

8/3/26 Northwood Elementary Beginning of the School Year Information

Eric Witter • a few seconds ago • Monday, Aug 3 at 11:27 AM • **NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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<http://northwood.berryessa.k12.ca.us/>
Eric Witter, Principal



Pathway to the Future

"We believe that all students at Northwood will be prepared for the future in a safe, nurturing environment that inspires academic and social learning in order to be critical thinkers and active citizens in a global community."

Hello Northwood Families,

Welcome to the 2026/27 school year! My name is Eric Witter, and I am honored to be serving as your principal. I hope you all had a wonderful summer filled with fun, connection, and relaxation. Our dedicated Northwood staff and I are thrilled to welcome back our returning families and extend a warm welcome to all of our new families joining our Bear community this year! We are eagerly looking forward to a fantastic year of learning and growth together.

I truly believe that close partnerships between families and school staff make our school a positive place for our students to learn and grow, and I invite each of you to help build a strong partnership with us to support your child. There are many ways for parents to be active members of the school, such as being a part of our School Site Council (Meetings are on Tuesdays, from 2:45-3:45: 9/15, 10/13, 11/10, 1/12, 3/9, 5/11), PTA, volunteering during school events, and attending our school and community events. Please be sure to read our weekly communication for information on how you can participate in one or more of these volunteer opportunities this year.

Thursday, August 13th, will be our first day of school. We recommend that students bring a backpack to school, and then teachers will share information about supplies soon. Students can bring a snack and a lunch, or they can get a free snack and lunch at school (menu link below). For the first three days of school, students will walk directly to their classroom for the start of school. Starting Monday, 8/17, students will line up with their classes on the blacktop, and their teachers will walk them to their classroom. Gates will remain closed throughout the school day, and all visitors need to sign in at the office. Parents can walk on campus for pick up, with the exception of Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten. TK and Kindergarten students will be dismissed through the gate located closest to our front office (starting on Monday, 8/17). For all other grades, please discuss with your child where you will be meeting for after-school pick up.

Student Placement & Class Assignments

Careful consideration was given to placing each student into classes with input from staff as well as student learning styles. Classrooms have been balanced academically and socially, and our classes are structured to provide equitable class sizes at each grade level. Moving students is difficult without causing imbalances and inequities. Thank you so much for being positive with your child and helping him or her understand that it is impossible to place all students with a preferred best friend or teacher. ALL of our staff works hard to make school a positive experience for ALL students. Northwood Elementary is eagerly looking forward to enriching your child's life. Thank you for understanding that it can take a few weeks for a child to acclimate to a new grade, peer group, and teacher.

- **Posting Date:** Class assignments will be posted in front of our school office by **4:00 PM on Wednesday, August 12th.**
- **Parent Portal:** Parents with access to the Infinite Campus Parent Portal can also view their student's teacher on the portal (a reminder will be sent for this).
- **Student Screenings:** TK and new-to-Northwood Kindergarten students have received an invitation for a screening this Thursday.
- **Not Returning?** If your student will not be returning to Northwood for the 26/27 school year, please email our School Clerk, Ms. Amanda Meng, at ameng@busd.net as soon as possible with the reason.



Bell Schedule & Start of School Details

Please review our [26/27 NW Bell Schedule](#) and [26/27 BUSD Calendar](#) to help plan your daily routines:

- **Morning Supervision:** Please note that there is **no unsupervised student presence on campus before 8:00 AM.**
- **4th & 5th Grade Dismissal Change:** Please note that 4th and 5th graders are now dismissed at **2:35 PM** (changed from 2:30 PM last year).
- **Friday Flag Assemblies:** Flag Salute Assemblies will now take place on **Fridays** instead of Thursdays.

Schedule Breakdown:

- **First Two Days (Minimum Days — Thursday & Friday, August 13th & 14th):**
 - TK: 8:15 AM – 12:45 PM
 - Kindergarten: 8:15 AM – 12:50 PM
 - 1st – 5th Grades: 8:15 AM – 1:10 PM
- **Regular Days (Starting Monday, August 17th):**
 - TK: 8:15 AM – 12:45 PM
 - Kindergarten: 8:15 AM – 12:50 PM (First 4 weeks only; dismissal moves to 2:00 PM starting September 14th)
 - 1st – 3rd Grades: 8:15 AM – 2:25 PM
 - 4th – 5th Grades: 8:15 AM – 2:35 PM
- **Every Thursday (Weekly Minimum Day):**
 - TK: 8:15 AM – 12:45 PM
 - Kindergarten: 8:15 AM – 12:50 PM
 - 1st – 5th Grades: 8:15 AM – 1:10 PM



Important Traffic & Safety Update (No Crossing Guard)

Due to City of San Jose budget cuts, the San Jose Police Department School Safety Unit has informed us that they will **no longer be providing a staffed crossing guard at the intersection of Lakewood Drive and Cropley Avenue** starting this school year.

Please share this news with your family and plan your route to and from school accordingly to ensure your child's safety. We appreciate your extra caution and vigilance when driving and walking near campus.



ParentSquare Setup & Communication

To keep you updated on classroom announcements, school events, assignments, and direct messages, our primary communication tool this year will be **ParentSquare**. Please take a few minutes to complete these quick setup steps so you don't miss any updates:

1. **Activate Your Account:** Look for an activation email/text from ParentSquare, visit parentsquare.com, or download the app. Register using the email address or cell phone number you provided to the school.
2. **Download the App:** Search for "ParentSquare" in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store for easy access on the go.
3. **Verify Your Details:** Log in to confirm your contact details and ensure all your children are correctly linked to your account.
4. **Set Notification Preferences:** Go to Account > Notification Settings. We recommend selecting "**Digest**", which groups daily non-urgent updates into a single evening digest to keep your inbox clean. Urgent alerts will always reach you immediately.
5. **Set Language Preferences:** Select your preferred language under settings, and all school messages will automatically translate for you.

If you experience login issues or notice missing information, please contact the main school office so we can update your contact record.

Free and Reduced Meal Applications

Please take a moment to complete the online [Meal Application](#). Even though school meals are free for all students, submitting this form helps secure vital funding for Northwood! Additionally, completing it may qualify your family for discounts on PG&E, access to after-school programs, summer gift cards, and more.

Yours respectfully,

Eric Witter, Principal

Northwood Elementary School
ewriter@busd.net | 408-923-1940

Northwood Family Resources

- [School Calendar for 26/27](#)
- [Bell Schedule for 26/27](#)
- [Meal Application](#) (please complete - it can increase our school funding and provide extra family benefits such as after school programs, a summer gift card, etc.!))
- [Breakfast & Lunch Menus](#)
- [Northwood Family Handbook](#)
- [Northwood School Website](#)

For translation assistance, please call one of our District hotlines below:

- **Chinese:** 408-923-1901
- **Spanish:** 408-923-1902
- **Vietnamese:** 408-923-1903

1-408-923-1901

Si desea información en español, por favor llame a la línea de asistencia en español al 1-408-923-1902 y alguien le llamará para darle un resumen de este documento.

Xin gọi số hotline của khu học tại 1-408-923-1903 và sẽ có người giúp quý vị để hiểu những điều cốt yếu của văn kiện.