N MINUTE

A MINUTE TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING @ NMS

"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

VOLUME: 4/ ISSUE: 6
DATE: 9-26-25

HEADLINES

WEEK AT A GLANCE
OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
UPDATES
KINDNESS CORNER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PICTURE RE-TAKE DAY will be on Wednesday, October 29th

Scan the QR code, or go to www.coffeepond.com and click the red banner that says "Order School Portraits & shop our exclusive products"

Late buses started the week of September 15th. Late nights are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. For more information about late buses see our **website**

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Week at a Glance

Reading Initiative (Flex Friday) -- -- NMS Reading Challenge. We are encouraging NMS students to read more! To help along the way, we will be devoting Friday Flextime to independent reading.

Virtual Author Visits (9/30) -- NMS has five virtual author visits hosted by Kwame Alexander (author of The Crossover) for the 6th grade. They will be reading The Crossover this fall with our ELA classes, so this is pretty exciting! The first meeting is on Tuesday, September 16th @1:00PM (Literacy Pep Rally).

> Author Study with Kwame Alexander is an interactive, virtual author visit series that brings Kwame Alexander and other notable authors into classrooms. And while it's fun for students, Author Study supports literacy learning goals. Most important, it celebrates the power of words and individual expression. Research shows that interaction with authors boosts students' motivation to read and write on their own. And agentive reading and writing leads to higher literacy achievement across subject areas.

Interim/Progress Reports will be published through the Aspen Portal on Friday, October 3rd. Please take some time to review this information with your child and have a discussion about how they are progressing in each of their classes.

After School Activities -- We are excited to begin our after-school offerings for this fall. Students can spend their time after school playing jazz, Dungeons and Dragons, strategic games, kickball, or participating in student government, community service, Investment Club, and more! To register for one of the exciting after school programs, simply click on the link below and that will bring you to our activities page on the NMS Website. Use the link to download and print the registration form. Students should then bring the form and payment to the main office no later than October 3, 2025. After school activities will begin on October 7th. Activities can fill quickly; please submit your form as soon as possible. Checks should be made payable to Norwell Middle School.

Click HERE to access the registration form for our full-year and/or current 6-week session activities

Technology Fee Payment

Norwell is offering a technology fee program to repair and/or replace a broken iPad. The program helps replace your child's iPad quick and efficiently withing a 24 hour period. The fee is $50 and can be paid online. Pay online here

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Peggotty Beach (9/26) -- 8th grade students explored erosion at Peggotty Beach today (Friday, Sept 26th).

Outdoor Classroom

CALENDAR

September

26 Peggotty Beach (8th Grade)
30 Virtual Author Visit
30 School Council 2PM

October

1 Early Release / PD
2 Fastbridge (Math)
3 Interim Reports Due
3 PTO Mtg @ 9:15AM
7 Fastbridge / Reading
8 District-wide PTO @ 9AM

"Identify your problems but give your power and energy to solutions."

PTO

PTO DUES -- We are requesting a contribution of $50 per child. 100% of student dues are directly applied to support the school, our staff, and our students. Learn more on our Website: NorwellMiddleSchoolPTO.org or on our Norwell Middle School PTO FacebookPage or Instagram!

The PTO spends an average of $68 per student each school year, but thanks to the annual NMS Turkey Trot 5k (on Sunday, November 23rd), we are able to keep our student dues relatively low, while providing support to our students, staff and NMS families.

The second PTO meeting of the year is FRIDAY, October 3rd @ 9:15am in the NMS Cafe or on ZOOM.

Veronica Carney & Ren Layne Co-Leads

KINDNESS CORNER

Nice Work on this bulletin board! Piper Gagnon, Claire D'Entremont & Beatriz Nogueira, created the board & invited Cole friend Kendall Djalassi for the pic.

Lots of grace going around this week. Thank you to Ben Zaval who invited a classmate to work in his group after noticing the student had some questions about what to do. Thank you to Ellery Harding for sharing her soccer team's uniform drive with the school community(stay tuned for more info). Aicha Moussabiah was recognized by teachers and peers as always saying hello and asking about how someone's day was. And thank you to the 8th grade boys at lunch for being inclusive when a classmate didn't have a spot to sit.

