



REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2020

Español



northfieldpromise.org/espanol



**Northfield
PROMISE**

Every child. Cradle to career.

2020 By the Numbers

CLOSING THE GAP

Provided rides to **5,574** children in **12** different programs through the new “Bus for Us: Together We Roll” transportation co-op with the Northfield Area Family YMCA. The co-op helps to overcome the transportation gap preventing youth from taking part in programs.

BUSFORUS



1,062 youth and **633** adults participated in Greenvale Park Community School programming.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Distributed **3,477** activity bags (with educational and enrichment opportunities for kids) during the COVID-19 pandemic through front door drop-offs and distribution at school district meal sites.



ACADEMIC SUPPORT

EARLY LITERACY



Distributed **2,285** books through the Reach Out & Read program, where medical professionals provide books and reading coaching tips to families during their well-child checks.



Distributed **5,548** books through **22** free libraries in waiting rooms and neighborhoods across the community.

ACCESS FOR ALL

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

83 high school students served on local boards and commissions through the Youth on Boards initiative.



We, as a community, commit to working tirelessly to ensure that ALL Northfield children will:

10 BENCHMARKS

To improve these outcomes, we need your help!

Volunteer or Donate: northfieldpromise.org

Be connected to the community during the early childhood years



Be ready for kindergarten

Exhibit physical, social and emotional well-being in elementary school



Be at grade level in reading and math by the end of 3rd grade



Have a connection with a caring adult beyond their parents as they transition to middle school



Be at grade level in reading and math by the end of 6th grade



Have interests, goals and a vision for the future by the end of 8th grade



Exhibit physical, social and emotional well-being in high school



Report feeling connected and engaged in their high school and community



Graduate from high school with a plan to reach their full potential

EARLY CHILDHOOD

NAVIGATORS EMPOWER FAMILIES



Bilingual Early Childhood Navigators work with families to connect them to high-quality preschool programs and early childhood screenings. They also help families access additional community resources, like food and housing. Last year the Navigators worked with **155** children ages 0-5 (providing more than **700** contacts); **79%** of these children completed their early childhood screenings. Navigators also enrolled **75** children in high-quality preschool or early learning programs.

NEW PLAYGROUND INSTALLED



Young kids and their families celebrated in September when a new playground was installed at the new Northfield Community Education Center on the city's north side. Designed for children ages 0-5, with input from neighborhood kids, the early childhood playground was a collaborative effort of the Northfield Public Schools, Northfield Promise, StriveTogether, and KABOOM! (a nonprofit organization focused on ending playspace inequity). Northfield was one of only three cities in the country selected for this playground grant.

ELEMENTARY

MOVE 5 BOOSTS YOUNG READERS



The Move 5 Kids initiative provides resources to classroom teachers in grades K-5 to implement targeted strategies and innovative ideas that support students at risk of not being at grade level in reading. Last year, through the initiative, **166** students in grades 1-3 who were at risk of not being proficient in reading at the start of the school year met their reading growth goals, and **90** moved up at least a full grade level in reading.

BOOKS, SNACKS DISTRIBUTED OVER SUMMER

Northfield Promise, the Northfield Public Library, and the Northfield Arts Guild teamed up over the summer to distribute books, art activity bags, and healthy snacks to elementary and pre-K students. In June, more than **1,400** books were given out with lunches by library staff and Growing Up Healthy staff and through the Community Action Center Food Shelf. In July, more than **2,800** books were distributed.



Testing scores and other data typically included in this report were unavailable this year because of COVID-19.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

TORCH STAFF MEETS NEEDS IN PANDEMIC



When school moved online last spring, TORCH staff mobilized to help students and families adjust. They reached out to students who weren't participating, delivered snacks and activity bags, and worked with the school district and Growing Up Healthy staff to identify and solve families' internet and technology needs. Despite the interruptions in learning due to the pandemic, all **35** TORCH seniors graduated on time. During the summer, TORCH staff kept in touch with students via Schoology, Zoom, and phone, and they continued to assist families with technology. They also connected students with new and used bicycles, food boxes, and art supplies.

