North Kingstown School Department District Newsletter

9.1.25 VOL 3 ISSUE 1

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Message from the Superintendent & Assistant Superintendent

Dear North Kingstown School Community,

Welcome back! We are thrilled to begin the 2025–2026 school year with all of you. As both parents and Administrators, we are proud of our schools and the work we do together to support our students. Each new year brings fresh opportunities to learn, grow, and work together—and we could not be more excited about what lies ahead for our students, staff, and families.

This year, our focus is on collaboration, relationships, and positive outcomes for every student. We know that when educators, families, and the community work hand-in-hand, amazing things happen. Together, we will continue to strengthen a positive school culture that ensures all students feel supported, valued, and inspired to be their very best.

Transparency and strong communication remain a top priority. We are committed to keeping our entire North Kingstown community informed, involved, and engaged in the important work happening across our schools. We know that strong schools are built on trust, and we will continue to strengthen our partnerships with students, families, staff, and the greater North Kingstown community.

We are also proud to share exciting initiatives from our Child Nutrition Services Department. This year, NK schools will increase efforts in recycling, composting, and reducing food waste—helping our students understand the importance of sustainability while building habits that benefit both our schools and our planet.

At the center of all this work is our Vision of a Learner, the guiding skills for all students, preschool through twelfth grade. We are dedicated to preparing every North Kingstown student with the skills, knowledge, and character needed to thrive—today and in the future.

It is our goal to create strong relationships between our schools and our families. Positive social interactions are key to the success of our students' academic growth and overall well-being in school. Students need to have a strong connection to their school and strong relationships with their teachers, support staff, and peers. Families play an important role in these relationships.

We are grateful for your partnership and your trust. With collaboration, care, and commitment, we are confident that this will be a year of tremendous growth and success for every student in North Kingstown.
Here's to an inspiring and joyful school year!

Kenneth A. Duva, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
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Robert Mezzanotte
Assistant Superintendent
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Watch our Welcome Back Video!

VISION OF A LEARNER:

The North Kingstown Vision of the Learner is an exciting new initiative that is ready for school-level implementation in the 2025-2026 school year. The Vision of the Learner (VoL) applies to all students in the North Kingstown School Department. It identifies the most essential, transferable skills that students must practice and demonstrate throughout their schooling experience. These skills are not divided by content area or grade level. Rather, they are a comprehensive set of skills that transcend the traditional school experience and extend into college, career, and beyond.

The Vision of the Learner was developed by a Design Team, which consisted of stakeholders from throughout the North Kingstown community. The Design Team included district and building administrators, teachers, staff members, students, parents, and community partners. This team has met regularly for the past year and a half, and has spent considerable time reviewing relevant materials and data, with the purpose of identifying the Guiding Skills that all students need to practice and demonstrate in order to achieve success in college and career. The Guiding Skills are as follows:

- Communicate to Express
- Collaborate to Connect
- Analyze to Think Critically
- Problem Solve to Innovate
- Navigate Change to Adapt and Thrive

In addition to these Guiding Skills, the Design Team also established grade-based Learner Progressions, which identify the actionable outcomes that students aim to demonstrate as they move through the grade levels. These learner progressions, which are presented as "I Can" statements, provide clear descriptions of the student-based outcomes for each skill area.

For more information about this initiative, including details about the work completed to date as well as links to the Guiding Skills and Learner Outcomes, please visit the Vision of the Learner website.

For this year, we begin the exciting work of putting the Vision of the Learner into action at the school level. Teachers will work collaboratively to identify the strengths and needs within their grade levels and content areas, with regard to the VoL skills and outcomes. Teachers, staff members, and building principals will look to embed opportunities for students to practice the VoL skills, to challenge themselves, and to experience authentic and engaging learning that goes beyond the walls of the classroom.

We look forward to a great year! If you have any questions about the Vision of the Learner initiative, please email me at robert_mezzanotte@nksd.net.

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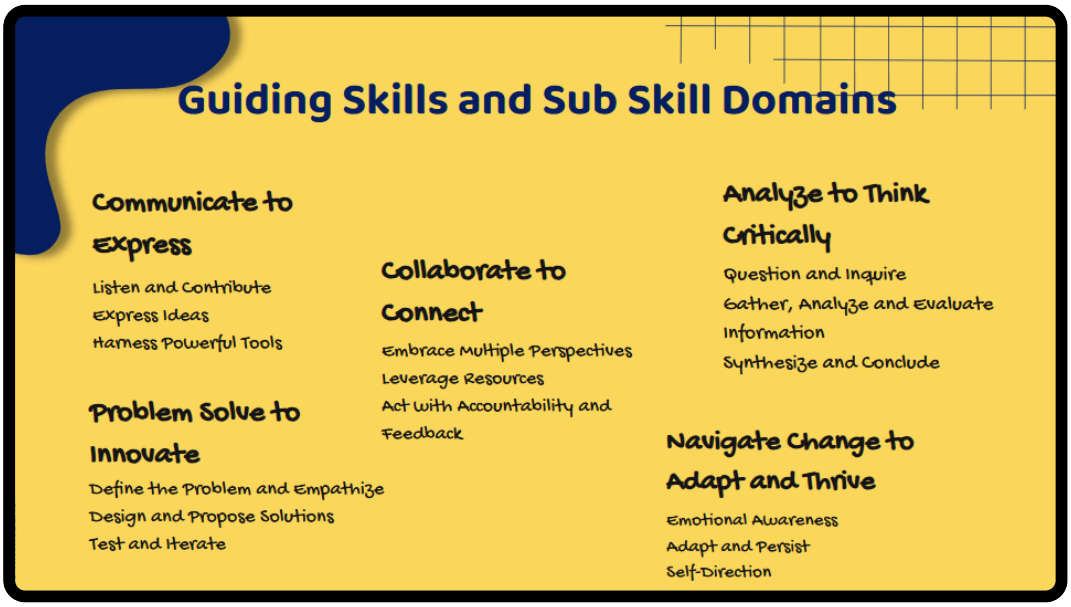

SCHOOL UPDATES:

We're thrilled to share some wonderful news with you! The building you've known as Davisville Elementary — and most recently as Davisville Academy — is entering an exciting new chapter. As of September 1, it will officially be known as Davisville Academy and Early Learning Center — a name that reflects the bright future ahead as we welcome some of our youngest learners into the heart of our community.

