



August 3, 2016

Dearest NLA Middle School Families,

What an awesome responsibility it is to prepare and execute the delivery of an education for those students whom you entrust to our care. Much of the summer is dedicated to reconsidering how we can best provide that education. Last year we delivered our first EQ (emotional intelligence) course as a part of our district wide "*Becoming*" program in the middle school as 6th graders studied the *7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*. This year we will build upon that work as well as continue to find ways to offer the most relevant curriculum to our students who will live out their lives in a society that demands specialized skills and creative thinking. Our younger students will see increased instructional time in the area of math, and our older students will engage in the creative aspect of computer science. This, of course, further develops our rich tradition of providing a liberal arts educational experience in a small, safe and successful environment.

We eagerly await the arrival of our newest NLA class of 2024 as well as all new and returning students. As you enjoy the rest of the summertime and anticipate the new school year, please take some time to familiarize yourself with the following notable dates and information:

- School supply lists are available at Walmart, Walgreens and Target stores in Forest Lake. Please have supplies ready for the **first day of school on Tuesday, September 6th**. Kleenex, sanitizer, copy paper and dry erase markers can be turned into the office or pride time teachers.
- **Fall sports sign up night** will be on **Monday August 8th** from 5:00 pm - 6:45 pm at the North Lakes Academy Upper School. Sign ups will be open from 5:00-6:00, with a general information meeting from 6:05-6:20 in the Activity Center. From 6:20-6:45 volleyball and soccer will have parent meetings for all levels. Please plan on attending these meetings for key information on the upcoming seasons. Cross Country will be setting up a parent meeting for an alternate date.
- The Middle School **Back-to-School** event is on **Thursday, September 1st, from 5:00-7:00**. The event allows students and parents to meet teachers, drop off supplies, receive class schedules and locker assignments, complete payments, and fill out necessary forms for the year. Suggested fees for middle school families are around \$40 which help support teaching and learning in a variety of departments. A **new family Q & A** will be held on this night at **6:00** in the band room.
- Additional dates and information for other events such as picture day and conferences are available online at [www.northlakesacademy.org](http://www.northlakesacademy.org) under the *families* tab. You can also follow us on Facebook (search North Lakes Academy), Twitter (@NLAschool) for additional updates and information..
- NLA is excited to welcome one new staff member this year. Mrs. Ann Borgwardt has joined our 5th/6th grade team and will be instructing primarily in the areas of social studies and science.

Should you have questions before the year starts please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Drew at the front office by calling 651-982-2773.

Joyously,

Andrew Brandt (on behalf of Kerry Huset and the NLA Middle School Staff)  
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