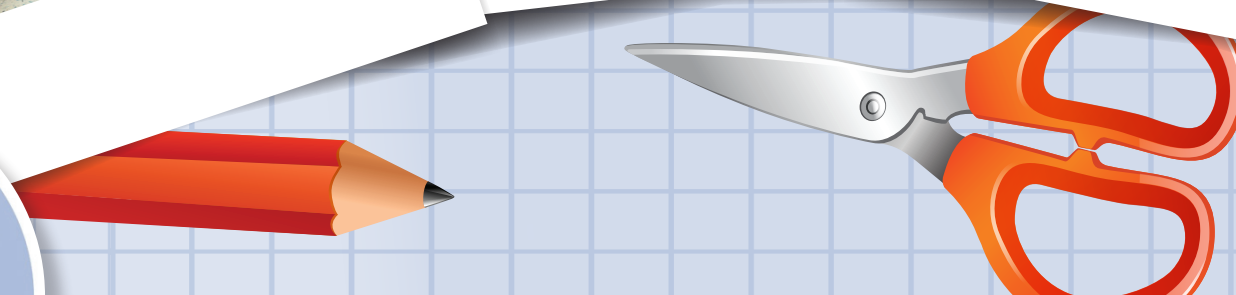


NORTH MERRICK School District

www.nmerrickschools.org



2026 | 2027 Calendar *and* Information

Message from the Superintendent



As we begin another exciting year in North Merrick School District, we remain committed to providing a strong educational foundation that supports the academic, social, and emotional growth of every student.

Over the past year, we continued to strengthen literacy instruction through research-based programs while deepening our commitment to the Science of Reading. In mathematics, our focus on the Numeracy Briefs has enhanced student number

sense, problem-solving skills and conceptual understanding. We also successfully implemented new social studies resources in grades K-5 and continued to provide engaging, inquiry-based science instruction. In addition, we were proud to introduce our K-6 Elementary Foreign Language Program, providing North Merrick students with new opportunities for language and cultural exploration.

One initiative that continues to make North Merrick special is our monthly Night to Connect. These designated evenings are set aside as homework-free evenings, providing our families with the opportunity to spend meaningful time together. We are proud to continue this tradition as part of our commitment to educating the whole child. Dates for the 2026-2027 Nights to Connect are listed on the monthly grids.

We also remain committed to maintaining safe, modern, and welcoming learning environments through ongoing facility, infrastructure, and security improvements across the district.

I would like to thank our school community for their continued partnership and support. Together, we will continue to provide exceptional opportunities for our students to learn, grow, and succeed.

Best wishes for a successful and rewarding 2026-2027 school year!

Cynthia Serink

Our Vision

The North Merrick School District nurtures, guides and challenges students to become meaningful contributors to a global society.

Our Mission

It is the mission of the North Merrick School District to work cooperatively with our schools, parents and community to develop individuals who are respectful, resilient and responsive with a fluency in technology and divergent thinking skills.

Our Beliefs

We believe in...

- ***Embracing a Whole-Child Approach:***

The district fosters the academic, social and emotional development of each student, as we support their unique, individual needs to optimize success.

- ***A Vibrant Learning Environment:***

The district is dedicated to providing a safe and healthy learning environment, which cultivates a positive school climate and enhances educational opportunity.

- ***Collaborative Community Partnerships:***

The district encourages the flow of communication among our key stakeholders (students, parents, educators and residents) to create a mutual exchange of ideas and information.

- ***Responsible Fiscal Oversight:***

The district is focused on maximizing the efficiency of its financial resources to effectively and innovatively meet the goals and objectives of our programs and services.

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Board of Education



**Megan Ryan, Esq.,
President**



**Ed Corona,
Vice President**



Steve Enella



Mary Keene



Will Luciani



Tracey Miller



Kathy Moran

Board of Education

President Megan Ryan*, Esq.

Vice President Ed Corona*

Trustees..... Steve Enella, Mary Keene, Will Luciani, Tracey Miller, Kathy Moran

District Clerk Joanne Long

District Treasurer Terri McCurry

District Counsel Ingerman Smith

**Also serves on the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School Board*

School Hours

The three district schools operate on the following schedule:

Grades 1-6: 8:30 a.m. - 2:50 p.m.

Kindergarten: 8:30 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Central Administration

**Dr. Irene H. Lenhart Administrative Center
1057 Merrick Avenue
North Merrick, NY 11566**

Dr. Cynthia Seniuk, *Superintendent* 516-292-3694
Fax: 516-292-3097

Kate Caporusso, *Assistant Superintendent.....* 516-623-1906
for Curriculum, Instruction & Personnel Fax: 516-292-3097

Marie Donnelly, *Assistant Superintendent.....* 516-292-3696; 292-3697
for Business & Operations Fax: 516-282-1821

Dr. Edward Murphy, *Assistant to the Superintendent* 516-868-4902
for Pupil Personnel & Special Education Fax: 516-868-4906

Dr. Helen Kanellopoulos, *Director* 516-292-1875
Fax: 516-282-1822

Samuel Carder, *Director of Facilities & Operations.....* 516-292-3095
Fax: 516-282-1822

Joanne Long, *District Clerk* 516-292-3695
Fax: 516-282-1822

Emergency School Closings

In the event that schools are closed or there is a delayed opening due to inclement weather or other emergency, announcements will be posted on the district website and sent through the district communications system as well as on the following television station, beginning as early as 6 a.m.:

Channel 12 (www.news12.com).

The North Merrick Board of Fire Commissioners also notifies the community when roads are closed because of hazardous weather conditions.

North Merrick Schools

Camp Avenue School, 1712 Merrick Avenue (Fax: 379-0200)

Principal:	Dr. Hillary Bromberg	282-1850
School Psychologist:	Jessica Price.....	282-1851
Social Worker:	Mary Bennett	282-1862
Nurse:	Melissa Power	282-1853
Secretary:	Dawn Roberto.....	282-1854

Harold D. Fayette School, 1057 Merrick Avenue (Fax: 485-6016)

Principal:	Dr. Christine Talbot	489-3090
School Psychologist:	Julianne Schultz-Woods	282-1826
Social Worker:	Jeannette Gingrich.....	282-1827
Nurse:	Crystal Marquez.....	282-1828
Secretary:	Karen Kenney	489-3090

Old Mill Road School, 1775 Old Mill Road (Fax: 379-1695)

Principal:	Meghan Dixon.....	379-0945
School Psychologist:	Dr. Nicole Gerbe	379-6780
School Psychologist:	Nicole Schmidt.....	379-6780
Social Worker:	Monique LaPenna.....	379-3734
Nurse:	Christine Torre	379-0854
Secretary:	Ali Ellensohn	379-0945

Parent-Teacher Associations

North Merrick PTA District Council

Dr. Cynthia Seniuk	Kate Caporusso
Marie Donnelly	Jean Marie Buonomo (HDF)
Dr. Hillary Bromberg	Wendy Gardner Parks (HDF)
Meghan Dixon	Laura Squillace (SEPTA)
Dr. Christine Talbot	Holly Piazza (OMR)
	Jaclyn Jedlicka (Camp)
	Eugenia Kates (Camp)
	Megan Ryan, Esq. (BOE Rep.)
	Mary Keene (BOE Rep.)

North Merrick SEPTA

President:	Laura Squillace	917-744-7905
Honorary Vice President:	Dr. Edward Murphy.....	516-868-4902
VP/Fundraising:	Molly Brottmiller	917-756-1127
VP/Membership	Kelly Croghan	516-946-9992
Recording Secretary:	Gina Sawaci	917-579-0043
Treasurer:	Tina Yaloz	516-849-0499
Building Representatives	Kristen Naletilic (HDF)	917-474-3881
	Cassie Beccaris (OMR)	516-672-4602
	Mara Vento (Camp)	646-239-0203

All numbers are 516 area code unless otherwise noted.

