

Good afternoon Wildcat County!

What a great week! We are so excited to have our students back at school. Thank you for having them to us on time, prepared, and eager to learn. I visited a lot of classrooms this week. Our students and teachers were getting to know one another and building relationships. There was learning happening every day too! We are looking forward to an exciting and engaging school year at Northwestern.

Our enrollment as of the day three count was 1,254 students, which is just above our projection. I do not anticipate making any major changes to our master schedule. We have been working to level out some class sizes while trying to minimize the impact to students.

Our students and staff participated in our first safety drills this week. We conducted our lockdown, fire evacuation, and severe weather drills. Safety is a top priority and we have high expectations for our drills. I am happy to report that our students and staff performed well on our first drills of the school year.

Curriculum Night

Curriculum Night will be held on August 27 from 6:00 – 8:00pm. We hope that you will be able to join us to become more acquainted with your student's classes, curriculum, and teachers. Please plan to join the PTO at Curriculum Night if you haven't had an opportunity to do so already.

Carpool

Northwestern has some unique carpool challenges - especially in the afternoon. Our proximity to Milton High School and Birmingham Hwy generates tremendous traffic volume on and around our campus. Please follow the instructions for carpool below.



Morning Carpool

Please enter the roundabout and pull up as far as possible. Students may exit your vehicle anywhere along the sidewalk between location 1 (marked red 1) and location 2 (marked red 2). Students should use the sidewalk to enter the building through the Wildcat Den doors.

Afternoon Carpool

Before 4:05 dismissal bell

1. The first car should pull up to the end of the sidewalk in our roundabout. (marked red 1)
2. Cars can fill in behind until the line reaches the roundabout entrance. (marked red 2)
3. Any additional cars should follow the red arrows through our parking lot, circle back toward the roundabout and stop (marked red 3).

After 4:05 dismissal bell

4. A staff member will direct any car parked behind location 2 to follow flow of traffic (red arrows) through our parking lot to spot 3.
5. A staff member will direct cars in the roundabout toward the exit. A traffic officer controls when cars in our carpool lane exit the roundabout.
6. A staff member will direct cars parked at location 3 to proceed into the roundabout toward location 1 to pick up their student (see blue arrows). Students can enter their car from a sidewalk at any point in the roundabout.

Other important carpool information:

- No cars can enter our bus lot (marked red 4) from 8:05-9:15 am or 3:15-4:45 pm.
- Parking at Milton (marked red 5) in the afternoon is not supported by Northwestern. The traffic officer is forced to deal with cars coming from too many directions. This slows our carpool process considerably. Please pick up your students from our carpool line.
- The inside lane of our roundabout is reserved for emergency vehicles. Please stay along the outside curb as you enter and exit the roundabout.
- Our morning and afternoon traffic officers have requested that vehicles leaving our campus use their turn signals to indicate which direction they are turning out of the parking lot.

Communication/Friday Classroom Comments/Notes

In previous school years, Northwestern teachers have sent home Friday Classroom Comments or Notes to families with important classroom information including calendar, tests, and upcoming events. Our new district wide student information system, Infinite Campus, does not have the same capability to distribute multiple teacher messages home to families.

Our teachers will maintain a Learning Management System (LMS) that will include the same important information you are accustomed to receiving in the Friday Classroom Comments/Notes. In addition, depending on the LMS teachers will have advanced capabilities to communicate with students and families. Teachers have/or will be communicating with you about their LMS and how you access the information. Examples of an LMS are Google Classroom, OneNote Class Notebooks, websites, and other

web-based programs. I will be working with our leadership team to ensure all teachers have an active LMS in place by Curriculum Night.

Milestones Scores

Georgia Milestones End of Grade (EOG) and End of Course (EOC) score reports have arrived. We will send these scores home as soon as they are sorted and distributed to home room teachers. I will alert you that they are coming home with your student at least a day in advance. We will be mailing our now 9th grade student's score reports home to families.

Transportation Changes

Requests for school bus transportation changes (i.e., your child riding home on another student's bus) will be approved according to Fulton County Board of Education guidelines. Northwestern Middle School is only authorized to approve one (1) day requests for childcare purposes. All requests must be handwritten by a parent or guardian and include the following information:

- Student's name & grade
- Parent/guardian name
- Signature of parent/guardian
- Contact number of parent/guardian
- Name of student & their bus number of which your student will ride home
- Address of drop off location
- Adult name & contact number at drop off location

Your student must bring this written requested to the front office before 8:45 am. Once approved, your child must pick up a bus pass at the end of the school day in the front office. If you have requested bus transportation for more than one (1) day, please contact Ms. Crystal Brooks at the FCBOE Transportation Department. Her phone number is 470-254-0703.

