

# NORTH BETHESDA MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Home of The Phoenix*



August 08, 2025

Dear North Bethesda Families:

Welcome to a brand new school year at North Bethesda Middle School! I am incredibly honored and grateful to serve as the newly appointed principal of this exceptional school community. It is a privilege to join the Phoenix family, and I am filled with excitement and optimism for the school year ahead. This year marks the beginning of a new chapter, not just for our students but for all of us as we grow together as a community. I am absolutely thrilled to welcome our Phoenixes back and to extend a special greeting to those joining our school community for the first time.

Please join me in expressing a warm welcome to our families and a heartfelt thank you to our incredible summer staff, especially our building services team who have worked diligently to prepare our building for opening day. Their efforts have ensured that our school is clean, welcoming, and ready for learning. This summer, our Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) worked to review data and trends from last school year in an effort to understand the needs of our students and identify more strategic ways to support them. These goals and strategies will be very evident in our School Improvement Plan (SIP), which parents and caregivers will be hearing more about in the future. Please [complete this form](#) if you would like to be engaged in our school improvement planning processes.

At NBMS, we remain steadfast in our commitment to providing *high-quality instruction for every child, every day*. Our dedicated staff are ready to ensure that all students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally in a safe and nurturing environment. At NBMS we also deeply value the ongoing partnership with our parents and the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA). Your engagement, input, and support are vital to our collective success. We encourage you to stay involved—join the PTSA, volunteer, attend events, and stay connected with us throughout the year. Please click [this link](#) to access the letter from our PTSA executive board members. We have several opportunities for parents and guardians to be engaged and informed.

**Phoenix Rise:** This is our weekly newsletter and recording that will go out on Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. This communication is updated weekly with live links and real-time information from North Bethesda, PTSA, MCPS, and other community partners.

**Website:** Visit our website at [North Bethesda Middle School](#) to stay informed of school events and important information. This is a quick and easy way to get to our website directly.

**MCPS Parent and Student Portal:** This is a tool that allows parents and students to connect directly with classroom teachers regarding assignments, grades, attendance, report cards and notices. Please visit [https://md-mcps-psv.edupoint.com/PXP2\\_Login.aspx](https://md-mcps-psv.edupoint.com/PXP2_Login.aspx) for more information.

**PTSA Listserv:** The parent-maintained discussion board is a tool for parents to connect with one another about school events, to join please follow the instructions provided in the PTSA linked letter. If you would like to join the PTSA, please follow this [link](#) to the membership website. Remember: joining the PTSA is one of the best ways that you can support our school. Our partnership with the PTSA is a pillar that supports our work and I greatly value this relationship.

*Office of the Principal*

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**Instagram:** Social media can be extremely useful. Instagram is a great way to receive quick reminders about school events, hear of exciting classroom experiences, and see pictures of key events. Here is my principal account to follow: [\*\*@nbmsprincipal\*\*](#)

### **Important Events and Save The Dates:**

- **Welcome Picnic:** Friday, August 22, 2025, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
  - On Friday, August 22nd, The PTSA will host our Welcome Picnic for all 6<sup>th</sup> grade families and any newly-enrolled 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This is an opportunity for students and parents/caregivers from all three feeder elementary schools to meet and connect with each other as you begin your middle school journey at NBMS. Please come and enjoy Potomac Pizza (with a few gluten free pies for those who need them), Carmen's shaved ice (one per student), and tunes from our local DJ [\*\*@Unique Dreams\*\*](#). Parents, we ask that you bring your own blankets, chairs and water bottles. Parents, if you would like to help with set up, serving pizzas, monitoring Carmen's line, supplying coolers with ice for waters, supervising field games, cleanup, etc., please email [activities@nbmsptsa.org](mailto:activities@nbmsptsa.org).
- **Transition Day ONLY for Sixth Graders and New NBMS Students:** Monday, August 25, 2025
  - On Monday, August 25th, we will host our Transition Day for all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and any newly-enrolled 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This full-day orientation will be focused on introducing new students to school life at North Bethesda. School buses will be picking students up at assigned bus stops. Updated bus routes to be shared from MCPS to schools soon, please stay tuned. **Regular school hours are 8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Please note: During the school year there is no supervision available before 7:45 a.m. or after 3:15 p.m. Parents should use the designated drop-off area and follow safety protocols and for bus changes, a note and approval are required; contact Randolph Mussotte for bus issues.
- **Principal's Meet & Greet:** Monday, August 25, 2025 7:45 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.
  - While students are learning about North Bethesda and building community, parents are welcome to attend a principal's Meet and Greet with Ms. Snead and the admin team in the media center.
- **First Day of School:** Tuesday, August 26, 2025 8:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
  - The building will be open daily at 7:45 a.m. School will begin at 8:15 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. Our bell schedules can be found [here](#).
- **Back To School Night:** Thursday, August 28, 2025, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Please complete [this form](#) should you have childcare or transportation needs.
- **Labor Day Holiday:** No School- Monday, September 1, 2025
- **Student Picture Day:** Friday, September 5, 2025