Parent-Teacher Associations

Camp Avenue School

Co-President:	Jaclyn Jedlicka.....	516-779-5844
Co-President:	Eugenia Kates	516-606-3907
Honorary Vice President:	Dr. Hillary Bromberg	516-379-3732
1st VP/Legislation:	Anthony Miolan	516-543-7102
Asst. 1st VP/Legislation:	Matt LoPorto	917-284-2363
2nd VP/Fundraising:	Deepali Filosa	917-767-8407
3rd VP/Cultural Arts:	Eric Dostal	518-878-7983
Recording Secretary:	Isabel Donis.....	516-395-2784
Corresponding Secretary:	Donna Salomone	516-375-8619
Treasurer:	Jamie Dostal	631-525-6930
Faculty Representative:	Tracy Sforza	516-379-3732

Harold D. Fayette School

Co-President:	Jean Marie Buonomo.....	516-644-6717
Co-President:	Wendy Gardner Parks	631-834-7945
Honorary Vice President:	Dr. Christine Talbot	516-489-3090
Co-VP/Fundraising:	Vanessa Steck.....	732-439-8611
Co-VP/Fundraising:	Alexandra Leonardo	
Co-VP/Cultural Arts:	Janice Nilson	347-901-3614
Co-VP/Cultural Arts:	Cameo Beramsingh	
Recording Secretary:	Erin Spataro.....	631-834-7945
Corresponding Secretary:	Chrystal Chiari	516-965-4546
Treasurer:	Jaclyn Armao	347-901-3614
Membership:	Daryl Valerio	
Faculty Representatives:	Lisa Drewes, Jaimie Macko	516-489-3090

Old Mill Road School

President:	Holly Piazza	516-660-6272
Honorary Vice President:	Ms. Meghan Dixon.....	516-379-0945
VP/Fundraising:	Krysta Avdic	914-409-7702
VP/Committees:	Lauren Persico	516-639-4973
VP/Membership:	Nicole Germano.....	631-258-0150
VP/Arts in Education:	Gina Sartori.....	516-776-0147
VP/Classroom Coordination:	Caitlyn Mandel.....	516-510-3347
Recording Secretary:	Sarah Dmitriev	516-446-6518
Corresponding Secretary:	Melissa Chambers	516-993-7256
Treasurer:	Jennifer Trnka-Sanseverino	646-872-9446
Faculty Representatives:	Christina Moser and Christine Vanella.....	516-379-0945

North Merrick School Aged Child Care

The North Merrick School Aged Child Care provides before- and after-school care on school days in the district schools. The before-school program begins at 7:00 a.m., and children may bring their own nut-free breakfast and engage with friends before the start of school. The after-school program begins after dismissal until 5:30 p.m. Qualified staff supervises a diverse program including snack, homework, games, arts and crafts, and outdoor play. For more information, please contact Fran Carragher, Executive Director, at 516-868-6027.

Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program (UPK)

North Merrick is offering a Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Program through a New York State grant. The program is administered by the district and provided by community preschools. Application is by lottery. For this year's enrollment, children must be four years old by December 1, 2026, and eligible for entrance into kindergarten in September 2027. For more information, contact Kate Caporusso, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Personnel, at 516-623-1906.

History of the North Merrick UFSD

Originally known as Union Free School District No. 29, the district was established in August 1921. In 1972, the present official name, North Merrick Union Free School District, was adopted.

In 1921, the population of North Merrick was 1,400, with 280 school-age children. At that time, the three trustees were authorized to raise \$14,000, and plans began for an eight-room building on the present Camp Avenue site.

On September 21, 1921, school opened with an enrollment of 160 students, but without an official school building. Classes were held in a chapel on Richard Avenue, at the Camp Grounds, and in the Fire Hall. Over a period of time, the enrollment rose to 2,193, the largest number of children attending North Merrick schools.

To provide facilities for a rapidly growing community, it became necessary to enlarge Camp Avenue School in 1939, and again in 1956. North School was built in 1950, and its name was changed to Harold D. Fayette School in 1976. Old Mill Road School was erected in 1953 and expanded twice – in 1956 and in 2000, and Meadowbrook Road School was built in 1956. The North Merrick Public Library was formed in 1965, with facilities in a store in North Merrick, and relocated to the Meadowbrook Road building in September 1966.

In 2015, the community approved a \$14,650,000 bond proposition to address basic long-term facility needs. Projects financed under this bond were completed, and include new boilers, upgraded ventilation systems, window replacement, site work, and security enhancements.

For the 2026-27 school year, there are approximately 1241 children attending the North Merrick elementary schools, and the district will be supported by an approved operating budget in the amount of \$44,283,243.

The North Merrick Union Free School District takes pride in its ability to provide quality education and in the achievements of its students.

North Merrick Public Library

**1691 Meadowbrook Road
North Merrick, NY 11566
516-378-7474**

Library Trustees

Richard Smith, *President*

Maeve Schulz, *Vice President*

Eric Ackley, Melissa Chambers, William Pezzulo

Jackie Perez, *Library Director*

Library Hours

Monday-Thursday:	10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Friday:	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday:	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday (July & August):	9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Sunday (October - Mid June):	1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday (June 18 - September):	CLOSED

North Merrick Library Board Meetings are usually held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:15 p.m. in the library. The public is invited to attend. Please check the library website calendar for specific dates.

Please visit the North Merrick Library website at www.nmerricklibrary.org for detailed information on programs and resources for children, teens and adults.

September 2026

Important August 2026 Dates

August 18
Board Meeting (HDF) AM TBD

August 26
Superintendent's Conference Day –
FACULTY & STAFF ONLY

August 27
Superintendent's Conference Day –
FACULTY & STAFF ONLY

Meet, Greet & A Treat 10:15 AM –
Camp, HDF & OMR



NORTH MERRICK
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
—Nurturing Young Minds—

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Day 1 1 SCHOOLS OPEN FIRST DAY FOR STUDENTS Kindergarten & New Parent Meet & Greet (all schools)	Day 2 2	Day 3 3	4 SCHOOLS CLOSED	5
6	7 SCHOOLS CLOSED Labor Day	Day 4 8 PTA District Council 9:00 AM (Virtual) Board of Education Meeting (HDF) 7:00 PM	Day 5 9 District Spirit Day Digital Day PTA Meetings Class Parent & Committee Mtg 6:30 PM (all schools)	Day 6 10	Day 1 11 DRO: Rosh Hashanah (sundown) PATRIOT DAY Wear Red, White & Blue	12 DRO: Rosh Hashanah

13 DRO: Rosh Hashanah	Day 2 14 Night to Connect Feast of Elevation of the Cross	Day 3 15	Day 4 16 WINGS Parent Meeting 6:00-6:30 PM (HDF GPR) Meet the Teacher Night 7:00 PM (all schools)	Day 5 17	Day 6 18 OMR & Camp Welcome Back Picnics Movie Night (HDF)	19
20 DRO: Yom Kippur (sundown)	21 DRO: Yom Kippur <div>SCHOOLS CLOSED Yom Kippur</div>	Day 1 22	Day 2 23	Day 3 24	Day 4 25 DRO: First Two Days of Sukkot (sundown)	26 DRO: First Two Days of Sukkot
27 DRO: First Two Days of Sukkot DRO: Feast of the Elevation of the Cross (Orthodox)	Day 5 28	Day 6 29	Day 1 30		AUGUST S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 ²³ / ₃₀ ²⁴ / ₃₁ 25 26 27 28 29	OCTOBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

October 2026



NORTH MERRICK
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
—Nurturing Young Minds—

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SEPTEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	NOVEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30			Day 2 1 SEPTA Spirit Wear ADHD Awareness Day Picnic (Rain Date)	Day 3 2 DRO: Last Two Days of Sukkot	3 DRO: Last Two Days of Sukkot
4	Day 4 5	Day 5 6	Day 6 7 Walk to School Day District Spirit Day Digital Day	Day 1 8	Day 2 9	10

11 SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION WEEK October 13-17	12 <div>SCHOOLS CLOSED Columbus Day</div>	Day 3 13 PTA District Council 9:00 AM (Virtual)	Day 4 14 OMR PTA Mtg 7:00 PM HDF PTA Mtg 7:00 PM CAMP PTA Mtg 7:30 PM	Day 5 15 District Family Engagement Night 5:00-6:30 PM (HDF)	Day 6 16 Adventureland (all schools) SEPTA Spirit Wear Developmental Language Disorder Awareness	17
18 Red Ribbon Week October 19-23	Day 1 19	Day 2 20 ENL Parent Night	Day 3 21	Day 4 22 Night to Connect	Day 5 23 NMFA Trunk or Treat 4:00-5:00 PM (all schools) (HDF Field)	24
25	Day 6 26 DRO: Feast of St. Demetrios (Orthodox)	Day 1 27	Day 2 28	Day 3 29	Day 4 30 Fall Festivals Halloween Parades (all schools)	31

November 2026



NORTH MERRICK
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
—Nurturing young Minds—

