

# MAY

## NORTH NEWSLETTER





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# A Word from Our Principal

Dear Vikings and Families,

It's May 1st, and it's a beautiful day! I am blessed because this month, although still very busy, is a time for reflection and planning, and I absolutely love being the principal at North Middle School. I get asked often about my transition out of high school and prior school roles, and I get to tell them with a smile on my face that I enjoy every day and I feel like I am where I am meant to be. It doesn't mean that every day is perfect, but I am excited daily to work with the students and staff at North Middle School—it truly is a very special place, and the students, families, and adults with whom I get to work make it special. Thank you for that.

We have some excitement going on at North right now and that will continue throughout the summer. Yesterday and today, we had a CBS National News Crew outside and inside the building using North as a backdrop for a national news story about Hop Skip Drive, a youth transportation service D11 partners with, and they filmed interviews and will collect B-Roll footage of school drop-off and student foot traffic in the building. The footage will be generic, and no student faces will be in focus for the broadcast—we will let you know when it airs in case you are interested! This summer, we will undergo several upgrades in the main building including painting, a major bathroom renovation on the main floor outside the Gym, and more – we are excited to see how it turns out, especially as we move toward North's 100-year anniversary in the fall of the coming school year!

As is always the case in May, we have several end-of-year activities taking place: we have students at the Apple Blossom Festival today and Saturday; our girls volleyball won the District A-Squad Championship; our theatre program has multiple end-of-year performances; our boys are competing hard in Track and have won several close meets in preparation for the District Championship in a couple weeks; and we had two 7th graders, Vivian Wolkow and Julia Muro, who represented North well at the State Science Fair, earning 2nd and 3rd place respectively in their individual categories. Well done, Vikings! We also finished our testing season with good preliminary results in STAR. We won't know much about CMAS until August, but thank you families for your partnership in getting students to school and prepared to do their best!

We would also like to take a moment to recognize two North staff, retiring at the end of this school year. Heidi Gugler, one of our beloved Assistant Principals, is retiring after 8 years at North Middle School. Ms. Gugler has been an AP for all three grade levels, expertly led the charge through CMAS and STAR testing year after year, served as administrator for both the Math and ELA departments, and has been the mastermind behind the yearly Master schedule. She volunteers as an Elevated Mentor for the SACHS Foundation and will be retiring into another mentorship position, helping new-to-education teachers. Our second retiree is Rose Davis, who has been in education for a long time, joined us in 2020 to faithfully teach ELA, AVID, and Trans-Math. Ms. Davis is an endless source of energy for both her students and coworkers - she has provided countless meals for the staff; chaperoned MANY student field trips; served at sports games and tournaments; kept the energy high in school dances; organized class food drives for Care & Share; and rode alongside the Kids on Bikes club. Both retirees have been master translators for our Spanish-speaking Vikings and families. If you get the chance, be sure to thank them for their years of service in education!

## Important Upcoming Dates and Events:

- \*Wednesday, May 22nd: 8th Grade Field Trip and 8th Graders' Last School Day at North
- \*Thursday, May 23rd (9AM): 8th Grade Continuation at Palmer High School
- \*Friday, May 24th: Last Day of the 2023-2024 School Year
- \*Tuesday, May 28th: Teacher Work Day (Grades Due)
- \*Monday, August 12th: 6th Grade Orientation Day
- \*Tuesday, August 13th: 6th-8th Graders' First Day of the 2024-2025 School Year

Sincerely,

*Stephanie Leasure*

Principal

North Middle School







## NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL'S *mission statement*

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**North Middle School students will be productive and successful citizens. We hold our students to high standards so they will set goals, think for themselves, problem-solve, and take responsibility for their own learning.**

**We will fulfill our collective responsibility to reach and teach all students by building a collaborative and professional climate.**

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Please click the link  
for this month's  
[Upcoming Events](#).



# D11 Food & Nutrition Services

## SUMMER ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER PROGRAM

PROGRAMA DE TRANSFERENCIA ELECTRÓNICA DE BENEFICIOS DE VERANO

PARA OBTENER MÁS INFORMACIÓN HAGA CLIC [AQUÍ](#).

This summer Colorado will launch the Summer Electronic Benefit (SEBT) program. Eligible children at schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program will be able to receive \$40 per eligible child during the summer months (\$120 total maximum) to help reduce childhood hunger during the summer break.

Families will need to complete a Meal Application at this [LINK](#) to see if you qualify. If you have not already been Directly Certified by the state or filled out a Meal Application this school year, PLEASE APPLY [HERE](#). Eligible households who have already applied will not need to reapply to qualify for SEBT.

