



Grace Farrar Cole Elementary School

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Dear Cole School Families,

What an exciting time of year this is! As summer adventures wind down and the anticipation of a brand-new school year builds up, we can hardly contain our enthusiasm for what's ahead. We're thrilled to welcome you back to Cole School for what promises to be an incredible 2026-2027 school year!

This year, we're continuing our inspiring theme: "Dream Big, Dare Greatly, and Shine Brightly at Cole School!" – and we truly mean it! Every single day will be filled with opportunities for your children to discover new passions, tackle exciting challenges, and celebrate their unique talents.

Our Shared Mission

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

Norwell Schools' Vision: Anchored in tradition, inspired to learn, confident to explore, prepared to navigate

Your partnership as Cole School parents is essential to our success! When we work together, sharing our mission and values both at school and at home, amazing things happen for our students.

The Grace Farrar Cole School Mission: We're on a mission to promote curiosity, creativity, and endless opportunities in learning as we strive for excellence together! Our core values shine through in everything we do: celebrating individual learning styles, skills, and talents to maximize every child's growth; treating all people with dignity, kindness, and respect; and fostering intellectual curiosity and bold risk-taking through creative problem-solving.

Welcoming New Faces – With Flexibility and Grace

Regarding staffing for the 2026-2027 school year, we continue to have some changes and updates to share. I am pleased to introduce the Cole School community to our new school nurse, Nurse Anna Cashin. Nurse Cashin earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Merrimack College and has experience providing skilled nursing care to pediatric patients with complex medical needs. She is looking forward to serving the students and families of Cole School, where she is an alum. Her email (anna.cashin@norwellschools.org) will be accessible starting on August 25th. She will be reaching out to identified families soon to introduce herself and to review student health needs.

Ms. Liz Fitzgerald, grade 4 teacher, has resigned from her position at Cole School and accepted a position in another community to teach French. We wish her all the best as she makes that move. In the meantime, we

have hired Ms. Mary Dole for the 4th grade position. Ms. Dole earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from UMass Amherst and has student teaching experience in grades 1, 3 and 4. She is also an alum of Cole School! Her email (mary.dole@norwellschools.org) will be accessible starting on August 25th. She will send an introductory email to her students and their families next week.

We have also filled the open aide positions with great people and will introduce the new staff to students on the first day of school. Their names are listed in the chart below.

We're excited to welcome several new members to our Cole School family this year: a new school secretary, a new office assistant, a new assistant principal, a new fourth grade teacher, and a new school nurse, along with four new special education aides and a new duty aide. Each of them brings wonderful energy, experience, and heart to our school community, and we can't wait for your children to get to know them.

As with any year of transition, we ask for your flexibility and grace as our new team members settle into their roles and learn the routines, systems, and wonderful families that make Cole School so special. We're confident that with your support and patience, this will be a smooth and positive transition for everyone – and we're so grateful to have such a caring community behind us as we welcome these talented new additions.

Meet Your Cole School Staff for 2026-2027

Pre-Kindergarten - Mrs. Williamson	Kindergarten - Mrs. Deptula - Mrs. Fraser - Mrs. Marshall - Mrs. Giovanangelo	First Grade - Mrs. Austin - Ms. Breen - Mrs. Lynch - Mrs. Strauss - Mrs. Rowell
Second Grade - Mrs. Donahue - Mrs. Evans - Ms. Carroll - Mrs. Ryan	Third Grade - Ms. Browne - Mr. Roberge - Mr. Tarr - Ms. O'Malley	Fourth Grade - Ms. Dole - Mrs. Thompson - Mrs. Williamson
Fifth Grade - Ms. Boyd - Ms. Barlow - Mrs. Hayman - Ms. Chin Kindergarten Aides - Mrs. Getto - Mrs. Maloney - Mrs. O'Driscoll - Mrs. Bou Raffoul	Specialists/Coordinators - Math - Mrs. Bretsch - Reading - Mrs. Fuller School Psychologist - Dr. Ciolkosz District Social Worker - Mrs. Henderson English Language Teacher - Mrs. Sturdy District Behaviorist - Mrs. Demeo	Specialists - Music - Mrs. Gagnon - Art - Mr. Menice - P.E. - Mr. Thornton - Instructional Technology - Mrs. Rantz - Band - Mrs. Gagnon School Resource Officer - Officer Jake Campbell

