WELCOME TO CURRICULUM NIGHT!

MESSAGE FROM PTA!

NORTHWOOD'S MISSION

Northwood.....A caring community where a passion for learning inspires students to reach for their BEST!

NORTHWOOD'S VISION

Northwood is a community that nurtures the emotional, social, and academic well-being of all children by building collaborative relationships, creating engaging learning environments, and celebrating all successes.

NORTHWOOD'S ECO VISION

Serving our earth, learning to become better citizens through our stewardship of natural resources, and creating a sustainable future for all.

OUR NORTHWOOD TEAM

Heather Rucker - Principal
- Supports students, staff and families

Michelle Levine - Assistant Principal
- Student affairs, Attendance, Discipline

Danielle Evangelista - Curriculum Support Teacher
- Curriculum and Instruction, Tier Process

Jennifer Weeks - Counselor
- Counseling, 504 Plans

Molly Petry- Instructional Support Teacher
- Special Education Services

Nicole Sickle - Administrative Assistant
- PBIS, MTSS Process

Lorraine Robertson - Front Desk
- General Information

Amy Dulion - Data Clerk
- Records, Contact Information, Registrations

Lorraine Robertson - Front Desk
- General Information

Rosa Gutierrezabrego- Cafeteria Manager

Jayna Brosmer - Cluster Nurse
- Medical Issues

Kelsey McKaige - Northwood Clinic Assistant
- Day to day clinic management

OUR INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT TEACHER (IST)



Molly Petry

- This is my 2nd year at Northwood, and 5th year as an IST (Instructional Support Teacher)
- This is my 21st year of working for Fulton County Schools
- I learned to play Mahjong over the summer, and it's my newest obsession
- I love spending time with my husband Charlie and sons, Sam (28), Ben (26) and yellow lab Maizy (2); playing tennis and DIY projects

OUR AU TEACHERS



Marisa Franceschi
K-2 Autism Support Teacher

- This is my 8th year in education; I spent 6 years as a one-on-one paraprofessional in a Severe and Profound classroom and one year as a paraprofessional in an Autism Support classroom.
- Graduated from Agnes Scott College with a degree in Psychology and Education
- My hobbies include Pilates and spending time with my friends and family.
- My favorite sports team is the McLaren Formula 1 Team



Monica Sims
2-3
Autism Support Teacher

- 19th year teaching, the last 4 years have been in the AU setting.
- Graduated from Alabama State University in 2000.
- Enjoys baking in her spare time!
- Has been a Green Bay Packers Fan since 6th Grade and is a proud Cheesehead! GO PACK GO!



Jessica Gardella
3-5
Autism Support Teacher

- 13th year teaching, 11th year at Northwood
- Graduated from GCSU in 2014
- Masters in Special Education and an Autism Endorsement in 2021.
- 2 children (Kaleb,10, Sadie 6)
- Enjoys playing with her kids, spending time with family and friends, and cheering on the Atlanta Braves and the GEORGIA BULLDOGS!

OUR AU PARAS



Adrian Harris
K-2 Paraprofessional
(Franceschi's Room)

- This is my 2nd year at Northwood. I have been in the field of education for 10 years
- Fun fact: I was born and adopted in Romania!



Melba Walker
2-3 Paraprofessional
(Sims' Room)

- This is my 2nd year at Northwood 15th year in education
- I love helping students learn and grow
- Fun fact: I am a plant mom!



Leila Karimzedah
3-5 Paraprofessional
(Gardella's Room)

- I have been in education for 6 years.
- This is my second year at Northwood
- I love spending time with my husband and 2 boys (28 and 19).
- I love gardening and cooking!

