

A Warrior Welcome

TO NORWALK SCHOOLS



Spring 2019 - Summer 2019 Issue

OUR MISSION

Growing learners & leaders.

LETTER *from the Superintendent*



D.T. Magee

Welcome to the Norwalk Community School District where we are focused on creating world class schools for the students, families, and communities we serve! Our district balances high academic expectations and excellent extra and co-curricular activities. The ultimate goal is to address each student's individual learning needs so that our students become future leaders. The communities we serve in NW Warren County are growing and our district is working closely with city and county leaders to facilitate and successfully manage this growth. Learn more about all of the great aspects of NCSD at www.norwalkschools.org and make sure to follow us on Twitter [@NorwalkSchools](https://twitter.com/NorwalkSchools) or #BeAWarrior and like us on Facebook [@norwalkcsd](https://www.facebook.com/norwalkcsd).



D.T. Magee
Superintendent

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Our Schools 2019-2020

Oviatt Elementary

Preschool
713 School Ave
(515) 981-1005
[@OviattWarriors](https://twitter.com/OviattWarriors)
Amy Gage, Principal

Norwalk MS

6th & 7th Grade
200 Cherry St.
(515) 981-0435
[@warriorsNMS](https://twitter.com/warriorsNMS)
Beth Ward, Principal

Orchard Hills Elementary

K - 2nd Grade
1130 W. North Ave
[@OrchardHills23](https://twitter.com/OrchardHills23)
Sheila Taylor, Principal

Eastview

8th & 9th Grade
1600 North Ave
(515) 981-9655
[@eastview_89](https://twitter.com/eastview_89)
Dr. Jody Ratigan, Principal

Lakewood Elementary

3rd - 5th Grade
9210 Happy Hallow Dr.
(515) 981-1850
[@LakewoodElem](https://twitter.com/LakewoodElem)
Jill Anderson, Principal

Norwalk HS

10th - 12th Grade
1201 North Ave
(515) 981-4201
[@Norwalk_HS](https://twitter.com/Norwalk_HS)
Chris Basinger, Principal

Orchard Hills Elementary

Welcome to Norwalk Community School District and Orchard Hills Elementary! Orchard Hills is a family of learners and leaders. Our goal is to develop a strong foundation academically and socially for each student. This happens by helping each student grow to their potential through a growth mindset and a program developing habits through *Leader In Me* that guides students as learners and leaders.

I love Norwalk and being a Warrior! Norwalk has a small town feel, but is growing which continually pushes me as a learner and leader. It is so exciting!



Sheila Taylor

Orchard Hills
Elementary Principal

K-2nd School Supply List

12-#2 pencils
3-boxes, 24ct CRAYOLA crayons
1-two-pocket folder w/fasteners
1-pkg EXPO dry erase markers
1-CRAYOLA washable markers-10ct
2-boxes of Kleenex
1-4pack of Play-Doh

1-pkg pencil erasers
1-Chlorox wipes
2-pkg glue sticks
1-headphones (child-size)
A-L (Last Name) 1-box of snack Ziploc baggies
M-Z (Last Name) 1-box of quart Ziploc baggies
1-back pack (no wheels) (standard size to fit a folder)



Best Ways to Support Your Kindergartner's Literacy Development At Home

Play with Word and Letter Sounds

Perhaps the most important early literacy skill to build in young pre-readers is the ability to recognize, substitute and blend sounds in spoken words. This broad skill, called phonological awareness, includes identifying and manipulating units of oral language – parts such as letters, words and syllables. Children who have phonological awareness are able to identify and make oral rhymes, can clap out the number of syllables in a word, and can recognize words with the same initial sounds like 'money' and 'mother.'

How you can help build phonological awareness at home:

- Help your child think of a number of words that start with the /m/ or /sh/ sound, or other beginning sounds.
- Make up silly sentences with words that begin with the same sound, such as "Nobody was nice to Nancy's neighbor".
- Play simple rhyming or blending games with your child, such as taking turns coming up with words that rhyme (cat – mat) or blending simple words (/d/, /o/, /g/ = dog).

Read and Discuss Daily with Your Child

Reading aloud at home with your child is a powerful way to support oral language development and early

reading readiness skills. Research has demonstrated that the most effective read-alouds are those where children are actively involved asking and answering questions and making predictions, rather than passively listening. Try asking your kindergartner questions like this when you read together:

1. Talk about the book

Is this a real story or a made up story? How can you tell? What can we learn by looking at the cover of this book? Where is the top of the book? Where is the bottom? Where should I start reading?

