



NHS STUDENTS AND STAFF ON THE SERVICE LEARNING TRIP TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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

April 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

Office of the Superintendent

by Dr. Joseph Baeta, Superintendent of Schools

One of the best ways to get involved is to go onto each of our schools' webpages and look at the calendar of events. We need your active engagement in order to make NPS a great school system.

Recently the School Committee voted to have a motto. The motto is, "Excellence, Tradition, Pride." I think we have been working to achieve these every single day and our work is paying off. Your children are now part of a school system that is implementing 21st Century learning skills. We have decided that "Our Students Are More Than Just a Score," and have moved into a new era of "Redefining Ready." We are looking at the academic skills, career skills, and life skills that students must graduate with. These skills begin in Kindergarten. With full day kindergarten comes equal access

and opportunity for every student. We know that the pay off for FDK will be significant and we will keep you posted. Moreover, we want to be able to have every student be an engaged member of the Norton community. Our goal is to achieve 100% graduation in four years for every student and have a ZERO percent drop out rate. I think we can accomplish this goal over the next few years.

Providing career opportunities that will require two and four years of college and direct access to careers is a must for us. Whether a student is continuing their education, going into the workforce, or entering the military, we will continue to strive to support them.

-continued on page 2-

Business Office	Page 2
Buildings and Grounds	Page 3
Office of Teaching & Learning	Page 3
Student Services Office	Page 4
Technology Department	Page 4



-continued from page 1

As part of this new initiative we will be providing you with "A Profile of a Graduate." This profile will be completed in the coming months. An opportunity to provide input will be available in late May.

Lastly, May 14th at 7pm at the NHS Auditorium is the Annual Town Meeting. Unfortunately, our budget is NOT being fully funded as recommended and we will be announcing staff layoffs for next year. Please stay tuned for an update on this issue.

Business Office

by Lincoln Lynch, School Business Manager

lincolnlynch@norton.k12.ma.us

[@NortonBusiness1](#)

The business office is getting ready to close out the current fiscal year (FY18) and prepare for the new fiscal year (FY19) which begins July 1. Closing out the fiscal year is a tough task but with a strong team and two-way communication with Town officials, an effective close to the year is what I am looking forward to. Part of closing out the year is collecting bus payments from families on a payment plan. If you are on a payment plan, please make sure you are up to date on your payments. I will be sending out reminder emails that unpaid fees carry to following years. With that, the bus registration for NEXT YEAR has a deadline of June 29th. ALL students must register before June 29th to secure a seat on the bus. Any student not registered before June 29th will be put on a waiting list and will be given a seat on a bus IF there is room. Below is information regarding registration and payment information:

2018-2019 Transportation Information

Bus fee: \$350 per rider, no family cap. Payment site here: <https://unipaygold.unibank.com/CustomerInfo.aspx?Customerid=892>

Registration: Online registration ONLY will be available now and can be found at the District's Transportation page: <https://www.norton.k12.ma.us/district/transportation>

2.0 mile calculation: All distances from assigned schools will be calculated by GOOGLE MAPS ONLY (enter school address and home address)

Important Dates

June 29: Registration and payments are due to secure a seat on bus. If registered after June 29th, a seat on a bus is NOT GUARANTEED. Spots will be given based on availability.

August 13: Bus Passes mailed to students

- In accordance with the policies of the Norton School Committee, transportation will be provided to students with the following stipulations:
- Students in grades K-6 that live 2.0 miles or more away from their assigned school will be provided transportation at no charge
- Students in grades K-6 that live 1.99 miles or closer from their assigned school are eligible for transportation but must pay the fee of \$350 per student with no family cap
- All students in grades 7-12 no matter the distance from their assigned school are eligible for transportation but must pay the assigned fee of \$350 per student with no family cap

NO CHARGE(waiver) TRANSPORTATION: Transportation will be furnished without charge to any student regardless of grade level or distance if the pupil is on Free / Reduced Lunch Status or the pupil's Individual Educational Plan (I.E.P.) specifies transportation to be provided by the School Committee. Students who qualify for a waiver for any reason still must register online by June 30, 2018

****ALL STUDENTS, NO MATTER THE GRADE OR DISTANCE OR IF QUALIFY FOR A WAIVER, WHO INTEND TO RIDE THE BUS MUST REGISTER****

Buildings and Grounds

by Wade Lizotte, Director of Facilities

wadelizotte@norton.k12.ma.us

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

April brought us a very interesting month, in regards to the weather. In my opinion, the January and February storms left more destruction here in Norton than I have seen before. April usually comes in like a lion and leaves like a lamb and this year was just not kind to us at all. The storms over the winter months left us with a lot of clean-up which we are still working on due to the rainy April. The weather in all has really put us behind our normal outdoor scheduled clean up. The guys will be working extra hard to catch up to where we should be at this point of the year.

