



Northfield Community School District

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District Website: www.ncs-nj.org

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August 29, 2025

Dear Northfield Families,

I once heard that the best two days in a boat owner's life are the day they buy it and the day they sell it. The same could be said for the first and last days of summer break for educators. While the start of summer is wonderful, it can't compare to the excitement we feel as the end approaches and we prepare to welcome all of our students back. Each new school year brings opportunities to be realized, adventures to explore, and dreams to achieve. Though everyone should have received letters from their respective Principals, I want to reiterate that the first day of school for students will be a single session day on Friday, September 5, 2025. I look forward to seeing many of you as we start another great year together.

We will continue implementing the new English Language Arts (ELA) series, that was introduced last year, to deliver the ELA curriculum. After piloting several mathematics series last year, we decided to move forward with the Amplify Desmos series. To further prepare our teachers to maximize the benefits of the new series, they will be receiving professional development with our Math Coach in August and then with Desmos trainers in September. Our Math Coach will return in September to provide further professional development to our middle school, as well as our K-4 teachers.

We will continue partnering with NJ4S to support the social and emotional development of our students. Their extensive services include HIB-specific programming, which we will continue to reinforce. This year, we are also placing a strong focus on bike safety on our campus, including the use of e-bikes and e-scooters. Student assemblies will address this topic, and duty staff will be positioned around the campus to ensure compliance. I ask that everyone consistently remind students to walk any bikes, e-bikes, or e-scooters while on campus.

I am sorry to share that, due to factors beyond our control, the playground project was not completed before the school year began. After considering several options, we have decided to start the project over spring break, ensuring it will be finished before the end of the school year and providing the longest possible use of the playground. Other referendum-related projects—such as the security vestibule, locker rooms, library, and flooring updates—are scheduled for next summer. There is a possibility that student and staff bathrooms could be addressed during the school year, but this is not yet confirmed. Additional planned projects include the construction of the pole barn (yes, all that metal sitting on the concrete slab on the cul-de-sac side of the school) and the removal of the

"Children First"

greenhouse. Finally, our custodial and maintenance teams have 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.

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 website for more information, by clicking this link.](#) You may also email the PTO at pto@ncs-nj.org.

Our School Age Child Care (SACC) program begins on Friday, September 5th. Aftercare will run until 4:00 pm on Friday, September 5th, and until 6:00 pm starting on Monday, September 8th. Morning-care drop-off is at Door 15 (the gym door off of the field) and aftercare pick-up is at Door 9 (the door off of the cafeteria). SACC registrations will continue to be done online this year. [For more information about registering click this link.](#) More general information about the SACC program is available at <https://www.ncs-nj.org/departments/s-a-c-c> or please email Ms. Shoemaker at kshoemaker@ncs-nj.org if you have any questions regarding our SACC program.

Below are some important dates to put in your calendars (they can also be found on our website at <http://www.ncs-nj.org>):

- First day for students - Friday, September 5th (**SINGLE SESSION DAY**)
 - Middle School - 8:10 am - 12:50 pm
 - Elementary School
 - Preschool 8:40 am - 12:40 pm
 - K-2 8:30 am - 1:10 pm
 - 3-4 8:20 am - 1:00 pm
- Back to School Nights
 - Grades 1-2 - Monday, September 15th at 5:30 pm
 - Grades 3-4 - Wednesday, September 17th at 5:30 pm
 - Grades 5-6 - Tuesday, September 16th at 5:30 pm
 - Grades 7-8 - Thursday, September 18th at 5:30 pm

I'm excited to keep working alongside our families to ensure Northfield is a place where every child can learn, grow, and thrive!

Respectfully,



Pedro P. Bretones

Superintendent of Schools