



NEW HEIGHTS NEWSLETTER

January 2026



Our Mission Is To Prepare Our Students For College. Period.
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PHOENIX



UNDEFEATED

From the Principal's Desk: Celebrating Our Phoenix Basketball Teams On Their Remarkable Wins



Dear New Heights Community,

Happy New Year! I hope 2026 has brought you a sense of joy and purpose. As our students return from their holiday break, we recognize that the transition can bring social, emotional, and academic challenges. Please remember that we are "One Band, One Sound"—if you or your students need support during this adjustment period, we are here for you.

This month, I am thrilled to dedicate my letter to our outstanding student-athletes. It has been a historic season for our Phoenix teams:

The New Heights Varsity Girls Basketball (AKA Phoenix Ladies) has been undefeated, winning all their games so far. A major highlight was their gritty 49-44 away win against the high-ranking Cambridge Rindge & Latin. These ladies mean business!

What a remarkable season it has been for our Varsity Boys Basketball team, boasting an impressive record with only one defeat during this season. Their 76-72 victory over Southeastern Regional was a pivotal moment, fueled by the energy of our cheerleaders and a massive crowd of current students and alumni.

A special shoutout to our Junior Varsity Boys and both Middle School teams, who have represented us with incredible sportsmanship and professionalism. I have seen their growth firsthand, and we are so proud of them.

These victories are a testament to our dedicated coaches, who mentor our athletes in both skills and character. Whether they are riding the buses to away games or boosting morale when the chips are down, their impact is immeasurable.

To our families, thank you for entrusting us with your children and traveling near and far to cheer them on. To our alumni and friends, your presence in the stands as mentors and supporters makes a world of difference.

By the time you read this message, there may be some changes, but please do know that everything I said in this letter is based on events that took place in January and has been facts-checked. I am incredibly proud of you all for standing up as one community in support of our student-athletes.--Thank you!

Go Phoenix!

With love & gratitude,

Dr. Jones—Principal

New Heights Student Joins Governor Maura Healey for 2026 State of the Commonwealth Address



Last month, Rayssa Alves, Class of 2026 President and Manager of the Varsity Girls Basketball team, attended Governor Healey's 2026 State of the Commonwealth Address as a special guest. She was accompanied by the Deans or Early College Students, Laurie Casimir and Ketsia Faustin-Frejuste.

As an Early College student, Rayssa has successfully balanced a rigorous college and high school workload with the leadership demands of the Class Presidency—all while remaining the undefeated Varsity Girls Basketball team's #1 fan and most dedicated manager.

As Massachusetts' first Early College Charter Public School, we applaud and support Governor Healey's goal to enroll 100,000 students in Early College classes over the next ten years. We believe the Early College model is vital to closing the college attendance gap for urban students. "I set a target 100, 000 students in early college within the next 10 years in Massachusetts," said Gov. Maura Healey during her 2026 State of States address.

Upon graduation, Rayssa will earn her Associate Degree in Liberal Arts from Massasoit Community College, giving her a significant head start toward completing her bachelor's degree in record time. New Heights's mission for nearly 10 years has been unflinching: *Prepare our students for college. Period.*

Athletics

The Regular Basketball Season Is Coming To An End: Our Phoenix Teams Eye the Championship



Our Phoenix basketball teams have been enjoying a stellar season. We commend our student-athletes for their dedication to improving their skills, their commitment to great sportsmanship, and the pride they take in representing New Heights, whether at home or away.

The varsity basketball teams are enjoying continued success. The Girls Varsity team is sitting comfortably winning all their games, with their biggest win being a thrilling overtime upset against Cambridge Rindge and Latin. The Boys Varsity team is not far behind with a remarkable record including major wins over Roxbury Prep, Southeastern Regional, and Brooke High. So far, they have only registered only one defeat.

The JV Boys team is experiencing a surge of success as well. They are looking to extend their four-game winning streak with upcoming games against Westport, Maimonides, and South Shore Charter. Both Middle School squads are playing hard, and their commitment to their craft shows in every game. Both teams have six games remaining in the season against tough league competition.

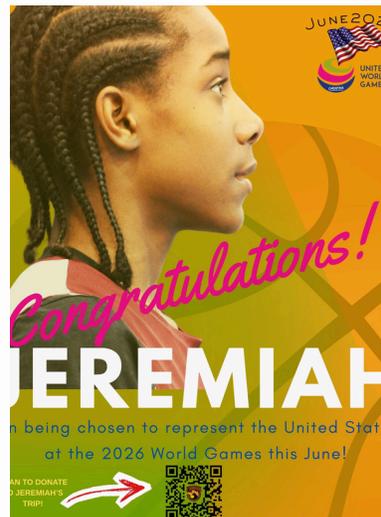
We thank our coaches for instilling the rules of great sportsmanship and the values of our school in our student-athletes from the get-go. They hold our players to the highest standards on any court they play. These values are the essence of who we are as an early college charter public school and a community.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our families, who have been nothing but our teams' number one fans. Your presence at each game means the world to our players. Our alumni have also been incredibly supportive, returning as fans and sometimes as mentors and advisors. This serves as a reminder that New Heights is not only a school, but a community—a place you may leave physically, but you are walkaways there in spirit.

Thank you all.

Note: Please be aware that stats may have changed by the time you read this newsletter, as this update is based on games played through January.

Congratulations to Jeremiah Minus: The Chosen One To Represent The United States At The 2026 World Games In Austria This June



Jeremiah Minus has been selected to represent the United States at the 2026 World Games in Austria this June. Minus has been playing for the New Heights Junior Varsity Basketball team for the past two years.

