



Northfield Community School District

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District Website: www.ncs-nj.org

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Superintendent

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School Business Administrator

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Dear Parents, Guardians, and Northfield Community,

It is that time of year again...back to school! I certainly hope everyone has had the opportunity to check off all of the summer bucket list items, recharge, and are ready to get back to school. We are all very ready and excited to receive your children for what promises to be a year filled with learning, fun, and growth. By now everyone should have received information from your respective school principals so this is just a reminder that the students' first day of school will be a single session day on Thursday, September 7, 2023. I hope to see some of you on that day.

This year, we are very excited to continue with the full day preschool program that started in January, 2019. The program continues to grow and, this year, we will serve one hundred and thirty-five (135) three and four-year-old students across ten classrooms.

Curricular updates will include a math coach who will be with us throughout the year. She will be working hand in hand with all grade level teachers in their classrooms. In ELA, grades 3-5 will have an updated version of "Into Reading" and grades 6-8 will be using "Collections" this year with the goal of purchasing the "Into Literature" program for next year. Additionally, grades 5-8 will use "EB Writing" and "Worldly Wise" for daily instruction. Finally, resources to increase our tutoring in grades 3-4 and grade 5 math are being sought through grant funding.

We are also looking to increase social and emotional supports for our students this year. In addition to In-Sight, which we brought on board last year, we are working with a program called Youth Advocate Program and New Jersey Statewide Student Support Services. Both of these programs seek to provide proactive counseling services for students and their families, as well as supports for students in crisis. We also hope to be able to continue to provide after school counseling that was offered over the summer.

As usual, our custodial and maintenance staff has been working hard all summer in preparation for the arrival of our students and staff. They have performed their customary magic of turning our schools inside out and cleaning them top to bottom over the summer. Additionally, they have spruced up the outside of our campus by trimming bushes and trees along the cul-de-sac fence, the front of the elementary school entrance, and the bench by the door 6 walkway. Some other projects that occurred over the summer are the refurbishing of the brick building in the cul-de-sac which will be used for much needed storage, the black top repair on the 3rd and 4th grade side of the building, and the installation of bollards to prevent potential accidents in the cul-de-sac loop.

I would like to encourage everyone to support our Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO). They are always looking for ways to give back to our schools and appreciate all of the help they can get from volunteers. If you are interested in participating in PTO, please visit their link at <https://www.ncs-nj.org/Page/266>. You may also email the PTO at pto@ncs-nj.org.

I continue to invite everyone to visit our website at www.ncs-nj.org to receive the most up to date information of the great things happening in our schools. You can also like us on Facebook or Twitter. Of course you can always contact me by phone at (609) 407-4000, email (pbretones@ncs-nj.org), or by setting up an appointment with my Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Tina Guetzlaff.

Sincerely,

Pedro P. Bretones

Pedro P. Bretones

Superintendent of Schools

"Children First"