SUPPORT STAFF



Coach Bailey
AU Support Floater Para

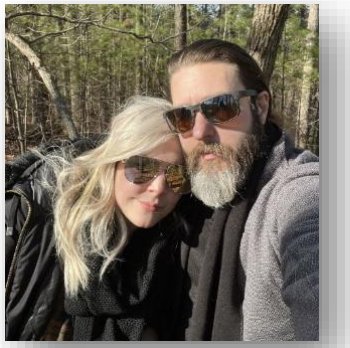
- This is my 4th year at Northwood and 26th year in education.
- I used to be a paraprofessional in the PE department.
- I am a licensed massage therapist.
- I have 2 dogs named Zach and Dre
- BIG Georgia Bulldog Fan! GO DAWGS



Kirby Caruth
"Ms. Kirby"
Music Therapist

- I am entering my 20th year in education
- I am a board-certified licensed Music Therapist
- Fun fact, Fulton County Schools has the largest Music Therapy Department- 20 therapists on staff!
- I have 2 crazy boy and 2 tuxedo cats
- I marched in the Alabama Million Dollar Band during college playing piccolo
- I love to travel, cook and try new recipes and go to concerts

SUPPORT STAFF CONTINUED



Dominic Deudonni
"Coach D"
APE Teacher

- This is my 17th year in education, 2nd year at Northwood
- I enjoy hiking with my dog, rucksack, working out, reading and watching hummingbirds in my backyard.
- I was a classroom teacher ranging from Kindergarten through high school and always had an interest in Physical Education,.
- I love the opportunity to encourage kids to enjoy health and fitness as I believe it improves the quality of anyone's life; both mentally and physically.



Ashley Greer
Adaptive Art Teacher

- This is my 13th year teaching in FCS and my 10th specializing in adaptive Art. I completed my internship at multiple schools (elementary, middle and high school).
- I graduated from UNG with my BS in Art Education and from UF with my MA in art.
- I am a mom to 2 very busy born and my youngest was born profoundly bilaterally deaf and communicates mostly using ASL.

OUR SLPS AND OT



Lindsay Lee
Full Time SLP

- I am approaching my 19th year as an SLP and my 8th year in Fulton County schools. I previously worked at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta in outpatient rehab.
- I graduated from the University of Georgia with both my undergraduate and graduate degrees in Communication Sciences and Disorders.
- Fun fact: my Hometown (Waycross, GA) is the starting point of the Okefenokee Swamp, which recently became a UNESCO World Heritage site



Mika Mukako
Part Time SLP

- I am in my 3rd year as an SLP within Fulton County and my 2nd year at Northwood.
- I graduated from the University of Georgia and received my master's from Georgia State University.
- I love to read, travel, bake and play with my dog (Marty).
- Fun Fact: I bought my first house this summer with my husband! We are so excited to be in Roswell!



Dr. Jennifer Saj
OT

- I have been working in pediatrics for almost 2 years
- I graduated from UGA for my undergrad and Georgia State University for my graduate degree.
- I've recently been trying to learn how to sew but it is definitely a work in progress!

CLASSROOM PBIS VISUAL

Signs and visuals are posted around the school in common areas.

Each rule supports an expectation

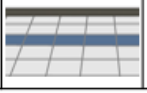
- Be responsible
- Be respectful
- Be engaged



FRANCESCHI'S CLASS EXPECTATION MATRIX

Northwood Elementary

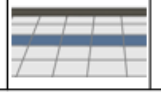
K-2nd Program Class Expectation Matrix

		Arrival	Whole Group	Small Group	Independent Work	Transitions	Dismissal
Expectation	Be Respectful	Walk into the classroom quietly 	Zero voice level 	Follow directions and listen to others' ideas 	Work quietly in your area 	Keep hands and feet to yourself 	Leave your area organized 
	Be Responsible	Unpack and hang up your backpack 	Keep hands and feet to yourself 	Use materials safely 	Keep your area clean and use materials correctly 	Put materials away 	Pack all belongings in your backpack 
	Be Engaged	Complete morning work quietly 	Be an active listener and participant 	Work on your assigned task. 	Work on your assigned task 	Silently walk on the 3rd square 	Sit quietly on the carpet 

SIMS'S CLASS EXPECTATION MATRIX

Northwood Elementary

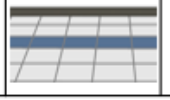
2nd–3rd Program Class Expectation Matrix

