



*Norwood Public Schools*

Transition Activities

For

Grades PreK-13

# NPS Transition Goal

To make transitions for students and parents as pleasant and anxious-free as possible

- as they enter the Norwood Public Schools
- as they move from
  - ✓ one program to another
  - ✓ school to school
  - ✓ grade to grade
  - ✓ class to class
- as they exit the Norwood Public Schools

# Transitioning into Preschool

- Ongoing communication with early intervention programs in Norwood area
- Student Support Team meetings work on transitioning from Individualized Family Service Plan to Individual Education Plan
- Some families provided with assistance from Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant
- August: **Parent Information Night at Willett ECC**
- September: **Orientation Day at Willett ECC**

# Transitioning from Preschool to Kindergarten

- ❖ February: Kindergarten Registration Week
- ❖ April: Kindergarten Screening Week
- ❖ June: Welcome to Willett Day
- ❖ August: Parent Information Night
- ❖ September: Orientation Day

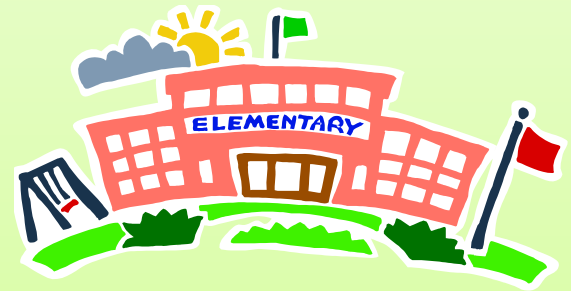
# Transition Activities Include...

- Meet school personnel
- See a PowerPoint on WECC
- Learn Willett school song
- School tour
- School bus demo: safety, rules, pick up/drop off
- Each student gets The Night Before Kindergarten



# Transitioning from Kindergarten to Grade One

- June: First **Grade Visiting Day**
  - Students visit their assigned elementary school & grade one classrooms.
  - School tour
- Before School Opens: **First Grade Open House**
  - Meet their new principal
  - Meet their grade one teachers
  - Tour their new school



# Transitioning from Grade to Grade (1-5)

- May/June: **Transitional Meetings**
  - Principal, teachers, and specialists discuss student placement needs.
- Fifth Grade Musical at each school
- Awards Day
- Last Day of School: **Step Up (Move Up) Day**
  - Visit next year's classroom and teachers

# Transitioning from Grade 5 to Grade 6 at Coakley Middle School

- End of May: **Parents' Night**
  - Overview of house system and team organization
  - School schedule and curriculum
  - Bus routes
  - Key school rules and policies
- Early June: **Fifth Grade Visit Day**
  - Grade 5 teachers meet w/CMS guidance counselors.
  - Students get overview from principal and housemasters: subject choices, schedule, lunch, activities, lockers, rules.
  - Small group tours with 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Mid June: **Fifth Grade PE/Field Day**
- **Special education transition meetings**



# Transitioning from Grade to Grade at the Secondary Level (6-12)

- April/May: **Course selection process:** options are presented to students and parents.
- May/June: **Transitional Meetings**
  - Principal, housemasters/deans, teachers, and specialists discuss student placement needs.

# Transitioning from Grade 8 to Grade 9 at Norwood High School

- Early March: NHS counselors go to CMS to give all 8<sup>th</sup> graders information on 9<sup>th</sup> grade courses & schedule, after school activities & sports, attendance and other key policies & rules.
- Mid-March: **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night** conducted by NHS administrators
- May: CMS counselors go over course selections with 8<sup>th</sup> graders individually.
- Late May/Early June: NHS hosts “**A Day in the Life of a Freshman**” program for 6 CMS and 2 Saint Catherine’s students.
- June: CMS and NHS counselors meet to share helpful information for student transition purposes.
- Before start of school: **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation Program** for parents and students: students go to their homerooms to review their schedules; parents meet with school administrators.
- First week of school: Three-part **Freshman Seminar Program** led by counselors: role of guidance department & deans, graduation requirements, attendance policy, homework, activities, goal setting, college and career planning, bullying/cyberbullying.

# Transitioning to New High School

- In addition to the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation, the high school administration is planning to have orientation programs for seniors, juniors, and sophomores toward the end of August:
  - ❖ Tour of the school
  - ❖ Locations of homerooms and lockers
  - ❖ Set expectation of respect for the new facilities

# Transitioning into and out of Special Programs

In addition to the transitional supports identified above:

- Special transition plans are developed for our **special education, Title I, and ELL** students in compliance with federal and state regulations.
- Students in substantially separate programs are accompanied by their teacher to tour their new school and meet staff.
- Their parents are invited to a “Meet and Greet” session to get acquainted with their child’s program and instructors.
- Our staff are also very attentive to the many smaller scale, day to day transitions required of students with specialized needs.

# Transitioning into and out of Our School System

- As new students enter and leave the Norwood Public Schools at all times of the year, our staff work hard to gather and share with appropriate personnel all the necessary information to develop appropriate academic schedules, placements, and transition plans for students.
- Teachers are given explicit permission to take the time to get to know their students at the start of the year, or when they arrive at Norwood.
- If time permits, “good-bye” or “best wishes” activities are planned.

# Transitioning to College or Other Post-Graduate Opportunities

1. Guidance counselors provide all 10<sup>th</sup> graders with a workshop on college and career planning. Using the Naviance program, students complete a personality profile and a career interest inventory that provide helpful information for the students and counselors to discuss.
2. Guidance counselors provide all 11<sup>th</sup> graders with a workshop on resume writing and college/career research and planning, again using Naviance.
3. This is followed up in April and May with one on one meetings with counselors to discuss post-graduate transition plans.
4. Guidance provides a **Junior Parent & Student Night** in March where college representatives are present to discuss application process and answer questions.
5. Guidance counselors meet one on one with seniors to do more intensive college/career planning in the fall especially.
6. NHS hosts numerous college and military information sessions.
7. Throughout the fall, the guidance department runs a college application workshop every Wednesday after school.
8. In December, guidance department hosts a **Senior Parent Night** on the college application and financial aid process.

# Summer Transition Programs

To help minimize summer academic loss, the Norwood Public Schools and the Town of Norwood offer the following summer programs:

1. **Willett Preschool Skills:** July-August (Monday-Thursday, 8:30-10:30/11:30/1:30) at Willett.
2. **Summer Academy:** July-August (Monday-Thursday, 8:30-10:30) at CMS.
3. **Heroes:** July-August (Monday-Friday, 8:30-1:30) at CMS
4. **Challenger:** July-August (Monday-Thursday, 9:00-2:00) at CMS.

The End

Thank you