



Dear Lighthouse Families,

I began my career in education as a classroom teacher. Working in a large school district in a building with 27 fifth and sixth-grade classrooms, I had a class of 28 students. It was a challenging position for a first-time teacher, but it was also full of reward.

I tended to work with students whose learning needs did not meet grade-level expectations, and so my focus was on igniting a love of learning while also building foundational skills in literacy and numeracy. I loved the creative process of designing lessons and whole units of study to meet the interests and the specific needs of the students. To see the light in their eyes as they engaged in difficult and exciting work bolstered me and my stamina.

Over the years, I have had the pleasure of working in both public and independent schools, on and off island, and in a variety of roles: classroom teacher, early childhood coordinator, learning specialist, division head, and head of school. One of the greatest joys of working in a small school like Nantucket Lighthouse School is that I am still able to engage in the development of curriculum with teachers, as well as the brainstorming of strategies to meet different learners in each classroom. It is a passion that is just as strong today as it was over 30 years ago.

As I work alongside Lighthouse teachers, I feel such a deep appreciation for their thoughtful and hard work. I see how much they care for their students, and one another, and how quickly they have come to know them. I am grateful for how every member of the school community, from our office manager to our teaching assistants, development coordinator, specialist teachers, business manager, and school counselor, engages in this beautifully choreographed, and at times improvised, dance to carry out the school's mission: *A Nantucket Lighthouse School education cultivates intellectual, social, and moral wisdom and prepares each child to lead a joyful and impactful life.*

This simple call to action is both inspiring and heartening, especially when I have the privilege of seeing it in action each day at school.

I hope you enjoy a peaceful weekend.

Warm regards,

Emily

Happy, Thoughtful Kids Grown Here

It was such a joy to gather on Thursday evening for Parent Night. These moments of community remind us of the important partnership between home and school, and what a privilege it is to support your children together.

Last week, I shared some alternative questions to “*How was your day?*” that may spark meaningful conversation at home. This week, I’d like to offer a simple but powerful response for when your child tells you something difficult about their day:

“Thank you for sharing that with me.”

Child development experts remind us that children don’t learn to process emotions through quick fixes or long lectures, but through connection. This short phrase communicates three essential messages:

- I hear you.
- Your feelings matter.
- You can trust me.

When children are met with calm listening over immediate problem-solving, they are more likely to keep sharing. Over time, these moments build trust and create an open channel for communication.

I am so grateful to partner with you as parents, and I look forward to meaningful conversations in the months ahead as we support your children together.

Warmly,

Julia

Important Upcoming Dates:

Wednesday, September 24th: Walk-in Wednesday, 9:00 am

Wednesday, October 1: Professional Development-
NO SCHOOL

Monday, October 13: Professional Development-
NO SCHOOL

Now Accepting Applications for the 2026–2027 School Year

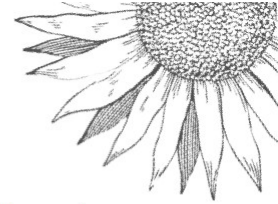
We are excited to announce that applications are now open for the 2026–2027 school year. Current families do not need to reapply enrolled students, but we are pleased to offer **priority admissions to siblings**.

If you have a child who will be **2 years, 9 months or older by August 31**, we encourage you to reach out to Julia and submit a free online application through our website. Early admissions decisions for siblings with completed applications will be shared in December.

The unprecedented interest in our school community is a testament to the stories and support of extraordinary Lighthouse families like yours! We will be welcoming prospective families to a **Walk-In Wednesday tour next Wednesday, September 24, at 9:00 AM.** Please help us spread the word!



Nantucket
**Lighthouse
School**



Inspiring children PRESCHOOL *through* 7th GRADE

You are invited to...

WALK-IN WEDNESDAY

September 24 at 9:00am

Drop-ins are welcome to explore our campus and discover an extraordinary, project-based education that engages the *whole child*.

WWW.NANTUCKETLIGHTHOUSE SCHOOL.ORG
1 RUGGED ROAD, NANTUCKET, MA

Personal Tours
UPON REQUEST

Arrange a campus tour at your convenience by visiting the "Admissions" section of our website.

Apply Today
APPLICATIONS OPEN

Applications for the 2026-2027 school year are now available online and free of cost.





Community Events



Friends of Nantucket Public Schools Bike-A-Thon

2.5 MILE FUN RIDE

Another great way to support:


Friends of NPS
@Friends-Of-NPS


venmo
Scan this code to pay

 **Sunday, October 5th**

 **NES/NIS Parking Lot**

 **RIDE BEGINS AT 1 PM
12:30PM CHECK-IN**

PRIZES FOR:

- Most Money Raised to the Top Three Individuals
- Best Decorated Bike
- Best Costume
- Youngest Participant
- Bike Safety & Sportsmanship

REGISTER BY PICKING UP A FUNDRAISING ENVELOPE AT NES OR NIS FRONT OFFICE.

All Proceeds Support Friends of Nantucket Public Schools Helping fund programs that benefit both students and teachers.

Click here to volunteer 

Nantucket Lighthouse School | 1 Rugged Road | Nantucket, MA 02554 US

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