newton Public Schools and does not know very many students there. What activities do you plan so he can meet in person with other students? Would you consider doing some activities with the cohort of students who are new to Newton Public Schools and are in the same boat?	Yes, we are exploring opportunities for an outside, in-person, meet and greet for 9th graders to meet some teachers, counselors and deans. More details will be forthcoming as plans are finalized. In-person activities to meet counselors and teachers is being developed. Club Fairs will be done virtually this year. Individual Clubs will also try to reach out. Most grades officers set up facebook groups and instagram accounts.
53	Freshman	Will there be any opportunity for freshman to have social distance in person meet up with teachers or will there be opportunity for one on one sessions Via zoom for freshman for a quick session with their new teachers?	Yes, we are exploring opportunities for an outside, in-person, meet and greet for 9th graders to meet some teachers, counselors and deans. More details will be forthcoming as plans are finalized.
54	Freshman	Will there be any in-person orientation for incoming freshmen?	Yes, we are exploring opportunities for an outside, in-person, meet and greet for 9th graders to meet some teachers, counselors and deans. More details will be forthcoming as plans are finalized.

55	Freshman	Will students receive textbooks?	Yes, Administration will be sending out information about textbook pick up.
56	Freshman	Does 9th grader take PSAT?	Typically no. Some sophomores do, most take them their Junior yet. However standardize testing landscape is changing due to COVID-19. Contact your child's guidance counselor for more information
57	Freshman	Specifically, how will 9th graders be connected to the South community?	Please visit the link below to see NSHS Virtual Freshman Step Up Day and Orientation. In-person activities to meet teachers, counselors and Deans are being developed. https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=30&ModuleInstanceId=4383&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=13064&PageID=53
58	Freshman	Please elaborate on the integration/orientation plans for 9th graders to feel welcome to the school.	Please visit the link below to see NSHS Virtual Freshman Step Up Day and Orientation. In-person activities to meet teachers, counselors and Deans are being developed. https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=30&ModuleInstanceId=4383&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=13064&PageID=53
59	Freshman	What will orientation look like?	Please visit the link below to see NSHS Virtual Freshman Step Up Day and Orientation. In-person activities to meet teachers, counselors and Deans are being developed. https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=30&ModuleInstanceId=4383&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=13064&PageID=53
60	Freshman	Orientation - Can it happen before classes start? In person or remote? If not, can teachers connect one on one with students?	Please visit the link below to see NSHS Virtual Freshman Step Up Day and Orientation. In-person activities to meet teachers, counselors and Deans are being developed. https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=30&ModuleInstanceId=4383&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=13064&PageID=53

61	Freshman	Is there going to be an freshman orientation?	Please visit the link below to see NSHS Virtual Freshman Step Up Day and Orientation. In-person activities to meet teachers, counselors and Deans are being developed. https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=30&ModuleInstanceID=4383&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=13064&PageID=53
62	Freshman	Will freshman be allowed to visit the school building?	In-person activities to meet counselors and teachers is being developed.
63	Freshman	What is the plan for orientation given that students did not have any opportunity to get to know the school and teachers ?	In addition to the NSHS Virtual Freshman videos, the Administration is looking at in-person experiences for Freshman
64	Freshman	What is the plan for orientation given that students did not have any opportunity to get to know the school and teachers ?	In addition to the NSHS Virtual Freshman videos, the Administration is looking at in-person experiences for Freshman
65	Freshman	Will incoming freshman get a chance to meet their teachers in person socially-distanced outside?	In addition to the NSHS Virtual Freshman videos, the Administration is looking at in-person experiences for Freshman
66	Freshman	Information was provided about athletics, but little information has been provided about which clubs will meet and when. (Eg - freshman play)	Announcements from South Arts Dept for theatre and music will be announced shortly.
67	Freshman	Are there any mixer planned to integrate the brown and oak hill kids	After class lists and schedules are released, students and families can connect. Class assignments will offer opportunity to meet classmates. Administration is looking at in-person experiences. The PTSO will also be hosting virtual and in-person opportunities this year. Please sign up for our weekly newsletters at newtonsouthPTSO.org
68	Freshman	Any good ideas to get kids into school for a tour?	Administration will be reviewing as the school year starts.
69	In-person	Will students have an opportunity to meet their teachers in some capacity in-person an if so, how will that be facilitated? Will textbooks/chromebooks be distributed in time? And, if not, how will the learning plans be impacted accordingly?	Please see previous questions on in-person meet and greet for freshman with teachers and counselors. Textbook pickup schedule will be sent soon. Regarding Chromebooks, the NPS order for Freshman chromebooks is backordered till January. NPS is reviewing options for support for students who don't have any access to technology and should reach out to families directly.

