



NORTHWOOD KNIGHT LIFE

AUGUST 2023

A NORTHWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA PUBLICATION

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Greetings, Northwood Family,

I want to welcome everyone to the 2023-2024 school year! Summer break provides us with some time to relax, rejuvenate, and reflect on our school year to make the next year even better than the last! We have a unique school community, including students, teachers, support staff, and parents who take pride in ensuring our students' educational experience is second to none. Soon, we will welcome another class of sixth-grade Knights, and we will begin to write the next chapter together.

Our team understands the necessary components and experiences that make the middle school experience unique. We also understand the demands and requirements for high school and beyond. Thus, we are committed to providing academics and programs that are not only rigorous and challenging but also interesting and engaging. Many activities are available at NMS this year to involve students and parents in school life. I encourage you to explore these opportunities to become active in our school life. These include athletics, fine arts programs, student clubs, community outreach opportunities, and student leadership opportunities. We will always need student and parent support each year to be successful. I know that both groups' leadership and hard work will make this another successful school year. Our school website will continue to be a valuable resource for parents and students. The website will list current news, recognitions, activities, and monthly calendars so that parents can be informed about the many exciting happenings at Northwood. Each teacher's website will include information for parents to keep a pulse on their child's academic progress. "Like" us on Facebook and "follow" us on Twitter to see examples of the fun our kids have while exploring and learning. Parents are encouraged to access the District Parent Portal, where student grades and attendance are available for viewing. Please come into our school office to obtain instructions and passwords for accessing the Parent Portal. Please take advantage of the opportunities at NMS by joining the PTA and getting involved in all aspects of our school. Our PTA knows no bounds when it comes to supporting the efforts of our teachers and staff so that we may give those special "extras" to our students throughout the school year.

As Principal, my most significant responsibility is to ensure the safety of each student, staff member, and visitor at our school. Measures such as the district-wide I.D. policy, our NMS dress code, random participation with the EVOLV system, and strict adherence to all GCS student behavior policies are intended to allow us to teach and learn in an environment conducive to quality education. We require all visitors to enter through the main office, without exception. I also strongly encourage you to familiarize yourself with your child's school handbook, which is linked on our school website under the "Students" tab.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is a question or concern that you or your child has about Northwood Middle. There will be tentative dates for some of the year's PTA events in this newsletter. I encourage you to mark your calendars and join us when possible. I look forward to continuing Northwood's long-standing record of success together. Sincerely, Treva Lee



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NORTHWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL - 710 IKES ROAD - TAYLORS, SOUTH CAROLINA 29687

Principal

Treva Lee
355-7000

Assistant Principal (6th)

Kendra Walker
355-7063

Admin Assistant (7th)

Brook Patterson
355-7048

Assistant Principal (8th)

Kevin Duncan
355-7012

Counselors

Andrea Luther, 6th
355-7005

Elizabeth Reed, 7th
355-7020

Lucy Pollard, 8th
355-7057

Christi Dumit, all grades
355-7004

TBD, Mental Health
Counselor
355-7058

Attendance Clerk

Cindy Chemell
355-7001

EDP Director

Rebekah Carnahan
355-7038

Front Office Clerk

Ana Hill
355-7031

Nurse

Sherre Forrester
355-7007

Registrar

Mitzi Bessent
355-7013

Resource Officer

Penny Aubrey
355-7015

Secretary

Jennifer Mahan
355-7002

Athletic Director

Allison Muriithi
355-7029

Food Services

Judy Frantz
355-7008

Media Specialist

Greta Cleveland
355-7006

Transportation

Taylor's Bus Center
355-7330

6TH GRADE BOOTCAMP

Northwood Middle School will host their 6th grade class at "Boot Camp" on Friday, August 4th starting @ 2:30 pm! This is our back-to-school event that will help our 6th graders get prepared for the beginning of the school year.

