



## **NMRSD Update Friday, January 27, 2023**

Dear NM Community,

As we end a very eventful weather week, I would like to send well wishes to all our families and staff who sustained property damage and lost power/internet/phones. Many of our families and staff were adversely affected by these storms.

As I have mentioned in previous weekly updates, the decision to cancel a full or partial day is one that I take seriously, and do so with input from many community stakeholders.

Several families and staff members reached out to the central office, alerting us that they did not receive messages with regard to the decision to cancel school and transportation for Ashby and Townsend families on Tuesday, and for this, I apologize. This messaging, coupled with the fact that the cellular and internet service was down in several areas, made for a confusing and, in some cases, frustrating day. We have addressed these issues to avoid this happening in the future. We also ask that you check your student's Aspen account to ensure we have up-to-date telephone numbers and emails.

**Congratulations ...** to Tara Lapierre, 8th grade ELA teacher, and Tyler Lapierre, Technology teacher, at Hawthorne Brook Middle School. They welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Mila Evangeline, on December 27th. Weighing in at 8 pounds, 11 ounces, Mila was 20 1/2 inches long. Mom, Dad, Mila, and big brother Luka are all doing well. Welcome to the world, Mila!

### **A Resource for Parents During the Acetaminophen and Ibuprofen Shortage**

I am sure that most of you are aware of the shortage of Acetaminophen (Tylenol) and Ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil). Parents of younger children rely on

these medications to help control the fever and aches that accompany RSV, flu, and a number of other viruses.

The Mass Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics has put together some tips for parents handling fevers and pain in children during the shortage. I have included the link to their tips below.

[Tips for Parents During the Acetaminophen and Ibuprofen Shortage](#)

You can also always call or email your school nurse with any questions or concerns you may have. We are glad to help!

**Communicating with Central Office**

We have received feedback from parents and caregivers who are having difficulty contacting Central Office administration.

One of the more frequent issues has been a breakdown in communication when I (Brad Morgan - Superintendent) am confused with Brad Brooks (Director of Special Education/Student Support Services). This occurs, for example, when I receive a phone call after not responding to an email, when, in fact, the email was sent to Brad Brooks, who replied to the email/phone call, and vice versa. Please note, in instances where someone leaves a phone message and sends an email, only one of those will be replied to when the message/inquiry is the same. In instances where more than one administrator is in the email thread, one administrator will often respond to the email for the group.

To assist with this, the contact protocol is as follows:

**Parents/Guardians - Who to Contact**

Very often students and/or parents are not sure who to contact in the North Middlesex Regional School District in case of questions, concerns, or problems. Please direct these to the appropriate contact(s) below to ensure a prompt response.

*Classroom issues...*contact the teacher first. If you have additional concerns, contact the guidance counselor. If you are still concerned, contact the building Principal.

*Scheduling issues...*contact the Guidance Counselor first. If you have additional concerns, contact the building Assistant Principal/Principal.

*Curriculum issues...*contact the appropriate teacher first. If you have additional concerns, contact the building Principal. Finally, contact the Assistant Superintendent's office to speak with the applicable Director.

*Special Education issues...*contact the appropriate teacher(s) first and then your son/daughter's special education liaison (listed on your child's IEP), if warranted. If you have additional concerns, contact the building Assistant Principal/Principal. Finally, contact the Student Services office.

*Behavioral issues...*contact the teacher first. If you are still concerned, contact the Guidance Counselor and then the building Assistant Principal/Principal.

*Social, emotional, personal, health, or family issues...*contact the Guidance Counselor, the School Adjustment Counselor, or the nurse to discuss your concerns with them. If necessary, also contact the building Assistant Principal/Principal. If you feel your concern has gone unresolved, contact the Student Services office.

*Homeless or temporary housing status (McKinney Vento, Foster Care, or Military Status):* Contact the Guidance Counselor and inform them of your status. In some instances, they may direct you to the building Principal. Finally, contact the Student Services office. The homeless liaison (Brad Brooks) will be notified of the status, and transportation will be arranged through his office (if needed). All homeless students, once identified, receive free lunch for the remainder of the school year, and this is certified by the homeless liaison to the free/reduced lunch coordinator. If you become homeless within the school year and then are able to obtain a new residence (either within NM or another community), your child may still be eligible to remain in their school through the remainder of the school year. Please communicate this with your child's counselor and the homeless liaison if this happens.

*Athletics issues...*contact the coach first. If you are still concerned, contact the Director of Athletics. Finally, contact the Principal.

*Attendance issues...*contact the Guidance Counselor first. If attendance issues continue, contact the building Assistant Principal/Principal.

*Report Cards & Transcripts...*contact the Guidance Counselor first. If you have additional questions, contact the building Assistant Principal/Principal.

