

NORTH MASON SCHOOL NEWS



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FALL 2018



FROM OUR
SUPERINTENDENT

North Mason Staff continuously examine multiple sources of information to build effective learning environments for all of our students. Over the past several months, we have determined a need for programs that address a variety of student needs.

The result is our **"Whole Child, Whole School, Whole Community"** initiative. To ensure success for our students, we will continue our strong academic programs, while adding support for behavioral and social-emotional learning.

In 2018-19, you will see new opportunities for community involvement. We look forward to developing partnerships and inviting volunteers to support the efforts of our staff and students.

THANK YOU!

Dana Rosenbach
Superintendent

Promoting Safe Play at Belfair and Sand Hill Elementary Schools

Research has shown that recess does much more than provide kids with the opportunity for some fresh air while burning off excess energy.

Did you know that recess also helps improve academic success in the classroom? We're already seeing the results of a new program implemented at Belfair and Sand Hill Elementary schools this year called *Peaceful Playgrounds*®.

The goal of this program is "to ensure youth of all races, income levels, and abilities have a fun, educational, safe play environment and the opportunity to be happy, healthy, active, positive and productive." The program is used in over 8,000 schools across the nation and has been proven to reduce injuries, bullying and conflicts on the playground.

North Mason School District adopted this program to support our elementary schools' goal of creating a safer learning environment for students so they can be their very best during academic learning in the classroom.

But how does it work?



The Peaceful Playgrounds Recess Program incorporates templates for game markings that can be used for up to 100 different games and activities that make recess a more positive, inclusive and safe experience for all students. The markings are colorful and appealing to children

of all ages and the game choices include individual, cooperative and competitive games. The markings address motor development skills, cognitive skills and social skill interaction.

Our brightly painted playgrounds encourage more children to get involved in physical activity rather than waiting in line for their turn or just standing around talking while on the playground.

Recess staff as well as teachers have received training to learn procedures and how to play many of the recess games.

"I think it's made a big difference," commented BE third grade teacher Cathy Dunn. "There's less tattling, and we see more kids working together to play games by the rules they've been taught. It's great."

PHOTO: At top, Belfair Elementary fifth graders play tetherball and wall ball on a recent rainy day.

Hawkins 6th Graders Begin the School Year at CAMP!

by Luke Grunberg, HMS Assistant Principal

Hawkins staff and parents teamed up to deliver a positive, encouraging and FUN start for Hawkins' newest students for the 2018-19 school year.

Ask any 6th grader if the move from elementary to middle school might be stressful and you'll likely get a variety of answers. But ask them how they feel about spending the first three days of middle school at an awesome outdoors camp on a lake in the woods, and suddenly, they're like "What??? We can do that?"

Hawkins Middle School staff wanted to shake it up a bit this year and try something new with incoming 6th graders. The goal was to build unity, friendships, memories and have fun, to ensure that students would have a positive beginning to the school year. Camp Lyle McLeod, located 10 miles northwest of Belfair with 160 acres of forest surrounding Lake Bennettsen, was the perfect close-to-home, wilderness location for this inaugural adventure.

Hawkins staff and a cadre of parent volunteers welcomed 152 6th graders at camp for the first three days of school. Campers participated in swimming, boating, hiking, water balloon toss, capture the flag and a plethora of team building events that developed relationship building over the course of the three days.

Sixth graders learned **P.A.W.S.** (**P**repared - **A**lways respectful - **W**ork ethic - **S**afe expectations) in fun and interesting ways, while gaining confidence and persevering through challenges. Many students showed resiliency as they worked out of their comfort zone. The positive effects of this growth have already been experienced at school!

While our time at Camp Lyle McLeod was fantastic, the highlight of this first week was when the 6th graders arrived back at Hawkins on Friday afternoon to the cheers and encouragement of the 7th and 8th grade student body. While we came back a little tired and dusty, none of that seemed to matter as students moved through the tunnel of their older peers and headed to a Hawkins pep assembly to kick off the school year.

We will be spending time over the next few months debriefing and gathering feedback as to ways we can improve and develop 6th Grade Camp for future classes. The Hawkins family thanks the many parent and staff volunteers that were an integral part of making camp a positive and supportive experience for our students.



