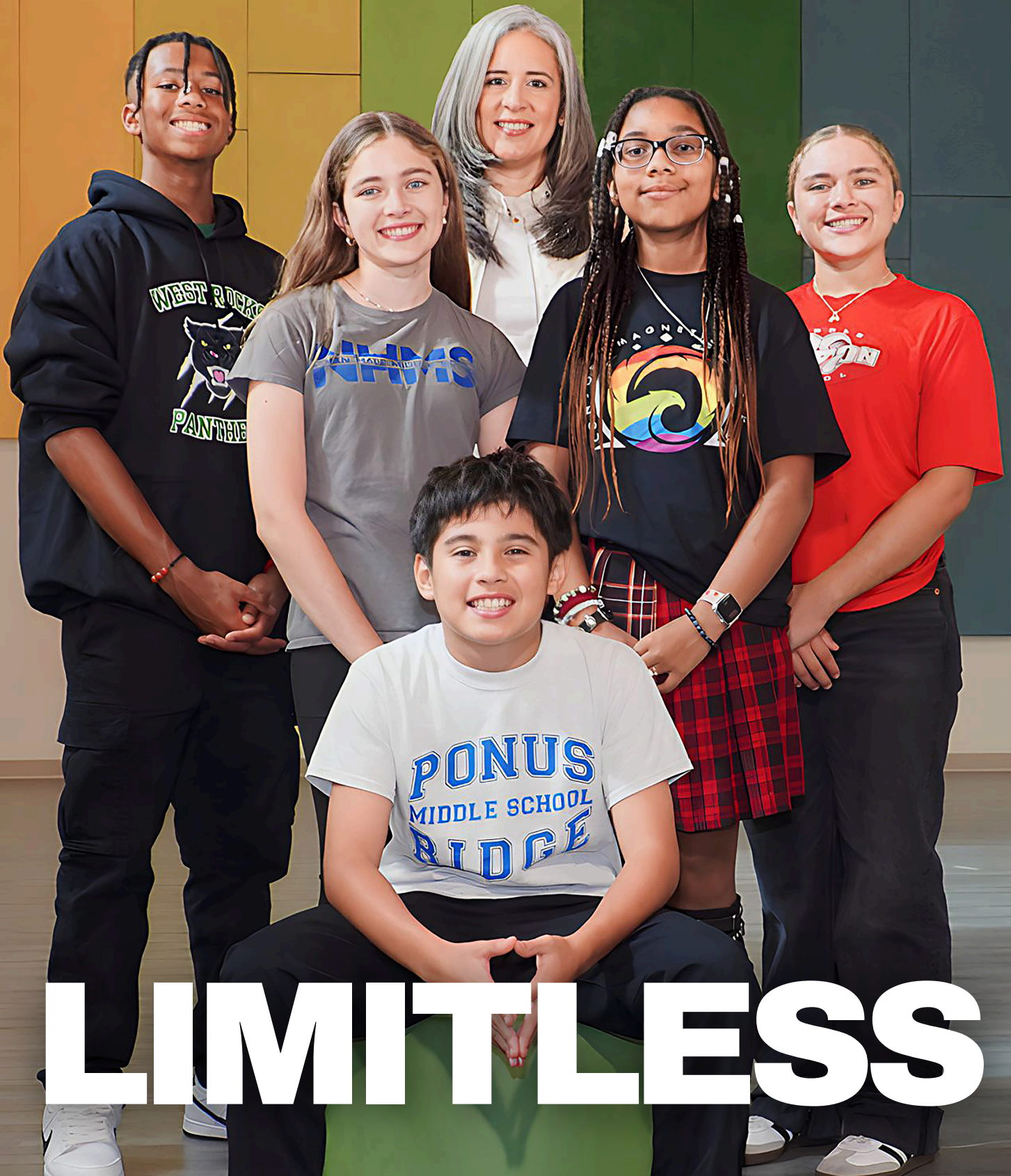


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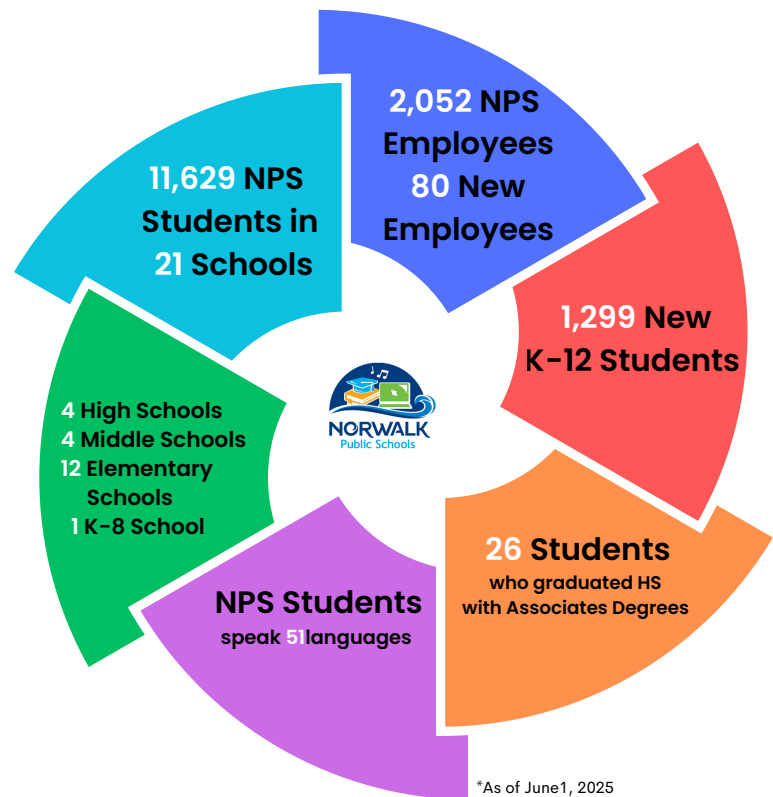
NORWALK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