The deadline to qualify for SEBT is MARCH 31ST, 2024, which is a Sunday, so please apply by March 27th. Make sure your contact and address information are updated in your parent portal and/or at your school.

Thank you,



NMS Principal

On Behalf of Janine Russell

D11 Food & Nutrition Services

# INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE LEARNER PROFILE

INQUIRERS... KNOWLEDGEABLE... THINKERS... COMMUNICATORS... PRINCIPLED...  
OPEN-MINDED... CARING... RISK-TAKERS... **BALANCED**... REFLECTIVE



We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives - intellectual, physical, and emotional - to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

## **North Star** VIKING HIGHLIGHT

The following Vikings have demonstrated themselves to be exceptionally BALANCED and have received the North Star Award.



LIAM & ELIJAH BYRD  
6TH GRADE



EVA THOMAS-TAPPI TAKE  
8TH GRADE



AVA YUNKER  
6TH GRADE





*Join us for*

# 8TH GRADE CONTINUATION

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**PALMER HIGH SCHOOL**

301 N. NEVADA AVE.  
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80903

**THURSDAY | MAY 23, 2024**  
**9:00 A.M.**

**DOORS OPEN AT 8:15 A.M.**  
**STUDENTS ARRIVE BY 8:40 A.M.**



# VOLLEYBALL BANQUET

## A B C SQUADS

2024

DATE / TIME

**MAY 7 - 5:00**

LOCATION

**NORTH MIDDLE  
SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

WHAT TO BRING

**WE WILL PROVIDE  
PIZZA!**

**6TH GRADE- DRINKS**

**7TH GRADE- SIDES**

**8TH- DESSERTS**





May 10th  
4:00 - 5:30 PM  
Cafetorium

\$5

includes  
a drink &  
chips!

END OF YEAR

*Beach Bash*



Tickets for sale BEFORE SCHOOL & DURING LUNCHES,  
May 6th-9th. No tickets sold at the door! Students  
suspended (in-school or out) in Quarter 4 cannot attend.