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 DRO: Feast of All Saints	Day 5 2 EVACUATION DRILL EARLY DISMISSAL 2:35 PM	3 Parent-Teacher Conferences (Grades K-6) 12:00-7:00 PM <div>SCHOOLS CLOSED For Students</div>	Day 6 4 District Spirit Day Digital Day	Day 1 5 Grade 6 MS Orientation Night 7:00 PM	Day 2 6	7
8 DRO: Diwali	Day 3 9 PTA District Council 9:00 AM (Virtual) <div>Board of Education Meeting (HDF) 7:00 PM</div>	Day 4 10 EVACUATION DRILL ONLY (Rain Date)	11 <div>SCHOOLS CLOSED Veterans Day</div>	Day 5 12	Day 6 13	14

15	Day 1 16 Growth and Development Gr 5-6 Parent Meeting 6:00 PM (HDF)	Day 2 17 Night to Connect	Day 3 18 OMR PTA Mtg 7:00 PM HDF PTA Mtg 7:00 PM CAMP PTA Mtg 7:30 PM	Day 4 19	Day 5 20	21
22	Day 6 23	Day 1 24	Day 2 25 Enrichment for All	26	27	28
29	Day 3 30			<div>SCHOOLS CLOSED Thanksgiving Recess</div>		
					OCTOBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	DECEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

December 2026



NORTH MERRICK
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
—Nurturing Young Minds—

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Day 4 1	Day 5 2 SEPTA Spirit Day Special Education Day Digital Day	Day 6 3	Day 1 4	5
6	Day 2 7 PTA District Council 9:00 AM (Virtual) Winter Concert AM Student Performance Winter Concert Districtwide 6:00 PM (Brookside)	Day 3 8 DRO: Feast of the Immaculate Conception Winter Concert AM Student Performance Board of Education Meeting (HDF) 7:00 PM	Day 4 9 Night to Connect	Day 5 10 Marking Period I Report Cards	Day 6 11	12

13	Day 1 14	Day 2 15	Day 3 16	Day 4 17	Day 5 18	19
20	Day 6 21	Day 1 22	Day 2 23	24	25 DRO: Christmas	26
27	28	29	30	31	NOVEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	JANUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24/31 25 26 27 28 29 30

**SCHOOLS CLOSED –
Holiday Recess**

SCHOOLS CLOSED – Holiday Recess

January 2027

TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS FOR
STUDENTS ATTENDING PRIVATE
PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS ARE DUE
NO LATER THAN APRIL 1, 2027



NORTH MERRICK
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
—Nurturing Young Minds—

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DECEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28				1 DRO: Feast of the Circumcision and New Year's Day SCHOOLS CLOSED Holiday Recess	2
3	Day 3 4 SCHOOL RESUMES	Day 4 5 DRO: Al-Isra'wal-Mi'Raj (sundown)	Day 5 6 DRO: Epiphany DRO: Al-Isra'wal-Mi'Raj District Spirit Day Digital Day All-County Division 1 Gr 5 Rehearsals 4:00 PM-7:30 PM (Cantiague School, Jericho)	Day 6 7 CPSE to CSE Transition 6:00 PM (Virtual) All-County Division 1 Gr 5 Rehearsals 4:00 PM-7:30 PM (Cantiague School, Jericho)	Day 1 8 All-County Division 1 Gr 5 Rehearsals 4:00 PM-7:30 PM (Cantiague School, Jericho)	9

10 All-County Division 1 Gr 5 Performance 4:00 PM (Tilles Center)	Day 2 11 PTA District Council 9:00 AM (Virtual) Night to Connect	Day 3 12	Day 4 13	Day 5 14	Day 6 15 All-County Division 2 Gr 6 Rehearsals 4:00-8:00 PM (Plainedge HS)	16 All County Division 2 Gr 6 Rehearsals 8:30 AM-12:30 PM (Plainedge HS)
		Kindergarten Registration				
		Board of Education Meeting (HDF) 7:00 PM	All-County Division 2 Gr 6 Rehearsals 4:00-8:00 PM (Plainedge HS)	Wellness Retreat Gr 4-6 5:30-7:00 PM (OMR)		
17 All-County Division 2 Gr 6 Performance 11:00 AM (Tilles Center)	18 SCHOOLS CLOSED Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Day 1 19 DRO: Epiphany (Orthodox)	Day 2 20 OMR PTA Mtg 7:00 PM HDF PTA Mtg 7:00 PM CAMP PTA Mtg 7:30 PM	Day 3 21 Wellness Retreat Gr 4-6 5:30-7:00 PM (Snow Date)	Day 4 22	23
24	Day 5 25	Day 6 26	Day 1 27	Day 2 28 HDF Gr 5 WINGS Shark Tank 6:00 PM (HDF)	Day 3 29	30
31 WIDA ACCESS Feb 1-April 9						

February 2027



NORTH MERRICK
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
—Nurturing young Minds—

TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS FOR
STUDENTS ATTENDING PRIVATE
PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS ARE DUE
NO LATER THAN APRIL 1, 2027

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Day 4 1	Day 5 2	Day 6 3 District Spirit Day Digital Day World Read Aloud Day	Day 1 4	Day 2 5	6 DRO: Lunar New Year
WIDA ACCESS Feb 1-April 9					Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Registration (Online) Opens 9:00 AM	
7 DRO: Ramadan begins (sundown)	Day 3 8 DRO: Ramadan PTA District Council 9:00 AM (Virtual) SEPTA Spirit Wear Epilepsy Awareness Day	Day 4 9	Day 5 10 DRO: Ash Wednesday	Day 6 11 Wellness Retreat Gr K-3 5:30-7:00 PM (OMR)	Day 1 12	13
		Board of Education Meeting (HDF) 7:00 PM				

14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	SCHOOLS CLOSED – Winter Recess					
21	Day 2 22 SCHOOL RESUMES	Day 3 23	Day 4 24 OMR PTA Mtg 7:00 PM HDF PTA Mtg 7:00 PM CAMP PTA Mtg 7:30 PM	Day 5 25 Wellness Retreat Gr K-3 5:30-7:00 PM (Snow Date) Night to Connect	Day 6 26 Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Registration (Online) Closes 3:00 PM	27
28					JANUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24/31 25 26 27 28 29 30	MARCH S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

March 2027



NORTH MERRICK
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
—Nurturing young Minds—

TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS FOR
STUDENTS ATTENDING PRIVATE
PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS ARE DUE
NO LATER THAN APRIL 1, 2027

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Day 1 1	Day 2 2	Day 3 3 SEPTA Spirit Day World Hearing Day Digital Day	Day 4 4	Day 5 5	6
7 NYSSA English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science March 8-June 11	Day 6 8 DRO: Eid Al-Fitr (sundown) PTA District Council 9:00 AM (Virtual)	9 DRO: Eid Al-Fitr SCHOOLS CLOSED	Day 1 10 Board of Education Meeting (HDF), 7:00 PM	Day 2 11 Night to Connect	Day 3 12 Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Lottery Drawing (Virtual) 9:00 AM	13

14	Day 4 15 <div>CogATs (Grade 3)</div>	Day 5 16 Marking Period II Report Cards Theatre Arts Student Performance 9:00 AM (Brookside)	Day 6 17 Theatre Arts Student Performance 9:00 AM (Brookside) OMR PTA Mtg 7:00 PM HDF PTA Mtg 7:00 PM CAMP PTA Mtg 7:30 PM	18 Parent-Teacher Conferences (Grades K-6) 12:00-7:00 PM <div>SCHOOLS CLOSED</div>	Day 1 19 International Day of Happiness School Celebration Theatre Arts Performance 7:00 PM (Brookside)	20 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HAPPINESS Theatre Arts Performance 7:00 PM (Brookside)
21	Day 2 22 DRO: Purim (sundown) SEPTA Spirit Wear World Down Syndrome Day	Day 3 23 DRO: Purim	Day 4 24	25 DRO: Holy Thursday	26 DRO: Good Friday	27
				<div>SCHOOLS CLOSED Easter Recess</div>		
28 DRO: Easter	29 <div>SCHOOLS CLOSED Easter Recess</div>	Day 5 30	Day 6 31		FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	APRIL S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

April 2027

TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS FOR
STUDENTS ATTENDING PRIVATE
PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS ARE DUE
NO LATER THAN APRIL 1, 2027



NORTH MERRICK
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
—Nurturing Young Minds—

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MARCH S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31				Day 1 1 SEPTA Spirit Wear Autism Acceptance Day	Day 2 2	3
4 <div> Grades 3-6 English Language Arts & Math April 5-May 14 </div> <div> Grade 5 Science April 5-May 14 </div>	Day 3 5	Day 4 6	Day 5 7 District Spirit Day Digital Day	Day 6 8	Day 1 9	10
		NYS ELA Test (Computer), Grades 3 and 5		NYS ELA Test (Computer), Grades 4 and 6		