His coaches describe him as nothing short of an exceptional leader and player, consistently scoring impressive points. Him and his teammates will have the chance to win gold, silver, or bronze medals while playing against talented global teams. The United World Games aims to bring together young people from all over the world and to promote international exchange and friendship through sport.

To make this trip possible, there's an ongoing fundraiser to support his 9-day trip in Austria. New Heights has already helped fundraise for the trip and will continue to do so leading up to June. We encourage you to donate to Jeremiah's GoFundMe in support of his contribution to the 2026 United World Games by clicking on this link <https://bit.ly/3LXI5FW> or scanning the QR code on the flyer.

Thank you for your support!

Community News

New Heights Scholars Define What Home Means to Them Through Art



Kincaid McLaren, the school art teacher and professional photographer, has been leveraging art projects to help her students tell stories and engage in real-life debates, such as the concept of "home." Her students use this opportunity to express themselves through art and define what home means to them.

Recently, her scholars embarked on a thoughtful project to explore a fundamental question: What does home mean to you?

At the start of the unit, scholars were asked to define "home" and list the words that immediately came to mind. Their reflections were deeply personal, describing home as a sanctuary of safety, comfort, and freedom—a place where family lives and where they can truly be themselves. To deepen their exploration, scholars created a five-senses organizer, documenting the specific tastes, smells, sights, sounds, and textures of their domestic lives.

The unit culminated in a creative build where scholars used boxes and recycled materials to construct 3D models. These models brought their abstract ideas to life in a physical space. Through this multidisciplinary approach, the scholars didn't just build structures; they captured the very essence of belonging.



The 84 Movement: New Heights Scholars Take A Stand Against Smoking and Vaping



Last month, a group of New Heights students joined other young people at The 84 Movement Youth Empower Summit 2026 at Worcester State University to celebrate the remarkable success of their movement and strategize on keeping the momentum going. This movement has played a pivotal role in preventing more young people from smoking and vaping.

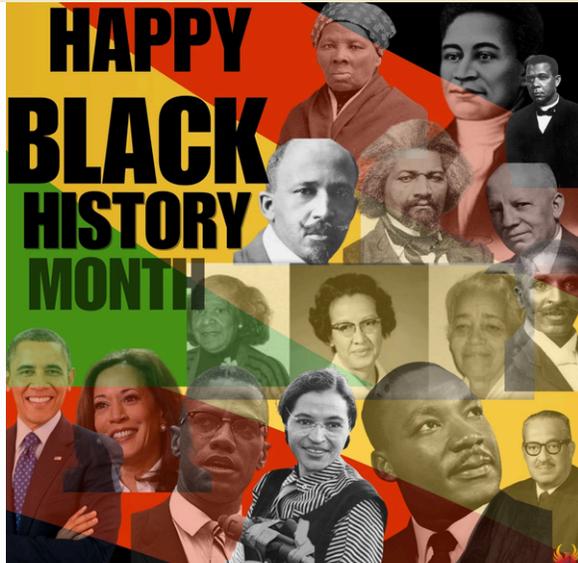
According to The 84 Movement website, this youth-driven initiative has had a significant impact. It represents 84% of Massachusetts high school youth who abstained from smoking cigarettes when the movement began.

The movement's achievements are truly remarkable. For example, as of 2023, almost 97% of Massachusetts high school youth do not smoke cigarettes, and an impressive 84% do not vape. The students of New Heights are incredibly proud of their participation in this movement, which has empowered them to educate their peers and promote their health and safety.

We thank our partner [Umbrella Project MA Foundation Inc.](#) for their partnership with New Heights Youth., [The 84 Movement](#), and the [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#) for their unwavering support of this initiative. Their continued assistance is instrumental in ensuring the safety and well-being of our young people across the Commonwealth.

For those interested in learning more about The 84 Movement's incredible work, we encourage you to visit their website at <https://www.the84.org/about>.

Community Announcements



HAPPY BLACK HISTORY MONTH



What: 2026 DR International Service Learning Program Info Session

When: Wednesday, February, 25th from 3:00-4:30 PM

Where: Ms. Pauline's Room 106

Who: ALL 9-12 grades, dual enrollment, and early college students are welcome.

Community Opportunity!

BLACK HISTORY

HONORING THE PAST

Inspiring The Future



Join us for a celebration

at the West Brockton **shaw's**
Saturday 2/21 from 11am - 2pm.

Fun and educational for all ages!

RHYTHMS OF RESILIENCE: A Step Showcase

Come celebrate black history and honor the legacy of Black excellence through artistic expressions such as stepping, dancing, drumming, singing and cheering. Explore the talent and dedication of our community of past student entrepreneurs, black owned business' and our very own student entrepreneurs at the Black History Bazaar

Location: New Heights Charter School Gymnasium
Date: Thursday February 26, 2026
Time: 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm.

Black History Bazaar Sale by Local and School Vendors

PERFORMANCES BY:

- NEW HEIGHTS PHOENIX STEPPERS
- NEW HEIGHTS CHEERLEADERS
- NEW HEIGHTS DANCE DRUMMERS
- FOXBOROUGH REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS
- SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL
- BROCKTON HIGH SCHOOL
- MARIA WESTERN CHAPMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
- AND MANY MORE...

DONATE TO SUPPORT ART



SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS



THE 2026-2027 APPLICATION IS NOW OPEN



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