

STUDENT HANDBOOK (2024-2025)

1903 Freeport Road

North East, PA 16428

Phone: (814) 725-8671 x 2000

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Web Page: www.nesd1.org

NORTH EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL **ONE VISION. ONE MISSION. ONE TEAM.**



"The Mission of the North East School District is to **Nurture and Empower** lifelong learning and responsible citizenship."

Mr. Corey Garland
Principal

Mrs. Dara Allen
Assistant Principal

Dr. Michele S. Hartzell
Superintendent

Letter from the Principals



Dear Students,

Welcome to a new school year! As your principals, we are excited to embark on this journey of learning and growth with you. This handbook is your guide to understanding the rules and expectations that will help create a positive and respectful environment for everyone. Please take the time to read through it carefully and keep it handy throughout the year. Remember, our goal is to support you in achieving your best, both academically and personally. Let's make this year productive, fun, and memorable together!

Mr. Garland and Mrs. Allen

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Pickers

North East Middle School: This We Believe

We believe in nurturing the whole student, fostering a supportive and inclusive community that values diversity and individuality. We are committed to creating a safe and engaging learning environment where students can explore their interests, develop critical thinking skills, and build strong foundations for future success. Our dedicated staff collaborates to provide a balanced curriculum that promotes academic excellence, social-emotional growth, and physical well-being. We encourage our students to be active participants in their education, to embrace challenges with resilience, and to become compassionate, responsible citizens. Together, we strive to inspire a lifelong love of learning and prepare our students for the ever-changing world ahead.

Every day you are thinking about life and engaging in the world around you. You socialize with peers and adults. You consume social media and technology. Each day brings new experiences and new opportunities with new decisions and life choices. ALL of which are great learning opportunities. All along the way, your choices and experiences will influence your habits, attitude, well-being, and values which will help determine “who” you will become as an adult. The is the Growth Mindset in practice.

We are a successful middle school. We believe that our school needs to be Responsive, Challenging, Empowering, Equitable, and Engaging. The Climate, Culture, and Community that we create together, the curriculum, instruction, and assessment that your teachers prepare, and the leadership of the North East Middle School are a part of how we learn and grow together!

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Phone Directory
Phone Number 725-8671
Fax number 725-1086



Principal	Mr. Garland	ext. 2001
Assistant Principal	Mrs. Allen	ext. 2002
Office	Mrs. Bennett	ext. 2000
Office	Mrs. Seth	ext. 2003
School Nurse	Mrs. Fisher	ext. 2014
Guidance	Mrs. Kern	ext. 2005

NEMS STAFF

Mrs. Baumann – Life Skills	Ms. Kosslow - 7th Grade Math
Mrs. Bennett - Secretary	Mrs. McChesney - 8th Grade ELA
Mrs. Benson – Librarian/Gifted	Mrs. Miller - Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS)
Mrs. Brown – Emotional Support	Ms. Page - Physical Education
Mr. Carver – 8th Grade Math	Mrs. Panochko - 7th Grade Math
Mr. Cassidy - 8th Grade Social Studies	Ms. Pondo - Instructional Aide
Mrs. Crozier - 6th Grade Math	Mr. Rankin - 6th Grade ELA
Mr. Currier - 6th Grade Science	Mrs. Reilly - 6th Grade Learning Support
Mrs. Davis - 6th Grade ELA	Mrs. Reynolds - Autistic Support
Mr. Degrosky - Band	Mr. Richardson - Physical Education
Mrs. Docherty - 8th Grade ELA	Mrs. Righi - School Social Worker
Mrs. Fisher - School Nurse	Mr. Righi - Technology Education
Mrs. Freeman - STEM	Mr. Scouten - 6th Grade Social Studies
Mrs. Heaton - Dining Hall Aide	Mr. Scutella - 8th Grade Math
Mr. Heid - Chorus/General Music	Mr. Sellers - 7th Grade ELA
Ms. Horton - Life Skills Aide	Mrs. Seth - Attendance Secretary
Ms. Houppert - 7th Grade Science	Mr. Solymosi - 8th Grade Science
Mr. Humes - 7th Grade ELA	Mrs. Stetson - 8th Grade Learning Support
Mrs. Kern - Guidance Counselor	Mr. Timon - 6th Grade Math
Ms. Kneidinger - 7th Grade Learning Support	Mrs. Wyman - 7th Grade Social Studies
Ms. Knight - Art	Ms. Adams - Mental Health Liaison

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Nick Mobilia	President
Jane Blystone	Vice President
Charles Ferruggia	Member
Alene Rohde	Member
Katie Phillips	Member
Corrie Boyd	Member
Charles Ferrugia	Member
Glenn Craig	Member
James Wargo	Member
Mackenzie Luke	Member