Release Dates

Our student release days are approved and finalized for the 2019-20 school year. Students will not attend school on the following dates:

Friday, August 30, 2019
Tuesday, October 15, 2019*
Monday, February 3, 2020*
Monday, March 16, 2020

*please note the October and February dates will be Parent/Teacher Conference days

Microsoft Surface Information

Student Surfaces will be issued next week:

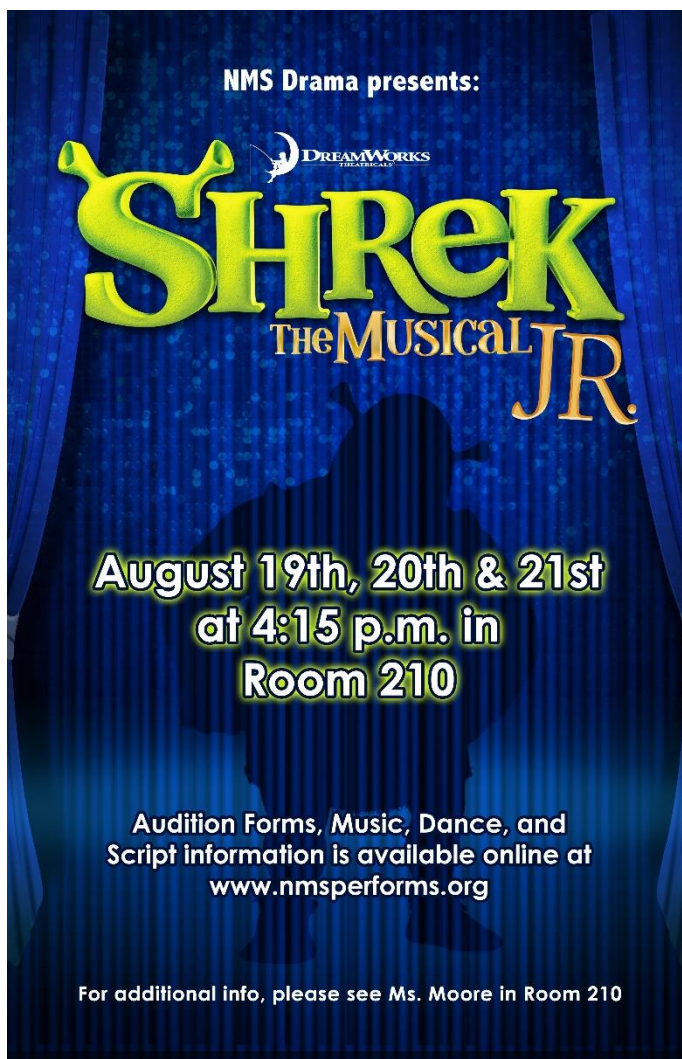
—Tuesday, 8/20—8th grade

—Wednesday, 8/21—7th grade

—Thursday, 8/22—6th grade

If you have not already signed the [2019-2020 Device Agreement](#), you MUST submit that signed document to your student's 1st period teacher. Students who have not brought in a signed Agreement will not receive a Surface until we receive this.

This year bags will not be provided. It is recommended that families buy some sort of protective case/sleeve for the Surface. Anything that fits a 13" device should work. Amazon has a variety of padded sleeves with handles for less than \$15. Walmart, Staples and Office Depot also have options.



From the PTO

Please join the NMS PTO by visiting <https://northwesternpto.membershiptoolkit.com/> You can also stay in touch with the PTO by following them on Twitter @northwesternms and join the PTO Facebook group - Northwestern MS PTO.

Friday, 8/16, is the last day for the early bird yearbook special for a free name plate. Purchase yours at <https://www.balfour.com/>. Friday, 8/16, is also the last day to order NMS spirit wear. Purchase yours at <https://patriciasspiritwear.tuosystems.com/stores/northwestern2>.

7th Grade Field Trip

7th grade students will be attending Finance Park at the Forsyth location this year on August 26-28. If you have not already done so, please complete and return the permission slip with your student. We would love to have parent volunteers. Please reach out to your child's Social Studies Teacher for the link.