		Arrival	Whole Group	Small Group	Independent Work	Transitions	Dismissal
Expectation	Be Respectful	Walk into the classroom quietly 	Zero voice level 	Follow directions and listen to others' ideas 	Work quietly in your area 	Keep hands and feet to yourself 	Leave your area organized 
	Be Responsible	Unpack and hang up your backpack 	Keep hands and feet to yourself 	Use materials safely 	Keep your area clean and use materials correctly 	Make sure you have all material needed 	Pack all belongings in your backpack 
	Be Engaged	Complete morning work quietly 	Be an active listener and participant 	Work on your assigned task. 	Work on your assigned task 	Silently walk on the 3rd square 	Sit quietly 

GARDELLA'S CLASS EXPECTATION MATRIX

Northwood Elementary

3-5th Program Class Expectation Matrix

		Arrival	Whole Group	Small Group	Independent Work	Transitions	Dismissal
Expectation	Be Respectful	Walk into the classroom quietly 	Zero voice level 	Follow directions and listen to others' ideas 	Work quietly in your area 	Keep hands and feet to yourself 	Leave your area organized 
	Be Responsible	Unpack and hang up your backpack 	Keep hands and feet to yourself 	Use materials safely 	Keep your area clean and use materials correctly 	Make sure you have all material needed 	Pack all belongings in your backpack 
	Be Engaged	Complete morning work quietly 	Be an active listener and participant 	Work on your assigned task. 	Work on your assigned task 	Silently walk on the 3rd square 	Sit quietly on the carpet 

MINOR REFLECTION FORMS

Northwood Reflect and Refocus Plan

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Reflect

What were my actions? _____

I made this choice because: _____

My choices caused other people to feel: _____

Refocus

Another choice I could have made is _____

Next time, a "Stop and Think" strategy I could use is: _____

- ☐ Take 3 deep breaths
- ☐ Ignore
- ☐ Take a break
- ☐ Count to 10
- ☐ Count backwards
- ☐ Wall pushups
- ☐ Walk away
- ☐ Talk to the teacher
- ☐ Other

Teacher Signature: _____

Please Circle

Infraction Type	Language	Physical Contact	Defiance	Failure to follow school rules	Property misuse	Disruptive	Stealing	Cheating
Location of Incident	Classroom	Hallway	Restroom	Cafeteria	Gym	Playground	Computer Lab	Bus

White – Parent Yellow – PBIS

Northwood Elementary
Cafeteria Communication

Dear Parent / Guardian:

Your child, _____, had difficulty following our PBIS Cafeteria expectations today. This notification is being sent home to inform you of today's event and ensure that we work together to support your child.

During lunch today, your child was:

- ○ Yelling
- ○ Throwing food
- ○ Wandering out of seat
- ○ Sharing food
- ○ Leaning across the table in someone else's space
- ○ Other _____

Grade / Teacher : _____ Date: _____

White – Parent Yellow – Teacher



Northwood Reflect and Refocus Plan

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Reflect

My actions were:

I made this choice because I wanted:

- ☐ to talk to a friend
- ☐ to talk to the teacher
- ☐ to get out of doing work
- ☐ to stop someone from annoying me
- ☐ to make someone laugh
- ☐ to get attention
- ☐ to make something fun
- ☐ something else

I felt ☐ Sad ☐ Worried ☐ Confused ☐ Frustrated ☐ Upset ☐ Excited when this happened

My choices caused other people to feel ☐ Sad ☐ Worried ☐ Confused ☐ Frustrated ☐ Upset ☐ Excited

Refocus

Another "Stop and Think" strategy I could use is:

- ☐ Take 3 deep breaths
- ☐ Take a break
- ☐ Count to 10
- ☐ Talk to the teacher
- ☐ Walk away
- ☐ Other

Teacher Signature: _____

Please circle

Infraction Type	Language	Physical Contact	Defiance	Failure to follow school rules	Property misuse	Disruptive	Stealing	Cheating
Location of Incident	Classroom	Hallway	Restroom	Cafeteria	Gym	Playground	Computer Lab	Media Center

