

TOWN OF NORTH PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

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Greetings North Providence families,

I can't believe it's been six months since we have last been in school, and that summer is quickly coming to an end. I hope you have had time to relax and enjoy your family and friends during this unprecedented and stressful time.

As you know, Governor Raimondo announced a full return to school with a recommended phase in beginning September 14th. Therefore, during the week of September 14 through September 18, North Providence will be transitioning students who have chosen in person learning back to school buildings in small groups divided by the alphabet, so that students and staff can acclimate to the numerous new routines, procedures, and protocols that will be required. We chose to transition in this manner during the first week to ensure a smaller, more personalized re-entry for students & staff, as well as ease of child care for families. Students who have chosen in person learning will return to school as follows:

Monday September 14: Students with last name beginning A-K

Tuesday September 15: Students with last name beginning L-Z

Wednesday September 16: Students with last name beginning A-K

Thursday September 17: Students with last name beginning L-Z

Friday September 18: Students with last name beginning A-K

Monday September 21: ALL IN PERSON STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL A-Z.

On the days that your child does not attend school in person during this first week, or at any other point during the school year, distance learning will be in place, with information communicated to families by the principal and teachers.

Families which include siblings and/or students with different last names in different parts of the alphabet may attend school together, according to any one of the alphabet models listed above, by simply informing the school principal. Families who are eligible to use our transportation will be receiving information regarding bus stop locations and bus COVID requirements. If you have any transportation questions, please email the transportation secretary at: facilities@npsd.k12.ri.us

Families who have chosen distance learning for their children still have the option to begin the year learning at home. Distance learning is still an option for families, and will begin on September 14th, with information forthcoming from your child's principal and teachers. Families may still choose distance learning to start the school year by contacting the central office at Lisa.Villella@npsd.k12.ri.us. In order to ensure equity and access for all families, the North Providence School Committee has approved the purchase of chrome books for every student who needs one. Due to nationwide demand, our chrome books should arrive at some point soon, and a distribution process will be communicated by each school when the devices are available.

In the coming days, each principal will be sending you information about Virtual School Orientation for families. Over the last several weeks, we have worked hard to prepare all of our buildings. The District has hired a consultant to audit and certify the HVAC and air circulation conditions of all schools. We are continuing to prepare buildings with the necessary equipment and safeguards for optimal health, including HEPA filtration, fresh air exchange, UV lighting, sanitization, and other measures to meet CDC guidelines.

As we begin this school year, I want to thank all of you in advance for your incredible patience and understanding. None of us have ever experienced a situation such as the one we face currently, and there is no "playbook" for navigating so much uncertainty. As Superintendent, my job is to listen to student, family, staff, and community feedback, and then make common sense decisions for our schools. I've been an administrator in North Providence for over twenty-two years, and I have seen first hand that by working together in the best interest of our students and each other, the community of North Providence can overcome any challenge. No matter how the school year unfolds, we are all in this together; and we will succeed because of that unbreakable bond of mutual respect and caring. As our schools reopen, I know that teaching and learning will continue to reflect excellence, and that we will also be attentive to the social emotional needs of everyone during this unique time. Expect school buildings to look and operate differently. However, we have a proven formula of love, respect, patience, flexibility, and professionalism that has made North Providence an exemplary school system, and those attributes will get us through this latest challenge, stronger than ever.

While I share with many of you the same worry of uncertainty, I also know deep down that everything will be okay. Watching and interacting with students engaged in learning, performance, and athletics has always brought great joy to my soul. I know that this year will not be any different, and that is why I can't wait to see all of our students, families, and staff starting September 14th.

Thank you once again, and enjoy the remaining days of summer.

Respectfully,
Joseph B. Goho, Superintendent
North Providence Public Schools

The North Providence School Department does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, religion, national origin, color or handicap in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Individuals with disabilities, who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in a program or activity sponsored by the North Providence School Department, please contact superintendent's office. We request that you provide a 48-hour notice so that the proper arrangements may be made.