

NHCS JUNIOR HIGH

19 JULY, 2024 | UPDATE

SOMETHING WORTH READING



WHAT'S HAPPENED

Staffing

- Classroom teachers will be Nicole Martinoff and Erin Klatt. A fulltime EA has also been assigned to assist the program. Other teachers and support staff may be involved in the instruction and delivery of options along with the possibility of community members.

Supplies and Equipment

- Staff and volunteers transported a significant amount of supplies and equipment that were purchased from and donated by Mother Earth Children's Charter School. A second portable bathroom was included in those items along with some physical education equipment, desks, shelving, and much more. Thanks to Mother Earth for the kindness and support of our school and thank you to the volunteers for all of their hard work!



Student-Board and Student Principal's Council

- Junior high students will join students from grades 4 through 6 on the Student Principal Council discussing topics on a jointly designed agenda. As well, the junior high students will be meeting at the Student-Board Council with an early session scheduled in September. An important part of the conversation will be to discuss the development of the school's Cell Phone Policy as per Alberta Education requirements.

Student ID Cards

- Junior high students will be issued a student identification card through our school photographer.

Vending Machine(s)

- There is a plan to have some type of dispensing machine(s) for the junior high program. There will be some healthy choices included in the products. Any proceeds from the machine(s) will go towards the junior high year end trip.

Students and parents will be asked for their input on potential trip destinations, activities, and additional fundraising initiatives later on in the fall!



IN THE WORKS

NHCS Junior High Modular Construction Updates

- ✓ Remove concrete by gas and communication lines
- ✓ Expose lines by hydrovac
- ✓ Complete greenhouse construction
- ✓ Trenching for gas and communication lines
 - Communication line installation (expected July 17)
 - Screw Pile installation and completion (expected July 18-19)
 - Gas Line installation (expected July 18)
 - Modular installation and connections (expected July 22-26)
 - Transformer Installation (expected July 25)

CHARTER INFUSION

Infusion of Charter into expected Alberta curricular outcomes. Ex. the garden can be used to teach students

- Cartesian planes- integral ordered pairs and transferring positions
- Heritability in plants (ex. corn kernel protein)
- Role of market systems in society (supply and demand)

OPTIONS

Option courses that will be offered have been determined based upon student interest. Sports, foods, and woodworking options have been communicated as most desired by students with an overwhelming majority.

- Option courses that do not have an Alberta approved program of studies will need a locally developed course proposal submitted to the board for approval (expected to be completed for the end of July)
- Option courses tentatively scheduled to be offered throughout the year include:
 - Sports (potential combinations of soccer, basketball, volleyball, badminton, flag football, cross country, etc.)
 - Foods (introductory course into food and meal preparation)
 - Leatherworking/ blacksmithing (artistic license to learn and create unique products with leather and steel)
 - Woodworking (introductory course into woodworking basics)
 - Ranch Skills (intended to advance knowledge on basic ranch skills- halter breaking, roping, herd management)
 - Winter Sports (embracing Alberta's climate by taking part in outdoor winter activities)
 - Photography (introductory course into photography basics)
 - Outdoor Education (introductory and integrated course to teach outdoor skills and promote stewardship)
 - Back to the Basics (introductory course designed to teach basic life and homesteading skills)
- Option course synopses will be included for each course, providing students with a brief overview of what the program will look like, things you will learn, projects that will be completed, community partnerships, associated fees*, etc. (*assistance is available for families experiencing financial hardship)
- Option course selection will be based on a first come first served model* and will be sent to BOTH parent and student emails in mid August. (*Every consideration will be given to those students who did not get their first choice in one term/ trimester for the subsequent one)

CHORES

Collaborative effort with elementary students

Chores are completed

- twice a day- morning and afternoon
- expectations for students participating in chores is to ensure that school work continues to be completed- chore program agreements are signed by students and parents

Junior High student specific chores will include

- daily care of the turkeys and market hogs
- data collection from chore managers and recording



STUDENT EMAILS

Student emails will be created and communicated at the beginning of August. Access information will be sent to the parents for students. Test emails will be sent to ensure emails are working properly. Please have your child respond to the test emails as instructed! If you experience problems, please email monika.bustin@newhumbleschool.ca for assistance. In August, you and your child can expect emails regarding

- Student timetables
- Option course information for the year (subject to change) and course selection for the first trimester

Properly working emails will be important to prevent delays with option course selection!

CHARTER OPTION COURSE

What is it?

- An opportunity for junior high students to have autonomy in their education- student led research with teacher guidance
- Students choose an area of interest to focus on and complete longitudinal, project-based learning upon ex. weight gain with steers

When will this be offered?

- Year-round; 4 blocks/ week (4 hours)

➔ This means 156 blocks of the year (approx.) are spent learning what and how you want!

Thinking points!

- **WHY** did you choose the topic? What interests you about it? Ensure your topic is manageable and realistic.
- **WHO** could use the information gathered by your research? Do you know of organizations or institutions affiliated with the topic?
- **WHAT** are the major questions for this topic? Is there a debate about the topic? Are there a range of issues and viewpoints to consider?
- **WHERE** is your topic important: at the local, national or international level? Are there specific places affected by the topic?
- **WHEN** is/was your topic important? Is it a current or historical issue? Do you want to compare your topic by time periods?
- **HOW** can the results of your topic research be used for future improvement?

WHAT'S NEXT

Junior High Student Handbook and Policies

- Work continues to be done to examine and develop appropriate policies and expectations for students

Partnerships

- Lakeland and Olds College potential partnerships will continue to be explored!

Opening Day

- Planning for the first day of school continues. A grand opening will be held later on in the fall.

Leadership

- Opportunities continue to be discussed at our junior high committee meetings. Some early thoughts which will be finalized after our students' input could include a junior high student council, leading school wide student assemblies, assisting with Ag Fun Days, tutoring elementary students and becoming a "Learning Buddy".
- Potentially could include some forms of community service. Our teachers and our students will examine what might be possible and how this volunteerism would relate to our charter.

Extra Curricular

- Discussion and potential options continue to occur. Exploration and discussions continue into potential for collaboration with other school districts for sports-related options. Groups and clubs will largely be determined based upon student interest. More information to come in the weeks ahead.



SAVE THE DATE

Save the date for our next Junior High Engagement evening:

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

6:00-8:00 pm

Light supper provided

THANK YOU

for your continued support!