11	Day 2 12 PTA District Council 9:00 AM (Virtual)	Day 3 13	Day 4 14 OMR PTA Mtg 7:00 PM HDF PTA Mtg 7:00 PM CAMP PTA Mtg 7:30 PM	Day 5 15	Day 6 16	17
		Board of Education Meeting (HDF), 7:00 PM		NYS Mathematics Test (Computer), Grades 3 and 5		
18	Day 1 19 BOCES Special Meeting (HDF), AM TBD	Day 2 20 Night to Connect	Day 3 21 DRO: Passover (sundown) Enrichment for All	22 DRO: First Two Days of Passover	23 DRO: First Two Days of Passover	24
	NYS Mathematics Test (Computer), Grades 4 and 6			SCHOOLS CLOSED Passover Recess		
25	26	27	28 DRO: Last Two Days of Passover	29 DRO: Last Two Days of Passover	30 DRO: Great Holy Friday (Orthodox)	MAY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23/30 24/31 25 26 27 28 29
	SCHOOLS CLOSED – Passover Recess					

May 2027



NORTH MERRICK
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
—Nurturing Young Minds—

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
APRIL S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	JUNE S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30					1
2 DRO: Pascha (Orthodox)	Day 4 3 SCHOOL RESUMES	Day 5 4 NYS Science Test (Computer) Grade 5 Board of Education Meeting and Budget Hearing (HDF) 7:00 PM	Day 6 5 District Spirit Day Digital Day Musical Showcase Student Performance 8:45 AM (HDF) Musical Showcase 6:00 PM (HDF)	Day 1 6 DRO: Ascension Thursday Musical Showcase Tour Student Performance Camp 8:45 AM OMR 10:00 AM	Day 2 7	8

9	Day 3 10 PTA District Council 9:00 AM (Virtual)	Day 4 11 Meet the Candidate Night (PM TBD HDF)	Day 5 12 OMR PTA Mtg 7:00 PM HDF PTA Mtg 7:00 PM CAMP PTA Mtg 7:30 PM	Day 6 13 <div>Evening Community Open House 5:00-6:30 PM</div>	Day 1 14	15
16 DRO: Eid Al-Adha (sundown) DRO: Pentecost	Day 2 17 DRO: Eid Al-Adha	Day 3 18 <div>DISTRICT BUDGET VOTE & TRUSTEE ELECTION</div>	Day 4 19 Irene Lenhart Awards 6:00 PM (MAMS)	Day 5 20	Day 6 21	22
23	Day 1 24 Night to Connect	Day 2 25	Day 3 26	Day 4 27	Day 5 28 Designated Snow Day	29
30	31 <div>SCHOOLS CLOSED Memorial Day</div>					

June 2027



NORTH MERRICK
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
—Nurturing young Minds—

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Day 6 1 Spring Concert Gr 4 Student Performance 9:30 AM (Brookside) Spring Concert Gr 4 6:00 PM (Brookside)	Day 1 2 District Spirit Day Digital Day	Day 2 3 Spring Concert Gr 5 & 6 Student Performance 9:30 AM (Brookside) Spring Concert Gr 5 & 6 6:00 PM (Brookside)	Day 3 4	5
6	Day 4 7 PTA District Council 9:00 AM (Virtual)	Day 5 8 Board of Education Meeting (HDF) 7:00 PM	Day 6 9 Gr 6 Field Day – HDF (all schools) District Family Engagement 5:00-6:30 PM (HDF)	Day 1 10 DRO: Shavuot (sundown) DRO: Ascension Thursday (Orthodox) EARLY DISMISSAL for Students 11:30 AM	Day 2 11 DRO: Shavuot	12

13	Day 3 14 Gr 6 Field Day – HDF (Rain Date)	Day 4 15 Fun Day Night to Connect	Day 5 16 Fun Day (Rain Date)	Day 6 17	18 SCHOOLS CLOSED Juneteenth (Observed)	19 Juneteenth
20 DRO: Pentecost (Orthodox)	Day 1 21	Day 2 22 Camp Ave Moving Up Rehearsal 9:00-11:00 AM (MAMS)	Day 3 23 Kindergarten Celebrations CAMP – 8:45 AM HDF – 10:00 AM OMR – 11:15 AM	Day 4 24 Grade 6 Moving Up Day OMR – 8:45 AM HDF – 11:00 AM CAMP – 1:15 PM (MAMS)	Day 5 25 Report Cards (K-6) LAST DAY OF SCHOOL 9:30 AM Dismissal	26
27	28	29	30		MAY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 ²³ / ₃₀ ²⁴ / ₃₁ 25 26 27 28 29	JULY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

July 2027



NORTH MERRICK
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
—Nurturing Young Minds—

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JUNE S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	AUGUST S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31			1	2	3
4 <div>Independence Day</div>	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2027



NORTH MERRICK
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
— Nurturing Young Minds —

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31			JULY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	SEPTEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

School Programs

Art

Students are encouraged to express themselves creatively through their artwork, which results in a feeling of accomplishment and self-worth. Students are guided to relate art to many subjects and are provided with opportunities to work with media such as paint, crayons, clay, cut paper, etc. Art experiences not only enrich the school curriculum but promote art skills and appreciation as part of everyday living.

Instructional Technology

Instructional technology serves as an enhancement to teaching and learning by providing students and staff with access to a variety of digital tools and resources that support communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking. Chromebooks are provided to students and teachers, allowing learning opportunities to extend beyond the classroom and ensuring equitable access to instructional resources both at school and at home. All instructional spaces are equipped with interactive display boards that enhance visual learning and increase student engagement across content areas. Students utilize a variety of digital platforms that support personalized learning, ongoing assessment, skill reinforcement, and creative expression, helping to meet diverse learning needs and promote academic growth. Through the purposeful integration of instructional technology, students develop essential digital literacy skills while engaging in meaningful learning experiences and reinforcing the principles of digital citizenship, online safety, and the responsible use of technology.

Literacy

We have made several important shifts in our literacy instruction to strengthen foundational skills and support reading success at all levels. In grades K-3, this includes a structured focus on phonemic awareness and phonics, along with the use of decodable texts to help students apply skills in context and build reading confidence. In our upper grades, 4-6, we continue to provide comprehensive literacy instruction that integrates fluency, vocabulary development, reading comprehension, and written expression to deepen students' understanding and foster critical thinking. Across all grade levels, our goal is to ensure that every student receives the targeted, high-quality instruction they need to become confident and capable readers and writers.

Mathematics

Students engage in problem-solving and critical-thinking activities while exploring diverse ways to solve problems. Ongoing assessment of student work guides instruction and serves as a tool to differentiate instruction and meet the needs of all learners. Mathematics instruction balances conceptual understanding with procedural fluency to enable students to successfully transition to middle school, high school and beyond.

Music

The program encourages self-expression, creative performance and acquisition of major musical elements, such as rhythm, harmony, melody and notation. Students play rhythmic and melodic instruments, sing in small or large choral groups, learn musical notation and listen to a variety of the finest forms of music. They also gain a deeper understanding of the contribution of music to our American heritage. Class lessons are provided once each cycle. Interested fourth, fifth and sixth graders are invited to join the School Chorus and may participate in the instrumental program. As students gain proficiency, they may join the Marching Band, District Band, District Orchestra or District Chorus.

Physical Education

Physical education is designed to promote health and enhance quality of life by providing opportunities to attain athletic skills, participate in individual and team sports, and develop sportsmanship behavior. Adapted Physical Education (APE) is offered to students with motor delays or other disability-related difficulties that do not allow them to participate productively in a general physical education class.

Science

Science instruction is guided by NYS Next Generation Science Standards. Core ideas progress through eight levels in the domains of Physical and Life Sciences, Earth and Space, and Engineering. There is a focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) with units in computer coding and Lego Robotics. All students participate in experiments and investigations that align with grade-level standards, fostering inquiry-based learning and a deeper understanding of scientific concepts through hands-on exploration.

Social Studies

The curriculum is based on inquiry-based learning, big ideas and a strong research component utilizing units of study to further enhance instruction. Students read and study historical fiction, examine primary and secondary sources, and research, analyze and interpret various documents and texts related to the coursework. A strong literacy component is integrated into the curriculum, which prepares students for college, careers and civic life.

WINGS

The district's enrichment program for gifted students serves fourth through sixth graders in which students work within groups and individually in an accelerated academic environment. The students develop research skills and expand independent thinking, critical and evaluative solution finding, and creative problem-solving. Each student's interests, talents and varied learning styles are addressed in an atmosphere that fosters intellectual risk taking and a growth mindset.