*Harassment & Discrimination...*contact building Principal. If you are still concerned, contact the Title IX and VI Coordinators. Finally, contact the Human Resources office.

*Suspected Bullying...*contact the Guidance Counselor. If you are still concerned, contact the building Assistant Principal/Principal. You may be asked to fill out a Bullying Reporting Form (available on the district website)  
*Technology questions and/or issues...*contact the district technology office.

*Student Activities/Clubs...*contact the advisor first. If you are still concerned, contact the building Assistant Principal/Principal.

*Special Education Transportation (VanPool Transportation)...*contact the Student Services office.

*Transportation (Dee Bus)...*contact the building secretary, followed by the building Assistant Principal/Principal. Finally, contact the business office.

*Food Service...*contact the Food Services Manager. Finally, contact the business office.

*Ethics Questions...*contact the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission. The Commission's Legal Division provides free, confidential advice to anyone subject to the conflict of interest law. To obtain advice from the Commission, call (617) 371-9500 or (888) 485-4766, or submit a request for advice online.

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/state-ethics-commission-frequently-asked-questions>

*District Policies...*contact your School Committee representative or the committee chairperson.

For email contact to a specific faculty, staff, or committee member, please enter the person's first initial and last name @nmrsd.org, for example:

[jdoe@nmrsd.org](mailto:jdoe@nmrsd.org).

**2022-2023 NMRSD Administrative Team**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>School</b>
Anne Cromwell-Gapp	Principal Extended Day Program Coordinator	AES
Kate Guziejka	Principal	SMS and SECC
Kristen Fearon	Assistant Principal	SMS
Diane Gleason	Interim Principal	VBES
Ami Dolan	Assistant Principal	VBES
Jason Webster	Principal	HBMS
Chantele Olmstead	Assistant Principal	HBMS
Lauren Young	Principal	NMS
Evan Worth	Assistant Principal	NMS
Tim McMahon	Principal	NMRHS
Laurie Smith	Assistant Principal	NMRHS
Ryan Demar	Assistant Principal	NMRHS
Matt Dawson	Athletic Director	NMRHS
Oscar Hills	Director of Facilities & Grounds	District
David Amari	Assistant Director of Facilities and Grounds	District
Cathryn Hampson	Supervisor of Health Services	District
Jeremy Hamond	Director of Technology & Facility Rentals	District
Nancy Haines	Business Manager	District
Anne Marie Tucciarone-Mahan	Director of Human Resources Title VI/IX Coordinator for Staff	District
Brad Brooks	Director of Student Services/Special Education	District

	McKinney Vento Homeless Liaison ADA Compliance Officer	
John Judge	Assistant Director of Special Education	District
Margaret Desilets	Evaluation Team Leader	District
Gary Burboa-Reese	Assistant Superintendent Homeschool Coordinator Title VI/IX Coordinator for Students	District
Kevin Cormier	Director of STEM (Math, Science, & Engineering)	District
Lisa Comeau	Director of Humanities (English, Language Arts, History & Social Sciences)	District
Brad Morgan	Superintendent	District

**North Middlesex Patriots Apparel and Spirit Wear**

Shop NM Patriots apparel, clothing, spirit wear, and merchandise on our NM District Apparel Flash Store or shop by sport on our NM Patriots Athletic Apparel Flash Store. Orders are due on **Sunday, February 12, 2023.**

**[North Middlesex School District Apparel Store - Orders due Sunday 2/12/23](#)**

**[North Middlesex Athletic Apparel Store - Orders due Sunday 2/12/23](#)**

**IMPORTANT: To ensure proper distribution, please begin by selecting the school you want to receive your merchandise.** We will arrange to have orders sent home with your student. Parents will also have the choice to pick up during specified hours.

**From the NMRSD School Committee ...** The School Committee formed a Communication Subcommittee to review School Committee interaction with district communities. As part of that work, they decided to post quarterly updates on our website, reviewing major agenda items and decisions as a part of their meetings. The updates can be found [here](#) on our website.

### **Community Coffees (Virtual)**

All Community Coffees will be virtual and will be held at 4:00 pm on the following Mondays:

February 13th

March 27th

May 8th

The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Director of Student Services will attend the coffees.

### **2022-2023 School Committee Meeting Dates**

For the time being, all sub-committee and most school committee meetings will continue to be virtual as we continue to receive feedback that it is more convenient for the public to attend. Attendance at school committee meetings is one of the best ways to remain current with district policy, budgetary matters, and news.

All meetings, unless noted otherwise, are held on Monday evenings and begin at 7:00 pm. For the full docket of meetings, please click on the link below:

[2022-2023 School Committee Dates](#)

Please note that these dates are subject to change as committee business necessitates.

### **2022-2023 School Calendar**

For the full 2022-2023 school calendar, please click the link below:

[School Calendar](#)