



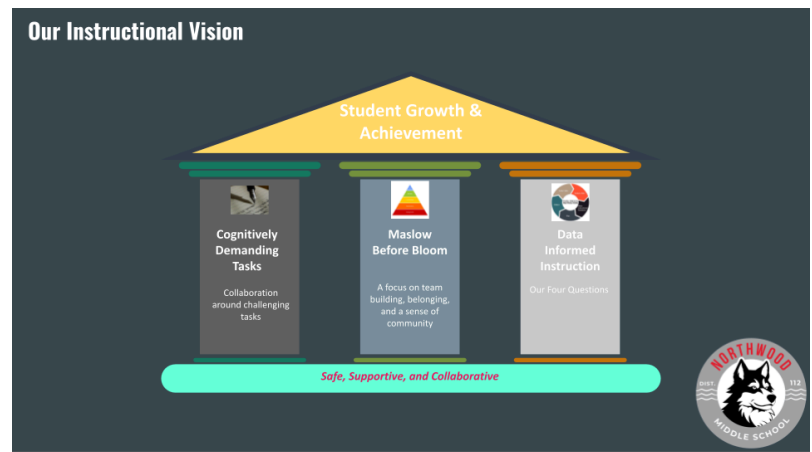
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August 5, 2026

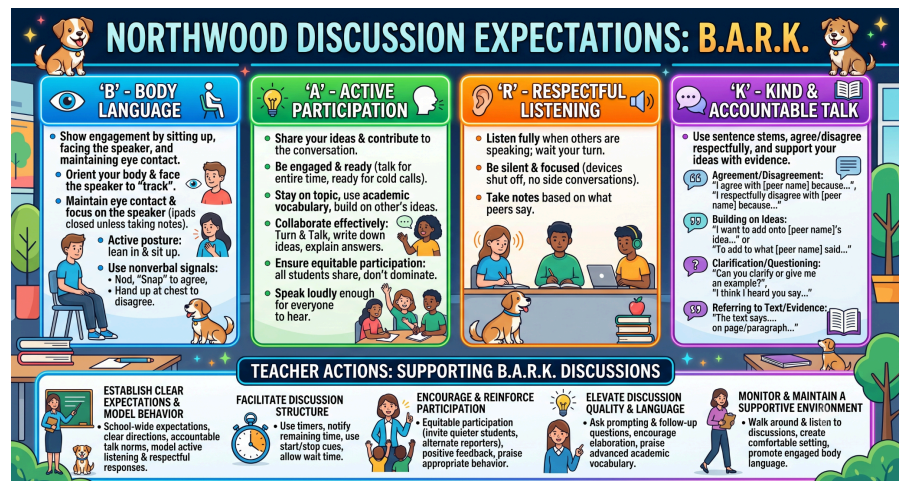
Northwood Summer Mailer

Northwood Families,

We have a saying at Northwood: “Once a Husky, always a Husky.” This motto defines who we are as a Northwood community. We are fortunate to have numerous Northwood alumni who have returned to Northwood to serve their community as educators, social workers, and support staff. Huskies have found their way to the Olympics, your TV screens, Broadway, and Wall Street. Middle school is an important movement where students begin taking more risks, finding themselves, and trying new things. There is an immense amount of pride our students, staff, and families have in being a part of the Northwood family. This pride comes from the experiences and traditions that Northwood has been home to for generations.



We are so excited to welcome the Northwood Class of 2030. Last year, Northwood’s instructional leadership team revamped our instructional vision, which you can see above. This three-pillared approach, along with a steadfast commitment from teachers, led to strong IAR growth. At Northwood, you will see your students engaging in cognitively demanding tasks and 21st-century skills. They will be debating and discussing. They will be practicing “habits of discussion,” as shown in the infographic to the [right](#).



Over the past five years, we have seen Northwood make historic academic gains. ELA scores have more than doubled, with 77% of students meeting/exceeding on IAR, while math scores have increased by nearly 25%. We

are confident our growth will continue! Our students and staff worked to achieve these gains. I couldn't be prouder to celebrate them!

Something you will also see when schedules are released is the new bell schedule unveiled last year, which received positive feedback. You can see the schedule displayed [here](#) and [here](#). We continue to have a daily SSB period or "Student Success Block." This will be a time for teachers to provide targeted support to each student through intervention and extension. Husky University will also return! This period is held periodically during Friday SSB. At Husky University, students can select enrichment programs such as soccer, microscopes, and card games. Each Monday during SSB will be time in advisory dedicated to teambuilding and socio-emotional learning (SEL instruction).

