



August, 2015 Family Newsletter

Dear NCS Families,

This fall, NCS will mark its 20 year anniversary. We will glance back a bit to celebrate the 20 years, but we are also focused on continuing our current focus on STEM and Environmental Studies. We believe NCS offers a great opportunity to strive toward the district mission of ensuring ALL students achieve success. We are so excited that the majority of our students and staff members are returning for another great year at NCS. We are especially pleased that Tara (Gilbert) Schneider will be returning to teach one of our K/1 classes for the entire year. As you may know, Sandee Tolleson has extended her leave for the entire school year. We are also thankful that Kate Peterson and Angelica Oses will both be returning to Special Education Assistant positions at NCS. We are equally excited to meet several new transferring students to NCS, those students starting as 5 year olds in our K/1 classrooms, and Carol Szymanski, our new NCS Integrated Arts Teacher. Despite being a recent graduate from Edgewood College, Carol has previous experience teaching Art at an elementary school.

Over the course of the summer, teachers have learned more about implementing the new EveryDay Math

edition. To make this purchase, our Site Council invested about \$8,000 this summer. This new edition promises to be a significant upgrade from the 2007 edition which we have used in years past. NCS staff members have also used the summer to receive further training in Nurtured Heart, Non-Violent Crisis Intervention, PBIS, Restorative Practices, and technology.

Have a great start to the school year, and thanks for being part of the NCS School Community!

With warm regards,

Jim Ruder

Director



UPCOMING EVENTS

August 17	Online Registration Assistance from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm at Boys and Girls Club, 4619 Jenewein Road, Fitchburg, WI
August 18	Online Registration Assistance from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm at Knights of Columbus, 5256 Verona Road, Fitchburg, WI
August 17	Personalized Learning Conferences 10:00 am-1:30 pm
August 18	Personalized Learning Conferences 3:00-7:00 pm

August 19	Online Registration DEADLINE
August 27	NCS Summer Play date from 6:00-7:00 pm
Sept. 1	First Day of School
Sept. 3	First day of swimming for Mr.Lohr's, Mrs. Klawiter's, and Ms. Austen's classes
Sept. 4	PICTURE DAY
Sept. 7	NO SCHOOL (Labor Day)
Sept. 8	Swimming for Mr.Lohr's, Mrs. Klawiter's, and Ms. Austen's classes
Sept. 10	First day of swimming for Mrs. Konop's, Mr. Gundlach's, and Mrs. Schneider's classes
Sept. 16	Swimming for Mr.Lohr's, Mrs. Klawiter's, and Ms. Austen's classes
Sept. 17	NCS BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT from 6:00-7:20 pm
Sept. 18	Swimming for Mrs. Konop's, Mr. Gundlach's, and Mrs. Schneider's classes
Sept. 22	Swimming for Mr.Lohr's, Mrs. Klawiter's, and Ms. Austen's classes
Sept. 24	Swimming for Mrs. Konop's, Mr. Gundlach's, and Mrs. Schneider's classes
Sept. 30	Swimming for Mr.Lohr's, Mrs. Klawiter's, and Ms. Austen's classes
Oct. 2	DWARFISM CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS by the Diversity & Equity Committee
Oct. 9	PICTURE RETAKE DAY
Oct. 28	NCS FALL FESTIVAL from 12:30-2:20 pm
Oct. 29 and 30	NO SCHOOL (Fall Break)



HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR CHILD'S ONLINE REGISTRATION YET? PLEASE DO SO BY AUG.19TH

You should have received a letter at the beginning of August with online instructions, including a special code to input that is unique to your child. Please go online as soon as possible to register your child prior to Wednesday, August 19th. If you did not receive an online registration letter yet, please call the NCS office as soon as possible at (608) 845-4905 so that we can get that information to you.

If you need translation or technology assistance or access to a computer in order to register your child online, these are the dates and locations for assistance:

* August 17th, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm at Boys and Girls Club, 4619 Jenewein Road, Fitchburg, WI

* August 18th, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm at Knights of Columbus, 5256 Verona Road, Fitchburg, WI

New Century School will NOT be open as a site for online registration



HAVE YOU SIGNED UP YET FOR YOUR CHILD'S PERSONALIZED LEARNING CONFERENCE FOR STUDENTS ENTERING K, 2ND, AND 4TH GRADES AND NEW STUDENTS?

The Verona Area School District is trying something new this August to help us move forward with our Personalized Learning practices. A key component of Personalized Learning is for teachers to have a deep knowledge and understanding of students. Teachers will be proposing to meet with students and families before school begins to get to know students and learn about their families and the students' learning interests and strengths. NCS classroom teachers will make it a priority to offer a meeting with students and their families who are new to their multi-age classrooms. This will include students entering kindergarten, 2nd grade, 4th grade, and other students new to NCS.

