

*~From the Desk of Mrs. Ferri~*  
**Principal at Northwood Elementary School**  
***\*Be Safe\* Be Kind\* Be Ready to Learn\****

August/September 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome Back Shining Stars! On behalf of the staff at Northwood Elementary School, I am excited to welcome you and your child/children to the 2023-2024 school year. As a school community, we will continue to focus on providing a robust educational experience keeping in mind the social-emotional well being of our students. In doing so, we ask that families prioritize school attendance and maintain daily routines to ensure our students attend school on-time each and every day. We will also continue to support our students through our PBIS model of instruction (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) which is a schoolwide “systems approach” aimed at establishing a positive student/school culture to create a safe and effective learning environment for all students.

**Save the Date:**

Our **Back to School Open House/Supply Drop-Off, K-5**, will take place on Tuesday, September 5th from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM. During this time, you and your child may drop off supplies to the classroom, meet the teacher, and take a walk around the building. A school bus will be parked in the lot for your child to practice getting on and off the bus safely. Also, the first 200 students to arrive on campus will receive a free backpack full of supplies.

**Feel free to stop by during the times below:**

Students K-5, 4-6 PM

Students attending UPK at Northwood will participate in small group orientations. You will receive a separate correspondence with this information.

Mark your calendars! Our Welcome Back Carnival will be on Friday, September 22nd, 5-7 PM.

**Parent Portal:**

The PowerSchool Parent Portal is an online portal accessible anywhere on the web that parents/guardians can log in to view their child's information regarding teacher assignments, grades, attendance, transportation, etc. Each parent may have one account, attaching multiple children/students. *You must know your child's PowerSchool Access ID and Password to create an account.* Please call our main office if you cannot retrieve this information.

**Breakfast/Lunch Programming:**

We are pleased to inform you that all students at Northwood Elementary will receive a free breakfast and lunch each day should they wish to participate. Meals will be served in the cafeteria. Please contact Sue Whalen, our food service manager, at (716) 677-3810 if you have any questions.

**Safety Protocols:**

Safety and security is a top priority at Northwood Elementary School. To ensure the well-being of our students, staff, and visitors, the following protocols will be enforced:

1. You will be asked to show your ID to the outside camera and will need to state your reason for requesting entry into the building.
2. A staff member will buzz you into the main vestibule through the first set of glass doors. At this time, you will need to present your identification to a staff member at the sliding window. If you are dropping off your child, you will “sign-in” your child at the window. After you sign-in your child, he or she will be permitted through the second set of doors to enter the building.
3. Parents, visitors, and guardians who need to enter the building will be buzzed through the second set of glass doors. Otherwise, we kindly ask that you wait patiently in the vestibule.
4. We will continue to require building visitors to sign-in and wear a “visitor’s pass” which must be worn and visible.

### **Transportation, Arrival, and Dismissal Procedures:**

#### **TRANSPORTATION:**

All children are encouraged to ride the school bus to and from school each day to promote independence and to ease separation anxiety. Your child’s busing information can be found in the parent portal. If you have questions regarding your child’s busing, call (716) 677-3820. Please be patient with transportation services during the first two weeks of school as drivers are learning their routes.

#### **ARRIVAL (grades K-5): SEE ATTACHED LETTER AND MAP**

Arrival time is from 8:30 - 8:35 AM. Students must be in their classrooms by 8:40 AM. Use the designated car lane near the main entrance to drop off your child. Please remain in your car when you drop off your child. You may not park in the fire lane. Students arriving after 8:40 AM must have a parent/guardian with them to check-in with the Main Office. Your ID must be presented to the camera before entering the building.

#### **DISMISSAL (grades K-5): SEE ATTACHED LETTER AND MAP**

Afternoon pick-up will begin at 2:55 PM. Parents/Guardians will utilize our car lane system. **Car tags will be distributed at our Open House/Supply Drop-Off on September 5th from 4-6 PM.** Bus Dismissal begins at 3:00 PM. Buses are called in the order in which they arrive. Notes are also required if you are allowing your child to walk home from school. All notes are kept on file in the Main Office.

#### **HEALTH OFFICE & ABSENCES:**

If calling in an absence, please call the Attendance Office at (716) 677-3642. If you have questions regarding your child’s illness or health records/forms, call Nurse Pisto at (716) 677-3644.

Thank you for your continued support.

In partnership,

Mrs. Ferri