70	In-person	What are the specifics plans for in-person orientation, clubs, etc?	In addition to the NSHS Virtual Freshman videos, the Administration is looking at in-person experiences for Freshman. Coaches will communicate after Fall Sports after SC vote on 9/14. Clubs will reach out to after school starts. Club Fair will be virtual this year.
71	In-person	Are there going to be opportunities to bring small groups into the school so they will feel more apart of the community	In addition to South specific in-person activities, the PTSO will be reaching out to parents for virtual and in-person opportunities.
72	In-person	What are your plans for in-person meetings for each class? (Please create opportunities for all students to meet in person with their classmates on a regular basis.)	After schedules are released, students will typically contact each other to find out who is in their class. Class assignments will offer opportunity to meet classmates. Administration is looking at in-person experiences. The PTSO will also be hosting virtual and in-person opportunities this year. Please sign up for our weekly newsletters for update at Please sign up for our weekly newsletters at newtonsouthPTSO.org
73	In-person	Ways to meet teachers, counselors, dean, live in the tent during Sept and Oct months? Any live or hybrid opportunities are most welcome (survey says!).	After class lists and schedules are released, students and families can connect. Class assignments will offer opportunity to meet classmates. Administration is looking at in-person experiences. The PTSO will also be hosting virtual and in-person opportunities this year. Please sign up for our weekly newsletters at newtonsouthPTSO.org
74	In-person	I'd like to learn about the in-person or virtual opportunities for 9th graders to connect with their new school community.	After class lists and schedules are released, students and families can connect. Class assignments will offer opportunity to meet classmates. Administration is looking at in-person experiences. The PTSO will also be hosting virtual and in-person opportunities this year. Please sign up for our weekly newsletters at newtonsouthPTSO.org
75	In-person	What would be opportunities for community building- especially in person opportunities outdoors for the next couple of months when the weather is allows for it.	After class lists and schedules are released, students and families can connect. Class assignments will offer opportunity to meet classmates. Administration is looking at in-person experiences. The PTSO will also be hosting virtual and in-person opportunities this year. Please sign up for our weekly newsletters at newtonsouthPTSO.org

76	In-person	This is only our second year in NPS my son only had a limited amount of time to meet a few kids are they going to be grouped with any kids from their MS?	After class lists and schedules are released, students and families can connect. Class assignments will offer opportunity to meet classmates. Administration is looking at in-person experiences. The PTSO will also be hosting virtual and in-person opportunities this year. Please sign up for our weekly newsletters at newtonsouthPTSO.org
77	In-person	Will the students have an opportunity to meet their teachers in person?	Administration is looking at in-person experiences for Freshman. Teachers and counselors will also be reaching out as school starts.
78	In-person	Will school arrange school tour or team meeting in person for 9 graders? So they will have chance to meet and know the teacher/students?	Administration is looking at in-person experiences for Freshman. Teachers and counselors will also be reaching out as school starts.
79	In-person	I'd like to learn about the in-person opportunities for high school students.	Administration is looking at in-person experiences for Freshman. In addition to South specific in-person activities, the PTSO will be reaching out to parents for virtual and in-person opportunities.
81	In-person	Will 9th graders be given opportunities to meet their teachers and students in person before classes begin, or soon after?	Administration is looking at in-person experiences for Freshman, including meet-greet with teachers, counselors and Deans.
82	Misc	Supply list - when does it come out? And where can it be seen/found?	There is no supplies list for high school. Each teacher will provide recommendations. PTSO recommends a daily planner to practice/improve exec function skills. Honors Math will require a calculator that the teacher will specify. School will announce information on pick up for textbooks.
83	Schedule	What happens if a student is not assigned to the core classes that they registered for?	When the Student Schedule is released on 9/11, there will be instructions to make corrections with core academic classes.
84	Schedule	Will there be a drama program this year?	Theatre is a major connection point to the broader South community for many of our students and we are working to safely make in person performances a reality. For up to date information on performances check this link: https://www.southstage.org/
85	Schedule	What happens to the cooking electives?	Teachers will provide information to the students.
86	Schedule	Classes which require in-person sessions like ART, Science labs etc., how are they going to be handled?	Teachers will communicate to their students after schedule is released.

