



CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL
CHARTER SCHOOL

Melcome New Pumas! You Belong HERE

Welcome to Northtown!

By Principal Garcia





Northtown Leadership Team

Mr. Fusco, Assistant Principal



Mr. Santiago, Assistant Principal



Ms. McBride, Instructional Coach & Athletic Director



Mr. Kattan, Instructional Coach



Ms. Glaser,
Multilingual Education
Coordinator



Northtown Highlights



CICS Northtown Academy has a rich 23-year history



College Acceptance Rate

\$18.5 MILLION

The amount of scholarship money earned by the Class of 2025

40

Members of the Class of 2025 received the Seal of Biliteracy or Commendation NTA Pumas receive College Credits through Dual Enrollment, Dual Credit and AP classes. 44

Number of languages and dialects spoken at home by our families

Northtown Highlights



Number of current staff members that graduated from CICS Northtown Academy



Counselors



Social Workers



Full Time Nurse



Deans



Number of clubs and organizations at NTA

Sports Teams:

- Volleyball
- Soccer
- Basketball
- FlagFootball
- Baseball
- Softball
- Track and field
- Bowling*
- Golf*
- Wrestling*

Our cafeteria
offers both
Kosher and
Halal meal
options





END OF THE DAY RAFFLE



Today's orientation is designed to increase your knowledge of Northtown Academy.

Pay attention, ask questions, and take notes because there will be a "Northtown Quiz" at the end of the day.

Passing the "Quiz" will enter you into a raffle for a FREE Northtown T-shirt





Preparedness, Achievement, Timely and Humanity

This results in students earn a passing grade in all of their courses and higher scores on the ACT and PreACT.

ACT & PreACT Ready

The PreACT Test is a digital, multiple-choice exam that prepares 9th and 10th Grade students for the 11th Grade ACT.

 The PreACT will be administered to freshmen and sophomores in the Spring and there will be practice assessments in the fall and winter.

The best preparation for PreACT greatness is being at school every day, completing all assignments and asking questions.



Attendance is Important!

Being at school daily is necessary to engage in class instruction. When your student misses school, they fall behind.
Students who are absent often struggle to find a sense of community within school.

 At CICS Northtown Academy, students who earn more than 20 absences in a course, during the school year, will receive an incomplete "INC" for the course and will be required to take a credit recovery course to "unlock" credit.





Attend all classes on time!

- Be on time to maximize your learning time
 - 5 minute passing periods
- Leads to earning As and Bs in all of your classes to stay on track for Graduation
- Students in the halls during class time need to have hall passes at all times





Bell Schedules

Regular Day			WEDNESDAYS 1:30pm Dismissal				
Period	Start	End	Minutes	Period	Start	End	Minutes
1	8:00 AM	8:50 AM	50	1	8:00 AM	8:30 AM	30
Advisory	8:55 AM	9:05 AM	10	Advisory	8:35 AM	9:25 AM	50
2	9:10 AM	10:00 AM	50	2	9:30 AM	10:00 AM	30
3	10:05 AM	10:55 AM	50	3	10:05 AM	10:35 AM	30
4/Lunch	11:00 AM	11:50 AM	50	4/Lunch	10:40 AM	11:10 AM	30
5/Lunch	11:55 AM	12:45 PM	50	5/Lunch	11:15 AM	11:45 AM	30
6/Lunch	12:50 PM	1:40 PM	50	6/Lunch	11:50 AM	12:20 PM	30
7	1:45 PM	2:35 PM	50	7	12:25 PM	12:55 PM	30
8	2:40 PM	3:30 PM	50	8	1:00 PM	1:30 PM	30



Advisory

- A daily class in which a student remains with the same group of students and the same Advisors during their 4 years at Northtown to build strong relationships.
 - Your advisory teachers are your advocates and are your trusted adults
- During advisory, your teacher will guide you through different activities designed to help you be more thoughtful and reflective as a student and as a classmate.
 - 10 minutes daily & 50 minutes every Wednesday



Puma Safety Zone

Student safety is our highest priority. There are Puma Safety Zones at the Main Entrance as well as in the Gym Lobby. Each safety zone has 2 sets of metal detectors and xray machines.

