



You Belong Here.



*Welcome
New Pumas!*

You Belong **HERE**

Welcome to Northtown!

By Principal Garcia



Northtown Leadership Team

Mr. Gladfelter,
Assistant Principal



Mr. McCann,
Assistant Principal



Ms. Allworth,
SPED Coordinator



Ms. McBride,
Instructional Coach
& Athletic Director



Mr. Kattan,
Instructional Coach



Ms. Rowe,
SPED Coordinator



Northtown Highlights



CICS Northtown Academy has a rich 25-year history



College Acceptance Rate

\$32.7 MILLION

The amount of scholarship money earned by the Class of 2026



Members of the Class of 2026 received the Seal of Biliteracy or Commendation

NTA Pumas receive College Credits through Dual Enrollment, Dual Credit and AP classes.



Number of languages and dialects spoken at home by our families

Northtown Highlights

4

Counselors

2

Social Workers

1

Full Time Nurse

1

Full Time Librarian

2

Deans

3

Number of
current staff
members that
graduated
from CICS
Northtown
Academy

25

Number of
clubs and
organizations
at NTA

Our cafeteria
offers both
Kosher and
Halal meal
options



Sports Teams:

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

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

CICS NORTHTOWN ACADEMY
3900 PETERSON AVENUE

The NTA Way



Pumas

are **P**repared, always
Achieve, remain **T**imely and
treat others with **H**umanity.

Our rally cry results in Pumas
passing all courses, earning
higher scores on the ACT and
PreACT and having more
Post-Secondary opportunities.

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.





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

Be on time to maximize your learning time.

Being tardy or in the hallway without a pass will result in logical consequences.

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.



Dress Code

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.





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.

👍 Puma Points and Division Cup

Students are awarded Puma Points for being PUMAtastic!

Everyone can earn Puma Points everyday:

- Puma Pride: show pride by wearing Puma gear, attending a game, being a part of club or a sport and being on the Puma Path
- Above and beyond: in the classroom, the hallways, in your club, or team.
- Kindness Counts: Showing respect and kindness to your classmates and teachers and staff
- Positive Progress: Work hard to improve yourself.



Advisory Program

We build strong relationships at CICS Northtown through our Advisory program.

- Students remain with the same group of students and the same Advisors during their 4 years at Northtown to build strong relationships.
- During advisory, your advisors will guide you through different SEL activities designed to help you be more thoughtful, reflective and successful as a student and as a classmate.
- Advisory is a 10-minute daily class period & 50 minutes every Wednesday.



OMELLA

- Text
-

Important Medical Paperwork for New Students

REQUIRED:

- An Illinois State physical examination dated after September 2025
- A Dental Examination dated after September 2025

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 in the Main Office 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.

CICS NORTHTOWN ACADEMY
3900 PETERSON AVENUE

What to expect as 9th Graders

What to expect as 9th Graders:

In high school, every semester grade counts toward your Cumulative GPA and official transcript:

- ***Faster paced & more independence:*** Teachers expect you to keep track of due dates.
- ***Assignments takes more strategy:*** It's less about busy work and more about understanding concepts for ACT and post-secondary success.
- ***Self-advocacy is key:*** Ask questions and ask for help from teachers during or after class. Our staff loves to help but they can't read your mind.

What to expect as 9th Graders:

Cumulative GPA & Credits:

Every semester grade stays on the permanent record and passing classes earns you credits towards graduation.

Graduation Requirements:

Aim to earn 7 credits by the end of Freshman year so that you remain on track to earning 25 credits for Graduation

Attendance Expectations:

High schools take absences and tardies seriously because they affect your ability to pass a class or participate in sports/events.

