



Norwell Middle School

James Dupille, Principal - james.dupille@norwellschools.org
Ellen Murray, Assistant Principal - ellen.murray@norwellschools.org

Norwell Middle School • Norwell Public Schools • 328 Main Street • Norwell, MA 02061 • v:781.659.8814 • f:781.659.8822 • norwellschools.org/nms

It is our vision that students will....experience their classrooms as stimulating, even inspiring environments – places they look forward to going to and places they hate to leave.

SUMMER

NEWSLETTER

2026

A Message from the Principal Mr. Dupille

Welcome classes of 2031, 2032, and 2033! As we embark on a new school year, we are very excited about the opportunities for the upcoming year. We are planning excellent after-school activities, and are thrilled to have our students coming back to the classrooms. Highlights of upcoming activities include: Welcome Back Team Day Event on Friday (9/11), 6th grade Fun Day, 7th grade field event, Haunted Hallows, Halloween Dance, Turkey Trot, 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament, Production by the Spotlighters (Drama Club), Winter Concerts, over 25 clubs, and more! It is an exhilarating time to be at NMS.

Most importantly, we have put together a challenging and engaging curriculum for our students. It is our primary goal to ensure that each child has success throughout his/her educational experience at NMS. To achieve this, we ask for your support and assistance. Whether it be monitoring your child's work or communicating with your child's teacher, actively participating in your child's studies will have positive results. It is through our common commitments as a community that we can ensure success for all learners. I urge everyone in our school family to become an active member of the Norwell Middle School Community. It is the unifying strength of all the members of the community that helps to create a school of excellence. We strive to reach this goal collectively. NMS is committed to fostering open lines of communication with our students and their families. To that end, we offer the following vehicles for communication: [NMS Website](#), Aspen (community emails and voicemails from NMS), weekly Parent Newsletter, staff email and voicemail accounts. Homework is posted on each teacher's Schoology site, and our teachers routinely post grades on Schoology for parents and students to review.

I would also ask everyone to consider becoming involved with our [PTO](#), a very important organization within our school. Their fundraising efforts throughout the school year support numerous programs, including team experiential learning trips, the Welcome Back Team Day Event, and additional events throughout the year. The PTO's programs and activities enrich each child's experience here at NMS. They are currently looking for parent volunteers; please look to sign-up for one of the committees and help keep the organization strong nmspto@gmail.com

NMS is ready for the classes of 2031, 2032, and 2033! Thanks to the exceptional work of our custodial staff, office staff, support staff, administration and faculty, we have a pristine building, an excellent academic program, and we are ready to educate our students. I look forward to working with our dedicated staff to provide our students with the opportunities to reach the heights of their potential. We pride ourselves on fostering an educational environment that is both engaging and challenging.

TIPS TO HELP YOUR CHILD START THE SCHOOL YEAR STRONG

- Embrace routines
- Enforce bedtime
- Outline expectations

*Let's have a **GREAT 2026-2027** school year!*

August Open House (New Students & Rising 6th Grade)
Monday, August 31, 2026

School will open for all 6th grade students, parents and new students on **Monday, August 31st**.

12:00 - 2:00 Open House (Afternoon)

Information, Schedules, Tours

**Administration, Office Staff
& Grade 8 Student Volunteers**

- Student Packet for Orientation
 - Student schedule w/ homeroom
 - Locker Instructions
 - Grade level material list
 - Clubs/ Activities trifold
 - Map
- Tours - 8th Grade Students
- PTO Information Table
- CORI for Parent Volunteers (Please bring ID for CORI form)
- Parent Sign-offs for Aspen (Community Room)
 - (Handbook, Student Technology Use, Pictures, etc.)

Support/Technology assistance

Lobby / Staff

- Bell Schedule / Student Schedule
- NMS Website and Aspen Log-in

5:00 - 7:00 Open House (Evening)

Information, Schedules, Tours

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& Grade 8 Student Volunteers**

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FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
Tuesday, September 8, 2026
SCHOOL OPENING AND BUS INFORMATION



School will open for all students on **Tuesday, September 8**. This will be a full day of school, and the cafeteria will be open. Student drop off at the middle school begins at 7:00 A.M. All bus routes and times for pick up are posted on our website shortly before the opening of school. Please review the [Morning and Afternoon Drop-off Procedures.](#)



[Waterfall Daily Bell Schedule](#) This link provides the times and periods for the waterfall schedule. Click on the tabs at the bottom to see the schedule for each of the grades, 6th, 7th & 8th.