2024-2025 School Calendar

August 20-22—In-Service Days (No school for students)

August 27—First Day of School

September 2—Labor Day (School Closed)

October 11—In-Service (No School for Students)

October 14—In-Service (No School for Students)

October 29—End of 1st Marking Period

November 7, 8—Parent Conferences/Early Dismissal—1/2 day

November 27—December 2—Thanksgiving Break (School Closed)

December 23-January 1—Winter Break (School Closed)

January 2—School Resumes

January 16—End of 2nd Marking Period

January 20—MLK Day/Teacher Work Day (No School for Students)

February 14—In-Service Day (No School for Students)

February 17—Presidents' Day (School Closed) Snow Makeup

March 14—No School (Snow Makeup)

March 25—End of 3rd Marking Period

April 14-18—Spring Break (School Closed)

May 26—Memorial Day (School Closed)

May 31 —Graduation

June 5 – Half Day Dismissal (Act 80) – Last Day for Students

June 6- Teacher In-Service

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Academic Grading Scale (based on tests, quizzes, and performance assessments)

100-99	A+	79-77	C+
98-93	A	76-73	C
92-90	A-	72-70	C-
89-87	B+	69-67	D+
86-83	B	66-63	D
82-80	B-	62-60	D-
59 and Below		Failure	



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Academic Recognition

Each quarter there is a “Straight A Breakfast” for students who earn A’s in all classes. There are also quarterly awards ceremonies during which qualifying students are recognized for their achievements. Some of those awards include:

High Honors	All A’s in Academics & Specials
Honor Roll	A’s and B’s in Academics & Specials
B.U.G. Award	Bringing up at least one grade without any other grade going down and no failing grades

Pride of the Principal Award

This quarterly award is a special recognition of students who demonstrate exemplary citizenship, attitude, and cooperation. They also show class, character, and integrity in their interactions with teachers and their peers.

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School Procedures



School Hours

North East Middle School houses grades 6 through 8 with a population of approximately 300 students.

Homeroom: 7:42 AM (Tardy Bell) Dismissal: 2:40 PM

Early Arrival—Students **may not** arrive before 7:15 a.m. Students must report and stay in the cafeteria or designated grade level areas until 7:30. Breakfast will be served until 7:30. Students are **not** permitted to go to their lockers before 7:30 a.m.

Dismissal—It is expected that students go home at 2:45 p.m. unless they are participating in an after-school activity for which they have secured permission.

Attendance Procedures (NESD Policy 204)

- 1. Call the school to report absence before 7:30 a.m., ext. 2003
- 2. Have a parent or guardian write an excuse giving name, date, days of absence, and reason for absence. Turn all notes into the front office upon arrival.
- 3. **Excuses must be turned in to the front office within three school days or the absence will be considered illegal.**
- 4. If your child is on a **doctor’s excuse**, the doctor’s excuse **must** be turned in on the **first day** the student returns to school.
- 5. Make immediate plans to communicate with all teachers to complete make-up work due to absence. Check your Gmail, Sapphire, and Google Classroom.
- 6. Submit early dismissal notes to the office before school on the day of early dismissal.
- 7. **If you go to the doctor, please bring in a note from their office upon return.**

Only emergency phone calls will be accepted for dismissal changes. Please make arrangements before coming to school.

*******NO EXCEPTIONS*******

Legal reasons for being absent from school include:

- A. Illness
- B. Quarantine
- C. Required court attendance
- D. Death in family
- E. Observance of religious holidays
- F. Non-school sponsored educational trips
- G. Absence due to severe weather
- H. Other urgent reasons

The parents of students who accumulate three unlawful absences will receive notice in the mail. That notice is an official warning pertaining to future unlawful absences. After the third offense notice has been issued, additional unlawful absences shall be referred by the NESD to the District Judge, which may result in legal action. The consequences include, but are not limited to, a hearing and a possible monetary fine based on Section 1333, Article XIII of Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949.

Tardiness and Truancy

Students are required to be in their homeroom classes and seated by 7:42 a.m. Students tardy to school must report to the attendance secretary in the front office and receive a tardy pass to be given to their homeroom teacher.

Excessive **unexcused** tardiness to school will be handled as illegally missed school. Repeated or severe cases will result in truancy penalties and/or legal referrals to the District Judge.

This policy stays in effect for the entire school year.

Vacation Absences and Requests

If you plan to take a family vacation, an Educational Vacation form is available in the office and must be filled out, signed, and returned to the office **five days** prior to departure and must be approved by school administration. The form will be used as the absence excuse. Please try to avoid the PSSA testing window. **(See PSSA dates posted on page 22).**

Behavior in the Classroom

The teacher is responsible for managing student behaviors in the classroom and has complete authority. Your teacher will have classroom procedures outlined for you to follow. You have the power of choice! Remember: North East Grape Pickers show class, character, and integrity in all that they do.



