

North Plainfield Pulse

District Highlights



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS LEAD THE WAY THROUGH HEROES & COOL KIDS PROGRAM

North Plainfield High School students recently had the opportunity to visit Somerset School as part of the impactful *Heroes & Cool Kids* program, a student-driven leadership initiative that runs throughout the school year and is making a meaningful difference in our school community.

Designed to empower student leaders, the program equips participants with essential skills to build courage, confidence, and character—tools they need to navigate life’s challenges while supporting others along the way. Through a unique leadership training model, *Heroes & Cool Kids* addresses the root causes of difficult behaviors, including isolation, fear, and not knowing where to turn for help.

At the heart of the program is the connection between high school “Heroes” and younger “Cool Kids.” By building trusting relationships and serving as positive role models, the Heroes help combat critical issues facing today’s youth, such as bullying, peer pressure, substance abuse, suicide prevention, and other risky behaviors. The program emphasizes that being “cool” means making positive choices, treating others with kindness, and acting responsibly.

The Heroes & Cool Kids School Club runs throughout the school year and is designed to have a consistent presence in Somerset School. The goal is for high school Heroes to visit Somerset fifth graders three times during the year, allowing younger students to experience the program’s message through meaningful interactions and ongoing mentorship. While scheduling may vary, the long-term vision is for the program to reach all fifth-grade students and create a lasting impact.

In addition to supporting younger students, the program fosters leadership, communication skills, and community engagement among participating high school students, reinforcing the power of positive influence at every age.



“Heroes and Cool Kids empowers students to recognize their influence and use it for good. By showing younger students that positive choices are what truly define leadership and ‘coolness,’ the program helps build a school culture rooted in respect, confidence, and responsibility.” - Mr. Joseph Lombardo, Club Advisor

We commend our high school Heroes for their dedication to service, leadership, and making a positive impact on younger students. This important program is proudly led by NPHS teachers Mr. Joseph Lombardo and Mr. Peter Giousios, whose guidance and commitment continue to shape future leaders.

2026-27 PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Opens March 1, 2026

Age Requirements to Register

On or before October 15, 2026:

- Students entering Preschool 3 must be three (3) years of age
- Students entering Preschool 4 must be four (4) years of age
- Students entering Kindergarten must be five (5) years of age

After Preschool capacity has been reached, all completed registration applications will be placed on a waitlist.

You must have all the required documents with you for the in-person registration appointment

CHECKLIST

- Original** Birth Certificate or Passport
- Parent/Guardian Photo I.D.
- Universal Child Health Record
- Immunization Record
- Three (3) Proofs of Residency
- Pre-Registration Confirmation PDF



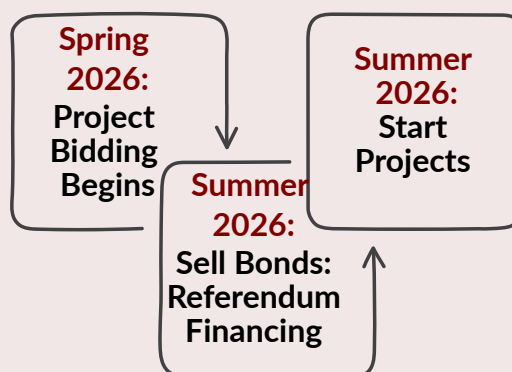
To begin online pre-registration, scan the QR code

REFERENDUM PROJECT UPDATES A PLAN FOR STUDENT SUCCESS + SECURITY

The Somerset County Clerk’s Office certified the results of the September 16 vote, with resounding approval.

On behalf of the district administration and Board of Education, we thank North Plainfield residents for their support of this proposal. We look forward to moving ahead with improvements that will benefit students and the community.

Next Steps:



Several factors will determine the order projects are completed.

Some projects will be scheduled in the summer months to avoid disrupting classes. Others will depend on the availability of contractors or equipment. All projects are forecasted for completion by fall 2029.

Auditorium Updates:

Following the July flood, portions of the auditorium—including the stage, some seating, and sections of the flooring—sustained significant water damage. We are pleased to share that work is moving forward, with stage reconstruction currently underway.

Work is projected to be completed in February 2027.

