



# NEW HEIGHTS SCHOOL

Academics • Balance • Citizenship  
*The Power of Choice*

February 2020

## SCHOOL CHOICE

School Choice Week was celebrated the last week in January, which reminds me that the St. Croix Valley is exceptionally fortunate to have so many quality school options for families to choose. School Choice is an amazing thing, considering that it wasn't that many years ago when the only choice was the one school in your area and your children were assigned to that school because of where you live.

In the local area, you have the Stillwater School District (public); St. Croix Catholic (private); Salem Lutheran (private); St. Croix Preparatory Academy (charter), New Heights School (charter), and recently River Grove (charter) in Marine.

Each of the schools in the area serves a different niche—with New Heights currently serving your family—or at least part of it. This



is the time of year we encourage our families to notify us if you have a kindergarten student beginning next year, or you might also consider that New Heights may be of service to one or more of your other school-aged children.

Since you are receiving this newsletter, you probably know a lot about our school already, but what may still be lacking is how New Heights may be a potential fit for one or more of your other children. I'd encourage you to schedule a brief meeting with me, and possibly one or more of our staff, to chat about the needs of your child and we will give you our best efforts in terms of guiding your decision whether or not to enroll.

Knowing how many students to expect next year helps us with budgeting and staffing, so if it has been on your mind



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## IMPORTANT DATES

- Feb. 4-6 Elementary NWEA Testing
- Feb. 10-14 School Spirit Week
- Feb. 12– Culver's Night
- Feb. 14– Secondary Field Trip
- Feb. 17– No School
- Feb. 18– 20 Elementary NWEA Testing
- Feb. 19– School Board Meeting
- Feb. 25– ACT Testing

**Happy  
Valentine's  
Day**

lately and you would like to make a decision about next year, please come on in and visit. The meeting won't take long and you will likely leave more informed and able to make the best enrollment decision for your children.



Additionally, you may also have a friend or other family member who has a child that might benefit from the type of program New Heights offers. We encourage you to pass our contact info along to them so they can also schedule a private informational meeting to determine if New Heights may potentially be the right educational fit. Simply have them call the main office and we will get them scheduled for an appointment as soon as they are ready. We are thrilled that you have chosen us amongst all of the options you have. Thank you for allowing us to serve your family.

## DRESS CODE REMINDER

Although we have loosened the clothing guidelines and are allowing a lot more styles and colors at school, we still want to emphasize clothing that is appropriate for school. By appropriate, some of the keys to this include neat and clean clothing, free of rips and tears, and free of large graphics and logos. Some of the main points lost in translation include kids coming to school in jeans that are ripped and torn, lots of large logos and graphics, and some students are wearing very revealing clothing, which all constitutes a distraction from our primary mission of educating our students.

So, if parents could please remember to check your children out before they come to school, their clothing should be neat and clean and fit normally, should be free of rips and tears, should not be overly revealing, and should not contain large graphics or logos. If we could reduce the number of infractions listed above from occurring at school, we would be grateful and would probably have fewer unnecessary distractions from learning.

Thomas Kearney, Principal, Superintendent

## New Heights Spirit Week

February 10-14 is Spirit Week at New Heights. There will be several events during the week and the New Heights student council has selected themes for several dress up days.

Wednesday, February 12, is Culver's Day, with a portion of all sales from 5:00-7:00pm donated to New Heights. The week will culminate with a field trip for students in grades 6-12 to Pinz on Friday, February 14. Watch for the permission slips coming home soon.



### MONDAY

Comfy Day



### TUESDAY

Fancy Day



### WEDNESDAY

Time Period



### THURSDAY

Western Day



### FRIDAY

Character or Fandom Day





## Try for 5 Kick Off — Visit from Chomp

Chomp the Carrot visited New Heights elementary students to kick off the Try for 5 challenge!

Sponsored by Health Partners, the Try for 5 challenge encourages kids to try 5 fruits and/or veggies every day for ten days and to get physical exercise at least once per day.

The challenge begins with a Try for 5 kickoff in each classroom, which includes veggie tastings, dancing and games. Students track the fruits and veggies they eat each day while learning about nutritious foods in fun-filled ways.

For more information and resources to try at home, check out the website <https://www.healthpartners.com/hp/healthy-living/powerup/index.html>



## 2019-2020 Yearbooks

### BUY A YEARBOOK— HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

Ms. Geyer and the senior class have been working hard creating the 2019-2020 New Heights yearbook.

The 2019-2020 yearbook is created using TreeRing, a company dedicated to the environment, that will plant a tree for every yearbook purchased.

All orders **MUST** be purchased online at:

**treering.com**

**Passcode:**  
**1015695901432796**

The price for the yearbook is \$19.65—a low price to pay for memories your child will have in print for their lifetime! The deadline to order a yearbook through TreeRing is April 30.

