



**We Are NM**

## **NMRSD Update Monday, September 18, 2023**

### **NM Patriots Apparel Flash Store**

We're hosting an NM Patriots apparel flash store. Orders are due **on Sunday, October 1, 2023**.

Shop NM Patriots apparel, clothing, spirit wear, and merchandise on our NM Patriots flash store.

**IMPORTANT:** To ensure proper distribution, please begin by selecting the school you want to receive your merchandise. We will arrange to have orders sent home with your student. Parents will also have the choice to pick up during specified hours.

This is your opportunity to proudly wear NM Patriots merchandise and join in the school spirit!

NM Patriot Athletic Apparel Store

<https://redbrickclothing.com/rbcmall/stores/store/449>

### **Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate (ALICE) Drills**

In all of our buildings, the District will again conduct ALICE drills this year in collaboration with our police and fire departments. Please remember that certain drills require students to leave campus to a “rally/reunification site.”

As has been past practice, families and community members will not be notified in advance of these drills.

Reassuring your son/daughter that these drills are practice and are in place to keep staff/students safe if we ever need to employ this response.

### **Outstanding School Lunch Balance**

Townsend Ecumenical Outreach (TEO) recently contacted the district with an offer to help families who may have an outstanding school lunch balance. Families in this situation are encouraged to contact Kym at 978-877-6002 or [info@teo-ma.org](mailto:info@teo-ma.org) for support in satisfying outstanding balances.

### **Special Education Updated Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Implementation**

As some of the caregivers of students who receive special education services may know, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has developed a new IEP form to be used for all students. NMRSD special education staff will receive training on using this new form throughout the next school year, and NMRSD will fully implement this mandated form at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year. As the district receives information on this form and its contents, we will relay it to you.

\*\*\*Please note that for the 2023-2024 school year, the district will continue to use the current IEP forms and documents

### **Parents/Caregivers - Who to Contact**

Very often, students and/or caregivers are unsure who to contact in the North Middlesex Regional School District in case of questions, concerns, or problems. Please direct these to the appropriate contact(s) below to ensure a prompt response.

*Classroom issues...*contact the teacher first. If you have additional concerns, contact the guidance counselor. If you are still concerned, contact the building Principal.

*Scheduling issues...*contact the Guidance Counselor first. If you have additional concerns, contact the building Assistant Principal/Principal.

*Curriculum issues...*contact the appropriate teacher first. If you have additional concerns, contact the building Principal. Finally, contact the Assistant Superintendent's office to speak with the applicable Director.

*Special Education issues...*contact the appropriate teacher(s) first and then your son/daughter's special education liaison (listed on your child's IEP), if

warranted. If you have additional concerns, contact the building Assistant Principal/Principal. Finally, contact the Student Services office.

*Behavioral issues...*contact the teacher first. If you are still concerned, contact the Guidance Counselor and then the building Assistant Principal/Principal.

*Social, emotional, personal, health, or family issues...*contact the Guidance Counselor, the School Adjustment Counselor, or the nurse to discuss your concerns with them. If necessary, also contact the building Assistant Principal/Principal. Contact the Student Services office if you feel your concern has gone unresolved.

*Homeless or temporary housing status (McKinney Vento, Foster Care, or Military Status):* Contact the Guidance Counselor and inform them of your status. In some instances, they may direct you to the building Principal. Finally, contact the Student Services office. The homeless liaison (Brad Brooks) will be notified of the status, and transportation will be arranged through his office (if needed). Once identified, all homeless students receive free lunch for the remainder of the school year, which is certified by the homeless liaison to the free/reduced lunch coordinator.

*Athletics issues...*contact the coach first. If you are still concerned, contact the Director of Athletics. Finally, contact the Principal.

*Attendance issues...*contact the Guidance Counselor first. If attendance issues continue, contact the building Assistant Principal/Principal.

*Report Cards & Transcripts...*contact the Guidance Counselor first. If you have additional questions, contact the building Assistant Principal/Principal.

*Harassment & Discrimination...*contact building Principal. If you are still concerned, contact the Title IX and VI Coordinators. Finally, contact the Human Resources office.

*Bullying...*contact the Guidance Counselor. If you are still concerned, contact the building Assistant Principal/Principal.

*Technology questions and/or issues...*contact the district technology office.

*Student Activities/Clubs...*contact the advisor first. If you are still concerned, contact the building Assistant Principal/Principal.

*Special Education Transportation (VanPool Transportation)...*contact the Student Services office.

*Transportation (Dee Bus)...*contact the building secretary, followed by the building Assistant Principal/Principal. Finally, contact the business office.

*Food Service...*contact the Food Services Manager. Finally, contact the business office.

*Ethics Questions...*contact the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission. The Commission's Legal Division provides free, confidential advice to anyone subject to the conflict of interest law. To obtain advice from the Commission, call (617) 371-9500 or (888) 485-4766 or request advice online.

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/state-ethics-commission-frequently-asked-questions>

*District Policies...*contact your School Committee representative or the committee chairperson.

For email contact to a specific faculty, staff, or committee member, please enter the person's first initial and last name @nmrsd.org, for example, [jdoe@nmrsd.org](mailto:jdoe@nmrsd.org).

