

Dear Nord Families,

As you know, Nord Middle School has been undergoing significant changes this summer. We've had an entirely new HVAC system installed, had all of our air ducts and returns cleaned, moved the sixth grade teachers out of the building and moved the third and fourth grade teachers into the building, brought over two classroom trailers from Harris, and repaved and striped the parking lot. Crews have been working tirelessly to complete all of these projects in a timely fashion as to not delay the start of the school year for our third, fourth, and fifth grade students. We are happy to announce that we will meet our deadline and be welcoming students on August 23rd with the rest of the district!

I regret to inform you that we will not be ready to receive families for Open House before the start of the school year. Work is still being completed and teachers have not been permitted to be in the building over the summer to unpack from the move and prepare their classrooms the way they typically do. In order to allow our staff to properly prepare our building for students to arrive on the first day, we will have to delay open house until after school begins. Below you will find pertinent information that pertains to our new Open House dates and the start of the school year.

- Open House for 5th grade will be on Wednesday, September 6th from 6:00-7:00.
  - We will begin in the gym for a Principal's Message and then the teachers will talk to the families about our field trip to Beulah Beach.
  - At the conclusion of the meeting, families will be able to visit classrooms and meet the teachers.
- Open House for 3rd and 4th grade will be on Thursday, September 7th from 6:00-7:00.
  - 3rd grade families will begin in the gym with a Principal's Message and then be able to visit classrooms and meet the teachers.
  - 4th grade families will begin by meeting the teacher and visiting classrooms and then will meet in the gym for the Principal's Message.
- Arrival and Dismissal procedures for the building will be posted on the school website, Twitter, and the Amherst School's Facebook page by Monday, August 21st for parents to review.
- A map of the school with teacher names on it will be posted as well so that families have an idea of where their children's classrooms are located.
- Students that have classrooms inside the building will have lockers this year, but they will not have combinations to learn thus alleviating anxieties that revolve around memorizing combinations and using them accurately.
- Students in the trailers will have coat hooks located inside their classrooms to hang their belongings
- We will be working with the PTO in scheduling volunteers to assist students to their classrooms on the first day of school and with dismissal at the end of the day.
- If your child will be riding the bus either to or from school on most days, it is important that you have them begin riding the bus at the start of the school year. During this time, we are gauging how many students will be riding each bus and making any necessary changes to evenly distribute the routes to be as efficient as possible.

Please help us spread the word about these changes and thank you for your understanding. We look forward to meeting the Nord families in just a few weeks!

Sincerely,

Ms. Jill Giovanazzo

Principal, Nord Middle School