Junior Beta

NMS JUNIOR BETA CLUB will be accepting applications for the 2019-20 school year beginning in August 2019. Deadline: Tuesday, September 3, 2019*

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS Junior Beta is open to 7th and 8th grade students meeting these requirements:

1. Minimum 88% GPA across Core and Connections classes (club sponsors verify)
2. 1's and 2's in conduct remarks each 9 week grading period
3. Complete 10 summer service hours prior to application. (Submit on proper form)***
4. Once accepted into membership: Complete 20 service hours each school semester for a total of 50 for the year. (10 summer; 20 fall; 20 spring)
5. No ISS or OSS assignments during current school year
6. Be current on membership dues (\$30- new members; \$15- returning members-paid online after acceptance letter is received.)
7. Miss no more than 2 meetings per semester-with written excuse.
8. 8. Strive to participate in one Junior Beta Service Saturday per semester.

Applications are accepted in August of each school year from new and returning members. Applications are available in the front office or from club sponsors in room 918 and 815 beginning in early August and

at Back to School Open House. Everyone submits a new application each year with the 10 summer hours – including newly inducted members.

The NMS Junior Beta Club Meetings are the third or fourth school day Tuesday of each month from 4:15 - 4:55 pm in the Media Center; possible exception occurs in due to Georgia Milestones testing, Full Release days and holidays.

An optional informational meeting for new members and/or their parents will be held Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 4:15pm in the media center.

Accepted members are announced via first period classes early in September followed by our first club meeting on September 24, 2019; 4:15 – 4:50.

Club Co-sponsors: Mr. Myrthil and Mrs. Daniel Questions?
Contact either via e-mail. myrthil@fultonschools.org or danielta@fultonschools.org

Soccer Anyone?

Attention all 7th and 8th grade boys and girls.

If you are interested in trying out for Northwestern's Soccer Team you MUST see Coach Johnson or Coach Allen to receive info about tryouts. Tryouts will begin on August 26th and run until the 29th. Please have all required paperwork turned in by August 26th.

Paperwork can be found on the Fulton County Website under the Athletics tab., Document & Forms, Player Pre-Participation Forms.

johnsonjt@fultonschools.org

Health and P.E. website

<https://nmshpe.wixsite.com/about>

password:wildcats

From the Front Office

Pre-Approved Absences

Many of you will need students to be absent occasionally throughout the year for various reasons. If you are seeking pre-approval for absences such as travel opportunities with educational benefits, graduations or weddings of an immediate family member, specialized, supplemental or extracurricular experiences, or similar situations, please submit a request to us regarding the date(s) requested, 5 days prior to the first absence to NMSfrontdesk@fultonschools.org. Emails must be sent from the email address we have on file for the parent/guardian. This does not include absences due to sickness, bereavement, accidents, injuries, etc. Please keep in mind that student absences do impact our CCRPI Score and Climate STAR rating negatively.

Early checkouts

Students must be signed out by a parent, guardian, or someone on their emergency list, and must show a valid driver's license. Please be sure to specify the reason for checking your student out. If it is for an appointment it must specify that it is some kind of medical appointment and not a personal appointment. Students returning the same day will come into the front office and sign themselves back in and receive a pass to class. A doctor's note is not necessary for early checkouts as long as the reason on the checkout sheet specifies a medical reason.

Absence notifications

Absence notes are due within 3 days of the absence. You can either send a doctor's note, written note, or email us at NMSfrontdesk@fultonschools.org. The specific dates of absence must be on the note. For example, if your child is absent 3 days in a row and the doctor's note states they can return once they feel better or are fever free, please write the dates on the doctor's note that they were actually out sick.



Join us for a community screening and panel discussion.

SCREENAGERS: Growing Up in the Digital Age

Thursday, August 29th

9:00am

Mount Pisgah UMC

2850 Old Alabama Rd.

Johns Creek



Are you watching kids scroll through life, with their rapid-fire thumbs and a six-second attention span? Physician and filmmaker Delaney Ruston saw that with her own kids and learned that the average kid spends 6.5 hours a day looking at screens. She wondered about the impact of all this time and about the friction occurring in homes and schools around negotiating screen time - friction she knew all too well.

SCREENAGERS takes a deeply personal approach into the vulnerable corners of family life to explore struggles over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction. Through poignant, and unexpectedly funny stories, along with surprising insights from authors, psychologists, and brain scientists, SCREENAGERS reveals how tech time impacts kids' development and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to best navigate the digital world and find balance.

REGISTER NOW

North Fulton Mental Health Collaborative is open to the community.

Follow us on Facebook to learn about upcoming meetings and community events. <https://www.facebook.com/NEMHC/>

For more information about the North Fulton Mental Health Collaborative contact Whitney Emrick at 678-893-5336 or wemrick@summitcounseling.org

SummitCounseling.org | Summit Counseling Center | 678-893-5300