STATE
OF THE
SCHOOLS
2025
EDITION



LIMITLESS

AT A GLANCE



HIGHLIGHTS



AWARD-WINNING EDUCATORS

Norwalk Public Schools is proud to celebrate staff recognized at the state and national levels. Dr. Damon Lewis, principal of Ponus Ridge, was named 2025–26 National Middle School Principal of the Year by NASSP and honored by the Connecticut Association of Schools. Brien McMahon's LaShante James was named 2025 High School Assistant Principal of the Year. Marine Science Coordinator John Foldeak received the Babu George STEM Award, and Jefferson teacher Diane Walker earned both the Elementary Excellence in Science Teaching Award and the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching from the Connecticut Science Teachers Association.



ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

At Norwalk Public Schools, learning extends far beyond the classroom. Marine Science Pathway students restored local salt marshes and released baby trout into local waterways. Norwalk High School's Digital Media Academy toured their new building site and interviewed construction managers, while Brien McMahon High School's Healthcare Academy welcomed the president of Norwalk Hospital to share insights into careers in healthcare. These experiences reflect the district's commitment to providing rich, career-connected learning opportunities that bring academics to life and prepare students for success beyond graduation.



ARTS & ATHLETICS

From athletics to the arts, Norwalk Public Schools students shined in every arena this year. The Norwalk High School Bowling Team captured the state championship, led by standout captain Cephus Beatty. In the performing arts, the Brien McMahon Marching Band and Guard and Norwalk High Percussion were promoted to higher competition classes, and the Norwalk High Marching Band and Guard returned to Walt Disney World to perform. Theater students earned top honors at several Connecticut Drama Association competitions and the annual Halo Awards.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Gaining an education opens the door to limitless possibilities for our children. The skills they develop in the classroom provide the foundation for countless opportunities, while the relationships built with peers, teachers, and staff nurture the social and emotional growth needed to navigate an ever-changing world.

Every day in Norwalk Public Schools, we see our scholars demonstrate what it means to be limitless through their boundless potential, resiliency, creativity, and leadership. They inspire us with their drive to pursue new challenges and their ability to achieve without bounds.

As superintendent, one of the greatest privileges I have is witnessing these breakthroughs. Each year brings the next achievement, the next innovation, and the next scholar who reaches beyond expectations to realize their full potential. I am humbled by the dedication of our educators and staff, who work tirelessly to guide our students on their journey and prepare them for the future.

This year, we continue our commitment to the Portrait of a Graduate, ensuring that every scholar graduates Future Ready as civically responsible, globally engaged, and prepared to contribute positively to a diverse world.

Building upon the foundation of critical thinking established last year, we will now focus on scholars demonstrating the skills they learned through effective communication, empowering our scholars to share their voices and ideas with confidence.

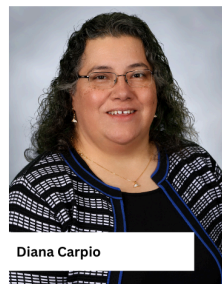
Together, we look ahead to a year filled with limitless opportunities for our scholars, families, and staff. The future truly has no bounds.



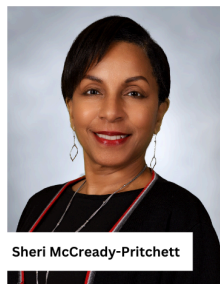
DR. ALEXANDRA ESTRELLA
Superintendent
Norwalk Public Schools

2025 BOARD OF EDUCATION

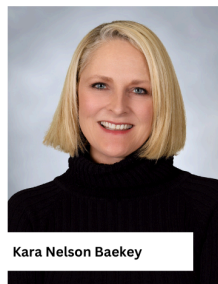
We are grateful to all of our Board of Education members who volunteer their time and commitment as elected officials in service to our schools and students. To contact the Board of Education, email board@norwalkps.org.



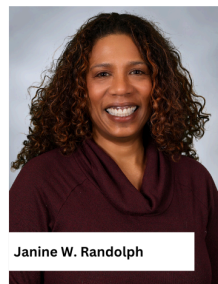
Diana Carpio



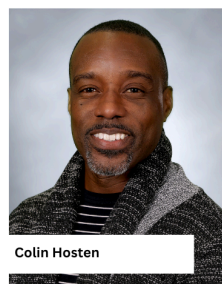
Sheri McCready-Pritchett



Kara Nelson Baekey



Janine W. Randolph



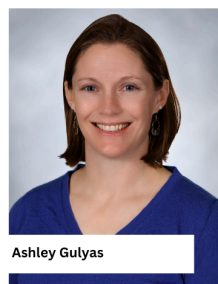
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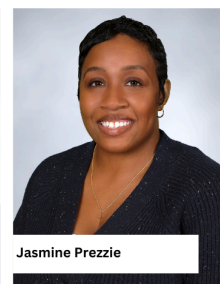
Mary Ellen Flaherty-Ludwig



Howard White



Ashley Gulyas



Jasmine Prezzie

**Norwalk
Public
Schools
Board of
Education**

Grace Riznyk
Nathan Hale Middle School

Grace is admired for her resilience and her kindness. She embraces challenges with courage and sees setbacks as chances to grow. Teachers and classmates alike look to her for support, knowing that she leads with empathy and lifts others up along the way.

