



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NORTON HIGH SCHOOL UNIFIED TRACK TEAM!

The Lancer

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

June 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

Office of the Superintendent

by Dr. Joseph Baeta, Superintendent of Schools [@NortonSchools](#)

Be Positive!

I would like to thank the Annual Town Meeting of May 14, 2018 for working to improve the negative circumstances that the public schools were dealt. For those who attended thank you for supporting the requested changes.

The last newsletter of the school year is always the most difficult as I want to share all of the good things we have done. This year I am going to change things up by asking you to go on the Norton Public Schools Twitter account, [@NortonSchools](#) or access Let's Talk via the District or schools' websites and share a positive story about the school year. Being positive when there is so much negativity is harder than you

think. I believe that no public school in this area has positively impacted students more than NPS. Our initiatives are grounded in teaching the whole child and not just a test score. Our safety protocols are some of the best in the area. The highest percentage of graduates (94%) are going onto college including 77% to a four year college. The BEST evah! The list goes on.

So, let's **ALL** go on [@NortonSchools](#) or Let's Talk and share a positive and come back in September ready for another great year with great students and outstanding professionals.

Be safe and see you on Tuesday, September 4th.

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Business Office

by Lincoln Lynch, School Business Manager
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Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget

A final Fiscal Year 2018-2019 (FY19) School Department budget was approved by a Town Meeting vote on May 14. The total budget for next fiscal year (7/1/18-6/30/19) is \$28,143,900 an increase to the current FY18 budget of \$908,289 or 3.3%.

Transportation

The deadline for 2018-2019 bus registration and payment is June 30th so please make sure you visit the District's Transportation web page for all important information, dates, payment options, etc. here:
<https://www.norton.k12.ma.us/district/transportation>

If you think you registered but are not sure, check your email. If you in fact registered, you would have received a confirmation email from Norton School District. If you received this email, you are all set. If not, you need to go back to the site and register. We are not accepting paper registrations this year. The online form found on the transportation web page above is the only registration the Business Office will be accepting. If you do not register by June 30th your child will be put on a waitlist and based on availability in September, may be put on a bus for the school year.

If you were placed on a payment plan for this current year's transportation fee, please make sure you are paid in full by June 30th. Check in with the Business Office if you are not sure.

Buildings and Grounds

by Wade Lizotte, Director of Facilities
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Just like that another school year is quickly coming to an end, but our work in the Facilities department is just beginning. Most people don't realize how much work goes into our schools over the Summer months. I will not bore you with all the details. I will say, however, our staff working over the Summer will leave no desk or chair unturned. Every classroom will be emptied and classroom furniture will be cleaned. The classrooms themselves will be cleaned from top to bottom with hallway floors being stripped then waxed.

I would like to thank those of you who attended and voted to approve the elementary school window project. This vote was taken at the annual spring town meeting. This is a project that we have been working on now for about two years and to see it get approved so overwhelmingly was an incredible accomplishment. It shows that you, the owners of these buildings, truly do care to maintain and improve your facilities. Thank you again for trusting us with your school buildings.

Our staff works incredibly hard and does a great job maintaining our buildings and grounds. I would personally like to thank them all for their hard work and dedication throughout this school year.

Office of Teaching and Learning

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

With summer vacation quickly approaching, one of our primary goals is to help all students continuing learning over the summer. The "summer slide" is a very real phenomenon and not as fun as it sounds. Decades of research confirm that summer learning loss is real and can be extremely detrimental to student success. The RAND Corporation report, which was released in 2011, shows that the average summer learning loss in math and reading for American students can amount to one month per school year. Further research from the National Summer Learning Association shows that "All young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer."

All summer learning information for students K-12 can be found on our district website. For more information on the importance

of summer learning and some ideas for your child, take a minute to read this article on "*The Academic Summer Slide: Fact or Fiction?*" <http://www.engagingmindsonline.com/blog/26-blog/282-the-academic-summer-slide-fact-or-fiction>

Looking for a new book? Check out the link below for great new books for readers of all ages!