2. Talk about the words

Valiant means brave. Can you tell me who was valiant in the story? How many words can you think of that sound the same as "room"?

3. Talk about the story

How are Max and the Wild Thing feeling in this part of the story? How might the webbed feet help the Wild Thing? What do you think will happen next?

Helpful Links

https://iowacore.gov/sites/default/files/kindergarten_parent_guide_1.pdf

<https://iowareadingresearch.org/resources/web>



Medications

If your child needs to take a prescription during the school day, the medication(s) need to be in the prescription bottle & please fill out a permission slip on the website:

<https://www.norwalkschools.org/district/departments/student-services/nursing/>

K-5 Specials

Norwalk Schools recognizes the importance of introducing special curriculum in addition to the classroom setting.

Students in grades K- 5th rotate through each of these “specials” classes in a 6-day cycle. In instances of a snow day, the scheduled special will shift to the next day.

CHORUS

Students interested in chorus will sign-up at the beginning of 5th grade and have several performance opportunities including assemblies, nursing homes and occasional sporting events.



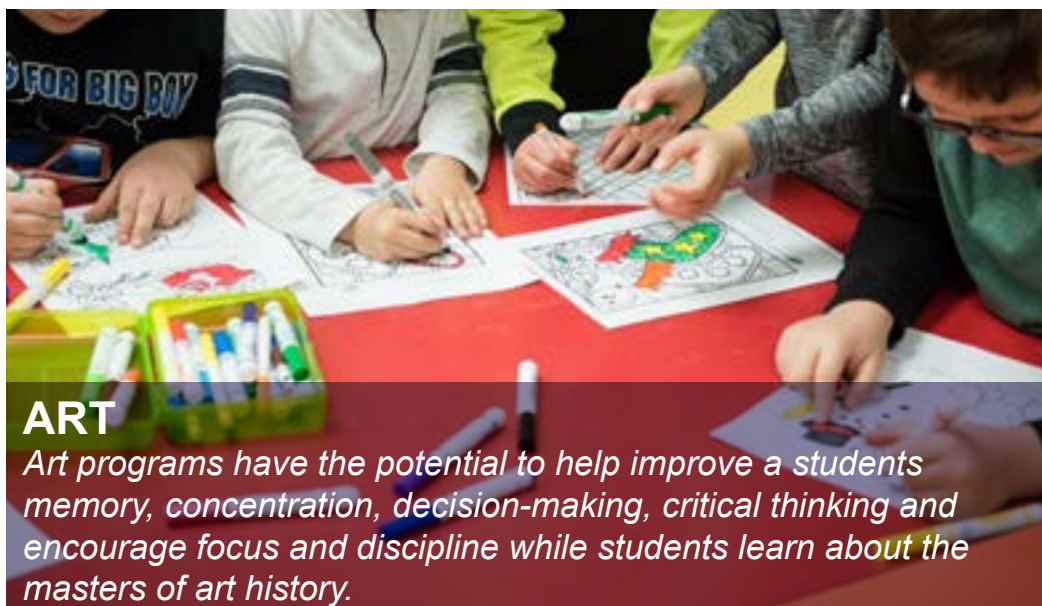
GUIDANCE

During Guidance, students learn about making good choices, responsibility and the skills to be a contributing citizen with a growth mindset.



PE

In addition to recess, students learn healthy habits to grow strong bodies, improve fitness and develop motor skills.



ART

Art programs have the potential to help improve a students memory, concentration, decision-making, critical thinking and encourage focus and discipline while students learn about the masters of art history.



MUSIC

Studies prove that music education helps boost test scores while students build confidence and improve listening skills in a performing genre.



STEM

Stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. In this special, students explore building, problem solving and teamwork opportunities.



LIBRARY

Students have the opportunity to check out library books and other educational resources to help futher their learning.

BAND

5th grade students have the opportunity to join band and chorus. At the end of 4th grade, students will get to choose 2-3 instruments to tryout and the teacher will make a recommendation based on physical characteristics and sound produced.



70% - 75%
of students
opt to take band
in addition to
their music
“special”.



Preparing for Middle School

Norwalk Middle School-Where students are engaged and empowered to learn- **We ARE Warriors!**

I am honored to begin my eighth year as the Norwalk Middle School Principal in the 19-20 school year. Our students thrive in an environment that promotes Achievement, Respect, Responsibility and Empathy. Our doors are open to all learners!

