


# Northfield Community School District

**2000 New Road, Northfield, New Jersey 08225**
**District Website: www.ncs-nj.org**

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August, 2026

Dear Northfield Families,

Ready or not, the start of another school year is upon us! I want to assure everyone that **school will open on time**, and we are ready and excited to welcome all of our returning and new students for another year filled with growth, learning, and opportunity. Although everyone should have received communication from their respective principals, I want to reiterate that the **first day of school for students will be a single session day on Thursday, September 3, 2026.**

As anticipated and planned, our school building has undergone several major renovations this summer. These improvements will provide our students with learning environments better aligned with the needs of today's learners and those who will walk our halls for many years to come. In addition to the new playground, which officially opened in the spring, our students, families, and staff will enjoy an updated **Media Center, bathrooms, and locker rooms**. Another important improvement is our new **security vestibule**, which will provide an additional layer of security for everyone entering the building.

## Important Change: School Entrance

**Our main entrance to the school will now be DOOR 21, NOT DOOR 6.**

Anyone visiting the school will be required to enter through **Door 21**, located on the Mill Road (cul-de-sac) side of the building. Visitor parking will also be available on that side of the building.

### Curriculum and Instruction

We will continue implementing the Amplify Desmos mathematics series, which was introduced last year to support our mathematics curriculum. We will also continue providing professional development in mathematics through our Math Coach trainer. We are equally excited to begin our third year of the English Language Arts (ELA) series, which continues to support our ELA curriculum and instruction.

**Student Wellness, HIB & Safety**

We will continue our partnership with **NJ4S** to support the social and emotional development of our students. We will also continue to place an emphasis on the HIB-specific programming and services they provide, addressing this very important aspect of our school environment.

I also want to remind all families about the new law regarding **e-bikes**. A link to the flyer that was sent to all families earlier this summer, which contains important information and key points regarding the law, is available here. As always, I ask that everyone consistently remind students to **walk all bikes and scooters while on school property**.

**A Special Thank You to Our Custodial and Maintenance Teams**

Due to the extensive construction taking place this summer, our custodial and maintenance teams have worked harder than ever to prepare our buildings for the arrival of our students and staff. Their willingness and ability to adapt to the unforeseen challenges that inevitably accompany a construction project has not gone unnoticed. They have once again performed their customary magic—turning our schools inside out, cleaning them from top to bottom, and getting everything ready for the first day of school. I am extremely grateful for their dedication and hard work.

**Support Our PTO**

I would also like to encourage everyone to support our **Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)**. Our PTO is always looking for ways to give back to our schools and appreciates all of the support and volunteer assistance our families can provide.

If you are interested in participating in the PTO, please visit their website for more information. You may also email the PTO at pto@ncs-nj.org.

**School Age Child Care (SACC)**

Our **School Age Child Care (SACC)** program begins on **Thursday, September 3**.

- Aftercare will run until **4:00 p.m.** on Thursday, September 3.
- Beginning Friday, September 4, aftercare will run until **6:00 p.m.**
- Morning-care drop-off will be at **Door 15** (the gym door off the field).
- Aftercare pick-up will be at **Door 9** (the door off the cafeteria).

SACC registration will continue to be completed on-line this year. Please visit our website for registration information and additional details about the SACC program by clicking

here. Families may also contact **Ms. McGrath at memcgrath@ncs-nj.org** with any questions.

**Important Dates**

Please mark the following dates on your calendars. These dates can also be found on the district website.

**First Day for Students — Thursday, September 3, 2026**
**SINGLE SESSION DAY**

- **Middle School:** 8:10 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.
- **Preschool:** 8:40 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.
- **Grades K–2:** 8:30 a.m. – 1:10 p.m.
- **Grades 3–4:** 8:20 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Back-to-School Nights**

- **Grades 1–2:** Monday, September 14 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Grades 5:** Tuesday, September 15 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Grades 3–4:** Wednesday, September 16 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Grades 6–8:** Thursday, September 17 at 5:30 p.m.

In closing, I want to acknowledge that the construction this summer did not come without moments of uncertainty about whether all of the work would be completed on time. I am very happy to say that **it was**.

This would not have been possible without the tremendous support of our families and staff. I sincerely appreciate and thank you for your patience, support, and confidence in our team throughout this process.

As we begin another school year, I am excited about what lies ahead. Together, we will continue working to make Northfield a place where **every child can learn, grow, and thrive. As always, Children First!**

I look forward to seeing many of you as we begin another great year together!

Respectfully,
Pedro P. Bretones
Pedro P. Bretones
Superintendent of Schools

# "Children First"