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August 22, 2025

Dear Norwell Families:

We are looking forward to the new school year and welcoming back all of our students. Last year, we partnered with the *Teaching and Learning Alliance* (TLA) to conduct focus groups, surveys, and to lead the Strategic Planning Committee through the process of creating a new five-year strategic plan. Thank you for sharing your thoughts and ideas throughout the process. One of our main initiatives this year will be to launch the new plan. Administrative and staff goals will be developed this year to address focus areas.

The strategic plan can be found on the Norwell Public Schools Website by clicking on this [link](#). New Vision, Mission Statement, Core Values, and Strategic Focus Areas have been created.

Our Vision

Anchored in tradition, inspired to learn, confident to explore, prepared to navigate

Our Mission

Norwell Public Schools, in partnership with the community, is dedicated to providing all students an exceptional education in an inclusive and supportive environment, igniting curiosity, fostering integrity, and empowering students to navigate and contribute to a dynamic global society.

Please become familiar with the plan. The plan will be reviewed and progress shared during School Committee meetings throughout the year.

Norwell Public Schools offer many opportunities for families and students to engage in activities, events, and celebrations. The Principals' newsletters will provide information regarding opportunities for students and families such as co-curricular activities, celebrations, events, and academic presentations. The PTOs hold many events for families to come together to celebrate the schools and students. We hope that you will participate in school activities throughout the year.

Below are a few points to be aware of as we start the year:

Attendance:

- Attendance is extremely important to student learning and engagement. A student is considered chronically absent when they have missed 18 days during a school year. Last year 7.3% of students were chronically absent and the daily attendance rate was 95.0%. We hope to improve upon our attendance rates as much as possible. Please reach out to your school nurse or refer to the student-parent handbooks regarding when a student should stay home for illness. We sincerely ask that families try not to take vacation during school days. If your child is having any difficulty with

attending school, please reach out to your school administrator or school counselor so that we can help support your family and child.

Student-Parent Handbooks:

- Annually parents are asked to complete a sign off via ASPEN that they have read the handbook, give various permissions to share information and complete the health information update for each of their children attending Norwell Public Schools. The handbooks are now available on the [NPS website](#). Please take some time to read the handbooks, and complete these sign offs for each of your children by September 5, 2025.

Website Resources:

- Please visit the [Student Services](#) tab on the NPS website for information regarding bullying prevention and intervention, discussing racism, tiered focus monitoring reports, special education eligibility, home school information, suicide prevention, curriculum content accommodations, and student resources.

Meals:

- The first school breakfast and lunch will continue to be free throughout the school year. Additional meals or a la carte items will be available for purchase. Your child's school will have specific instructions for ordering lunch which will be explained during the first week of school.
- For more information regarding the school lunch program, please email Judy Crooks, Food Service Director at judith.crooks@norwellschools.org.
- If you are interested in a part-time job with the NPS Food Service Department, please contact Ms. Crooks.

Buses:

- Bus routes have been created, and the drivers have done their test drives. All students requesting a bus have been accommodated. Bus stops are published in the ASPEN portal.
- For inquiries about whether you requested a bus, please check the ASPEN portal. Any other bus questions or concerns, please contact Director of Finance, Operations & Technology Warren MacCallum at warren.maccallum@norwellschools.org.

We look forward to welcoming your child to school on September 2.

Sincerely,



Matthew A. Keegan
Superintendent of Schools