**Leadership:** This school year, I am pleased to welcome two new members to our administrative team. Dr. Natasha White and Mrs. Ashley DeLonga. They both come to NBMS with many years of experience as educators and leaders. They are outstanding additions to our team. Below you will find the names of some other key staff members who will help support students this year.

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GRADE	TEAM LEADERS	COUNSELORS	ADMINISTRATOR
6	Ms. Monica Hepburn Ms. Andrea Weisenthal	A - O (Ms. Cayla Cwerner) P - Z (Ms. Jennifer Sadara)  504 Coordinator: Janice Eisenberg	Dr. Natasha White
7	Ms. Rachel Lazarick-Ward Mr. Paul Lutchenkov	A - M (Ms. Julie Mendelson) N- Z (Ms. Laura Cope)  504 Coordinator: Janice Eisenberg	Ms. Ashley DeLonga
8	Dr. Hyle Daley Ms. Monica Nicolas	A - O (Ms. Ashley Rice) P - Z (Ms. Laura Cope)  504 Coordinator: Janice Eisenberg	Ms. Kathy Rudd

### **Resolving Matters of Concern:**

- If you have a concern about a class, please contact the teacher first.
- If the issue is unresolved at that level, please then contact the department content specialist.
- The next level of support is to contact the grade-level administrator.
- If issues are not resolved at any of these levels, then contact the principal at 240-740-2100.
- To schedule a parent conference with your student's team for class schedule issues, or other counseling matters, please contact the counseling department at 240-740-2110.
- For matters involving your child unrelated to teachers, counselors, or specific classes, please contact the grade-level administrator.
- If the issue cannot be resolved at that level, please contact the principal.

Content	Content Specialist
Arts/PE/Health	Mrs. Emily Valonis
English	Mr. Matthew Ghaman
World Languages/Music	Mrs. Kristy Myers
Math	Ms. Amy Watkins
Science/Technology	Mrs. Maria (Mia) Lutchenkov
Social Studies	Mr. Eric Kling

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Resource Teacher for Special Education	Mr. Christopher Schauer
Resource Counselor	Ms. Jennifer Sadara

## MAIN NUMBERS

<b>Main Office</b>	240-740-2100	<b>Counseling Office</b>	240-740-2110
<b>Main Office Fax</b>	301-571-3881	<b>Counseling Fax</b>	301-571-7752
<b>Attendance Office</b>	240-740-2101	<b>Cafeteria</b>	240-740-2104
<b>Health Room</b>	240-740-2102	<b>Media Center</b>	240-740-2098

