



NMRSD Update Saturday, August 28, 2021

Welcome to another new school year!

Although we are still dealing with issues related to COVID-19, we hope they will be short-lived. Regardless, based on how the NM staff and students have handled the situation to this point, I am confident that we will continue to persevere through the challenges that lie ahead.

NM will have a busy start to the 2021-2022 year as we continue work on our Strategic Plan which has been presented to the School Committee and will inform our work across the district and school-based improvement plans.

As Superintendent, I will continue to support building leadership so that they can, in turn, support their staff and have the most positive impact on the students of North Middlesex. I also continue to believe in a well-rounded educational experience, that includes academic programming rich in relevant and hands-on experiences coupled with strong extra/intracurricular programming, to further the learning experiences of our students to become productive citizens in a competitive society. To me, the most effective educators, coaches, and advisors are those who are able to formulate strong, positive, and healthy relationships with students. This is accomplished through a strong support system that further challenges them so when they graduate, our students have the experiences and skills necessary to pursue their dreams.

During the 2021-2022 year, I will continue to host parent and community coffees so that I can provide both groups with a place to ask questions, voice concerns, or share positive experiences. Due to numerous requests around convenience from parents, these coffees will be held virtually, which has had much higher attendance than in-person. Both the Assistant Superintendent,

Nancy Milligan, and the Director of Student Support Services/Special Education, Brad Brooks, will be in attendance to answer questions as well. Additionally, a goal for me for the upcoming year is to be more visible in schools, both working with principals and visiting classrooms.

In the meantime, the start of the year is upon us, so I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming weeks and wish you rest, relaxation, and some more good weather as we round out the summer!

Tentative Virtual Coffees

All coffees will be held remotely at a link that will be shared in the coming weeks.

Tuesday, September 21st - 9:30 am

Tuesday, October 19th - 4:00 pm

Tuesday, November 16th - 9:30 am

Tuesday, December 21st - 4:00 pm

Tuesday, January 18th - 9:30 am

Thursday, February 15th - 4:00 pm

Tuesday, March 15th - 9:30 am

Thursday, April 12th - 4:00 pm

Tuesday, May 14th - 9:30 am

Masking & COVID-19

Education Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley has required masks for all public K-12 students and staff through October 1st to ensure schools fully reopen safely and to provide time for more students and educators to get vaccinated. After October 1, the commissioner's requirement and district policy would allow middle and high schools to lift the mask mandate for vaccinated students and staff only if the school meets a certain vaccination rate – at least 80 percent of students and staff in a school building are vaccinated. Unvaccinated students and staff would still be required to wear masks.

The Commissioner will revisit the requirement in the near future to revise it as warranted by public health data. The purpose of the requirement is to encourage higher vaccination rates among students and staff and to implement a uniform policy for all schools to begin the year.

The mask mandate will only apply indoors and to children 5 and older.

Students who arrive at school without a mask will be provided with one. Per federal regulations, masks must be worn by students while on the school bus and when visiting the school nurse.

NMRSD Adopt a Spot Program

The NMRSD "Adopt a Spot" Program provides opportunities for companies, civic groups, and community members to adopt a "spot" (island/mulch bed/entryway) to create attractive, welcoming "oases" throughout the District. Adopters agree to invest "sweat equity" to maintain a spot at one of our schools, in return for which an Adopt a Spot sign recognizing the spot's adopter will be installed by the District. Adopters agree to maintain the area for one fiscal year (July-June) during the summer, fall, and spring seasons. Spots are available at all of our schools.

To begin the process of becoming a Spot Adopter, please contact Andrea Royer at 978-597-8713 ext. 1900 to find a spot that suits your interest and discuss guidelines.

Fall Parent/Caregiver Information Series

This fall, NMRSD will be offering four (4) parent/caregiver information nights in the Performing Arts Center at NMRHS at 6:30 pm. Please mark your calendars:

Tuesday, October 12th

Navigating the Common Application & Naviance

NMRHS Guidance Team

This presentation will be geared towards current 9th, 10th, and 11th graders' parents/caregivers and their students who are planning on attending 2 or 4-year colleges.