SHANEL HALL-REYES
Concord Magnet School K-8

For Shanel, the arts are a way to shine and to connect with others. She has stepped into the spotlight in school and community plays and writes her own music with courage and creativity. Her talent and openness make her a role model for classmates who value expression and positive mental health.

DEREK SMITH
West Rocks Middle School

Derek's journey shows the power of perseverance. After working through early challenges, he now excels in advanced math and gifted programs, earning recognition in the National Junior Honor Society. He is a friendly face in student council, a determined runner, and a teammate who leads by example.



LIMITLESS

RUBY RICE
Roton Middle School

Ruby excels in advanced STEM courses while leading on the field as a standout athlete for the Lady RAMS. A two-time IB Citizen of the Month and Emerging Leader Award recipient, she mentors peers through My Sister's Keeper and inspires others with her drive, talent, and character.

DANIEL MARTINEZ
Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy

Daniel is known as someone his school can count on. Whether it is supporting technology needs, playing soccer with heart, or making the honor roll each quarter, he brings focus and dedication to everything he does. His curiosity about technology and his ability to problem solve have already made him a leader among his peers.



lim·it·less *adjective* / without limit / boundless

Every day, our students show boundless potential with perseverance, creativity, resilience, and leadership in all they do. At Norwalk Public Schools, students are exploring the next frontier in AI technology, advocating for change at the state and national level, supporting their peers' mental health and wellness, excelling in arts and athletics, and giving back to their communities. They're not waiting until graduation to make a difference. For them, the time is now to make an impact and show that they are limitless.

This year, the NPS State of the Schools spotlights our middle school students as they begin discovering just how limitless their future can be.

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE PHASE II

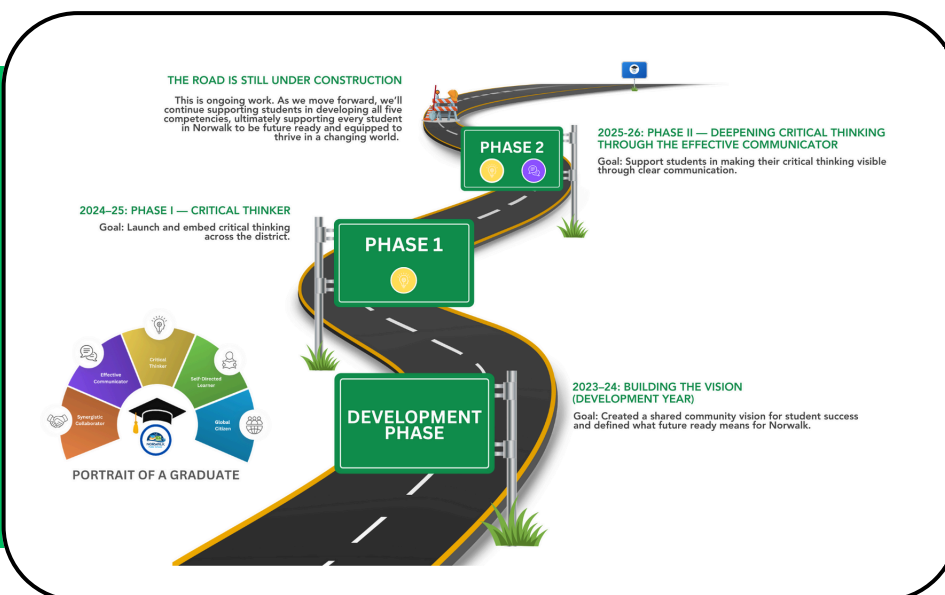
DEEPENING CRITICAL THINKING THROUGH EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

At Norwalk Public Schools, we believe in the power of our best. That belief lies at the heart of our Portrait of a Graduate. As our world continues to shift before our eyes, communication and critical thinking have never been more essential. The Portrait of a Graduate serves as our guiding star, shaping how we prepare students to thrive in life, college, and career. This year, we are strengthening our critical thinking foundation by launching Phase II of the Portrait of a Graduate, with an emphasis on developing effective communication skills to make our critical thinking visible.

WHERE WE ARE GOING

This year, we are focused on supporting students' communication skills, as communication is a key part of how students learn and connect with others. Students will practice effective communication by:

- Actively engaging with others.
- Tailoring their communication to different audiences.
- Clearly and persuasively expressing their ideas.



PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE ROADMAP

Norwalk Public Schools is paving the way for all students to become future ready. This roadmap highlights the milestones we've reached and the path ahead in our Portrait of a Graduate journey.

WHERE WE'VE BEEN

Last fall, we launched the Portrait of a Graduate with an emphasis on critical thinking. Over the course of the year, we listened closely to our students, families, and staff. More than 1,600 Norwalk Public Schools staff members and families participated in surveys, and over 120 students and staff took part in focus groups.

We found that students of all ages are engaging in more critical thinking learning opportunities than ever before. For example, one educator mentioned in the focus groups that she's changed her questioning practices to include higher-level questions that require students to engage in more productive struggle. She shared, "...what I've found is all of a sudden, there's a lot more laughter, a lot more questions...it's turning out to be, you know, actually more fun."

We also learned that it's not enough for students to think critically; they also need to be able to explain their ideas in ways others can understand. That is where effective communication comes in.

