

Dear High School Faculty and Staff:

I hope you are contuing to enjoy your summer break, but I wanted to take a moment to introduce some new staff who will be joining us this fall. **Joel Olson** has been settling in as our new Activities Director and takes over for Tania Will, who returns to an instructional coaching position at Sibley Elementary School. **Sean Dube** joins our English Department after seven years at New Prague High School, replacing Taylor. **Jonathon Thompson** joins our social studies department part-time and will also teach an achievement seminar with our MTSS program. **Janet Smith & Justin Pfaffinger** are new additions to the math department. Janet has lived here in Northfield for a number of years and has taught the last few years in Faribault. Justin comes most recently from four years at the Fair School in Minneapolis. Our special education department will feature two new faces and a familiar face in a new position: **Katie Hanson & Angela Lynch** take over for Liz Pfeiffer & Peggy Fink, and **Meghan Kuechenmeister**, who has been an EA at NHS for seven years steps into the position vacated by Lisa Lagergren in our LI program. At this time, we are still looking for a part-time business education teacher to replace Theresa Wilson. We will welcome multiple new EAs to our school, including the return of **Lianne Deanovic** to a job coaching position. Also starting this fall, **Madeline Carras** will be our new educational assistant in our EL program. **Jessica Van Zuilen** will also join our team in the EBD program. As I write, we are working on filling 2 additional EA positions to start the year. *A warm welcome to all of our great new staff!*

Regarding Workshop Week...

- Teachers new to the district will report to the middle school the morning of *Wednesday, August 22nd*, and will continue their orientation *Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>*.
- First day of *all staff* workshops, *August 27<sup>th</sup>*, begins at 7:30 at the MS with an all-district breakfast and assembly. We return to the HS for a 10:00 staff meeting, followed by lunch and classroom preparation time.
- *Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>*, is a full day of building level and district professional learning.
- *Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>*, is youth mental health first aid training from 7:30-3:30 p.m.
- Finally, *Thursday August 30<sup>th</sup>* is a ½ day of building level professional learning planned by your site council, followed by lunch and classroom preparation time.
- *Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup>* is a full day of classroom preparation time.

[A more detailed schedule of building and district staff development activities will be available soon via email.](#)

Finally, a couple of items for your attention...

- Student Schedules go live on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, the same day that students report for pictures 10:00-3:00, and incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders have a chance to tour the building with LINK leaders. If you are available, feel free to come wander the building greeting our new students!

- We will no longer do the class meetings that we've typically held in the auditorium on the first Friday of the school year. We have determined other means of disseminating that information.
- FLEX PERIOD IS HERE! Flex period will start on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the school year (our first "regular" school day). College and Career Readiness curriculum delivery will start a couple weeks into the school year. Information about CCR will be coming at you during workshop week.

I wish each of you an enjoyable remainder of the summer break, and we'll see you on the 27<sup>th</sup>!

Sincerely,  
Joel