I have been in education for 25 years with this being my 11th year in Administration. Welcome to Norwalk Middle School!



Beth Ward
Middle School Principal

April 2019
5th grade classes will shadow 6th graders for a morning (transportation provided)

Throughout The Year
5th graders rotate teachers to simulate a middle school schedule.

August 23rd
First Day of School

View District Public Calendar Here
http://bit.ly/19_20SchoolCalendar

Enrollment Requirements & Supply List Information

- Immunization Record (6th + 7th Gr.)
- TDAP + Meningococcal Current (7th Gr. only)
- http://bit.ly/6_7SupplyList19_20

We Are Here For You!



Rachel Chapman
Counselor

(515) 981-0435
rchapman@norwalk.k12.ia.us

One of my favorite aspects of being a Norwalk Warrior is being part of a school community that truly values student achievement and success! I feel privileged to work as a school counselor at the middle school because I get to witness and assist in the growth of our students in many areas of their lives. Each student has a unique set of traits and talents, and my goal is to help each student realize their potential and worth. I'm looking forward to another great school year as a Warrior!



Chad Wiedmann
Student Advocate

(515) 981-0435
cwiedmann@norwalk.k12.ia.us

Welcome to Norwalk Middle School! We are excited to get the year started! Our mission is to grow student achievement, respect, responsibility and empathy. After spending a number of years at Norwalk High School, I am returning to Norwalk Middle School and looking forward to seeing you become a Warrior!



“

“Just finished registering my kiddos for next school year. It’s hard to believe we’ve almost been in our new house a year. This year has far exceeded our expectations and hopes. Norwalk Schools are filled with some really amazing teachers, administrators, and best of all FRIENDS! So very thankful we landed where we did, and thankful for all our new friends that have made it feel like home so quickly!”

- Sara Osterloh, Norwalk Parent

“Norwalk Middle School is a great place, and you have so many activities. I would suggest that you try for leadership. It’s very fun, and you do fun activities with your leadership friends. Norwalk is a very safe environment, you will feel at home right away. Norwalk is a great community with a lot of nice and fun people and kids to welcome you.”

- Camrie N., 7th Grade

“I have always appreciated my kids’ teachers and all they have done to teach my kids. As I watch my kids grow and develop, I see that they did so much more than teaching them numbers and letters. They taught them about being good citizens, leaders, humans. They taught them to be seekers of knowledge and truth. They taught them responsibility, commitment, honor and drive. And most of all they made them feel loved and like they mattered! Five years ago, I stepped into the educational side of PT and I have gained a completely new respect for what teachers have to do each and every day. The rigor and rules they must follow, the hours, the underfunded budgets, and classrooms, the constantly changing legislation. Doing all of this with kids who are maybe hungry, tired, homeless, have mental health or physical disabilities. And missing time with their own kids. Teachers are my heroes and we have been blessed with amazing ones!!”

- Melissa Bice, Norwalk Parent

”

7th-12th Activities



This photo provided by Photography student, Ellie Sizemore



7th & 8th Grade

Athletics: Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Softball, Track & Field, Volleyball, Wrestling

Activities & Clubs: Band/Choir, Cheerleading, Gaming Club, Garden Club, Girls Who Code, Jazz Band, Leadership, RoboWarriors (Robotics), SADD, Show Choir, Yearbook, Musical

For a more interactive experience, view this highlight video of our Warriors in action:

<http://bit.ly/PortraitofaLearner>

9th - 12th Grade

Athletics: Baseball, Basketball, Cheer, Cross Country, Dance Team, Football, Golf, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Wrestling

Activities & Clubs: Art Club, Band/Choir, Debate, Drill Team, French Club, Jazz Band, Mock Trial, National Honor Society, Newspaper, Play/Musical/Madrigal, Poetry Club, SADD, Show Choir, Spanish Club, Speech, Student Council, Student Intramural Club, Weight Room, Yearbook, RoboWarriors(Robotics)



2018-2019 Highlights

- Boys Basketball: 3A State Runner-Up
- State Qualifiers:
 - Boys & Girls Swim
 - Football
 - Girls Cross Country
 - Wrestling
 - Boys & Girls Track
 - Boys Golf
 - Boys Tennis
- Jazz Band: 4A Championship Qualifiers
- RoboWarriors: Worlds Qualifiers in Detroit, MI



NHS & CTE Get A Facelift!