- Students walk through the metal detectors and place their belongings on the conveyor belt removing their technology from their bags to be scanned in the xray machines.
- Since classes begin at 8:00am, students must arrive to Northtown early to ensure they have enough time to move through the Safety Zone.
 - 9th and 11th graders enter through the gym lobby.
 - 10th and 12th graders enter through the main entrance.



Dress Code - UPDATED!

Students must dress appropriately, with an appearance that does not disrupt the educational process or compromise health and safety.

At CICS Northtown Academy, our staff and students are committed to building a school community that is safe, inclusive, and respectful of the diverse identities that make up our Puma family. Students are encouraged to express their individuality and personal style in ways that are appropriate for a learning environment and that support a culture of focus and professionalism. When questions arise regarding the appropriateness of student attire, the school administration will serve as the final authority in determining any violations of the dress code.





The following clothing items are regulated or prohibited in school:

- 1. Any article or apparel which depicts or refers to alcohol, drugs, tobacco, gang/cult or obscenities, and/or promotes acts of violence, self-destruction, or sexually explicit/objectifying behavior.
- 2. Any article or apparel which contributes to the creation of a hostile, offensive, or intimidating environment based on race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, gender, or sexual orientation.
- 3. Apparel that does not provide full coverage, with opaque fabric (non-transparent) of genitals, buttocks, breasts and nipples.

- 4. Undergarments and swimwear (e.g. boxer shorts, sports bras, bralettes, bras, underwear, bathing suits) may not be worn as visible articles of clothing.
- 5. Headwear (including hoods or hats) must not obstruct the face or ears, interfere with a student's or staff member's ability to see or be seen, compromise identification, disrupt academic integrity, or interfere with the learning environment.
 - Exceptions are made for:
 Religious headwear
 Medically necessary head coverings (with administrative approval)
- 6. Any articles of clothing or accessories that may be considered dangerous or disruptive to the educational process.

Important Medical Paperwork for New Students

REQUIRED:

- An Illinois State physical examination dated after September 2024
- A Dental Examination dated after September 2024

OPTIONAL:

- Students who may want to be in sports need an Illinois Sports Examination
- Any students new to Illinois got the first time attending school need to provide an eye exam

These forms are available at the Welcome Table and on the Northtown website. Most providers have these forms.

Turn the forms in to Nurse Gidget, the school nurse, the first week of school.





Meet our Freshmen Teachers



Math

Mr. Tomlinson Math



Ms. Hayes **Social Studies**



Mr. Lalich English



Mr. Lindburg Art



Meet our Freshmen Teachers



Mr. Mackic

P.E.

Mr. McGannon P.E.



Mr. Strybel Science



Ms. Rosario English



Mx. Ruby Social Studies



Meet our Freshmen Teachers



Art

Mr. Hernandez Band



Mr. Willert Science



First & Second Day of School SPECIAL BELL SCHEDULE

Longer Advisory Start					
Period	Start	End	Minutes		
Advisory	8:00 AM	8:50 AM	50		
1	8:55 AM	9:40 AM	45		
2	9:45 AM	10:30 AM	45		
3	10:35 AM	11:20 AM	45		
4/Lunch	11:25 AM	12:10 PM	45		
5/Lunch	12:15 PM	1:00 PM	45		
6/Lunch	1:05 PM	1:50 PM	45		
7	1:55 PM	2:40 PM	45		
8	2:45 PM	3:30 PM	45		

Schedules & Chromebooks

Longer Advisory Start

Period	Start	End	Minutes
Advisory	8:00 AM	8:50 AM	50
1	8:55 AM	9:40 AM	45
2	9:45 AM	10:30 AM	45
3	10:35 AM	11:20 AM	45
4/Lunch	11:25 AM	12:10 PM	45
5/Lunch	12:15 PM	1:00 PM	45
6/Lunch	1:05 PM	1:50 PM	45
7	1:55 PM	2:40 PM	45
8	2:45 PM	3:30 PM	45

- Freshmen and all new and returning students will receive schedules in Advisory on 1st day of school
- Freshmen and all new students will receive chromebook and chargers on 2nd day of school during Advisory

Your teachers will:

- Hold you to a high standard
- Communicate how to achieve that standard
- Provide opportunity to meet and exceed that standard

What your teachers expect from you:

Effort

Communication

Mutual Respect

Freshmen Courses & Electives

- Every Freshman at Northtown Academy will have an Advisory class, 7 courses and 1 lunch period each day.
 - 1. English
 - 2. Math
 - 3. Human Geography
 - 4. Science
 - 5. Wellness (Health and PE 1)
 - 6. Elective Period
 - 7. Elective Period
- Class placement is dependent on 8th Grade data and assessment scores (IXL, MAP, ACCESS, Grades)

Freshman Electives

What are the Freshman Elective Courses?