North Plainfield School District
33 Mountain Avenue
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

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LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Anabell Rosero NPHS Class of 2014

Anabell is an Investigative Analyst with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. She earned her Associate of Science degree in Environmental Science from Raritan Valley Community College and a Bachelor of Science degree in Ecology and Biology with a minor in Geographic Information Systems from Rutgers University.



Throughout her college journey, Anabell completed four internships that helped her clarify her professional path. Her most notable experience was being selected for the Directorate Fellows Program with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Sacramento, CA—an opportunity that opened her eyes to the possibilities of a career in federal service.

Anabell credits North Plainfield schools with laying the foundation for her success. The district's wide range of classes and electives encouraged her to explore her interests, and the dedication of her teachers left a lasting impact. As a student unsure of her future path, learning about RVCC as an option proved pivotal. She believes the guidance she received, along with the support of RVCC's caring and knowledgeable faculty and staff, helped shape the trajectory of her career for the better.

Advice for current North Plainfield students:
"Give academics and extracurriculars your all! Participate as much as you can and try to explore as many different courses, you never know what you might be interested in! And don't be afraid of not knowing what you like or pursuing community college while you figure it out!"

Alumni: We want to hear from you! Share advice and what you're up to now at tinyurl.com/npalumni

DROP & ROTATE SCHEDULE COMING TO NPHS BEGINNING FALL 2026

Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, NPHS will transition to a drop and rotate schedule. The decision for a new high school schedule reflects the district's commitment to improving instructional effectiveness, student focus, and overall well-being.

"After careful study and collaboration, we believe the Drop & Rotate schedule offers a more thoughtful use of instructional time and a learning environment that better supports students," said Principal Joseph Krouse. "This change is about quality learning, balance, and giving students the time they need to engage deeply with their coursework."

The most noticeable change will be the structure of the school day. While students will still have a full schedule of eight courses, they will attend six 56-minute classes each day. The school day will begin at 7:55 am and end at 2:50 pm. Classes will rotate on an "A, B, C, D" schedule, with one morning class and one afternoon class dropping each day so that all eight courses are met across the rotation.

The new schedule offers several key benefits:

- Later start times to support high school-aged students' focus and readiness to learn
- Longer class periods that allow for deeper lessons, labs, projects, and real-world applications
- Rotation of demanding subjects across different times of day
- Fewer daily class transitions, reducing hallway congestion and sensory overload
- Increased opportunities for academic and social involvement
- Unit lunch will provide students with time to meet with teachers and to engage in extracurricular activities.
- Reduced daily homework load, giving students more time to explore interests, develop skills, and reduce stress

When the scheduling change was shared with the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, as well as members of the Class of 2025 during Alumni Day, support for the new model was expressed. Alumni shared that had the Drop & Rotate schedule been in place during their high school years, they believe it would have better prepared them for the structure, pacing, and expectations of a college schedule. Their feedback reinforced the district's focus on postsecondary readiness.

A dedicated webpage, www.nplainfield.org/nphsschedule, has been created and will be updated as needed, serving as a central hub for information about the schedule.

Current Schedule

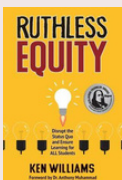
Time	Period	Duration
7:40- 8:35	1	53 minutes
8:38-9:20	2	42 minutes
9:23-10:05	3	42 minutes
10:08-10:50	4	42 minutes
10:53-11:35	5	42 minutes
11:38-12:20	6	42 minutes
12:23-1:05	7	42 minutes
1:08-1:50	8	42 minutes
1:53-2:35	9	42 minutes

Drop & Rotate Schedule

Time	A	B	C	D	Duration
7:55-8:56	Class 1	Class 4	Class 3	Class 2	61 minutes
8:59-9:55	Class 2	Class 1	Class 4	Class 3	56 minutes
9:58-10:54	Class 3	Class 2	Class 1	Class 4	56 minutes
Drop	Class 4	Class 3	Class 2	Class 1	
10:57-11:53	Unit Lunch				56 minutes
11:56-12:52	Class 5	Class 8	Class 7	Class 6	56 minutes
12:55- 1:51	Class 6	Class 5	Class 8	Class 7	56 minutes
1:54- 2:50	Class 7	Class 6	Class 5	Class 8	56 minutes
Drop	Class 8	Class 7	Class 6	Class 5	3 min pass

CLIMATE & CULTURE UPDATES

Ms. Gray's ESL class at Somerset School recently read a book about the Great Plains and the Lakota Native American tribe as part of their "Language of Social Studies" unit. Pulling from her grandfather's experience living among the Inuit tribes of the subarctic and her mother's work as an archaeologist, Ms. Gray created a mini museum within the classroom, complete with real Native American artifacts. Students were able to hold caribou-bone dolls, Obsidian arrowheads, animal hide moccasins, and parkas with fur from arctic fox and hare. The overall theme of both the book and the museum lesson was that tribes such as the Lakota and the Inuit paid respect to animals and nature by wasting nothing; every part of an animal was used, and our characters in the story demonstrated these practices. The students were even able to try on some of the items!



