



Tips for Northwood Parents

2024-2025

Welcome to Northwood

Welcome to Northwood! As a new Northwood parent, I know this is an exciting and busy time, and you probably have many questions as you prepare for your child to arrive at Northwood this fall. This guide contains answers to the frequently asked questions, but there are likely questions you have that are not addressed here. I welcome your direct outreach.

This guide is a collection of information from the Northwood School Student Handbook, a guide and source of the necessary information, including student life policies, the academic program, health and counseling services, and athletics. The revised handbook will be available online by mid-summer under our website's "Campus Life" section.

The entire Northwood School faculty and I are grateful that you have decided to share your child with us. We see ourselves as partners in the work of "raising" your child. We expect to contact you regularly about your child's experience at Northwood. This booklet is merely the beginning of that relationship, and we hope it is a helpful first step.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Spear". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names clearly distinguishable.

John Spear
Assistant Head for School Life

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Staying Connected

Change of Address

It is important that the school can always reach a student's parent(s) or guardian(s). Please keep contact information, including mailing address, email, home, and cell phone numbers, up to date. Changes can be made by contacting the school at (518) 523-3357

If you plan to be traveling and need the school to be aware of temporary contact information, please contact the School Life Office at (518) 302-5123

Communicating with the School

In an emergency:

During the class day, call Northwood's main number at (518) 523-3357 and ask to have a message delivered to your student.

After 4:00 PM on weekdays and on weekends, contact one of the following to deliver the message:

The Administrator on Call (518-524-0745)

Your student's Advisor

Send mail and packages to:

Student's Name
Northwood School
92 Northwood Rd.
Lake Placid, NY 12946

To reach your student by phone and email:

Students should bring a cell phone to school and should ensure the School Life Office has an up-to-date number and that this phone has voicemail.

Please refrain from calling or texting your student during the academic day, during evening study hall (7:45 - 9:45 PM) or after 11pm. Phones

may be confiscated for violations of the cell phone policy as laid out in the Student Handbook.

New students are sent their Northwood email addresses over the summer via the personal email address we have on file for them. (Please ensure the student can access the email address on file.)

Communicating With the School

Communication between the school and families is essential. The phone directory below may help parents/guardians contact the school and know who best to contact.

Advisor. The Advisor is your first point of contact for general information about your student. New students are assigned an advisor in August. Students may change advisors during the school year as they establish and build relationships with other adults on campus. Parents should contact the Advisor with any questions about any aspect of a student's overall well-being and progress in any area of school life.

Team Dean. Team Deans oversee the well-being and academic progress of students within their individual Team. This includes an emphasis on issues of class leadership, communication, and academic achievement. Team Deans monitor the academic progress of their students and play a significant role in each student's course selection process. They work closely with appropriate coaches, the Dean of Academic Affairs, the Assistant Head for School Life, and Advisors.

Dorm Head. The dorm heads are responsible for supervising students' residential experience. They will have a unique perspective on your student's social interactions, study habits, and sleep patterns. Parents can contact the dorm head with questions about residential life, but please also keep the Advisor informed of any concerns.

What to Bring

When packing for school, students need to remember that the majority of the rooms are moderate in size with limited closet space. Students should make frugal packing decisions, bringing to school only what is necessary to be successful academically and athletically. With the provided bed, dresser, desk, desk lamp, and chair in our dorm rooms, there is not a lot of room for other items. While small media and/or gaming systems are welcome, large ones are not. Parents and students must remember that the boarding student's bedroom room is primarily a place for sleep and study. The key to a successful boarding experience is to be comfortable without being burdened or distracted. A touch of home is always nice, but transplanting all the creature comforts of home is not practical.

School Supplies. Students should plan to bring general supplies that are commonly needed, such as pens, pencils, highlighters, scissors, tape and paper clips. Students may select basic supplies that they prefer (i.e., choose between using a binder versus a spiral notebook) for most classes. Teachers who require specific materials will give students ample time to obtain any additional supplies at the beginning of the year.

