

Nettle News

Nettle Middle School... *Home of the Knights!*

March 8, 2021



Picture Days

Nettle picture days are coming up!

Cohort A: Picture day will be on **Tuesday, March 9th** during periods 1 and 2.

Cohorts B and C: Picture day will be on **Thursday, March 11th** during periods 1, 2, & 3.

Cohort D: Picture day will be on **Wednesday, March 10th** from 9:00am to 10:30am. Pictures only take a few minutes so students can come in the front door for their picture and return to their ride.

Pictures can be ordered online at <https://www.barksdalestorefront.com/shop/login/?ac=1000200>

Our school access code is 1000200, prints need to be ordered *before picture day*.

Cohorts

If you are thinking about your student changing cohorts or learning models for Trimester 3 please contact Ms. Escovitz directly at shereen.escovitz@haverhill-ps.org or 978-374-5792 as soon as possible.

Attendance Notes

Please call the school at 978-374-5792 if your student is going to be absent. Students should be in homeroom (remote or in-person) at 8:30am Monday-Friday. If your address or phone number has changed please call and let us know.

PTO

The next PTO meeting will be on **Thursday, March 25th** at 6pm. Email mjoubert@haverhill-ps.org if you would like to join.

March mask sale! Nettle masks for sale for \$7. We will be selling masks at parent pick-up on **Tuesday and Thursday** this week!



MCAS

The Department of Elementary and Secondary education has released the following testing dates for MCAS:

Grades 3, 4, and 5 ELA, Mathematics, and STE	May 10 – June 11
Grades 6, 7, and 8	Testing dates TBD

Grade 5 students in all cohorts will have an opportunity to take the MCAS. We will release a more detailed schedule closer to May 10th.

Student Health

Assessing your student's health each morning is an important part of keeping everyone healthy. Below are some questions to ask yourself before sending your student to school each day:

- Has your student shown any covid-related symptoms in the past 24 hours? For example: fever greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, nausea, etc.
- Has your student been identified as a "close contact" of anyone diagnosed with covid-19?
- Has anyone in the household been asked to self-isolate or quarantine?
- Have you travelled recently?

For a list of symptoms and other health information please visit the HPS website at:
<https://www.haverhill-ps.org/school-health-services/pandemic-guide-for-families/>

If you have any questions about your child's health please call the nurse, Barbara Otterson, at 978-374-5792 or email barbara.otterson@haverhill-ps.org.

Pool Testing FAQs

You may have started to hear about the new classroom COVID-19 tests known as "pool testing." Haverhill is participating in a pilot program to bring pool testing into schools for Cohorts A, B, and C. Pool testing is a way to test a group of people at the same time. That group is known as a "pool." At Nettle, there will be one or two pools per classroom. Two permission slips (one for group testing, one for individual testing) have been emailed to you and will be sent home when students return to school.

How long will it take to get results?

Results from the pool come back in 2-5 days.

What if the pool comes back positive?

If the pool comes back positive then each person in the pool needs to take an individual test. We have these tests available at school and results come back in **20 minutes!** A positive pool does not mean that the class is put into quarantine for two weeks, we just need to follow up with individual tests.

What if my student gets a positive individual test?

If your student's individual test comes back positive your household should begin quarantine immediately, get tested, and follow all guidelines from the CDC and Department of Public Health.

Why should we do this? Is it mandatory?

We want students in school as much as possible. While it is not mandatory for your student to participate, routine testing is an important tool for getting kids back in school.

The plan is to have Cohorts A and C test on **Tuesdays**; Cohort B and staff test on **Thursdays**. **You will only be notified of the results if the pool comes back positive.**

Questions? Contact Shereen Escovitz, shereen.escovitz@haverhill-ps.org