Freshmen at Northtown Academy have the opportunity to explore a variety of engaging electives designed to spark creativity and build foundational skills. Options include Art I, which introduces basic techniques and artistic expression; Beginner Band, where students learn to play an instrument and perform as a group; Intro to Tech, focusing on computer literacy and digital tools; and Public Speaking, which builds confidence and communication skills.

These courses allow students to discover new interests while developing essential academic and personal growth skills.

All courses listed below are semester long classes.

Freshman Electives

ART 1

Art 1 is an introductory studio class in which artists will experiment with various art mediums while developing their creative problem solving skills. Based on the philosophy of Teaching for Artistic Behaviors (TAB), the class offers a variety of student choices in exploring the foundations of art and principles of design.

BEGINNING BAND

This class is open to students with any amount of musical background. This class focuses on learning the fundamentals of playing Modern Band instruments (guitar, keyboards, drums). This class also includes an introduction to music theory. This class is designed to provide musicians with the underlying grammar and syntax of musical structure and prepare them to perceive that structure with both the ear and the eye.

INTRODUCTION TO TECHNOLOGY

Learn how to navigate the online world and apply technology to academics. Students in this course learn about how to best protect themselves on the internet, learn how the world wide web functions, and research trustworthy information online.

Peek ahead to the future of technology and start to understand the role of technology in your lives. This course also walks students on how to use Google Drive and basics of presentations and speech.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The number one fear for most people is public speaking. This class will not only talk about how to overcome this fear, but will help you become a confident public speaker. We will give impromptu speeches, research speeches, group speeches, and persuasive speeches.