Our district book study with *Ruthless Equity* provides an opportunity to reflect on how we are advancing learning, reminding us that "Everything we start doing, continue doing, or stop doing should be in direct response to its impact on learning." (Williams, p. 44) Every decision in our classrooms communicates our commitment to being intentional in our practices, ensuring that every move we make drives students to and through the Crown.

Happy Black History Month! February 1 – March 1, 2026

For 100 years, the nation has recognized the achievements and contributions of Black Americans and their place in American history during the month of February. During this month, North Plainfield School District joins the nation in celebration, embracing the opportunity to explore, honor, and celebrate the extraordinary achievements of Black Americans who have shaped our nation's story.

This month is an opportunity to celebrate the groundbreaking achievements and lasting contributions of Black Americans across all areas of society—including the arts, science, politics, sports, and more. Throughout the month, students in North Plainfield Schools are learning about the many ways Black Americans have shaped and enriched our nation's history. Schools across the district have hosted and will continue to host lessons, celebrations, and assemblies that honor this important legacy.

Scan for Black History Month event details



or visit www.nplainfield.org/bhm

2025 - 2026 GOVERNOR'S EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

It is our honor to congratulate the recipients of the Governor's Educator of the Year Program, which recognizes and acknowledges the exceptionally skilled and dedicated educators throughout the State of New Jersey.

The North Plainfield School District Teacher of the Year and Educational Service Professional recipients were selected by district stakeholders based on their contributions, professionalism, and commitment to best serve our students. The recipients signify commitment to inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn, achieve, and believe in a better future for themselves, their communities, and the world.

East End



Jocelyn Dewe

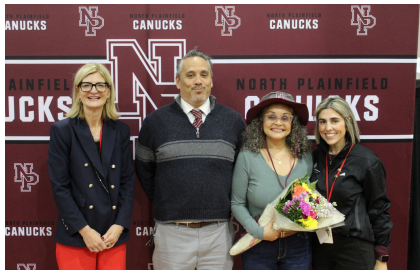


Victoria Hynes

Stony Brook



Ines Simoes



Leslie Castillo

West End



Amanda Aldred

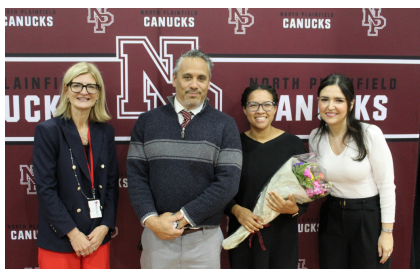


Yaneth Gaitan

Somerset



Kathy Dailey



Lauren Mupanomunda

Middle School



Erika Gambuti



Alexandra Vergara

High School



Neil Thompson



Meaghan Sica

COMMUNICATION FEEDBACK

As part of our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement, we are conducting a communications survey to evaluate the effectiveness of our district's communication efforts and identify areas for improvement to better meet the needs of our staff, families, and community members.

Your feedback will directly shape how we communicate with you in the future, helping us keep you better informed & engaged.



STRATEGIC PLANNING

A strategic plan is a clear, focused roadmap for improving schools and ensuring student success. It will outline the district's goals, priorities, and the specific actions it will take to address challenges, enhance teaching and learning, and meet the needs of its community.

To allow the district a chance to hear from you, please take a few minutes to complete the survey by scanning the QR code.

What do you believe NPSD's top priority should be over the next three school years?

Forum dates coming soon!



SAVE THE DATE

Join us on **April 29, 2026**, for the **Public Budget Hearing** at the North Plainfield High School: 34 Wilson Ave. North Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

The meeting will open at 6:30 pm and go directly into the executive session with a return to the public session at 7:30 pm.

