



Northwood High School

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Silver Spring, Maryland 20901
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Office of the Principal

July 2021

Dear Gladiator Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year at Northwood High School! This is an exciting year as we return to our building and our sense of community for in-person experiences. The most important update for this year is that, per the MPCS Board of Education, all students will be returning to 5-day a week in-person instruction unless parents/guardians have applied to the centralized MCPS Virtual Academy. If you would like more information about the Virtual Academy, please visit the website link included later in this letter.

With a return to our new normal, Northwood will focus strongly on rebuilding our sense of community, social-emotional and trauma-informed supports, collaboration, and standards/skills-based professional planning and development. In addition to this critical work, our school leaders will be engaging in a year long focus on anti-bias and anti-racist leadership. We encourage our students and community members to join us in this conversation. If you would like to be a part of our monthly conversations about race, bias, equity, and systemic barriers at Northwood, please contact me directly via email for more information.

After the challenges of the pandemic and school closures, we must rethink many instructional, support, and operational systems. One important rethinking is support for our rising 10th graders (Class of 2024). With virtual learning, many members of our rising 10th grade class have not been in our building or been a part of our physical community. As such, we are inviting our rising 10th graders to all new student orientations or community opportunities traditionally focused only on rising 9th graders. These include our summer “first look” orientations as well as new student orientation on Thursday, August 26, 2021. We strongly encourage all rising 10th graders to take advantage of these opportunities.

In addition to student orientations, we will be holding our first ever Gladiator Cookout on Thursday, August 26, 2021 from 5pm-7pm. This event is open to all Northwood students and will include food, games, music, and opportunities to learn about our school and activities. Please be on the lookout for information about this event in future electronic updates.

Additionally, the Northwood community is preparing for both the celebrations and challenges of transitioning to our new building. While this impact will not be felt until our move to the Woodward holding school in 2023-24, we are already involved in conversations and preparations for this highly impactful move. We will be partnering with MCPS, our Samaha design and construction partners, and Northwood’s PTSA to hold community sessions regarding both the new building and support for our transition to the Woodward holding school. We will embrace these celebrations and challenges as a unified community. Please check my weekly updates this year for an on-going dialogue and opportunities to engage in this discussion.

We will be welcoming many new staff members to Northwood this school year including two new administrators: Mr. Wayland Allrich and Mr. Jerome Price. We will be scheduling both virtual and in-person opportunities for the community to meet and greet our new administrators including me. Please be on the lookout for information about these opportunities in future electronic updates. A list of our administrative assignments is included on the next page. I urge you to be proactive in communicating with our teachers, counselors, and administrators. To find your child's counselor, click on our Northwood counseling department webpage found on the next page.

Communication was a critical piece of overcoming the challenges of school closures and virtual learning and we will continue that focus in our return to in-person learning. We will also, when possible, continue to provide virtual options for important school meetings through the Zoom platform. Our goal, when possible, is to include translation services in three prominent languages for the Northwood community: Spanish, French, and Amharic. A list of important websites is provided on the following page. Our regular communication structures will include:

- A weekly Sunday evening email and alert call sent out at 7pm via the Connect ED system. If you have not been receiving Northwood Connect ED messages via email and/or phone, please contact Julie Rivera at Julie_W_Rivera@mcpsmd.org.
- All daily announcements and updates will be posted to our school website.
- Videos via the WNHS YouTube channel.
- Many of our staff, teams, clubs, departments, and parent organizations use Twitter for communication. We encourage you to follow relevant accounts for your Northwood experience. A resource of prominent Northwood Twitter handles is included on the following page.

Thank you in advance for your support of Northwood High School this year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at (240) 740-6950 or via staff emails. We look forward to seeing all students in class at 7:45 am on Monday, August 30, 2021!

Sincerely,

Jonathan Garrick, Ed.D.
Principal

JLG:

Attachments

2021-22 Northwood High School Reminders and Communication Resources

Important Summer-Fall Dates

- Tuesday, August 10: 9th/10th Grade Summer Orientation
- Tuesday, August 10: 9th/10th Grade Summer Orientation
- Friday, August 13: 9th/10th Grade Summer Orientation
- Thursday, August 26- New Student Orientation (9th and 10th graders)
- Thursday, August 26- Gladiator Cookout 5pm-7pm
- Monday, August 30- First day of school for all students
- Thursday, September 9- Back to School Night

2021-22 Northwood Administrative and Supervision Team

- Principal- Dr. Jon Garrick (Jonathan_L_Garrick@mcpsmd.org)
- 9th Grade- Ms. Sara Baudry (Sara_Baudry@mcpsmd.org)
- 10th Grade- Mr. Jerome Price (Jerome_A_Price@mcpsmd.org)
- 11th Grade- Mr. Jacob Lee (Jacob_J_Lee@mcpsmd.org)
- 12th Grade- Mr. Wayland Allrich (Wayland_D_Allrich@mcpsmd.org)
- Academy Coordinator- Ms. Holly Jones (Holly_M_Jones@mcpsmd.org)
- MC² and AP Coordinator- Mr. Michael Sauter (Michael_T_Sauter@mcpsmd.org)
- [Guide to Northwood Leadership Duties and Responsibilities- SY2021-22](#)

Frequently Used Websites

NHS Main Page	https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/northwoodhs/
NHS Counseling	http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/northwoodhs/counseling/index.aspx
NHS Wellness Center	https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/northwoodhs/wellnesscenter/
WNHS YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/c/WNHSNorthwoodHigh
MCPS Parent Resources	https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/parents/
MCPS Virtual Academy	https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/virtualacademy/

Twitter Handle Resources:

- Principal Jon Garrick @Northwoodprin
- Academy Coordinator Holly Jones @NHSAcademies
- Athletic Director Marco Fuggitti @NHS_Gladiators
- Northwood Counseling Department @NWcounselors
- MC2 Coordinator Mike Sauter @Northwood_MC2
- Northwood PTSA @GladiatorPTSA
- Northwood Athletics Association @NAAatNHS
- Student Government Association @NorthwoodHS_SGA
- Media Center @NHS_MediaCenter