



## **NMRSD Update April 6, 2024**

### **Updated Respiratory Virus Guidelines**

On March 22, 2024, DPH updated its guidance for managing respiratory illnesses, staying home to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, and Mass.gov to align with those previously released by the CDC on updated recommendations for respiratory viruses, including COVID-19. This new guidance is for respiratory viruses like Influenza, RSV, and COVID-19, as they share similar transmission methods, symptoms, and prevention strategies. This unified approach aims to simplify recommendations and address common risks more effectively.

**Effective 3/28/24, NMRSD has transitioned to new [Respiratory Virus Guidelines](#) that follow both CDC and MA DPH guidance.**

### **Total Solar Eclipse**

As you likely know, a total solar eclipse will occur on Monday, April 8th! In NMRSD, we will experience 92.6 percent totality; for now, the forecast looks clear.

The timing of the eclipse poses a challenge, as it will be a typical school day for us, with the event occurring during both dismissal times and outdoor athletics. While we will not be able to experience the eclipse as a school community, we have compiled some viewing tips, safety information, and additional information for your reference. Please see the following [Eclipse Safety Sheet](#) developed by NASA on how to safely view the eclipse. To learn more about the upcoming eclipse, please visit the [NASA website](#) for additional comprehensive information.

**What to Expect:** While parts of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine are in the path of totality and will experience full darkness, locally we will experience a partial eclipse that will peak at 3:29 p.m. The moon will partly cover the sun beginning at 2:15 p.m. and ending at 4:29 p.m.

**Be Safe!** Please remind your student(s) not to look at the sun without special eye protection. You can view the sun during an eclipse with special eclipse or solar viewing glasses. [Here is more information on choosing safe glasses.](#) NEVER look directly at the un-eclipsed or partially eclipsed sun without appropriate eyewear. Sunglasses are not safe for viewing an eclipse.

Happy (and safe) eclipse viewing!

### **Budget Presentation**

I will host a Zoom Budget Presentation on Wednesday, April 10th, from 6:00 p.m. to approximately 7:15 p.m. The presentation will last approximately 20 minutes and will be followed by a Q&A session to address pre-submitted questions.

If you wish to submit a question in advance, please email it to [info@NMRSD.org](mailto:info@NMRSD.org) by Monday, April 8th, so that we can ensure that our responses are as thorough as possible. When submitting a question, please be sure to include the following in the email text:

1. Name
2. Town
3. Address
4. A specific question you would like asked and answered at this presentation (1 per person due to time constraints)

We will answer as many questions as possible during the meeting, which will conclude at 7:00 PM. Please use the following link to join the meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/99572052440?pwd=SVcwREdLYWFQb2wrWlExSkJsNUZZUT09>

Passcode: 863361

Or join by phone: US: +1 646 931 3860 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 305 224 1968 or +1 309 205 3325 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 689 278 1000 or +1 719 359 4580

Webinar ID: 995 7205 2440      Passcode: 863361

### **Breaking News & Press Releases**

[North Middlesex Regional School District Launches Budget Portal](#)

[North Middlesex Regional School Committee Approves 6.27 Budget Increase](#)

[School Nurses Honored for Excellence](#)

[Townsend Residents Invited to Learn More About 2024-2025 Budget](#)

[NMRSD Reschedules Ashby Budget Presentation to April 24](#)

### **North Middlesex Patriots Apparel and Spirit Wear Flash Store**

Show your Patriot pride with our exclusive NM apparel, clothing, and merchandise. Whether you're a student, parent, or community member, we've got something for everyone!

Orders are due on **Sunday, April 7th**, so don't wait!

IMPORTANT: To ensure your merchandise gets to the right place, start by selecting the school you want your items delivered. We'll coordinate with the school for distribution, ensuring a smooth process. Parents, you can also pick up your orders during specified hours if that's more convenient for you.

Click this link to visit the North Middlesex District Apparel Store and place your order: [North Middlesex District Apparel Store - Orders due 4/7/24](#)

### **North Middlesex High School Flower Bulb Sale**

The High School is hosting a flower bulb sale, and we need your support! Proceeds from the sale will help fund student activities, scholarships, and more right here at NM!

Orders are open now, and shipping begins on April 1st! Take advantage of this opportunity to support our students while adding beauty to your surroundings.