Communication skills are vital across all subjects. Whether students are discussing a math strategy, writing a science explanation, or working on a group project, they will have opportunities to practice communicating with clarity, empathy, and confidence.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT

Families and caregivers play a key role in helping students develop these essential skills. You can support your child by:

- Encouraging them to explain their thinking or point of view
- Asking follow-up questions during conversations
- Reflecting together when a misunderstanding happens

JOIN US ON THIS EXCITING NEXT CHAPTER

We are excited to continue along this journey with our scholars, educators, families, and community. Together, we can unlock the potential of our best.

LEARN MORE

To learn more about the Portrait of a Graduate and how to support your child at home, visit www.norwalkps.org.

AI & DIGITAL LEARNING

INNOVATE. INCLUDE. INSPIRE. THE NPS JOURNEY INTO AI AND DIGITAL LEARNING

Norwalk Public Schools is embracing the future by integrating AI technologies across classrooms to enrich teaching and learning while ensuring equitable access to technology for all students. A major milestone includes aligning the district's Portrait of a Graduate competencies with Digital Promise's AI Literacy Framework, and embedding AI understanding and responsible use into the curriculum from elementary through high school.

NPS remains a proud member of the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools, a national network of forward-thinking districts committed to leveraging research and technology to improve learning outcomes. The district presented its AI initiatives at the League of Innovative Schools Conference in Pittsburgh in 2024.

To support digital inclusion, all NPS middle schools and high schools participate in Verizon Innovative Learning Schools (VILS). In partnership with Digital Promise, VILS provides free devices, internet access, and STEM learning opportunities, helping remove barriers and ensuring students are equipped to succeed in a rapidly evolving, tech-driven world. The deployment and training success rates of the VILS program are used as a metric to measure progress towards enhanced digital learning and professional development.

WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED

Over the past year, Norwalk Public Schools has made significant strides in digital learning and AI integration. A major focus has been on developing and implementing AI initiatives within the district. We've established an AI Working Group, developed an AI District Guidebook, and created student-facing and teacher-facing AI guidelines. We also created a Digital Equity AI Framework to ensure responsible and equitable use of AI.

We've also worked to deepen the alignment of AI and critical thinking with our Portrait of a Graduate (PoG). The Digital Literacy curriculum has been updated to include lessons on AI use. Our coaches have also collaborated with the social studies department to develop resources, including chatbots, to integrate inquiry and critical thinking into instruction.

In addition, our work on AI initiatives has been recognized, leading to several opportunities to share our progress and insights. We presented at the State Board of Education Annual Conference and the League of Innovative Schools Conference. We are also scheduled to present at the Aurora Conference on our work with the Portrait of a Graduate and AI literacy integration.

WHERE WE ARE GOING

Building on our progress, our goals for the upcoming year focus on advancing AI professional learning and integration. We plan to expand our catalog of AI-integrated courses and professional development opportunities for staff and track their participation and feedback.

Another major goal is to deepen the alignment of AI and critical thinking and effective communicator with the Portrait of a Graduate (PoG) competencies. We will develop and share additional resources that support AI and critical thinking integration across various subjects. We will also provide targeted professional learning on how to assess PoG competencies within AI-integrated lessons.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The successful integration of AI requires a collaborative effort from the entire Norwalk Public Schools community:

FOR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

- **Stay Informed:** Refer to the NPS AI Guidebook and the district's AI Information Hub for transparent information about AI usage, data privacy safeguards, and resources.
- **Engage in Discussions:** Talk with your children about responsible AI use, emphasizing ethical decision-making, critical evaluation of AI content, and the importance of original thought and creativity.
- **Participate:** Attend district-provided family workshops and informational sessions to deepen your understanding of AI technologies and ethical integration.
- **Provide Feedback:** Your input is valued. Participate in community feedback channels to share your perspectives and help shape future AI initiatives.

As we continue this transformative journey, Norwalk Public Schools remains committed to preparing students for a future shaped by innovation, equity, and ethical technology use. Together with our educators, families, students, and community we will strive to make sure that every learner is empowered to thrive in an AI-driven world.