White – Parent Yellow – PBIS

NORTHWOOD AWARDS

- PBIS Points (Previously known as Gold Slips)
  - Students in grades K-5 are awarded PBIS points which recognize meeting PBIS expectations.
- Gold Pencils
  - Students who earn a gold slip participate in a weekly Gold Slip drawing on Friday.
- Character Connects Us
  - A certificate and charm will be presented to students who are recognized for the Character Connects Us award. Students will be announced on ExplorerVision and will have their picture taken for the Character Connects Us wall.
- Positive Office Referral
  - Students are nominated throughout the year for a positive acknowledgement sharing the great things he/she has done.
- Gold T-Shirts
  - Students can be awarded a Gold T-Shirt for being a role model at Northwood and will be announced on ExplorerVision. Each class has two nominations per year.
- Silver Star T-Shirt
  - Students are awarded a Silver Star T-Shirt for being a role model in the cafeteria.

NORTHWOOD AWARDS

- Rock Star Awards
  - One student in each homeroom is recognized at the end of each semester for outstanding, all-around growth and progress. These students embody our Northwood Pledge.

- Monthly PBIS Celebrations
  - Students who demonstrate PBIS expectations will participate in our monthly PBIS celebration.
  - Shopping Cart can be earned for 10 gold slips or Experiences for the number of slips stated.

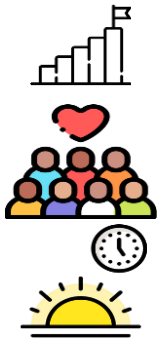
- iReady Wall of Fame and Book Vending Machine
  - Students who meet their iReady math and reading goals will have their name posted on the iReady Wall of Fame.
  - Students who meet their grade level goal of iReady Reading lessons completed and passed will earn a golden token to the Book Vending Machine.

GRADING INFORMATION FOR K-5

- Grading Categories
  - Major (45%), Minor (40%), Practice (15%)
  - Grading Scale has been adjusted
  - Non-Academic Skills is also provided every 9 weeks
    - Self-Direction
    - Collaboration
    - Problem Solving
    - Work Habits
  - Progress Reports done every 4.5 weeks
  - Report Cards done every 9 weeks
  - Recovery - Students will be afforded the opportunity to recover all major assessments if they score below 75% (one recovery attempt per major assessment)

Grades K-2 Grading Scale	Grades 3-5 Grading Scale
EM (90-100%) - Exceeding Mastery **M** (80-89%) - Mastering **AM** (70-79%) - Approaching Mastery **NYM** (69% and below) - Not Yet Demonstrating Mastery **NG** - No Grade	**A** - (90% and above) **B** - (80-89%) **C** - (70-79%) **F** - (69% and below) **NG** - No Grade **I** - Incomplete

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Achievement

Community

Lifelong Skills

What you can do to support attendance:

- Try to limit planned absences for appointments or travel.
- Keep your child home for contagious illnesses.
- Promote positive attendance behaviors

FULTON COUNTY SCHOOLS
95% TO THRIVE!
Fulton County Schools
Where Students Come First

We look forward to having every student at Northwood every day!

ATTENDANCE

When a child is TARDY (late check in/early check out)…

Missing just…	That equals…	Which is…	And over 13 years of schooling is…
10 min. per day	50 min. per week	nearly 1 ½ weeks per year	nearly ½ a year
20 min. per day	1 hr. 40 min. per week	over 2 ½ weeks per year	nearly 1 year
30 min. per day	½ a day per week	about 4 weeks per year	nearly 1 ½ years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	about 8 weeks per year	over 2 ½ years!!

YES…being TARDY does matter!

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

If your child is absent from school, please send an email to northwoodattendance@fultonschools.org AND the classroom teacher within five days of returning to school.

In the email, please include:

- Child's first and last name
- The absence date(s)
- Reason for absence(s)
- attach doctor's note if applicable

You can monitor student attendance in your Campus Parent Portal account.

Pre-approved absences need to be requested in writing using a form that can be found on the Northwood website.

PICK UP PATROL- DISMISSAL

- PickUp Patrol provides families with a convenient way to make changes to your child's dismissal plans and helps ensure that students are accurately and safely dismissed each day.
- If you need to change how your child should be dismissed please submit that information via PickUp Patrol BEFORE 1:30 pm on the day of the change.
- All dismissal information and changes must be entered into PickUp Patrol. We are no longer accepting email or paper note changes.
- If you need any help with PickUp Patrol contact Lorraine Robertson at Northwood's front desk, robertsonll@fultonschools.org.
- More information can be found at www.pickuppatrol.net.