NCS teachers have set aside Monday, August 17th, from 10:00 am-1:30 pm and Tuesday, August 18th, from 3:00-7:00 pm. We propose to meet with you at the Verona Public Library using a reserved study room or at your home, whichever you would prefer. Please allow 15-20 minutes for each visit. Thanks for taking advantage of this new opportunity.

If you have a child new to the school or new to a teacher, you should have already received a Sign-Up Genius in your email to enable you to sign up for a conference. If you didn't receive a Sign-Up Genius in your email, please check your Spam

folder and then call the NCS office at (608) 845-4905 if you still can't find the SignUp Genius email. We will be glad to send it again.

Also, please complete the "Personalized Learning Conference Reflection Sheet" you received bring with you to the conference. It was included in your child's report card envelope that went home with your child on the last day of school or it was emailed to you. If you don't have this handy, it was attached again to the Personalized Learning Reminder email that was sent out on August 7th.



DID YOU PURCHASE BULK SUPPLIES FROM NCS FOR NEXT YEAR?

For those families who purchased BULK SUPPLIES for next school year, please remember that you still need to purchase these additional items for your student(s):

- gym shoes with non-marking soles
- art smock (Can be an oversized shirt)
- headphones with ear piece comfortable for your child

If you chose to purchase your own school supplies for the school year, you also need to purchase those above items.



SCHOOLMESSENGER®

HAVE YOU OPTED-IN YET TO SCHOOLMESSENGER?

Verona Area School District is using SchoolMessenger for our family communications system. In the case of an emergency, you will receive emails, text messages and possible phone calls from our school office and the district. If you "opted-in" last school year, you do NOT have to do it again this year. Who needs to "opt-in"?

*If you are new to the Verona Area School District this year

*If you didn't "opt-in" last year when we activated SchoolMessenger as a new system

*If you have a new cell phone number

How to you "opt-in"? TEXT Y to 68453

You MUST "opt-in" to receive emergency text messages from our school and district. For a quick summary of this system, including a few ways to ensure you receive the communications most efficiently, please press Ctrl and click on the link below:

http://www.verona.k12.wi.us/links/for_parents/information_about_schoolreach



IPADS FOR EVERY 4/5 NCS STUDENT

We are pleased to share the news that each of our 4th and 5th grade students will be issued an IPAD for their individual use throughout the school year. This is a district-wide effort. Thanks to contributions to the NCS Technology

fund, we have been able to purchase covers and recharging strips for the new IPADS. Our other 40 I pads, purchased by Site Council over the last two years, are now available to be shared between our K/1 and 2/3 classrooms. At NCS we will continue to strive to utilize technology as a valuable learning tool, maintain a balance with hands-on learning experiences, and avoid an undue over-reliance on technology.



6-DAY SPECIALS ROTATION

For a variety of reasons, the elementary schools will be piloting a 6-day cycle schedule for our Specials (Music, Art, PE, Library) this school year. Many other elementary schools in the area have opted for a similar schedule, as well as versions for our middle schools and high school. We will post on our NCS district web page what days your child's class will have gym, swimming, and library. Please consult the calendar if you need a reminder about when to return library books, when to send swim gear or gym shoes, etc. A huge bonus for NCS adopting the 6-day schedule is that we will now be able to schedule gym with Mr. Pedretti each odd day, (Days, 1, 3, 5). This will enable students to have PE two or THREE times per week, compared to having gym scheduled just twice a week each week in the past. Integrated Arts will be scheduled each even day. Thanks for bearing with this challenge. We are optimistic the change will help balance learning opportunities for students.



SCHOOL BREAKFAST IS FREE AGAIN

At NCS again this year, as well as at other schools in the district, breakfast is FREE to students. So, if you are having a rushed morning getting your child(ren) to school on time, be assured that they will be provided a free breakfast in their classroom when they arrive at school. It helps them get a good start to their day!



WHAT'S FOR SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND SCHOOL LUNCH TODAY?

Our district has a long history of putting our families first when it comes to school food service. That's why we've gone to online school menus which provide:

- More information about each food, including a photo and description, there's a menu website: <http://verona.nutrislice.com/>
- More convenience through a FREE Smartphone app for iPhone and Android, **School Lunch by Nutrislice**. <http://verona.nutrislice.com/mobile/>

You can still print a PDF of the menu by visiting the menus website above or by asking our school office to send home a paper copy.



FREE/REDUCED LUNCH APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE NOW

Even if you were approved for Free/Reduced lunch last year, you MUST reapply each year by completing a Free/Reduced Lunch application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for this school year.