Don't forget to fill out the form below to give your friend/classmate a kindness shout-out!
NMS Acts of Kindness

Hughan Family
John Hughan Outdoor Classroom

Thank you all for joining us this afternoon to celebrate the official opening of the outdoor classroom. The idea of creating the outdoor classroom evolved from a conversation between John and his 8th grade ELA teacher, Mrs. Higgins. She had wanted an outdoor space where she could bring her classes throughout the year. John thought this was a great idea for his Boy Scout Eagle Scout Project. He created a plan and collaborated with many to bring his idea of an outdoor classroom to fruition. An important part of scouting is to learn and live by the Boy Scout Law which states, A Scout is: Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

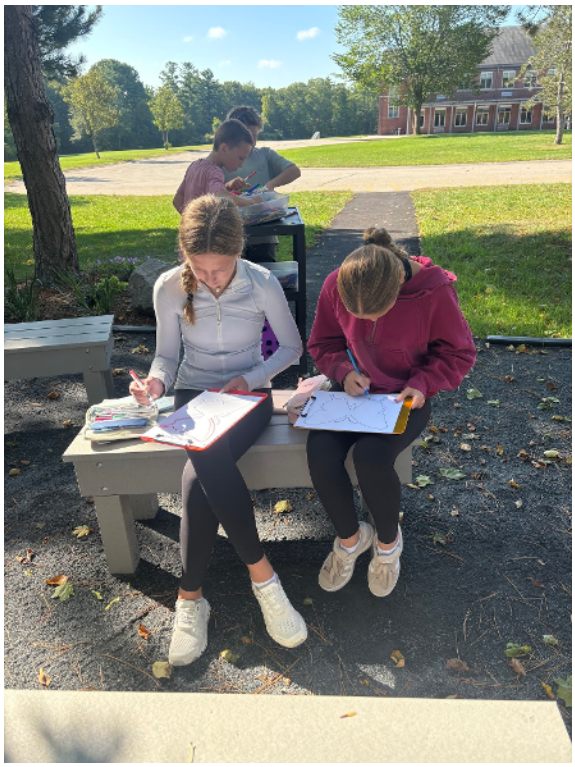
This outdoor classroom provides a space for learning where the Scout Law attributes that John learned can be followed by the students and teachers here at Norwell Middle School. The first one is being, Trustworthy- Students build trust with each other as they share ideas in this outdoor space, they collaborate, and take risks in their learning. Loyal- Just as Scouts stay true to their troop, students show loyalty to their peers and teachers by supporting one another's growth. Helpful- Outdoor learning often calls for teamwork-carrying supplies, sharing materials, and helping classmates problem-solve. Friendly- Nature naturally invites a spirit of connection. Students find friendship in group projects, discussions, and shared discoveries. Courteous- The students have respect for the space, their teachers, and one another and can put courtesy into action. Kind- Caring for living things in an outdoor setting reinforces kindness toward both the environment and people. Obedient- Just as Scouts follow guidance for safety and success, students listen to directions so the class functions smoothly. Cheerful- Learning outside brings joy, fresh air, and energy-making even challenges feel lighter. Thrifty- Students make the most of what they have, reusing materials and caring for resources wisely. Brave- Outdoor learning can stretch students out of their comfort zones- speaking up, trying something new, or tackling challenges. Clean- Students help keep the classroom space tidy and respect the natural environment around them. Reverent- Time outdoors inspires gratitude and reflection, encouraging reverence for nature, learning, and community.

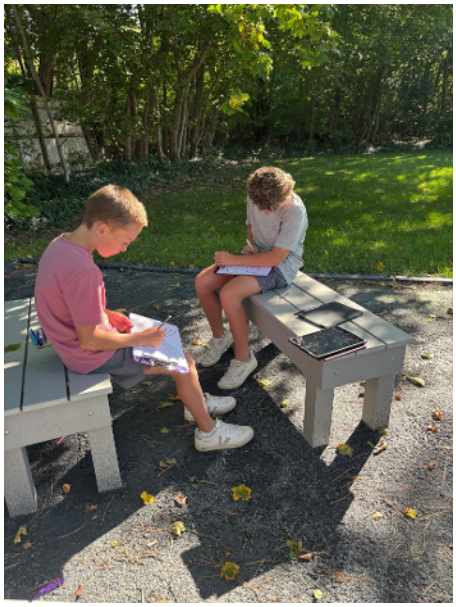
Our family and the John W. Hughan Foundation hope this outdoor classroom can be an engaging environment for students to come together to learn outside for years to come. We were so overwhelmed with the number of people who were willing to dedicate time and resources to finalize John's vision. Thank you to all who offered to help and to those who did help. In the program you can see the people and companies who were instrumental in this project. Each person or company played an important role and we are so appreciative. One of those people who played an important role is Gwenn Higgins. We would like to invite her up to share a few words.