Bands & Orchestras

# SPRING

## Concert

May

Thursday

16

2024

**Palmer High School Auditorium**

### Orchestra

Call Time: 5:00 pm

Concert: 5:30 pm

### Band

Call Time: 6:15 pm

Concert: 6:45 pm

Featuring Commissioned works by  
composer, Randall Standridge





**22 May, 2024**

# **Jazz Concert**

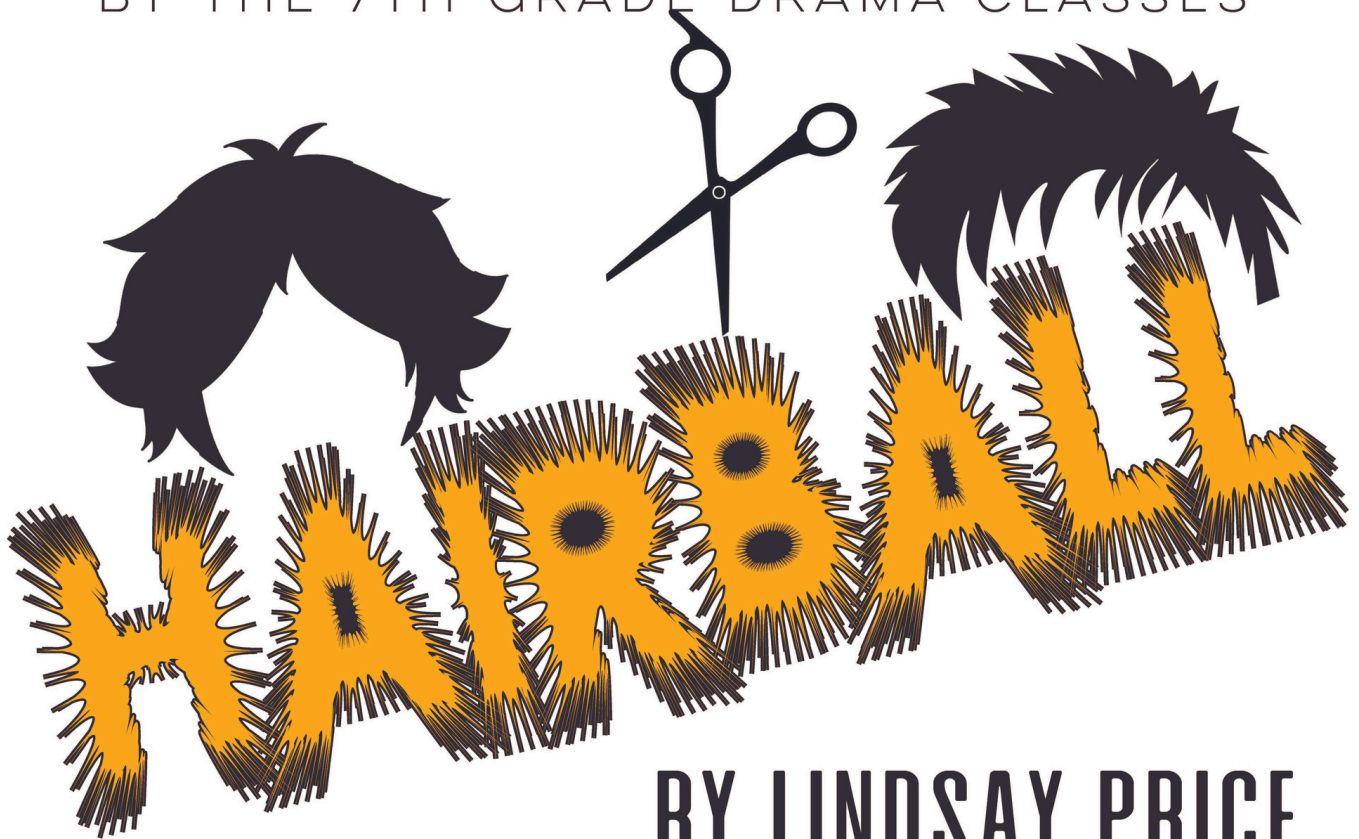
North MS Cafetorium

5pm Call Time

5:30pm Down Beat



A NORTH DRAMA PRODUCTION  
BY THE 7TH GRADE DRAMA CLASSES



BY LINDSAY PRICE

*one night only - free general admission*

MAY 9TH @ 5:30 PM

NORTH MS CAFETORIUM



*cash concessions for sale!*



PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THEATREFOLK

([WWW.THEATREFOLK.COM](http://WWW.THEATREFOLK.COM))



A NORTH DRAMA PRODUCTION BY THE 8TH GRADE ADVANCED DRAMA CLASS  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE VIKING BLACK BOX EXPERIMENT

# THE MONOLOGUE SHOW (FROM HELL)

BY DON ZOLIDIS

**MAY 14TH • 5:00PM**  
**NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**COME ENJOY  
OUR IMMERSIVE ART EXPERIENCE &  
OUR MONOLOGUE SHOW!**

**FREE GENERAL ADMISSION • CASH CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE**

PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH PLAYSRIPTS, INC.  
([WWW.PLAYSRIPTS.COM](http://WWW.PLAYSRIPTS.COM))





# HILLSIDE

• CONNECTION •™

## BOYS 3V3 SUMMER BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

2024 ROCKY MOUNTAIN STATE GAMES ENDORSED!

COMPETITIVE PLAY & CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKET

\$25 PER KID

**SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 23RD, 2024

### LOCATION:

HILLSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER  
AND/OR MEMORIAL PARK  
BASKETBALL COURTS.  
WEATHER DEPENDENT.

### BOYS DIVISIONS:

HOOPSTERS: 4TH - 5TH  
MIDDLESTARS: 6TH-7TH  
GRADE BASED ON 2023-24  
SCHOOL YEAR

### DATES:

JUNE 8TH &  
JUNE 9TH, 2024

**REGISTER HERE:**



### TOURNAMENT SPONSORS:



QUESTIONS? EMAIL US AT [INFO@HILLSIDECONNECTION.ORG](mailto:INFO@HILLSIDECONNECTION.ORG)





