



VAILS GATE STEAM ACADEMY

NEWS LETTER

JANUARY 2026



PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

We are excited to be back in full swing after our winter break. We hope everyone was able to enjoy time with family and friends.

As we begin the second half of the school year, we wanted to remind families that regular attendance becomes more important than ever. Each day of school builds on the one before it, and being present allows students to fully engage with new lessons, classroom discussions, and hands-on activities. When students miss school, they miss not only academic instruction, but also the opportunity to practice skills, ask questions, and learn alongside their peers.

Consistent attendance is closely linked to student success. Students who attend school regularly are more likely to stay on track academically, develop strong learning habits, and feel confident in the classroom. Even occasional absences can add up, making it harder for students to keep pace and increasing stress for both students and families as they try to catch up.

Attendance also supports social and emotional growth. Being at school every day helps students maintain friendships, feel connected to their school community, and develop important routines and responsibilities.

We appreciate your partnership in making attendance a priority. By ensuring your child arrives at school on time and ready to learn each day, you are giving them a strong foundation for a successful second half of the year. Together, we can help every student make the most of every school day.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



JANUARY 19TH - MLK DAY- NO SCHOOL

JANUARY 27TH - MATH NIGHT 5-6:00PM



JANUARY CHARACTER ASSEMBLY- HONESTY

JANUARY 30TH



IN THE NEWS

WINTER CONCERT



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PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE CONTINUED

Middle School Selection

It may seem early, but as a family it is important to discuss your plans for middle school. Please know that the selection process is a preference selection on where you would like your child to attend. Our middle school selection process is currently underway and can only be done through the parent portal. Letters have been mailed out regarding the process and how to access parent portal. The district provides support throughout the year regarding logging into parent portal and information can be found just to the right our newsletter for easy access.

Parent portal is also very important to access your students grades as well as attendance records. Should anyone need further assistance you are also welcome to reach out to us at the school.

HEALTH OFFICE NEWS

5 Healthy New Year Resolutions for Kids

- I will brush my teeth twice a day, and wash my hands before eating and after the bathroom.
- I will drink more water and milk, and decrease my intake of soda and sugary drinks.
- I will always wear a helmet while bicycling or skateboarding.
- I will find a sport or activity that I like that I will do at least 3 times a week to get some exercise.
- I'll be nice to others, and friendly to kids who need friends - like someone shy or new to school.

PARENT PORTAL

The Registration Department has been providing Parent Portal support at school and district events, at the Welcome Center, via phone and email. If parents/guardians need assistance, please have them contact us in the following ways:

1. Email newburghportal@necsd.net
2. Call 845.563.KIDS (5437)
3. Come to the Welcome Center: Mon through Friday 8:30-11:30 and 1:00-3:30
4. Attend a building event that you are holding that you have requested support, i.e. Selection Tours, Parent/Teacher Conferences, Concerts, etc (please email Dr. Cloidt at least a week in advance if you would like someone to attend).

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Building a bright future for our students requires a shared vision. We invite you to join Superintendent, Dr. Jackie Manning Campbell and members of the NECSD Board of Education for an open community conversation.

This is an opportunity to share your ideas, ask questions, and hear directly about the goals and initiatives shaping our schools. We value your perspective and hope to see you there. This event is designed to be a casual, open-house style gathering. There are no formal speeches or long slide decks—just an opportunity for us to connect as community members.

- Date: Thursday, January 15th
- Time: 5:00pm - 5:45pm
- Location: NFA Main Campus (all NECSD students and families are welcome; you do not need to attend NFA Main Campus)
- Topic Focus: Academics