



Matthew Keegan
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August 31, 2022

Dear Norwell Families:

We are looking forward to the new school year and welcoming back all of our students. Custodians, secretaries, support staff, and administration have diligently prepared the schools for the return of students and teachers. All of our summer work has been focussed on supporting the classroom. The dedicated faculty and staff have been preparing their classrooms, refining lessons and materials, and are anticipating a whole new group of students.

The administrative team met over the summer to develop a vision and goals for the upcoming school year. That vision is to refocus our energies on one of NPS' core values: The Cultivation of Learning. This core value has three elements: all decisions promote student learning, centrality of the classroom, and teacher as resident expert of learning. It is essential that we return to focusing upon the classroom, student expectations, and instructional engagement. As a team, we will provide support so all students can accelerate their learning.

As we continue to reestablish our classroom expectations around academics, behavior, and routines, let us know if there is information about your child that would be helpful for us to keep in mind. Please contact your child's teacher, school counselor, or administrator if your child is having any difficulties navigating the school day or academic requirements.

I also want to share the most recent guidance regarding COVID-19. The health and safety procedures relative to COVID-19 are similar to the Spring of 2022 school year.

- While individuals are welcome to wear masks, there is no masking requirement. Students will be asked to wear masks in the health offices.
- Individuals who have tested positive are expected to isolate for 5 days and if able to wear a mask, can resume activities on day 6 provided they are fever and symptoms free.
- Individuals who have tested positive are expected to isolate for 5 days and if unable to wear a mask can resume activities on day 11 provided they are fever and symptoms free.

There will be no district-sponsored testing program this year. We do have a limited number of at-home antigen tests remaining. If you cannot locate a test yourself, please contact your school nurse.

Below are a few points to be aware of as we start the year:

Handbooks:

- Annually parents are asked to complete a sign off via ASPEN that you have read the handbook, give various permissions to share information and complete the health information update for each of their children attending Norwell Public Schools. The handbooks are now available on the [NPS website](#). Please take some time to read the handbook and complete these sign offs for each of your children, preferably before school starts on the 7th, but no later than Friday, September 9th.

Meals:

- School breakfast and lunch will continue to be free throughout the school year. Additional a la carte items will be available for purchase. Please see your school specific instructions for the ordering of lunches.
- For more information regarding the school lunch program please email Judy Crooks, Food Service Director at judith.crooks@norwellschools.org.

Buses:

- Bus routes have been created and the drivers have done their test drives. All students requesting a bus have been accommodated. Bus stops are published in the ASPEN portal.
- For inquiries about whether you requested a bus, please check the ASPEN portal. Any other bus questions or concerns, please contact Janet Asnes at janet.asnes@norwellschools.org.

Website Resources:

- Please visit the Student Services tab <https://www.norwellschools.org/domain/29> on the NPS website for information regarding bullying prevention and intervention, discussing racism, tiered focus monitoring reports, special education eligibility, home school information, suicide prevention, and LGTBQ resources.

We look forward to welcoming your child to school next week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Keegan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matthew" and last name "Keegan" clearly distinguishable.

Matthew A. Keegan
Superintendent of Schools