New Horizon School
Where Children Come First

**Address** 1111 S. Carr Road
Renton, WA 98055
**Tel** 425.226.3717
**Toll Free** 888.571.6979
**Fax** 425.226.4605
**Email** info@new-horizon-school.org
**Web** www.new-horizon-school.org

August 3, 2026

Dear NHS Families,

I am pleased to welcome you to the 2026-2027 school year.

Thank you for entrusting New Horizon School (NHS) with your student's education. Our school is committed to empowering students with diverse learning profiles, including those with ADHD, ASD, executive function challenges, and other learning differences, to succeed in a supportive, specialized, and inclusive environment. We are proud to foster a vibrant neurodivergent community in which every student is valued.

If you have concerns about your student's educational program during the school year, please get in touch with your student's teacher. Our staff, faculty, and I are committed to addressing your concerns promptly and effectively. We are here to support you throughout the academic year.

I encourage you to become actively involved in the NHS community. This year, we have organized a variety of school events for students and families, including both in-person and virtual opportunities to engage and participate.

Please support your student's learning by establishing a consistent routine at home, reading together daily, and maintaining communication with teachers. Encourage a growth mindset, limit screen time, and relate everyday activities to academic concepts. Ensure your student receives adequate rest, eats a nutritious breakfast, and attends school regularly. To promote focus, NHS prohibits cell phones and personal electronic devices on campus between 7:45 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. Devices should be left at home or turned off and stored in the designated classroom container until the end of the school day.

Consider joining a school committee to support our institutional goals. Committees include finance, board development, fundraising, public relations and communications, outreach, and teacher retention. Your involvement demonstrates to your student the value you place on their education.

Sincerely,

Marla L. Veliz

Marla L. Veliz, Administrator
New Horizon School

# Who Do I Contact?

**Admissions, daily operations, educational program, accreditation, advocacy, support, & communication:**

- Administrator, Marla Veliz, mveliz@new-horizon-school.org

**Attendance, messages & communication:**

- Office Manager Vikki Colson, vcolson@new-horizon-school.org &/or
- Office Assistant Debbie Teter, dteter@new-horizon-school.org

***Please report attendance issues before 8:00 AM****

**Business, accounting, billing, & financial aid:**

- Accountant, Judy Colson, jcolson@new-horizon-school.org

**Fundraising & volunteers:**

- Tara Gordon, tgordon@new-horizon-school.org

**Business, facilities, grounds, development, technology, public relations and communications, and outreach:**

- Business Director, Timm Hines, thines@new-horizon-school.org

**Student Concerns:**

- Spencer Cochran, scochran@new-horizon-school.org
- Kathleen De Bruyn-Evans, kdebruyn@new-horizon-school.org
- Megan Eng, meng@new-horizon-school.org
- Timm Hines, thines@new-horizon-school.org
- Alissa LaBrie, alabrie@new-horizon-school.org
- Tamara Newton-Pele, tnewtonpele@new-horizon-school.org
- Lisa Nordlander, lnordlander@new-horizon-school.org
- Richard Nordlander, rnordlander@new-horizon-school.org
- Tim Robnett, trobnett@new-horizon-school.org

**Mental Health Counseling:**

- Andrew Belew, abelew@new-horizon-school.org
- Peyton Carr, pcarr@new-horizon-school.org
- Rachel Runge, rrunge@new-horizon-school.org
- Valeria Sanchez-Gonzalez, vsanchezgonzalez@new-horizon-school.org
- Allan Sinfuego, asinfuego@new-horizon-school.org

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Phone: 425-226-3717
Website: www.new-horizon-school.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/NHSRenton
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/nhsrenton/
YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/@newhorizonschoolrenton2642
TikTok: https://www.tiktok.com/@new.horizon.school

**Join me for coffee and conversation on Tuesday, August 31st, at 8 AM. We can update one another, meet new families, and answer general questions.**

*Marla*

**"Coffee with Marla" (NHS will provide the coffee!!) ☺**

**Monday, August 31st, 2026,**
At 8:00 AM in the Multipurpose Room (MPR)

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August 3, 2026

Dear NHS Families,

New Horizon School's graduation requirements meet and exceed the criteria established for schools in Washington State. Students who fulfill NHS graduation requirements shall be eligible to receive a High School Diploma. Below, please find a comparison of current public high school requirements and NHS requirements.

