



Dear Panther Families,

Welcome back to our returning NMS panther students, and a warm welcome to our new Natomas Middle School students. Despite the challenges we have all faced this past year, we want to assure you of our commitment to creating a positive, collaborative, and creative environment as well as tending to each other's social and emotional well-being as we demonstrate patience, caring and kindness for one another. We are eager to engage our students in learning and achievement to help them develop and grow!

Our NMS Panthers will be able to attend our **Priority Fall Check-In** events. More information on dates and times will be sent to our families as we get closer to the start of the school year. During this time, students and families will receive their course lists, be able to check out textbooks, submit documents, and get connected through Infinite Campus and Parent Square. All documents and directions will be available on our website and can be completed by parents/guardians at home for students to bring to Check-In or drop off during our **Enrollment Nights- on 7/26, 8/2, 8/7 from 5-7pm.**

Areas of Focus:

At Natomas Middle School, we are an IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) School focused on using inquiry to engage students in authentic learning. We also continue to utilize many inclusive practices: Restorative Justice, Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS), Team Teaching, and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) strategies to connect with our students. As part of our learning community, we want all students engaged in our school through world language, athletics, art, or music. We are excited to continue our many traditions, support student achievement, and maintain a school culture of acceptance and academics with a focus on literacy through writing.

Important Dates and Information:

- Class list and middle school schedules will be finalized and available in Infinite Campus (IC) Friday, August 4th by 7pm.
 - If you do not have an IC account set up yet, you can find instructions on how to do that by going to these [Parent Instructions](#).
 - If you have already set up an account, but do not remember your login information, you can click "forgot password" to retrieve your password. For more help: Visit natomasunified.org/icportal; contact your school; or email: icportal@natomasunified.org.
 - **Parent Square:** We are excited to have one primary single communication platform to connect and engage with our families throughout the district. Our families expressed a desire for the district to simplify its means of communication to help them keep up with all the communications received from their school sites, teachers, and district office. More information is available at this link: [Parent Square](#)

Early Orientation Days

- 6th Grade School Orientation/Schedule Pick-up (in-person): August 3, 9:00am-11:00am
- 7th Grade School Orientation/Schedule Pick-up (in-person): August 3, 1:00pm-3:00pm
- 8th Grade School Orientation/Schedule Pick-up (in-person): August 4, 9:00am-11:00am
 - Tours for new students will run every 30 minutes (on the half hour and top of the hour during the orientation blocks).

First day of school: Thursday, August 10th. Instruction starts daily for all grades at **8:30am**. Gates will open at 7:50am. Information on how the first day will work along with supply lists will be emailed home in the weeks prior to the start of the year. Please also mark your calendars for **Back to School Night on September 19, 2023 from 6:30-8:00pm**.

Immunizations: Please remember that regular childhood immunizations are required by the State of California unless your child has a medical exemption. If your child does not have current immunizations NUSD offers free immunizations [click here](#) for more information.

Attendance: Attending school regularly helps scholars feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in 6th grade so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Eventually good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed in high school and college. Scholars can still fall behind if they miss just 1 or 2 days every few weeks. Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder for a scholar to learn and retain information. Being late or absent to school can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help tardy scholars catch up. So, please make sure that your scholar is at school every day and on time everyday.

For access to updated information about Natomas Middle School, you may also access the Digital Backpack by following this link: [Digital Backpack](#):

Our office opens for the new school year on July 31, 2023 at 1:00 pm. If you need support prior to July 31, 2023, please feel free to contact NUSD Constituent and Customer Service or refer to the NMS Digital Backpack (located on the NUSD website) for resources and information. Beginning Tuesday, August 1, our office will be open from 8:15am to 4:15pm daily and can be contacted by calling 916-567-5540. Again, welcome to the 2023-2024 school year!

Sincerely,



Erik Jones
Proud Principal of Natomas Middle School