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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.

Our mission, “in partnership with the community, is to provide excellence in education through a challenging and supportive environment, empowering students to be versatile, innovative, and responsible citizens who are prepared to navigate and contribute to a dynamic global society.” As we look forward to a new year, we will continue to build upon the relationships we have built with our students and families. Students need to feel known and valued in their classrooms. We will provide lessons that allow students to see themselves in the curriculum and provide lessons that are relevant, related to the greater world, and interactive. At the same time, we will continue to provide individual support to students as needed. Please 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.

Norwell Public Schools offer many opportunities for families and students to engage in activities, events, and celebrations. The Principal Newsletters will provide information regarding opportunities for students and families such as: co-curricular activities, celebrations, events, and academic presentations. The PTO’s hold many events for families to come together to celebrate our schools and students. We hope that you will participate in school activities throughout the year.

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

Attendance:

- Attendance is extremely important to student learning and engagement. A student is considered chronically absent when they have missed 18 days during a school year. Last year 8.7% of our students were chronically absent. Please reach out to your school nurse or see the handbooks regarding when a student should stay home for illness. We sincerely ask that families try not to take vacation during school days. If a child is having any difficulty with attending school, please reach

out to your school administrator or school counselor so that we can help support families and students.

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 Parent-Student Handbooks and complete these sign offs for each of your children by September 1, 2023.

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 LGBTQ resources.

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.

We look forward to welcoming your child to school on September 5.

Sincerely,



Matthew A. Keegan
Superintendent of Schools