Meet our Freshmen Teachers

Mr. Lalich
English



Ms. Wright
English



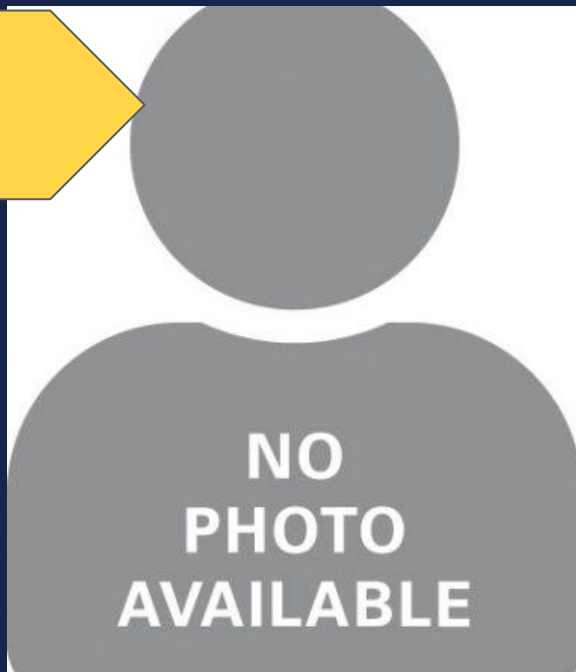
Mr. Castillo
Math



Mr. Martin
Math



Ms. Bondie
English



Mr. Strybel
Science



Mr. Willert
Science



Mr. Tomlinson
Math



Meet our Freshmen Teachers

Ms. Hayes
Social Studies



Ms. Aguillon
Social Studies



Ms. Sinanagic
Social Studies



Ms. Thompson
Art



Mr. Mackic
PE/Health



Mr. McGannon
PE/Health



Mr. Hernandez
Music



Mr. Romano
Tech



School Support Staff

Ms. Askharia
Counselor



Ms. Boyle
Counselor



Ms. Kane
Counselor



Mr. Wickham
Counselor



Ms. Mitchell
Nurse



Mr. Klise
Librarian



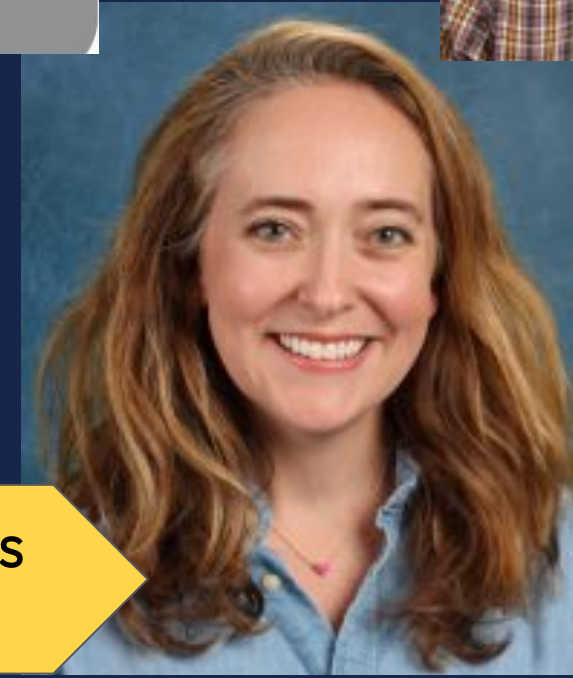
Mr. Rodriguez
Security



Ms. Chilaca
Dean



Ms. Rousakis
Dean



Ms. Henricks
Social Worker



Ms. Diaz
Social Worker



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.

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.

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.

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**



School Supplies

- 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

First Days of School

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 during New Puma Preview or in Advisory on 1st day of school
- Freshmen and all new students will receive chromebook and chargers on 2nd day of school during Advisory



NEW PUMA PREVIEW

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21st
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
at NORTHTOWN

Join us for the New Puma Preview on Friday, August 21st, from 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM at Northtown. All incoming freshmen and transfer students in grades 10–12 can pick up schedules, meet advisors, tour the building, and meet future friends.

