

North Schuylkill Junior/Senior High School

**Student Handbook
2025-2026**

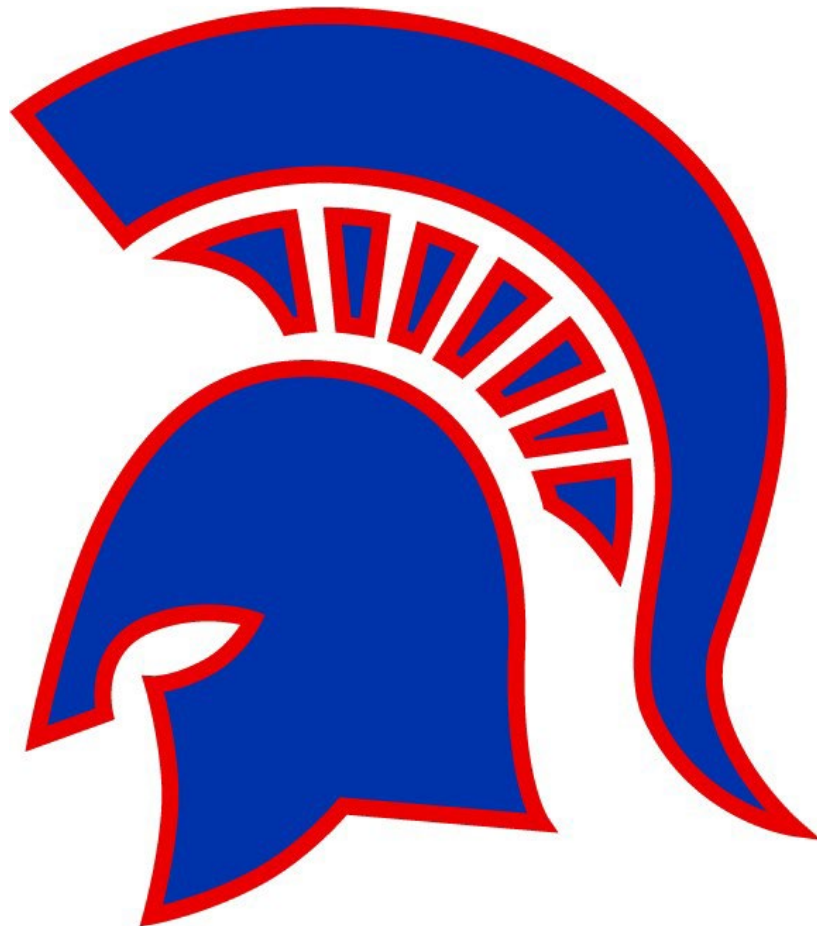


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ALMA MATER

North Schuylkill High School we have pride in thee
Faithful forever may we be
Long live our colors of red and of blue
Hail Alma Mater we give thanks to you.

Strength is your motto
Peace is your decree
Goodness and love we see in thee
Time will go on and our lives will pass us by
But Alma Mater you will never die.

Proudly we stand, and let this anthem ring
In future years we hope to bring
Honor to thee as we shout it to the sky
Hail Alma Mater, Hail North Schuylkill High

SCHOOL COLORS

Scarlet Red and Royal Blue

SCHOOL MASCOT

Spartacus the Spartan

ADMINISTRATION

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Robert J. Ackell

SCHOOL BOARD

Roy Green, President
Thomas Fletcher, Vice President
Mary Anne Woodward, Treasurer
Douglas Gressens, Member
Michael Kiehl, Member
Randy Lattis, Member
Raymond Reichwein, Member
Janine Simms, Member
Glenn Weist, Member
Merri Lynn Craig, Board Secretary
Brian Urban, Solicitor

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Ken Roseberry, Secondary Principal
Nicholas Sajone, Assistant Secondary Principal
Rob Shaffer, Dean of Students
Knute Brayford, Director of Special Education
Deneen Reese, Assistant Supervisor of Special Education
James Gross, Athletic Director

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

Melissa Lorady
Joseph Tomtishen
Jenna Dyszel

SOCIAL WORKER

Megan Rollenhagen

2025-2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR

August 18	New Teacher Orientation
August 20 – 21	Teacher In-Service Days – NO STUDENTS
August 25	Monday – First Day of School
August 29	Friday – SCHOOL CLOSED
September 1	Monday – Labor Day – SCHOOL CLOSED
October 13	Monday – Teacher In-Service Day – NO STUDENTS
October 30	Thursday – 2 nd Marking Period Begins
November 7	Friday – Teacher In-Service Day – NO STUDENTS
November 26	Wednesday – Early Dismissal for Students
November 27 – December 1	Thanksgiving Recess – SCHOOL CLOSED
December 23	Tuesday – Early Dismissal for Students
December 24 – January 2	Christmas Holidays – SCHOOL CLOSED
January 5	Monday – SCHOOL REOPENS
January 19	Monday – Teacher In-Service – NO STUDENTS
January 20	Tuesday – 3 rd Marking Period Begins
February 9	Monday – Teacher In-Service – NO STUDENTS
February 16	Monday – Presidents’ Day – SCHOOL CLOSED
March 13	Friday – Spring Break – SCHOOL CLOSED
March 16	Monday – Spring Break – SCHOOL CLOSED
March 30	Monday – 4 th Marking Period Begins
April 1	Wednesday - Early Dismissal for Students
April 2 - 6	Easter Break – SCHOOL CLOSED
April 7	Tuesday – SCHOOL REOPENS
May 25	Monday – Memorial Day – SCHOOL CLOSED
June 4	Thursday – Early Dismissal for Students
June 4	Thursday – GRADUATION