Laptop Computer. An internet-enabled laptop is necessary for all classes. Mac or PC. Two charging cords (one for the dorm and one for the backpack) are highly recommended. Northwood uses Microsoft Office products and provides students with access to these products at no extra cost.

Calculator. A basic scientific calculator is necessary for Algebra One, while all math classes above Algebra One require a TI 84 Plus graphing calculator. Be sure to bring a calculator charging cord or spare batteries.

Bikes, Scooters, Skateboards, Etc. Bicycles, non-motorized scooters, and skateboards are permitted at Northwood School. Helmets are required. The school does not permit hoverboards on campus. Bring and use a bike lock.

Medications. Prescription or over-the-counter medications are not permitted in student rooms. Bring all medications to the Health Center.

Suggested Packing List

General Needs:

2 sets of sheets (twin XL size)
Blanket/comforter
Pillow
Bath towels
Hangers
Window fan
Laundry bag, detergent, and
dryer sheets
"Command Strip" hooks
Alarm clock
Mobile phone and two chargers
Power strips/surge protectors
Storage crates/bins
School supplies (see page 7)
TI 84 Plus calculator (basic
scientific calculator okay for
Algebra 1.
Laptop computer (Mac or PC)
Two computer charging cords
(one for dorm desk and one
for backpack)
Backpack

Toiletries, including:

Shower tote
Shower shoes/flip flops
Bathrobe

Clothing:

At least a week's worth of class-
day attire (see page 10)
Formal attire for special events
Athletic wear, including sports
gear
Casual wear
Winter coat, hat, and gloves
Boots

What Not to Bring

These items are prohibited and will be confiscated.

Refrigerators

Hot Pots, coffee makers, microwaves, toasters, blenders, air fryers, and other small appliances

Large televisions. 32" and under is okay

Large speakers, subwoofers, and amplifiers

Couches, recliners, futons, stuffed chairs, and any other space-consuming furniture

Posters that promote drinking, smoking, drugs, or that are sexually explicit

Tobacco or nicotine products of any kind

Electric blankets

Candles, incense, open flames

Lithium batteries (remote control car batteries)

Pets of any kind

Prescription or over-the-counter medications (bring them to the Health Center)

Class Dress Code

Northwood School's class dress code is based on a simple philosophy: school is your job, and your attire should reflect that. Class dress is required during classes (even if you have a 'free' period), including during lunch, school meeting, seminar, and in the living room.

Clothing:

- Dress pants, corduroy pants, twill or chino joggers, khakis, leggings, or capris.
- Dresses, skirts (at least fingertip length when standing in a relaxed position with arms at sides).
- Shorts (at least a 3-inch seam) are permitted in the fall and spring.
- Button-down shirts that are buttoned, polos, quarter-zip pull-overs, or other collared shirts may be worn. A student may wear a t-shirt underneath.
- Blouses, dress shirts, and turtlenecks.
- Sweaters, cardigans, official Northwood sweatshirts, and quarter-zips are permitted with a collared shirt or t-shirt underneath.

Footwear:

- Dress shoes, boat shoes, sneakers, sandals, or boots may be worn, as long as they are in good condition. No slippers.

Points of Clarification:

- No athletic wear, such as yoga pants, spandex, or sweatpants.
- No denim of any kind, color, or resemblance.
- No article of clothing may be frayed, cut-off or patched.
- No t-shirts unless worn under dress code attire.
- No sweatshirts except the official Northwood sweatshirts.
Sweatpants, including Northwood-branded sweatpants, are not permitted as class dress.
- No hats or hoods.

- Hair must be neat and clean, and students are to be clean-shaven at all times.
- No revealing necklines. Exposed backs, shoulders, bottoms, midriffs, or undergarments are also not permitted.

Formal Dress. On more formal occasions, the dress of the community should reflect the added level of formality of the event. At these times, the Northwood community will be in formal dress.

Option One: suit coat or blazer, with dress pants and a belt, a full button-down collared shirt with tie, socks, and dress shoes.