Library Media

Our library program is an integral part of our curriculum, designed to nurture a love of reading while building essential 21st-century skills. Students engage in media literacy, research projects, and STEAM-based activities that promote critical thinking and creativity. The program also introduces foundational computer science concepts, preparing students to navigate and contribute to an increasingly digital world with confidence and responsibility.

Foreign Language In the Elementary School (FLES)

Our FLES program offers students a dynamic introduction to world languages while also exploring the rich cultures and traditions of diverse communities around the world. Through engaging lessons that incorporate speaking, listening, songs, stories, and cultural celebrations students build foundational communication skills and develop global awareness, fostering curiosity, empathy, and appreciation for diversity from an early age.

General Information

Arrival and Dismissal

To ensure the safety of our students, parents/guardians are reminded not to bring children to school before 8:15 a.m. when teacher supervision begins.

At dismissal, children will exit the building with their respective teachers. Students are instructed to stay with the teacher on duty if their parents/guardians have not arrived to take them home, and they are then escorted to the office to wait for them.

Attendance

The North Merrick Board of Education recognizes that regular school attendance is a major component of academic success and encourages full attendance by all students. Every student is expected to be on time and attend classes except for the following reasons, which are recognized as valid by the Board of Education:

Personal illness; illness or death in the family; impassable roads or weather; religious observance; quarantine; required court appearances; medical appointments; or other such reasons as may be approved.

Any other absence is considered unexcused. Teachers take attendance every day, and each absence is documented. Family vacations or other activities outside of the school calendar will be considered unexcused absences. Instruction missed during this time cannot be made up through advanced homework assignments. A written note signed and dated by the parent/guardian explaining each absence must be submitted to the school on the child's return.

Absenteeism will be monitored. Unexcused absences are strongly discouraged, and if excessive absences are noted, parents/guardians will be requested to meet with the school social worker and/or psychologist to develop corrective measures. Should this intervention be unsuccessful, the matter will be referred to the

principal or superintendent, and referral to Child Protective Services may be considered.

**WHEN A CHILD CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL,
OR WILL BE LATE, IT IS THE PARENT'S/
GUARDIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CALL THE
NURSE DIRECTLY, PREFERABLY BETWEEN**

8:30 AND 8:45 A.M.:

**Camp Avenue – Melissa Power (516-379-3733)
Harold D. Fayette – Crystal Marquez (516-282-1828)
Old Mill Road – Christine Torre (516-379-0854)**

After-School Activities

Students who attend after-school activities will be dismissed through the front doors. Parents/guardians are asked to meet their children outside.

Safety

Security System

After arrival of students, all doors are locked, and subsequent entrance into the school buildings requires activation of the security system. All visitors are required to make a previous appointment to enter the buildings and to announce themselves before being buzzed into the buildings.

Identification Badges

Visitors are required to sign in with the door monitor and obtain visitor badges. All members of the faculty and staff wear identification badges. Students are instructed to look for these identification badges to assure that an individual is either school personnel or an acknowledged visitor.

Security Checks

There are periodic security checks throughout the school day. Lavatories are inspected and the windows in the bathrooms are closed at all times. Classroom windows and doors are also secured when the class is not in the room and the teacher leaves the room for an extended period of time.

Cooperation

To keep students safe, parents/guardians and school personnel must work cooperatively. Although in-school safety tips will be reviewed with the students, these precautions should be discussed at home as well. Children should also be cautioned not to accompany strangers anywhere.

Homework

Homework is a valuable activity that extends classroom instruction. It provides opportunities for developing good study habits and for individual differences and abilities while encouraging self-initiative on the part of the student.

Homework assignments, given at all grade levels, reflect the increased instructional demands students encounter as they proceed through elementary school. The district's goals are consistent with the New York State Curriculum Standards for Education and require students to assume increased responsibility for their assignments as they progress in school. Homework will be assigned according to these guidelines:

- Homework should be a properly planned part of the curriculum, extending and reinforcing the learning experiences of the school.
- Homework should help children learn by providing practice in the mastery of skills, experience in data gathering, integration of knowledge, and an opportunity to remediate learning problems.
- Homework should help develop a student's sense of responsibility by providing an opportunity for the exercise of independent work, judgment, organization and time management.
- Homework should be based on a student's abilities and needs.
- Homework should be clearly assigned and its product carefully and promptly evaluated.

The North Merrick Board of Education believes that parental involvement in their children's homework is essential to making homework

General Information

an integral part of the educational program. Parents/guardians are expected to encourage and monitor assignments and provide conditions that are conducive to their successful completion.

Lunch/Recess

The North Merrick School District provides a safe and healthy environment in which children can have their daily lunch and recess. Appropriate supervision is provided in the cafeteria, on the playground, and in indoor recess areas in inclement weather. Although lunch may be purchased in all of the district schools, students may bring food from home and purchase milk, juice and/or snacks from the district to complement their lunch.

The district offers a regular school lunch program on a self-sustaining basis through Whitsons Food Service, with nutrition and menu guidance provided by the school nutrition committees. The Type A lunch price, which includes milk, and the price of an individual container of milk will be posted on the district website. A la carte items are also offered on the menu at varying prices. Whenever parents/guardians request that a child leave the school grounds during lunch or recess, the student (in kindergarten through grade 6) must be picked up and signed out of school by an authorized adult.

Parent Involvement

The Board of Education recognizes that the responsibility for the education of children is shared by the school community and families throughout the students' enrollment in the North Merrick Schools. To support the district's vision to nurture, guide and challenge children to maximize their potential and become contributors to society, the school community and families must work as well-informed partners. To this end, the Board of Education supports the involvement of parents/guardians at all grade levels in a variety of roles. Involvement will include, but not be limited to, the following:

Parenting: Helping all families establish home environments to support children as students by providing parent education and/or training by social workers, psychologists and/or referral to appropriate agencies (e.g., Community Parent Center, Community Wellness Council of the Bellmore-Merrick, etc.) and access to family support programs to assist families with health, nutrition and other services.

Communicating: Effective forms of school/home and home/school communications about school programs and children's progress through monthly Board of Education meetings; timely announcements (ParentSquare Communications, district website, etc.); conferences with every parent/guardian twice a year; report cards, notices, letters, memos, e-newsletters, phone calls and other communications; and interpreters to assist families who do not understand English, whenever necessary and possible.

Volunteering: Recruiting and organizing parent/guardian help and support as chaperones to help teachers on school trips and volunteers to coordinate the PARP program as well as providing room availability for volunteer work and meetings.

Learning at Home: Providing information and ideas to families to help students with homework and other curriculum-related activities, on skills required across the curriculum, homework policies, monitoring schoolwork at home, and useful links for parents/guardians on the district website.

Decision Making: Including parents in school decisions and developing parent leaders and representatives on the Professional Development Plan and Project Save Committees, site-based teams at all schools, active PTA, SEPTA or other parent organizations, advisory councils or committees including monthly meetings with PTA Council, PTAs and SEPTA, and networks to link all families with parent representatives.

Collaborating with the Community: Identifying and integrating resources and services from the community to strengthen school programs, family practices, student learning and development, and providing invitations to parents/guardians or other community members to join the Budget Advisory Committee; information for students and families on community health, cultural, recreational, and social support and other programs or services; information on community activities that relate to learning skills and talents, including summer programs for students; and services to the community by students, families and schools (e.g., art, drama, music, and activities for seniors or other adults).

Parents' Right to Know

Parents/guardians may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher and paraprofessional staff, including whether:

- The teacher has met New York State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels in which the teacher provides instruction;
- The teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualifications of licensing criteria has been waived;
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree is issued; and
- Their child is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications.

Special Education, Special Programs and Pupil Personnel Services

The North Merrick Union Free School District is committed to early intervention services for children who require emotional, behavioral and/or academic support.

Child Find

The North Merrick School District is responsible for the identification and evaluation of all students suspected of having a disability who reside within the boundaries of the school district through Child Find. This includes all children who are enrolled in public or private school, home schooled, homeless, wards of the state, and/or are preschool or kindergarten eligible but not enrolled. Early identification and intervention are essential to help ensure school success.

A child may have a disability if he/she is having significant difficulty with vision, hearing, speech or behavior; is experiencing atypical developmental milestones for his or her age; or has a physical impairment or learning difficulty.

If parents/guardians suspect that their preschool (ages 3-5) through grade 6 child may have a disability, please contact Dr. Edward Murphy, Assistant to the Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services and Special Education, at 516-868-4902 for additional information.

Special Education Committees

The Committee on Special Education (CSE) and the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) are responsible for the identification, diagnosis, placement and annual review of the status of every child with a disability in the district.

