



KICKING OFF SENIOR YEAR WITH THE ANNUAL SENIOR CRUISE WITH THE CLASS OF 2019

The Lancer

Newsletter of the
Superintendent's Office of
the Norton Public Schools

September 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

Office of the Superintendent

by Dr. Joseph Baeta, Superintendent of Schools [@NortonSchools](https://twitter.com/NortonSchools)

Welcome Back!

The 2018-2019 school year is off to a great start. Although we had some busing issues because of the Tiered Grades 4-8 route because of LATE registrations (both required transportation and pay and ride) and a heatwave, our students have once again met the challenges before them.

We have undergone some significant personnel changes with most of the changes at Norton High School. A number of new professionals have joined the administration team.

- Mr. Matthew Wells, School Business Administrator
- Ms. Elizabeth Simone, Coordinator of Payroll and HR
- Ms. Lisa Giuliano, Acting Principal of NHS
- Mr. Gregory Hood, Interim Assistant Principal of NHS

- Mr. Martin Geoghegan, Principal of Yelle Elementary
- Mr. Vincent Cerce, Director of SEL and Counseling
- Mr. Aaron Sumner, Director of Athletics 6-12

None of these positions are new positions.

We have also made personnel cuts including classroom teachers, administrators and the entire Food Service Department. We cut our own personnel to keep personnel in other areas with attention to prioritizing the classroom.

Wishing everyone a fantastic 2018-2019 school year!

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Business Office

by Matthew Wells, School Business Administrator

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The business office has been busy this year as we have some new faces around the office that are acclimating to the district, and some changes in transportation and food service that have opened up some new challenges for us.

Transportation is always a work in progress at the beginning of each year. We would like to thank the community for their patience as we work through not only the normal issues that occur at the start of the year, but those new issues that have come up with the transition from two separate tiers at the Yelle School and the Middle School to one combined tier. The change to a single tier for both schools has filled our buses to capacity creating the task of leveling the ridership on each bus. We have been working daily on creating new bus stops and moving stops between routes to bring those levels within target.

Our school lunch program has transitioned to Chartwells and we are hearing great things about the program from students and parents. Our free and reduced meal application process has moved from a paper based system to a new online application process that is successfully streamlining the process. Each application takes half the processing time that it has in the past, and links directly into our point of sale system at the schools.

The School Committee has approved a Town Article for the October Town Meeting, which includes \$465,830 for the FY2019 budget and \$222,000 in for the capital plan.

The School Committee is requesting a total of \$465,830 to be added to the FY2019 School Department budget for four areas of need. The first item requested is \$281,440 for K-12 classroom materials and supplies to reinstate some of the funds cut during the budget process. An amount of \$99,000 has been requested for the replacement of interactive projectors in 33 of our District classrooms, \$61,275 has been requested for extended school services for students in need of a longer day to be provided 1:1 and small group instruction in literacy, and \$24,115 has been requested for professional development in three key areas: social emotional and behavioral best practices, trauma sensitive schools and inclusive practices.

\$222,000 has been requested in the Capital Plan to support the aging technology infrastructure. \$60,000 of this amount is to upgrade our non-functional system and data backup software and storage, which is over 10 years old. The remaining \$162,000 is for the replacement of servers and storage that supports our virtual infrastructure. Purchasing of these items will set a foundation for a sound disaster recovery procedure, and will remove network bottlenecks and security exposures.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly. Welcome back, and good luck in the school year!

Buildings and Grounds

by Wade Lizotte, Director of Facilities

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Welcome back! It was a very busy summer in the Facilities department preparing our buildings and grounds for the 2018-2019 school year. The J.C. Solmonese hosted extended day programs this year. The custodial staff did a tremendous job in accommodating the students and teachers as well as completing their own daily tasks. The H.A. Yelle hosted the Champions Summer program and did not have a day when school was not open. Norton High School hosted our Summer Enrichment Program as well as some summer classes for our students. Despite all that daily activity, the crews were able to get their buildings ready for the start of a new school year. The custodial crew worked all summer long, moving classrooms, cleaning classrooms, scrubbing and waxing floors, cleaning sinks, vacuuming and dusting. We continued with our preventive maintenance program on our HVAC systems and walk in coolers and freezers, which is in its fifth year now. Our biggest accomplishment this summer was at the Middle School where we finished removing classroom carpet up on the third floor and installed new tile flooring. With the exception of just a few classrooms now, the NMS is rug free. In many of the schools, we were able to paint classrooms, hallways and office spaces. Our buildings also had a lot of outside work performed. We weeded, mulched and planted some new flowers and a few trees. We seeded, fertilized and mowed. Our facilities also hosted many sport teams, camps, and the TPC this Summer. As you can tell we have done a lot this summer throughout the District, there is still a lot more that we want to complete. We will continue to work as hard as we possibly can to make our schools shine and be the best they can be for our staff and students.

I would like to thank our Summer helpers: Kyle Pereira, Evan Czazasty and Gabe Dennett. All three were a huge help in making our team achieve our summer goals. Thank you students and good luck!

Office of Teaching and Learning

By Jennifer O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

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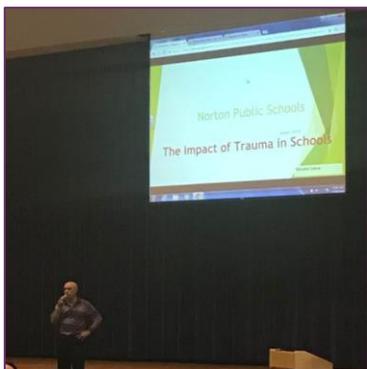
[@NortonCIA](https://twitter.com/NortonCIA)

New Teacher Orientation

In the last week of August, Norton welcomed 16 new teachers to the district. All of these hires were made possible by retirements, resignations, or leaves of absence- these are not new positions. The two-day orientation consisted of opportunities to become familiar with Norton Public Schools, participate in training around technology and classroom management, and ask questions about their new roles. Throughout the year, all new teachers meet regularly as a group, both at the District level and in cohort meetings at each building. This network of support for new staff helps to build relationships and build on their professional practice. Thanks to our mentor coordinators, Marc Liberatore and Sarah Alves as well as all District mentors for helping to make our new staff feel so welcome!