Order yours today at <http://NMRHS.fpfundraising.com>

### **SEPAC**

SEPAC's final presentation for this school year promises to be enlightening. It features an online session with Sara Ward focused on Executive Functioning Skills. Scheduled for Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., Don't miss out on this opportunity to gain valuable knowledge. Advance registration is required. For more information and to secure your spot, please click [here](#).

### **North Middlesex High School's Annual Art Show**

Join us for an evening of creativity and talent at North Middlesex Regional High School's annual student Art show, scheduled for Thursday, April 25th, from 6-8 p.m. in the high school commons. In addition to the exhibition, our

National Art Honor Society will organize a fundraiser featuring a silent art auction. Don't miss out on this inspiring event! For more information, click [here](#).

### **Walk for Mental Health**

NM Students for Mental Health presents the 1st Annual Walk for Mental Health, hosted by the student leaders of the NM Mental Health team, along with their advisor, Mr. Sullivan, and input from the Boston chapter of the Samaritans!

 When: Sunday, May 5th

 Where: NMRHS

The goal of this event is to raise awareness about mental health and provide resources to our peers who may need extra support. Together, let's take steps towards breaking the stigma surrounding mental health.

For more information, please click [here](#) or visit [@nm\\_mentalhealth](#).

### **Project Graduation**

Project Graduation is an unforgettable all-night celebration meticulously organized by dedicated parents to ensure a secure and enjoyable environment for our graduating seniors. This annual event, not affiliated with the school, is transformed into a global spectacle with vibrant decorations portraying scenes from around the world. Our graduating seniors will be immersed in an exciting atmosphere filled with entertaining activities, fabulous prizes, and a continuous flow of delicious food throughout the night.

This extraordinary experience is made possible by the commitment of our volunteer parent committee, who work tirelessly to create an unforgettable night for our graduates. Given that Project Graduation is not affiliated with the school, the committee relies solely on donations, grants, and fundraising initiatives to bring this event to life. For more information, please click [here](#) or visit their website at <https://sites.google.com/view/nmrhs-projectgrad>.

### **NMRHS Partners with College Guidance Network**

We are excited to inform you that NMRHS has partnered with the College Guidance Network (CGN) to help high school students and their families with career and college planning. CGN will provide you and your child with a personalized project plan with timelines and checklists based on your child's interests and goals, all supported by content from over 250 nationally recognized college and career experts to guide you through every step in the process. You will also have access to live, online programming from leading admissions, financial aid, career experts, and college admissions officers.

CGN will hold 30-minute virtual Parent Activation sessions for high school families on April 9th at 10 am, April 10th at 2 pm, and April 11th at 5 pm. [Please use this link to join.](#)

Create your account today at [www.cgnroadmap.com](http://www.cgnroadmap.com). Parents PIN 772993



**What is a CGN Roadmap?**

- Key Dates
- Industry Expert Content
- Reminder Nudges
- Personalized Checklists

**BENEFITS:**

- **A Personalized Roadmap** based upon your child's and family's interests and needs
- Keeps you **on track** for you're the entire college & career process
- **Access to critical content from over 270 experts** to support your journey
- Helps your child achieve a positive college/career outcome!

All contents confidential and proprietary

## Getting Started

### North Middlesex Regional High School

- Activate your account at <https://www.cgnroadmap.com/> or scan the QR code on the right.
- Choose **North Middlesex Regional High School** from the drop down menu
- Parent PIN #: **772993**
- Answer a few short questions to personalize the CGN Roadmap for your family.
- Engage!



All contents confidential and proprietary

## **The NM Patriots Boosters are calling on you to join their team!**

As a non-profit organization, the Boosters play a crucial role in supporting the athletic programs at North Middlesex. From awarding scholarships to graduating student-athletes to providing essential assistance to the Athletic Director, your contribution can make a significant impact. They're seeking volunteers to assist with various tasks, including photography, organizing the concession stand, serving on the golf tournament committee, and becoming board members. Whether you can spare just an hour a month or more, your help is invaluable. If you're interested in getting involved, please email [nmboosters@gmail.com](mailto:nmboosters@gmail.com). Let's work together to make a difference in our athletic

community!

