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August 31, 2026

Dear Norwell Families:

This time of year is full of exciting beginnings! Students return to a new teacher, new grade, or even a new school within Norwell Public Schools. This energy and excitement is felt by everyone from students to families to all members of our school community. Much work has been done over the summer. Our facilities team has made sure schools are clean and maintenance performed so that schools sparkle on day one. Food service has prepared to nourish our students and fuel their day for optimal learning.

We have completed the first year of our Norwell Strategic Plan 2025-2030. The Strategic Plan can be found on the Norwell Public Schools Website by clicking on this [link](#). We have also added the Strategic Plan Year 1 Status Report 2025-2026, [linked here](#). Please become familiar with the Strategic Plan, Vision, Mission Statement, Core Values, and Strategic Focus Areas. The plan will be reviewed and progress shared during School Committee meetings throughout the year.

One of the core goals last year was to define and communicate the Norwell Tiered Systems of Support (NTSS) for both Academic and Student Well-Being/Social Emotional Support. This document will be shared with families and located on the NPS Website by October 1, 2026. It will introduce the NTSS program and highlight the resources, assessments, and interventions that are available for all three tiered systems at each building level. We look forward to sharing this document with you in October.

This year we will begin an outreach process to launch a new Strategic Plan Goal regarding The Vision of a Learner. A Vision of a Learner is a shared, districtwide vision of the characteristics and dispositions we want every Norwell student to develop from Kindergarten through 12th grade. It is not a curriculum or a checklist. Rather, it provides a common direction for our schools as we design learning experiences, support students, and prepare them for future success in life beyond Norwell Public Schools. We will be sharing more information about our plan this fall.

Norwell Public Schools offer many opportunities for families and students to engage in activities, events, and celebrations. The Principals' newsletters will provide information regarding opportunities for students and families such as co-curricular activities, celebrations, events, and academic presentations. The PTOs hold many events for families to come together to celebrate the schools and students. We hope that you will participate in school activities throughout the year.

Below are a few points to be aware of as we start the year:

New Student Resource Officer (SRO):

- Please welcome our new SRO Jake Campbell. He will continue to visit all schools and be a positive presence for our community.

Attendance:

- Attendance is extremely important to student learning and engagement. A student is considered chronically absent when they have missed 18 days during a school year. During the 2024-2025 school year, 7.3% of students were chronically absent and the daily attendance rate was 95.0%. Last year, 6.3% of students were chronically absent and the daily attendance rate was 95.3%. We hope to continue to improve upon our attendance rates as much as possible. Please reach out to your school nurse or refer to the student-parent handbooks regarding when a student should stay home for illness. We sincerely ask that families try not to take vacation during school days. If your child is having any difficulty with attending school, please reach out to your school administrator or school counselor so that we can help support your family and child.

Student-Parent Handbooks:

- Annually parents are asked to complete a sign off via ASPEN that they have read the handbook, give various permissions to share information and complete the health information update for each of their children attending Norwell Public Schools. The handbooks are now available on the [NPS website](#). Please take some time to read the handbooks, and complete these sign offs for each of your children by September 11, 2026.

Website Resources:

- Please visit the [Student Services](#) tab on the NPS website for information regarding Civil Rights, bullying prevention and intervention, discussing racism, tiered focus monitoring reports, special education eligibility, home school information, suicide prevention, curriculum content accommodations, and student resources.

Meals:

- The first school breakfast and lunch will continue to be free throughout the school year. Additional meals or a la carte items will be available for purchase. Your child's school will have specific instructions for ordering lunch which will be explained during the first week of school.
- For more information regarding the school lunch program, please email Judy Crooks, Food Service Director at judith.crooks@norwellschools.org.
- If you are interested in a part-time job with the NPS Food Service Department, please contact Ms. Crooks.

Buses:

- Bus routes have been created, and the drivers have done their test drives. All students requesting a bus have been accommodated. Bus stops are published in the ASPEN portal.
- For inquiries about whether you requested a bus, please check the ASPEN portal. Any other bus questions or concerns, please contact Director of Finance, Operations & Technology Warren MacCallum at warren.maccallum@norwellschools.org.

We look forward to welcoming your child to school on September 8.

Sincerely,



Matthew A. Keegan
Superintendent of Schools