



Norfolk Public Schools

The cornerstone of a proudly diverse community

August 22, 2025

Dear Students, Families, Staff, and Community Partners,

What an absolute thrill it is to welcome you to the 2025–2026 school year in Norfolk Public Schools what promises to be our most exciting and transformative year yet! I am proud not only to serve as Interim Superintendent, but also to be a former NPS teacher at Lake Taylor High School and a Norfolk resident.

As I visit schools across the division, the energy is electric, the possibilities are endless, and the stage is perfectly set for this to be our best year ever. The first week has already been nothing short of inspiring with students diving into learning, teachers sparking curiosity, and families coming together in celebration of a bright beginning. This isn't just any ordinary school year. This is the year where potential becomes reality, and where every single day brings new opportunities to discover, learn, and soar.

Get ready to be part of something absolutely amazing as we launch our theme for this year: "From Vision to Victory!" This isn't just a slogan or words on a banner, it is our rallying call and our steadfast promise to every member of our school community. We have been building something incredible together, carefully crafting our vision and laying the groundwork for unprecedented success. Now it's time to turn those visions into victories: students discovering hidden talents, teachers reaching new heights of inspiration, and families witnessing children bloom into confident, brilliant individuals who tackle challenges with determination and celebrate achievements with pride.

We are igniting innovation across every classroom where cutting-edge learning methods meet our time-honored traditions of academic excellence, strong character development, and meaningful relationships that last a lifetime. Every student in Norfolk Public Schools has unlimited potential waiting to be unlocked, and we are committed to helping them discover every bit of that capability within.

Students, this is your moment to shine brighter than ever! Step into this school year with confidence and determination blazing in your hearts. Staff, you are the superheroes who make learning come alive, whose passion and dedication create magic in classrooms every single day. Families and community champions, you are the foundation of our success, providing the support and encouragement that make extraordinary achievements possible for every child.

Together, we are not just starting another school year, we are launching a powerful movement from Vision to Victory, where academic success is celebrated at every turn. I know that working side by side, we will make this year the most phenomenal, successful, and unforgettable year in Norfolk's proud history.

With tremendous excitement and gratitude for the journey ahead,

Dr. James Pohl

Interim Superintendent

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