BACK TO SCHOOL/CURRICULUM NIGHT

On **Wednesday, September 16th**, the middle school will host its annual **Back to School/Curriculum Night** at **6:00 P.M.** This is a night for parents to meet with their child's teachers and become familiar with the school's various programs. The evening's activities are designed to provide overviews of course descriptions, team and classroom expectations, homework policies, and grading procedures. Always a favorite event, we look forward to your participation.



LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED?

The [Parent Teacher Organization \(PTO\)](#) is a working group of volunteers for the school. They help to plan and run school activities such as student recognition programs, field trips, fundraisers, special programs for parents, and community service initiatives. Meetings are usually held monthly at the Middle School (see their website for days and times).

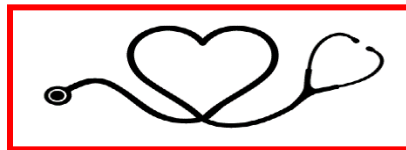
*****IMPORTANT INFORMATION*****

If you plan to volunteer. PLEASE make sure your CORI is up to date and you have completed your fingerprinting. You can contact the main office at nms.mainoffice@norwellschools.org or call 781-659-8814 to inquire if your information is current. Click [HERE](#) to see Norwell's requirements for volunteering.

I am happy to introduce our **New Staff for 2026-2027:**

Ms. Shauna Howell – Engineering

Hello! I am Shauna Howell, the new Engineering and Problem-Solving teacher at NMS. I am joining NMS after three years teaching 4th grade at Cole School. This will be my thirteenth year teaching. I've previously taught 4th-6th grade math, science, and general education in Norwell, Boston, Charlotte, NC, and Henderson, NV. I grew up in Easton, Massachusetts and now live in Plymouth with my husband, daughter, two dogs, and cat. I graduated with my Bachelor's degree from University of New Hampshire and my Master's from Bridgewater State University. I'm thrilled to return to middle school and for this new adventure into engineering design and problem solving. I look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new students. I can't wait to dive into the engineering design process to solve real-world problems with all of you!



~From the School Nurse Jillian Young~

I hope you and your family have had a wonderful summer and enjoy the last days making sweet memories! In planning for a smooth transition into the 2026-2027 school year, please review the important health services referenced below, that can be found in the Norwell Middle School Handbook:

- Emergency Contact Information Updates
- Guidelines for attendance when ill
- Prescription and Non- Prescription Medication in School
- Physical Examination and Immunization Requirements
- Health Screenings

***A reminder to parents/guardians of incoming 7th grade students**

Please submit an updated immunization history AND physical examination to NMS before September 8, 2026.

***Allergy/Emergency Action Plans**

Please send in updated Allergy or Emergency Action Plans if your child has an allergy or diagnosis requiring emergency medication. This must be signed by your child's healthcare provider before the first day of school in September. For those students who have permission to self carry, please ensure the provider documents this authorization as "permission to self carry" on the action plan.

Lastly, in the event of new severe allergies, surgeries, accidents, or other health issues/concerns that occurred over the summer, please contact Jill Young: via telephone 781-659-8814 prompt 3 or by email jillian.young@norwellschools.org

Thank you for your time and attention to these matters and please reach out with any questions!

2026 IMPORTANT DATES

Aug	31	New Student Open House
Sept	8	First Day of School
	10	School Picture Day
	16	Back to School/Curriculum Night
	18	PTO Meeting - 9:15 am
	18	Team Day

2026 IMPORTANT DATES cont...

Sept.	24	ELA Fastbridge
	29	Math Fastbridge
Oct	7	District PTO Meeting @ 9AM
	9	Term I Interim Reports
	12	Holiday - No School
	9 -12	No Homework Weekend
	16	PTO Meeting @ 9:15AM
	31	Costume Day

1) Aspen Parent Sign-offs: As you may recall from last year, we will once again be using a "Workflow" in the Aspen Parent Portal to collect the necessary information regarding handbook acknowledgements, parental permissions, updated health history, etc. This is **required** at the beginning of each school year for **every** student. Instructions for the **Annual Sign Off and Health Update** will be sent to parents when the handbooks are available on the Norwell Public Schools website.