All official action by the Board will take place after 7:30 pm.

Please visit our website, www.nplainfield.org, for the full schedule of board presentations.



North Plainfield Fall Festival

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

North Plainfield High School 11am – 4pm
Rain or Shine

Food – Vendors – Community Groups Inflatables – Entertainment – Color Run Car Nutz Car Show from 9 am – 2 pm

proceeds benefit our



NORTH PLAINFIELD
EDUCATION FOUNDATION
ACADEMICS. ATHLETICS. ADVOCACY

For more information visit npfallfestival.org



EN ESPAÑOL

Estudiantes de secundaria lideran el camino a través del programa Heroes & Cool Kids

Los estudiantes de la Escuela Secundaria North Plainfield tuvieron recientemente la oportunidad de visitar la Escuela Somerset como parte del programa Heroes & Cool Kids, una iniciativa de liderazgo estudiantil que se desarrolla durante todo el año escolar y que está marcando una diferencia significativa en nuestra comunidad educativa.

Diseñado para empoderar a los líderes estudiantiles, el programa les proporciona las habilidades esenciales para desarrollar valentía, confianza y carácter, herramientas necesarias para afrontar los desafíos de la vida y, al mismo tiempo, apoyar a los demás. A través de un modelo único de formación en liderazgo, Heroes & Cool Kids aborda las causas profundas de las conductas problemáticas, como el aislamiento, el miedo y la falta de conocimiento sobre dónde buscar ayuda.

El eje central del programa es la conexión entre los estudiantes de secundaria, los "Héroes", y los estudiantes más jóvenes, los "Chicos Geniales". Al construir relaciones de confianza y servir como modelos a seguir positivos, los Héroes ayudan a combatir problemas críticos que afectan a la juventud actual, como el acoso escolar, la presión de grupo, el consumo de drogas, la prevención del suicidio y otras conductas de riesgo. El programa enfatiza que ser "genial" significa tomar decisiones positivas, tratar a los demás con amabilidad y actuar con responsabilidad.

El club escolar Heroes & Cool Kids funciona durante todo el año escolar y está diseñado para tener una presencia constante en la escuela Somerset. El objetivo es que los estudiantes de secundaria que participan en el programa Heroes visiten a los alumnos de quinto grado de Somerset tres veces al año, permitiendo que los estudiantes más jóvenes experimenten el mensaje del programa a través de interacciones significativas y una tutoría continua. Si bien el calendario puede variar, la visión a largo plazo es que el programa llegue a todos los estudiantes de quinto grado y genere un impacto duradero.

Además de brindar apoyo a los estudiantes más jóvenes, el programa fomenta el liderazgo, las habilidades de comunicación y la participación comunitaria entre los estudiantes de secundaria participantes, reforzando el poder de la influencia positiva en todas las edades.

"Heroes and Cool Kids anima a los estudiantes a reconocer su influencia y a usarla para el bien. Al mostrar a los estudiantes más jóvenes que las decisiones positivas son las que realmente definen el liderazgo y la popularidad, el programa ayuda a construir una cultura escolar basada en el respeto, la confianza y la responsabilidad." - Sr. Joseph Lombardo, Asesor del Club

Se implementará un horario con rotación de asignaturas en NPHS

A partir del año escolar 2026-27, NPHS implementará un horario rotativo. La decisión de adoptar este nuevo horario refleja el compromiso del distrito con la mejora de la eficacia de la enseñanza, la concentración de los estudiantes y su bienestar general.

"Tras un estudio y una colaboración exhaustivos, creemos que el horario rotativo ofrece un uso más eficiente del tiempo de instrucción y un entorno de aprendizaje que beneficia a los estudiantes", declaró el director Joseph Krouse. "Este cambio busca una educación de calidad, un mayor equilibrio y brindar a los estudiantes el tiempo necesario para profundizar en sus estudios".

El cambio más notable será la estructura del día escolar. Si bien los estudiantes seguirán teniendo un horario completo de ocho asignaturas, asistirán a seis clases de 56 minutos cada día. La jornada escolar comenzará a las 7:55 a. m. y finalizará a las 2:50 p. m. Las clases rotarán según un esquema "A, B, C, D", con una clase por la mañana y otra por la tarde que se omitirán cada día, de modo que se impartan las ocho asignaturas a lo largo de la rotación.