87	Schedule	Will hands-on electives such as cooking be possible this year?	Teachers will communicate to their students after schedule is released.
88	Schedule	What if not all electives that my student was planning to take are available This fall, would there be another opportunity to take them?	Students will not be able to change electives this year. If core academic class or wrong level class was assigned, please contact your child's counselor.
89	Schedule	How does add and drop period for this semester?	Class lists and student schedules will not change this year, unless core classes are missing. When Class lists and student schedules are released, there will be information about how to make corrections, if any and also who to contact.
90	Schedule	Can we advance from Math Accelerated to Math Honors? How?	Class lists and student schedules will not change this year, unless core classes are missing. If classes are missing or incorrect on your child's schedule, a online google form (called Arena Day) to complete. Arena Day is a process to correct the missing classes.
91	Schedule	Since school is virtual, can we add classes to fill open periods?	Class lists and student schedules will not change this year, unless core classes are missing. If classes are missing or incorrect on your child's schedule, a online google form (called Arena Day) to complete. Arena Day is a process to correct the missing classes.
92	Schedule	For foreign language class registration, can students register foreign language in the spring semester?	Class lists and student schedules will not change this year, unless core classes are missing. If classes are missing or incorrect on your child's schedule, a online google form (called Arena Day) to complete. Arena Day is a process to correct the missing classes.
93	Schedule	Who are child's teachers?	Class lists and student schedules will be released on Fri 9/11 On Aspen by 5pm. It will list courses and teachers, and counselor
94	Schedule	When will we have any schedules for classes? For example, she signed up for wood shop as an elective, so what might that look like?	Class lists and student schedules will be released on Fri 9/11 On Aspen by 5pm.
95	Schedule	When does the class schedule come out?	Class lists and student schedules will be released Fri 9/11 On Aspen by 5pm.
96	Schedule	when will we know the home base teacher and which group my child in?	Class lists and student schedules will be released Fri 9/11 on Aspen at 4pm

97	Schedule	What will the schedule look like?	Student schedule will be released Fri 9/11 On Aspen by 5pm. Distance learning model can be found at this link below. HS is on page 29. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_RUgxi-Jg_aaCIYwHB4v0wPQjBpQJe5KI0XrMG39cv4/edit
98	Schedule	Students signed up for electives prior to the quarantine. Given the changed circumstances, there are any number of electives that can't/won't work, or simply aren't wanted any more due to changed circumstances. How do we handle them possibly being put into electives that don't make sense for the quarantine?	Student schedule will be released Fri 9/11 on Aspen at 4pm,, along with instructions for corrections like core academic classes or levels. Class lists and student schedules will be what they selected last spring. No class changes this year. If classes are missing or incorrect on your child's schedule, a online google form (called Arena Day) to complete. Arena Day is a process to correct the missing classes.
99	Schedule	when is my child's schedule available and first day schedule?	Student schedule will be released Fri 9/11 on Aspen at 4pm, along with instructions for corrections like core academic classes or levels. Class lists and student schedules will be what they selected last spring. No class changes this year. If classes are missing or incorrect on your child's schedule, a online google form (called Arena Day) to complete. Arena Day is a process to correct the missing classes. Distance learning model can be found at this link below. HS is on page 29 https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_RUgxi-Jg_aaCIYwHB4v0wPQjBpQJe5KI0XrMG39cv4/edit
100	Schedule	Are we still going to have vacation schedule the same as a regular year?	SC is finalizing 2020-21 calendar in September. Visit SC website for updates at https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/2#calendar1/20200909/month PTSO will put link on our website once the SC approves the final 2020-21 School Year calendar.
101	Schedule	How the orchestra and vocal assemble meet?	Our music teachers are committed to maintaining the strong community within our performance ensembles; virtually or in person. We are currently exploring how to safely hold outdoor rehearsals and welcome the support of any parent volunteers (if you are interested, please contact Ms. Lisa Linde).
102	Schedule	What is the start/end time for each day?	High School Start/End is 9:15AM - 3:55PM
103	Schedule	What time do you anticipating school starting?	High School Start/End is 9:15AM - 3:55PM
104	Schedule	What we know about start time for the high school?	High School Start/End is 9:15AM - 3:55PM