In accordance with the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, special education services are provided to students who are identified as having an educational disability. The CSE is responsible for the referral, evaluation and placement of school-age students with educational disabilities. The CPSE has similar responsibilities for preschool children who are ages 3-5.

The district provides a continuum of special education and related services for school-age students. Special education services may include resource room, consultant teacher services, special class placements, and integrated settings. Related services may include counseling, speech/language therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and services for the deaf, hard of hearing or visually impaired.

Response to Intervention (RtI)

Response to Intervention (RtI) addresses the needs of struggling learners using a problem-solving model that applies collected data to develop effective intervention learning strategies. The interventions are designed, implemented and monitored by a multi-disciplinary team of professionals.

Each building has an RtI team, which consists of the principal, psychologist, social worker, special education teacher, speech/language pathologist and referring classroom teacher. The school nurse is part of the committee on an as-needed basis. The RtI team meets weekly to assess the needs of individual students. Staff members, administrators or parents may refer these students.

Reading Teachers and Academic Intervention Services (AIS)

In addition to classroom reading instruction, intervention services are available for students who have been identified as requiring additional instruction to learn to read. Services consist of small group lessons, for a limited period, by a teacher trained in early reading intervention techniques. Children are then placed on a maintenance program in the classroom.

Academic Intervention Services (AIS) are additional general education instructional and/or support services designed to help students achieve the learning standards in English language arts and mathematics in grades K-6. These services include instruction that supplements general classroom instruction specific to areas of need and/or support services required to address barriers to improved academic performance.

School Psychology and Social Work Services

School Psychology Services

School psychologists collaborate with school personnel to promote student learning. School psychologists conduct evaluations of individual students to ensure that special education committees can identify those who have disabilities, and they consult with teachers and parents/guardians about student needs. School psychologists provide screenings for early entrance into kindergarten, program planning, functional assessment and behavior management planning, and monitoring of the academic or social progress of individual or small groups of children. School psychologists teach social skills, lead therapy groups, counsel individual students, offer workshops, provide technical assistance on specific topics, and serve as the Section 504 chairperson for their school as well as participate on the RtI team.

School Social Work Services

School social workers provide a wide variety of support services designed to model collaboration and help students come to school ready to learn. School social workers consult with educators and families about individual student needs,

Special Education, Special Programs and Pupil Personnel Services

involve parents in special education services, and help families access community or medical services. Their work includes participation on the RtI team, screening, evaluation, program planning, teaching social skills, leading therapeutic groups, and providing counseling. The school social workers refer students to appropriate mental health services and coordinate multiple services for specific students. Each school social worker has been designated as the DASA co-coordinator in his/her respective buildings.

School psychologist and social work services include, but are not limited to: evaluations, social skills instruction, independent and group counseling, RtI, and identification of service options.

Speech/Language Services

Speech and language pathologists (SLPs) have extensive training in the assessment and treatment of speech/language disorders. In order to qualify for these services, a child must exhibit an articulation/phonology, language, voice or fluency disorder that meets state eligibility criteria. In addition, documentation must be provided to identify how this disorder impacts the child's classroom performance, either academically or socially.

English as a New Language (ENL) and English Language Learners (ELL)

The English as a New Language (ENL) program provides instruction in English to students who are non-native speakers. The ENL program is designed to help students integrate as quickly as possible into the daily academic work and cultural activities of the regular classroom and school life. English Language Learner (ELL) students are encouraged to participate in all school activities, and their parents are urged to join their school's Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) to help them assimilate into their new school and community.

Health Services

The school health office provides health services to the total school population. This includes students, parents and teaching staff. The health service staff consists of three school nurses and a physician. First aid is provided for all injuries occurring in the school and on the way to school.

According to Education Law, physical examinations and dental examinations are required for kindergartners, students in first, third and fifth grades, and all new entrants on other grade levels.

Examination by a family physician is preferable, since he/she is familiar with your child's medical history. A Physical Examination Report form (available at the school nurse's office) is to be completed by your physician and returned to the school nurse no later than October 5. Each student's health certificate or health appraisal must include an assessment of Body Mass Index (BMI) and a determination of Weight Status Category (WSC), which is based on the BMI and age. If a completed form is not returned by October 5, your child will be examined by the school doctor in late October.

All students in kindergarten, first, third and fifth grades receive vision screening as part of the school health program. Hearing assessments are also provided for kindergarten, first, third and fifth grade students. A scoliosis screening is also conducted for fifth grade girls. Parents will be notified only if there is a concern regarding the results of the screening. A report is requested after the child has been examined by the family physician or a specialist.

State regulations require that children entering school must present certificates indicating that they have been immunized against Measles, Polio Myelitis, Rubella (German Measles), Diphtheria, Mumps, Hepatitis B and Varicella. All immunizations

and doctor recommendations are noted on student health records, which are continuously updated. In this manner, the school can keep track of your child's health, growth and physical development.

In the event a physician prescribes medication that needs to be administered during the school day, an Administration of Medication in School form (available from the school nurse) must be completed. This pertains to over-the-counter medications as well. A new medication form is required annually. Students are not permitted to carry or take medication of any kind on the school premises without specific written direction from the physician and parent/guardian.

Although the individual child is the district's primary concern, the school health services must also focus on the health problems of the entire school community. Preventive health services protect your child from the diseases of others and also provide protection for classmates when your child has a communicable disease. The school nurses provide information and guidance to students, parents/guardians and teachers through conferences. All available community agencies are used to provide the highest standard of personal and community health services for students attending our schools.

Many children have allergies and a few may be life threatening. For example, some children are severely allergic to peanut products and peanut butter. If you are the parent/guardian of a child with life-threatening allergies, we need your cooperation in providing the school with current medical information. Please contact the school nurse immediately to share information regarding your child's severe allergies.

Special Education, Special Programs and Pupil Personnel Services

Mental Health Education Instruction

The New York State Education Department recently amended educational law to expand mental health education in school district throughout the curriculum from the earliest grades.

The New York State Framework for Mental Health Education Instruction provides the guidelines for districts to comply with this initiative to include mental health as an integral part of overall health and to enhance student understanding, attitude and behavior to promote health, well-being and human dignity.

The North Merrick School District already has a strong mental health component in the health curriculum and is currently reviewing best practices in the district schools to create consistency across the buildings and ensure compliance with the new changes to the state law. Additionally, the district has established a School Counseling Program Advisory Council, represented by a group of key stakeholders, to implement the district's school counseling program.

For more information, contact Dr. Edward Murphy, Assistant to the Superintendent for Pupil Personnel and Special Education, at 516-868-4902.

Non-Public School Placement

The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and state law require the **school district in which the non-public school is located** to assume responsibility in providing special education services for your child.

You should know that:

- If you place your child in a non-public school and want your child to receive special education services while enrolled in that school, you must request those services in **writing no later than June 1 before the school year in which services are to be provided.**

- If your child is first identified as a student with a disability after June 1 and before April 1 of the current school year, you may submit your request within 30 days after your child is first identified.
- Transportation requests to and from your child's home to the non-public school should continue to be **submitted to us (i.e., the school district where you legally reside) by April 1** of the school year before transportation is to be provided in accordance with district policy.
- If you have placed your child in a non-public school, and while the child is enrolled in that school, you suspect that your child has a disability and you wish to have your child evaluated to determine if special education services are needed, you **must contact the school district in which the non-public school is located** to request an evaluation to determine your child's eligibility for special education services.
- In order for us to share special education information about your child with the school district in which the non-public school is located, you must provide your written consent.
- If the non-public school where you place your child is located within the geographic boundaries of another public school district, the public school district in which the non-public school is located will arrange for and provide the recommended services for your child, including conducting special education individual evaluations, Committee on Special Education (CSE) meetings, and developing an Individualized Education Program (IEP). It is called an IESP to distinguish it from the IEP that would be developed if your child were re-enrolled in our public school district.
- If the non-public school where you place your child is located within the geographic boundaries of our public school district, we will continue to provide special education services to your child, pursuant to an IESP.

- If the non-public school where you place your child is located in another state, your child may not be entitled to any or all of the special education services he or she might have received if enrolled in a public school. In this case, you must contact the school district in the other state where the school is located, and that district must determine your child's eligibility for services and develop a services plan, which will indicate the services to which you are entitled.
- If you have a dispute regarding special education evaluations or services provided for your child by the school district in which the non-public school is located, you should pursue resolution of these disputes with that school district.

Should you have questions regarding these requirements, please call Dr. Edward Murphy at 516-868-4902 for special education services or Marie Donnelly, at 516-292-3696 for transportation requests.

Board Guidelines and Policies

Access to School Records

Overview

Parents have the right to review and obtain copies of the student's school records and to limit third party access. It is advisable for parents to inspect the student's educational records periodically.