Scan & Complete the Freshman Elective Request Google Form



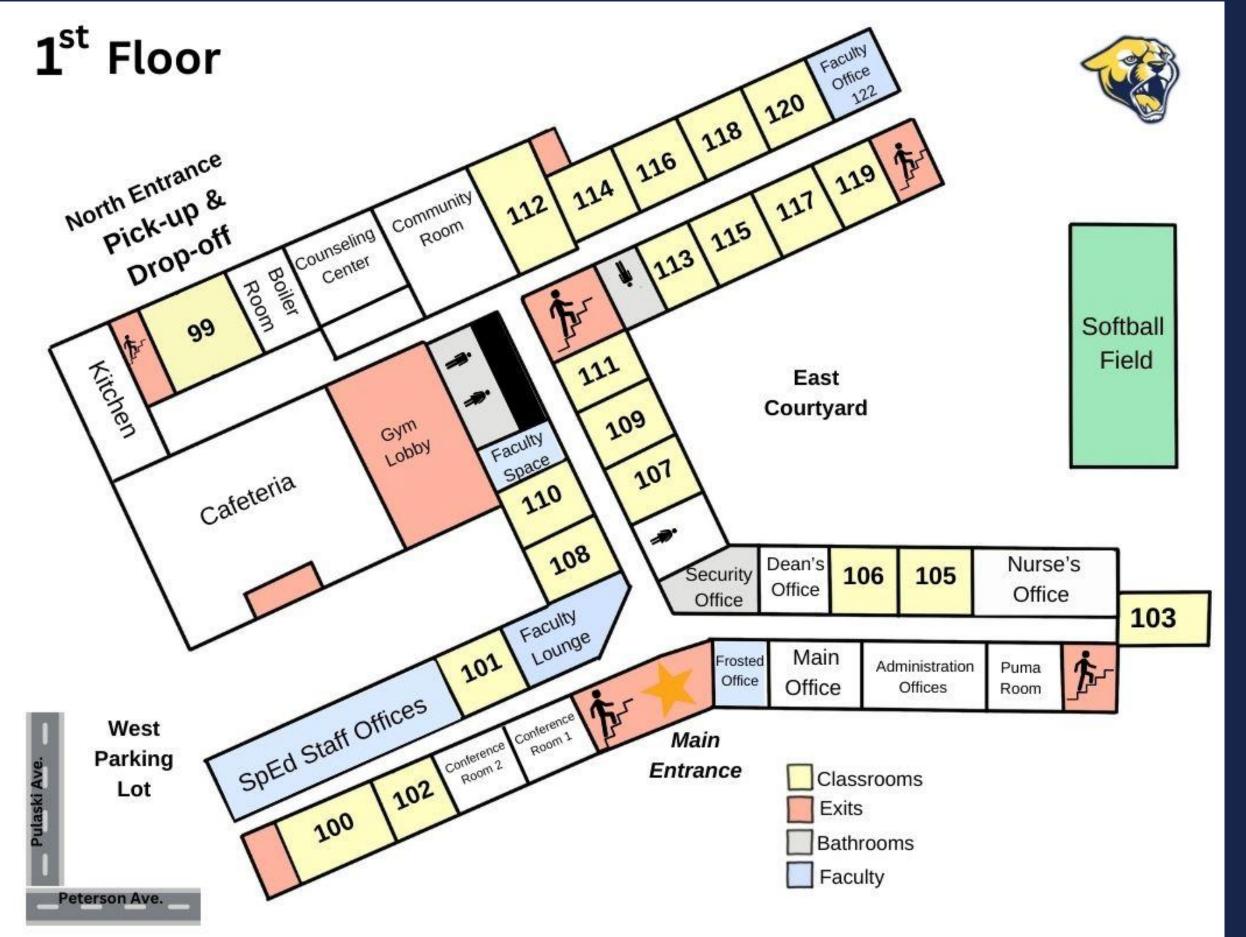
Supplies for Freshmen

- 1 inch binder
- 8 plastic folders
- pencils (pack of 30)
- black and blue pens (pack of 36)
- highlighter (1 pack)
- scientific calculator (Ti-84 recommended)
- paper (1 pack of 200 sheets)
- 4 spiral notebooks
- pencil pouch
- 1 box of standard sized ziploc bags
- 1 pair of wired headphones

Time	Activity	Audience	Location
1:00-1:10	Welcome, Sign-in & Name Tags - All students and families go to Gym	Everyone	Gym lobby & Gym
1:10-1:50	Welcome to Northtown - NTA Highlights (ILT) - The NTA Way (ILT) - What to expect as a Freshman (Staff) - Freshmen Courses & Electives	Everyone	Gym
1:50-2:00	NTA Passport Session Introduction Session A: Student & Staff Panel (Gym) Session B: Campus Life, Athletics and Clubs (Cafeteria) Session C: School Tour Session D: Parent/Caregiver Coffee with the Admin (Community Room)	Everyone	Gym
2:00-3:30	New Student NTA Passport Session Rotations begin based on Group Color Rotation 1: 2:00-2:20 Rotation 2: 2:20-2:40 Rotation 3: 2:40-3:00 Rotation 4: 3:00-3:20	New Puma Students	Gym & around NTA
2:00-2:30	Session D: Parent/Caregiver Coffee with Admin	Parents/ Caregivers	Gym
2:30-3:30	Parent/Caregiver Main Office & School Tour	Parents/ Caregivers	NTA
3:30-3:50	Mix & Mingle	Everyone	Gym
3:50-4:00	Thank You & Raffle opportunity	Everyone	Gym

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What will you learn more about?

There are 3 Passport Sessions for Students:

Session A: Student & Staff Panel in Community Room (20 min)

Session B: Campus Life, Athletics and Clubs in Cafeteria (20 min)

Session C: School Tour (40 mins)

Session D:

Parent/Caregiver Coffee with Ms. Garcia in Gym

ROTATIONS

We divided the next hour into four 20-minute rotations. Each group is assigned a different passport session for each rotation:

Rotation 1: 2:00 - 2:20

Rotation 2: 2:20-2:40

Rotation 3: 2:40-3:00

Rotation 4: 3:00-3:20

Each student is assigned to: Group Yellow, Group Green, or Group Blue

Rotation 1: 2:00 - 2:20

Rotation 2: 2:20-2:40

Rotation 3: 2:40-3:00

Rotation 4: 3:00-3:20

All parents/caregivers will stay in the Gym.













Campus Life Leaders

- Campus Life is a class led by Ms. Bargielowski and Ms. Gladstein for student leaders to help promote school spirit and plan fun activities throughout the school year
- Typically, juniors and seniors are in this class and must apply to this class. We are looking for hard working students that are detail oriented, creative, and work well with others.

