

## **Norwalk Middle School News:** *6th and 7th*

Address: 220 Cherry Street #: 515-981-0435

**Beth Ward, Principal** ([bward@norwalk.k12.ia.us](mailto:bward@norwalk.k12.ia.us) )

**Chad Wiedmann, Student Advocate**

([cwiedmann@norwalk.k12.ia.us](mailto:cwiedmann@norwalk.k12.ia.us))

### **STAY IN TOUCH WITH WHAT IS HAPPENING AT ORCHARD HILLS:**

**Facebook:** [Norwalk Middle School](#) **Twitter:** [@WarriorsNMS](#)

Welcome to the 2020-21 School Year!

As we begin the journey of the upcoming school year I know staff members that are part of the Norwalk Middle School family, are all full of excitement along with some fear. We may not know exactly how everything will play out, but I can promise you as your building principal, the teachers and staff members have been working extremely hard over the past several months to ensure every student is provided with a quality education! We care deeply about our students' emotional well being and their educational growth. Throughout the months to come, we will do all we can to make the 2020-21 school year the best experience.

We have a lot of uncertainty with the pandemic, and you are encouraged to read through the [Middle School Return to Learn Plan](#) describing how this will look starting in the fall.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me! I look forward to hearing from you!

Beth Ward, Principal

[bward@norwalk.k12.ia.us](mailto:bward@norwalk.k12.ia.us)

## **Middle School New Staff Membersfor 2020-21:**

Norwalk Middle School would like to announce our new teachers for the 2020-21 school year!

Matt Andrews- Special Education

Brett Flanders- Special Education

Jenna Stiegelmeier- Math

Kyrstin Delagardelle- English

Welcome to Norwalk Middle School. We are excited to have you as part of our team and family.

**Open House:** This year we will host a virtual open house. We will send out a video introducing you to our teachers and staff and giving you a glimpse of the building and how it is organized. During the first week of school, we will also be sharing videos on the new procedures for the beginning of the year including: coming in to school; leaving at the end of the day; transitions; lunch; bathrooms and drinking fountains; etc. We have a lot of new procedures with the pandemic, but we will have staff support students to help them learn the new routines.

### **6th Grade Orientation:**

- For all incoming 6th grade students
- Students will enter using the main Middle School entrance
- Students will pick up their schedules and be seated in the gymnasium for introductions.
- Students will follow a shortened version of their schedules.
- Parents can pick up their students at 11:30 a.m. in front of the Middle School

*6th grade orientation will be held on Friday, August 21st from 9AM-11:30AM. Students should come through the front doors of the middle school where staff will be there to*

*direct them. This event is STUDENTS ONLY - we will walk them through their schedule so they are able to meet teachers, see the building, etc.*

### **School Hours:**

7:15 Doors open for students (students should not be dropped off before 7:15 because there isn't any supervision of students before that time and with inclement weather, students may need to wait outside).

### **Illness Procedures:**

If a child becomes ill and believes he/she should go home, **the student is to get approval from the school nurse and contact the building secretary *prior to leaving the building***. This process ensures the legitimacy of the illness as well as maintain the security of tracking students for attendance purposes. With the increased use of cell phones, students have contacted parents directly without making a connection with the nurse or the main office. Please encourage your child to follow these outlined procedures established by the school district in order to ensure the safety of our students.

### **Reporting Your Child Absent:**

Parents should call the school office at (515-981-0435) as soon as they know their child will be absent or will be leaving early/arriving late to school. An answering machine allows you to leave a message before and after school hours.

### **Vehicle Traffic:**

Student drop-off in the morning will be at the main entrance to the Middle School. Please use the main entrance off Cherry Street and follow the posted signs to the building. ***Please pull as far forward as possible before stopping to discharge your student.*** For the safety of our students and staff members, please do not cut through the parking lot to exit the lot. Complete the circle around the parking area. Please follow the same instructions for after school pick up.

## **Electronic Devices:**

Electronic devices—including cell phones—are allowed at Norwalk Middle School. Students may use their phone during passing time and at lunch. However, personal electronic devices must be put away and out of sight upon entering the classroom. Pictures are not to be taken in the restrooms or locker rooms. Phones and music players are a ***privilege*** and may only be used ***with permission*** during study hall and lunch time. If a staff member asks a student for his/her personal electronic equipment, the request will be honored without argument. The equipment will be taken to the office for safekeeping and returned to the student when appropriate. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in loss of privileges, parent contact, and/or disciplinary actions.

If an emergency occurs and a student must be contacted, please contact the main office phone number, 515-981-0435, and someone will deliver that message.

## **Fall dates:**

Mon., August 3 Building secretaries return

Fri., August 14 Class placements can be viewed in Parent Portal

Tues., August 18 Teachers return

Mon., August 24 First day of school for students; 2:00 dismissal

Tues., August 25 2:00 dismissal

Wed., August 26 2:00 dismissal (every Wednesday is an early dismissal)