Students will need to be dropped off by 2:30 pm. They will be given the opportunity to practice opening a locker and learn how to have a successful 6th grade year. At the end of Boot Camp, students will be given their class schedules and an opportunity to meet their teachers.

A Parent Boot Camp will be offered from 4:15-5:15 pm. This will give parents an opportunity to learn about middle school and ways to ensure that your child has a great transition to 6th grade. This parent session is optional.

Parents will then meet up with their students at 5:15pm. Students and parents will have the opportunity to meet teachers, listen to teacher presentations, and walk the student's schedule. This part of the event will last from 5:30-6:45 pm.

Register for Boot Camp by visiting the Northwood website and completing the Google Form found on the home page under the Boot Camp registration link. Contact Andrea Luther, 6th Grade School Counselor, if you have any questions: aluther@greenville.k12.sc.us or (864) 355-7005.



WELCOME
6TH GRADERS!



MEET THE TEACHER & OPEN HOUSE

Meet the Teacher/Open House is for students and parents to pick up schedules, meet their teachers, learn about their classes, and tour the school.

6TH GRADE

This will take place at Bootcamp on August 4.

7TH GRADE

Thursday, August 3
5:15-6:15pm

8TH GRADE

Thursday, August 3
6:30-7:30pm

Students and parents will follow the student's schedule to visit each of their classes and listen to a short presentation by each teacher.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The general list of recommended school supplies for each grade level is available on the Northwood Middle School website.

At Meet the Teacher, teachers will let students know of any additional items needed for their particular classroom. *(6th graders will receive this information at Bootcamp.)*

NORTHWOOD WEBSITE



www.greenville.k12.sc.us/northwd/

School supply lists, upcoming club information, Northwood athletics, PE uniform information and MORE will all be available on the Northwood website! Check often for important announcements!

PTA NEWS

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We are so excited for another great year and look forward to many exciting events. We are so thankful for the parents and volunteers who help make Northwood such a wonderful school! A brief re-cap of how PTA was used at NMS this past year:

- Supplied instructional materials for classrooms and awarded \$6,274.37 in mini-grants for teachers
- Helped with 11 Dress Down Days (A favorite of our NMS students)
- Organized school socials (2 per year) and an 8th Grade Celebration in May
- Coordinated a Fall and Spring Book Fair
- Funded a beautiful new art mural in the library (Come see it sometime!)
- Purchased 2 new carts for concessions that we now serve at ALL sporting events!
- Donated gift cards for prizes to be given away during staff meetings
- Provided shirts and supplies for 6th grade boot camp student leaders and contributed to pullovers for all staff
- Purchased new media center tables and decor
- Purchased books and classroom supplies for special education classes
- Donated items to create a reading area for students who see our reading interventionist
- Coordinated Principal's Honor Roll lunches
- Purchased equipment for new PE weight room
- Bought new uniforms for uniform closet and school supplies for students in need
- Rewards for all students for Excellent School Report Card rating
- Purchased new mats with the Northwood logo to protect the floor under team chairs for volleyball and basketball
- Provided new sports banners for the gym

PTA MEETINGS - ALL WELCOME!

Northwood PTA Meetings are held on **Thursdays** in the Media Center conference room at 9:00am on the following dates:

August 24, 2023
September 28, 2023
October 26, 2023
November 30, 2023
January 25, 2024
February 22, 2024
March 28, 2024
April 25, 2024
Everyone welcome to attend!

2023-2024 PTA BOARD MEMBERS

President: Kellie Herlong

Vice President: Janet Mize

Secretary: Lindsey New

Treasurer: Rita Bilbro

Board Members:

Kay Altman	Marissa Moore
Katie Bennett	Laura North
Carol Bowling	Lynn Pascazio
Haley Bright	Bridie Rosenberg
Kelly Childress	Lindsey Smith
Katie Dill	Megan Southerland
Sara Fox	Haylie Tysinger
Laura Garrett	Sarah Whitmire
Katie Hill	Kristy Wingerter
Joy Hyde	Amy Williams
Deidre Jordan	



Some of our PTA Volunteers after a fun event!

