

August 20, 2021

Dear Parents and Families of North Street School,

Hello amazing North Street Families. What an exciting time of year. We are eagerly anticipating the start to another fantastic year at NSS!! We hope this letter finds you healthy and enjoying your summer. This is sure to be an exciting year and our new Assistant Principal, Jessica McEvily and I are so pleased to welcome you all! We have spent the summer preparing for the return of our amazing students and staff and we are eagerly awaiting their arrival back in the building! Our goal is to work together with our families and staff to provide a safe, healthy, successful and rigorous learning experience for all of our students. We learned this past year that we can keep our students in school all year with some mitigation strategies in place and that is the plan for the new year as well.

Please take some time to read the information in this letter as it is important in preparation for the new school year.

**A classroom visit for all Kindergarteners, students new to NSS this year, and those returning from Remote School only will be held on August 31.**

Kindergarten students should gather on the grass island in the front circle at 10:15 to be greeted by their teacher and brought inside.

Students new to NSS this year and those returning from Remote School should meet on the island in the front circle at 10:30 to meet the teacher and head inside.

Parents will remain outside with the admin team and PTA.

**Preschool** will send instructions for their 10:00am visit on August 31 directly to parents.

The first day of school is Wednesday, September 1. It is a full day. **Arrival is between 8:30-8:45 and the day officially starts at 8:45.**

**Kindergarten arrival for the first day only will be 9:45 so we can meet our newest students outside and walk them into the building together.**

No parents or visitors will be permitted in the building at this time, including on the first day. We are hopeful these restrictions will be lessened as we move through the year and will update you regularly on any changes.

Staff will be stationed at the designated arrival areas to help ensure the students enter the building safely. Parents driving their children should remain in their car during arrival and dismissal. Please review the Parent Drop off and Pick Up Procedures carefully. They are included in this email as well as posted on the Back to School Webpage.

I also wanted to reiterate that right now there are three strategies that are considered effective in mitigating the spread of the virus that will continue to be in place:

1. Wear a mask
2. Wash your hands
3. Watch your Distance (Minimum of 3 feet with a mask, six feet without a mask)

These strategies are an integral part of the GPS plan and we will focus on keeping our students safe to the greatest extent possible.

### **Back to School Documents**

Please be sure to review all back to school documents accessed via this link on our NSS website- [NSS webpage](#) Once on the website click on the large blue button **Back to School**

### **Arrival**

#### **Bus Drop Off**

**Bus routes and pick-up times are on the BTS page of the website.**

Bussing will proceed as usual, however, students (wearing masks as required) will be required to fill the seats from the back to the front of the bus upon boarding. Siblings will need to sit together. Upon arrival, the front doors of the school will be open and staffed prior to any buses unloading. Students will exit the bus from the front to the back and proceed straight inside and head to their classes (rather than waiting outside together until 8:30).

#### **Parent Drop Off**

The **Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures** for those families driving to school are also posted on **the BTS website**.

Please plan to arrive between 8:30 and 8:45 so the arrivals are staggered. We will use the usual parent loop in the North Parking Lot. **Staff will be stationed outside to assist with arrival each day. We will make sure students get to the correct door!!**

Students in **Kindergarten** will proceed to the first set of doors on the right at the front of the building. **First and second graders** will enter through the main doors at the front of the building near the office.

Students in **3 Lopes, 4 Abbott, 4 Cossifos and 5 Jagodzinski** will enter through the classroom exterior doors. These doors are located on the front side of the building right next to the drop off area. The teacher will be at the door.

Students in **3 David, 3 Zygmunt, 4 Gobetz, 5 Celestino, and 5 Breen** will enter through the main door at the end of the upper wing corridor (North side) next to the science lab and the band/orchestra room. A staff member will be stationed at this entry. There is a path from the drop off area to this door.

PreSchool Arrival will be from 8:45-9:00. Students should be walked to the front, left door, closest to the main office. A staff member will bring the students inside and they will proceed straight to their classrooms.

### **Dismissal**

#### **Parent Pick up**

This year we will be using the **Fast Lane function of School Dismissal Manager again.** When you arrive at school you will sign on and click that you are here and it will alert your child and the teacher that you are here. Your child will then proceed outside to the Parent Pick up line directly from their classroom.

### **Be on the lookout for the email to set up your School Dismissal Manager Account!**

#### **Bus dismissal**

We will board the busses from the back to the front in the order of the stops. (Students with the furthest stops are at the back). This will help limit students walking past other students who are seated both when boarding and exiting.

#### **Masks and Mask Breaks**

As noted in the district plan all students must wear masks all day. Masks will be provided for anyone who forgets to bring their mask from home. We will provide mask breaks for all children throughout the day in a variety of ways. Some examples could include going outside for a read aloud or independent reading activity, snack, a movement break, or SEL activity. These will occur regularly throughout the day, approximately every hour, but sooner if needed, especially at the beginning of the year as everyone adjusts to wearing them.

#### **Cleaning and PPE supplies**

All classrooms have sinks for hand washing with soap, and bottles of hand sanitizer. As noted by Dr. Jones, we will have extra masks at school for emergencies, but we are asking parents and teachers to provide their own masks that children (and adults) are comfortable wearing and easily identifiable.

#### **Class lists**

The eleven Greenwich Public Elementary Schools will be emailing class lists today, August 20.

### **Class Placement**

Given the significant complexity of this process, no changes will be made to class lists.

### **School Calendar**

The District's 2021-2022 school calendar is available on the Greenwich Public School's website.

Please check the district calendar for all early release days, school holidays and other important dates.

### **The Handbook**

Reading and returning the "Receipt of Handbook Form" is **required**. It will be posted on the website soon.

### **Emergency Contact Information**

Our home-school notification system known as **Blackboard/Parent Link** will continue to enable us to inform you of important events and emergencies through automated messaging. **Please inform the main office immediately of any changes to your personal contact information.**

### **Reporting Absences**

Please enter your child's absence into *School Dismissal Manager* or call the main office at 203-869-6756.

### **Please be on the lookout for an email allowing you to set up your School Dismissal Manager account.**

### **School Lunch**

The state of CT has stated school lunch will be free for all students again this year. You may set up a lunch account or send in cash with your child if you would like them to be able to purchase water and snacks.

As we did last year, two classes will eat in the cafeteria and one class in an alternate space for lunch. The classes will rotate at the end of approximately 12 weeks so each group would have the same amount of time eating in the cafeteria and in the alternate space over the course of the year.

The students will sit at six foot tables, one at each end. Students can bring lunch from home or get a free lunch from the cafeteria.

### **School Supplies**

The 2021-2022 **School Supply List can be found on the NSS Back to School page**. If you ordered your child's school supplies through the PTA, they will be ready for your child in their classroom on the first day of school. For all others, please make sure to send the supplies in with your child on the first day of school. All students will use their own supplies. There will be no sharing of supplies.

**Additional Info**

Please consider sending in a beach towel or small blanket labeled with your child's name so he/she will have a designated space to sit when outdoors for mask breaks, read alouds, etc.

Enjoy the last few days of summer vacation and we look forward to seeing your children soon!

Sincerely,

Your Leadership Team  
Jill Flood and Jessica McEvily