



Summer 2022

Dear Lake Placid business leaders:

As Northwood School's Assistant Head for School Life, I oversee student life, including weekend activities as well as student health, safety, and discipline. Our nearly 200 students come from all over the United States and more than 20 countries. They range in age from 13 to 20. Many are elite athletes. All of them have university ambitions. Some speak English as a second (or third) language. Many are living away from home for the first time.

Our students love being a part of the Lake Placid community. They enjoy walking into town, eating at restaurants, getting coffee or ice cream, going to the movies, and shopping along main street. We often hear from Lake Placid business owners that Northwood students and their families are some of your best customers. My colleagues and I often get compliments about how well-behaved our students are.

Of course, our students are adolescents, and like all teenagers, they sometimes push limits, test boundaries and break rules. I always want to know when Northwood students behave poorly in the community. Northwood School is your neighbor, and I hope you think of our students as your neighbor's kids.

Please call me on my mobile phone (518-586-1688) at any time if you have concerns about a Northwood student's behavior. My email is spearj@northwoodschoo.org. Northwood's main number is 518-523-3357. Our Administrator on Call number (for after hours and weekends) is 518-524-0745. If you know my colleagues Tom "Brody" Broderick (Associate Head) and Mike Maher (Head of School), please feel free to contact them.

We do quite a bit of education with our students about their responsibility as community members. We remind them that this is a small town and poor behavior from our students always gets back to the school. They know that the behavioral expectations outlined in our student handbook apply when they are off campus. We teach them about tipping customs and encourage them to be generous to their servers and those delivering their food.

I expect our students to always be on their best behavior, but I also want you to know that I welcome your calls and messages if they don't live up to that expectation.

Students beginning returning to school on Friday, August 26. Enjoy the rest of the summer. I look forward to a wonderful 2022-23 school year.

Sincerely,

John Spear
Assistant Head for School Life