Students whose parents do not complete the sign off will not be able to pick up their Ipad (grades 6-8) and will not be included in any PTO sponsored school directories as both of these require acknowledgement from families.

[Bus information](#) for your student can also be found when you log into Aspen.

2) Reminder about iPad distribution: This year we will be distributing the iPads during the first week of school for all students, grades 6, 7 & 8. **It is important to note that in order for a student to get the school-issued iPad the appropriate sign-offs will have to be completed in Aspen** (see directions above). The school handbook is available on the NMS website.

3) Map of the School: Please click [HERE](#) for a map of the school, which will help students locate their classes prior to the start of school.

4) Absences / Dismissals: If your child is going to be absent or dismissed, please call the School Absent Line x1206 to report the absence/dismissal or email the main office at nms.mainoffice@norwellschools.org as soon as possible. Click [HERE](#) for more details. We will be sending out additional information regarding our Attendance Policy and practices as we get closer to the start of the school year.

Please note: We consider attendance to be an integral part of student success here at NMS. We're not aiming for perfection, but there is value in consistency. Please reach out to the School Counselor, Principal or Assistant Principal if your student is struggling to get to school or will be out for an extended period of time so that we can set up a meeting for support. **ADDITIONAL REMINDERS:** The class supply lists are posted on the [middle school website](#). Please remember to complete the summer reading available on the [library page/summer reading](#) and the [math packet](#) before the start of school.

Norwell Middle School

Staffing 2026 - 2027

Norwell Middle School								
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	Team 6	Orange		Main Office			Team 6	Purple
102	Jeanine Ferris	Science		James Dupille	Principal	109	Paula Roussele	Soc Studies
101	Dianne Uhlman	ELA		Ellen Murray	Asst. Principal	117	Jennifer Marani	ELA
112	Denise Ryan	Math		Jennifer Burke	Admin Asst	116	Abigail Kelleher	Math
111	Cori MacDonald	Soc Studies		Officer	SRO	108	Tara Coffey	Science
113	Mark Brust	SPED				113	Jennifer Whitt	SPED
	Team 7	Green		Guidance			Team 7	Gold
201	Cindy DeBendicitis	Math		Alexis Rush	Guidance (A-K)	216	Julie Needle	ELA
211	Veronica Browning	ELA		Lisa Sailer	Guidance (L-Z)	209	Laura Dalton	Math
202	Alicia Johnston	Science		Elizabeth Schaeffer	Psychologist	208	Jason Fraser	Science
212	Bethany Gavin	Soc Studies		Lauren Hess	Clerical Aide	217	Jason Amato	Soc Studies
213	Caitlyn Fraser	SPED		Nurse		213	Kacey Zych	SPED
				Jillian Young	Nurse			
	Team 8	Blue		Special Education			Team 8	Red
237	Christine Bailey	Science		Ellen Barnard	Aide	246	Terri Dsida	ELA
242	Gwenn Higgins	ELA		TBD	Aide	232	Marisa O'Connell	Math
238	Rick Wolbach	Math		Juliana Fortes	Aide	231	Ronald Ricciarelli	Science
241	Rob Doran	Soc Studies		TBD	Aide	247	Matt Luccarelli	Soc Studies
243	Cheryl Tobin	SPED		Susan Scheller	Aide	243	Jennifer Schad	SPED
				TBD	Aide			
				TBD	Aide			
				TBD	Aide			
	Exploratory			Fine Arts			Bldg. & Grounds	
103	Chris O'Neil	Health/PE	123	Mary Jo Running	Music			
150	Maeve Murphy	STEM	147	Tabitha Finn	Art			
149	Shauna Howell	STEM				CO	John Maurice	Maintenance
Lib	Mary Cavanagh	Library		Wellness				
153	Tim Trenger	FCNE	Gym	Carolyn Petrell	PE		Cafeteria	
	W. Language						Judy Crooks	Director FS
224	Laura Callahan	Spanish		Supports			Maria Fanning	Asst.
203	Lisa Rodgers	Spanish	144	Nicole Pedro	Reading		Terri Smolinsky	Café Mngr
233	Alison Kelly	French					Carol Connors	Café
248	Joseph Davenport	Latin					Robin Gallagher	Café
Dist	Charlotte Sturdy	ELL					Susan Hardiman	Café
Dist	Amy Chiano	Speech					Amal Jammal	Café
							Xuan (Sue) Trac-Garzon	Café