Professional Learning Day 2018

August 29th was our annual Professional Learning day. Despite the extreme heat, our Norton staff was back and ready to learn! The days' events included an overview on working with students with trauma backgrounds presented by our Director of Counseling and SEL, Vincent Cerce.



Additionally, our superstar staff presented to their colleagues in a variety of choice sessions which ranged from enhancing their technology skills to building positive relationships in the classroom and learning how to instill a growth mindset in students. The sessions were very well received and we are looking forward to expanding our learning at our next early release professional day on Friday, September 28th.

2018 Advanced Placement Results

In May 2018, 186 students took 321 AP exams. 68% of the scores were 3 or better, 35% achieved 4's & 5's. Below are the exams taken and the grade distribution from 5 to 1. Kudos to all participating students for challenging themselves and congratulations to those that received a qualifying score!

Please join me in welcoming our new NPS Staff!



LGN: Carolyn Kenney, Wellness

JCS: Jeremy Place, Music (split with LGN)

Paige Coffey, Special Education



NMS: Lars Tenglin, Social Studies

Hannah Patriquin, ELA

Andrew Strauss, Science



NHS: Dan Demers, Spanish

Karyn Denningham, Math

Ryan Pratt, English

Jennifer Proulx, Guidance

Caroline Martell, English

Kerri Murphy, Computer Science

Christine Fay, English

Rebekah Marchilena, Science

Cate Nesbitt, Guidance

Matt Knippel, Music (not pictured)

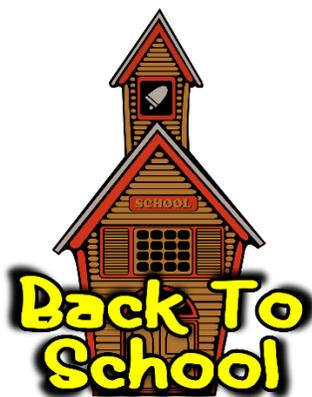
Student Services

by Jeanne Sullivan, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

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Welcome Back!

I hope you and your families had a wonderful summer and a positive start to the school year.



Extended School Year (ESY)

Thank you to all ESY staff and students for another successful summer. The ESY Program provided academic and therapy services for students who were determined by their IEP teams as being at risk for substantially regression and significant time needed to re-learn these skills. When I walked through classrooms, students were very busy and working collaboratively.



Transportation

Thank you for your patience as we have worked through some transportation issues with Van Pool, our vendor providing transportation for some of our students attending out of district schools. We have seen improvement over the past week and hope that things continue to smooth out. If you have any ongoing issues with transportation, please notify Tina Yanchuk in the Pupil Personnel Office at 508-285-0193.

We are continuing to monitor and address some issues with in district mini bus routes as well. The Pupil Personnel Office will keep you updated as we address some of our difficult routes.

SEPAC

Are you interested in meeting other parents? Would you like to collaborate with the PPS Director to learn more about what is happening in the special education department? If the answers to any of these questions is yes, send an email to Jeanne Sullivan, Director of PPS, at jsullivan@norton.k12.ma.us to express your interest. Everyone is welcome!!

VOLUNTEER



Sharing with the Community

I recently had the opportunity to speak with a class of students studying special education at Wheaton College. When asked the reasons why students were taking the class, I was struck by some of the students' responses:

"I have Autism and I want to know more about why my experience was what it was."

"I helped at Special Olympics in my high school, and want to know more."

"Everyone is different, I know that I will meet people with disabilities in the world, I want to know more."

This was so much more than I am taking it as a requirement!!!

Technology Department

by Karen Winsper, Director of Instructional Technology

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Chromebooks in the Classrooms

At the start of this new school year, we have chromebook devices available for all students in grades 3-11. Students in grades 3-5 use them under teacher direction during the school day. Our middle and high school students have been issued devices to use in school and at home. We also have some library carts of chromebooks at Norton High School that can be used by our senior class.



The technology department configured new devices and updated existing devices over the summer. Many devices were sent out for repair while others were sorted and delivered to classrooms. The 8th grade devices were moved to NHS. Devices were distributed to students during the first week of school.



We couldn't have done it without our amazing tech support students and District Technician, Nick Zelinski and Network Administrator, Paul Driscoll.

The District is able to provide devices for our students through the use of School Choice funds. Many thanks to Dr. Baeta and the School Committee for continuing to allocate these funds for our technology program.



Please considering joining our District Technology Committee! We will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 3:45-4:45pm. Our team consists of staff members from each school and we are always looking for community members to join us. Meeting topics include ways technology can support teaching and learning, planning for upgrades and improvements in technology hardware and infrastructure, digital citizenship resources, innovation and personalization with technology, and so much more. Call Karen at 508.285.0100 x9 or send an email to kwinzper@norton.k12.ma.us if you would like to join our tech team!

Global Student Technology Leadership Summit

This summer, students from Norton High School traveled to Italy and Germany as part of the Global Studies program. We joined a group from Pennsylvania on the tour. Included in this trip was participation in a Global Student Leadership Summit focusing on the impact of technology on our lives. Our students worked with others from around the world to identify real world problems and then develop technological solutions. Students will be sharing their experiences at the October 25th School Committee Meeting if you'd like to learn more!