# **CORONADO** **KIDS** **BASKETBALL** **CAMP**

**\$50** / PERSON

**FOR REGISTRATION :**

ONLINE @ MY SCHOOL BUCKS  
OR PAY AT DOOR

**MORE INFORMATION :**

GRADES: BOYS & GIRLS 1ST-7TH GRADE

WHERE: CORONADO MAIN GYM

TIME: 5:00-7:00 PM

WHAT TO BRING: BASKETBALL SHOES & WATER  
BOTTLE

**20-22**

**MAY 2024**

# 2023 - 2024

## CLUBS / ACTIVITIES

	CLUB/ACTIVITY	MEETING DAYS	START/END	TIMES	SPONSOR	LOCATION
MORNING	NJHS	1st & 3rd Tuesday of the Month	September- May	7:45 AM -8:30 AM	Eric Trujillo	Library
	DM Club	Mondays	September -May	4:00 PM -5:30 PM	Christal Bricker	Room 258
AFTERNOON	D&D Club	Fridays	September -May	4:00 PM -5:30 PM	Christal Bricker	Room 258
	Drama Club	Mon/Tues/ Thur	September -May	4:00 PM -5:30 PM	Amanda Gaden	Cafeteria
	Bouldering Club	Every 3rd Thursday of the Month	November -March	4:30 PM -6:00 PM	Jesse Walker	Pure Bouldering Gym
	Pride Club	Wednesdays	September -May	4:00 PM -5:00 PM	Kate DeJong	Room 230
	Mathletes	Tuesdays	December -May	4:00 PM -5:00 PM	Avery Clay	Room 244
	Fish Club	Wednesdays	December -May	4:00 PM -4:30 PM	Justin Weickum	Fish Tank
	Kids on Bikes	Thursdays	Late March -May	4:00 PM -5:30 PM	Katherine Bauder	Room 160
	Open Studio Art Club	Wednesdays	February -May	4:00 PM -5:00 PM	Jillian Murphy	Room 102
	Boys' Track & Field	Monday -Thursday	March -May	4:00 PM -5:30 PM	Jesse Walker	North Gazebo
	Co-Ed Soccer	Monday -Friday	April -May	4:00 PM -5:45 PM	Josh Bradley	North Field
SPORTS						





# COMMUNICATION ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

## BETTER HEARING & SPEECH MONTH

Chit-Chat with your Speech-Language Pathologist,  
Jeanne Kleinman Williams MACCC

If you have any questions or would like to chat, email [jeanne.williams@d11.org](mailto:jeanne.williams@d11.org)

# 7TH GRADE WEB LEADERS NEEDED!



We are looking for 7th graders to be WEB leaders for next school year! W.E.B. is a program to welcome 6th Graders, so they get off to a great start at North! As a W.E.B. Leader, you would play a crucial role in sharing what you've learned in your time at North. W.E.B. leaders should be enthusiastic, helpful, and ready for fun! See Mrs. Carmon to apply! All applications are due back to Mrs. Carmon by May 10th.

## COMMUNITY LIAISON CORNER

On April 3rd we had the official ribbon cutting for the newly remodeled staff lounge. Our friends at the Walston Group Realty Group and their trades partners generously funded and remodeled the staff lounge top to bottom. We are so grateful for this gift and their support and dedication to our school and community. Thank you Walston Group!

If your family needs assistance, I can provide referrals and guidance to various community resource agencies to assist with challenges your family may be experiencing. At North Middle School, I can help with items such as: school supplies, hygiene products, basic clothing needs, laundry detergent, and basic staples from the food pantry. The food pantry items can complement your meal planning. If your family needs additional grocery items, I can also guide you to food distribution agencies that are within your zip code.

### Family Engagement:

Did you know “adolescence” is considered young people between the ages of 10 and 19 (The World Health Organization). Parents and guardians often feel a shifting of roles from “Captain” to “Co-Pilot” when your child reaches adolescence, taking a misstep to disengage instead of continued engagement. Based on information provided by the National Association for Family, School and Community Engagement, this is an important time during adolescent development to stay engaged and strengthen relationships.

Tip for May – Carve out 10 minutes to do something relaxing with your teen. Listen to music, play a game, work on a puzzle, something you can enjoy together. During this time take time to talk with your teen about their likes and any new interests.

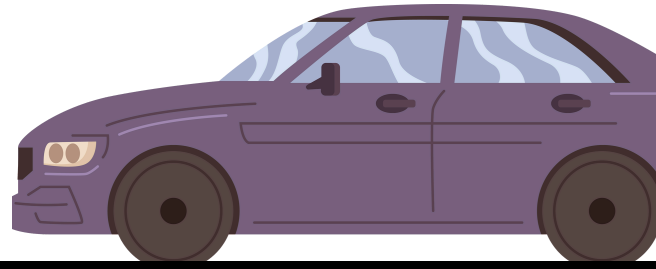


# IF YOU *drive a car* AROUND NORTH MS

North Middle School's high percentage of commuter families means that before and after school, traffic can be a concern. We appreciate your attention to the following:

1. **DO NOT USE or BLOCK the HANDICAP SPOTS** in front of the school.
2. PLEASE park legally in the neighborhood. Avoid blocking driveways.
3. Respect the **BUS ONLY LANES** from the corner to the driveway on EL Paso.
4. Park in the lot across El Paso at Yampa or the Admin Building parking lot when our spaces out front are full.
5. Please **DO NOT DROP OFF** students in the staff parking lot on the east side of the building.
6. Respect the traffic cones by the cafeteria - personal cars are **NOT** permitted in this area.
7. Do not allow students to run between parked cars to cross the street. It only takes one slip for a disaster to occur. Remember that gravel and sand are just as slippery as ice!