Campus Life

The Campus Life Leaders plan fun events for students such as:

- Homecoming
- Pep Rallies
- Spirit Weeks
- Appreciation Weeks
- Students of the Month
- Halloween Costume Contest
- Bulletin Boards
- Student Instagram Page

Follow us on Social Media!

Athletics

Girls Volleyball- Coach Tomlinson, Coach Cristi, Coach McBride

Girls Flag Football-

Boys Soccer- Coach Auger, Coach Velazquez

Girls Basketball- Coach Gray, Coach Zaffaroni, Coach Bryant, Coach Haynes

Boys Basketball- Coach Hanna, Coach Kattan, Coach Leonard

Track- Coach Arreguin

Athletics

Softball- Coach Rivera, Coach Rosario, Coach Gray

Baseball- Coach Zaffaroni

Boys Volleyball- Coach Tomlinson, Coach Cristi

Girls Soccer- Coach Velazquez

Theatre

Classes | Shows | Competitions | School Events | Partnerships | Honors | Society



Directors:

Mrs. Kulig ("RK")
LKULIG@CICSNORTHTOWN.ORG

Mr. Kulig

MKULIG@CICSNORTHTOWN.ORG



Follow on Instagram:

@NTAThespians

Website:

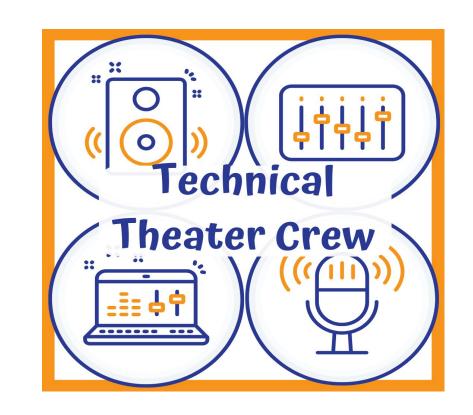




Theatre







2 Course Options:

Acting I Production & Direction

Earn High School & College Credits

Juniors and Seniors, See Your Counselor!

School Events & Shows

Sound | Lighting | Crew Stage & House Management Set Building | Props Costumes | Makeup & Hair

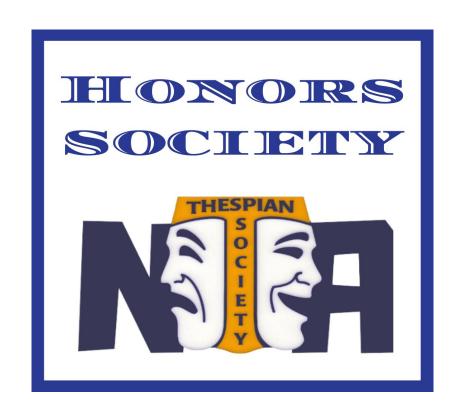
Assemblies - Pep Rallies - Shows - Special Events



Theatre







Next Show: Fall Festival

Technicians & Performers

Info Meeting: Th. 8/21 Auditions: Th. 9/4 & 9/11

All paperwork due at auditions.

International Thespian Society

Earn Points & Ranks
by participating and doing excellent work

Qualify for Special Honors: scholarships, leadership positions, regalia

Honors Follow You!

