



## Principal's Message

NPA families,

This is Mr. Litwicki, and I'm excited to be the new principal at Northland Preparatory Academy. I look forward to getting to know the students, parents, faculty and staff in the coming year. I'm a veteran teacher and administrator and proudly worked for the Sedona-Oak Creek USD and American Heritage Academy in Cottonwood and Camp Verde. I appreciate the opportunity to become part of the NPA family.

Welcome to the 2020-21 School Year, which promises to be the most unique in memory. Due to the unfortunate reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, NPA, like many schools across the state and the nation, is forced to open online this Fall. But make no mistake, even though the buildings may be closed, school is very much open!

Open, but not quite the same. Rather than looking for their homeroom, or figuring out their locker combination, students are beginning the first quarter of the school year tracking down course codes, managing class schedules, attending zoom meetings, posting in graded chat rooms, and suddenly having to be more responsible for their education and become fierce advocates for themselves. Forgive me if I see silver linings, but aren't personal responsibility and advocacy what we've often perceived as the next important step in a student's education?

Students, I assure you, you don't face these challenges alone. Whether the challenges are with online learning, or processing the concurrent crises our beloved country faces, your families will support you, and teachers are ready to guide you and help you make sense of events. We, the larger NPA family, are in this together, for as long as it takes and no matter the difficulties. It's OK to talk about what we're going through, to a friend or a parent or a teacher. It's OK to ask for help. It's OK to feel our feelings at this time; in fact it's important that we do so.

And when we are able to return to school, however that looks, NPA will be ready. Our buildings are cleaned and sanitized and we have protocols in place to help ensure the safety of students and staff. In addition to our Distance Learning Plan, we have a posted pandemic Mitigation Plan that you can find on our website.

We'll all be together soon, and until we are, remember to be patient and kind (especially to your parents!), to work hard, and to face the challenges with confidence, knowing that you have a caring team behind you!

See you soon,

Mr. Litwicki