105	Schedule	When will we know the schedule for the school (start time and end of day)?	High School Start/End is 9:15AM - 3:55PM
106	Schedule	What are the start and end times each day?	High School Start/End is 9:15AM - 3:55PM
107	Schedule	What's the structure of weekly curriculum? Early release, starting time ending time, etc	High School start is 9:15AM to 3:55PM. Class lists and student schedules will be release on Fri 9/11 On Aspen by 5pm.
108	Schedule	How will the electives be done?	Depending on the elective, teachers will announce during class.
109	Schedule	Can you provide a step by step returning to learn schedule for the new students?	After class lists and schedules are released, students will know their teachers and counselors. The students will also be able to connect themselves to learn who is in their class, if they choose to connect with friends prior to start of school on 9/16. The Schedule should reflect the courses selected in March 2020, and it should reflect the Distance Learning Model that was published. Click to view HS block schedule on page 29 https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_RUgxj-Jg_aaCIYwHB4v0wPQjBpQJe5KI0XrMG39cv4/edit
110	Social Connection	Ideas for helping students build relationships with each other.	The PTSO will be hosting virtual and in-person activites to help families connect. Visit our website at newtonsouthPTSO.org to sign up for our newsletter.
111	Social Connection	What socialization or community building activities will take place for 9th graders so they can meet children who were not in their middle school?	Please visit the link below to see NSHS Virtual Freshman Step Up Day and Orientation. In-person activities to meet counselors and teachers is being developed. https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=30&ModuleInstanceID=4383&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=13064&PageID=53
112	Social Connection	How do the students get to know their teachers, counselors and classmates? Is it possible to arrange some outdoor meetings activities before Winter comes?	In-person activities to meet counselors and teachers is being developed.
113	Social Connection	How to connect virtually or in small group with peers?	In addition to the NSHS Virtual Freshman videos, the Administration is looking at in-person experiences for Freshman
114	Social Connection	What meet and greet activities will take place this year and what is the timing for these activities?	In addition to South specific in-person activities, the PTSO will be reaching out to parents for virtual and in-person opportunities for parents and students.