recognized by professional unions & guilds

Northtown Clubs & Activities

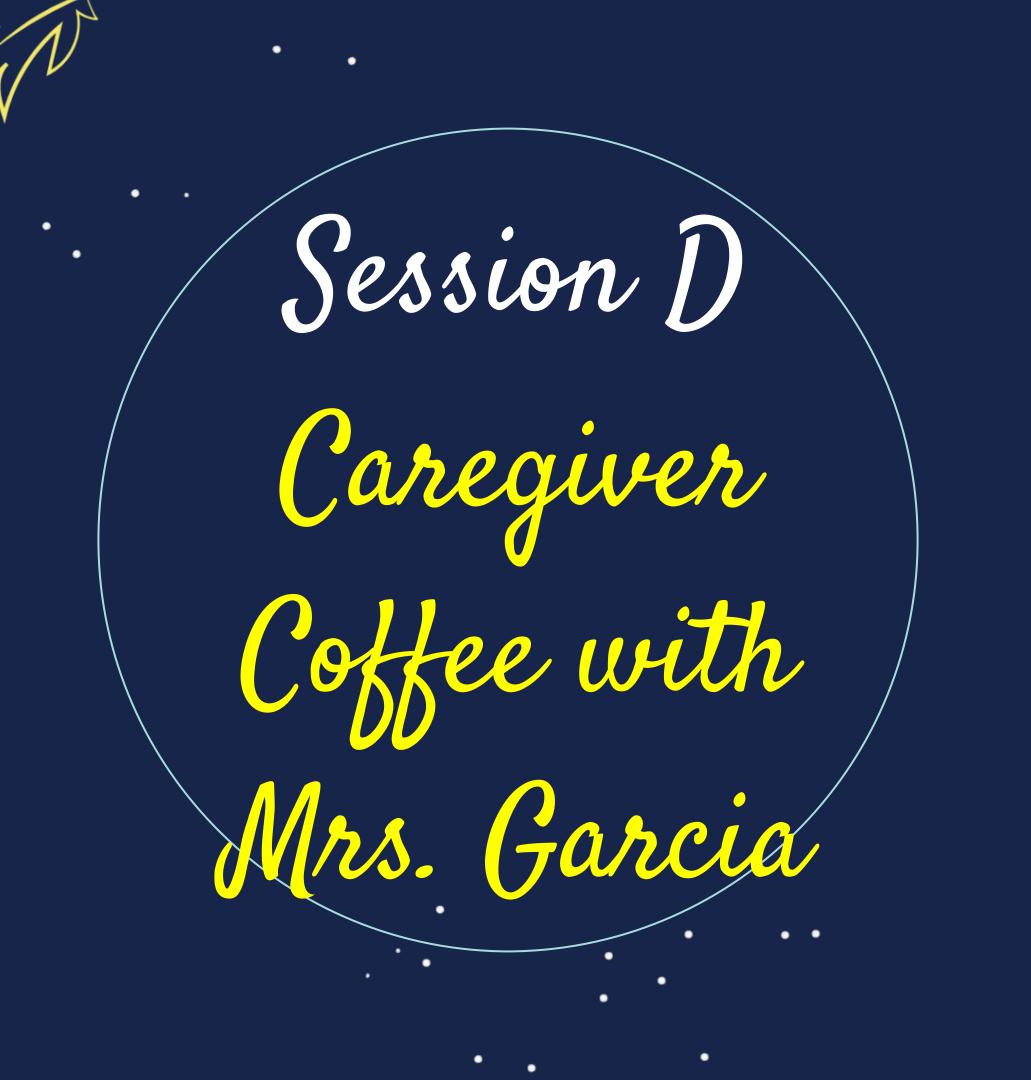
- Student Government
- NTA Thespians
- Puma Cheer
- Technical Theater Crew
- Gamers Club
- Asian Student Alliance
- Book Club
- Guardians of the Gallery
- Strength Training Club
- Assyrian Club

- Automotive Club
- Black Student Union
- Gender and Sexuality
 Advocates
- Unafraid Dreamers
- Reptile Club
- Guitar Ensemble
- Broadcasting Club
- National Honor Society
- Yarn Society
- Just Keep Living



School Tour for Students

- 1. Gym lobby to Counseling Center and Community Room
- 2. 1st floor back hallway
- 3. 1st floor middle hallway
- 4. 1st floor music hallway
- 5. 1st floor Main Office & Art Hallway
- 6. Return to gym lobby



Key Information about Absences

- Check your student's attendance in <u>Powerschool</u> and always report your student's absences.
 - Call the main office at 773-478-3655 or Report an Absence on our school website.
 - Make sure your student does not miss school due to vacation or trips. There is time built into the school year for families to schedule travel or other commitments. The school calendar can be found on the NTA school website (https://cicsnorthtown.org/)
 - Schedule dental and non-urgent medical appointments on Wednesdays after the 1:30pm dismissal
 - Limit early dismissals. When a student leaves school early and misses class, they lose out on learning and the "ER" absence adds to the 20 days in the Attendance Policy.

We value parent/caregiver involvement!

- Bilingual Advisory Council
- Parent Advisory Council
- Parents supporting through Culture Fest, Teacher
 Appreciation Week, and Spring Day

We welcome parents/caregivers to Community Events!

Back to School Night & Club Fair	Tuesday, September 9, 2025
Parent, Teacher & Student Conferences	Monday, October 27, 2025 & Monday, March 16, 2026
Culture Fest	Saturday, April 4, 2026
Ongoing Sporting Events & School Plays	

We regularly communicate with our Families!