ABOVE: Campers prepare for an afternoon of instructional paddling on Lake Bennettsen. A relatively level 1-1/2 mile trail encircles the lake and connects each of the nine village units.

BELOW: A group of adventurous swimmers take a simultaneous leap into the inviting waters of the lake. Swimming was a popular activity, thanks to the warm and sunny weather.



GO HUSKIES!

Welcome to the Mary E. Theler Early Learning Center

by Thom Worlund, Director of Special Services

We are very proud to announce the opening of the Mary E. Theler Early Learning Center in the building that has been known as the "Theler Center" for the past several years.

This opening resulted from several years of planning to merge Head Start and the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) with the NMSD Special Services Developmental Preschool Program. All of these programs are now housed in the Theler building, located at 22871 NE State Route 3, across from Belfair Elementary. This is the first time the different programs have been merged to serve a larger population of three- and four-year-old children in the North Mason community.

The "School Day" program is for students who qualify under the rules of Head Start. This program is intended to help students learn the skills and routines needed to be successful in our full-day Kindergarten classrooms.

The other larger classroom houses blended programs of ECEAP and NMSD Special Education preschool in 1/2 day (AM and PM) sessions. This blended classroom also prepares students with skills and routines, with a team of adult teachers and professionals who work with all the children together in one space. Daily school bus transportation is provided.

The fall 2018 opening of this center is just the beginning. It is our hope that the Mary E. Theler Early Learning Center will serve as a catalyst for shared learning for ALL interested daycares and preschools in the area, because "a united web of early learning practices will benefit all the children in our community."

Sam and Mary Theler, early Belfair residents and benefactors of the NMSD-owned land where the center sits, would be pleased. Although they didn't have children of their own, they were reputed to love kids and wanted to contribute a lasting legacy to the area.

For more information, please visit our home page at northmasonschoools.org, choose Schools and then Mary E Theler Learning Center.



ABOVE: Jennifer Pruitt, NMSD para-educator, helps guide little hands with water colors at the NMSD Mary E. Theler Early Learning Center.

BELOW: Preschoolers enjoy a hot breakfast, followed by a vigorous tooth-brushing before beginning their school session at the center.



AT LEFT: A display of artifacts from the lives of Sam and Mary Theler greets visitors in the center's lobby.



🍏 SCHOOL CALENDAR 🍏

- 🍏 NOV 20, DEC 20, JAN 17, FEB 21, MAR 21 – School Board Meets, District Office 6:30pm
- 🍏 OCT 22 to 26 – PARENT CONFERENCES, BE & SHE 1/2 day school all week
- 🍏 OCT 25 – PARENT CONFERENCES: NMHS 1-4:30 & 5-7:30pm; JTHS 3-6:30pm; HMS 1-4 & 5-8pm; 1/2 day all schools
- 🍏 OCT 26 – 1/2 day all schools
- 🍏 OCT 27 – BE Fall Festival
- 🍏 OCT 29 – HMS Fall Sports begin (Girls Soccer/

- Boys Basketball
- 🍏 NOV 12 – Veterans Day **No School**
- 🍏 NOV 15 – NMHS Drama Showcase 6:30pm
- 🍏 NOV 16 – BE Grandparents' Lunch 11:30am-1:30pm
- 🍏 NOV 21 – 1/2 day all schools for Thanksgiving
- 🍏 NOV 22 to 23 – **No School**
- 🍏 NOV 29 – NMHS Jazz Band/Choir Concert 7pm
- 🍏 NOV 30 – NMHS Knowledge Bowl Competition
- 🍏 NOV 30 – NMHS Turnaround Day **No School** (11-29 end of 1st trimester)

- 🍏 DEC 2 – Belfair Holiday Parade and School Musical Performances, Downtown Belfair 4pm
- 🍏 DEC 8 – Shelton Holiday Parade
- 🍏 DEC 12 – HMS Winter Concert 7pm
- 🍏 DEC 13 – NMHS Winter Band Concert 6pm
- 🍏 DEC 18 – BE Kindergarten/1st Grade Music Program 6pm
- 🍏 DEC 19 – 1/2 day all schools for Winter Break
- 🍏 DEC 20 to JAN 2 – **WINTER BREAK**

From the **SCHOOL BOARD**



Laura Boad
NM School Board
District 3

New School Year Offers New Programs

The mission of the North Mason School District, together with our community, is to educate, empower, inspire and prepare all students to graduate confident in their abilities to meet life's challenges and opportunities.

