



# Northwoods Fine Arts Academy

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Laura Hamilton, Principal

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Hello Northwoods Families,

On behalf of the Northwoods staff, I welcome everyone to the 2023-2024 school year! I hope you have had a wonderful summer, whether you went on vacation or stayed home and enjoyed the time to recharge. I cannot believe that another year is right around the corner. I would like to give a special welcome to our new students joining the Northwoods family this year. We are excited for you to be part of such an incredible school.

For those of you who are new to Northwoods, my name is Laura Hamilton and I have had the honor of serving as Principal of Northwoods for the last eight years and my 15th year as a Sandite. I am the proud mom of two wonderful and spunky girls. Peityn will be a sophomore at Charles Page High School and Harper will be in 3rd grade at Northwoods. My favorite part of each school day is greeting the children as they walk into the building. I consider myself very lucky to be able to partner with you to work as a team during your child's elementary years.

I am joined by Stephanie McAllister, School Counselor, who will be entering her sixth year at Northwoods, 14th year as a Sandite, and 22nd year in education. Mrs. McAllister, her husband, Rob, and two children, Trent and Tori all graduated from Charles Page High School. Her dedication to our students is undeniable. Mrs. McAllister is looking forward to spending time with your child during guidance classes and building relationships daily. You will not find a bigger advocate for your child than Mrs. McAllister.

I am beyond thrilled to announce that we will have a Dean of Students at Northwoods this year. This is an amazing opportunity to have additional support for you and your child. I am excited to announce that Taylor Grippando will be our Dean. Many of you will remember her as one of our fabulous teachers and now we have an amazing opportunity for her to support our school in a new capacity. Mrs. Grippando is entering her sixth year in education, all of which has been as a Sandite. Mrs. Grippando is an outstanding addition to our administration team at Northwoods.

At Northwoods Fine Arts Academy we believe that it takes a partnership with parents, students, staff, and the community to challenge, inspire, and empower our students to their highest potential. At Northwoods, we believe that it "takes a village". As always, an open line of communication between school and home is vital for the success of our students. I encourage families to stay connected through ClassTag, newsletters, Parent/Teacher Conferences, and a variety of school events.

We hope to see everyone at Meet and Greet on August 17th. Kindergarten through 2nd grade are scheduled to attend 3pm-4pm and 3rd-5th are scheduled to attend 4pm-5pm. Due to Northwoods having over 525 students enrolled, we suggest that each grade come at their assigned times solely so that we are able to accommodate that number of people in the building. We obviously know that schedules are tight, and we will be able to work around the scheduled times. During Meet and Greet you will be able to sign up for PTO, receive your child's required car rider tag, receive information about the after-school program, DayBreak Family Services, Title I information, and of course, find out your child's homeroom teacher.

If you have not enrolled your child, please do so quickly so that we are able to accommodate class sizes. Frequently asked questions regarding "Back to School" can be found [here](#). We look forward to an extraordinary school year!



*Laura Hamilton*  
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