Last year, we started a class called PaCE, as a part of the creative arts rotation. This class is aligned with new state requirements, providing students with opportunities to engage in career exploration. You can read more about PaCE [here](#).

Once the school year begins, our Husky Herald will be sent out on Fridays via ParentSquare. These weekly newsletters provide information for the upcoming week and highlight some of the awesome stuff happening at Northwood.

The remainder of today's letter focuses on the logistics of the school year that lies ahead. If anything isn't answered or remains unclear, please do not hesitate to reach out. Middle school is full of many moving parts and changes. While we hope there is never confusion, we know there might be at times. Please do not hesitate to call our main office at 224-765-3600 or email me directly (wkaplan@nssd112.org) with any questions or concerns.

We cannot wait to see all of you soon!

Important Upcoming Dates and Links

★ August 7th-Student Schedules and Locker Assignments

- These are available via Infinite Campus. A district communication with directions for accessing schedules will be sent on August 7th at 12 pm.

★ Husky Days (optional) at Northwood

- **August 11th, 8:30 am to 10:00 am**
- **August 13th, 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm**
- This is an opportunity that students and/or families can come to Northwood and walk their schedules and set up their lockers.
- This is entirely optional.
- 6th-grade families will have another similar opportunity during the 6th-grade advisory meet and greet on Aug. 18 from 4-5 pm.

★ August 18th, 4:00 - 5:00 pm-6th Grade Advisory Meet & Greet at Northwood

- 6th Grade students are welcome to come to Northwood, meet their advisory teacher(s), walk their schedules, and set up their lockers.



- Families are welcome too!

★ **August 20th, First Day of School**

- We are so excited to see all our Huskies! The first day of school is an Early Release, so school hours are from 7:50 am to 12:55 pm.

★ **September 17th, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm-Open House at Northwood**

- Come meet your students' teachers and visit their classes.
- This event is intended for parents/caregivers

★ [Back to School Hub](#)

★ [D112 Calendar](#) & [Northwood Calendar](#)

★ [D112 website](#)

★ Northwood's [Website](#) and [Facebook](#)

Best,

Will

Important Information

- ★ **Infinite Campus:** Student schedules are posted to IC at noon on 8/7/26. As a reminder, if you did not register your child for the upcoming school year, their schedule will not be available. Be on the lookout for an email from the district office with instructions on accessing your student's schedule.
- ★ **[Arrival and dismissal:](#)** To keep our students safe during arrival and dismissal, we ask that you review the following [procedures](#). We have included pictures of entrance doors and aerial maps as a reference. **Staff will be on supervision duty from 7:20 in the morning until 3:00 during dismissal.**
 - **Arrival:**
 - Students who ride the bus: They will be dismissed at the front of the school.
 - Students who are driven to school by a parent: These students are to be dropped off in the school's back parking lot.
 - Students may be dropped off anytime after 7:20 am. This is when staff are available for supervision.

Students will remain outside (weather permitting) in their "grade level zones." 6th grade: on the sidewalk in the back of the building by doors 10 and 13; 7th & 8th grade: on the sidewalk in the front of the school building, doors 1 & 2. Staff will be outside for supervision during the school year.

- **Dismissal:**
 - Students who ride the bus will meet their bus in the back lot. Buses will be lined up in numerical order in the back parking lot at dismissal. Once all students are safely on the buses, the buses will be dismissed to transport students.
 - Students who are being picked up by parents at the end of the school day will meet their parents at the front of the school parking lot. Cars will be allowed to line up in the front

parking lot area at 2:35 pm. It is important that your student is ready to be dismissed to keep traffic moving. Vehicles are to exit RIGHT only on North Avenue during dismissal.

- Students are not permitted to cross North Avenue unless using a crosswalk. Please do not pick up your student from Marl Oak for safety reasons.

