



October 2020

Dear NCP Family and Friends,

On Tuesday, September 8, 2020, 1,135 NCP students, faculty, staff and administrators in all parts of the city logged into computers for the first day of school. Teachers led students in virtual community building exercises. Counselors, administrators, and office staff helped lost students navigate the block schedule and find the right Google Meet code for their classes. There were some awkward moments and some hiccups with technology, but by and large our NCP community came together for a positive beginning to the 2020-2021 school year.

As COVID-19 continues to impact nearly every aspect of our lives, we have learned to adapt quickly to constantly changing and challenging circumstances. School is no different. With the first month of the academic year behind us, we are all working to adjust to remote learning, but we are also finding our rhythm. Clubs are meeting, the fall athletic season is wrapping up, freshmen are getting settled in, and our seniors are virtually interacting with college and university representatives from all over the country.

And while COVID-19 has changed many things for us here at Northside, it has not changed the fact that we continue to face funding challenges that impact our current programs and our school's future. While the district's funding has shown modest improvement in the last couple of years, the fact is that the funding we receive from CPS does not fully support the work we do at Northside.

How can you help? If you are able to, please make a tax deductible contribution to Friends of Northside's Annual Appeal.

Each year, Friends of Northside, our parent fundraising group, supports a lengthy list of essential resources that are not covered under our current budget. These items include a multitude of things: athletic equipment and uniforms, classroom supplies and equipment, professional development for teachers, transportation for extracurricular activities, staffing for college counseling, technology support, office staff, school security, and mental health services. In recent years, families have made donations anywhere from \$10 to \$10,000. As you contemplate your contribution, please keep in mind that over 40% of NCP families live at or below the poverty line. Therefore, we ask every family who is able to consider making a donation. Each and every donation is important and direct giving through the Annual Appeal is the most effective way to help our school raise the funds necessary to continue to build the programs and educational experience that people expect from Northside College Prep.

We need everyone to participate either monetarily or by volunteering - or both. One of the lessons we want our students to learn is that people, acting together as a community, can accomplish great things. Year after year, our wonderfully diverse Northside community has come together to overcome hardships. The incredible accomplishments of Northside are a direct result of the work, dedication, and support of the Northside community of parents, students, faculty, administration and staff. I am honored to be part of it.

Sincerely,

Kelly Mest, Principal