Bicycles

The Gregory A. Beardsley Bicycle Rack is on the west side of the building and that is the only place bikes should be kept during the school day. Bicycles must be ridden on the sidewalk around to the bike rack; students are **not** to ride their bikes in the parking lot. Students must obey all crossing guards. A lock is strongly recommended for bikes.



**Bullying (NESD Policy 249) and Discrimination
Title IX Harassment (NESD Policy 103)**



Bullying

Purpose

The Board is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for district students. The Board recognizes that bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, detracts from the safe environment necessary for student learning, and may lead to more serious violence. Therefore, the Board prohibits bullying by district students.

Definition

Bullying means an intentional and consistent electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting and/or outside a school setting, that is severe, persistent or pervasive, and has the effect of doing any of the following:[\[1\]](#)

- 1. Substantially interfering with a student’s education.
- 2. Creating a threatening environment.
- 3. Substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Harassment

The district is committed to the maintenance of a safe, positive learning environment for all students that is free from discrimination by providing all students course offerings, counseling, assistance, services, employment, athletics and extracurricular activities without any form of discrimination, including Title IX sexual harassment. Discrimination is inconsistent with the rights of students and the educational and programmatic goals of the district and is prohibited at or, in the course of, district-sponsored programs or activities, including transportation to or from school or school-sponsored activities.

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Cell Phones/Electronic Devices, Including Wearable Technology (NESD Policy 237)

Cell phones may be brought to school but they must be off and out of sight **ALL DAY**. Students must turn off all devices before walking into the building and leave them off until dismissed. Devices are **not** to be used in school during the school day. If a student uses a cell phone/electronic device/wearable (such as earbuds and smartwatches)

during an “Academic School Day,” the following disciplinary consequences will result:

1st Referral—Confiscation of the electronic device and parent contact. Student will be assigned an after school detention. The electronic device will be returned to the student at the end of the day.

2nd Referral—Confiscation of the electronic device and parent contact. Student will be assigned after school detentions. The electronic device will not be returned directly to the student; parent must appear to collect the electronic device and sign off indicating awareness of two offenses.

Subsequent Offenses—After a “second offense” a student found to be using the device during the academic school day will be considered insubordinate. The students will receive a consequence of in school suspension. The student’s parent must appear to collect the electronic device. The student will NOT be permitted to possess any electronic device in school for the remainder of the school year. If the student is found in violation of this policy after their third offense, there will be more serious consequences, including out-of-school suspension (OSS).

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Discipline (NESD Policy 218)

The North East Middle School community has high expectations for student behavior. Along with your parents/guardians, the North East Middle School teachers, staff, and administration will encourage you to reach your full potential.

The following are **NOT ACCEPTABLE** and **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED** on school property, at school sponsored events, or on transportation to or from school and/or school sponsored events:

- ◆ Alcohol/drug use (which includes but is not limited to alcohol, illegal drugs, controlled substances, prescription drugs, non-prescription drugs which are being used in an abusive or unlawful manner or in a manner for which they were not intended or prescribed, anabolic steroids, look-alike drugs/substances, and any substance which is intended to alter mood)
- ◆ Aggressive behavior with intent to cause harm
- ◆ Fighting
- ◆ Weapon use or possession (which shall include, but not be limited to, the following or any replica or look-alike of the following: guns; firearms; BB guns; ammunition, including bullets; knives, including pocket knives; metal knuckles; straight razors and razor blades;

noxious, irritating, or poisonous gasses, including mace and pepper spray; poisons; explosive materials; bombs; missiles; chains; metal objects or any other object designed for protection or designed to harm others; or any object intended by the student to do bodily injury or threat of bodily injury to another)



- o In addition, any miming or action intended to look like shooting, stabbing, or other lethal action will result in school-based consequences as well.

- ◆ Harassment (which includes but is not limited to, unwelcome slurs, jokes, or other verbal/oral, graphic or physical conduct based on a student's race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sex gender, sexual orientation, age or disability, or any other legally protected class, or for engaging in any other protected activities which are so objectively severe or pervasive in nature that they (1) create, or pose a realistic or well-founded threat of creating, a substantial or material disruption to the educational process or activities or (2) interfere, or pose a realistic or well-founded threat of interfering with, the rights of the student/s or the student/s access to or participation in the benefits or programs offered by the District)
- ◆ Possession of any tobacco product, E-cigarettes, or vapes
- ◆ Stealing
- ◆ Vandalism
- ◆ Inappropriate language
- ◆ Insubordination (outright refusal to obey a directive from any staff member)
- ◆ Disruptive/disrespectful behavior (behavior which is distracting, detrimental, or not conducive to the learning environment of other students while in school and any behavior which shows a lack of respect or deference to District officials, employees, and volunteers)
- ◆ Terroristic threats/Terroristic acts/Bomb threats (including threats to commit any crime of violence to another or to cause evacuation of a building, place of assembly or facility, or to cause serious public inconvenience, or in reckless disregard of the risk of causing such terror or inconvenience)



Students who commit any of these disciplinary infractions shall, depending on the severity or frequency of the behaviors, be subject to discipline up to and including in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, referral to alternative education placement, and expulsion.