REMIND APP







FACEBOOK



SCHOOL WEBSITE

We regularly communicate with our Families!





POWERSCHOOL LOGIN FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

SCHOOL CODE: ZMWT

QSA









Visit the Main Office

Meet our Main Office Managers:

Ms. Medina & Ms. Irizarry

- Submit Registration documents
- Purchase NTA shirts \$10 each
- Purchase Ventra cards \$2 each
- Pay registration fees
 - If your child previously qualified for STLS, free or reduced fees, please wait to pay registration fees until income forms are completed and processed

School Tour for Parents/Caregivers

- 1. Community Room to Counseling Center
- 2. 1st floor back hallway
- 3. 1st floor middle hallway
- 4. 1st floor music hallway
- 5. 1st floor Main Office & Art Hallway
- 6. Return to gym lobby

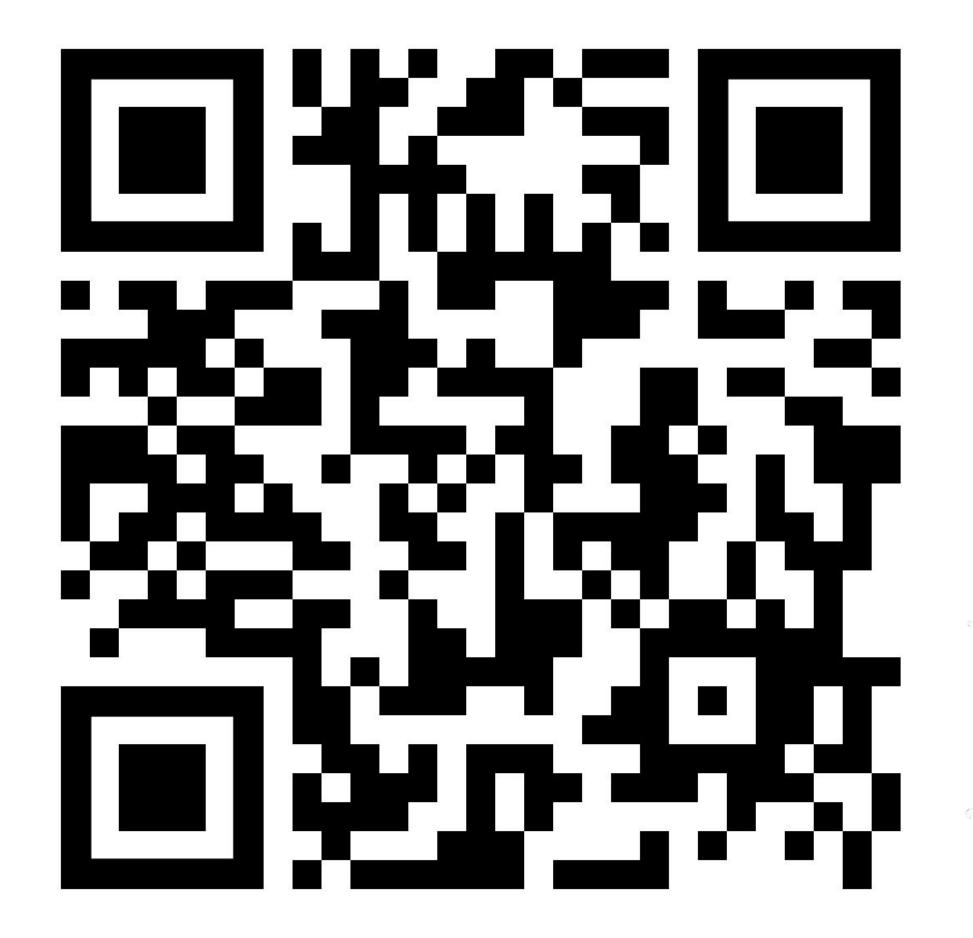




Scan & Complete the Freshman Elective Request Google Form



Scan & Complete the Freshman Elective Request Google Form



Thank you & Raffle

By Principal Garcia











END OF THE DAY RAFFLE

Are you ready to show off what you learned about Northtown today?

Passing the "Quiz" will enter you into *a raffle* for a FREE Northtown T-shirt





See you on Monday, August 18th! You Belong HERE