



Message from the Lead Stinger

Dear Parents/Guardian and Yellow Jackets,

Welcome back to the 2009-2010 school year. Hopefully, you've had a restful and enjoyable summer and are ready to return for another exciting year at Northwestern Middle School. I look forward to the challenge of another year and the opportunity to work with you.

First, I would like to congratulate all of you on a great job for the past school year. Data shows that discipline numbers were down significantly and some FCAT scores were maintained or improved from the previous year. As we begin this journey, our focus "**Every Class...Every Child... Everyday**" is student engagement and staff development. This will improve the performance of our students on high stakes testing for this year. You will receive additional information regarding test dates and improvement strategies during Open House.

Just as a reminder... students should arrive at school no

earlier than 9:15 a.m., and dismissal is at 4:00 p.m. This year we will be returning to a seven period hybrid school day, which will provide additional time for instruction. Elective classes offered this year will include: *Band for all grade levels, Art, Music, Technology, and Student Aide for eighth grade students only.*

All students will receive a copy of the student code of conduct for Duval County Schools. It's imperative that every parent/guardian take time to read and discuss this very important document with his/her child. By doing this, both you and your child will become familiar with expectations set forth by the Duval County School Board, and the consequences that will be used to enforce those expectations. Please sign the signature page once you have read and discussed it and have your child return the signature page to his/her homeroom teacher.

Here at Northwestern each

student will receive a copy of the Dress Code Policy. We expect all students be in full compliance on the first day of school. Parents needing assistance or clarification can call the office at 924-3100.

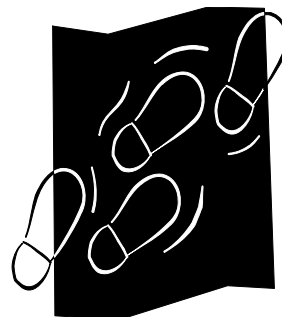
I look forward to working with you and your child during the upcoming school year. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions or concerns. Working together, we will develop a positive working relationship between the home and school to provide your child with the best opportunity to be a successful student at Northwestern Middle School. Thanks for your support.

Sincerely,
R. E. Gresham, Principal

SOLE DESTINATION

From "A Change We Believe In" to our sole destination... "Commitment." This school year we're starting with the end in mind: *Positive Results!* Committed to **Every Class...Every Child... Everyday.**

We believed in a change. We're committed to the cause. Student achievement, our number one priority.



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STUDENT ORIENTATION

Saturday, August 22, 2009

6th Grade

10:00—11:30 a.m.

7th & 8th Grade

11:30—1:30 p.m.

BRIDGE THE GAP

Parents, did you know this summer the Superintendent and Duval County Schools offered a **FREE** two week summer bridge designed to equip your student with a host of fundamental math and study skills? Making the transition from elementary school to middle school can present some significant challenges. The school is new to the students and some of the academic expectations are a little more demanding. As many of you know, Algebra is one of the most important courses in the life of any middle and high school student. We believe in providing students with the skills they will need to be successful in any course so don't miss another opportunity of other **FREE** educational Resources that parents and students may be unaware of.

A comprehensive list of resources is available at www.duvalschools.org and the "student" button, but some of our favorites are listed below.

FCAT Explorer: <http://www.fcatexplorer.com>

Student practice and parent resources for FCAT.

Login: Last Name + First Initial (example: jonesk)

Password: 16 + First four letters of Last Name + 2 digit birth month + 2 digit birth day (example: 16jone0723)

DO NOT USE SPACES WHEN LOGGING IN

Explore Learners - GIZMOS:

<http://www.explorelearning.com/>

Available for all students grades 6-8

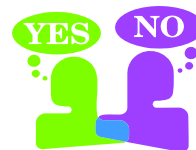
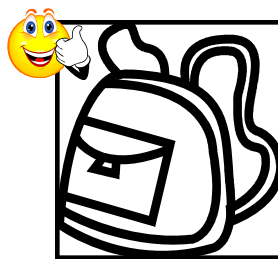
Math and Science GIZMOS are designed to help students develop a deep and lasting understanding of key concepts in math and science through inquiry and exploration.



NMS BACK TO SCHOOL POLICY

In an effort to continue promoting excellence at NMS the dress code will be in full effect. It will be mandatory for male students to tuck their shirts in while on campus and high heel shoes are prohibited for female students. **All NMS students are required to have a clear or mesh backpack to carry all school supplies.** Yellow Jacket I.D. badges must be worn at all times while on campus.