Special Educators - Mrs. Crossen - Mrs. Ellis - Ms. Sciaraffa - Mrs. Sokolowski - Mrs. Louchheim	Speech/Language - Ms. O’Neil - Mrs. Coughlin School Counselor - Mrs. Walsh	OT - Ms. Dearborn School Nurse - Nurse Cashin
Duty Aides - Mrs. Graceffa - Mrs. Mello - Mrs. Higgins - Mrs. McBurnie	Special Education Aides - Ms. Halatsis - Mrs. Salimbus - Ms. Maurano - Mrs. Stull - Mrs. Taylor - Mrs. LaCara - Mrs. McInnis	School Secretary - Mrs. Festa Clerical Aide - Mrs. Coleman

Important Information to Get You Started

Transportation Made Easy

Your bus information will be ready on Aspen soon! Our transportation team has carefully planned every route to ensure safe, efficient travel for all students. Remember, students can only ride their assigned bus unless special arrangements are made through the transportation department.

For daycare or work-related pickup/drop-off requests in Norwell, please reach out to me directly with your written request. These arrangements need to be permanent and consistent, with available bus capacity and predefined stops.

Smooth Arrival & Dismissal – Introducing Pick Up Patrol!

We're excited to introduce a new tool this year to help us manage student dismissal safely and efficiently: **Pick Up Patrol**. This app will allow families to communicate and track all changes to student dismissal plans – whether your child is a car rider, bus rider, walker, or attends an afterschool program. Please remember that your child’s default dismissal plan is the BUS unless you tell us otherwise through the Pick Up Patrol app.

You will receive a **separate email tomorrow** inviting you to enroll your family and set up your child's dismissal plan in Pick Up Patrol. Please watch for that email and complete your enrollment as soon as possible so we can ensure a smooth start to the school year. More details and instructions will follow.

We're continuing our efficient car line system around the back of the school! Don't forget to display your child's last name in bold, large letters in your passenger window. Since dismissal happens outdoors and can take 10-12 minutes, please make sure your child is dressed for the weather. Complete procedures are available on our Cole School homepage.

Essential Resources at Your Fingertips

Parent/Student Handbook: Available online at www.norwellschools.org by month's end – your go-to resource

for everything you need to know!

School Calendar: Find all important dates on our website and in the weekly Cole Miners' Dig

Communication Flow: Always start with your child's classroom teacher for any concerns, then reach out to our counselor, psychologist, or nurse as needed

Delicious & Nutritious Lunch Program

Fantastic news! Student lunches continue to be FREE for all children, and bringing lunch from home is always welcome too. Students will choose their lunch option each morning right in their classrooms – hot lunch, cold lunch, or home lunch. Be sure to review daily options with your child and post the lunch menu (found on our website) somewhere visible at home!

School Supply Lists

Ready to shop? Find your teacher's specific supply list on our [website](#).

Stay Connected with The Cole Miners' Dig!

Every Friday afternoon, look for our weekly newsletter, The Cole Miners' Dig, in your email inbox! It's also posted on our website. If you prefer paper copies, just let Mrs. Festa know, and we'll make sure you get them.

New This Year: Cole School Parent Book Club!

We're excited to launch a brand-new Parent Book Club this year! On **November 30th**, we invite parents and caregivers to join us in reading *Love to Learn* by Isabelle Hau. This book explores the science of relationships and connection in early learning, and we think it will spark wonderful conversations about how we can support our children's growth together, at school and at home.

Save These Exciting Dates!

Please mark your calendar with these important dates to start the year:

September 3	New Families Self-Guided Tours 4:00-5:00pm - all new families and all kindergarten families invited to attend; PTO Popsicles on the Playground immediately following
September 7	No School – Labor Day
September 8	First Day of School for grades 1-5. Students dismissed at 3:20 pm
September 8	Kindergarten Open House - more details to follow from Kindergarten teachers
September 9	Cole School PTO Meeting 9:00 am - more details to follow from PTO
September 9	First Day of School for Kindergarten
September 24	Grades 1-2 Curriculum Night 5:00-5:45 pm - more details to follow
September 24	Grades 3-5 Curriculum Night 6:15-7:00 pm - more details to follow

October 19	Picture Day
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As these final summer days slip by, treasure every moment with your amazing children. We're counting down the days until we can welcome them back with open arms and hearts full of excitement for all the learning, growing, and discovering that lies ahead!

Here's to a year of dreaming big, daring greatly, and shining brightly together at Cole School!

With tremendous excitement and anticipation,

Eliza Burns & Katie Busk

Principal / Asst. Principal