Chris Basinger
High School
Principal

I am proud to be finishing up my fifth year as Norwalk High School's principal. We have worked hard to grow opportunities for all students to be ready for their future. At Norwalk High School, students can choose from a variety of course options that will prepare them for college and careers, ranging from community college coursework to internships. We have recently revitalized our work-based learning program.

As early as freshman year, students may begin taking electives that will allow them to explore careers in STEM, construction, culinary arts, fashion, education, photography, business, and computer science. Sophomores complete career and financial readiness where they learn personal finance basics and complete workplace readiness activities like building their resume. Juniors and seniors can enroll in our half-day internship program, where they can be placed in a career field that matches their interest. In our first two years of the program, we have had students in law offices, hospitals, banks, construction, and more. Our goal is to join the network for pre-apprenticeships, which will give our students more access to the trades. For example, next year, we have two students joining a welding pre-apprenticeship with a business in Valley Junction.

We have also renovated all of our career and technical classrooms to provide students with a learning environment that will match their experiences in the real world. This means a brand new production kitchen that will serve as a community restaurant in the spring, business classrooms that have flexible seating like students would see in a corporate office, and new STEM labs for construction, robotics, and other manufacturing experiences.

We are excited for the opportunities this program and these renovations afford our students.
It's a great time to be a Warrior!



Before & After

The new library features wall to wall windows, presentation technology and three new collaboration rooms.



Before

NHS Advocates & Counseling Office



Jessica Garrison

jegarrison@norwalk.k12.ia.us

Every day is different in the Advocates Office for me, making my job a fun and exciting place to come to each morning. I support the Advocates, school counselor, and our students with a variety of things including sending transcripts, processing scholarships, schedule changes, and DMACC registration. Getting to know each student and watching them grow throughout their high school career into an adult getting ready to go off on their own is one of my favorite parts of being in the Advocates Office. We have some great students who are on their way to doing great things in this world.

Tom Scallon

tscallon@norwalk.k12.ia.us

Over the last 26 years it has been my privilege to serve the students of Norwalk High School. During those years there has certainly been quite a lot of change! Class size has doubled, new construction has become an annual event, and the academic opportunities available to our students have also grown. Furthermore, there are a large number of activities in which our students may participate. Our current students have more opportunity than any other time in Norwalk High School's history. It is an exciting time to Be A Warrior!

Marla Frantum

mfrantum@norwalk.k12.ia.us

Without a doubt, working with students about their future plans and building relationships is why I enjoy being a student advocate. As roles and responsibilities have shifted at Norwalk, I have found my area of specialty is working with college courses, AP options, and testing. However, my favorite part of my job is sitting down with one and/or a group of students and hearing what they need and/or are passionate about in life.

Melissa Smith

msmith@norwalk.k12.ia.us

I love being part of the Warrior family! As a school counselor, I support students in many areas of their lives including mental health support and counseling, academic advising, and career/college exploration. My favorite part about my job is building relationships with students and their families. My passion is helping students through the challenges they face and teaching them skills they will use throughout their lives.

Helpful Links

Senior Year Plus Programs-<http://bit.ly/SeniorPlusPrograms>

DMACC Southridge Website-<http://bit.ly/DMACCSouth>

NHS Curriculum Information-<http://bit.ly/CurriculumInfo>

NHS Profile-<http://bit.ly/NHSProfile>



Community Supports & Resources

Numbers You Should Know

District Office (515) 981-0676
Eastview 8/9 (515) 981-9655
High School (515) 981-4201
HS Activities Office (515) 981-4204
Lakewood Elementary (515) 981-1850
Middle School (515) 981-0435
Nutrition (515) 981-9876
Oviatt Elementary (515) 981-1005
Transportation (515) 981-0016

Norwalk Student Education Foundation

<http://www.norwalkstudentfoundation.org/>

Athletic Boosters Club

<http://bit.ly/NorwalkAthleticBoosterClub>

Music Boosters Club

<http://www.norwalkmusicboosters.com/>

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

<http://www.norwalkpto.com/>

Norwalk Food Pantry

Sponsored by the Norwalk Ministerial Assoc.
Hosted out of New Life Lutheran Church
4380 Wakonda Drive, Norwalk, IA
(515) 285-5965

UnityPoint Clinic Family Medicine

801 Colonial Circle, Norwalk, IA
(515) 285-3200

Mercy Clinic Family Medicine

9421 Marketplace Drive, Norwalk, IA
(515) 974-0800

Norwalk Family Dentistry

1101 Chatham Ave.
(515) 256-9000

Dimples Dentistry

2521 Sunset Dr. #2
(515) 256-1176

Indianola YMCA

306 E Scenic Valley Ave, Indianola, IA 50125
(515) 777-7746

Transportation

Let us know your busing needs. There are AM, PM or Roundtrip options available through the on-line registration process. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Carlos or Arlene at the Transportation Department.