Definition

Student records consist of all "records, files, documents and other materials, which contain information directly relating to a student and which are maintained by an educational agency" including, but not limited to, discipline folders, psychological reports, health files, grade reports, or other records contained or found in a cumulative folder.

Rights of Access with Consent: Parents and Guardians

A parent, guardian or individual acting as a parent of a student in the absence of a parent or guardian, has rights of access and consent under FERPA. Either parent has a right of access to a child's record unless a court order, state law, or "legally binding document relating to such matters as divorce, separation, or custody" states otherwise.

Rights of Access with Consent: Third Party

An educational institution cannot disclose personally identifiable information to a third person (e.g., attorney, friend, lay advocate, relative, social worker, etc.) unless it has first received written consent from the parent/guardian. The written consent must be signed and dated and must specify the following: the records to be disclosed, purpose of the disclosure, or party to whom the disclosure is to be made.

Rights of Access without Consent

School officials do not need to obtain prior parental consent before releasing records to the following:

- Other school officials, including teachers in the same school district who have "legitimate educational interests";

- School officials in a school district to which the child intends to or seeks to enroll;
- Various state and national education agencies for federal program monitoring purposes;
- Student financial aid officials, only to the extent necessary to determine eligibility for such aid, the amount of the aid, the conditions for the aid, or to enforce their terms and conditions of the aid;
- Anyone to whom the school is required to report information pursuant to a state law in effect before November 19, 1974;
- Research organizations including federal, state and local agencies, provided the study is done in a manner that guarantees the confidentiality of the information gathered;
- Accrediting organizations;
- Officials in a health or safety emergency where such information is necessary to protect the health or safety of students or others;
- Other persons in compliance with a lawful court order or subpoena, provided the educational institution makes a reasonable effort to notify the parents/guardians before complying.

Rights of Access – Procedure

Parents/guardians may view their child's records by contacting the principal's office and scheduling an appointment with the principal, who will review and interpret all requested records with them. Requests will be granted within 45 days.

Parents/guardians may request copies of records by completing an Access of School Record form, which must be approved the Superintendent. The district may charge a fee of twenty-five (25) cents per page.

Challenging Information in School Records

A parent/guardian may request that a school amend or delete any information believed to be inaccurate or misleading, or which violates the privacy or other rights of the student. A school district's decision whether or not to amend the record must be made

within a reasonable period of time. If the school district refuses to amend or delete information in a school record, it must inform the parent/guardian that he or she has the right to comment on the contested information in the record and/or state why he or she disagrees with the school district's decision.

Asbestos Management

Asbestos management plans are available for review in the main office of each school and the Facilities and Operations Office, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Three-year asbestos reinspections, as required by AHERA, were performed in August 2025.

Budget

A budget is required for operation and maintenance of the buildings, staff salaries, textbooks and supplies, as well as other school costs. Detailed budget information is posted on the district website. Each year, public budget hearings are held before residents vote at the Budget Vote and Trustee Election in May. Details of qualifications to run for the Board of Education and voting procedures are contained in the budget brochure, which is mailed to all residents.

Code of Conduct Highlights

The North Merrick Board of Education is committed to providing a safe and orderly school environment in which students may receive, and district personnel may deliver, quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teachers and other district personnel, parents/guardians and other visitors is essential to achieving this goal.

Listed below are expectations for acceptable conduct and delineation of unacceptable conduct on school property or during any school function, as well as consequences of unacceptable conduct.

Board Guidelines and Policies

The complete Code of Conduct is available to be viewed on the district website.

Student Rights

The school district will ensure that students are safe and healthy in their school and that everyone will be able to participate in all school activities. No one can be omitted based on his or her race, color, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or weight. Students will be encouraged to tell their side of the story if they are accused of breaking one of the rules.

Student Responsibilities

All students must be responsible. That means all students must:

- Help to keep their school safe and a place where children can learn;
- Show respect for other people in their school community, on school property and other people's property;
- Come to school on time, be absent only on those days when they are ill or have a legal excuse for their absence, and arrive at school prepared to learn;
- Internet-enabled devices (i.e. cell phones, smartwatches and personal devices) are prohibited for use during school hours;
- Be mindful of their manners and be courteous and seek assistance, if needed, from their teacher or other responsible adult they know in their school;
- Share their feelings. If a student feels angry or upset, he or she needs to talk to an adult at school as necessary;
- Dress appropriately for school and school functions.

Students are responsible for their own actions, and

they should tell the people in charge if someone else is doing something unsafe or dangerous.

Student Dress Code

Students must attend school wearing appropriate clean clothes to participate in all school functions. It is important to pay attention to good hygiene habits including bathing and brushing teeth and hair. Students must talk to their parents to make sure they understand what clothing is appropriate for school. Hats and winter scarves are not allowed in the classroom except for medical or religious purposes. Students must wear shoes that are safe for walking in school and playing on the playground. The following items are not appropriate for school:

- Extremely revealing clothing such as tube tops, net tops, see-through clothing, halter tops, spaghetti straps, mini shorts, miniskirts or plunging necklines.
- Clothing that is vulgar, obscene, libelous, or that may belittle others based on race, color, weight, nationality, religion, disability, sexual orientation or gender.
- Clothing that promotes or supports the use of alcohol or tobacco, or that encourages other illegal or violent activities.
- Clothing or accessories that may be deemed a distraction or may interfere with the educational process.

Prohibited Student Conduct

Students must not be disorderly, disrespectful, violent, dishonest, unsafe or unhealthy. The North Merrick Board of Education in accordance with the Dignity for All Students Act (effective July 1, 2012) condemns and strictly prohibits all forms of discrimination, such as harassment, hazing, intimidation and bullying on school grounds, school

buses and at all school-sponsored activities, programs and events.

Discrimination, harassment, hazing or bullying that take place at locations outside of school grounds, such as cyberbullying, which can be reasonably expected to materially and substantially interfere with the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of the school or impinge on the rights of other students are prohibited, and may be subject to disciplinary consequences.

This includes bullying or harassment based on race, color, weight, nationality, religion, disability, sexual orientation or gender. All members of the school community are expected to behave courteously and respectfully.

Reporting Violations

In order to keep the school buildings safe, students need to immediately report to an adult any actions or behaviors that break the rules previously discussed. Students need to report activities that may hurt someone's feelings or bodies. Students need to report if someone is damaging property. The adults in charge will review what has been reported and follow up as necessary. Any report of harassment based on a student's race, color, weight, nationality, religion, disability, sexual orientation or gender will be immediately reported to the school social worker or principal (Dignity Act coordinators).

It is essential that all targeted persons and those with knowledge of bullying report such behaviors immediately to the adult in charge. The school will promptly and fairly investigate all complaints, formal or informal, verbal or written. To the extent possible, all complaints will be treated in a confidential manner, although limited disclosure may be necessary to complete a thorough investigation.

Board Guidelines and Policies

Disciplinary Penalties, Procedures and Referrals

There will be consequences when someone is not following the rules. This will depend on the student's age; nature of the offense and the circumstances that lead to the offense; student's prior disciplinary record; effectiveness of other forms of discipline; information from parents, teachers and/or any other adult that might be important; or other extenuating circumstances.

If a student continues to break school rules, further consequences will take place. The district will contact the child's parent/guardian to determine whether any outside factors may be contributing to or the cause of a child's misconduct. If a child's misbehavior is related to a disability, the incident will be brought to the Committee on Special Education for review.

Consequences

When students do not follow rules, there will be consequences ranging from a verbal warning, written warning, parent phone call, replacement and/or restoration of damaged property, suspension from transportation or extracurricular activities, suspension of other privileges, in-school suspension, removal from classroom, short-term (five days or less) suspension from school, long-term (more than five days) suspension from school, or permanent suspension from school.

Recess

According to the district's Wellness Policy, recess may not be used as a form of punishment. The Dignity Act coordinator may decide that a student will miss recess if he or she is considered to be dangerous, unsafe or disrespectful to his/herself or others.

Due Process Procedures

All violations of the Code of Conduct will be investigated by an appropriate adult. Once all facts have been collected, including the student's version of the facts, an appropriate determination of consequences will occur.

Discipline of Students with Disabilities

The school is committed to upholding the laws and regulations for disciplining students with disabilities.