Students are entitled to “due process” depending on the level of discipline that is recommended. Your school Administrator shall notify you of your due process rights prior to any exclusion from school (i.e., any suspension or expulsion from school). **AP218**

After School Detention

After school detention and/or extended after school detentions are assigned by a Principal or Assistant Principal. You and your parent/guardian are responsible for transportation home. Both after school detentions can be assigned Monday through Thursday with the following times: After school detention 2:45pm - 3:30pm. You may or will receive a detention for any of the following reasons:

- ◆ **NOT** following school/classroom rules
- ◆ **NOT** respecting the rights of others (adults/peers)
- ◆ **NOT** being on time and prepared
- ◆ **NOT** staying on task, paying attention, or completing work in a timely manner
- ◆ Misbehaving in the hall

NORTH EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT **PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE FRAMEWORK**

These are the options of disciplinary consequences for violations of the discipline code. Other infractions which may not be listed below will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and apply discipline in a fair, firm, and consistent manner.

Infractions may include:

Alcohol/Drugs, Arson/Related Activities, Bus Misbehavior, Cheating, Class Cuts, Dangerous Weapons, Defiance, Destruction/Damage of School Property, Disrespect, Disruptive Behavior, Falsifying Information, Fighting, Harassment, Insubordination, Left without Permission, Obj. Public Conduct, Pager/Cell Phone Use during School Hours, Profanity, Skipping After-School Detention, Tardiness, Terroristic Threats, Theft, Tobacco, Truancy, Unlawful Entry.

The discipline framework can include:

Warning/Reprimand, Teacher/Student Conference, Teacher/Parent Conference, Administrative/Parent Conference, Administrative/Parent/Student Conference,

After-School Detention, Extended Detention, In-School Suspension (ISS), Out-of-School Detention (OSS), Expulsion (Discipline Committee Hearing and School Board Hearing).

Dress Code (NESD Policy 221)

We encourage students to take pride in their dress and grooming.

- ◆ We expect all students to dress and groom themselves neatly in clothes that are suitable for school activities.
- ◆ All outerwear, including hats and coats, and book bags are to remain in your student locker during the course of the day.
- ◆ We will adhere to the board approved dress code revised in 2022.



If you come dressed inappropriately, you will be asked to call home for appropriate clothing or get a change of clothes from the health room.

Fire Drills/Emergency Drills

North East Middle School will conduct a series of fire/emergency evacuation drills over the course of the school year. A Fire Evacuation Plan is posted conspicuously in each room. Students should be aware of this plan and become familiar with it.

When a fire alarm sounds, students will **immediately stand and be escorted out of the building by their teacher. Students will leave the room and building in a quiet and orderly manner** via the route posted for that area. Running is not permitted. Upon exiting the building, students will **remain with their group** in a safe area at least 50 feet from the building and wait for the all-clear signal before re-entering. Students will **re-enter the building in a quiet and orderly fashion**. Students will adhere to the procedures and expectations of emergency drills as communicated by the teacher.

Fundraising

Fundraisers are not to be sold during school hours (7:30 – 2:45).

Growth Mindset

In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work – brains and talent are

just the starting point. Create a love of learning and resilience that is essential for reaching your fullest potential.

Students who embrace growth mindsets – the belief that they can learn more or become smarter if they work hard and persevere (show grit) – may learn more, learn it more quickly, and view challenges and failures as opportunities to improve their learning and skills.

Hall Behavior



During class time students are only permitted in the halls if they have **an approved Smart Pass** from their classroom teacher. Language and volume should be kept at an appropriate level while traveling between classes with students walking on the **right** side of the halls. Appropriate disciplinary action will result from improper behavior in the hallways between classes.

Health Room Hours (for walk-in problems and illnesses)

Monday: 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 7:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Students who become ill at school must report to the Health Office **with a pass** for an evaluation by the nurse. She will then notify the parent/guardian if it is necessary for you to go home. Any illness or injury should be reported to the school Health Office immediately.

Additionally, no student is ever to call and report themselves ill to a family member. Students who do not follow the protocol listed above will receive consequences for not adhering to these expectations.

If you are on Doctor's Excuse Only and come to school ill, the nurse has the discretion of sending you home or having you stay in school.