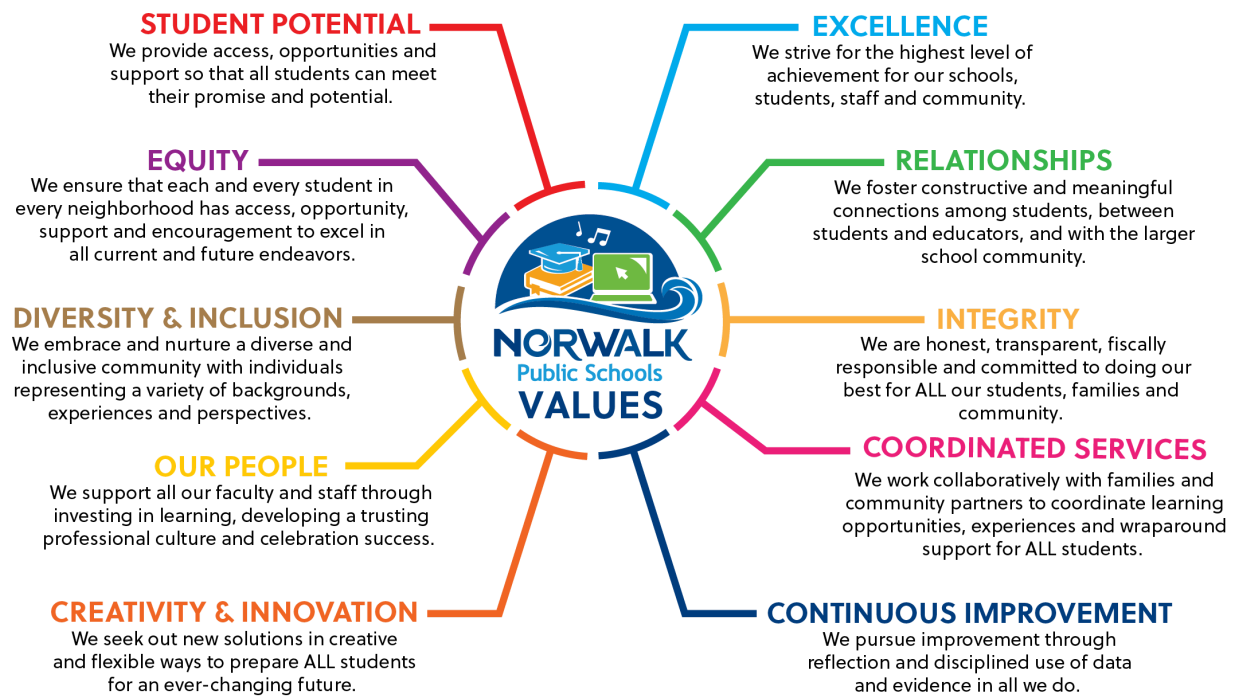
LEARN MORE

To learn more about Digital Learning at NPS and AI, visit www.norwalkps.org or scan the QR code.



THE FRAMEWORK

FOCUSES ON 10 CORE VALUES



OUR MISSION

Norwalk Public Schools provides an excellent and equitable education, so ALL students graduate future-ready as civically responsible, globally engaged and positive contributors to an ever-changing and diverse world.

OUR VISION

Norwalk Public Schools is building a more equitable and just world where each and every Norwalk student is prepared for all aspects of life.

OUR COMMITMENT

OUR WORK IS GUIDED BY OUR STRATEGIC PLAN AND PRIORITIES.
WE ARE STEADFAST IN OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR SCHOLARS.



5 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

EXCELLENCE

Achieve excellence in all aspects of our organization through effective systems, modern learning environments and continuous improvement process

ENGAGEMENT

Ensure all children, families, team members and the community are informed, are involved and feel welcomed in our schools.

FUTURE READINESS

Prepare all students so they are ready for further education, career and workplace opportunities and globally engaged leadership.

EQUITY

Ensure equitable opportunities, facilities, experiences and outcomes for all students.

HIGH-QUALITY INSTRUCTION & SUPPORT

Foster relevant and intellectually stimulating learning with targeted supports that produce social, emotional and academic growth.

5 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 1

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Future Readiness
- Education & Career Pathways

FUTURE READINESS

Prepare all students so they are ready for further education, career and workplace opportunities, and globally engaged leadership.

ACTIONS



Define Future Readiness.

Collaborate with students, employers and postsecondary education providers to understand the skills and competencies necessary for success after graduation, and to articulate pathways for successful educational and career outcomes.



Provide Aligned Advising.

Ensure students receive college and career advising, leading students to make informed academic and career decisions.



Strengthen Student Success Plans.

Strengthen individualized student success plans so they address every student's needs and interests, help students stay connected in school, and support students in achieving post secondary educational and career goals.



Ensure Access to Early Postsecondary Opportunities.

Build on Norwalk's leadership in career pathways to strengthen student awareness, access and employer involvement.

PRIORITY 2

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Intervention Supports
- Communication for Access and Opportunity
- Policy

EQUITY

Ensure equitable opportunities, facilities, experiences and outcomes for ALL students.

ACTIONS



Develop System of Student Supports.

Develop and continually refine a district-wide tiered system of support that includes defining academic and behavioral tiers available and processes for utilization.



Design and Implement Professional Learning.

Develop and implement a professional learning system focused on expanding cross-cultural competency to replace bias-based beliefs.



Improve Communication with Families.

Enhance communication systems by expanding virtual communication and the use of translation services, and by establishing a central source for information on enrollment in magnet, gifted, honors and AP courses, and the special education evaluation process.



Ensure Parent Participation in School Governance.

Improve the process of parent participation in school leadership opportunities and ensure parent participation is representative of racial/ethnic student enrollment.

**Create and Expand Choice.**

Expand themes, pathways and programs to provide increased opportunities for students.

**Define and Broaden Global Citizenship.**

Create learning experiences that foster the knowledge, skills and self-awareness necessary for students to assume globally engaged leadership during and beyond their school years.

THEORY OF ACTION

If we clarify and focus on the skills and competencies most essential for success in college, career and globally engaged leadership, and if we can create the pathways and opportunities to grow those skills and competencies, then we can expand the number of students who graduate future ready.



Develop an Equity Policy. Develop an equity policy and statement that reflects a commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity.

THEORY OF ACTION

If we identify and address the root causes of inequity and disproportionality, we can create a district where each and every child experiences success.

PRIORITY 3

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Learning Environments Systems
- Performance Management

EXCELLENCE

Achieve excellence in all aspects of our organization through effective systems, modern learning environments and continuous improvement processes.

ACTIONS



Modernize and Maintain Facilities.

Enhance buildings and school facilities to create conditions conducive to instructional innovation and learning for all.



Create Future Ready Tracking System.

Build an early childhood-to-career data system that protects privacy, ensures transparency, and provides the information our educators, students and families need to keep our learners on track.



Enhance and Align Organizational Systems.