115	Social Connection	How do we as parents help our kids to create new social relationships?	After schedules are released, students will know who is in their class. Class assignments will offer opportunity to meet classmates. Administration is looking at in-person experiences. The PTSO will also be hosting virtual and in-person opportunities this year. Please visit PTSO website newtonsouthPTSO.org to sign up for newsletters.
116	Social Connection	(How) will students get to know each other, any distanced-in-person activities planned?	Administration is working with teachers to develop in-person opportunities after school starts. Everyone has different comfort levels with in-person and we will make every effort to provide them with the social distance protocols. Please visit the PTSO website at newtonsouthPTSO.org for information on South and contact us at info@newtonsouthPTSO.org if you have any questions. The PTSO will be hosting virtual and in-person activities to help families connect. Contact your child's counselor if you have any concerns about his schedule or classes.
117	Social Connections	Sounds like more support for New to Newton Families than Freshman	Absolutely not our intention. Please see other questions in this Q&A about Freshman support. Administration and the PTSO will be looking to provide virtual and in-person experiences for Freshman and Parents. Please see previous responses on Freshman meet-and-greet information.
118	SPED	Will the SPED students with IEPs get any in-person learning?	See NPS FAQs at https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/domain/1361 IEPs will be fully supported for distance learning. Any student in cohort C (high needs) will have in-person learning. Special Ed Dept is reaching out to all families. Contact Melissa Gamble, Director of Spec Ed at South if you have questions.
119	SPED	What's the strategy to help kids on 504 plan?	See NPS FAQs at https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/domain/1361 IEPs will be fully supported for distance learning. Any student in cohort C (high needs) will have in-person learning. Special Ed Dept is reaching out to all families. Contact Melissa Gamble, Director of Spec Ed at South if you have questions.
120	SPED	When will we find out our student's SPED liason?	Melissa Gamble is Director of Special Education at South. Please contact her gamblem@newton.k12.ma.us if you have not been contacted about your child.

121	SPED	I got an email on 8/17 saying my child is identified for needing Additional support within the hybrid method. Never said which child or what school. I have 3 kids. When will I be contacted.	Melissa Gamble is Director of Special Education at South. Please contact her gamblem@newton.k12.ma.us if you have not been contacted about your child.
122	SPED	Last spring in middle school - the zoom check ins were not mandatory” will all classes have set zoom times and follow the typical start and end times had school been in person? How will Teachers judge class participation” my kid is shy and unlikely to speak up especially on zoom call? How will his 504 be managed? Can he be tested again and how to determine his educational needs?	Attendance will be taken everyday and recorded in Aspen. Melissa Gamble is Director of Special Education at South. Please contact her gamblem@newton.k12.ma.us if you have not been contacted about your child.
123	Sports	Can you please touch upon spring sports plans, timing and registration process?	Fall sports is being presented tonight by Athletic Directors of North and South at https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/domain/68 The SC will vote on 9/14 on recommendations.
124	Sports	How will sports be able to happen this fall with a class end time of 4pm? It seems like this will be a huge challenge with daylight.	Coaches will be working to define schedule for outdoor fields once SC votes on Fall Sports recommendation on 9/14. There is also stadium lights this year to support events after dark.
125	Sports	I would like to have more details regarding the girls swim team. When does it start and selection critiera	Co-ed swimming is a winter season. South will announce news as MIAA and DCL release information on guidelines.
126	Sports	Please provide an update of swimming program for boys.	Co-ed swimming is a winter season. South will announce news as MIAA and DCL release information on guidelines.
127	Student Support	Will kids get "kits" that include freshman books, text books, or other things	There is no supplies list for high school. Each teacher will provide recommendations. PTSO recommends a daily planner to practice/improve exec function skills. Honors Math will require a calculator that the teacher will specify. School will announce information on pick up for textbooks.
128	Student Support	Is there one on one time with the teacher?	The teachers will provide information on office hours. The teachers and counselors will be looking at looking at in-person experiences for Freshman.
129	Student Support	Will students be meeting with teachers at all?	The teachers and counselors will be looking at looking at in-person experiences for Freshman.
130	Student Support	How do students get reference books for their class?	Textbooks pick up will be annoned soon. Teachers will provide information on any other reference books for their class