Emergencies should be reported to the Health Room immediately.

Health Room Emergencies

1. Significant new bleeding
2. New burns that blister
3. Injuries that just occurred (not ones that happened days ago)
4. Vomiting
5. Deep lacerations that occur in school
6. Head injury that occurs in school
7. Sprains or fractures that occur in school
8. Fainting or dizziness
9. Asthma attack or breathing difficulty
10. Seizures
11. Foreign body in the eye
12. Hypoglycemia, especially with our diabetics
13. Nosebleeds



These **ARE NOT** emergencies:

1. Headaches
2. Stomachaches or indigestion
3. Earache
4. Sore throat
5. Cough, colds
6. Abrasions, scratches, cuts, pencil pokes
7. Splinters
8. Rashes
9. Sunburn
10. Orthodontia discomfort from braces
11. Falling asleep in class!



Health Testing (NESD Policy 209)



Each year all students are screened for vision, blood pressure, height, weight, and body mass index. Physical exams are given in sixth grade. Dental, (Pennsylvania School Code: Article XIV, Section 1403) hearing, and scoliosis (curvature of the spine) screenings are done on all seventh graders. The nurse will send a referral home to parents when students do not meet the screening standards. (Pennsylvania School Code: Article XIV, Section 1402)

Required Immunizations (NESD Policy 203)

All students are required to have documentation on file in the North East Middle School health office that they have had their hepatitis series and proof of Varicella disease (chicken pox) or immunity (must have 2



shots). Grade 7 students must also have the 1st of 2 Meningitis vaccines and a Tdap booster (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis). Any 7th grade student who is **not up to date** on their immunizations will not be permitted to begin the school year in August. (Pennsylvania School Code: Article XIII, Section 1303A, Policy 203 NESD)

After School Help

After School Help will be offered Monday through Thursday each week from 2:45 to 3:30 p.m. in the Middle School Library. Students are to come prepared to work; **only students who need**



help are permitted to stay. If a student does not complete his/her homework, a teacher may call to get permission for him/her to stay for homework help. Attendance will be taken. Transportation home will not be provided.

Homework Requests

Only when you are **absent two or more days**, your parents/guardians may request your missing assignments. Your parents must call the school between **7:30 and 8:00 a.m.** to request your assignments. They may pick up your assignments **after 3pm.** Please **do not** call when a student only misses one day. Call before coming to make sure homework is in the office.

Library/Textbooks



You are expected to take care of borrowed materials and to return them on time. If materials are damaged or lost, you must pay to replace these items. The cost related to damage or loss of a book will be the responsibility of the student who was originally assigned the book. If students do not return or pay the cost of the item by the end of the school year, debts are sent to the District Justice where additional fines may be incurred. See Technology on page 13 for the Chromebook Agreement.

Lockers



Your locker is the property of the North East School District. You may rent a lock (\$2) from the office to place on your locker and/or gym locker. You may **not** buy your own lock. All lockers will be subject to periodic general inspection for the purpose of sanitation, maintenance, and to insure the health, safety, and welfare of the school environment. Lockers will also be subjected to periodic searches by the principal or other designated school officials, including dogs trained to identify controlled and/or

illegal substances. Your lock needs to be returned by the end of May and \$1 will be given back to you. *Note: The school is not responsible for lost or stolen articles.*

We invite you to carry your book bags and gym bags to school. However, they must be kept in your locker and may not be carried to classes. Please understand the middle school lockers are small and not all book bags will fit.

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Medication (NESD Policy 210)



A physician’s written order, parental permission slip, and **proper notarization** are required for all students receiving medication in school. (The Business Office will notarize school related paperwork only. Call the business office at 725-8671 x 3906.)

This includes all medication including eye drops and antibiotics, as well as allergy, and cold and cough medication. The medication form and prescription must be on file in the school health office for your child to receive medication. Tylenol may be dispensed if a signed parental permission slip is on file. **A new form has to be on file every year.**

All medication, prescription and non-prescription, must be in the original container, labeled with the student's name, and brought to the Health Office by a parent or guardian. All student medications will be kept in a locked medicine cabinet. Students must follow the procedures for using medications in school and supply the nurse with all proper documentation annually. Overnight field trip medication forms need to follow the medication policy.



Students who self administer their asthma inhalers, EpiPens, or insulin in school shall follow the procedures for using self-administered medications in school and supply the nurse with all proper documentation **annually**. **The student must notify the school nurse immediately following each use of self-administered medication.**

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Music



North East Middle School offers instruction in choral singing and band. Students who elect not to participate in performance groups will participate in general music courses.

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Sapphire

N.E.S.D. uses a web-based program called Sapphire to allow students and parents to access student absences, grades, and assignments from any computer with on-line capabilities. If any demographic information changes, parents are able to login and make the changes. Teachers can update and save changes to the gradebook at any time. If new assignments are graded, the gradebook will be updated on Monday by 3pm.