- ***Assessment***
    - ***Washington State Requirement:***
        - Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA): High School English Language Arts and Math tests; and
        - Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (WCAS): Science test.
    - ***New Horizon School Requirement:***
        - Day-to-day assessments, portfolios, rubric assessments, curriculum-based assessments, focused anecdotal assessments, and Woodcock-Johnson V Tests of Achievement, Tests 1-22, in grades 3, 6, 9, and 12.
- ***Culminating Project***
    - ***Washington State Requirement:***
        - Washington State no longer requires a Culminating Project, although some public school districts may.
    - ***New Horizon School Requirement:***
        - Grade 4-6: complete a day of volunteer work in the community and complete a project in Naviance;
        - Grades 7 & 8: complete a day of volunteer work in the community, a project which they are required to present, and a High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP);
        - Freshmen: complete 1 volunteer experience, a culminating project related to secondary transition and career planning to be prepared for this requirement in future years, and a High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP);
        - Sophomores: complete 2 volunteer experiences, a culminating project related to secondary transition and career planning to pass to junior year, and a High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP);
        - Juniors: complete 2 volunteer experiences, a culminating project related to secondary transition and career planning to pass to senior year; and complete a High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP);
        - Seniors: complete 2 volunteer experiences, a culminating project related to

- secondary transition and career planning to graduate and earn a diploma, and a High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP).

- ***<u>Credits and Course Areas</u>***

  - ***Washington State Requirement:***
    - 24 credits in 8 course areas and electives;
      - 4 of which are English,
      - 3 of which include Algebra 1 or Integrated Mathematics I, Geometry or Integrated Mathematics II; and a 3rd credit of math,
      - 3 of which include Science (at least 2 lab credits),
      - 3 of which include US History & Government, Contemporary World History, Geography, and Problems, Civics, and Social Studies electives,
      - 2 of which include one World Language,
      - 2 of which include Health and Fitness,
      - 1 of which is a Career and Technical Education course, and
      - 4 of which are elective courses.

  - ***New Horizon School Requirement:***
    - 24 credits in 8 course areas and electives;
      - 4 of which are English,
      - 3 of which include Algebra 1 or Integrated Mathematics I, Geometry or Integrated Mathematics II; and Financial Literacy,
      - 3 of which include Science (at least 2 lab credits),
      - 3 of which include US History & Government, Contemporary World History, Geography, and Problems, Civics, and Social Studies electives,
      - 2 of which include one World Language,
      - 2 of which include Health and Fitness,
      - 1 of which is a Career and Technical Education course, and
      - 4 of which are elective courses.

- ***<u>High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP)</u>***

  - ***Washington State Requirement:***
    - High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP): Each student must have a High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP) to guide their high school experience and prepare them for post-secondary education, training, and a career. Students must start their HSBP in seventh or eighth grade and then continue to revise them throughout high school to accommodate changing interests or educational and career goals.

  - ***New Horizon School Requirement:***
    - Grades 4-6: complete a day of volunteer work in the community and complete a project in Naviant;
    - Grades 7 & 8: complete a day of volunteer work in the community, a project which they are required to present, and a High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP);
    - Freshmen:

        - High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP), to guide the student's high school experience and prepare the student for post-secondary education or training and a career.
        - 1 homeroom class community volunteer experience with performance review;
        - Attendance at family education workshops with families.
    - Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors:
        - High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP), to guide the student's high school experience and prepare the student for post-secondary education or training and a career.
        - 2 homeroom class community volunteer experiences with performance reviews;
        - Individual community service hours;
        - Attendance at homeroom class field trips to work sites and colleges; and
        - Attendance at family education workshops with families.