Option Two: dress or skirt of appropriate length, shawl or cardigan is permitted, and dress shoes.

Option Three: dress slacks with a dress blouse, and dress shoes.

Option Four: formal attire and shoes representing a student's international and/or cultural identity.

Casual Dress. Before or after the class day or formal school events, students are allowed to dress casually while maintaining a level of respect for community standards. Students should be fully clothed in all public or common areas of campus. Footwear is required in all campus buildings except dormitories.

At all times, not just during the academic class day, clothing should be respectful and should not promote concepts or substances that undermine the mission and core values of Northwood School. Hats and headwear, except those prescribed by religious custom, must be removed when entering buildings and remain off in public areas. Hats may only be worn indoors in the Student Center and dormitories.

School Breaks and Transportation

Northwood will typically provide transportation to the Lake Placid bus stop (service of Albany and NYC) and Saranac Lake airport (service to Boston and NYC/JFK) at no cost on arrival and departure days. Please share travel plans on vacation departure forms. Bus Transportation to and from Albany Rensselaer Train Station (connecting service to NYC Penn Station and Newark) and Albany Airport is available for a nominal fee on the following dates. Students/Parents register for the bus on the vacation departure forms.

September

Monday, Sept. 2: Return to school for international students only. Transportation is offered from Albany Rensselaer Train Station (7:30 p.m.) and Albany International Airport (ALB) (8:30 p.m.)

October

For the brief Fall/Family Weekend Break, the school will offer return transportation from Albany International Airport (ALB) only, departing Tuesday, October 8 at 5:30 p.m.

All dormitories are open during the brief Fall/Family Weekend Break.

November

Thanksgiving Break: 7:30 a.m., Friday, November 22 → 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 2.

Bus from Northwood (7:30 a.m.) to Albany International Airport (ALB) and Albany Rensselaer Train Station departs Friday, November 22.

Bus from Albany Rensselaer Train Station (7:30 p.m.) and Albany International Airport (ALB) (8:30 p.m.) departs Monday, Dec. 2.

All dormitories are closed during Thanksgiving Break.

December

Holiday Break: 7:30 a.m., Friday, December 20 → 7:00 p.m., Monday, January 6. *All dormitories are closed during the Holiday Break.*

Bus from Northwood (7:30 a.m.) to Albany International Airport (ALB) and Albany Rensselaer Train Station departs December 20.

Bus from Albany Rensselaer Train Station (7:30 p.m.) and Albany International Airport (ALB) (8:30 p.m.) departs January 6.

February

Winter Long Weekend: 7:30 a.m., Friday, Feb. 14 → 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 18. *All dormitories are open during the Winter Long Weekend.*

Bus from Northwood (7:30 a.m.) to Albany International Airport (ALB) and Albany Rensselaer Train Station departs Friday, Feb. 14.

Bus from Albany Rensselaer Train Station (7:30 p.m.) and Albany International Airport (ALB) (8:30 p.m.) departs Tuesday, Feb. 18.

March/April

Spring Break: 7:30 a.m., Friday, April 4 → 19:00, Monday, April 21. *All dormitories are closed during Spring Break.*

Bus from Northwood (7:30 a.m.) to Albany International Airport (ALB) and Albany Rensselaer Train Station departs Friday, April 4.

Bus from Albany Rensselaer Train Station (7:30 p.m.) and Albany International Airport (ALB) (8:30 p.m.) departs Monday, April 21.

May

End-of-year/following LEAP: 7:30 a.m., Saturday, May 24

Bus from Northwood (7:30 a.m.) to Albany International Airport (ALB) and Albany Rensselaer Train Station departs Sat., May 24.

All dormitories are closed beginning May 24.