### **NHS Tutoring Program**

National Honor Society members dedicate their time to tutoring elementary, middle, and high school students. Tutoring sessions are held in town libraries after school from 3:00 pm-5:00 pm on weekdays and from 10:00 am-2:00 pm on Saturdays. You can find more specific details about days, times, and locations in the [Google Tutoring Form](#). High school students also have the option for tutoring after school from 2:00 pm-3:00 pm in the Commons or during flex block on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Once a student or parent completes the Google Form, we match them with a tutor and assist in scheduling their first tutoring session.

### **2024-2025 School Year & School Bus Ridership**

As many of you know, FY2025 will be financially challenging for many reasons.

As we strive to be as fiscally responsible as possible, our primary goal is to manage our resources efficiently.

One of our main challenges is school bus transportation and its associated costs. As a regional school district, we are required to provide transportation for all students grades K-12 who live two (2) miles or more from their assigned school. However, due to a lack of sidewalks, we have always worked to provide families with school bus transportation who live within one (1) mile of their assigned school when it is feasible. As you fill out the survey, please do so by assuming that if you have previously used school bus transportation, you will be permitted to do so moving forward.

Since the pandemic, the number of students driven to school by family members or friends has increased dramatically, resulting in buses that are not near capacity.

After discussions with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education and the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools, NMRSD will require students who would like to utilize school transportation to **SIGN-UP** so that we only contract for the number of buses we require. If a student does not sign up, s/he will not be permitted to ride the bus. If a family changes its mind and takes advantage of school bus transportation, there may be a “waiting” period if a seat or bus is unavailable.

Please know that this is not meant to make getting students to and from school more difficult; rather, it is meant to manage our funding resources to serve our students best while keeping our taxpayers in mind.

All families who will have children in grades K-11 for the 2024-2025 school

year **must** complete this by clicking the [survey](#) by Friday, April 26th.

### **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.

### **NMRHS Track**

The high school track will be open Monday through Friday from 5:30 am - 7:00 am for the remainder of the school year (provided we do not get additional snow). The only rules for using the track are:

1. No food or drink other than water
2. No pets
3. No bikes or strollers

Parking will be in a designated area in the lot near the field and closest to Route 119. Please utilize the coned area, as all other spots are reserved student spots.

Our facilities and grounds team will monitor this as they prepare for the day. If additional supervised opportunities become available, I will look to add additional hours in the late afternoon/evening.

If there are retired community members who would be interested in volunteering in the late afternoon/early evening for a potential tax credit, please reach out to: [info@nmrsd.org](mailto:info@nmrsd.org).

### **MPY Parenting Solutions Library**

Massachusetts Partnerships for Youth (MPY) is pleased to announce its new, free [MPY Parenting Solutions Library](#). MPY is offering the Library in partnership with Peace At Home Parenting Solutions, a non-profit located in Mansfield, Connecticut. Peace At Home Parenting Solutions is a dynamic hub of trusted knowledge and compassionate support that inspires parents to create positive change for their children, their families, and themselves. Through this new partnership, MPY is pleased to offer proven resources to help students' families thrive.

Peace At Home Parenting Solutions specializes in empowering parents with evidence-based strategies to foster nurturing connections that safeguard their children's mental well-being. When parents grasp the interconnection between the brain, body, and behavior, they experience reduced stress levels, resulting in less stress for their children.

The Peace At Home Parenting Solutions team, comprised of experts with advanced degrees, stays abreast of the latest advancements in child development. With more than 30 specialists focused on child and adolescent development, including specific issues such as difficulties in school, mental health challenges, neurodiversity, LGBTQ+ identity formation, handling racism, navigating grief, and other matters parents and our partners identify. These experts present easy-to-use strategies for long-lasting change.

Parents can watch or just listen to experts who get right to the point solving big and small challenges. The 24 library presentations focus on the topics below. Each presentation includes a 10-minute video and handouts.

- Inspire School Success for Elementary, Middle, and High School Students
- Parenting Principles for Progress Not Perfection
- Mental Health Knowledge and Skills
- Support Your Anxious Child Library
- ADHD and Autism: How to Help Your Child Thrive

The Home Parenting Library can be easily accessed using the link on MPY's [home page \(www.mpyinc.org\)](http://www.mpyinc.org). No login or passcode is needed.