PickUpPatrol™

AVID AT NORTHWOOD

Northwood is proud to be an AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) school. AVID Elementary equips students with the foundational skills and mindset needed for future success. Our staff is focused on enhancing instructional consistency, fostering a college and career readiness mindset, increasing student engagement and building organizational and study skills.

- We talk about being a successful student, college and career readiness and strategies that help us in our success.
- As part of this, each week Northwood will be focused on one goal as a school. Be sure to ask your child about it!
- In addition, students will set a personal goal this year focused on their learning.

CONTINUOUS ACHIEVEMENT

- Fulton County and Northwood's goal is to provide every child with what he/she needs academically.
- Each child will have support and challenge when needed. Teachers will differentiate instruction and make adjustments throughout the year.
- Teachers will work together as a team looking at student assessments and work samples to make the most appropriate educational decisions. Students will be placed in groups which will be flexible based on your child's needs.
- Our goal is to provide EVERY child with the most appropriate education.

Working as a team, we know your child will have a successful year!

HOMEWORK



- Homework will start after Labor Day (per student basis- consult with your teacher)
- We strongly encourage students read at least 20 minutes each night, either independently or with a parent/sibling.
- If a student does not complete an assignment during class, they may have that assignment sent home to complete and return to school.

BEANSTACK



- Please make sure you are reading 20 minutes every night!
- Make sure you are logging it on beanstack (school wide rewards, class rewards, etc).





CLASSLINK

- **ClassLink** is a single sign-on platform that allows students to use their FCS username and password to access district supported digital content, applications and online textbooks from anywhere.
- **ClassLink** delivers instant access to web resources from all your devices. With ClassLink you don't need to remember a different URL for each digital resource you use.
- **Resources include:**
  - iReady Reading and Math (K-5th)
  - Learning.com (K-5th)
  - MackinVIA (K-5th)
  - Destiny (K-5th)
  - Microsoft 365

CLASSLINK



https://launchpad.classlink.com/fcs#myapps

User ID - FCS Student ID
Password - Birthdate (mmddyyyy).



LINDAMOOD BELL

- Lindamood- Bell is research and evidence-based reading program that intervenes to meet kids where they are at to help them read and comprehend better.
- What it looks like:
  - Seeing Stars: Focuses on symbol imagery for phonological and orthographic processing in reading and spelling.
  - Visualizing & Verbalizing: Program for cognitive development, comprehension, & thinking.
- Students who are eligible based on data will participate in Lindamood-Bell every day.



NUMERACY PROJECT

- The numeracy project effectively assesses numeracy to address students' needs for acceleration, remediation, and intervention.
- It is an evidence-based resource for schools and districts to use to help students build a solid foundation in numeracy.
- What it looks like:
  - The Georgia Numeracy Project is focused on developing students'
  - understanding of numbers, and their ability to use numbers to solve
  - problems. Students may solve number problems by counting, adding,
  - subtracting, multiplying, dividing, or any combinations of these
  - operations. Students should develop strategies that support their use
  - of these operations in real-world and mathematical problems.



PBIS- POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORT

Northwood has adopted a school-wide approach using PBIS.

PBIS teaches students expectations, procedures, and routines across all school settings.

Our focus is on consistency as a school and working with students as they make good choices. We are focused on three expectations:

Be responsible Be respectful Be engaged

The attention is on being positive and teaching behavioral expectations to our students, so they know expectations in all school settings.