Develop and improve the effectiveness and alignment of district and school systems to improve services, communication and outcomes.



Implement a School Improvement System.

Implement a school improvement system based upon cycles of planning, measuring outcomes, analyzing results and adapting strategies.

PRIORITY 4

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Communication
- Coordinated Services
- Community Partnership

ENGAGEMENT

Ensure all children, families, team members and the community are informed, are involved and feel welcome in our schools.

ACTIONS



Enhance Communications.

Ensure effective, consistent and culturally responsive communications with students, families and community stakeholders.



Innovate and Refine Family Engagement.

Develop creative, intensive and research-based ways of engaging families from all backgrounds.



Launch Family Center. Engage families through their child's academic years with a central hub that provides access to information and district services, offers programs and activities to support families, and facilitates connections to community resources.



Promote a Collaborative Workplace.

Build a supportive professional culture and ensure that our systems both keep employees fully informed and provide opportunities for them to provide meaningful feedback.

PRIORITY 5

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Curriculum
- Educator Growth

HIGH QUALITY INSTRUCTION & SUPPORT

Foster relevant and intellectually stimulating learning with targeted supports that produce social, emotional and academic growth.

ACTIONS



Ensure Relevant Curricula for ALL Students.

Audit and ensure a K–12 curricula consistent with the skills and competencies necessary for students to graduate future ready.



Integrate Social and Emotional Learning.

Embed the social and emotional skills and supports necessary for wellness and success in school, the workplace, relationships and citizenship.



Develop System of Student Supports.

Develop and continually refine a district-wide tiered system of support that ensures student academic growth and success for each and every Norwalk child.



Strengthen Instruction.

Enhance student engagement and deepen learning by strengthening Tier 1 instruction and customizing learning experiences according to interests and goals.



Enhance Performance Management

System. Develop an employee evaluation system that supports personnel professional development through a process of effective feedback.



Build a Research and Evaluation

Department. Develop the organizational capacity to link, analyze and report critical data on student plans, progress and supports across systems and through student transitions.

THEORY OF ACTION

If we develop a continuous improvement process anchored in clear priorities, use of data, and improvement routines, we can create a professional culture of excellence and get better at getting better; and if we align the structure of the organization to our priorities while fostering strong systems and standard operating procedures, we can ensure alignment and coherence, and reduce variation across the district.



Partner for a Stronger Tomorrow.

Work with philanthropic and community organizations to build a stronger school system and a better future for all students.



Leverage Student Voice.

Enhance the learning experience by creating systems that ensure diverse and authentic perspectives from students across the district.

THEORY OF ACTION

If we partner with students, families and the community and communicate effectively, we can create a district that is more welcoming, inclusive and effective.



Enhance Instructional Assessment

System. Refine and broaden the assessment system to understand student learning and achievement, support school improvement cycles and produce timely information that can drive instruction.



Invest in Educator Capacity.

Design a professional learning system that promotes educator collaboration and is focused on the competencies and perspectives most essential to ensuring all students graduate future ready.