Carlos Guerra, Director of Transportation
cguerra@norwalk.k12.ia.us
Arlene Kluesner, Asst. to Director
akluesner@norwalk.k12.ia.us
515-981-0016

Nutrition

Lunch accounts will be created through the registration process. A username and password will be provided for you. Free and reduced lunches are available through our website's application on the Nutrition Department's page: <https://www.norwalkschools.org/district/departments/nutrition/>

DeeAnna Serres, Director of Nutrition
dserrres@norwalk.k12.ia.us
(515) 981-9876

Student Fees

Student fees are listed through the online registration process and can be paid online at the time of registration. You can also purchase activity passes for students and additional members for your family.

REGISTER ONLINE HERE:
<http://tinyurl.com/NewFamilyOLR>

Registrar Contact:
Becky Anthony
registrar@norwalk.k12.ia.us
(515) 981-0676 ext. 4001

Weather/Closings Info

School weather delays and closings are posted on norwalkschools.org and on Norwalk Schools District Facebook and Twitter accounts. Notifications are sent to the email provided in the registration process.

Additional updates are also posted to local channels KCCI and WHOTV.



REGISTER ONLINE HERE:
<http://tinyurl.com/NewFamilyOLR>

Construction Update

SERVING A GROWING COMMUNITY-Kate Baldwin

The Norwalk School District is growing and continuing to plan and execute facility improvements to meet the needs of increased enrollment, safety-security, technology and educational programs. The District has a 10-year building maintenance plan and a 15-year Facilities Master Plan.

Currently, the District is focused on three major construction projects:

New Orchard Hills Elementary- To address increased enrollment, the District is building a new elementary school on North Avenue, west of Highway 28. The building is designed to service 750 students with 30 general educational classrooms, three large-group intervention classrooms, a STEM classroom, a maker space, in addition to specialty classrooms for students with disabilities, library, regulation-size gymnasium, art and music classrooms. The building is scheduled to open in the fall of 2019 and is scheduled to service 2nd and 3rd grade students.

Norwalk Middle School Rennovations - The root of this building was originally

constructed in 1972. Since then, the building has received four additions. Current renovations include a career and technical education (CTE) building addition, a new corridor to improve student circulation, renovations of existing classrooms to modernize the areas, and general building improvements for heating and cooling, technology, electrical wiring, ADA and security items.

Norwalk High School Rennovations - The original section of the HS was built in 1961. The building has received nine additions and one major renovation to existing areas. The current renovations include improvements to CTE classrooms, media center, special education classrooms, guidance offices, some classroom reconfiguration and improved corridor circulation. The goal of renovation at our secondary campus is to create CTE classrooms that match current instructional applications in vocational programs, enhance technology to provide students with global connections and create spaces that invite students to learn in flexibly small group environments.

Norwalk Schools Enrollment Update-D.T. Magee

The Norwalk Community School District is comprised of 49.6 square miles, all within Warren County. Five cities have jurisdictional area in the District: 100% of Norwalk, 75-90% of Cumming, 100% of Spring Hill, and smaller percentages of West Des Moines and Des Moines. Many of you are citizens like me that chose Norwalk, Cumming, West Des Moines, Spring Hill, or rural Warren County as your home, coming from other areas of Iowa to raise your family.

The City of Norwalk has grown substantially since 2000, rising to a record population of 10,896 in 2017. Cumming has also grown in that same time period, rising to a population of 411 in 2017. The annexation of land in NW Warren County by West Des Moines has added to the District population. In addition, rural areas of Warren County continue to grow as housing developments and acreages spring up all around. Approximately 40% of the households in the District have children with an average of 2.68 students per household. All of these factors have led to enrollment growth.