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School Closing

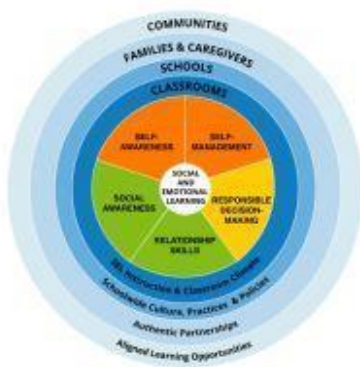
If it becomes necessary to close North East School District due to inclement weather or other emergency, school authorities will notify the following television stations: WJET/WSEE/WICU. Please watch these stations for official notification of any unscheduled school closing. You may also check the school website (www.nesd1.org). **A Sapphire message will be sent out as soon as possible if school is delayed or canceled.** When there is a 2-hour delay, school will start at 9:42 a.m. instead of 7:42 a.m.

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Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

The North East School District, Social-Emotional Leadership (SEL) Team, SEL Strategic Planning Team, and Administrative Team are excited to introduce our K-12 Social-Emotional initiative. We are committed to providing students, staff, and families with time, resources, training, and skills necessary to co-create a safe, healthy, and equitable community with vibrant and thriving schools.

We believe that basic human needs must be met before students can reach their highest academic potential (Maslow/Pearlman). We believe that students will be more motivated to achieve academically if they are healthy, feel safe, and are valued. Through SEL we will prioritize personal connections, and demonstrate relentless care for our students, staff, and families.



Sports Physicals



Free sport physicals are scheduled once a year in June for the following year's sports activities by the North East School District. PIAA rules state that a yearly physical or recertification form must be on file for the student athlete for each season. Students must sign the "Risk of Concussion & Traumatic Brain Injury" and a "Cardiac Arrest" form for **each** sport. Physicals must be done after June 1 for the following year. (Pennsylvania School Code: Article XIV, Section 1402)

Student Assistance Program



The North East Student Assistance Program (SAP) is designed to help all students in middle school be successful. Life sometimes can be difficult for many reasons. SAP members are here to help. They are your teachers, nurse, counselor, and administrators. SAP provides education, prevention, early intervention, agency referral, and follow-up. You, your parents, or your friends can ask for their help.

Technology

Students may only use the Internet to research specific school subjects. You and your parent/guardian will be required to sign the N.E.S.D. 1:1 Chromebook Agreement. Once you have signed this form, you will be assigned a Chromebook. Failure to abide by these rules will result in loss of your computer privileges. Students are responsible for any damage. Insurance can be purchased through the district's Technology Department (extension 2150).

Transportation

It is expected that students ride their assigned bus home each afternoon. Students will be given an assigned seat. Students will only be permitted to ride a different bus when the arrangement is related to a custody agreement.



NO student is permitted to get on the bus at the high school or elementary center at dismissal (unless the class is at the high school) without a pass. Students need to have all dismissal items ready.

The following actions will be taken depending on the severity and frequency of misbehavior: warning, parent notification, and/or

suspension of transportation privileges. These consequences may also include detentions and/or suspensions in school.

School Bus Safety Rules for Students



At the Bus Stop

1. Be waiting at your designated bus stop five minutes before your bus arrives.
2. If you miss your bus, **do not** run after it.
3. Wait in line at least ten feet from the edge of the highway.
4. Big and/or awkward objects are not permitted on the bus. (golf clubs, skis, etc.)
5. Wait until the bus stops and the door opens before you get on or off the bus.
6. Wait for a signal from the driver before crossing the street. Be alert for motorists. Look both ways before stepping in front of the bus onto the road.
7. Use the handrail to get on and off the bus.

On the Bus

1. Remain seated facing the front of the bus at all times.
2. Keep aisles clear of arms, legs, and carry-on items.
3. Keep arms, hands, head, and feet inside the bus.
4. Get the driver's permission to open or close the windows.
5. Avoid distracting the driver.
6. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
7. Always talk quietly.
8. Do not engage in any actions that might threaten the safety of other students or the driver.
9. Do not deliberately disobey, abuse, or otherwise show disrespect towards the driver.
10. No pushing, fighting, or disruptive behavior in or around the bus.
11. Do not bring on the bus or have in your possession dangerous and/or illegal weapons, alcoholic beverages, narcotics, controlled substances, tobacco products, glass objects, skateboards, or scooters.
12. Do not throw, shoot, or otherwise propel any objects in or around the bus.
13. Do not mar, deface, or tamper with any part of the bus. Students will be responsible to pay for any damages they cause to the bus.
14. Drivers have the authority to assign seats and make reasonable rules for students to follow (forbidding eating, drinking, radios, etc.).