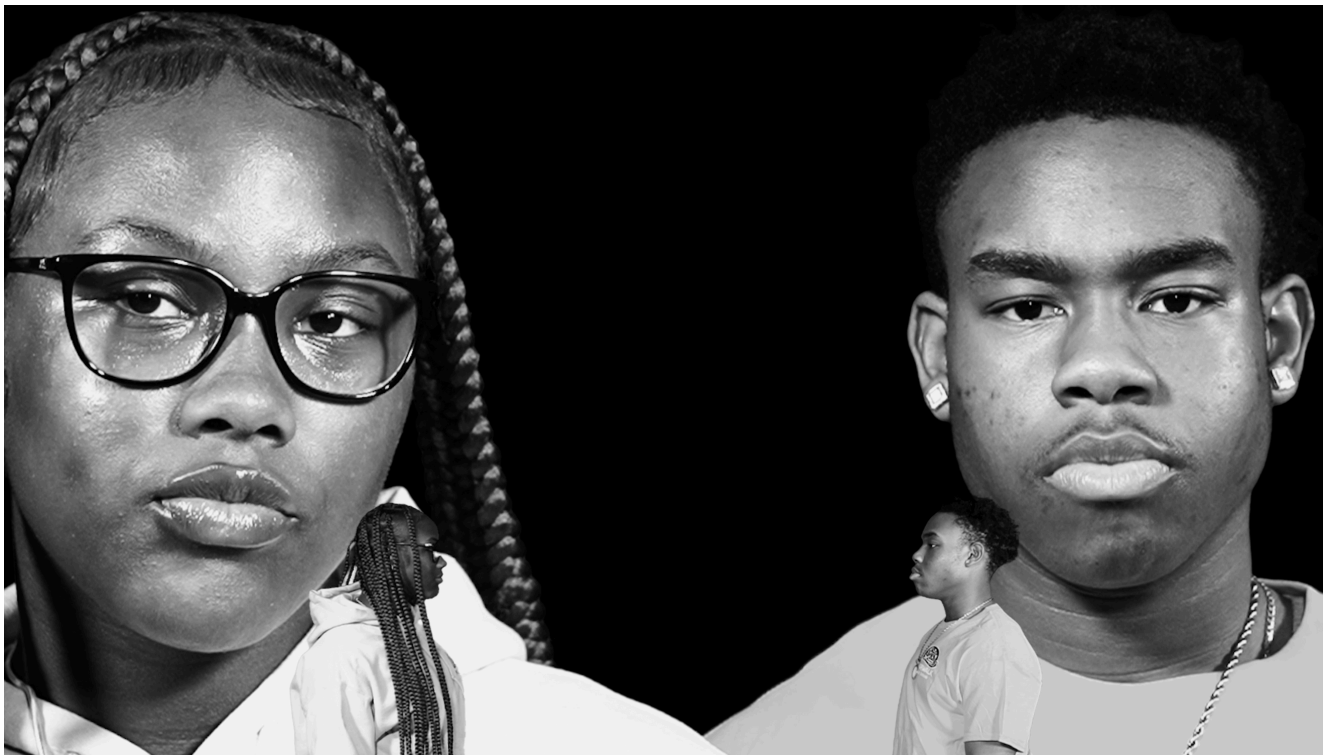
THEORY OF ACTION

If we create consistently effective teaching and learning with targeted interventions and support, we can support each and every child in developing the competencies, skills and dispositions necessary for further education, career opportunities and life.

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER/MY SISTER'S KEEPER

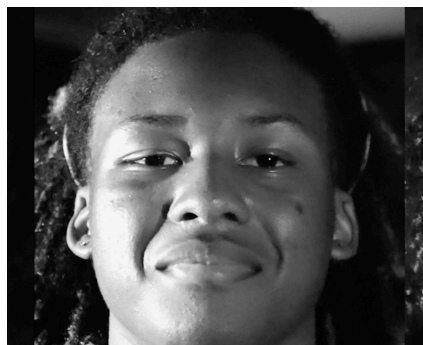
NPS proudly launched its districtwide chapters of My Brother's Keeper (MBK) and My Sister's Keeper (MSK) in 2021, creating powerful spaces to support and uplift students of color.

Inspired by the Obama Foundation's MBK initiative, our MBK program empowers young men of color through school-based groups focused on mentorship, relationship-building, and personal growth. Students engage in a rites of passage framework that promotes core values, critical thinking, and community service that ultimately increase student engagement, sense of identity, and academic success.



In parallel, My Sister's Keeper provides young women of color with positive female mentors within their schools and across the district. MSK fosters self-discovery, confidence, and leadership by encouraging students to explore their strengths, embrace their inner beauty, and cultivate essential life skills.

Both programs are embedded in our middle and high schools, align to the Portrait of a Graduate, and continue to grow as safe, supportive, and inspiring communities that prepare students to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.





SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

Norwalk Public Schools is proud to welcome South Norwalk students and families back to their own neighborhood school this fall, marking the first time in nearly 50 years that the community will have a local school. Students will no longer need to travel outside their neighborhood, and families will find it easier to engage in their children's education with a school that is within walking distance and truly part of the community.

The South Norwalk school is the first to be built under the new 60% state reimbursement rate for all school construction in the City of Norwalk, a major milestone made possible thanks to the efforts of Connecticut Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff. Senator Duff also played a leading role in securing an unprecedented 80% reimbursement rate for the new Norwalk High School/P-TECH Norwalk building, which is currently under construction and scheduled to open in Fall 2027.

The new high school will combine the comprehensive Norwalk High School and the P-TECH Norwalk program into a single, state-of-the-art campus with a projected enrollment of 2,000 students. Once complete, the existing high school building, originally constructed in 1971, will be demolished and replaced with new athletic fields.

SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER

Norwalk Public Schools and the Norwalk Community Health Center continued their valuable partnership by opening a third school-based health and wellness center—the Family Health & Wellness Center—at the NPS Family Center in January 2025.

School-based health centers operated by NCHC across the district provide a wide range of essential services, including physicals, health screenings, immunizations, mental health counseling, crisis intervention and suicide prevention, nutrition and weight management support, and treatment for minor illnesses and injuries.

In addition, the district partners with the Human Services Council, which operates the Dr. Robert Appleby School-Based Health Centers in five schools. These in-school health centers significantly increase student access to comprehensive healthcare services that might otherwise be difficult to obtain, supporting overall wellness and student success.

TRANSPORTATION



The NPS Transportation Department is dedicated to ensuring the safe, reliable, and efficient transportation of students to and from school each day. Our team of professional drivers and support staff is committed to upholding the highest safety standards while fostering a positive and welcoming environment on every bus. We strive to make every journey a secure and seamless experience, providing families with peace of mind and students with the opportunity to arrive at school ready to learn and succeed. At the heart of our mission is the belief that safe transportation is the foundation of equitable access to quality education.

NPS EVENTS

Our district proudly hosts and participates in a variety of events that celebrate our diverse cultures, literacy, and community connection. District-led events such as Hispanic Heritage Month and Black History Month, and the third annual First Book event highlighted our commitment to honoring diversity and promoting literacy. These events continue to grow each year with increased engagement and impact.



We also actively participated in city and community-organized events, including Earth Day, National Night Out, and LGBTQ+ Pride celebrations. These opportunities help strengthen partnerships and reflect our dedication to fostering inclusion, understanding, and a strong sense of belonging across the Norwalk community.



NPS FAMILY CENTER



The NPS Family Center serves as a welcoming hub for all families in the Norwalk Public Schools community, offering a nurturing, professional environment where inclusion, access, and engagement come first. Whether families are new to the district or longtime residents, the center provides a seamless registration process and connects families with the resources and information needed to confidently navigate the school system.

With a mission to empower families to advocate for their children's academic and social success, the Family Center is a cornerstone of Norwalk's commitment to partnership and equity. It also fosters meaningful, long-term connections by hosting year-round workshops and events that promote involvement and build community.

