Norwell Middle School
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Norwell Middle School • Norwell Public Schools • 328 Main Street • Norwell, MA 02061 • v:781.659.8814 • f:781.659.8822 • norwellschools.org/nms

It is our vision that students will....experience their classrooms as stimulating, even inspiring environments – places they look forward to going to and places they hate to leave.

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2025

A Message from the Principal …. *Mr. Dupille*

Welcome classes of 2030, 2031, and 2032! As we embark on a new school year, we are very excited about the opportunities for the upcoming year. We are planning excellent after-school activities, and are thrilled to have our students coming back to the classrooms. Highlights of upcoming activities include: Welcome Back Team Day Event on Friday (9/5), 6th grade Fun Day, 7th grade field event, Haunted Hallows, Turkey Trot, Turkey Bowl, NMS Talent Show, 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament, Production by the Spotlighters (Drama Club), Winter Concerts, over 25 clubs, and more! It is an exhilarating time to be at NMS.

Most importantly, we have put together a challenging and engaging curriculum for our students. It is our primary goal to ensure that each child has success throughout his/her educational experience at NMS. To achieve this, we ask for your support and assistance. Whether it be monitoring your child's work or communicating with your child's teacher, actively participating in your child's studies will have positive results. It is through our common commitments as a community that we can ensure success for all learners. I urge everyone in our school family to become an active member of the Norwell Middle School Community. It is the unifying strength of all the members of the community that helps to create a school of excellence. We strive to reach this goal collectively. NMS is committed to fostering open lines of communication with our students and their families. To that end, we offer the following vehicles for communication: NMS Website, Aspen (community emails and voicemails from NMS), weekly Parent Newsletter, staff email and voicemail accounts. Homework is posted on each teacher's Schoology site, and our teachers routinely post grades on Schoology for parents and students to review.

I would also ask everyone to consider becoming involved with our PTO, a very important organization within our school. Their fundraising efforts throughout the school year support numerous programs, including team experiential learning trips, the Welcome Back Team Day Event, and additional events throughout the year. The PTO's programs and activities enrich each child's experience here at NMS. They are currently looking for parent volunteers; please look to sign-up for one of the committees and help keep the organization strong nmspto@gmail.com

NMS is ready for the classes of 2030, 2031, and 2032! Thanks to the exceptional work of our custodial staff, office staff, support staff, administration and faculty, we have a pristine building, an excellent academic program, and we are ready to educate our students. I look forward to working with our dedicated staff to provide our students with the opportunities to reach the heights of their potential. We pride ourselves on fostering an educational environment that is both engaging and challenging.

TIPS TO HELP YOUR CHILD START THE SCHOOL YEAR STRONG

- Embrace routines
- Enforce bedtime
- Outline expectations

*Let's have a **GREAT 2025-2026** school year!*

August Open House (New Students & 6th Grade)
Tuesday, August 26, 2025

School will open for all 6th grade students, parents and new students on **Tuesday, August 26th.**

12:00 - 2:00 Open House (Afternoon)

Information, Schedules, Tours — **Administration, Office Staff & Grade 8 Student Volunteers**

- Student Packet for Orientation
  - Student schedule w/ homeroom
  - Locker Instructions
  - Grade level material list
  - Clubs/ Activities trifold
  - Map
  - Handbook Highlights
- Tours - 8th Grade Students
- PTO Information Table
- CORI for Parent Volunteers (Please bring ID for CORI form)
- Parent Sign-offs for Aspen (Community Room)
  - (Handbook, Student Technology Use, Pictures, etc.)

Support/Technology assistance — **Lobby / Staff**

- Bell Schedule / Student Schedule
- NMS Website and Aspen Log-in

5:00 - 7:00 Open House (Evening)

Information, Schedules, Tours — **Administration, Office Staff, & Grade 8 Student Volunteers**

- Student Packet for Orientation
  - Student schedule w/ homeroom
  - Locker Instructions
  - Grade level material list
  - Clubs/ Activities trifold
  - Map
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FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
Tuesday, September 2, 2025
SCHOOL OPENING AND BUS INFORMATION

School will open for all students on **Tuesday, September 2.** This will be a full day of school, and the cafeteria will be open. Student drop off at the middle school begins at 7:00 A.M. All bus routes and times for pick up are posted on our website shortly before the opening of school. Please review the **Morning and Afternoon Drop-off Procedures.**

Waterfall Daily Bell Schedule This link provides the times and periods for the waterfall schedule. Click on the tabs at the bottom to see the schedule for each of the grades, 6th, 7th & 8th.

BACK TO SCHOOL/CURRICULUM NIGHT

On Wednesday, September 17th, the middle school will host its annual **Back to School/Curriculum Night** at 6:00 P.M. This is a night for parents to meet with their child's teachers and become familiar with the school's various programs. The evening's activities are designed to provide overviews of course descriptions, team and classroom expectations, homework policies, and grading procedures. Always a favorite event, we look forward to your participation.

LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED?