**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND
THE FULL EVENT!**

The background image shows the exterior of a large, modern building with a brick facade. The building's name, "CICS NORTHTOWN ACADEMY", and its address, "3900 PETERSON AVENUE", are visible on the upper right side of the building. A concrete sidewalk leads from the bottom left towards the building. The entire image has a dark blue overlay. A white rectangular box with a yellow border is centered in the middle of the image, containing the text "Transition to Passport Sessions".

Transition to Passport Sessions

CICS NORTHTOWN ACADEMY
3900 PETERSON AVENUE

Passport Sessions

Passport Sessions Overview

There are four 20-minute Passport Sessions for all new students:

Session A: Student & Staff Panel in Community Room

Session B: Campus Life, Athletics and Clubs in Cafeteria

Session C: School Tour

Session D: PowerSchool Photos

Session E: Parent/Caregiver Iced Tea and Lemonade with Ms. Garcia in Gym

Each student is assigned to:

Group Yellow, **Group Green**, or **Group Blue**

Every group will rotate between each passport session in
a different order:

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. Gladstein who works with Ms. Hayes and Mr. Cristi.
- Campus Life allows student leaders 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
- Spring Day
- Student Instagram Page

Follow us on Social Media!

Athletics

Fall:

Girls' Volleyball
Girls' Flag Football
Boys' Soccer

Winter:

Girls' Basketball
Boys' Basketball
*Wrestling**
*Bowling**

Spring:

Track
Softball
Baseball
Boys' Volleyball
Girls' Soccer
*Golf**

Athletics

Girls Volleyball- Coach Tomlinson,
Coach Cristi, Coach McBride

Girls Flag Football-Coach McCann,
Coach O'Keefe

Boys Soccer- Coach Velazquez, Coach
Wickham

Girls Basketball- Coach Gray, Coach
Haynes

Boys Basketball- Coach Hanna, Coach
Kattan, Coach Leonard

Track- Coach Arreguin, Coach
McBride, Coach Bargielowski

Softball- Coach Rivera, Coach Rosario

Boys Volleyball- Coach Tomlinson,
Coach Willert, Coach Cristi

Girls Soccer- Coach Macias

Northtown Clubs & Activities

- Student Government
- NTA Thespians
- Puma Cheer
- Technical Theater Crew
- Gamers Club
- LatinX Club
- Badminton Club
- Book Club
- Guardians of the Gallery
- Strength Training Club
- Assyrian Club
- Automotive Club
- Black Student Union
- Gender and Sexuality Advocates
- Unafraid Dreamers
- Guitar Ensemble
- National Honor Society
- Bowling Club
- Investment Club
- Just Keep Living

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:



Key Attendance Reminders

Always report absences

Call the main office at 773-478-3655 or Report an Absence on our school website.

Limit absences

- Schedule dental and non-urgent medical appointments on Wednesdays
- Limit early dismissals.
- Plan trips and vacations during school breaks

Regularly check your student's attendance in Powerschool

We value Parent/Caregiver Engagement!

Quarterly Coffee with the Principal

Bilingual Advisory Council

Parent Advisory Council

Supporting Culture Fest, Teacher Appreciation
Week, and Spring Day

SAVE THE DATE

for Northtown Community Events!

Back to School Night & Club Fair	Tuesday, September 8, 2026
Conferences	Monday, November 2, 2026 & Monday, April 12, 2027
Culture Fest	Saturday, March 13, 2027
Ongoing Sporting Events & School Plays on School Website	

We regularly communicate with our Families!



REMIND APP



SCHOOL WEBSITE



FACEBOOK



**We regularly communicate with
our Families!**



POWERSCHOOL LOGIN FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

SCHOOL CODE: ZMWT

Visit the Main Office

Meet our Main Office Managers:

Ms. Medina, Mrs. 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*

Thank you and Raffle

By Principal Garcia



You Belong Here.



CICS
Northtown
Academy

CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL
CHARTER SCHOOL

*See you on
Monday,
August 24th!*

You Belong HERE



MERIDIAN
CHARTER SCHOOLS



CICS
Northtown
Academy
CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL
CHARTER SCHOOL