- **Early dismissal procedures** - If your child needs to leave school early for an appointment, please inform the office prior to picking up your child, either through Infinite Campus Absence or by calling the office. Upon arrival at the main office, the front desk will ask you to complete the necessary steps for early dismissal. *An ID is required to pick up your student each time you come to the building.*

- ★ **Health Forms**- Please review the following [health information](#) items to be completed prior to the start of school. All returnable permissions/waivers/fees should be submitted to the school nurse (Nurse Margarita Christopher at NWNurse@nssd112.org) or the main office by **September 15th, 2026**. Also, any child wanting to participate in interscholastic sports will need to have a current physical within one year of the sport tryout date.
- ★ **PE Uniforms**- Changing for PE is optional. Students will be required to be dressed in a way that allows them to fully engage in physical activity. Athletic footwear is required. Students can still change into athletic clothes in the locker room, if they choose. We no longer offer PE uniforms for sale.
- ★ **Lunch information**-We are thrilled to announce that the Board of Education has approved Quest Food Management Services to lead our dining program for the 2026-2027 academic year. Quest will be facilitating both breakfast and lunch options here at Northwood. Stay tuned for additional details regarding daily menus and meal program specifics. Students whose families are eligible for free or reduced-price breakfast or lunch will be able to access meals at no cost or at a highly discounted rate during the school year. You can complete a free/reduced lunch application in Infinite Campus parent portal if you believe you may qualify for free/reduced-priced meals. Please contact Kathy Uhlean at (224)765-3006 or kuhlean@nssd112.org if you would like a paper application.
- ★ **Late PM Bus (approx. 4:10 pm p/u at NW): Northwood offers a 'late bus' (arriving at Northwood to pick up students at 4:10 pm)** for students who remain in the building after school for sporting events or extracurricular activities. Any student, regardless of whether they can normally take the bus, can take the late bus. This opportunity begins on Monday, August 24th, 2026
- ★ **School Supplies** - School supplies ordered through the PTO will be in the student's advisory the first day of school. Students who did not order school supplies can bring their supplies to school during the Meet and Greet for 6th graders on August 18th; 6th, 7th, and/or 8th graders can bring in their school supplies during Husky Days (August 11th and August 13th) or during the first week of school. If you still need to buy school supplies, this [document](#) lists the necessary supplies.
- ★ **Extracurricular Information**-Last year's extracurricular information can be found linked to the Northwood website [here](#). This is still in draft form. While extracurricular activities typically stay consistent from year to year, this will be updated as the year begins.
- ★ **Technology Fees**
 - Two iPad breaks are covered by AppleCare per school year from Aug 1 to July 31.
 - The 3rd break in the same school year will be charged at full replacement price: **\$593 (iPad only)**. Lost/Stolen iPads will also be charged at full replacement price (\$606 for iPad and Case).
 - Lost/Damaged Styluses are free for the first replacement and \$27 for a MaxCase Stylus.
 - Logitech Crayons will be repaired at a lower cost if possible.

- Lost/Damaged keyboards will be **\$103 (including accidental damage)**
- Lost/Damaged chargers will be \$23 for cable and brick (or \$10 for cable and \$13 for brick)
- Lost iPads are **\$620** (ipad + case) to replace. The technology department requests the family file a police report and provide a police report number.
- Fees will be paid through Infinite Campus
- ★ **Bell Schedules**-The bell schedule is the same as last year. The schedule is [here](#). You can also find this amazing visual from Ms. Simons [here](#). We will follow the same schedule every day, except on early release days, testing days, assemblies, or other special events.
 - R-Days are early release days. Early release days end at 12:55 pm.
- ★ **A Note on Food and Drinks in Class:**
 - Teachers discretion food and drinks
 - Having food or drinks in class is a privilege for students. It is ultimately up to individual teachers' discretion what, if any, food and drink are permitted in their classrooms.
 - Any food or drink that disrupts the learning environment is not permitted.
 - Snacks should be healthy and not shared
 - Snacks should also avoid nuts
 - Energy Drinks
 - Are not permitted at Northwood. This applies to the cafeteria and to individual classes.
- ★ **PTO Information** - Northwood extends a warm thank you to our PTO for their continued support. Please see the [attached letter](#) for more information on their work and how to get involved.

Welcome to Northwood Middle School!

Will Kaplan (Principal)-Wkaplan@nssd112.org
 Annie Orlov (Associate Principal)-Aorlov@nssd112.org
 Alexandra Gorodiski (Associate Principal)-Agorodiski@nssd112.org

Northwood Main Number: (224) 765-3600
 Nurse Christopher's Office: (224)-765-3609
 Attendance Line: (224)-765-3605