<https://best-books.publishersweekly.com/children/summer-reads-2017/>

Summer Professional Learning for Staff

This summer, Norton staff has the opportunity to participate in a variety of professional learning courses. These opportunities range from online book studies to hands on training on project based learning. We hope you will follow our summer adventures on Twitter at #NPSsummer

Student Services

by Jeanne Sullivan, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
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STEPping out into the Community

On Wednesday, May 16, buddies from the NMS & NHS STEP Programs ventured into the community to apply the skills they have learned and have lunch at Home Plate. Students prepared for the trip by practicing expected behaviors, planning their orders and calculating the cost of their lunch and the tip. They also worked on safety skills when walking from their respective schools. During their lunch students worked on other skills such as communicating with friends, using appropriate manners, etc... Everyone had a great time. Thank you to the Norton Staff who planned this event and accompanied our students and to the staff at Home Plate. It's so nice to see the skills we teach applied to real life.



Attleboro Area Special Olympics

The Attleboro Area Games were held on June 8 at Attleboro High School. All of our staff and students who attended had a wonderful day!! Thank you to Mrs. McGarry, Mrs. Fruci, and Mrs. Varney for helping coordinating the day!!! Thank you to all involved with coaching and supporting our students!!!!

Thirteen Reasons Why

On Friday, May 19, I sent an email letter regarding Netflix releasing the second series of Thirteen Reasons Why. Please be sure to review this important information and reach out to my office or the counselors in your children's schools if you need additional supports or resources.

NHS Unified Track & Field

On May 22, 2018 student athletes on the NHS Unified Track and Field Team were CHAMPIONS at the Division 2 South Sectionals at Franklin High School!!!! After South Sectionals, our athletes moved on to compete and become finalists at the State Competition held on May 30 at Milford High School. In this inaugural season, it has been so exciting to see our athletes compete as part of our unified team. Congratulations to all of our students who participated!!! Thank you to Mrs. Nunes, Miss Mall, Ms. Sweed and the many others who helped bring Unified Sports to Norton.



Supporting our Neighbors

Thank you to the Norton Public Schools counselors and school psychologists who have volunteer support to our friends in the Stoughton Public Schools enlighth of the tragic loss of 4 of their students in a motor vehicle accident.

While we do not know the cause of this terrible accident, please take this time to talk with your children about safe driving and making good choices while riding with friends.

SEPAC

We are always looking to recruit new SEPAC members. If you are interested in learning how you can help, please contact Jeanne Sullivan in the PPS Office.

Technology Department

by Karen Winsper, Director of Instructional Technology

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2018 Lancer Film Festival

On June 5, 2018, students, families, classmates and staff attended the first annual Lancer Film Festival to celebrate video creations across the District. From the red carpet to the presentation of awards, it was a night to remember! Special thanks to all of the staff who volunteered their time to plan and launch this event!



1:1 Chromebook Collections

The technology department collects all District issued student chromebooks prior to summer vacation. These devices will be cleaned, updated and repaired as needed in preparation for the 2018-2019 school year. Students will receive the same device in the fall that they have been using this year. Collections are taking place during the school day at both NHS and NMS and students have been notified to return the chromebook, case and charger. NHS students may return devices to the library. NMS students will return devices during ICE time. All devices should be turned in prior to the last day of school on Thursday, June 21, 2018.

Students entering grade 6 at NMS must attend a meeting with a parent/guardian before receiving their chromebook in September. Families should expect a

communication from Mr. Hayward and the technology department in August regarding scheduled meetings.

Student Google Accounts

All student accounts will remain active over the summer. We will not be changing or resetting passwords during this time. Students who leave or graduate from the Norton Public Schools will continue to have access to their files until August 17, 2018 when accounts will be disabled for non-returning students. Students may choose to download their files through and can learn more by visiting <https://goo.gl/PKKnGK>

Rubik's Cube Challenge

Norton High School's library media specialist Jennifer Young was able to borrow 600 Rubik's Cubes during the last six weeks of school. [The Cube Lending Program](#) provides curriculum and guides to create mosaics using the Cubes. NHS students spent time during library hours and after school creating amazing mosaics! Take a peek at some of their creations and [watch a time-lapse video](#) of the process of creating a mosaic. Mrs. Young is now looking to acquire a permanent set of Rubik's Cubes for her library. If you might be interested in making a donation, please contact her directly jyoung@norton.k12.ma.us #YouCanDotheCube