The **Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)** is a working group of volunteers for the school. They help to plan and run school activities such as student recognition programs, field trips, fundraisers, special programs for parents, and community service initiatives. Meetings are usually held monthly at the Middle School (see their website for days and times).

*****IMPORTANT INFORMATION*****

If you plan to volunteer. PLEASE make sure your CORI is up to date and you have completed your fingerprinting. You can contact the main office at nms.mainoffice@norwellschools.org or call 781-659-8814 to inquire if your information is current. Click HERE to see Norwell's requirements for volunteering.

I am happy to introduce our New Staff for 2025-2026:

Dr. Nicole Pedro – Literacy Specialist

Dr. Pedro was employed as an Literacy Specialist at the Vinal Elementary School last year. She has over two decades of experience helping students grow into confident, successful readers.

Hello! My name is Dr. Nicole Pedro, and I'm thrilled to introduce myself as the new Reading Specialist at NMS. With 22 years of experience in education, I bring a deep passion for literacy and a commitment to helping every student grow as a confident, capable reader. I graduated from Providence College in 1999 and continued on to pursue a Master's degree in Reading, a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study (CAGS) in Literacy, and a Doctorate in Education. Throughout my career, I've worked with students from diverse backgrounds, helping them build strong foundational skills and develop a lifelong love of reading. In my new role, I'll be supporting students in small groups and through specialized reading instruction. I believe in meeting each student where they are. I'm excited to be part of the NMS community!

Mrs. Mary Cavanagh – Librarian

Greetings! I'm Mrs. Mary Cavanagh. This will be my 25th year teaching in Norwell Public schools. I was a classroom teacher for 13 years and then was the Librarian at the Vinal school for the past 10 years. I hold a Master's Degree in Elementary Ed. from Lesley University as well as a Certificate of Graduate Studies in Interdisciplinary Studies. I received my certification K-12 from Salem State and this past summer graduated from Berklee College of Music with a Bachelor's Degree in Interdisciplinary Music.

I am so excited to begin a new reading adventure at NMS! I look forward to seeing some familiar student faces and meeting new students. I am an avid reader of student age books and love to talk books with the students! My goal is to help every student to discover the book that makes them a reader for life!

Ms. Bethany Gavin –7th Grade Social Studies

Hello everyone. I am Bethany Gavin, the new 7th grade social studies teacher. I'm excited to be joining NMS this year. I graduated with my Bachelor's degree from Framingham State University in 2004 and received my Master's degree from Fitchburg State in 2009. I taught 7th grade for three years at Plymouth Community Intermediate School and for six years at Gates Middle School in Scituate. In addition to teaching at the middle school level, I have taught part-time for 14 years as an adjunct professor at Massasoit Community College. My husband and I live in Norwell with our three children, all of whom attend school in the district.

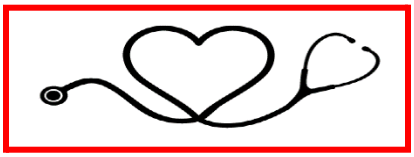
I bring decades of teaching experience and a strong understanding of how middle school students learn. I am committed to helping students explore the world and its history, while using my background in literacy to support their growth as readers, writers, speakers, and listeners. I'm really looking forward to the year ahead and am eager to work with the families in my community.

Ms. Dianne Uhlman –6th Grade English Language Arts

Hello Families, I am Mrs. Dianne Uhlman and I am so thrilled to be joining the Norwell Middle School community as an ELA teacher for grade 6. This will be my 21st year teaching in the Norwell Public Schools. Previously, I taught grades 3 and 5 at Cole School. I began my career in Dedham Public Schools and also served

as an Adjunct Faculty member at Lesley University and Wheelock College in their respective teacher's colleges.

I am passionate about teaching all things English Language Arts, and having taught on a team before in fifth grade, I am looking forward to the opportunity to work among such amazing educators at Norwell Middle School! I cannot wait to work with you and your sixth grade students this year, and also see many familiar faces around the hallways of NMS! Thank you for your support!



~From the School Nurse Jillian Young~

I hope you and your family have had a wonderful summer and enjoy the last days making sweet memories!
In planning for a smooth transition into the 2025-2026 school year, please review the important health services referenced below, that can be found in the Norwell Middle School Handbook:

- Emergency Contact Information Updates
- Guidelines for attendance when ill
- Prescription and Non- Prescription Medication in School
- Physical Examination and Immunization Requirements
- Health Screenings

***A reminder to parents/guardians of incoming 7th grade students**

Please submit an updated immunization history and physical examination to NMS before September 2, 2025.

***Allergy/Emergency Action Plans**

Please send in updated Allergy or Emergency Action Plans if your child has an allergy or diagnosis requiring emergency medication. This must be signed by your child's healthcare provider before the first day of school in September. For those students who have permission to self carry, please ensure the provider documents this authorization as "permission to self carry" on the action plan.

Lastly, in the event of new severe allergies, surgeries, accidents, or other health issues/concerns that occurred over the summer, please contact Jill Young: via telephone 781-659-8814 prompt 3 or by email jillian.young@norwellschools.org

Thank you for your time and attention to these matters and please reach out with any questions!