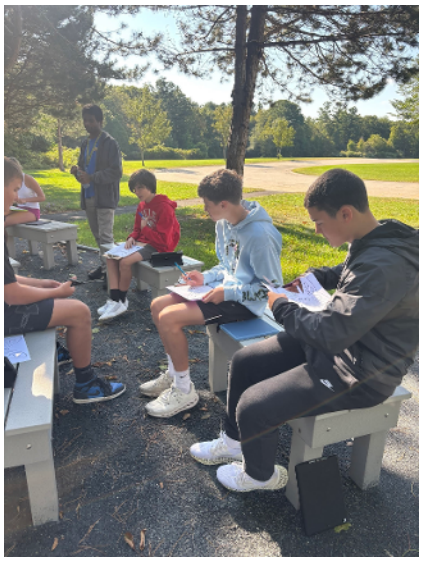
Work Hard. Be Kind.

Outdoor Classroom

Outdoor Classroom







Outdoor Classroom

James Dupille
John Hughan Outdoor Classroom

I'd like to thank everyone for joining us today for the opening of our middle school outdoor classroom.

Your presence means a lot as we celebrate this exciting new space for learning and growth.

We're grateful to have such strong support from our community—thank you for being a part of this special moment.

John's impact is felt all around us, and his influence will continue to shape our school, students, and community through the outdoor classroom we are here to open today. His influence lives on in the space we now have to learn, explore, and grow together.

We are deeply grateful to John for his vision and his unwavering desire to support and uplift those around him. His commitment to our school and community has left a lasting mark that will inspire thousands of students to come.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to Allison, Peter, the John Hughan Foundation, and everyone who worked tirelessly to bring John's dream to life. Your dedication has made this outdoor classroom a reality, and with it, you've honored a truly remarkable person in the most meaningful way.

Gwenn Higgins
John Hughan Outdoor Classroom

John Hughan outdoor classroom ribbon cutting
Monday, September 22, 2025

Hi, I'm Gwenn Higgins, John's 8th-grade English teacher, and someone who is really excited about this outdoor classroom. In 8th grade, our students write a series of poems. One option is an acrostic, or name poem. Today, I will read an acrostic poem about John with the help of the Sophomore Bench Building Team and John's sister, Emmeline. Thanks to Mrs. Finn and her art students for the memory stones that we will lay as part of this poem. Here goes…

J	**Joy:** We will remember John as someone who was kind, positive, and always smiling. Except maybe when I assigned poetry.
O	**Outdoors:** We spend about 90% of our time indoors; this classroom will bring us outside to learn under these trees without electronics. You're welcome, parents :-)
H	**Hard work:** John worked hard as a student, musician, athlete, and skipper. But I remember him working his hardest, trying to convince me that Georgia had a better lacrosse program than Syracuse. Sure, John 👌
N	**Norwell:** We live in a special community whose generous contributions helped make John's vision of an outdoor classroom a reality.
H	**Heart:** When designing these benches, John cut a sample size out of cardboard. He placed it on his kitchen floor and sat on it with his mom. They both agreed that the sample bench was just large enough for two students to sit together comfortably without touching. Something essential for middle schoolers! John designed this classroom with his head and with his heart.
U	**United:** United Church fostered John's faith and his passions for music and community service.
G	**Golden**: Ponyboy from *The Outsiders* claimed "nothing gold can stay," but this outdoor classroom is gold, and it's built to last.
H	**Honor**: We are here to honor John in a place where generations will benefit from his ambitious, thoughtful project.
A	**Accomplishment:** John reached the Boy Scouts' highest rank by fulfilling a series of rigorous requirements, including constructing this outdoor classroom. This is an accomplishment that only around 6% of Scouts achieve. Sorry, but that's pretty badass 💪
N	**Nature:** John researched this podium, those benches, and the ground coverings you see today. He met with school administrators, he met with Fergie, and he even presented to the school committee. All during his summer break! Who does that?! Someone like John. It was his nature.