### **NMRS Scholarship Foundation**

Get ready to hit a home run with the NMRS Scholarship Foundation's Spring Raffle! Purchase a \$10 raffle ticket to win four tickets to the Boston Red Sox vs. LA Angels games on April 13th at 4:10 p.m. and April 14th at 1:35 p.m. But that's not all – the lucky winner for each game will also receive a \$100 Visa Gift Card! Don't miss the opportunity to participate in this exciting event and contribute to a great cause—every raffle ticket is a valuable donation to the NMRS Scholarship Foundation.

The NMRS Scholarship Foundation invites you to support its annual scholarship drive for the class of 2024. If you or your business want to contribute a scholarship to a graduating NM senior this year, please reach out!

<https://nmrsscholarshipfoundation.weebly.com/>

Established in 1964, the Foundation has granted over a million dollars to NMRHS graduating seniors to advance their education. We are thrilled to commemorate 60 years of assisting NMRHS students!

As NMRHS parents, community members, student representatives, and school personnel, we are committed to fundraising to support our senior graduates as they pursue higher education. Through various initiatives such as fundraisers, memorial and business scholarships, and contributions from the community,



we consistently raise over \$60,000 each year. These funds are then allocated as scholarships for North Middlesex Regional High School seniors seeking further education at technical or vocational schools, two-year colleges, four-year colleges, or universities.

### **Student Opportunity Act**

In 2019, Massachusetts passed the Student Opportunity Act, which focused on funding districts serving students with the greatest needs. The law included a critical provision requiring every district to set clear targets for improving disparities in achievement among student groups and develop a three-year plan to implement evidence-based strategies to meet their targets. The North Middlesex Regional School District is pleased to share its draft Student Opportunity Act (SOA) plan. This plan will focus on student learning and addressing disparities between specific student populations and our overall student data for the next three years (through June 2027) with the overall goal of providing ALL of our student learners with meaningful and powerful experiences to maximize their growth academically, socially, emotionally and behaviorally.

Based on public data available from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the enrollment size of each subgroup, and the overall impact that the various indicators (absenteeism, suspensions, ninth-grade passing, dropouts, and graduation rates) were having on academic performance (MCAS), we decided to focus our work through this plan on students with disabilities.

Our Theory of Action is: If we identify and utilize research-based approaches to decrease school suspensions and identify alternative pathways for students interested in dropping out for our students with disabilities subgroup, then we will see increased performance on state testing (MCAS) and an increase in the percentage of students with disabilities that meet the competency determination and graduation requirements within three years.

The District has selected the following Evidence-Based improvement areas to address the disparities in learning experiences and outcomes for the 'Students with Disabilities' subgroup. Funding to support these efforts is supported through both the curriculum office and special education department budgets:

- **1.1A - Promoting Integrated Services for Student Wellbeing** - Integrated Services for Student Wellbeing
- **1.2A - Implementing a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) that helps all students progress both academically and in their social, emotional, and behavioral development:** Effective Student Support Systems

- **2.2B - Using the MTSS process to implement academic supports and interventions that provide all students, particularly students with disabilities and multilingual learners:** High Leverage Practices for Students with Disabilities

The draft plan will be presented to the North Middlesex School Committee on March 14, 2024. The [presentation](#) and [draft plan](#) are available for your review. If you have any suggestions for the plan, be email Dr. Gary Burboa-Reese at [gburboareese@nmrsd.org](mailto:gburboareese@nmrsd.org)

### **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 School counselor. If you are still concerned, contact the building Principal.

*Scheduling issues...*contact the School 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.

*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 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 (McKinney Vento 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).

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

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

*Report Cards & Transcripts...*contact the School 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 School 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	Principal	VBES
Lisa Comeau	Interim Assistant 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	District

	Student Registration	
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  Out-of-District Coordinator  SECC Administrative Supervisor	District
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
Brad Morgan	Superintendent	District

**2023-2024 School Committee Meeting Dates**

For now, 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.

### **School Calendars**

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

[2023- 2024 School Calendar](#)

The school committee also recently voted on the 2024-2025 school calendar.

For the calendar for next school year, please click on the link below:

[2024 - 2025 School Calendar](#)