Popular events include the festive Trick-or-Treat Drive-Through and the Say Yes to a Prom Dress and Suit, which helps make prom more accessible for all students. The NPS Family Center continues to be a trusted space for support, celebration, and connection.

FUTURE READY PROGRAMS

Norwalk Public Schools' Future Ready Programs are designed to re-engage students who have become disconnected from traditional school settings by offering flexible, supportive pathways to academic success. These programs provide students with personalized learning environments tailored to their unique needs, including those balancing personal responsibilities that may have interrupted their education.



In the 2024–25 school year, more than 90 students graduated through Future Ready Programs, the Multilingual Learner (MLL) Accelerated Summer Program, and the Credit Recovery Program, across winter and summer graduation ceremonies. These graduates exemplify perseverance and resilience, having overcome significant barriers to achieve this important milestone and reclaim their path to future success.





INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

Norwalk Public Schools is proud to announce that beginning in the 2025–26 school year, three schools have been newly authorized by the International Baccalaureate (IB) Organization to offer world-class academic programs. Naramake Elementary School will offer the Primary Years Programme (PYP), while Nathan Hale and Roton Middle Schools will offer the Middle Years Programme (MYP).

These new authorizations mark a significant step toward providing a comprehensive K–12 IB education districtwide. Students completing the MYP at Nathan Hale or Roton can apply through the NPS High School Choice Lottery to continue the MYP in grade 9 at Brien McMahon High School, which also offers the IB Diploma Programme (DP) and Career-related Programme (CP) in grades 11 and 12.

The IB is internationally recognized for developing inquiring, knowledgeable, and compassionate learners. With these additions, Norwalk Public Schools is expanding access to rigorous, globally focused education that prepares students for success in a rapidly changing world.

FINANCE

	FY26 APPROVED GENERAL FUND	%
Classroom & School Services Student Support, Educators, Instructional Support Staff, Busing, Counseling Services	\$ 213,329,076	86.3 %
Business Services Information Technology, Human Resources, Legal Services, Accounting, Payroll	\$ 14,831,685	6.0 %
Operations Maintaining safe functional environment for student learning	\$ 11,865,348	4.8 %
Professional Development Instructional Support, Curriculum Instruction, Equity and Bias Training	\$ 4,943,895	2.0 %
General Administration Administrative roles in central office and across the district	\$ 2,224,753	0.9 %
	\$ 247,194,758	100.0 %

OPPORTUNITIES AND OPTIONS FOR NORWALK STUDENTS

DUAL-LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

Brookside Elementary, Jefferson Marine Science Elementary, and West Rocks Middle School have dual-language programs at their schools. Teachers plan and coordinate instructional programs in a teaching team environment where one teacher provides instruction in English and the other in Spanish.

BROOKSIDE MONTESSORI PRIMARY PROGRAM

Based on self-directed activity, the Montessori style of education focuses on hands-on learning and collaborative play.

TRACEY MAGNET SCHOOL

The only school in the state to earn the title of National School of Character in 2024 by Character.org. Tracey students leave their "PRINT" on all that they achieve: Problem Solving, Respect, Integrity, Being Neighborly and Taking Responsibility.

CONCORD MAGNET SCHOOL

This intra-district K-8 magnet program is based on the progressive Bank Street and H.O.T. (Higher Order Thinking) models. Students strive for academic excellence through hands-on, integrated units of study and arts infusion.

SILVERMINE DUAL LANGUAGE MAGNET SCHOOL

In a full immersion dual language school, teachers plan and coordinate instructional programs in a team teaching environment at each grade level: one instructs in English, and the other in Spanish.

MAGNET SCHOOLS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Magnet Schools Assistance Program is a five-year grant program from the US Department of Education that will support and enhance the educational experiences at Kendall College & Career Academy, Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy and P-TECH Norwalk.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM & DIPLOMA AT MCMAHON

This comprehensive and rigorous two-year, pre-university course of study is highly regarded by colleges and universities. Those graduating with IB diplomas have a 22 percent higher college acceptance rate.

PONUS RIDGE STEAM ACADEMY

This rigorous and integrated curriculum utilizes STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) lessons and strategies to engage students.

P-TECH NORWALK

Students can earn an Associate degree in software engineering, web development or mobile programming, at no cost, by taking courses at Norwalk Community College during high school. A partnership with IBM gives students access to mentorships, worksite visits, paid internships and potential permanent positions.

MARINE SCIENCE ACADEMY AT MCMAHON

Students learn to apply techniques and technology in this diverse field. Hands-on field experiences are available through local apprenticeships.

DIGITAL MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS ACADEMY AT NORWALK HIGH

Working with industry partners, the Digital Media & Communications Academy provides a hands-on approach, enabling students to master industry-standard computer programs. Students also have the opportunity to earn college credits through Quinnipiac University for specific courses.

MCMAHON HEALTHCARE ACADEMY

Through Norwalk Community College and Norwalk Hospital, students earn certifications as emergency medical technicians, phlebotomy assistants and patient care technicians.

CENTER FOR GLOBAL STUDIES

An inter-district magnet school located at BHMS, students study Chinese, Japanese and Middle Eastern languages and culture, with a focus on global mindedness. These students participate in two-week study tours to destinations across the globe.

WOLFPIT INTERGRATED ARTS SCHOOL

An arts-centered focus provides students with the opportunity to have an integrated arts education, while engaging in rigorous learning practices. This theme offers those students with an interest in visual and performing arts the skills they need to continue on the arts trajectory in middle school and beyond.

NORWALK

Public Schools