Boo Bash (10/17)

Author Study w/ Kwame Alexander

Author Study with Kwame Alexander is an interactive, virtual author visit series that brings Kwame Alexander and other notable authors into classrooms. And while it's fun for students, Author Study supports literacy learning goals. Most important, it celebrates the power of words and individual expression.

Author Visits

During every 45-minute virtual live stream, students learn directly from celebrated, published authors. Each session includes...

- A book talk and read-aloud from a favorite book
- A brief writing craft lesson - with a handout emailed to registrants before and after
- A conversation with a special guest author (sometimes two!), with time for questions from students
- A live Q&A session with Kwame, taking select questions from attendees in the chat.

Research shows that **interaction with authors boosts students' motivation** to read and write on their own. And agentive reading and writing **leads to higher literacy achievement** across subject areas.

registration QR code

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT NORWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL !

REGISTER EARLY AND SAVE!

Register BEFORE OCTOBER 1st

$25 $5 FOR TEE

*Students $20

Register between Oct 1 - Oct 25th

$30 $10 FOR TEE

*Students $25

Register AFTER October 25th...

$40 $15 FOR TEE

*Students $30

Prizes for best BULE & GOLD and Turkey/ Thanksgiving Costumes!

NORWELL TURKEY TROT 5K RUN & WALK

Sunday, November 23rd

9:00AM KIDS RACES & TURKEY CHASE

$5 TO PRE- REGISTER - $10 WALK-IN REGISTRATION - TEE $10

*Meet at the Tennis Court Parking Lot

9:30AM 5K RUN & WALK

*The 5K Starts and Finishes at LOT A

Email: nmspto@gmail.com

Start/Finish @ Norwell High School
18 South Street, Norwell

Register here

NorwellTurkeyTrot2025.racewire.com

Hey Parents!!!

Flex Friday

Reading Initiative

Every Friday

Remind your student to pack a book for Flex Friday. During Flex Block, kids read a book they enjoy.

How else can I help?

1. Bring your student to the local library or go online to help them download high interest books and audiobooks.

2. Keep it going at home. Encourage reading as a daily habit.

KEEPING KIDS SAFE AND SECURE ONLINE:
A PROJECT SAFE CHILDHOOD PRESENTATION FOR PARENTS

Brought to you in collaboration by:
The United States Attorney's Office
&
Homeland Security Investigations

Wednesday, October 22, 2025 | 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Registration required - Log-in begins at 6:00 p.m.

Topics

Social Media 101/Digital Footprint
Sexting
Gaming
Victim Support
Protecting Against Online Predation
How to Keep Kids Safe Online

Panelists

Luke Goldworm, Assistant United States Attorney
United States Attorney's Office, Project Safe Childhood Coordinator

Andrew Kelleher, Special Agent
Homeland Security Investigations, Child Exploitation/Digital Forensics

Lauryn Mackey, Victim Witness Specialist
United States Attorney's Office

This presentation is for adults who wish to learn how to keep kids safe and secure online.
Content is inappropriate for young children.
Please be aware of who can see your screen and hear your audio!

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Event address for attendees (use **Chrome**!):
https://usao.webex.com/weblink/register/r8215d6b4baa3c0ebff54f9844c45790b
Password: PSC1
Questions or difficulty registering?
Please contact USAMA.PSCOutreach@usdoj.gov

Webex platform has a maximum capacity of 1000 attendees. If we have reached registration capacity, please email USAMA.PSCOutreach@usdoj.gov to be put on a waitlist for the next presentation.

Technology Fee Payment

Norwell Public Schools will continue offering an optional Technology Fee Program for iPad repairs and replacements. This program is geared toward quick and efficient student iPad replacement by swapping out the iPad within a 24-hour period. This fee is only for students in Middle and High School.

The fee is $50.00.

The initial Technology Fee can be paid online HERE or by check made out to the Town of Norwell with "tech fee and the name of the student" in the memo line.

The deadline for the 2025-2026 school year is September 30, 2025. The option to pay will not be available after that date.

Families have the option of obtaining private insurance coverage for iPads or selecting no coverage at all. To see the details for each of these coverages, please click HERE.

