



Nathaniel Hawthorne School #25

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Adrienne Steflik, Principal

Robert Burns, Assistant Principal

Welcome Families!

Dear School 25 Families,

We are so excited to welcome you to a new school year at Nathaniel Hawthorne School #25. Thank you for joining us at Open House and for being active partners in your child's education. At School 25, we believe success happens **not by chance, but by design**—and we are committed to making every child feel welcomed, affirmed, and inspired to learn.

Our Priorities for the Year

This year, our work as a school community is guided by three core priorities—our **Rocks**:

1. **Students Talk to Learn**
 - We are building classrooms where students actively discuss, question, and explain their thinking.
 - Academic discourse helps students strengthen their understanding, deepen reasoning, and develop language skills.
2. **Students Own Their Learning**
 - Students will track their growth and set goals using tools like Level-Up Boards, data folders, and student-led conferences.
 - We want students to answer confidently: *What am I learning? How will I know I've succeeded?*
3. **Students Represent & Defend Their Thinking**
 - Students will use evidence, models, and explanations to show and justify their ideas in all subject areas.
 - From math problem-solving to writing with text evidence, we want students to become clear and confident communicators.

Our School Culture

Equally important is our culture of belonging. We are a **Crew**, not passengers. That means:

- Every child is known, cared for, and supported.
- We celebrate diversity and affirm every student's language and culture as an asset.
- We live our Mustang values of teamwork, curiosity, and perseverance.

Our Partnership with Families

Families are essential partners in this work. Here's how you can support:

- Ask your child what they are learning each day—not just what they did.
- Encourage them to explain their thinking and to set goals for themselves.
- Stay connected with teachers.

Together, we will make this year meaningful, challenging, and joyful for every student. Thank you for trusting us with your children and for being part of the Mustang Crew.

With gratitude,

Adrienne Steflik

Principal, Nathaniel Hawthorne School #25

