July 26, 2019

Dear Ocean Avenue Parents,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you and your family are enjoying the summer so far. As a follow-up to Ms. Larkin’s letter to parents in late June regarding the roofing issue over B-wing, I want to provide you with an update on the situation and its impact on the start of the 2019-20 school year.

As you know, in late June, we were forced to relocate kindergarten and first grade students out of B-wing due to potential problems with the roof. What we initially hoped was a minor problem is, unfortunately, a much larger issue that has resulted in the need to completely replace that section of roof. Due to safety reasons, students and staff cannot occupy B-wing until the roof has been replaced. The process of replacing the roof will most likely take approximately five months, with an anticipated completion date of early January.

The Board of Education hosted an emergency business meeting on Wednesday, July 24 to discuss this loss of instructional space for the school. On behalf of the entire administration and Board, I’d like to thank those of you who attended this meeting to offer your input and ask questions.

At the meeting, the Board reviewed possible solutions for finding alternate space that would meet the social, emotional and academic needs of our students, faculty and staff. After much discussion and consideration of all options, the Board accepted my recommendation to relocate all kindergarten and first grade classrooms to Norwood Avenue Elementary School for the first part of the 2019-20 school year.

I understand that this situation is not ideal – especially for those kindergarten students (and parents!) who were looking forward to beginning the year at Ocean Avenue. I can assure you that we are committed to providing a warm, welcoming environment at Norwood and making the transition as smooth as possible for our students.

I’d like to emphasize that this is a temporary situation. We expect that kindergarten and first grade students and staff will return to Ocean Avenue after the December break, depending on construction progress. Of course, we will keep you updated throughout the fall with any developments.
To help ease the transition for our kindergarten and first grade families, we will host an open house at Norwood for Ocean Avenue families on **Monday, Aug. 5 at 9 a.m.** I hope you and your child will take advantage of this opportunity to tour Norwood and ask any questions about the transition that you might have. We will also plan additional open houses for later in the summer and will announce those dates in the coming weeks.

I am sure that you have a number of questions regarding this temporary move. I encourage you to visit the district’s website, [www.northport.k12.ny.us](http://www.northport.k12.ny.us), for a list of FAQs, as well as the presentation from the Board meeting. Click on “Norwood Relocation” under “Quick Links” on the district homepage for all pertinent information. We will continuously update this page with additional information over the coming weeks.

I’d like to thank you for your understanding of this situation and your cooperation in making this as smooth of a process as possible for our students. Should you have any additional questions or concerns, please refer to the contact information below:

If it is a general question about the transition you can send an email to:

oceanupdates@northport.k12.ny.us

If it is an inquiry specific to your child, you can contact:

Sabina Larkin, Principal at Ocean Avenue Elementary School  
(P) 631-262-6840  [Sabina.Larkin@northport.k12.ny.us](mailto:Sabina.Larkin@northport.k12.ny.us)  
Or  
Michael Genovese, Principal at Norwood Elementary School  
(P) 631-262-6830  [Michael.Genovese@northport.k12.ny.us](mailto:Michael.Genovese@northport.k12.ny.us)

Sincerely,

Robert Banzer