Transportation-Related Contact Information

- Albany International Airport (ALB) albanyairport.com
- Adirondack Airport (SLK) <https://www.adirondackairport.com/>
- Plattsburgh Airport (PBG) flyplattsburgh.com
- Amtrak train service: <https://www.amtrak.com/>
- Cape Air (flights from Saranac Lake): www.capeair.com
- Adirondack Trailways bus service: <https://trailways.com/>
- Olympic Taxi: 518-524-0410
- Northern Lights Taxi: (518) 897-9741
- Albany Airport Transportation Services: 518-888-6449
- Premiere Transportation: 800-515-6123

Important Contacts

- Main School number: (518) 523-3357
- Administrator on Call: (518) 524-0745
- John Spear, Assistant Head for School Life
spearj@northwoodschoool.org (518) 302-5123
- Nadine Hathaway, Business Office (Student Accounts)
hathawayn@northwoodschoool.org
- Noël Carmichael, Dean of Faculty and Academic Affairs
carmichaeln@northwoodschoool.org
- Trevor Gilligan, Director of Athletics and Co-Curriculars
gilligant@northwoodschoool.org
- Andy Donatello, Day Student Liaison and Athletic Trainer
donatelloa@northwoodschoool.org
- Marge Maher, Northwood School Health Center
nurse@northwoodschoool.org (518) 302-5124
- Tara Wright, School Counselor/Psychologist, Director of Learning Center
wrightt@northwoodschoool.org
- David McCauley, Director of College Counseling, Director of International Students
mccauleyd@northwoodschoool.org (518) 302-5119

2024-25 School Calendar



ACADEMIC YEAR CALENDAR 2024-25

August

21-22 (Wed. - Thurs.)
26-30 (Mon. - Fri.)

New Faculty Orientation
Faculty Opening Meetings

September

2 (Monday)
4 (Wednesday)

Student Leaders arrive by noon. International students may arrive after 5 p.m.

STUDENT REGISTRATION (All Students) 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

* **Student Orientation for all students begins following registration.**

5 (Thursday)

Student Orientation continues

6 (Friday)

First day of classes, **First Semester begins. Start fall schedule.**

7-8 (Sat.-Sun.)

Closed Weekend

October

3-5 (Thurs. p.m. - Sat.)
7-8 (Mon.-Tues.)

FAMILY WEEKEND

No classes

8 (Tuesday)

Students must return to campus by 7:00 p.m.

9 (Wednesday)

Classes resume

24 (Thursday)

All School Standardized Testing Day

November

4 (Mon)
22 (Friday)

Start winter schedule.

THANKSGIVING BREAK: Begins at 7:30 a.m.

December

2 (Monday)
3 (Tuesday)
18 (Wednesday)
19 (Thursday)

Students must return to campus by 7:00 p.m.

Classes resume

Last Day of First Semester.

HOLIDAY BREAK: Begins at 7:30 a.m.

January

6 (Monday)
7 (Tuesday)
18-20 (Sat-Mon)

All students must return to campus by 7:00 p.m.

Classes resume. **Second Semester begins.**

Winter Weekend / Northwood Hockey Invitational

February

14 (Friday)
18 (Tuesday)
19 (Wednesday)

WINTER SHORT BREAK: Begins at 7:30 a.m.

Students must return to campus by 7:00 p.m.

Classes Resume

March

6 (Thursday)

Ring the Bell for Northwood

April

4 (Friday)
21 (Monday)
22 (Tuesday)

SPRING BREAK: Begins at 7:30 a.m.

Students must return to school by 7:00 p.m.

Classes resume. **Start spring schedule.**

May

13 (Tuesday)
14-15 (Wed.-Thurs.)
16 (Friday)
17 (Saturday)
18-23 (Sun.- Fri.)

Last Day of Classes

Finals for all students

SENIOR CLASS DINNER

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES – Closed Weekend

L.E.A.P. Program (underclass students only – mandatory)

*Students enrolled in international travel programs may have a later return date.

An additional transportation option will be available for these students.

24 (Saturday)

Summer recess begins at 7:30a.m.

This calendar is subject to change. The most up-to-date calendar is available on our website:

<https://www.northwoodschool.org/academics/calendar>



WELCOME
Students & Families

