

NCS Community-

I hope this message finds you well. I am pleased to share with you that the 23-24 school year at NCS is off to a smooth start. Despite some very hot weather the first few days, our students and staff were able to establish routines and begin the process of relationship building that will serve as a foundation for learning in the months ahead. Watching all of our students, grades UPK-12, enter our buildings on the first day of school with smiling faces is truly a privilege. While students may not always admit it, there is no question they enjoy reconnecting with each other, returning to a consistent and predictable schedule, and establishing healthy routines.

With the return of our students also comes the transition to a full-scale capital project that will impact both NES and our JH/HS. As you recall, work began over the summer and will continue throughout next summer. Demolition has begun in our HS Auditorium, the canopy on the south side of the building will be removed next week, and NES classroom renovations are well underway. We are optimistic that our new NES playground will be completed later this fall as well. We are incredibly grateful for our maintenance staff who play such a key role in helping us navigate a project of this scale. We also appreciate very much the flexibility, effort, and patience of our students and staff. Without question, everyone will feel some level of disruption during the project, however, everyone will reap the benefits as progress continues over the next 12-18 months.

I am also pleased to share that our fall sports season is off to a successful start. Participation numbers are high, with many athletes participating in multiple sports, and all of our teams are competing at high levels thus far. In the weeks ahead, our modified athletes will also be in full swing. This is also the time of year where students may be considering participation in the diverse clubs and activities offered here at NCS across all grade levels. This is a perfect time to engage with your child about their interests and what activities they may want to consider. The research is clear; students who participate in various extra-curricular activities demonstrate high levels of attendance and fare better in school, both academically and socially/emotionally. Know that our staff, coaches, advisors, and administrators will continue to work hard to ensure that all of our students feel connected and educated about opportunities to get involved at NCS.

Note that week is Homecoming Week, with our Homecoming games and dance taking place on Saturday, 9/16. Throughout the week, our students will engage in various spirit activities across both buildings. This is always a wonderful time to share in the strong sense of pride that exists at NCS and we wish our athletes all the best with their respective contests.

Thank you for all of your support as it is an integral part of a successful school year. As always, do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kevin Swartz

NCS Superintendent