



New Millennium Academy

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April 26, 2024

RE: Important Updates for SY 2024-2025

Dear NMA Families,

Spring is upon us and with it our after school programs and sports teams will be at their peak with over 300+ students participating and representing the joy and pride of what it means to be a student at NMA. Our students are working diligently to show all that they've learned this year on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) state test this week as well. I'm proud of all of our students' hard work this year and thank you for all you do to support them.

Our NMA team has been actively preparing for a strong start to the next school year. Please read on for some important updates regarding changes at New Millennium Academy that will impact the next school year.

- 1. New School Hours:** Earlier this month, all families received a communication soliciting their feedback on a potential shift in school hours next year. After reviewing the feedback from our school community, we have decided to adjust NMA's school hours to better accommodate the needs of our students, families, and staff. **NMA's new school hours for next year will be from 7:45 AM to 2:30 PM.** This adjustment aims to optimize student learning opportunities, allow our students to get home at a reasonable time before it gets dark, and provide more opportunities for NMA families to engage with their children after school with extracurriculars, homework time, and family time.
- 2. Creation of a Transportation Boundary:** In an effort to improve transportation efficiency and contain costs, NMA will be implementing a transportation boundary in SY24-25. Currently, NMA has a very broad transportation zone that reaches as far west as Montrose and as far east as Lino Lakes and St. Paul. As a result, some of our bus routes are inefficient and result in students spending significant time on a bus route, as well as increased transportation costs for NMA. Currently, NMA spends about \$1.5MM on transportation services. By creating a transportation boundary, we will be able to contain costs and better serve our main core service area of North Minneapolis, Brooklyn Center, and Brooklyn Park. NMA will be able to reallocate the budget to our academic program that has a direct impact on our students' school experience. Please see the transportation boundary on our school's website for more details about the geographical boundary that NMA will service moving forward. All families



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impacted by this new transportation boundary have already been informed. If you have not been contacted, you can expect your transportation services to be similar to this current school year.

- 3. Board Approved Academic Calendar for SY24-25:** The NMA board of directors has approved the SY24-25 Academic Calendar. You can view the calendar on our school's website. The major changes to the academic calendar for next year is the addition of 7 asynchronous learning days for students where students will be learning from home. This replaces our previous days off so in total, it is only 3 additional at-home days. These days will allow NMA staff to engage in professional development as required by the [READ Act](#) that was signed into law by Governor Tim Walz to ensure that all students can read at or above grade level. A more detailed e-learning plan will be shared with all families before the start of the school year.

I understand that these decisions will impact many families, and my team and I remain committed to partnering with families to find solutions to the challenges that these shifts may bring. In order to hear from families regarding these changes, I will be holding a Coffee and Chat with the Executive Director on Tuesday April 30, 2024 from 8:30-9:30 AM at school. I will also be present at the May Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting on Wednesday May 15, 2024 to meet with families and I encourage all families to attend and engage in our monthly PAC activities. If you have any questions, please contact the main office at 763-235-7900.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education. Together, we will create a positive and enriching learning environment for all students at New Millennium Academy.

Sincerely,

Thomas Thao
Executive Director
New Millennium Academy