During the month of April we continued to work on our 199.8 acres of grounds. It is always a busy time with winter ending and Spring cleaning beginning. We were able to sweep all school parking lots and walkways. We have started to clean up and store our winter equipment. We have also started to perform maintenance on our Spring/Summer equipment, getting our equipment ready to go when the sun finally shines and the grass starts to turn green and grow.

April also brought us a vacation week to really clean the inside of our schools. During this week we, just like you at home, got a jump on our spring cleaning-cleaning windows, washing walls, dusting, painting and waxing and buffing our hallway floors. The Middle school gymnasium floor was refinished and looks amazing.

Many other small repairs were also performed by our very talented custodial crew. The guys over at the High School managed to repair our Lancer golf cart and the front flag pole. Leaky water faucets were re-built, door hinges adjusted and classroom furniture repaired. Two water bottle filling stations were installed over at the High school as well.

The HS Spring sports season has started. The playing fields were seeded and fertilized during vacation week. Work was performed on the baseball and softball fields including cutting in and cleaning up the edges and leveling off the infields. Lacrosse fields were measured and lined. Make sure you come out and support your Lancers.



Office of Teaching and Learning

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

joneill@norton.k12.ma.us

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

Save the Date: Kindergarten Screening

Screening for students registered to attend Kindergarten in September will take place on June 6th. All screenings will take place at the J. C. Solmonese Elementary School. Appointment times will be mailed to families by mid-May.



May 18th - District Wide Early Release Day

Friday, May 18th will be a district wide early release day for the purpose of staff professional development. Teachers at all buildings will participate in curriculum planning, planning for student transitions, and work around social emotional learning. Student dismissal will follow the typical early release schedule seen here:

L. G. Nourse & Norton High @ 11:00 am

H. A. Yelle @ 11:30 am

Norton Middle @ 12:00 pm

J. C. Solmonese @ 12:30 pm

Student Services

by Jeanne Sullivan, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
jsullivan@norton.k12.ma.us @NPSPPS

More Crazy Sock Day...

During the month of March, the District celebrated Crazy Sock Day to celebrate World Down Syndrome Awareness Day. As I shared last month some of our students watched a video to learn more about Down Syndrome. Other classes decorated socks, etc. as a way to recognize the unique characteristics that we all have. Mrs. O'Connell's class not only decorated socks but wrote letters to John's Crazy Socks <https://johnscrazysocks.com/>. The students read their letters to me and have sent the letters to John, hoping for a response. We are crossing our fingers as when we tweeted the picture John's crazy Socks told us they would write back to the students. It's so great to see our students making connections!!!!

Autism Awareness Month

Thank you to the Facilities Department for lighting all of our schools in blue on April 2, 2018 and helping us to celebrate Light It Up Blue for Autism Awareness. A reminder that we will also be participating in the "Walk in Red" for Autism Awareness on April 27 by wearing red. We hope that by participating in these activities as a District that we continue to increase awareness and understanding of all as well as Continuing to build an inclusive community.



Special Olympics - Save the Date

This year the Attleboro Area Special Olympics will be held on June 5 (Rain Date: June 8). Look for information coming from the schools soon.

SEPAC

On Wednesday, April 25 the Norton SEPAC sponsored a presentation for families and staff on Parent Procedural Safeguards. The presentation was led by Attorney Elizabeth Topaz of the Federation for Children and offered great information. If you would like a copy of the handouts from the evening, please contact the Pupil Personnel Office.

Technology Department

by Karen Winsper, Director of Instructional Technology
karenwinsper@norton.k12.ma.us @kwinzper



GMAIL Update

Do you use Gmail for your personal email? If you do, you might want to check out the latest news on the [Google blog](#) that explains all of the new features launched last week. Google

now makes it easier to do more from directly inside your inbox. Changes include being able to snooze an email, adjust sharing settings of Google Drive documents directly when sending an email, dragging emails into tasks to stay on top of your to-do list, and so much more. I would suggest taking a closer look and making the switch today! If you don't love it, you can always switch back to the previous version.

Lancer Film Festival Coming Soon

There were close to 40 entries submitted by students and staff for the film festival to be held at Norton High School on June 5, 2018. Entries were from across the District and include all age levels.

The film fest volunteers have been working behind the scenes to make this inaugural event a memorable experience for all attendees. If you are interested in helping with the event, please contact Karen Winsper (508)285-0100 x9.

We do hope you mark your calendar to save the date! We hope to have a full house to recognize the creative talents of our students and staff.