To better understand and prepare for the future growth, the District has previously commissioned a professional demographer to conduct enrollment studies. Previously the District relied on locally determined projections that were based on historical trends. The District hired RSP & Associates (RSP) out of Kansas City, MO. RSP was selected based on references from other Metro area schools. RSP has projected enrollment trends in Waukee, Johnston, Ankeny, Southeast Polk (SEP), Adel-Desoto-Minburn (ADM) and Dallas Center-Grimes (DC-G). Waukee, one of the fastest growing districts in the state, has found RSP projections to be 98-99% accurate. DC-G reported actual enrollments were less than a 10 student variance of RPS projections in each of the past two years. Johnston, SEP and Ankeny all agreed that RSP's projections are spot on when compared to actual enrollment. For Norwalk, RSP was within one student in the fall of 2016, off by eight students in the fall

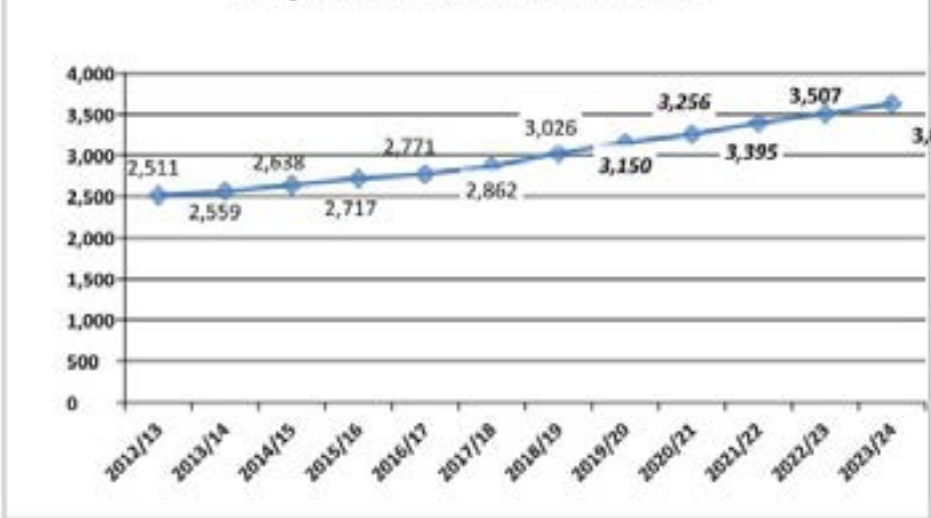
of 2017, and off by seven students in the fall of 2018. The credibility and accuracy of RSP's enrollment is solid because it is based on careful analysis of data specific to each individual school district. RSP collects past enrollment data, demographics of individual households, birth rates, housing trends, projected housing developments, employment data, etc. and runs the data through sophisticated algorithms to determine the enrollment projections.

Like the cities of Norwalk and Cumming, the population of the District has grown considerably during the past 10 years and is projected to grow higher in the next 10 years. Below is a depiction of the District's actual and projected enrollment.

For the past three decades, the District has worked each year to develop and revise long-term planning to meet the needs of enrollment growth. Long-term planning was premised on an average of 25-40 new students per year. A majority of the planning was centered on the expansion of new classrooms and facilities. In the future, additional planning is required to meet the staffing needs of enrollment growth. In 1994 the Board exercised precautions to control enrollment growth by closing open enrollment for non-resident students. The District has restricted the number of voluntary preschool classrooms to preserve classrooms for the required K-2 students, and partnered with DMACC to expand postsecondary programs to avoid building new classrooms and hiring more specialized personnel. All of these measures have advantaged students and helped manage growth. Now it is clear that a new projected growth pattern of 105-200 students per year will require new interventions and more detailed planning to meet the needs of all current and new students. The communities of Norwalk, Cumming, West Des Moines, Spring Hill, or rural Warren County in the Norwalk Community School District are a wonderful area to live and raise a family. These characteristics are evident in the growth of the school district.



Norwalk Schools Actual & Projected Enrollment Growth



Did You Know?
The Norwalk School District's current student body encompasses students from 10 different countries who speak over 10 different languages!



LEARNING FOR A LIFETIME

#BeAWarrior



Norwalk Schools

380 Wright Road
Norwalk, Iowa 50211

(515) 981-0676

www.norwalkschools.org |



[/norwalkcsd](https://www.facebook.com/norwalkcsd) |



[@NorwalkSchools](https://twitter.com/NorwalkSchools)