### **2023-2024 NMRSD Administrative Team**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>School</b>
Anne Cromwell-Gapp	Principal Extended Day Program Coordinator	AES
Kate Guziejka	Principal	SMS
Stephanie Thompson	Assistant Principal	SMS
Ami Dolan	Co-Principal	VBES
Meghan Branco	Co-Principal	VBES

Chantele Olmstead	Principal	HBMS
Jason White	Assistant Principal	HBMS
Lauren Young	Principal	NMS
Evan Worth	Assistant Principal	NMS
Tim McMahon	Principal	NMRHS
Laurie Smith	Assistant Principal	NMRHS
Ryan Demar	Assistant Principal	NMRHS
Matt Dawson	Athletic Director & Facility Rentals	NMRHS
David Amari	Director of Facilities and Grounds	District
Cathryn Hampson	Supervisor of Health Services	District
Jeremy Hamond	Director of Operations Technology Facility Use Student Registration	District
Nancy Haines	Business Manager	District
Anne Marie Tucciarone-Mahan	Director of Human Resources Title VI/IX Coordinator for Staff	District
Brad Brooks	Director of Student Services Special Education Counseling Homeless Liaison ADA Compliance Officer	District
John Judge	Assistant Director of Special Education	District

	Out-of-District Coordinator SECC Administrative Supervisor	
Diane Gleason	Administrative Coach Grant Writer	District
Margaret Desilets	Evaluation Team Leader	District
Gary Burboa-Reese	Assistant Superintendent Homeschooling Title VI/IX Coordinator for Students	District
Kevin Cormier	Director of STEM (Math, Science, & Engineering)	District
Lisa Comeau	Director of Humanities (English, Language Arts, History & Social Sciences)	District
Brad Morgan	Superintendent	District

### **Remaining Open House Dates**

- SMS                                    Tuesday, September 26th
- VBES                                   Wednesday, September 20th
- HBMS                                   Wednesday, September 27th
- NMRHS                                Thursday, September 28th
- Grade 8                            Thursday, October 26th

### **2023-2024 School Committee Meeting Dates**

For the time being, all sub-committee and most school committee meetings will continue to be virtual as we continue to receive feedback that it is more convenient for the public to attend. Attendance at school committee meetings is one of the best ways to remain current with district policy, budgetary matters, and news.

Unless noted otherwise, all meetings are held on Thursday evenings and begin at 6:00 p.m. For the full docket of meetings, please click on the link below:

[SC Meeting Calendar.pdf](#)

Please note these dates are subject to change as committee business necessitates.

### **Bullying Prevention & Intervention**

As many of you have heard, another result of COVID-19 has been increased social-emotional issues among students and an uptick in bullying nationwide. We have experienced these challenges in NM as well.

As the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education requires, NMRSD utilizes a K-12 evidence-based curriculum from the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC). This curriculum is used throughout the school year, in applicable content areas, based on level.

It is important that the NM community is aware of the legal definition of bullying:

#### ***Bullying - Legal Definition / Chapter 71, Section 370***

"Bullying" the **repeated** use by one or more students or by a member of a school staff including, but not limited to, an educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, advisor to an extracurricular activity or paraprofessional of a written, verbal or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a victim that:

- causes physical or emotional harm to the victim or damage to the victim's property;
- places the victim in reasonable fear of harm to himself or of damage to his property;
- creates a hostile environment at school for the victim;
- infringes on the rights of the victim at school; or
- materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Bullying shall also include cyber-bullying.

"Cyber-bullying", bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo-optical system,

including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet communications, instant messages or facsimile communications.

Cyber-bullying shall also include:

- the creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or
- the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages, if the creation or impersonation creates any of the conditions enumerated in clauses (A) to (E), inclusive, of the definition of bullying.

Cyber-bullying shall also include the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions enumerated in clauses (A) to (E), inclusive, of the definition of bullying.

If a parent/caregiver/staff member believes that a student has been subjected to bullying, please visit [nmrsd.org](http://nmrsd.org) and look under the FOR FAMILIES tab:

Family Resources tab

Left column - Bullying Prevention

Right column - Bullying Incident Report Form

For a bullying complaint to be investigated, a Bullying Incident Report Form must be completed and sent to the applicable building principal. One of the common issues we encounter is that when bullying is reported, the administration is often told after it has been happening for a period of time.

Unfortunately, an investigation cannot commence until a written report is filed. If a student or parent/caregiver has an issue filing a report, please contact the school's Guidance Counselor for assistance so that the complaint can be filed.

It is important to point out that the legal interpretation of "**repeated**" is that for it to be considered bullying, it must be repeated 3 **more more times**.

### **2023-2024 School Calendar**

For the full 2023-2024 school calendar, please click the link below:

[School Calendar](#)



### **2023-2024 Caregiver-Teacher Conferences (November/March)**

Due to the feedback we received, this year will be a little different than the past couple of years and will be as follows:

***Elementary*** will encourage in-person but offer virtual if requested.

***Middle*** will remain virtual.

Please keep in mind that while these are scheduled conference blocks, caregivers can request, either through the teacher or a guidance counselor, a meeting as well. Every effort needs to be made to ensure that these requests are granted in a timely manner.

### **NMRSD Adopt a Spot Program**

We will continue the NMRSD "Adopt a Spot" Program, which provides opportunities for companies, civic groups, and community members to adopt a "spot" (island/mulch bed/entryway) to create attractive, welcoming "oases" throughout the District. Adopters agree to invest "sweat equity" to maintain a spot at one of our schools, in return for which an Adopt a Spot sign recognizing the spot's adopter will be installed by the District. Adopters agree to maintain the area for one fiscal year (July-June) during the summer, fall, and spring seasons. Spots are available at all of our schools.

To begin the process of becoming a Spot Adopter, please contact Andrea Royer at 978-597-8713 ext. 1900 to find a spot that suits your interest and discuss guidelines.