15. All buses have back and front audio/video monitoring of buses.



Getting Off the Bus

1. Beware of the bus danger zone.
2. When approaching or leaving the bus, always cross at least ten feet in front where the driver can see you. Never cross the roadway behind the bus.
3. If you can touch the bus when you're walking alongside the bus, you are too close.
4. Wait for a signal from the driver before crossing the street. Be alert for motorists. Look both ways before stepping in front of the bus onto the road.
5. Never re-approach the bus.
6. You must have written permission to get off the bus at a stop other than your regularly assigned stop. Requests need to be written by a parent and the student can drop off the request in the office before homeroom.

Bus Discipline—Violations of Bus Safety Rules

- 1st offense—Verbal warning and parent notified
- 2nd offense—After school detention and parent notified
- 3rd offense—One day in school suspension from riding bus
- 4th offense—One to three days in school suspension and loss of bus privilege



Subsequent offenses—May result in loss of bus privilege for the remainder of the school year

All rules set forth in the North East School District Discipline Code apply to students during the day including the time when students are going to and from their homes. This also includes the time when students are waiting for and during the time they are riding the school buses or vans. For example, a student who brings a weapon or drugs onto a school bus will be subject to the same discipline as if he/she were in school. These rules apply to all field trips, overnight trips, sporting events, and any other school-sponsored activities as well.

Walkers



If you are a walker, plan to arrive at 7:30 a.m. and go directly to homeroom. At dismissal time, go directly home. You are not permitted to go into the Elementary School without a pass

from the office. Walkers must stay on the sidewalk and are **not** permitted to walk across the parking lot.

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Activities

Intramurals

The purpose of the Intramural Program is to provide all students with the opportunities to explore, grow, and learn beyond the classroom setting throughout the year. A variety of programs are offered every year. Transportation is not available for intramurals.

Intramurals throughout the years have included: Math Counts, Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS), Science Olympics, Debate, National History Day, Rubik’s Cube, Battle of the Books, Envirothon, Hooked on Fishing, Coding, Chess, Customizable Card Games, etc.

New Intramurals

If a student is interested in a new Intramural, they will need to find an advisor and review it with the principal. A letter will then be submitted to the Intramural director and sent on to the School Board for approval. Once approved the Intramural may begin.

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PIAA Sports

PIAA Academic & Attendance Eligibility Regulations

If a student comes to school late and is marked tardy unexcused, it will be up to the administration if the student can practice or play in a game that day.

If a student receives 2 F’s, he/she is ineligible to practice or play in games and must go to the teacher for help.

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Fall Sports:

Girls’ Basketball



Seventh and eighth grade girls’ PIAA basketball is a great opportunity to get involved in your school. These are school teams which are competitive, but still in transition from intramurals. The seventh grade team typically has no more than 15 players and offers the chance for wider participation.

The eighth grade team is geared more towards competition with a typical team of 12 players. Both teams have tryouts in mid-August and require a physical before participation.

Boys’ and Girls’ Cross Country

At North East Middle School, cross country is PIAA sanctioned, and all rules apply. Student athletes are required to meet all PIAA academic and attendance eligibility regulations, as well as North East School District Academic Policy. Seventh and eighth grade cross country is a fall PIAA sport. The runners participate in county meets as well as invitationals throughout the region.



Football



At North East Middle School, football is PIAA sanctioned, and all rules apply. Student athletes are required to meet all PIAA academic and attendance eligibility regulations, as well as North East School District Academic Policy. The Junior High Football Team is composed of 7th and 8th graders. The goal is to develop skills and a hard work ethic that will make our team competitive with other schools in our league, while encouraging good sportsmanship and preparing players for varsity football.

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Winter Sports:

Boys’ Basketball

Seventh and eighth grade boys’ basketball is an important part of our basketball program. Our teams are the starting place for building a successful tradition. Each team carries between 12 and 15 players and plays a maximum of 24 games. Our program is sanctioned by PIAA, and our student athletes must comply with school eligibility standards. Tryouts and games begin in November. Our goal is to develop fundamental skills while promoting sportsmanship so that our program is successful.



Wrestling



Middle School wrestling is for 7th and 8th grade students interested in developing wrestling skills, learning how to be a part of a team, as well as competing as an individual. All PIAA rules and North East School District rules apply. Sportsmanship and how to compete properly are highly stressed.

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Spring Sports:

Boys’ and Girls’ Soccer



Middle School soccer is for 7th and 8th grade students interested in developing the skills to prepare for high school soccer. All PIAA and North East School District rules apply. Good sportsmanship and attitude is stressed as students prepare for varsity soccer.