If you have any questions please contact, Ms. Geyer, Yearbook



**New Heights Night at Culver's**

**Wednesday, February 12**

**5:00pm—7:00pm**

A portion of all sales will be donated to New Heights.

**Treat Yourself and Support Your School!**







## From the School Counselor...

February is Career and Technical Education Month. A career is a long-term job you will do and hopefully enjoy, is a good fit for your skills and interests, and you brings you happiness, fulfillment, and income. Here are some things to consider when thinking about a career you might want to pursue:



- Think about your **interests** - what do you enjoy doing?
- Think about your **values** - what matters to you?
- Think about your **skills** - what are you good at doing?
- Learn about the world of work: what possibilities are out there and how do they align with your interests, values, & skills?
- Find out what is required for the career you want: what education and training do you need?
- Set goals and go for it!

A good way to start your career exploration is to take a career assessment, which can help identify careers that may be a good match with your personality. It may also help you to consider occupations that you have never thought of before. To learn more about career exploration check out [www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org).

*According to Career Change Statistics, the average person will change careers 5-7 times during their working life.*

## Teacher Feature– Ms. Geil

### 4th & 5th Grade Teacher



Ms. Geil joined New Heights in 2018, and works with the 4th & 5th grade students. With a quiet, calm demeanor, Ms. Geil's classroom is organized, productive and always learning. Here are some more interesting facts about Ms. Geil.

#### 1. What inspired you to become a teacher?

I was inspired to become a teacher when I was in high school. I took a class called Study Buddies where high school students went into elementary schools and helped students with their math and reading. I knew I wanted to be a teacher ever since.

#### 2. What do you enjoy most about teaching?

The thing I like best about being a teacher is watching students learn new things and then a month after they have learned it, reflecting back on what they learned. I love seeing students excited about what we are going to learn next.

#### 3. What is the most exciting thing you've ever done?

The most exciting thing I have ever done would be all the traveling I have done. It is a new excitement with every trip! Greece is next on the list!

#### 4. What is something people would be surprised to know about you?

I am an expert Baker! I love to bake cookies, cakes and anything super yummy! I am always up for baking something I have never made before!



#### 5. What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

In my free time I love traveling to new places. I love to read and spend a lot of time outside. I love spending time with my family and friends. As most of my students know, I LOVE my dog

Theo...he goes everywhere with me. If you're lucky, you might see him around school sometime!



# Can You Match the Teacher with Their Previous Job?

In honor of Career and Technical Education month, several teachers shared information about jobs they had before working at New Heights, or might continue to do. Can you match the teacher with their previous or current jobs? Answers on page 6.

1.



Mrs. Hogan

**A.** I was an Activities Assistant for a Before and After school program in Bloomington.

2.



Ms. Geyer

**B.** I worked at a donut shop. I drove a forklift and labeled glue bottles in a factory. I worked for the Housing Department at Veteran Administration.

**C.** I was a caregiver at a nursing home.

**D.** I also work for a camping ministry

3.



Ms. Geil

**E.** In high school, I worked as a Autobody Technician for an Autobody shop in Shakopee over the summer.

**F.** I was a Business Manager for Sysco Food Service

4.



Mrs. Carlson

**G.** I worked as an Assistant Daycare Provider during college.

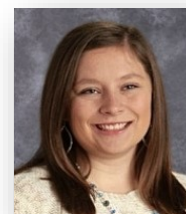
**H.** I was a soccer referee. I worked for the Pizza Palace and as a gardener at the State Fair. I was a tutor and a nanny. I worked in the mailroom at my college. I copied and filed forms and cases for a law firm. I was the second shooter for a professional photographer. I teach piano lessons.

5.



Mrs. Massmann

6.



Ms. Chamberland

7.

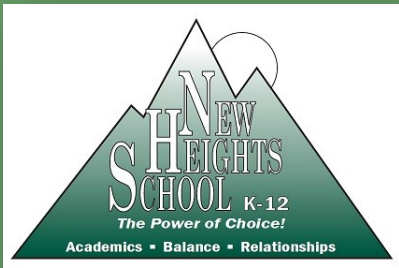


Ms. Ek-Pangerl

8.



Ms. Cotner



# February Monthly Planner

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Celebrating Career & Technical Education					1
2  Groundhog Day  Superbowl Sunday	3	4 Elementary NWEA testing	5 Elementary NWEA testing	6 Elementary NWEA testing	7	8
9	10 	11	12  Culver's Night 5-7pm	13	14 Secondary Field Trip to Pinz  Valentines Day	15 
16	17 <b>No School</b> 	18 Elementary NWEA testing	19 Elementary NWEA testing  School Board Meeting 4:00pm	20 Elementary NWEA testing	21	22
23	24	25 ACT Test	26 Ash Wednesday	27	28	29  February 29