

Noah Wallace School



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Dear Noah Wallace Families:

In just a few short weeks, we will be welcoming back teachers and students to Noah Wallace School. We look forward to greeting your children on **Monday, August 27**, when we will begin another exciting year.

It has been a busy summer here at Noah Wallace. The custodians, office staff, and I have been working very hard to prepare Noah Wallace for the new school year. Due to the construction projects which will move the Main Office, Conference Room, and Nurse's Office to the main level, we did not host any summer camps at NW this year. However, I did enjoy our Read Aloud and popsicle party on July 31. It was wonderful to see the smiling faces of our Noah Wallace students.



As a district, Farmington continues to focus on the **Vision of the Graduate** and the **Framework for Teaching and Learning**. Over the past several years, the faculty has been working to support students as “leaders of their own learning” and it is now even more evident that our students are becoming increasingly independent and resourceful learners. Teachers and students will continue to work to collaboratively design purposeful and authentic learning experiences that provide opportunities to construct meaning and deepen understanding. They will also work together to investigate and design just-in-time, just-right-level support for all students to fully engage in challenging learning experiences.

Throughout the year, I will continue to hold “Conversations with the Principal” as part of our PTO meetings to help parents learn more about me as a school leader and educator. This year, our PTO meetings will be held on **9/11, 10/23, 1/25, 3/5, and 4/30 at 6:30 p.m.** Please mark

these important dates on the calendar. We will focus on important educational topics that are pertinent to the Farmington Public Schools, Noah Wallace Elementary School, and elementary age children. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or topics for discussion via email: huberc@fpsct.org.

This year, we welcome some NEW Faculty and Staff Members to our Noah Wallace community, including ...

- Jody Winschel, Administrative Secretary, began in early July replacing Alda Debboli who retired after 21 years at NW.
- Abi Wallman, school psychologist, will be joining us full time this year.
- Arielle Oemcke, fourth grade teacher, will be joining us from Putnam Public School and is a recent graduate of the University of St. Joseph.
- Deb Wegh, preschool teacher, joins us from West District School.
- Monika Hunt, Spanish teacher, will join us from Union School.

We also have a few changes within our faculty and staff:

- Megan Gallo and Richard Abraham will be teaching third grade this year.
- Nicole Collins will begin her first year as Literacy Specialist at West District and Laura Knee, Social Worker, will be joining the faculty at our Alternative High School.
- Congratulations to Miss Dillaway (who is now Mrs. O'Brien) and Ms. Uryase (who is now Mrs. Reiser) on their weddings this summer.

Professional Development – Professional Development provides an important role in the educators' work as lifelong learners. This year the FPS calendar includes Professional Development Days (October 9 and Nov. 6) and Professional Development Half Days when students will be dismissed at 1:15 (12/12, 12/13, 2/6, 2/7, 5/15, 5/16). This time allows the entire staff to continue to explore new learning through collaborative goal work, curriculum writing and revising, positive school climate building, and dedicated grade level/discipline-specific professional development. The daily schedules on these days are modified to help maximize learning in the classrooms even though students are dismissed early. **Please save these dates in your calendar.**

School Start Times –School begin promptly at 8:45. **Students will be tardy beginning at 8:46.** Students will be let off the buses as they arrive each morning and will walk directly to their classrooms. Walkers and those being driven to school should arrive no earlier than 8:30. If you need childcare in the morning, please contact EXCL.

Please make sure that if you drive your child to school, you are here with enough time for him/her to walk to his/her classroom by 8:45. Noah Wallace is a large building so please plan accordingly.

If you need to drop off your child(ren), please adhere to the guidelines explained in the Parent Handbook in order to keep our students, their families, and teachers safe.

Safe School Climate Committee – Rocky the Rocket is excited to begin our fifth year of Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) and can't wait to greet all of our NW students on the first day of school. Please notice our behavior matrix included in the online school handbook for more information. Student behavior will continue to be focused on the components of: I CARE for myself, I CARE for others, and I CARE for my school.

Restorative Practices - All humans are hardwired to connect. Just as we need food, shelter and clothing, human beings also need strong and meaningful relationships to thrive. In Farmington, one of our Core Beliefs is: Relationships Matter. At Noah Wallace, our students participate in a structured dialog process called a “circle” that nurtures connections and empathy, while honoring the uniqueness of each member of our community. Each classroom will participate in at least one of these “circles” at the beginning of the week and then at the end of the week.

At times, these circles are referred to as “restorative circles” and are used as a collaborative and inclusive process to resolve conflict. These circles are equally important in building the relationships and skills students need to support one another and collectively address the challenges they face.

Indoor Recess -- Recess is a time for children to have a play break from their busy academic day. When playing at recess(both indoor and outdoor), kids learn much more than just rules of a new game-they learn essential social skills that they will use for life. Occasionally, our students are not able to go outside due to the weather. During indoor recess our students will have an opportunity to play a variety of board games, build with legos or blocks, draw or create, or even write, direct, or perform a play! Technology use will not be permitted during indoor recess time.

Attendance Policy – Daily attendance is a key factor in students’ academic success and it contributes to the development of personal responsibility. Connecticut schools are required to intervene when students meet the prescribed definition of truant. Truant means that a child has four unexcused absences in a month or ten unexcused absences throughout the course of the school year. Please refer to the school handbook located online for more details about the attendance policy.

Parking at Noah Wallace - We recognize that parking can sometimes be challenging at Noah Wallace. Please adhere to any posted signs.

Pick-Up Room - Due to the change in the office location to the main level, the Pick-Up Room will now be held in the gymnasium. Please line up at the door which is closest to the gymnasium and preschool playground. Students will be dismissed one at a time from the new location.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

❖ Friday, August 24:

➤ 10:00-11:00: Kindergarten Orientation/Student Bus Ride

➤ **11:00-12:00 Grades 1-4 Classroom Visitation**

- ❖ **Mon., Aug. 27 – First Day of School!** All students (K – 4) will assemble on the playground for our Flag Ceremony (8:30 a.m.) The Ceremony will begin when all buses have arrived. Parents are invited to attend the ceremony but asked **not** to enter the school with the children.
- ❖ **Monday, Sept. 3** – No School – Labor Day
- ❖ **Thursday, Sept. 6** – Noah Wallace Curriculum Night. Please join us. You will have an opportunity to meet your child’s teacher and to learn more about our Farmington curriculum and the ways you can help support your child at home. Details to follow in our Virtual Friday Folder. This is a Parent Only Evening. EXCL will not be offering childcare for this evening.
- ❖ **Tuesday, Sept. 11 at 6:30** – First Noah Wallace PTO meeting. Please join us. We have a very involved and supportive PTO. We need volunteers for our numerous committees. We have something for everyone! This will also be the first Conversation with the Principal. The topic of discussion will be “Restorative Circles”.
- ❖ **Tuesday, Sept. 11** – School Picture Day

Amazingly, August 27 will be here with the blink of an eye. I wish you well during the last few days of summer vacation. I look forward to beginning my second year as a leader who is committed to providing your children with an education that will help them grow as learners and as people. I feel so lucky to be part of this incredible school community.

Warm regards,

Carrie Wessman Huber
Principal