Morning Drop-Off and Afternoon Pick-Up Procedures and Helpful Tips

Morning Drop-Off Information and Procedures

- ❏ Parents can drop-off students as early as 7:00 AM as there is supervision by NMS staff in the cafetorium beginning at 7:00 AM
- ❏ Students need to be in their homeroom by 7:25; traffic has been heaviest at 7:20.
- ❏ Dropping students off earlier is recommended.
- ❏ When traffic is heavy, cars should pull as far forward as possible around the curve to the end of the canopy (closer to the Sparrell building). Students do not need to be dropped off right in front of the door.
- ❏ No car should park in the drop-off lane nor should a driver leave their car. If a student needs help carrying items into the school or the driver needs to exit the car, the car should be parked in the designated lot.

Afternoon Pick-Up Information and Procedures

- ❏ The school day ends at 1:58 PM. By nature of their schedule and location in the building, sixth grade students tend to leave the building first and seventh and eighth graders whose lockers are upstairs tend to leave the building a little later.
- ❏ Students exit from the front door or the cafetorium. Parents do not need to come into the building to pick-up their children after 1:58; students may exit the building for their ride.
- ❏ You do not need to pick-up your student right at 2:00. In the past, traffic has been heaviest between 1:50 - 2:10. If you can pick-up between 2:10 and 2:15, your entry and exit from the school parking lot will likely be quicker and you will contribute to less traffic.
- ❏ If arriving before 1:58, please follow traffic patterns and pull as far forward as possible to accommodate more cars.