- ***Personalized Pathway Requirement***

    - ***Washington State:***
        - The Personalized Pathway Requirement is a sequence of related courses that lead to a specific post-high school career or educational outcome chosen by the student based on individual interests and the High School and Beyond Plan.
        - Legislation passed in 2019 established multiple graduation pathways, and legislation passed in 2023 established the performance-based pathway. In addition to the newly established performance-based pathway, options include passing state assessments, dual credit courses, earning a 3 or higher on certain Advanced Placement Exams, meeting or exceeding the requirements in math and English portions of the SAT or the ACT, Bridge to College courses, meeting standards on the ASVAB, and completing a sequence of Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses.

    - ***New Horizon School:***
        - The Personalized Pathway Requirement is a sequence of related courses that lead to a specific post-high school career or educational outcome chosen by the student, based on individual interests and the High School and Beyond Plan.
        - Legislation passed in 2019 established multiple graduation pathways, and legislation passed in 2023 established the performance-based pathway.
        - Performance-Based Pathway: The performance-based pathway enables students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in real-world, hands-on ways that align with their individual goals for life after high school. This student-centered pathway is designed to be customizable, relevant, and engaging for each student.
            - The learning experience may take a variety of forms. Examples include a project, a practicum, work-related experience, community service, and cultural activity.
            - The learning experience may result in a variety of student work that can be evaluated. Examples include performance, presentation, portfolio, report, and exhibit.

- The learning experience may or may not be done as part of a class where the student also earns credit.
- The learning experience must provide evidence that the student meets or exceeds learning standards in English language arts and mathematics, align with the student's High School and Beyond Plan goals, and meet state requirements regarding the safety and quality of the learning experience and the assessment criteria for determining that the student has demonstrated the learning standards.

- In addition to the newly established performance-based pathway, at NHS, the Personalized Pathway Requirement may include Career and Technical Education (CTE) and is intended to provide a focus for the student's learning. A student may meet the CTE graduation pathway option by completing a sequence of CTE courses at NHS, which:
  - may lead to a state or nationally recognized certificate or credential,
  - is comprised of a sequenced progression of multiple courses that are technically intensive and rigorous, and
  - may lead to workforce entry, a state- or nationally approved apprenticeship, or postsecondary education in a related field.

- ***Additional:***
  - ***Washington State:***
    - One semester of Washington State History

  - ***New Horizon School:***
    - All seniors planning to attend college (vocational/technical, community, or 4-year college) are required to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), a Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) application, or file a waiver/opt-out.

- ***What will my student earn when they graduate?***

  - ***Washington State:***
    - Students who fulfill state graduation requirements, including completing one of 9 pathways, a High School & Beyond Plan (HSBP), and credit and course requirements, ***OR***
    - Some students on IEPs may fulfill graduation requirements determined by the IEP team. IEP teams are not able to create new graduation pathways or waive graduation requirements for students with IEPs; however, they may use comparable content course substitutions or provide continued educational support through the school year in which the student turns 22.

  - ***New Horizon School:***
    - NHS offers a high school diploma, which is only awarded to students who fulfill all Washington State graduation requirements ***AND*** New Horizon School graduation requirements;
    - The NHS high school diploma meets and exceeds Washington State graduation requirements, meets admission requirements of colleges, and satisfies the expectations of an employer;
    - NHS graduates can present themselves to colleges and employers in a professional manner, think and behave in an appropriate social manner, and speak or present information well (public speaking);

- NHS graduates are prepared for post-secondary education and/or employment, leading to increasing autonomy and independence;
- The NHS diploma represents the balance between meeting the individual needs of the student while surpassing the state's requirements, signifying that a student has learned a specific set of knowledge and skills described in the NHS's Curriculum Guide; and
- Some NHS students may stay and enroll in our Transition Extension program to receive continued educational support up through the school year in which they turn 22.

If you have any questions regarding high school graduation requirements, please do not hesitate to contact Kathleen De Bruyn or me.

Sincerely,

Marla L. Veliz
NHS Administrator/CEO

Kathleen De Bruyn
NHS High School Department Head &
NHS Registrar