



North Stonington Public Schools

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Our Goals: *Safe, Valued, Sense of Belonging - Innovative Instruction - Efficient and Transparent Processes*

August 18, 2023

Dear North Stonington Schools Families,

As summer winds down, I hope your anticipation for the new school year is winding up. Leaving summer behind is always easier when your children are headed to school in North Stonington where everyone feels safe, valued, and has a sense of belonging, develops supportive relationships and learns their best. That is our aim and we plan to fulfill it!

Regarding best learning, we just received word that **breakfast will be free for all students** this school year! While lunch will **not** be free for all students, those who qualify for **either free or reduced lunch** will have access to free lunch for the school year. Please fill out the reduced and free lunch form. Here is the link:

https://www.northstonington.k12.ct.us/files/ugd/3cf0c9_cdb7f03b8ede4691afcd3990d4ba7f3e.pdf

We are implementing **Anonymous Alerts** this year so that students and parents can efficiently communicate important information about safety. Please see this parent/guardian letter about making reports and downloading the app on your phone: https://www.northstonington.k12.ct.us/files/ugd/3cf0c9_29e4d5836d5f4663992d029ca8d6efdb.pdf

Planning ahead, there is a new Kindergarten entry age for the 2024-2025 school year. This is recently passed legislation and implementation details still need to be worked out. Please read this notice from the Connecticut Department of Education: https://www.northstonington.k12.ct.us/files/ugd/3cf0c9_7b057f57ff9a485eaccb5a0fdc6df824.pdf

In order to hear your thoughts and share some of mine on our outstanding school system, I am going to host **Coffee Chats for the Community** on the fourth Tuesday of the month. These events will be from **8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m** and take place at the Education Center at 298 Norwich-Westerly Road, across from the schools. So far, we have scheduled the following dates: **September 26, October 24, November 28**. I look forward to speaking with anyone who can make these meetings. Of course, you can always schedule an appointment by contacting Irma Wilhelm, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, at (860) 535-2800.

Please know that the first day of school, **Wednesday, August 30th**, is a **half day**, with the middle school/high school dismissing at 12:00 p.m., and the elementary school dismissing at 1:00 p.m. The first day for PK is September 5th. Bus information will be posted on our website by Thursday, August 24th.

We have a dedicated and talented staff consisting of many returning members and a few new ones. Everyone is eager to care for and work with our students. I hope you and your children have the best school year yet!

Wishing our families health and happiness,

Troy C. Hopkins
Superintendent of Schools