### **Reminders and Items of Note:**

- [2025–2026 School Year Calendar](#) for your convenience. We encourage any families making travel plans during the school year to carefully review the calendar.
- Please **follow traffic and drop-off instructions** when bringing your child to school in the morning and when picking them up in the afternoon. Following instructions keeps you, our students, and our staff members safe. Please utilize the car rider drop-off lane and do not drop your children off in the middle of the street. To ensure the safety of our students and staff:
  - Vehicles are to remain in a single file approaching the sidewalk in front of the school.
  - Pull as far forward as possible.
  - Students **MUST** exit and enter vehicles from the right side (curb side) of the vehicle.
  - Follow the direction of our security staff.
- **Lockers and Backpacks:** Each student will be issued a locker to keep their supplies in during the school day. Students are required to keep their backpack, coat, and other items not required for class in their lockers. Due to the space limitation in each locker, it is extremely important that you assist your child in purchasing a regular size backpack. Oversized, hard-shell, or backpacks with wheels will not fit into our lockers.
- **Student Agenda Books and Individual Schedules:** The student agenda book will be distributed the first week of school. For a lost agenda book, there is a \$5.00 replacement cost. Individual student schedules will be visible via synergy and distributed to students on their first day.
- **Chromebooks** and [school supplies](#): At North Bethesda Middle School we utilize a 1:1 Chromebook device model. It is the responsibility of each student to maintain their devices in working condition and to bring them to school, fully charged, every day. Any loss or avoidable damage of school equipment can result in a student being billed up to \$312 for replacing the device or the cost of repair(s). Additionally, all of MCPS's devices are monitored for inappropriate use and such action may result in loss of technology privileges and/or administrative consequences. We will be issuing Chromebooks to 6th graders and new to NBMS students during the first two weeks of school. Please make sure your child has a Chromebook case. The school supply lists are linked [here](#). If you have any financial concerns regarding school supplies, please

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reach out to your child's counselor and we can help ensure that your child has everything they need.

- **Lunch Time:** The first few days of school students will sit with homerooms as we review processes and expectations for the cafeteria. Please encourage your students to be personally responsible in cleaning up after themselves and maintaining respectful behavior in the cafeteria. Students in Maryland who qualify for reduced-price meals will not be charged for meals. Meal Prices- Breakfast: Regular Price (All Levels): \$1.30; Reduced Price (All Levels): No Cost  
Lunch: \$2.80 (Middle and High); Reduced Price (All Levels): No Cost. Applications: Free and Reduced-price Meals System (FARMS) applications have been updated for the new school year, and are now available online at [www.MySchoolApps.com](http://www.MySchoolApps.com); this is the preferred application method.
- **Late Arrivals & Early Dismissals:** Attendance notes should be hand carried to the main office when the student enters the building for a late arrival. Alternatively, the parent may send a student with a note generated by the doctor/dentist. Students leaving early for appointments should bring a note stating the time of the early dismissal to the main office **before** the start of the school day. A pass will be issued to the student to report to the main office at the time indicated. The person picking up the student must come into the main office. No student will be released to an adult that is not authorized in writing to pick up a student. All students must sign out in the main office if leaving the school before the final bell. All notes must include **student's full name, grade, dates and reason for the absence.**
- **Cell Phones:** If you choose to send your child to school with a cellphone, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the device is turned off and **locked away in their locker during the academic day.** Moreover, students must turn off and refrain from using their phones once they enter the school building in the morning (this includes while they wait in the cafeteria, Media Center or gym for school to begin) until the end of the official instructional day at 3:00 p.m. Any cellphone seen by staff during the instructional day may be confiscated. NBMS is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen cell phones.
- **Outdoor Education:** The [Outdoor Environmental Education \(OEE\)](#) program will be one of the most memorable experiences in your student's middle school career! This school year, the sixth grade class is scheduled to attend Camp Letts in Edgewater, Maryland from Sept 29. – Oct. 10. Students will attend OEE in ONE of three sessions according to the first letter of their last name. Please note a parent informational meeting on Sept. 2 via zoom at 7:00 p.m. and Sept. 8 in-person meeting in the cafeteria at 7:00 p.m.

Thank you for the warm welcome I've already received. I look forward to meeting each of you and working together to make this an incredible year for our Phoenixes!

With gratitude and Phoenix pride,

Sincerely,

*Shanay A. Snead*

Shanay A. Snead  
Principal

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