JOIN FOR \$5
TODAY

Want to help show support for Northwood Middle for just \$5? Join the PTA to help us keep a strong membership and have a successful school year!

Check out our website for more details:
www.northwoodmiddleschoolpta.org



NORTHWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL **DRESS CODE**



At Northwood, we pride ourselves in being an exceptional school! The personal appearance of every student is an important component of establishing a safe environment for optimal learning and respect for one another. The information provided below highlights some of the components of our dress code. Please review the full dress code policy in the Northwood student agenda/handbook or on the school's website.

Shirts:

- Tops must be solid white, navy, or black
- Tops must have collars, buttons, and sleeves
- Tops may have a small, appropriate logo over the pocket area only

Pants, shorts, skirts:

- Bottoms must be solid khaki, navy, or black
- Jeans and bottoms made to look like jeans are not permitted
- Shorts and skirts may measure no shorter than 3" above the top of the kneecap
- A belt is required if the garment has belt loops. No large buckles nor writing/symbols are permitted to be on the belt

Miscellaneous:

- All clothing must be free from holes, faux holes, patched holes, rips, etc.
- Shoes may be any color and must have back-straps
- Lightweight, non-hooded sweatshirts, sweaters, and jackets may be worn in the classroom, provided they are solid colored white, navy, or black and have a regulation shirt underneath them

Students who come to school inappropriately dressed will be asked to call home to have an appropriate item brought to them. Students will then be instructed to complete their school work in the in-school suspension room until a parent arrives.



ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER CHANGE

It is very important that the school has up-to-date contact information for each student. The school district requires two proofs of address (current utility bill or contract on a house or apartment) for an address change. To have your phone number changed in the computer, please call the main office (864-355-7000) or send it in written form with your student's name on it. You can also update phone numbers on Parent Backpack.



TDAP VACCINE - 7TH GRADERS

South Carolina law requires that students entering the 7th grade receive a dose of Tdap vaccine. Students entering the 7th grade who have not received the vaccine will not be allowed to receive their class schedule or attend school until they have received the vaccine and provided proof to the school nurse. If you are unsure if your child has met this requirement, please contact our school nurse, Ms. Forrester at (864) 355-7007.



STAY CONNECTED

Want to stay connected and get the latest information? Follow these simple steps to make sure you and your student don't miss out on important announcements.



Follow us on Instagram: northwoodmiddlepta

Follow us!



Follow us on Facebook: northwoodmiddlepta



Sign up for the weekly email newsletter. Visit www.northwoodmiddleschoolpta.org to subscribe.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We would love for each and every parent to stay up-to-date on the latest activities and be able to volunteer when it is most convenient! There are volunteer opportunities that will fit all types of schedules. We can always use lots of help, so please take a look and sign up for anything that might interest you. Sign up on the Northwood PTA website or use this QR Code.

Sign up today!

For quick access, use this QR Code:



CONGRATS!

Northwood Designated as "School to Watch"

In February 2022, Northwood was designated as a School to Watch by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. Our emphasis on strong academics, sensitivity to young adolescents' needs and interests, and commitment to providing all students equal access to a high-quality education resulted in this well-deserved recognition.



U.S. News & World Report Top 50 Ranking

Last October, U.S. News & World Report announced their 2022 "Best K-8 Schools" rankings. For the first time, U.S. News published rankings and data on more than 80,000 public elementary and middle schools across the country. Schools were ranked at the state and district levels. Out of 345 middle schools in the state, GCS had five schools in the Top 50 ... and Northwood Middle School holds the #41 SPOT IN THE STATE!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 3: 7th & 8th Meet the Teacher

