



Northfield Community School District

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Dear Parents, Guardians, and Northfield Community,

The start of the 2024-2025 school year is literally a few days away. Whether this will be your first "first day of school" or your last here in Northfield, it is always a very exciting day. We are certainly looking forward to welcoming all of the children for a year full of personal growth and learning adventures. Everyone should have received letters from the respective principals but I want to confirm that the first day of school for students will be a single session day on Thursday, September 5, 2024. Hopefully I will see many of you on that day.

Our teachers and administrators worked on updating our English Language Arts(ELA) and Mathematics curriculum during the summer. In ELA, we are implementing a new series to deliver the curriculum and, in addition to professional development, the teachers will have access to digital coaching throughout the school year. In Mathematics, teachers will continue to work with the math coach we introduced last year so that they may expand on the work that they started last school year. We will also be piloting a new math program in eighth grade. Additionally, we developed a life skills curriculum for some of our special learners, which we feel will help them in many levels.

We will continue to support our students' social and emotional development through the NJ4S initiative from the New Jersey Department of Education. This initiative provides proactive programs to address large and small groups in topics such as Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying, internet safety, and tolerance, just to name a few. It also offers counselling, as needed, for topics including, but not limited to, loss, drug abuse, and suicide.

We had a major HVAC project in the building this summer that will allow us to operate our building more efficiently and have more localized control of our areas with respect to heating and cooling. The project started immediately after school ended in June and continued until the middle of August. Not to worry though, our custodial and maintenance staff has been working hard in preparation for the arrival of our students and staff. They have performed their customary magic of turning our schools inside out and cleaning them top to bottom. Additionally, they have been working on one of the internal courtyards to create space for our students to engage in garden club activities and maybe even some outdoor learning opportunities as well. Finally, we have a new shed at our Mill Road parking lot for our SACC and Community Events programs that will allow for additional storage of materials for things such as our school plays.

I would like to encourage everyone to support our Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO). They are always looking for ways to give back to our schools and appreciate all of the help they can get from volunteers. If you are interested in participating in PTO, please visit their link at ncs-ptboard.com. You may also email the PTO at pto@ncs-nj.org.

I continue to invite everyone to visit our website at www.ncs-nj.org to receive the most up to date information of the great things happening in our schools. You can also like us on Facebook or Twitter. Of course you can always contact me by phone at (609) 407-4000, email (pbretones@ncs-nj.org), or by setting up an appointment with my Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Tina Guetzlaff.

Respectfully,

Pedro P. Bretones
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Superintendent of Schools

"Children First"