We are consistently working to build systems to better serve our students from early childhood through high school. To this end, the 2018-2019 school year offers many new programs, including a new 6th grade orientation camp that was held at Camp McLeod near Tahuya, the opening of the Mary E. Theler Early Childhood Learning Center and bringing a career counselor on staff for students at North Mason High School and James Taylor High School.

Both high schools will also be implementing the AVID program (stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination) to help improve the academic culture. The program's mission states that "regardless of students' life circumstances, AVID students overcome obstacles and achieve success." They graduate and attend college or begin careers at higher rates, learning to think critically, collaborate and set high expectations to confidently conquer the challenges that await them.

This year, the AVID program is offered at NMHS as an elective for sophomores. Another AVID class will be offered each year thereafter until there is one class at each grade level. Strategies learned through this program will eventually be used by all teachers, building-wide.

The district is also implementing a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) focusing on Whole Child/Whole School/Whole Community. The key components are a fully-integrated organizational structure, family and community engagement, early identification of struggling students, proactive and effective problem solving, and strong and engaged leadership teaming.

Finally, the district is partnering with Peninsula Community

Health Services (PCHS) to provide a health clinic on the secondary campus. Initially, this clinic will be available to students and staff to support physical and mental health. It will be located in the former band room at the Community Gym (old Hawkins MS gym). Due to required revisions to the space, PCHS staff will operate out of NMHS and HMS nurses' offices until the new space is ready.

We strive to meet the needs of all students in an ever-changing society and ask that our community continue to support us in this effort. Your school board will continue to advocate for fair and equitable funding from the state, while managing your tax dollars prudently. **WE THANK YOU!**

NMSD by the Numbers ...

2,305 students

Belfair Elementary **504**

Sand Hill Elementary **481**

Hawkins Middle School **494**

North Mason High School **694**

James A. Taylor High School & HomeLink **52**

Running Start at Olympic College **80**

All-day Kindergarten at Belfair **101** / Sand Hill **77**

Food Service **~925** hot breakfasts

and **1,290** nutritious lunches served DAILY

Transportation Department **29** bus routes DAILY

over 154 square miles, with **42** drivers traveling approximately 116 runs per day

DID YOU KNOW? Our caring, friendly school bus drivers who deliver your children safely to and from school each day are the same drivers who put together a "Fill the Bus" campaign every August. They volunteer their time to collect donations to help everyone be prepared for the new school year. This year the crew collected **almost \$4,000 in cash and school supplies** to distribute to kids in all of our schools.

Special thanks to the NM Eagles Club and all who participated!



In Closing ...

Many of our students met new teachers on the first day of school as we welcomed over 35 new teachers and support professionals to our staff. Among these are additional counseling staff dedicated to helping our students find success now and in the future. We also added specialists to help our teachers more effectively meet a variety of student needs. As a school community, we are focused on ensuring our students shine!

So many exciting things are happening in our schools this autumn. At Hawkins, we opened the year with 6th grade camp, and already we have noted the positive impact on school climate relationships between students and staff. NMHS has added AVID (Achievement Via Individual Determination), a nationwide program to support student success.

Positive things are happening outside the classroom as well. Our sports teams are enjoying successful seasons and programs in the arts are growing. Students have new experiences in Career and Technical Education and are taking advantage of new leadership opportunities.

We are proud of our students, staff and community.

Dana G. Rosenbach (drosenbach@northmasonschoools.org)
North Mason Schools Superintendent

Learning is like rowing upstream; not to advance is to drop back – Chinese saying

Helpful Phone Numbers

- 🍏 Belfair Elementary 360-277-2233
- 🍏 Sand Hill Elementary 360-277-2330
- 🍏 Hawkins Middle School 360-277-2302
- 🍏 North Mason High School 360-277-2303
- 🍏 James Taylor HS/HomeLink 360-277-2329
- 🍏 Mary E. Theler Early Learning Center 360-464-6798
- 🍏 District Office 360-277-2300
- 🍏 Bus Garage 360-277-2301



Download the NM App in the App store!