Click [here](#) for a view of the parking available around North.



## DRESS CODE *guidelines*

In general, your student's clothing should follow these guidelines:



- NO VISIBLE SHORTS, BOXERS, OR UNDERWEAR AS A RESULT OF SAGGING PANTS
- NO STRAPLESS SHIRTS OR EXCESSIVE CLEAVAGE
- ALL GRAPHICS ON CLOTHING ARE SCHOOL APPROPRIATE (AS DETERMINED BY THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION) INCLUDING NO SEXUAL INNUENDOS OR DRUG/ALCOHOL REFERENCES
- SHORTS, DRESSES, AND SKIRTS MUST APPROPRIATELY COVER THE BUTTOCKS
- NO SEE-THROUGH FABRIC
- D11 DOES NOT ALLOW BARE STOMACHS OR BACKS, PAJAMAS, SOFT-SOLE SLIPPERS, HEELIES, BANDANAS OR BANDANA ARTWORK, OR HATS/BEANIES

# District 11 Loop

The D11 Loop is specifically designed to help YOU have fast and accurate information when you need it, where you need it. Our North home page, Instagram and Facebook stay updated with current activities. The loop allows you to manage your contact information and select your students' schools. Friends and family should register as a Community Members in order to receive our notices.  
Student information is ONLY AVAILABLE TO PRIMARY CONTACTS.

## Medications

A healthy school year for your child includes a partnership between home & school. When possible, the best approach is for parents to administer medication to their children outside of school hours. However, when your child needs medication during school, Medication forms, Asthma Health Care Plans and Allergy Health Care Plans are REQUIRED.

Medications (prescription AND over-the-counter) can ONLY be given at school under the following conditions:

1. All medications INCLUDING OVER THE COUNTER ITEMS, must be ordered by healthcare providers with prescriptive authority.
2. There must be a SEPARATE Medication Form for EACH medication.
3. Written permission by parent and physician must be on file at the school for all cases (that medication form again!)
4. All medication forms must be renewed each school year.
5. Medications must be in the original, properly labeled container.
6. All medications must be kept in the health room/office, except for students whose doctors require them to carry medications (for example: inhalers, Epi-pens, etc.) These students will need completed Care Plan paperwork on file.
7. Health Care Plans signed by the healthcare provider are required for Asthma/inhalers, allergies, and diabetes supplies.
8. If your student occasionally needs O.T.C. pain killers or allergy meds, please get the Medication form signed by the doctor and provide a small bottle of the medication to keep at the school. It is perfectly okay to have the doctor/PA/nurse to prescribe it "as needed" to cover headaches, cramps, etc.
9. DO NOT send cough drops, pain relievers antihistamines, etc. in with your student.

If an emergency arises and we do not have medications, we will call 911 and notify you immediately.

## Attendance

If you will be picking your student up during the school day, please call the Attendance Office first thing in the morning, or at least 30 minutes prior, and we will do our best to have your child waiting and ready.

**REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR PHOTO ID EACH TIME YOU PICK UP YOUR STUDENT!**

Due to the volume of attendance calls we receive, we request a 24-hour window to make necessary adjustments. Please monitor PowerSchool for updates, as we are not able to return all attendance-related phone calls.

### WHEN YOUR CHILD IS SICK OR ABSENT:

- Please keep sick children home. They can't learn well when they don't feel well.
- Students with fevers over 100° are not allowed to stay in school or ride the school bus
- ALL medication, including over-the-counter items such as ibuprophen or cough drops, must have a medical form signed by a practicing physician, on file.
- Call 719-328-2435 within 48 hours to excuse students
- Absences of more than 3 days require a doctor's note in order to be excused
- Homework requests need to be made directly to the teacher via email
- Absences (such as trips) of 4 or more days require paperwork. Check with the Attendance Office. The teachers need several days' notice to create alternate assignments packets and to plan around tests and activities when you want to take work with you. Most classwork depends on in-class instruction, please do not expect to be able to use work packets to get your student completely caught up. In some classes, especially Math and World Languages, the teach will not be able to provide advance work.