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Marcel Baker • Principal

August 1, 2021

Dear Natomas Middle School Families,

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year and welcome to the Mighty Panther Nation! I am Marcel Baker, proud principal of Natomas Middle School. None of us could have imagined us having the school year we just had. I am happy to say that staff and scholars rose to the occasion to make the best of the situation. We are looking forward to having our scholars back on campus to start the school year on August 12th.

I love, love, love the diversity of our school and the Natomas community, which is why I purchased a home here. So, if you see me in the neighborhood, stop and say hello. I would like to meet as many of you as possible. I want to especially welcome our incoming 6th graders and all new scholars to the Mighty Panther Nation! I am excited to meet each of you and get to know you during the school year.

At Natomas Middle School, we follow what we call "The Panther Way". Living the Panther Way means to Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be a Problem Solver. Many of our scholars showed responsibility and problem solving last school year as we navigated distance learning together, small cohort learning, in-person learning, and summer math/robotics camp for some. And our scholars also used the chromebook devices in a respectful way.

We are excited to keep building a positive culture as we focus on kindness towards one another this year. One of our priorities this year is to take care of ourselves while we take care of each other. The last 18 months have been a challenge for many of us physically and mentally. It will be important for us to have patience with one another as we transition into this school year and treat each other with kindness and respect.

As an International Baccalaureate (IB) school, Natomas Middle School focuses on helping our scholars develop a love for learning. The IB framework helps support our scholars, teachers, and families to ensure academic success and develop global learners. This puts our scholars on a path to success in high school and beyond. NUSD and Natomas Middle School's top priority for this next school year is the safety and continued education of our scholars. All scholars will be back on campus in person and with our regular schedule. Although we no longer need to socially distance, all scholars and staff are required by our county health department to wear a mask indoors at all times. scholars are free to play outside without a mask! We will also

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continue to work on our 18-Month Plan. This board approved plan addresses the needs of our scholars who may have had their learning disrupted due to the pandemic. Throughout the school year we will provide targeted interventions for scholars.

Our goal is to make Natomas Middle School a great school for all scholars. In order for this to happen, we need your help and support. We have many ways for parents to get involved; participate in the PTSA, ELAC (English Learners Advisory Council), or SSC (School Site Council). We want and need the support of parents/guardians. Please look for our weekly announcements and opportunities to participate in events.

For the 2021-22 school year, we will be going back to our normal bell schedule, which is as follows:

Bell Schedule

Lunch A

Per 1- 8:30-9:21

Per 2- 9:24-10:14

Per 3- 10:17-11:07

Per 4- 11:10-12:00

Lunch 12:00-12:35

Per 5- 12:38-1:28

Per 6- 1:31-2:21

Per 7- 2:24- 3:15

Lunch B

Per 1- 8:30-9:21

Per 2- 9:24-10:14

Per 3- 10:17-11:07

Per 4- 11:10-12:00

Per 5- 12:03-12:53

Lunch 12:53-1:28

Per 6- 1:31-2:21

Per 7- 2:24-3:15

Supervision in the morning starts at 7:45AM. Please do not drop scholars off before then.

Our school office is open. **If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at (916) 567-5540. You can also check out our Digital Backpack on our school website [NMS Digital Backpack](#).** I look forward to meeting and working with each of you this school year as we continue to take strides to make NMS a great school!

In the spirit of service,

Principal Baker

Follow Principal Baker on Twitter [@ThePantherWay](#) and on Facebook [@NatomasMiddleSchool](#) to get daily updates on school site information, upcoming events, and Panther activities.

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