We have paper copies available in the NCS office. You can also get a paper copy by going to the district website at www.verona.k12.wi.us and clicking on District Departments and then Child Nutrition Services and then Forms. Or you can get to the online form by clicking on the following link:

http://www.verona.k12.wi.us/district_departments/child_nutrition_services/forms

You will still have to print the form and turn it in to our NCS office or the Child Nutrition Office located at Badger Ridge Middle School. If you have questions, please call the district's Child Nutrition Office at (608) 845-4139. Please turn your form in as soon as possible so it can be processed and approved before the start of the school year. Thank you!



SAVE THE DATE: NCS FALL FESTIVAL ON OCT. 28 FROM 12:30-2:20 PM (PARENT VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED)



SCHOOL START & DISMISSAL TIME

This is a reminder that the school day begins at **7:45** am Tuesday through Friday, and **9:25** am on Mondays. That means that all students must be in their classroom and ready to learn at those times. Students who enter after that time will be marked Tardy. Please do your best to have your child(ren) on time each day. This will help both teachers and students to start each day smoothly. We allow the students to enter the building at 7:35am Tuesday through Friday and at 9:15 am on Mondays to enable them have time to get ready for class. So, getting them here at these earlier times is advisable.

School DISMISSAL TIME is 2:35 pm every day.



LATE START ON ALL MONDAYS

New Century School has late start on ALL Mondays during the school year. Please make sure this is noted on your calendar. On Mondays, the first bell rings at **9:15** am and school starts at **9:25** am.



ATTENDANCE LINE

The NCS Attendance Line is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please make sure that you **CALL the Attendance Line, (608) 845-4903, PRIOR TO THE START OF THE SCHOOL DAY**, if your child is ill, has an early morning appointment, or will be late arriving at school. When a call has not been received, for your child's safety, school staff will need to call you to find out the status of the student. Your call will save us time and we will not have to disturb you when you're caring for a sick child.



BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

NCS Back-to-School Night on Thursday Sept. 17 begins at 6:00 pm. Parents will meet in the Sugar Creek Step Room to kick off our evening. Then we will transition to the classrooms. We will be reviewing academic and behavioral expectations in the classroom and how families can support these expectations at home. Teachers will share the same information around 7:00 for families who may have other children across different grades. The evening will end around 7:20 pm. If you need to bring your children, supervision will be provided on the playground, weather permitting. Alternate activities will be provided indoors in the event of rain.



PICTURE DAY IS FRIDAY, SEPT. 4TH

Picture Day is Friday, September 4th. Brochures with picture packages and prices will go home with your child on the first day of school, so be sure to check your child's backpack. All students will have their individual picture taken, but there is no obligation to purchase the pictures. If you are interested in purchasing a picture package, it is suggested that you pay for your package when photos are taken by sending in with your child the order form and payment on Picture Day. However, if you do not indicate that you want to purchase a package, there will still be a photo proof page sent home several weeks after Picture Day. After you view the proof, you will have the option of purchasing. Remember, *purchase of any school photos is entirely optional.*

If your child misses school on Picture Day on Sept. 4th or you would like to have your child's picture retaken, we have Picture Retake Day on Oct. 9th.



ADULTS AND STUDENTS: PLEASE WALK BIKES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

For the safety of all students and families, school rules require all adults and children to get off and walk their bikes on school property. There is no riding of bicycles on school property. Thank you for adhering to this policy so we create a safe place on school grounds.



START AND END OF DAY ROAD SAFETY

It can be a very busy time dropping off and picking up your child(ren) at NCS. Of course, it is the most safe and convenient to park in front of NCS to drop off and pick up children. If you do end up parking across the street, please take the time to walk to the cross walk where the crossing guard can help you and your child(ren) cross safely. Jaywalking when you park across the street is very unsafe and should be avoided. We have had near accidents in the past due to jaywalking. So, please be safe by making sure you are **only crossing the street at the cross walk with the crossing guard.** Also, if you are pulling out into traffic, make sure there is ample distance for you to do so safely.



THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER GARDEN TENDERS!

Mary, Mary, quite contrary...how does the New Century School Garden grow?! It grows with the help of NCS volunteer families to tend to it during the summer months! A great big THANK YOU goes out to the families who tended our garden over this summer by watering it, weeding it, and harvesting it. You all did a great job!! Special thanks also to Isabel Agasie and Abby Jakowski for coordinating our volunteers!



AFTER-SCHOOL STEM THIS YEAR

Similar to last year, we are planning to offer three STEM sessions after school on Mondays, each 6-8 weeks long. We expect sign-ups to be available at Back-To-School Night on Sept. 16 with the first session to begin at the end of September or early October. We would also like to coordinate parent or volunteer-led after-school clubs, such as chess club, bicycling club, world language, music, arts or crafts, etc. If you have any such interests you would like share with a small group of NCS students, please contact Jim Ruder, Director.