TORCH provided **16,166** individual advising and/or tutoring sessions last year to students in grades 6-12.

FREE HOTSPOTS, INTERNET CONNECT ALL YOUTH

To ensure that all Northfield youth have access to the internet for the 2020-21 school year, **129** low-income children have received free hotspots or free Charter internet.

Funded through resources from the City of Northfield, Rice County, Northfield Public Schools, StriveTogether and a ConnectedMN grant



Many of the photos were taken pre-COVID-19

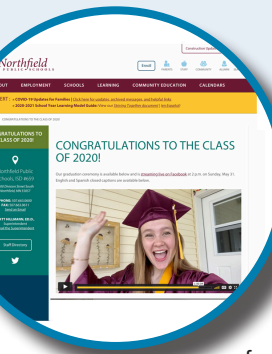
HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENTS PROVIDE SUPPLIES DURING COVID-19

When Northfield High School closed in March because of COVID-19, students were cut off from friends, sports and activities. Some were also cut off from easy access to supplies like notebooks, pencils, and hygiene products. But not for long. Students Supporting Students and Northfield YouthBank stocked bins with necessities that were distributed free to students in conjunction with lunch pick-ups at the high school and on all the bus routes. The effort continued for **8** weeks.



PROJECT PAIRS CLASS OF 2020 WITH STAFF



Through a partnership of Northfield Promise, the Northfield Public Schools, and national funder StriveTogether, **278** Northfield High School graduating seniors were matched with **65** high school staff members for monthly check-ins from June through October. The project ensured that the graduates felt supported during the transition to the next phase of their lives—whether they chose to join the workforce, enlist in the military, take a gap year, or continue their education.

BEYOND

NCCC EXPANSION SUPPORTS DREAMS



A **\$20,000** grant from Women in Northfield Giving Support (WINGS), coupled with a matching grant from StriveTogether, has given Northfield community college students a new place to pursue their educational dreams. The Northfield Community College Collaborative (NCCC) moved in August to the second floor of the Northfield Community Resource Center.

"The funding allowed us to create college classrooms and study spaces that have an actual college feeling," said NCCC Director Katie Theis.

This fall, **60** students took classes through the NCCC: **46** students were enrolled in Riverland Community College courses that the NCCC hosts, and an additional **14** NCCC students took classes at seven other colleges. In total, the NCCC supported students taking **97** different courses in the fall semester.

For detailed local data on all 10 Northfield benchmarks, visit northfieldpromise.org/benchmarks





What is Northfield Promise?

- ♥ We want Northfield to be a place where every child has the chance to be happy, healthy, and well-educated.
- ♥ Northfield Promise is a community movement to help all of our children thrive, from cradle to career.
- ♥ Northfield Promise connects resources, programs and community members to collaborate toward 10 benchmarks – academic, social, and emotional – throughout each child's life.
- ♥ When our institutions all work toward these shared benchmarks, we improve our community for everyone.
- ♥ Northfield Promise is a challenge **to** and **with** the community to ensure all children succeed . . . closing gaps in access and success among Northfield's youth.



Northfield has received the "Proof Point" designation from StriveTogether for our results. This is the highest national recognition that StriveTogether bestows. Northfield was just the 12th community in the country to receive Proof Point (and the first in Minnesota)!

FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS



Together, we:



MEASURE *what matters*



IDENTIFY *best practices*



SPREAD *what works*

to help **ALL** Northfield youth reach their full potential.

FLIP OPEN TO LEARN MORE





c/o Healthy Community Initiative
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BE PART OF OUR WORK

Get involved with Northfield youth!

Community is vital to the success of Northfield Promise. Join us in our mission to ensure every child in Northfield thrives.

Visit: northfieldpromise.org/volunteer



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