



Answering your questions about the transition from Middle to High School

Small Schools

What separates one small school from another?

Small Schools are designed to create a personalized education that allows all students to be challenged and supported. All four schools offer students an opportunity to meet the core graduation requirements and to choose from a menu of elective programs. While students are required to take core academic classes within their small school, they are able to take most elective classes from across the four schools. The differences between small schools can be found in some course titles and elective course offerings. For example, in one school there is a class called English 10 and in another school there is a class for sophomores called World Literature. These classes cover the same state standards yet have different titles.

Another difference between small schools is the pedagogy or instructional framework. Staff members in each small school participate in professional development as a team. Some of the professional development is different across schools. For example, one school may include project-based activities, another may include grading for proficiency and another may include internships and community partnerships. In each of these examples, students are guaranteed a rich experience and teachers dedicated to providing quality instruction.

What are the benefits of having small schools?

High achievement comes from rigorous curriculum for all students, on-going relationships, and relevant learning. Over 30 years of research points to greater success in smaller schools with fewer staff members and a more personal connection to students. Small schools provide a structure in which students and teachers know each other well. Staff meetings are collaborative and support an atmosphere of high expectations for students. There are more opportunities to create close partnerships with the school's community via small schools. Each school has its own site council and student leadership group. Having parent and student involvement in each small school has increased the number of people who participate in school design and activities. For example the number of students who participate in student council has increased from 30 to approximately 120. The number of parents involved in site council has increased from six to approximately 24.

How are students placed in their small schools?

Students will be placed in a small school after a review of their academic status, demographics and any special program needs. Our goal is to have similar small school demographics that represent the Newberg-Dundee community. Placement is NOT linked to specific program preferences such as band, ELL or a foreign language. All four small schools at NHS are equally committed to preparing students for college, career, and citizenship. All four share equal resources and they all offer students equal access to advanced courses, elective offerings, and support services. Students in all four schools can forecast for most electives.

Can students state a preference or just those with special considerations such as band or ELL?

Students and families that wish to indicate their small school preference will be able to do so. Preference forms will be available at middle school offices, the NHS main office and online. We will make every effort to honor family preference. However, we are committed to ensure that all four schools have student bodies that are balanced and diverse.

How are siblings placed?

Siblings may choose to be in the same school or they may choose to be in different schools. Please indicate your preference for sibling placement on the school preference form.

What alternatives do parents or students have if they are not happy with their student's placement? What is the process to change?

If students wish to make a transfer request, they may do so through their small school office. It is a school policy that students transfer at the end of an academic year to insure course continuity; however students may request a transfer at the end of each semester. School transfer requests require administrative review and a compelling educational reason. School transfers are granted only once during a student's four years.

Academics

What are the requirements for graduation? How do I know the classes my student signs up for will meet graduation requirements?

The Class of 2014 is required to complete 26 credits to graduate. This includes 18 core credits with four in Language Arts, three in Math through Algebra II, three credits in Science, three in Social Studies, one in Health, one in PE, two years of the same world language, one credit in applied or fine arts and passing scores on the Oregon State Assessments in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. In addition all students must show proficiency in the Career Related Learning Standards.

Students meet with their counselors yearly to check on their progress towards graduation.

What electives are offered in each school? Is it possible to take electives in two or more schools?

Students in all schools have access to most electives. Band, choir, and world language courses are available to all students. Please refer to the course catalog for specific elective courses offered in each school.

What types of advanced courses are available for students?

Newberg High School offers a wide variety of advanced coursework in core subject areas, including Advanced Placement options. In addition, many advanced courses offer college credit through Portland Community College. Advanced course options are available to all juniors and seniors in all small schools. Please check our course catalog for specific advanced course options.

Is there counseling help with schedules, choosing classes that are appropriate?

Counselors assist students and parents in the forecasting process. If parents have specific questions about academic planning, course pre-requisites and college preparation, please contact your small school counselor for more information.

What class size can we anticipate next year?

Not sure yet but estimating between 30-35 students.

How can I get more information?

"Welcome to NHS Night"

February 7 – 6:30-8pm

Students and parents will learn about small schools, graduation requirements, elective offerings, and extracurricular opportunities.

What is the timeline used to determine placement?

January 20 - Small school preference forms available

Feb. 11 - Preference forms due to middle school offices

Feb. 14 - 16
Principals and counselors place students in small schools

Feb. 18 - School placement letter mailed to families

Will there be adequate time to address everyone's questions?

Parents will have multiple opportunities to have their questions answered.

Will course catalogues be available by the March meetings so parents will know what questions to ask?

The course catalog will be posted online as soon as it is available.

What about students or parents interested in visiting school while class is in session? Will there be an opportunity to do this before making a "preference"? Can we meet one-on-one with a principal?

If parents wish to speak to any of the principals individually, they should contact the small school office. Parents and incoming 9th graders are encouraged to attend open houses and informational meetings. If you wish to visit the school while it is in session, contact one of the small school offices or the main office and a principal or counselor can give you a tour. Schools appreciate some advance notice to ensure someone is available to meet with you.

On campus

What is the schedule on an average day?

The high school currently employs an A/B block schedule. There are 4 classes (periods 1-4) on A days and 4 classes (periods 5-8) on B days. Classes are 82 minutes long, except on Wednesdays when classes are 76 minutes. On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday students have a 30 minute advisory period. Lunch is a 35 minute time attached to 3rd and 7th period.

Is the campus open? Can freshmen leave for lunch?

The campus is closed for all freshmen and sophomores. Juniors and seniors who meet the criteria established by the Board of Directors may apply for an off campus pass at the beginning of every semester.

Are there lockers? How are lockers assigned?

Students will receive lockers when they come to their small school orientation sessions in August.

What is being done to keep my student safe at school?

The safety of all students is paramount on any school campus. The high school campus is no different. The administrators, campus monitor, school resource officer and other staff members supervise the campus throughout the day, especially before school, lunch and after school. Surveys of the student body show that students feel safe in all areas on campus and that disciplinary issues have been reduced significantly over the past three years.

How is EdLine used at the high school?

Parents can use Edline to monitor student's academic progress, to access course syllabi and some assignments. Edline is typically updated every 1-2 weeks.

Are there parent groups?

All four small schools have parent groups and use parent volunteers. Incoming parents are welcome to join us during the monthly parent group meetings. Please call each school for details. Parents are also encouraged to sign up for small school electronic newsletters at <http://listserv.newberg.k12.or.us/mailman/listinfo> .

Newberg High School
2400 Douglas Avenue
Newberg OR 97132
Main Office: 503-554-4400
Tim Burke, Athletic Director

Blue School - (503) 554-4525
Dan Malone, Principal

Green School - (503) 554-4529
Karen Pugsley, Principal

Yellow School - (503) 554-4526
Filip Hristic, Principal

Silver School - (503) 554-4527
Carol Campbell, Principal

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