Weather Emergency Make-Up Days Scheduled as Follows:

1 st Makeup Day	Monday – January 19, 2026
2 nd Makeup Day	Friday – March 13, 2026
3 rd Makeup Day	Monday – March 16, 2026
4 th Makeup Day	Thursday – April 2, 2026

Additional days will be added to the end of calendar if needed



North Schuylkill Junior/Senior High School 2025-2026 Bell Schedule

<i>Revised 7-29-25</i>	Regular Bell Schedule	2-Hour Delay Schedule	3-Hour Delay Schedule	2-Hour Early Dismissal Schedule	Early Dismissal Day Schedule
HR	7:39 – 7:48	9:39 – 9:42	10:39 – 10:42	7:39 – 7:42	7:39 – 7:46
1	7:52 – 8:34	9:46 – 10:13	10:46 – 11:03	7:46 – 8:13	7:50 – 8:01
2	8:38 – 9:20	10:17 – 10:44	11:07 – 11:24	8:17 – 8:44	8:05 – 8:16
3	9:24 – 10:06	10:48 – 11:15	11:28 – 11:45	8:48 – 9:15	8:20 – 8:31
4	10:10 – 10:52	11:19 – 11:46	11:49 – 12:06	9:19 – 9:46	8:35 – 8:46
A Lunch	10:56 – 11:26	11:50 – 12:20	12:10 – 12:40	9:50 – 10:20	8:50 – 9:20
5B	11:30 – 12:12	12:24 – 12:54	12:44 – 1:14	10:24 – 10:54	9:24 – 9:54
6B	12:16 – 12:58	12:58 – 1:28	1:18 – 1:48	10:58 – 11:28	10:00 – 10:30
5A	10:56 – 11:38	11:50 – 12:20	12:10 – 12:40	9:50 – 10:20	8:50 – 9:20
B Lunch	11:42 – 12:12	12:24 – 12:54	12:44 – 1:14	10:24 – 10:54	9:24 – 9:54
6B	12:16 – 12:58	12:58 – 1:28	1:18 – 1:48	10:58 – 11:28	10:00 – 10:30
5A	10:56 – 11:38	11:50 – 12:20	12:10 – 12:40	9:50 – 10:20	8:50 – 9:20
6A	11:42 – 12:24	12:24 – 12:54	12:44 – 1:14	10:24 – 10:54	9:24 – 9:54
C Lunch	12:28 – 12:58	12:58 – 1:28	1:18 – 1:48	10:58 – 11:28	10:00 – 10:30
7	1:02 – 1:44	1:32 – 1:59	1:52 – 2:09	11:32 – 11:59	10:34 – 10:45
8	1:48 – 2:30	2:03 – 2:30	2:13 – 2:30	12:03 – 12:30	10:49 – 11:00

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING

School will be closed in case of extreme adverse weather conditions that create hazards to the safe operation of school buses. Notification regarding the closing of school will be made via announcements on the district's Facebook page, Twitter, Black Board/Ed Connect phone and computer notification system. In the event that it becomes necessary to close school early, delay opening, or cancel classes for any reason, you will be notified via these methods of communication. Announcements will be made as early as possible. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

FLEXIBLE INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS (FID)

Professional staff will prepare and post learning activities and assignments to their Google Classroom Site. Accommodations must be made for students that do not have home internet access and/or have special learning needs as identified in an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Gifted Individualized Education Plan (GIEP), and/or 504 Plan. English Learners (EL) will also have accommodations provided as necessary. The assignments may include enrichment activities, planned instruction, extensions of the current lesson, or a review of concepts and skills in an upcoming lesson. All assignments must be aligned to the district curriculum and be planned to allow students to complete it independently. Professional staff must accept all assignments received within the three-day window and must grade and record the results of each student's FID assignment.

When a Flexible Instructional Day is called, teachers are expected to have their lesson for the day posted in the Google Classroom by 8:00 a.m. All teachers will be available from 9:00a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m. to answer any questions through Google Classroom (virtual office), email or accessing their school phone messages and then responding back to the parents or students.