Visitors to the School

The Board encourages parents and other community members to visit the district's schools. For the safety and well-being of the students and staff, and keeping in mind that schools are a place for working and learning, certain limits must be set for such visits. Anyone who is not a regular staff member or student of the schools will be considered a visitor. The following rules apply to visitors to the schools:

- All visitors must report to the door monitor. There they will be required to sign the visitor's register and will be issued visitor identification badges, which must be worn at all times in the school or on school grounds. Visitors must return the identification badge to the door monitor before leaving the building.
- Visitors attending school functions that are open to the public are not required to sign the register.
- Visitors may not proceed to classrooms without authorization from the principal or his or her designee.
- Teachers are not expected to take class time to discuss individual matters with visitors. Any unauthorized person on school property will be reported to the principal or his or her designee. All visitors are expected to abide by the rules for public conduct on school property contained in the district's policy.

Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)

New York State approved the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) in 2010 to help ensure that schools have the tools and resources to afford all students with an educational environment in which they can thrive. The statewide task force developed guidelines, and each school district developed its

program for implementation on July 1, 2012.

To comply with the Dignity Act, the social worker and principal from each school are designated as Dignity Act coordinators and trained to handle human relations in the areas of race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (defined to include gender identity or expression), sex, bullying and cyberbullying (Education Law 13 [3]).

North Merrick DASA School Coordinators

Camp Avenue: Dr. H. Bromberg, Principal, and M. Bennett, Social Worker

H.D. Fayette: Dr. C. Talbot, Principal, and J. Gingrich, Social Worker

Old Mill Road: M. Dixon, Principal, and M. LaPenna, Social Worker

District: K. Caporusso, Assistant Superintendent, and M. Donnelly, Assistant Superintendent

Our focus is on ensuring that all students attending North Merrick schools are in a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment and bullying, whether in the classroom, on school property, on a school bus and/or at a school function. Please visit the complete DASA document on the district website.

Internet Safety and Policy

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, the district has developed a Computer Network for Education Policy. This policy restricts access to material that is considered inappropriate in the school environment. Parental signature is required to authorize the district to grant internet access to students. The students will be expected to understand and follow all applicable rules and procedures.

Board Guidelines and Policies

Parents for Megan's Law (Sex Offender Notification)

According to Board of Education policy, the district encourages all parents to utilize the sex offender alert notification system through Parents for Megan's Law (PFML). Parents for Megan's Law will email district residents who have registered to inform them of any new sex offender's presence and direct them to their website (www.parentsformeganslaw.org), where they can access a full copy of the notification. There is no cost to participate in this program. Subscribers can be informed of any sex offender within Nassau and Suffolk counties, not just offenders residing within school boundaries.

Religious Observances

Every day that school is in session is a day of meaningful instruction. Some school days are also days of religious observance. When this occurs, it is the duty of the school district to guarantee freedom to meet religious obligations for those students who are absent, as well as to offer regular uninterrupted instruction to those who attend school. As a result, school work will continue in classes and students will be expected to make up work they missed. Either prior to or following absences, teachers will provide opportunities for students to complete missed work and assist them in doing so. The provisions of this policy will apply to extra class activities as well. It is the intent of this policy not to place students at a disadvantage because of religious observance.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

The Board of Education, its officers and employees, shall not discriminate against any student, employee or applicant on the basis of disability with regard to admission, access to services, treatment

or employment in the programs and activities conducted by the North Merrick School District. The district is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualified applicants and employees with disabilities and to providing appropriate educational opportunities for all resident students.

As used in this policy and any implementing regulations, Section 504 defines a person with a disability as anyone who has a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working; has a record of such impairment; or is regarded as having such an impairment.

It is the policy of the Board of Education to provide equal rights and benefits for all individuals and to recognize its obligation to avoid discrimination against individuals with disabilities in its policies and practices regarding students and personnel.

No discrimination against individuals with disabilities will knowingly be tolerated in any program practice or policy in the district. In keeping with its obligations, the district has appointed a Section 504 compliance officer (Assistant to the Superintendent for Pupil Services and Special Education) who is authorized to receive requests for accommodations or for the provision of particular services to individuals with handicaps. It is the responsibility of the district to identify and evaluate any student who is within the intent of Section 504 needs, or is believed to need special services or programs.

Each qualified student within the district who is eligible to receive regular or special education and related aids or services, regardless of the nature or severity of the condition, shall receive a free appropriate public education. Such programs

shall be designed to meet the individual needs of disabled students as adequately as the needs of their non-disabled peers. The due process rights of students with disabilities and their parents will be upheld. The Board authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to establish such rules, regulations and procedures to implement and maintain this policy.

Pesticide Notification

The district uses Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques. IPM is a process for managing, preventing and suppressing pests with minimal impact on human health, the environment and non-target organisms. IPM incorporates all reasonable measures by properly identifying, monitoring and controlling pests through the use of cultural, physical, biological and chemical control methods.

Pesticides must only be used as a last resort, and if pesticides are needed, the least toxic pest-specific alternative must always be selected. Any student, parent/guardian or staff member may register to receive written notification within 48 hours before a regulated pesticide application.

Individuals may request that their names be added to the school registry at any time during the school year by contacting Sam Carder, Director of School Facilities, at 516-292-3095.

Title IX

The district does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the educational programs or activities which it operates. It is required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 not to discriminate in such a manner. Coordinator: Kate Caporusso, Assistant Superintendent.

NORTH MERRICK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
1057 Merrick Avenue
North Merrick, NY 11566

Superintendent's Conference Days: Wednesday and Thursday,

August 26-27, 2026 – FULL DAY FOR FACULTY

Schools Open: Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Schools Closed:*

Friday, September 4 & Monday, September 7, 2026 – Labor Day Weekend

Monday, September 21, 2026 – Yom Kippur

Monday, October 12, 2026 – Columbus Day

Tuesday, November 3, 2026 – Election Day – Parent-Teacher Conferences
(Schools Closed for Students)

Wednesday, November 11, 2026 – Veterans Day

Thursday, November 26 & Friday, November 27, 2026 – Thanksgiving Recess

Thursday, December 24, 2026, to Friday, January 1, 2027 – Holiday Recess

Monday, January 18, 2027 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, February 15, to Friday, February 19, 2027 – Winter Recess

Tuesday, March 9, 2027 – Eid Al-Fitr

Thursday, March 18, 2027 – Parent-Teacher Conferences
(Schools Closed for Students)

Thursday, March 25, to Monday, March 29, 2027 – Easter Recess

Thursday, April 22, to Friday, April 30, 2027 – Spring Recess

Monday, May 31, 2027 – Memorial Day

Friday, June 18, 2027 – Juneteenth

*One inclement weather day has been built into the calendar.

The Board of Education recognizes the following days of religious observance whenever they may fall on a day when school is in session. With the exception of December 25 and January 1, these days are not legal holidays. Attendance registers should be maintained as on other days in session.

DAYS OF RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE – 2026-2027

August 15, 2026 – Feast of the Assumption

Sept 12-13, 2026 – Rosh Hashanah ***

September 14, 2026 – Feast of Elevation of the Cross

September 21, 2026 – Yom Kippur***

Sept 26-27, 2026 – First 2 Days of Sukkot***

September 27, 2026 – Feast of Elevation of the Cross*

Oct 2-Oct 3, 2026 – Last 2 Days of Sukkot

October 26, 2026 – Feast Day of St. Demetrios*

November 1, 2026 – Feast of All Saints

November 8, 2026 – Diwali

December 8, 2026 – Feast of Immaculate Conception

December 25, 2026 – Christmas

January 1, 2027 – Feast of Circumcision and New Year's Day

January 6, 2027 – Epiphany

January 6, 2027 – Al-Isra'wal-Mi'Raj***

January 19, 2027 – Epiphany* (Orthodox)

February 6, 2027 – Lunar New Year

February 8, 2027 – Ramadan begins***

February 10, 2027 – Ash Wednesday

March 9, 2027 – Eid Al-Fitr***

March 23, 2027 – Purim***

March 25, 2027 – Holy Thursday

March 26, 2027 – Good Friday

March 28, 2027 – Easter

April 22-23, 2027 – First 2 Days of Passover***

April 28-29, 2027 – Last 2 Days of Passover

April 30, 2027 – Great Holy Friday*

May 2, 2027 – Pascha*

May 6, 2027 – Ascension Thursday

May 16, 2027 – Pentecost

May 17, 2027 – Eid Al-Adha***

June 10, 2027 – Ascension Thursday*

June 11, 2027 – Shavuot***

June 20, 2027 – Pentecost* (Orthodox)

NOTE: All Jewish and Islamic religious holidays on the calendar begin at sundown on the day before the listed date above. School activities should not be scheduled on the evening before these religious holidays.

*Old Calendar Eastern Orthodox Churches & Old Calendar eastern Rite Roman Catholic Churches and ***Islamic and Jewish religions