



Dear 8th grade families:

We can't wait to welcome you to our Oak Park Family in just a few short months! It may seem hard to believe, but it won't be long until your students are officially Northmen. As members of the first class to take part in College & Career Pathways, they will experience high school in an exciting new way.

You may recall communication from Dr. Clemens before Thanksgiving Break about this exciting NKC Schools initiative. Students will benefit from rigorous academics combined with real-world career experiences both in and beyond the classroom. Beginning their freshman year and continuing throughout high school, students will engage in a variety of career exploration activities integrated into their classes at Oak Park, including guest speakers, job shadowing, hands-on projects, off-campus programs and internships.

Earlier this year, your student took Missouri Connections, a career interest survey, to begin thinking about which industry might be a good fit. I've enjoyed the opportunity to speak with many students at Antioch about what Pathways will look like next year at Oak Park. Last week, we hosted several virtual parent information sessions. In case you were not able to attend, a recorded session is available at nkcschools.org/pathways. A list of Frequently Asked Questions is also available in the same location on our district website.

Your family may have specific questions about what comes next. Along with this letter, your student is bringing home a flyer with information about our four "schools within a school" at Oak Park:

- School of Public and Commercial Services
- School of Health and Wellness
- School of Business, Leadership and Entrepreneurship
- School of Design, Innovation and Technology

After we return from Winter Break, students will have several opportunities to learn more about the four schools and the pathways within each. Counselors, high school teachers, current Oak Park students, and I will all be available to help students make a decision about which school might be right for them. In February, all 8th grade students will start the process of selecting their preferred schools as part of 9th grade enrollment. We are looking forward to supporting students throughout this winter and spring as they make exciting choices and consider next steps.

Should you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at jane.stanley@nkcschools.org. I look forward to connecting again with your family after we return from break as your students prepare to begin their time as Northmen!

Sincerely,
Dr. Jane Stanley
College and Career Facilitator