2025 IMPORTANT DATES

Aug	26	New Student Open House
Sept	2	First Day of School
	5	Team Day
	9	School Picture Day
	12	PTO Meeting - 9:15 am
	16	Back to School/Curriculum Night

2025 IMPORTANT DATES cont…

Oct	3	Term I Interim Reports
	13	Holiday - No School
	10 -13	No Homework Weekend
	17	PTO Meeting 9AM - NMS
	31	End of Quarter 1
	31	Costume Day

1) Aspen Parent Sign-offs: As you may recall from last year, we will once again be using a "Workflow" in the Aspen Parent Portal to collect the necessary information regarding handbook acknowledgements, parental permissions, updated health history, etc. This is **required** at the beginning of each school year for every student. Detailed instructions on completing this can be found HERE.

Students whose parents do not complete the sign off will not be able to pick up their Ipad (grades 6-8) and will not be included in any PTO sponsored school directories as both of these require acknowledgement from families.

Bus route information for your student can also be found when you log into Aspen.

2) Reminder about iPad distribution: This year we will be distributing the iPads during the first week of school for all students, grades 6, 7 & 8. **It is important to note that in order for a student to get the school-issued iPad the appropriate sign-offs will have to be completed in Aspen** (see directions above). The school handbook is available on the NMS website.

3) Map of the School: Please click HERE for a map of the school, which will help students locate their classes prior to the start of school.

4) Absences / Dismissals: If your child is going to be absent or dismissed, please call the School Absent Line x1206 to report the absence/dismissal or email the main office at nms.mainoffice@norwellschools.org as soon as possible. Click HERE for more details. We will be sending out additional information regarding our Attendance Policy and practices as we get closer to the start of the school year.

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS: The class supply lists are posted on the middle school website. Please remember to complete the summer reading and the math packet before the start of school.

Norwell Middle School
Staffing 2025 - 2026

	Team 6	Orange
102	Jeanine Ferris	Science
101	Dennise Uhlman	ELA
112	Denise Ryan	Math
111	Cori MacDonald	Soc Studies
113	Mark Brust	SPED

	Team 7	Green
201	Cindy DeBendicitis	Math
211	Veronica Browning	ELA
202	Alicia Johnston	Science
212	Bethany Gavin	Soc Studies
213	Caitlyn Fraser	SPED

	Team 8	Blue
237	Christine Bailey	Science
242	Gwenn Higgins	ELA
238	Rick Wolbach	Math
241	Rob Doran	Soc Studies
243	Cheryl Tobin	SPED

	Exploratory	
Com Rm	Tim Trenger	Health/PE
149	Maeve Murphy	STEM
150	James Morse	STEM
Lib	Mary Cavanagh	Library
153	Brittany Borchert	FCNE
	W. Language	
224	Laura Callahan	Spanish
203	Lisa Rodgers	Spanish
233	Alison Kelly	French
248	Joseph Davenport	Latin
Dist	**Charlotte Sturdy**	**ELL**
Dist	**Amy Chiano**	**Speech**

	Terri Smolinsky	Café Mngr
	Amal Jammal	Café
	Robin Gallagher	Café

Main Office

James Dupille	Principal
Ellen Murray	Asst. Principal
Jennifer Burke	Admin Asst
Lauren Hess	Clerical Aide
Officer Rick Phelps	SRO

Guidance

Alexis Rush	Guidance (A-K)
Lisa Sailer	Guidance (L-Z)
Elizabeth Schaeffer	Psychologist

Nurse

Jillian Young	Nurse

Special Education

Ellen Barnard	Aide
Judi Benzaquin	Aide
Juliana Fortes	Aide
Joanne Franzosa	Aide
Susan Scheller	Aide
Sean Sellon	Aide
Sarah Gilbert	Aide

Fine Arts

123	Mary Jo Running	Music
147	Tabitha Finn	Art

Wellness

Gym	Carolyn Petrell	PE

Supports

Lib	Jacqueline Carton	Math
144	Nicole Pedro	Reading

	Susan Hardiman	Café
	Coreen Samya	Café
	Xuan (Sue) Trac-Garzon	Café

	Team 6	Purple
109	Paula Rousselle	Soc Studies
117	Jennifer Marani	ELA
116	Abigail Kelleher	Math
108	Tara Coffey	Science
113	Jennifer Whitt	SPED

	Team 7	Gold
216	Julie Needle	ELA
209	Laura Dalton	Math
208	Jason Fraser	Science
217	Jason Amato	Soc Studies
213	Kacey Zych	SPED

	Team 8	Red
246	Terri Dsida	ELA
232	Marisa O'Connell	Math
231	Ronald Ricciarelli	Science
247	Matt Luccarelli	Soc Studies
243	Jennifer Schad	SPED

Bldg. & Grounds

CO	John Maurice	Maintenance
Day	Matt Casey	Custodian
Night	Billy King	Custodian
Night	Gerard Sheehan	Custodian
Night	Nelson Demorias	Custodian
Night	James McMahon	Custodian

	Judy Crooks	Director FS
	Maria Fanning	Asst.