Boys’ and Girls’ Track & Field



At North East Middle School, track & field is PIAA sanctioned, and all rules apply. Student athletes are required to meet all PIAA academic and attendance eligibility regulations, as well as North East School District Academic Policy. Middle School track & field is for 7th and 8th grade students. Events include sprints, distance, high jump, long jump, triple jump, hurdles, shot put, and discus.

Girls’ Volleyball



This program is for 7th and 8th grade girls who are interested in learning the basics of volleyball and getting a chance to compete against other schools. Girls are required to meet PIAA academic and attendance eligibility requirements. Tryouts are in March and games are in April. Good sportsmanship is encouraged as this program will prepare players for varsity level play.

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PSSA Dates 2024-2025

English Language Arts	April 21 – 25, 2025	Grades 3-8
Mathematics	April 28 – May 2, 2025	Grades 3-8
Science	April 28 – May 2, 2025	Grades 4-8
Make-up	April 28 – May 2, 2025	

Please try to schedule all doctor appointments and vacations around these dates.

NEMS Food Market

Students or parents who may be experiencing hardship are encouraged to reach out to the North East Middle School about our Food Market. We stock food, toiletries, and other essential items. Please contact the front office (814)-725-8671 ext. 2000 if you have any questions or are interested in this service.

Special Education Services

"The district provides special education services to those students who require specially designed instruction and supplementary aides and services in order to be successful in the Middle School setting. If your son or daughter is having academic or behavioral difficulty in school, please contact the North East School District Special Education office at 725-8671 – ext 3027."

Appendix A

Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness. (MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT)

Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program was established to make sure homeless youth have access to a free and appropriate public education while removing barriers that homeless children face. Its goal is to have the educational process continue as uninterrupted as possible while the children are in homeless situations.

Section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Act¹⁰ defines "homeless children and youths" as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes —

- Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as "doubled-up"); living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; living in emergency or transitional shelters; or abandoned in hospitals;
- Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

If you are aware of any children in the school district who may possibly fit the above criteria, please contact a school principal or the school district's McKinney-Vento interim liaison, Dr. Michele S. Hartzell at 814-725-8671 Ext 3907 or email adminoffice@nesd1.org.

Services and support are available for these students. Please click on the Parent tab of the district website at www.nesd1.org for more information.

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please reach out to Dr. Michele S. Hartzell, Interim Liaison who is the Homeless Liaison at 814-725-8671 ext. 3907, or email adminoffice@nesd1.org.

Liaison Responsibilities

The district's liaison shall coordinate with:

- Local service agencies that provide services to homeless children, youth, and families.
- Other school districts on issues of records transfer and transportation.
- District staff responsible for the provision of services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Individuals with Disabilities Act.
- State and local housing agencies responsible for comprehensive housing affordability strategies.

The district's liaison shall provide public notice of the educational rights of homeless students in schools, family shelters, soup kitchens, public libraries, and locations frequented by parents/guardians of homeless children. The district liaison shall provide reliable, valid, and comprehensive data to the coordinator of Pennsylvania's Education for Children/Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) Program in accordance with federal and state law regulations.

Definition of Homelessness: Homeless students are defined as individuals lacking a fixed, regular, adequate nighttime residence, which include the following conditions:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.

- Living in emergency, transitional, or domestic violence shelters.
- Abandoned in hospitals.
- Whose primary nighttime residence is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings.
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations or similar settings.
- Living as migratory children in conditions described in previous examples.
- Living as run-away children.
- Abandoned or forced out of homes by parents/guardians or caretakers.
- Living as school-aged parents in houses for parents if they have no other living accommodations.

School of origin is defined as the school the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled, including pre-school. When the student completes the final grade level served by the school of origin, the school of origin shall include the designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools.

Unaccompanied youth is defined as a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Enrollment/Placement

To the extent feasible and, in accordance with the student's best interest, a homeless student shall continue to be enrolled in his or her school of origin while he or she remains homeless or until the end of the academic year in which he or she obtains permanent housing.

Parents/Guardians of a homeless student may request enrollment in the school in the attendance area where the student is actually living or other schools. If a student is unaccompanied by a parent/guardian, the district liaison will assist the student with placement and enrollment decisions and give priority to the views of the student in determining where he or she will be enrolled.

If after such consideration, the district determines that it is not in the student's best interest to attend the school of origin or the school requested by the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth, the district shall provide the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of the reasons for its determination. The explanation shall be in a manner and form understandable to the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth and shall include information regarding the right to appeal.

The selected school shall immediately enroll the student and begin instruction, even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment pursuant to district policies. However, the district may require a parent/guardian to submit contact information. The district liaison may contact the previous school for oral confirmation of immunizations, and the school shall request records from the previous district, pursuant to Board policy. Homeless families are not required to prove residency regarding school enrollment.