Starting this fall, the North Kingstown School Department's preschool programs will be operating out of the Davisville Academy and Early Learning Center. The building will be shared by the Davisville Academy program and the preschool program. We are excited to open our doors to these energetic, curious young minds, and their dedicated teachers and families. You can expect an increase in school-related traffic around the neighborhood during school hours, with yellow buses rolling in and out, parents at drop-off and pick-up, and the cheerful hustle and bustle that comes with little feet and big excitement.

This daily rhythm, Monday through Friday, marks a beautiful reawakening of this beloved educational space. We couldn't be more excited to breathe new life into a building filled with so much history — and we're grateful to be doing it alongside such a caring, supportive community. Thank you for being a part of this new beginning!

SCHOOL CALENDAR 25/26

Revised 8.19.25

North Kingstown School Department
2025-2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR

July 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

Cumulative School Days:

August 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

September 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

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First Day / Last Day
8/26 – New Teacher Orientation
8/27 & 8/28 Staff PD days*
1st day of school for students
Sept 2 – Pre K & K Orientation
Sept 2 – 1st day Grades 1 – 9
Sept 3 – 1st day Grades 10 – 1
Sept 3 – 1st day Pre K and K
Last day: June 17
Last Day for Seniors – June 4 (Seniors/171 instruct. days)
Graduation – June 11
Make-Up Days – June 18-25

October 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

Cumulative School Days: 42

November 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

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December 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

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Important Dates
No school – students
PD – Staff Only Reports
Observance Day
9/1 – Labor Day
9/22 – 9/24 - Rosh Hashanah
10/2 - Yom Kippur
10/10 - PD Staff
10/13 – Columbus Day/ Indigenous People Day
11/4 - Parent/Teach Conf. K-4 No School K-12
11/11 – Veterans Day obs
11/27-11/28 –Thanksgiving
12/24-1/2 – Holiday Recess
1/19 – MLK Jr. Day
2/16 - 2/20 Presidents Day/Winter Break
3/20 – Eid al-Fitr
3/27 – PD - Staff
4/3 - Good Friday
4/20 - 4/24 – Spring Recess
5/21 – HS/Senior Project
5/25 – Memorial Day
6/17 – Last Day of School
6/19 - Juneteenth

January 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

Cumulative School Days: 94

February 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

109

March 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

130

April 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

Cumulative School Days: 147

May 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

167

June 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

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Religious Holiday Observance: The NKSD acknowledges and supports all of its members and their faith beliefs. For those who notify the school of holiday observance, absences are excused for school day and extracurricular activities. Students will be allowed a reasonable amount of time to reschedule any assessments, homework or project deadlines with their teacher.

Report Card Distribution

Date	K	1 – 12	
11/17	RC *	RC	*Report Cards will include
2/4	RC	RC	"Personal and Social
4/16	RC*	RC	Development & Work
6/18	RC	RC	Habits" only

End of Quarter Dates
November 5 (45 days)
January 26 (45 days)
April 7 (45 days)
June 17 (45 days)

SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

First day of school for grades 1 -9

Preschool Orientation

Kindergarten Orientation

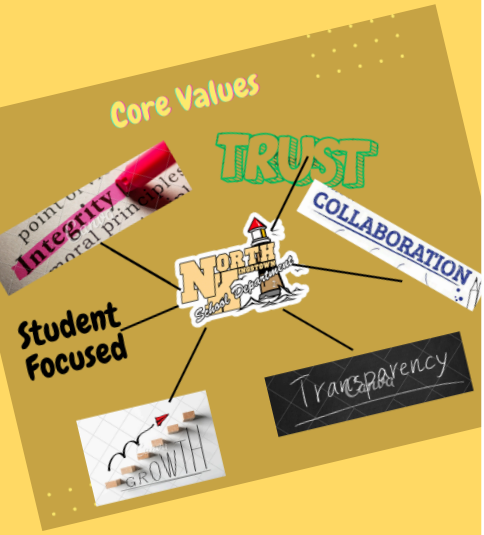
SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

All students, preschool through 12th grade, return back to school.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Next meeting is Tuesday, September 9th at 7:00 pm

CORE VALUES:



At the core of any successful organization, particularly in the field of education, are foundational values that guide every decision and action. Emphasizing integrity ensures that all interactions and decisions are honest and ethical, fostering an environment of trust where students, educators, and the community can rely on one another. A collaborative spirit encourages teamwork and the sharing of ideas, creating a dynamic learning atmosphere that benefits from diverse perspectives. By being student-focused, the organization prioritizes the needs and development of its learners, ensuring that every policy and practice is designed to support their growth. Lastly, a commitment to continuous growth signifies an ongoing dedication to improvement, innovation, and adaptation, ensuring that both students and educators are equipped to meet the challenges of an ever-evolving world. Together, these core values create a robust framework that empowers the district to fulfill its mission of nurturing well-rounded, capable individuals.

Kenneth A. Duva, Ed.D. Superintendent
Robert Mezzanotte, Assistant Superintendent

North Kingstown School Department
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"Inspiring Students to Reach Individual Excellence"

Connect with us:

www.nksd.net