Tuesday, October 26th

How to Manage Teen Mental Health

Dr. Dan Rosa

This presentation will be geared towards parents/caregivers of middle and high school students. Dr. Rosa is a veteran clinical psychologist in the Chelmsford Public Schools and was instrumental in bringing in a K-12 team of clinical psychologists to the district. He has a private practice and has done presentations throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Wednesday, November 3rd
Internet & Social Media Safety
Katie Greer (klgeer.com)

This presentation will be geared towards all parents/caregivers and students at both the middle and high school levels. As we all realize, technology is unavoidable and this presentation will help both adults and students better understand the Internet and social media. Katie has done presentations all over the country and has been featured in several national media outlets.

Wednesday, November 10th
How Do We Create Safe & Welcoming Schools for All Students?
How Can We Support Our LGBTQ Students?
Jeff Perrotti

This presentation will be geared towards parents/caregivers of all grade levels. Jeff is a renowned expert in the field of Gender Education - creating a Safe School Climate and the founding director of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education's Safe Schools Program for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning Students.

Director of Human Resources, Anne Marie Tucciarone-Mahan

It has been an exciting time for the district with the start of the school year and welcoming many new faces! I am pleased to introduce:

25 Year Awards

The following staff will be recognized on opening day for 25 years of service to the NMRSD:

Shelley Amari: Shelley is currently a second grade teacher at Spaulding Memorial School, where she has spent the entirety of her NM career. Shelley has been an ELA teacher leader for the district.

Rebecca Berry: Rebecca originally worked at VBES as a SPED Teacher until 2009. Since 2009, she has been teaching at NMS. She has taught PD in the district.

Mark Cullen: Mark was originally hired at VBES as the computer teacher. Shortly after, he started teaching grade 8 social studies and eventually moved to NMS. Mark has enjoyed coaching many district teams and has coordinated the eighth grade trip to Washington DC for twenty years!

Erik Dellasanta: Erik has been teaching Technology and Engineering at the high school since being hired. He is a former NM varsity basketball coach.

Sandra Jamieson: Sandie was hired at the High School, where she has spent her entire career. She is currently a secretary for the Guidance Department.

Edward Logiudice: Ed has been with the district working at the high school level as a Math Teacher, where he has spent his entire career. He also serves as the Math Department Head.

Amy Page: Amy was originally hired Special Education Teacher at the Peter Fitzpatrick School. In 2002, she moved into a grade 2 teaching position where she remained until 2006 when she began as a Kindergarten teacher. In 2009, when PFS moved to VBES, Amy continued on as a Kindergarten teacher.

John “Jay” Resmini: Jay has been teaching at HBMS since he was hired. He currently teaches math.

Karen Rixford: Karen has been teaching at AES since she was hired. She currently teaches grade 4. She has also sat on the math curriculum committee.

Bruce Williams: Bruce has been a Central Office employee since being hired and currently serves as a Network Technician in our I.T. Department.

We thank you for your service and dedication to our students and learning community.

New Staff

Ashby Elementary:

- Ken Arsenault Band Teacher
- Cole Denis Building Based Substitute Teacher
- Madison Parlee Lunch/Recess Aide
- Megan Stark Speech Language Pathologist (*shared with VBES*)

Spaulding Memorial:

- Amy D'Agastino Lunch/Recess Aide
- Kristine Galeota Paraprofessional
- Kathryn Gerrior Academic Interventionist

- Holman, Eileen Academic Interventionist
- Jessica Lutinski Paraprofessional
- Jessye Metiver Paraprofessional
- Cynthia O'Brien Academic Interventionist
- Lisa Pepe Academic Interventionist

Squannacook Early Childhood Center:

- Amanda Anderson, Special Education Teacher
- Demarise Edwards, Special Education Teacher

Varnum Brook Elementary School:

- Kellie Anderson Academic Interventionist
- Tracey Burg Building Based Substitute Teacher
- Nicole Cook Academic Interventionist
- Amanda Desiderio Lunch/Recess Aide
- Maura Godfrey-Newman 2nd Grade Teacher
- Jennifer Greenwood Academic Interventionist
- Abigail Hirsch Academic Interventionist
- Alissa Johnson Custodian
- Katherine Manley Speech Language Pathologist
- Melanie Scuderi STEPS Special Education Teacher
- Amy Shepherd 1st Grade Teacher
- Sara Skibba Academic Interventionist
- Tommara Sloan Grade 2 Elementary Teacher
- Elizabeth Smith Extended Day Staff Assistant
- Kristin Valdanbrini Lunch/Recess Aide

Hawthorne Brook Middle School:

- Alannah Daly SPED Teacher
- Michelle Green Building Based Substitute Teacher
- Derek Matthews Academic Interventionist
- Hannah Rudd Building Based Substitute Teacher
- Kristina Skrehot Academic Interventionist

Nissitissit Middle School:

- Melissa Chaffee STEM Teacher
- Kayla Dee Paraprofessional
- Dorothy Distler Building Based Substitute Teacher
- Taylor Rae Hawkins Grade 7/8 Math Teacher

- Brianna Hughes Academic Interventionist
- Robert Jackson Academic Interventionist
- Nicole Kostra School Counselor
- Michael Lynch Grade 7/8 Science Teacher
- Sarasvati Lynn Paraprofessional
- Haley Newsham ELA Teacher
- Julia Overhiser Paraprofessional

North Middlesex Regional High School:

- Tina Celic Paraprofessional
- Zachary Conklin Guidance Counselor
- Kathryn Douglas Athletic Trainer
- Jana Hodgson High School Secretary/Receptionist
- Jaime Janda School Nurse
- Helen Labadie Guidance Counselor
- Sean McGinty Building Based Substitute Teacher
- Carl Mountain Building Based Substitute Teacher
- Amanda Mrakovich Environmental Science/Forensics Teacher
- Joseph Nizich Choral Teacher
- Amanda Pratt Math Teacher
- Anna Schmitz Building Based Substitute Teacher
- Lori Simpson EL Teacher
- Shigehito Tanaka Assistant Principal
- Colleen Comperchio Speech & Language Pathologist

District-wide:

- Jessica Boccelli Adaptive Physical Education Teacher
- Rebecca Boutwell District Resource Nurse
- Caitlyn Naylor Custodian
- Allison O'Malley Occupational Therapist

Extended Day Program:

- Daniel Brann SMS Extended Day Site Coordinator
- Laura Doell District Extended Day Site Coordinator
- Cole Denis AES Extended Day Staff Assistant
- Katie Pulliam VBES Extended Day Staff Assistant
- Russell Sykes SMS Extended Day Staff Assistant

Other Staffing Changes

Central Office:

- Lisa Comeau Humanities Director
- Kevin Cormier STEM Director
- Chris Jarvis Grounds Maintenance

Ashby Elementary:

- Lynn Dupuis Academic Interventionist
- Susan Haigh School Nurse

Hawthorne Brook Middle School

- John Cochran Physical Education Teacher

Nissitissit Middle School:

- Julie Mounce Health Services Assistant

North Middlesex Regional High School:

- Christy Kervin Biology/Anatomy & Physiology Teacher
- Carolina LeGrand Spanish Teacher
- Nancy McLeod Spanish Teacher

Spaulding Memorial School:

- Stephanie Thompson 4th Grade Teacher

Squannacook Early Childhood Center:

LEAP:

- Stacey Campbell LEAP Paraprofessional

Varnum Brook Elementary School:

- MaryEllen Cappucci School Nurse
- Deveka Scoglio 3rd Grade Teacher