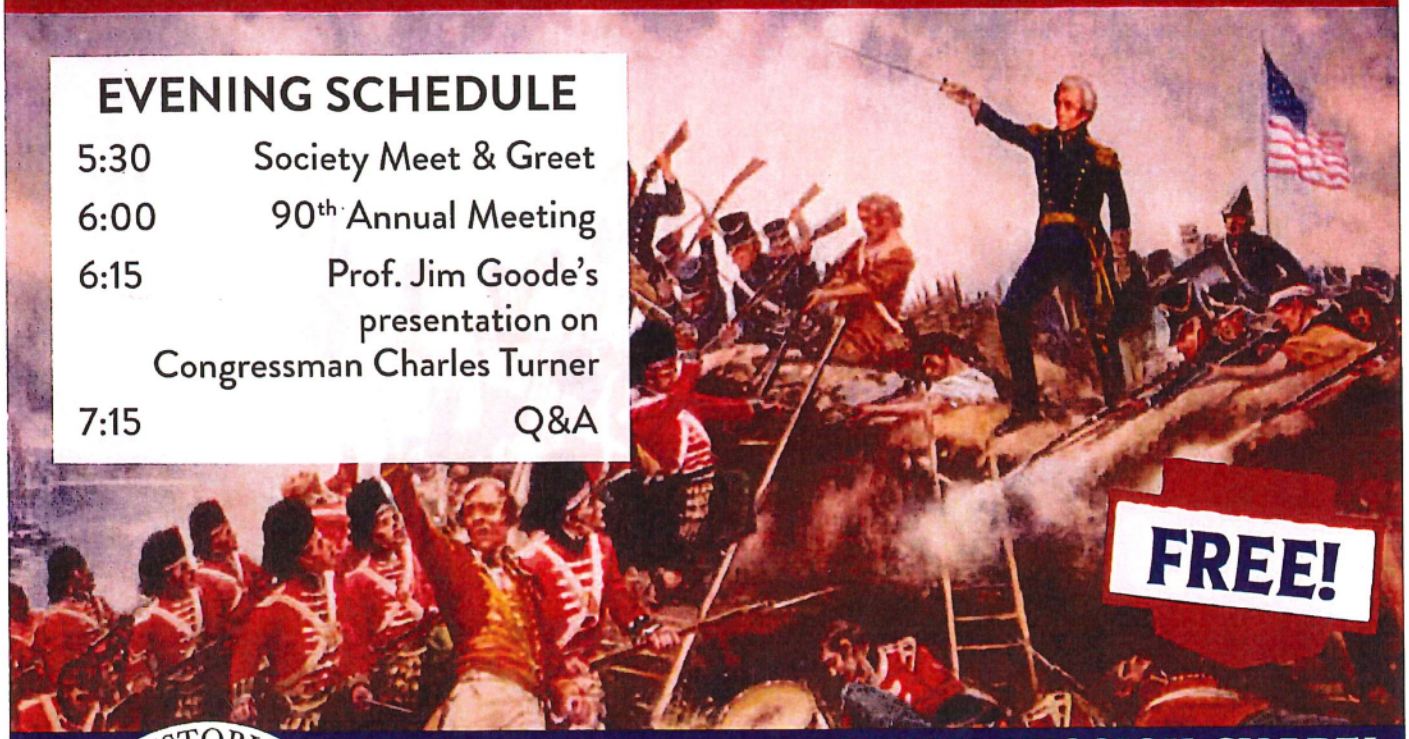
Additional Information

- ❏ As always, please drive slowly and cautiously. Be aware of students crossing the road to the parking lot areas.
- ❏ Be careful entering the school driveway from Main Street as cars leaving and turning left are in a left turn lane in the middle of the driveway.
- ❏ Drop-off and pick-up in front of the Sparrell building and on Main Street are not allowed.

Norwell's own # CHARLES TURNER

Congressional War Hawk from the War of 1812

Wednesday, Oct. 8th | 5:30–7:30 pm



EVENING SCHEDULE

5:30	Society Meet & Greet
6:00	90th Annual Meeting
6:15	Prof. Jim Goode's presentation on Congressman Charles Turner
7:15	Q&A

FREE!

at the **UNION MISSION CHAPEL**

315 OLD OAKEN BUCKET ROAD | SCITUATE

NORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY ★ Est. 1935 ★

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFO ☞

NORWELLHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

THE SOUTH SHORE'S CAN'T-MISS EVENT

Flannel Fest

Saturday, Oct. 4

3:-7:00 PM

The Tinker's Son

(inside and out)

🎶 Featuring Live Music: Wesley, The 155s & Road Soda

🎉 A Night of Great Fun!

🍹 21+ Event | 🎟️ $25 Tickets

✨ Raffles • Delicious Food • Good Vibes ✨

💥 Sponsorships available! Contact president@norwellboosters.org

Third Annual Norwell Conservation Day

Saturday September 27th 9AM to 1PM at Jacobs Pond

Exhibit Tables: learn more about the environment & these local groups
Blue Stem Natives - Creating wildlife friendly green spaces, using plants native to our area
FoxRock Farms - Educating the importance of natural habitats, pollination systems, & organic practices
Appalachian Mountain Club: Southeastern Chapter - Offering outdoor activities, including conservation, hiking, biking, paddling, skiing, & more!
Mass Audubon - Protecting the nature of Massachusetts for people & wildlife
WildCohasset.org - Saving native plants & the wildlife that rely upon them
Four Corner Supply Co. - Providing the community with sustainable products & bulk options
Norwell Recreation - Year-round activities for all ages
Norwell Public Library - Committed to conservation through its seed library, events, & art exhibits

Join the many outdoor & hands on Activities to experience all that Jacobs Pond has to offer
South Shore YMCA Nature Center - Edge of Pond, Hands On Ecology. Get up close with the species that live in Jacobs Pond. This is great activity for young explorers.
9:30AM and 11:30AM - Join **Mass Audubon** for an educational nature walk around Jacobs Pond (~45-minute walk, max 20 people per walk).
Join the **Norwell Historical Society** for the Grand Opening of the **Joshua Jacobs Homestead Trail** & learn about the history of the farm and the property.
Learn about fire and outdoor safety, come touch-a-truck, & more, with **Norwell Police & Fire**.
9AM to 1PM - **Face Painting** with **Natali Eaton**.
10AM to 1PM - **Live Music** from **Joe Armstrong** & his students.
10AM to 1PM - **Loco Larry's Taco Truck**, food provided by Conservation for the first 50 people (while supplies last!!).

Hosted by Norwell Conservation Commission & the South Shore YMCA Nature Center

Norwell Public Library's 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SAVE THE DATE:

Sat, October 18, 2025
2:00 – 3:00pm

For all ages! Join us for cake, balloon animals, face painting, and more!

NPL FOUNDATION

GET LOUD AT THE LIBRARY!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18th

5:30-7:30 pm

Please join us for an adults-only event to re-launch the Norwell Public Library Foundation!

- AGE 21+
- MUSIC
- FOOD
- RAFFLES

... and ALL SORTS OF OTHER TYPICAL LIBRARY NO-NO'S!