"All NMS students are required to have a clear or mesh backpack to carry all school supplies."



YELLOW JACKETS KICKING OFF TO ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

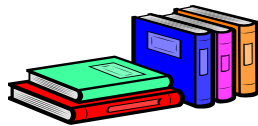




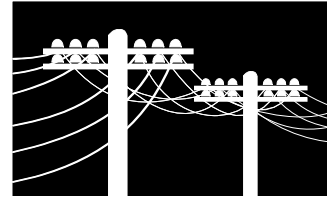
CONNECTED POWER

NMS welcomes new “EDUCARERS” who have joined the committed connection to educate Every Class...Every Child... Everyday.

Mr. Wright	Band Instructor
Ms. Sheldon	ELA
Ms. Bryant	Math Coach
Ms. Graverholt	ELA
Ms. Halsey	Instructional Coach
Ms. Falduti	Social Studies
Ms. Tisby	Bookkeeper
Mr. Coney	Head Football Coach
Ms. Briggs	Media Clerk
Ms. Clark	ESE



Welcome New Yellow Jackets!



A COMMITTED HOUSE

Having new leaders to ensure that motivation and the investment in learning of students will be enhanced as a result of school reform is inevitable. NMS is committed to providing an environment that nurtures educational motivation from the classroom to the House Administrators office and throughout the entire school. We believe one of the most effective avenues for engendering student motivation is a school's culture. Newly appointed House Administrator Ms. Laquitrice Mosely will accompany Ms. Vivian Forshee. Administrator of school curriculum is Mrs. Cassandra Thomas. Each person in their respected role has proven to be an “EDUCARER” and is Committed to **Every Class...Every Child...Everyday.**



Have You Finished Your Summer Reading?

Reading is fundamental. If you haven't finished your summer reading it's not too late. Stay on target for the new school year. Complete your reading assignments as soon as possible.



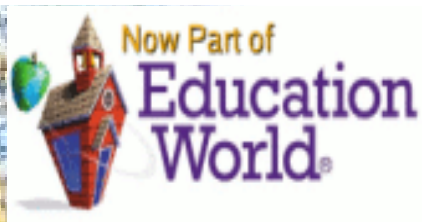
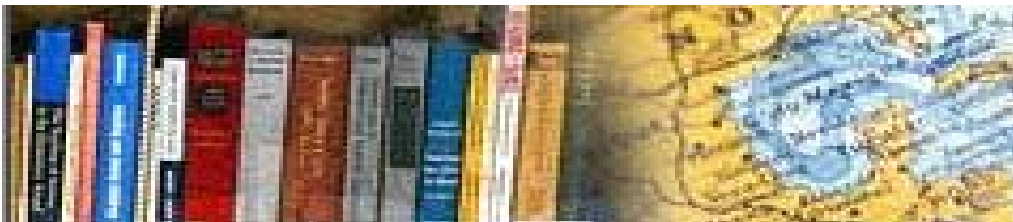
NMS Summer Reading List

6th Grade
Uncle Tom's Cabin

7th Grade
The Story of Blima

8th Grade
The Story of Frederick Douglas





SCHOOLNOTES.COM

<http://www.schoolnotes.com>

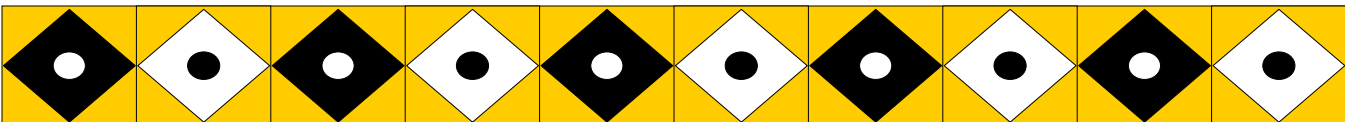


Teachers can Create Notes for homework and class information

and post them on the web in seconds using this **FREE** community service.

Parents and Students can view notes from your teachers

by entering your School ZIP Code.



To reach excellence you must first be a leader of good character.

NMS CHARACTER TRAITS

- Cooperative*
- Hard-working*
- Kind*
- Helpful*
- Motivating*
- Loyal*
- Trusting*
- and*

"INVESTED IN BUILDING EXCELLENCE"