Our goals are:

- To establish a climate in which appropriate behavior is the norm
- For our students to work towards self-management
- To increase academic performance
- For Northwood to be a safe learning environment

BEHAVIOR CHARTS

Classroom Behavior Checklist

Name: Lucas	Date:	Circle Day: Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri
1 = Did Demonstrate Appropriate Behavior		0 = Did Not Demonstrate Appropriate Behavior

Skill ↓ Subject →	Arrival and Morning work	Writing Whole Group	Reading with Ms. Gardella	Data with Mrs. K	Snack/ SEL	Vocab Surge	Lunch/ Recess	Specials	Science/SS with Mrs. Beck and Ms. Bolt	Reading	iReady	Dismissal
I had helping hands and kept my feet to myself												
I had a caring heart. (Kind to others)												
I completed all my work												
I will follow directions with less than 2 prompts												
I used walking feet in the building												
I will stay in my area												
I raised my hand to get the teachers attention and made requests appropriately												
I accepted correction, criticism, and consequences.												
Teachers Comments	Teacher Signature: (Comments below or on back)								Parent Signature:			

90% = 

 = 1 Day

4  = Treasure Box

DIGITAL SAFETY AND TECHNOLOGY USE

Please help us keep your children safe by monitoring their technology use and discussing how technology is used for school and learning.



ASSESSMENTS

GKIDS 2.0:

-The Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills 2.0 is a yearlong progression based formative assessment.

GKIDS 2.0....

- aligned to the Georgia Standards of Excellence for Kindergarten

-helps teacher plan instruction

-helps families understand their child's progress over time

-Teachers will assess students individually and throughout the year so they may demonstrate mastery

-Students are assessed in both academic and nonacademic domains

ASSESSMENTS CONTINUED...

GKIDS 2.0 Continued...

Academic Domains	Non-Academic Domains
English Language Arts	Approaches to Learning
Mathematics	Personal Social Development
Science	Motor Skills
Social Studies	

*Progress reports will be sent home 3 times a year so you can monitor your child's progress

ASSESSMENTS CONTINUED...



GA Milestones:

-Georgia Milestones measures how well students have learned the knowledge and skills outlined in the state-adopted content standards in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Students is grades 3 through 8 will take an end of grade assessment in each content area. This test usually occurs after Spring Break (April/May).

-Accommodations that are listed on your child's IEP will be provided. This will be discussed each year in your child's annual IEP meeting.

FIELD TRIPS

This year, the Autism Support Program is excited to offer a unique learning experience for our students! Throughout the year, students in grades K-5 learn about animals, habitats, and ecosystems through science instruction and research activities. To bring this learning to life, we will be visiting the Georgia Aquarium, where students can see many of the animals and habitats they have studied firsthand. This field trip provides an engaging, real-world opportunity to deepen students' understanding of science concepts while also building important social, communication, and community-based skills.

What does this mean?

-Spring Semester 2027
-Cost: Approximately $40 per student
-Will need chaperones - interested? Please let your child's teacher know!



SCHOOL CASH

This year Fulton County has switched to school cash. This is how you will pay for field trips/events at school. It is replaces our previous system OSP.

Please sign up RIGHT now...we will walk around the room to help! ☺



EXPLORER FRIENDS

We are excited to continue our Peer Role Models Club! Fifth-grade students partner with students in our Autism Support Program to build friendships while developing leadership, empathy, flexibility, and teamwork skills. This program promotes inclusion and creates meaningful connections throughout our school community.

What are the requirements?

- Application form turned into Ms. Gardella
- Parent Agreement form turned into Ms. Gardella
- Teacher Recommendation form (Ms. Gardella will get this done)

What does Explorer Friends entail?

- Arrival early (between 7:10-7:20)
- Coming to an Autism Support Program Class 1-2 times per week
- Willingness to help others

Only two students from each homeroom with be accepted

COMMUNICATION

- We will respond to emails within 24 business hours.
- We normally do not reply to emails on the weekends or after 3:30 pm on weekdays and after 3:00 on Fridays.
- Northwood's phone number: (470) 254-6390
- Email Addresses:
  - Jessica Gardella: gardellaj@fultonschools.org
  - Monica Sims: simsm4@fultonschools.org
  - Marisa Franceschi: franceschim@fultonschools.org
- We are still currently looking for a room parent in Ms. Sims and Ms. Franceschi's class, if you are interested, please let us know!



IT'S TIME FOR A KAHOOT!



THANK YOU!

If you have questions, please email your child's teacher! ☺