

NOOKSACK VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

August 17, 2022

Dear Nooksack Valley Middle School Students and Families,

Summer is drawing to a close and the teachers and staff are preparing Nooksack Valley Middle School, the classrooms and our minds for the upcoming school year. We are excited for the return of our students!

This school year our focus will be on Engagement. In looking at our data over the past two years, we see a need to reestablish the level of engagement, rigor, students supports, and the culture of caring our students have displayed in the past. As a staff we will work to ensure our students are fully engaged in their learning and have established goals enabling them to engage in school in ways that will ensure their future success. We want all our students to leave NVMS ready and prepared for High School, thinking about possibilities of a future career, and having ideas and goals around post-secondary education.

Our goal this year will be to reinstate our field trips to Bellingham Technical College for 6th graders, Whatcom Community College for 7th graders, and Western Washington University for our 8th graders. The importance of these trips is to help our students create a vision for being a student on these campus upon completion of High School.

Before the school year starts, please take some time to visit with your child about their interests and hobbies and how those interests and hobbies might lead them into a future career they would enjoy and thrive.

We look forward to seeing your child soon!

Sincerely,
Joel VanderYacht, Principal

Ready to Learn!

We are looking forward to meeting our middle school students on the first day of school, **Wednesday, August 31st**. The student day begins at 7:45 and students will be dismissed at 2:15. This letter includes information you will need to start the school year off right! Please read the information carefully and we encourage you to call the school at 966-7561 beginning the 25th of August with questions you may still have about the start of the school year.

All of our forms are online, because access to the Middle School will be limited until the school year begins.

NVMS website:

The NVSD Website has a wealth of information, clearance forms, etc. As you navigate the site go to the Middle School page to access a variety of information.

- Sport forms are found after clicking on "Athletics", then forms.
- Access to Skyward, for parents and students, is on the District page under QuickLinks.
- We are still in the process of adding information and updates, we will keep you posted on where to find things online!

- NVMS Notes Home are sent weekly during the school year and are posted on our website. Please be sure you have an up to date and accurate email in Skyward

If you are on Facebook, be sure to join the **NVMS PTSA** Facebook page. Our PTSA does a great job of keeping information and updates posted there.

The Nooksack School District will be providing basic school supplies for our students once again this year.

New Staff

This year we welcome six new teachers to Nooksack Valley Middle School. The new teachers are Austin Pronovost teaching 7th grade math/science, Rebecca Schmidlkofer teaching 7th grade ELA/SS, Kimberly Harding teaching 8th grade ELA/SS and Annika Woodrich teaching MS Special education. We will have two teachers who will be on paternity/maternity leave until December, Ashley Robinson, and Nayomi VanderMeulen. Taking their positions will be Ms. Annette Quarre, and Ms. Zoie Johnson. All our new staff are highly recommended and will be wonderful additions to the Nooksack Middle School Community.

Middle School Open House and Classroom Visits

Faculty and staff of the middle school invite our Middle School students and parents to visit on Monday, August 29th, from **11:30-12:30**. This is a great opportunity walk through the middle school, see where your child's classroom will be and to meet staff members.

We hope to host an open house in September, the date is tentatively set for Tuesday, September 13th from 6:30 to 8:00.

Student Class Schedules

On August 26th, Skyward Family Access will be opened. Your student's school schedule with your student's classes along with other important items will be posted on Skyward. We will also have a hard copy available at the BBQ on Monday. At the middle school, teacher teams plan for and teach a common group of students the 'core' curriculum or *Integrated Studies* which include: Writing, Reading, Social Studies, Math, and Science. Students also receive physical education/health and a performing or visual arts class. Students are grouped and assigned to a team of teachers within each grade level. The team concept and the flexible four period day allow our teachers to know students well and will provide for in-depth study of the academic areas.

In addition, each student is also assigned to an *Advisory* and an *Academy class*.

****Advisory** is a small group of students (about 15 students), and a teacher/advisor that will meet two times per week to work on common school goals and activities. The goal of Advisory is to promote a sense of belonging and community for our students by nurturing positive relationships and working toward the common goal of having all Nooksack Valley students ready and prepared for college and successful careers.

****Academy** provides targeted math and literacy classes for students who are not yet at standard, or enrichment opportunities for those students who excel in their core academic subjects. These classes are assigned based on students' achievement data. Academy classes will be assigned two weeks after school begins to give teachers time to get to know each students' needs.

Parents will have an opportunity to meet and learn more about your students' team and class schedule at our curriculum night in September.

Included in this email is a list of teachers and room numbers. Elective and P.E. classes are scheduled as A or B, and the **first day of school is an A day**. Staff and volunteers will help students read and understand schedule cards and daily schedules on the first day of school (**schedules will only be available through**

Skyward the week before school starts, no schedules will be mailed home). Band instruments and PE clothes are not required on the *first* day of school.