August 4: 6th Grade Boot Camp

August 8: First Day of School

August 24: PTA Meeting

August 25: Dress Down Day \$2

September 4: Student Holiday

September 15: Dress Down Day \$2

After School Social \$3

September 25-29: Fall Book Fair

September 28: PTA Meeting

October 11: End 1st Quarter

October 12-13: Student Holiday

October 19: 1st Report Card

October 20: Dress Down Day \$2

October 26: PTA Meeting

November 3: Dress Down Day \$2

November 13-17: Christmas Knights

Collection/Penny Sabotage

November 17: Dress Down Day \$2

November 22-24: Thanksgiving Break

November 30: PTA Meeting

Each Sunday during the school year, the calendar is emailed out in our weekly E-blast. Make sure and sign up to receive the newsletter at www.northwoodmiddleschoolpta.org

NORTHWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS



Per Greenville County School District, athletics are open to all 7th and 8th grade students. Northwood Middle offers the following:

- Volleyball (Fall)
- Girls & Boys Basketball (Winter)
- Girls & Boys Soccer (Spring)
- Baseball & Softball (Spring)

7th and 8th grade students interested in other sports may have the opportunity to participate at their feeder high schools.

STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP



No student may be dropped off at school before 7:30 AM, and all students need to be picked up by 4:00 PM after school.

For safety reasons, students should be dropped off and picked up at the front of the school. Do not pull into the parking lot to drop off or pick up students.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL



The School Improvement Council (SIC) meets the last Wednesday of each month at 12pm. SIC serves as the main advisory board to the principal. Any parent can serve. If you are interested, please email Donald Spann at dspann@gracechurchsc.org.

STUDENT TIPS

We asked some of our students, "Do you have any advice for a new student at Northwood?"

- ▶ Always have a pencil with you.
- ▶ The sporting events are really fun to watch.
- ▶ Try out for sports even when you're scared.
- ▶ The cafeteria workers are really nice. Say please and thank you to them.
- ▶ Make a good impression on your teachers at the beginning of school.
- ▶ The socials after school are fun!
- ▶ Take care of your Chromebook.
- ▶ After I forgot my ID once, I kept it in my bookbag at night so I always had it with me.
- ▶ Gym clothes get stinky, take them home to wash!
- ▶ Always turn in your finished work so you have no NHIs.
- ▶ Be sure to visit the library, they have an amazing selection of books.



The Northwood PTA is now accepting corporate sponsorships for the 2023-2024 school year.

Would you consider supporting us in this way?

Becoming a sponsor is a great way to get your company's name out to thousands while helping wonderful students and an amazing staff at the same time!

Please email:

northwoodmiddleschoolpta@gmail.com if you would like to become a sponsor or need more information.



Parent Backpack is an online program where you can view your child's grades, attendance, and discipline incidents. Visit the Parent Backpack website (Link available on Northwood's website) to create an account. Once you have created your account, please stop by our Front Office to present your government-issued ID. Front Office hours are Monday - Friday from 7:30 am - 4:00 pm once school begins.

PTA REFLECTIONS PROGRAM

The National PTA's Reflections program provides opportunities for recognition and access to the arts which boost student confidence and success in the arts and in life.

Each year, over 300,000 students in Pre-K through Grade 12 create original works of art in response to a student-selected theme. This 50+ year old program helps them explore their own thoughts, feelings and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence and find a love for learning that will help them become more successful in school and in life. The theme for the 2023-2024 program year is ***I am Hopeful Because...***



Students submit their completed works of art in one or all of the available arts categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts. More details coming but start thinking about your entries!

Thank you to our Title Sponsor for 2023-2024:



864.244.7545

www.summersortho.com



Northwood Middle School PTA
710 Ikes Road
Taylors, SC 29687

NORTHWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

- »» First Day of School: August 8, 2023
- »» School begins at 8:25AM and ends at 3:15PM

Welcome Knights!



IMPORTANT!

Stay connected and get the latest information!
Follow these simple steps to make sure you and your student don't miss out on important announcements.



Sign up for the weekly email newsletter.
Visit www.northwoodmiddleschoolpta.org to subscribe.



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