REGISTER HERE!

CHEERS TO 50 YEARS!

Celebrating Norwell Public Library's Golden Birthday

HAVE USED OR UNWANTED MARKERS, PENS

WOODEN OR MECHANICAL PENCILS?

The Norwell Recycling and Sustainability Committee sponsors a project to recycle used or unwanted crayons, markers, pens and wooden, colored and mechanical pencils. We are working in partnership with Staples, as these materials are part of their extensive list of materials that can be dropped off at their stores for recycling.

Collection boxes are located at-

Grace Farrar Cole School

William G. Vinal School

Norwell Middle School

The Accord School

First Parish PreSchool

Ridge Hill School

Norwell Public Library

Norwell Council on Aging

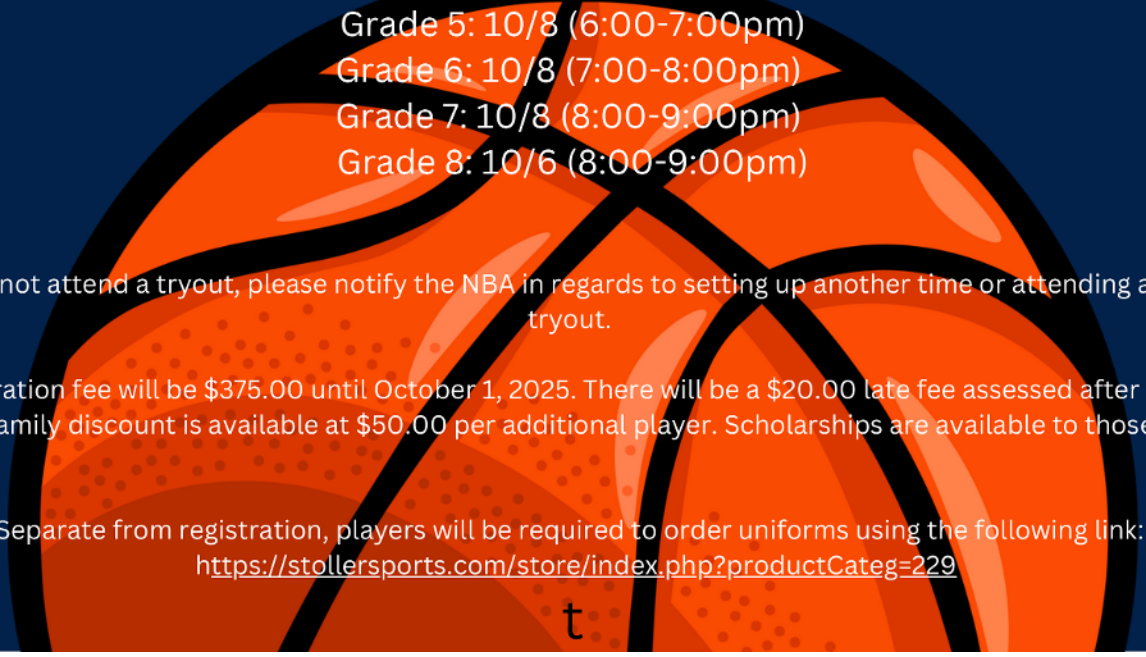
NORWELL BOYS BASKETBALL TRYOUTS

REGISTER AT Norwelltravelbball.com or by using the following link:

https://norwelltravelbball.sportngin.com/register/form/752174041

Tryouts will take place at the following times. Please register prior to tryouts by October 1, 2025. All tryouts will take place at Norwell High School.

Grade 3: 10/6 (6:00-7:00pm)
Grade 4: 10/6 (7:00-8:00pm)
Grade 5: 10/8 (6:00-7:00pm)
Grade 6: 10/8 (7:00-8:00pm)
Grade 7: 10/8 (8:00-9:00pm)
Grade 8: 10/6 (8:00-9:00pm)



If you cannot attend a tryout, please notify the NBA in regards to setting up another time or attending a different tryout.

The registration fee will be $375.00 until October 1, 2025. There will be a $20.00 late fee assessed after October 1, 2025. A family discount is available at $50.00 per additional player. Scholarships are available to those in need.

Separate from registration, players will be required to order uniforms using the following link:
https://stollersports.com/store/index.php?productCateg=229

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