On the first day of school, **all 6th grade students will meet in the gym and will be escorted to their Advisory class.** 7th and 8th grade students may simply report directly to their advisory class. **We will be on an Advisory Schedule to start the school year.**

Annual Student Update and Parent Square

Each year we ask parents and guardians to make sure their student's information is updated. This is done through Skyward as our Annual Student Update. The window for this update closes later in October. Without correct mailing addresses, phone numbers and contact information you will not receive report cards or other informational mailings and we may not be able to contact you in case of illness or emergency. Along with information updates, please complete the other information requested each year. Please update!!

We will be utilizing a new system of communication with parents this year called Parent Squared. You will receive communication from the school district and your child's school with a short survey regarding options for communication. This will then set up the way in which the schools and teachers will communicate with you. It also helps us ensure we have accurate contact information. The initial communication will send you an email, text, or phone call and then you will choose which of those formats you would like to receive information from us moving forward. This system also allows for two-way communication regarding absences, texting to teachers, emailing etc. Our goals are to provide better communication between school and families.

Lockers - ASB Cards - Pictures- Physicals

The school office will be open beginning the **23rd of August, M-F from 8 am to 1 pm.** During this time you may pay fees and turn in sport clearance forms. Clearance forms are now available on our school website. **We highly encourage you to access and complete your sports forms online.**

P.E. teachers will assign P.E. lockers to all students when they begin their P.E. class. Students are encouraged to label P.E. clothes and turnout clothing/equipment to reduce the risk of loss or theft. Bags and belongings can often become a storage problem, due to limited space. Please encourage your child to only bring what is needed to school.

Sixth grade students are required to have proof of a varicella (chicken pox) vaccination or history of the disease prior to the first day of school. No other physical exam is necessary unless a student is participating in the athletic program.

Associated Student Body (ASB) cards may be **purchased for \$30.00**, in the school office beginning August 26th, between 8 am to 1 pm. They may also be purchased during the first week of school (and throughout the year). ASB cards are required for participation in extracurricular activities and serve as a free pass into high school home athletic events.

Breakfast/Lunch Prices

All Breakfast and Lunch meals are Free this year.

Middle School Athletics Program

The first day of Middle School sports for 7th and 8th grade students is Wednesday, August 31st, except for football. Football will start Monday August 29th. Football gear will be handed out on Monday from the playshed and the time will be determined and communicated by the coaches. Gear handout will only be for

those students who have been cleared to play by the Middle School office, and it will count as a players first official practice.

Contact the office for clearance information or questions. Reminder: all clearance requirements **MUST** be completed before the first practice. All athletes must have a physical exam, (good for two years), insurance waiver (or purchase school insurance), signed athletic code, concussion forms, cardiac forms and fee clearance. These forms are available online.

Family Involvement/Volunteers

This year we are able to return to community and parent volunteers at school. We welcome your participation. Please feel free to call us at 966-7561 if you have any questions. Watch the weekly communication "NVMS Notes Home" for opportunities to attend volunteer orientations and sign-up for volunteer positions. Here are just a few of the ways you can be involved and provide help:

- * *PTSA/Volunteers* - support is appreciated and needed for parents to assist with coordinating volunteers and classroom helpers, planning and chaperoning field trips, supporting honor level activities, tutoring, clerical work, athletic events, and teacher assistants. PTSA meets every other month.

Teacher Class Numbers/Teaching Teams

Please look at the lists closely as we have several new teachers due to growth, and many teachers have shifted the grade level they teach.

Grade/ Subject	Teacher	Room Number
6th Grade Integrated Studies Team	Mrs. Frazier	164
	Mr. Jackson	162
	Mrs. Perkins	138
	Mrs. Lindeman	140
	Mrs. VanderMeulen/Johnson	141
	Mrs. Sandel	161

7th Grade Integrated Studies Team	Mrs. Schmidkofer	214
	Mr. VanDyken	212
	Mrs. VanDyken	215
	Mrs. Lang	235
	Mrs. Birkett	233
	Mr. Pronovost	232

8th Grade Integrated Studies Team	Mrs. Wichers	209
	Mr. Bouma	211
	Mrs. Lambert	238
	Mrs. Johnston	236

	Mrs. Piasecki	208
	Mrs. Harding	204A
Resource Room	Ms. Perry	135
	Mrs. Robinson/ Ms. Quarre	134
Life Skills	Mrs. Woodrich	167
ELL	Ms. Brewster	160
6-8 P.E	Mrs. Guillen	Gym
	Mr. Tremain	Gym
	Mr. Skillman	Gym
6-8 Art	Mrs. Bronkema	137
Choir/Band	Mrs. Cully	110A/Stage
Steam	Mrs. Peters	165

The first day of school is an 'A' day.

Looking forward to seeing you August 31st at Nooksack Valley Middle School.

Nooksack Valley Middle School * 404 W Columbia* Nooksack WA 98276 * 360-966-7561

Joel VanderYacht, Principal

Cristal Campos, Assistant Principal

Tom Harmon, Athletic Director

Maryann Holbrook, Counselor

Brette Boesel, Counselor