131	Student Support	How will they get text books, understand schedule, supply lists, tech systems etc, any high school process that is all new to them (specifically different than middle school).	Textbook pick up will be announced soon. Schedule will be released on 9/11 or 9/14 on Aspen. Chromebooks for freshman are backordered till January. Families should have received emails on chromebooks and device access issues.
132	Student Support	What kind of individual communication will my child receive?	Teachers will communicate through Schoology or direct school gmail account. Contact your child's counselor if they are not able to logon. Counselors will also be reaching out each student. Students will have a variety of ways to get help and assistance though the primary opportunity for help will be via flex block. Educators will be available to provide support during flex block similar to our "J Block" model. In addition we are exploring a number of content specific "help centers" though the zoom logistics need to be worked out.
133	Student Support	How are you planning to substitute HW help?	Students will have a variety of ways to get help and assistance though the primary opportunity for help will be via flex block. Educators will be available to provide support during flex block similar to our "J Block" model. In addition we are exploring a number of content specific "help centers" though the zoom logistics need to be worked out.
134	Student Support	How will students get know their teachers?	Students will have a variety of ways to get help and assistance though the primary opportunity for help will be via flex block. Educators will be available to provide support during flex block similar to our "J Block" model. In addition we are exploring a number of content specific "help centers" though the zoom logistics need to be worked out.
135	Student Support	Are there resources to support the remote learning for a student who has two parents working full time	Students will have a variety of ways to get help and assistance though the primary opportunity for help will be via flex block. Educators will be available to provide support during flex block similar to our "J Block" model. In addition we are exploring a number of content specific "help centers" though the zoom logistics need to be worked out.

136	Student Support	Please discuss the student's opportunity to get additional assistance from teachers while remote learning	Students will have a variety of ways to get help and assistance though the primary opportunity for help will be via flex block. Educators will be available to provide support during flex block similar to our "J Block" model. In addition we are exploring a number of content specific "help centers" though the zoom logistics need to be worked out.
137	Student Support	Being from another country, we are concern that we won't be able to support our kid sufficient in this transition from middle school to high school	Please visit the PTSO website at newtonsouthPTSO.org for information on South and contact us at info@newtonsouthPTSO.org if you have any questions. The PTSO will be hosting virtual and in-person activites to help families connect. Contact your child's counselor if you have any concerns about his/her schedule or classes.
138	Student Support	How is the in-person student support going to be carried out, considering all the COVID-19 restrictions?	Newton South starts the school year in Distance Learning except for cohort C (High Needs Students). Health and safety protocols and guidelines will be followed for any in-person activity at South.
139	Student Support	Who is my child's counselor?	Log on to Aspen to see your child's counselor. For Freshman students, information may not be available till Class lists and student schedules are released on 9/11.
140	Student Support	If I have question about course selection, who should I talk to? My son's councilor or teacher?	Child's counselor. Once schedule is released, there will be an opportunity to resolve issues for missing core academic classes. Students will not be able to change courses this year.
141	Technology	Do students and parents have separate Aspen accounts?	Yes
142	Technology	If we answered the IT survey that our child has a device to begin the school year with is she guaranteed a chrome book this year?	Students in grade 9 will have a touchscreen chromebook when they arrive in January. This fall any 9th grader who needs a device will be provided with a chromebook though it probably will not have a touchscreen. 9th grade teachers know that they can not expect touchscreen capability from students until January. If your student accepts a chromebook now, they will still get a new one in January. Information about chromebook insurance renewals/purchases will be coming shortly.

143	Technology	Will a chrome book be required for work? Or would an Mac book work?	Students in grade 9 will have a touchscreen chromebook when they arrive in January. This fall any 9th grader who needs a device will be provided with a chromebook though it probably will not have a touchscreen. 9th grade teachers know that they can not expect touchscreen capability from students until January. If your student accepts a chromebook now, they will still get a new one in January. Information about chromebook insurance renewals/purchases will be coming shortly.
144	Technology	I had heard some teachers post information only to Facebook and students are essentially forced to get Facebook. Why are kids being driven to use social media?	Schoology is the main source of communication between teachers/counselors and students. Students also have a South gmail account using their LASID. Please have them check that emails as any message to students are also sent there.
145	Technology	There is a lot of talk about chrome books isn't a Mac book pro sufficient?	NPS sets the standards for technology for all schools in the district.
146	Technology	I wasn't aware a chrome book was being purchased for incoming freshman so I bought a laptop for my daughter. Is that ok for her to use until the chrome book comes in?	Chromesbooks for Freshman are backordered till Jan per NPS. NPS is reviewing options for Freshman who have no technology for use and is reaching out to those families.