Northwood School District

N14463 Hwy. 53 ♦ Minong, Wisconsin 54859 ♦ 715-466-2297 ♦ www.northwood.k12.wi.us

Welcome to the 2026–2027 School Year!

We are excited to welcome everyone back for another wonderful school year! We look forward to the opportunities this year will bring as your child continues to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. Together, we can make this a rewarding and successful year for every student.

New Changes to Highlight:

- The first day of school is **Tuesday, September 1st**, for all students in Pinecone Preschool through 12th grade.
- The school day schedule has been slightly adjusted, with new hours of **8:07 a.m. to 3:39 p.m.**
- A new nominal fee will be implemented for the **K–5 After School Program**. Please see the details below.

Northwood Staffing: We are excited to welcome the following new staff members to the Northwood family. Welcome to Laura Lessard (payroll clerk), Haley Welsch (Speech & Language Pathologist), Sarah Reiss (Early Childhood Special Education), Daniela Subialka (Food Service Lead), and Abby Navarro (Lakeland Family Resource Center School to Home Liaison).

School Enrollment Form: Please complete the enrollment forms included in this packet so we have your current address, phone numbers, email addresses, emergency contacts, and other important information.

School Website: Our website has a fresh new look! Visit northwood.k12.wi.us for the district calendar, school supply lists, lunch menus, attendance reporting, handbooks, news, events, policies, state and federal notices, and more. Download the free Northwood School District, WI app for Apple or Android devices to stay up to date with the latest district news and events.

Automated Phone Service: To improve communication, we use an automated phone service. Email and text messages are also available to receive information via the automated service. Please be sure we have your current phone number(s) and email in the system.

Rooms (Communication Tool): Staying connected with teachers and class updates is easier than ever through the Northwood School District app. With the app, you can quickly switch from district and school news to *Rooms*, where you'll find your student's classes and can communicate directly with teachers. Rooms is accessible both through the web and the Northwood app, which is free to download on Apple and Android devices. To access Rooms, you'll need to create an account. Need help getting started? Support will be available at the Back to School Picnic in the office.

Back to School Picnic (Everyone Invited): We look forward to seeing you at the annual back-to-school picnic on Wednesday, August 26th from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Complimentary hot dogs and chips will be available for all families. Families can meet the staff, check out the classrooms, and learn more at the informational meetings below.

- 5:00-5:30 p.m. - 6th grade orientation (does not include NorthStar) students and parents - library
- 5:30-6:00 p.m. - Information meeting for 5th grade nature camp - library
- 6:00-6:30 p.m. - Freshman orientation for students and parents - library

School Supplies: Thanks to generous community donations, we have backpacks and school supplies available. Call the school office to request a backpack & supplies and it will be available to pick up the night of the picnic.

Fall Sports: Students must have a current physical exam card completed prior to participation.
HS Football practice began on Tuesday, Aug. 4th MS Flag Football practice begins on Wednesday, Aug. 31st
HS Volleyball practice begins on Monday, Aug. 17th MS Volleyball practice begins on Wednesday, Aug. 24th
MS & HS Cross Country practice begins on Monday, Aug. 17th

Student Immunizations: The Department of Health Services requires specific immunizations for students entering preschool, kindergarten**,** and sixth grade. Please contact your health care provider or the school office if you have any questions.

Medications: If your child needs to receive medication during the school day, both a parent/guardian and the prescribing physician must complete an authorization form. A parent or guardian must bring both the form and the medication—in its original container—to the school office. **Please do not send medications to school with students.**

School Attendance Regulations: Please review the attendance policies carefully in the Student Handbook:
All attendance-related communication must be sent to **attendance@northwoodk12wi.com** or reported by phone from a parent or guardian. There is a direct link on the district website. Regular school attendance is essential for academic success, and all students are required by state law to attend school on scheduled school days.

A student is considered a **"Habitual Truant"** if they are absent without an acceptable excuse for all or part of **five or more days** in a semester.

- Students under the age of 12 who are habitually truant will be referred to Health and Human Services.
- Students aged 12–18 who are habitually truant will receive a truancy citation.

Bus Transportation: For transportation questions or updates, please email **schoolbus@northwoodk12wi.com** or email your child's bus driver directly. If your child will not be riding the bus, please notify us by **6:30 a.m.** to help keep routes running efficiently. After three unreported absences from the bus, service may be temporarily suspended. Families using district transportation must also sign and return the **School Bus Behavior Expectations Agreement** included in the registration packet.

School Day:

Before School Program beginning at 7:30 a.m.:

- Students arriving before 8:00 a.m. must attend the Before School Program. Please enter at the Delivery Door. This Program will begin on the first day of school.

Morning Drop-off Procedure beginning at 8:00 a.m.: MS/HS Classes begin at 8:07 a.m.

- Entrances will open at 8:00 a.m. for all students not attending the Before School Program.
- Buses will drop students off at the Richards Auditorium…doors open at 8:00 a.m.
- Student drivers and passengers will park and use the front entrance marked "Home of the Evergreens"…doors open at 8:00 a.m.
- Parent Drop-off will be on the east side of the building and enter through the entrances marked "Tiny Seeds Entrance" or "Evergreen Entrance". Vehicles may unload in the drop-off lane or park in a designated parking spot and walk students to the door. Staff will be available to help guide elementary students to their classrooms.

Afternoon Pick-up Procedure:

- Elementary students will be dismissed at 3:35 p.m and MS/HS students at 3:39 p.m.
    - Buses will pick students up at the Richards Auditorium entrance.
    - Student drivers and passengers will exit using the "Home of the Evergreens" doors.
    - Parent Pick-up will be on the east side of the building at the "Tiny Seeds Entrance". Staff will escort students during dismissal. Vehicles should pull forward and line up along the drop off lane while waiting for dismissal or pull in a designated parking spot and wait outside on the sidewalk.

Afternoon School Program:

- After School Program (grades K-5) begins at 3:35 p.m. and ends at 5:15 p.m. Monday - Thursday. Daily Fee: $5/day for students picked up before 4:15. $10/day for students picked up after 4:15. Note: Families that meet the qualifications for free or reduced meals will remain free. To sign up, contact the district office. The After School Program will begin on Tuesday, September 1st.
- Tiny Seeds Learning Center provides after school care for preschool age children ($10/day fee). To sign up, contact director Kim Schultz.

High School Schedules: Student schedules will be available on Infinite Campus starting August 17th. Mrs. Kildow will have office hours on August 26th for course change requests. Please email Mrs Kildow for questions or to set up a time to meet (natasha_kildow@northwoodk12wi.com). Students will also be given a copy on the first day of school.

Food Service Program: The district still qualifies for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) while participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. This means that ALL Northwood students (PK-12) are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at school at **no charge** for the 2026-2027 school year. Additional milk or milk with a cold lunch may be purchased for $0.40.

Operation BackPack: Operation BackPack provides nutritious, easy-to-prepare food for children to take home on weekends and school breaks. If you are interested in participating, please review the information and enrollment forms included in this packet and return the completed forms to the school office.