El nuevo horario ofrece varios beneficios clave:

- Horarios de inicio más tardíos para favorecer la concentración y la disposición para el aprendizaje de los estudiantes de secundaria.
- Clases más largas que permiten lecciones, laboratorios, proyectos y aplicaciones prácticas más profundas.
- Rotación de las asignaturas más exigentes a lo largo del día.
- Menos cambios de clase diarios, lo que reduce la congestión en los pasillos y la sobrecarga sensorial.
- Mayores oportunidades de participación académica y social.
- El almuerzo en grupo brindará a los estudiantes tiempo para reunirse con los profesores y participar en actividades extracurriculares.
- Menos tareas diarias, lo que les da a los estudiantes más tiempo para explorar sus intereses, desarrollar habilidades y reducir el estrés.

Cuando se compartió el cambio de horario con el Consejo Asesor Estudiantil del Superintendente, así como con miembros de la promoción de 2025 durante el Día de los Exalumnos, se expresó apoyo al nuevo modelo. Los exalumnos comentaron que, de haber estado vigente el horario de clases alternas durante sus años de secundaria, creen que los habría preparado mejor para la estructura, el ritmo y las expectativas de un horario universitario. Sus comentarios reforzaron el enfoque del distrito en la preparación para la educación superior.

Se ha creado una página web dedicada, www.nplainfield.org/nphsschedule, que se actualizará según sea necesario y servirá como centro de información sobre el horario.

Actualizaciones sobre clima y cultura

La clase de inglés como segundo idioma de la Sra. Gray en la Escuela Somerset leyó recientemente un libro sobre las Grandes Llanuras y la tribu nativa americana Lakota como parte de su unidad de "Lenguaje de Estudios Sociales". Inspirándose en la experiencia de su abuelo, quien vivió entre las tribus inuit del subártico, y en el trabajo de su madre como arqueóloga, la Sra. Gray creó un pequeño museo en el aula, con auténticos artefactos nativos americanos. Los estudiantes pudieron sostener muñecas de hueso de caribú, puntas de flecha de obsidiana, mocasines de piel de animal y parkas con piel de zorro ártico y liebre. El tema principal tanto del libro como de la lección del museo era que tribus como los Lakota y los Inuit respetaban a los animales y la naturaleza, aprovechando al máximo todos sus recursos; cada parte del animal se utilizaba, y los personajes de la historia demostraban estas prácticas. ¡Los estudiantes incluso pudieron probarse algunas de las prendas!

Nuestro programa de estudio de libros a nivel de distrito, basado en Ruthless Equity, nos brinda la oportunidad de reflexionar sobre cómo estamos impulsando el aprendizaje, recordándonos que "Todo lo que empezamos a hacer, continuamos haciendo o dejamos de hacer debe estar directamente relacionado con su impacto en el aprendizaje" (Williams, p. 44). Cada decisión en nuestras aulas comunica nuestro compromiso de ser intencionales en nuestras prácticas, asegurando que cada acción que emprendemos guíe a los estudiantes hacia el éxito.

¡Feliz Mes de la Historia Afroamericana! Del 1 de febrero al 1 de marzo de 2026

Durante 100 años, la nación ha reconocido los logros y las contribuciones de los afroamericanos y su lugar en la historia de Estados Unidos durante el mes de febrero. Durante este mes, el Distrito Escolar de North Plainfield se une a la celebración nacional, aprovechando la oportunidad para explorar, honrar y celebrar los extraordinarios logros de los afroamericanos que han forjado la historia de nuestra nación.

Este mes es una oportunidad para celebrar los logros pioneros y las contribuciones perdurables de los afroamericanos en todos los ámbitos de la sociedad, incluyendo las artes, la ciencia, la política, los deportes y muchos más. A lo largo del mes, los estudiantes de las escuelas de North Plainfield están aprendiendo sobre las diversas maneras en que los afroamericanos han influido y enriquecido la historia de nuestra nación. Las escuelas del distrito han organizado y seguirán organizando clases, celebraciones y asambleas que honran este importante legado.

Reserva la fecha

Acompáñenos el 29 de abril de 2026 a la audiencia pública sobre el presupuesto en la Escuela Secundaria de North Plainfield.

La reunión comenzará a las 6:30 p. m. con una sesión a puerta cerrada, y la sesión pública se reanudará a las 7:30 p. m.