CHECK OUT THE ONLINE NCS CALENDAR AND NCS GOOGLE PARENT CALENDAR!

A calendar with this year's updated NCS events will soon appear on the NCS web page on the district website, www.nccs.verona.k12.wi.us, under "Upcoming Events".

In addition, you will soon receive an email to have access to a **Google PARENT CALENDAR FOR NCS.**

These calendars will be updated continually throughout the year with school events. Some of these events will include swim and gym days, library days, Picture Day, Back to School Night, field trips, parent/teacher conferences, days

off of school, site council meetings, and so much more! We hope that this will make things easier for you!



HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT NCS POLICIES? CHECK OUT THE NCS FAMILY HANDBOOK ONLINE!

Do you have questions about attendance, parking, classroom parties, electronic devices at school, teacher conferences, or biking to school? The answers to these questions and so much more are found in the NCS Family Handbook. An updated one can soon be found on the NCS page of the district website. Go to www.nccs.verona.k12.wi.us and click on the small black circle, "For Parents."



ONLY ONE NCS SUMMER PLAY DATE LEFT ON AUGUST 27!! DON'T MISS THE FUN!

If you are new to NCS or have been here for a while and are looking for some fun time to connect with other NCS parents and students over the summer, we have one more school-wide play date left for you to attend! Come and join us:

Where? NCS Playground

Who? NCS parents, students & siblings

When? Thursday, August 27th

Time? from 6:00-7:00 pm

Why? Meet friends, old and new, and have fun!

(Notice: There will be NO access to school bathrooms or water fountains inside the school during these times.)



NCS SWIMMING LESSONS AT THE NATATORIUM START SEPT. 3rd

Swimming lessons for New Century Charter School students in grades K through 5 will begin Thursday, September 3rd (for some NCS classes) and finish on Thursday, October 22nd, 2015. Check the schedule below for your child's class.

All students will be bussed to the Natatorium for swimming lessons and back to NCS after they have finished. The school district provides towels for students. Students are permitted to wear their own swimming suits under the following guidelines:

1. The style must be appropriate for swimming.
2. We ask that parents provide some type of plastic bag to store their child's suit in. (Wet suits will cause locker damage.)
3. Children forgetting to bring their suit and plastic bag on their swimming day will be required to wear a suit provided by the Natatorium on that day.

Swimming caps or a ponytail with an elastic band are required for students with hair that is shoulder length or longer. Students may bring caps from home or purchase them (silicone cap) at the pool for \$2.75. Students who would like to use goggles are encouraged to bring their own because the Natatorium has a very small supply and will not have enough to lend to a large number of students.

Below is the swimming schedule. Please note the day your child's class is swimming so you can help them to be prepared for that day. If you have additional questions about the swimming program, please feel free to contact the NCS office at (608) 845-4905.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We have a great need for volunteers to help the K/1 students with transitions before and after their swim time. If you have a child in K/1 and are interested in volunteering, please call Abby Jakowski at (608) 216-6455 or email her at abby.jakowski@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT: GYM SHOES ARE REQUIRED STARTING THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL BECAUSE WE WILL ALSO BE DOING PHYS. ED. SOME DAYS IN THE GYM DURING OUR SWIM UNIT. THIS WILL HAPPEN THE 1ST DAY OF SCHOOL.

SWIM SCHEDULE:

The bus will load about 5 minutes before the printed times and leave NCS at the printed times below:

Sept. 3, 8, 16, 22, and 30

Oct. 8, 16, and 20:

Mr. Lohr's class: 8:00 am

Mrs. Klawiter's class: 9:00 am

Ms. Austen's class: 10:00 am

Sept. 10, 18, and 24

Oct. 2, 6, 14, and 22:

Mrs. Konop's class: 8:00 am

Mr. Gundlach's class: 9:00 am

Mrs. Schneider's class: 10:00 am



GO ONLINE NOW TO SEE UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

You will no longer be receiving district-wide fliers in your child's Friday folder... The Verona Area School District offers school-related groups or community non-profit organizations the opportunity to provide information/dates to families about upcoming community activities that fit within the district's mission. To eliminate some unwanted emails or countless district-wide fliers being sorted by teachers and sent home with elementary students, it is our district's continued focus to:

- reduce paper
- reduce staff time
- reduce printing costs
- allow for MORE local organizations to post great things happening in our communities for your family ALL IN ONE SPOT!

Visit the VASD website at:

www.verona.k12.wi.us/communityactivities
to see year-round activities or to inquire about posting a new one!

Please note that NCS teachers will continue to send classroom-specific items home and NCS will continue to send school-related items home in Friday folders.