Special and regular education teachers will work together to design lessons that incorporate any modifications, specially designed instruction, and paraprofessionals and services identified in student's IEP, GIEP, and/or 504 Plan. Any related services (PT, OT, Speech, etc.) scheduled during the FID will be rescheduled in make-up sessions according to the frequency requirements of the students' plan. Student's roster teacher will discuss FID's at the students' annual IEP, GIEP and/or 504 meeting where the team will consider if your child needs additional support due to the nature of a FID and will include those additional supports in the IEP, GIEP and/or 504 Plan. If an IEP, GIEP and/or 504 team determines that a student cannot receive appropriate education on a FID day or if the related services are not able to be made up in a reasonable time frame, the students will be provided compensatory education in conjunction with the Extended School Year Services.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

At North Schuylkill, we strive to ensure welcoming, inclusive and safe learning environments for all our students and families. Our pledge is to provide all our students with inspiring and relevant experiences so they may live meaningful, purposeful, and impactful lives. We are committed to promoting a nurturing school environment where each child is respected and valued as an individual regardless of skin color, gender identity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ability or disability. We support ideals of free speech, freedom, equality, non-discrimination and equal opportunity in the school setting. We stand united against discrimination, injustice and prejudice. We support positive, constructive and peaceful change in society including the areas of protection of human rights, human dignity and respect for all people; and we endorse principles of diversity, fairness, equality and impartiality for all. This is not an open forum. It is our statement to promote greatness in all within our District and what it means to be a Spartan.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Student responsibilities include regular school attendance, conscientious effort in classroom work, and conformance to school rules and regulations. Most of all, students share with the administration and faculty a responsibility to develop a climate within the school that is conducive to wholesome learning and living.

No student has the right to interfere with the education of his fellow students. It is the responsibility of each student to respect the rights of teachers, administrators, and all others who are involved in the education process.

Students should express their ideas and opinions in a respectful manner so as not to offend or defame others.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF STUDENTS TO:

- Be aware of all rules and regulations for student behavior and conduct themselves in accordance with them.
- Be willing to volunteer information in matters relating to the health, welfare, and safety of the school community.
- Dress and groom themselves to meet fair standards of safety and health and so as not to cause substantial disruption to the educational process.
- Assume that until a rule is formally waived, altered or relented, it is still in full effect.
- Assist the school staff in operating a safe school for all students enrolled within.
- Be aware of and comply with state and local laws.
- Exercise proper care when using public facilities and equipment.
- Attend school daily and be on time for all classes and other school functions.
- Make all necessary arrangements to make up work when absent from school.
- Pursue and attempt to complete satisfactorily the courses of study prescribed by state and local school authorities.
- Avoid indecent or obscene language and gestures at all times.
- Assume financial obligation for any and all damage to public facilities and equipment and personal property (example: textbooks, athletic uniforms, chrome books or other electronics, etc).
- Adhere to all Board Policies (available for viewing on district website)

ACADEMICS

CLASS RANK

Class rank reflects an individual's academic performance starting in grade 9, as compared to his/her classmates by calculating one's relative numerical position in their graduating class based upon their weighted grade point average (GPA). Grade Point Average is determined by dividing quality points earned by credits attempted.

A student who transfers to North Schuylkill School District will be assigned a class rank after being enrolled for at least two (2) semesters. A student transferring as a senior will not be ranked. A student must be enrolled in the district for three (3) full years to be considered valedictorian, salutatorian, or top ten.

Class rank shall be computed using the final grade in all subjects for which credit is awarded.

Numerical grades, based on the 0-100% scale, will be reported by teachers for each class rank eligible course each marking period. The final course grade will be reported by the teacher for each course.

Numerical grades will be recorded on the report cards and the student transcripts.

The weighted GPA value on a 100% scale will be recorded on student transcripts. The raw/unweighted GPA value will be recorded on student report cards.

High school level courses taken prior to ninth grade (e.g., Algebra I) will receive an elective credit and count toward high school graduation but will not count toward class rank or GPA.

Students who participate in the CECP Program will not be recognized as valedictorian and/or salutatorian. All students who participate in the CECP program will share a class rank.

DUAL CREDIT

Dual Credit is intended to encourage a broader range of students to experience post-secondary coursework. The Pennsylvania Dual Credit Program allows school districts to partner with eligible postsecondary partners to offer high school students the opportunity to earn academic or career technical credit while completing their high school requirements within the North Schuylkill School District.

Students shall request to meet with their assigned guidance counselor to discuss the proposed dual credit course (s) and number of credits sought.

The number of credits and weight assigned to course (s) work taken through an alternative delivery method shall be predetermined by the building principal and guidance counselor as part of the approval process before coursework has begun.

- Each college course is equal to 1.0 credits that count towards graduation. Each dual credit course will carry a 1.10 weight.
- Each student will have the opportunity to discuss their individual situation and conversion table for each dual credit course with their guidance counselor.

Eligibility for student participation in a dual credit program will be based on the following criteria:

1. The student has satisfactorily completed the appropriate units of credit for his/her grade level and continues to make satisfactory progress within current grade level.
2. Students may take dual enrollment courses during the summer or winter. Summer or winter courses will not count towards credit for student graduation requirements or towards their GPA.
3. In order to participate in the Dual Credit program, the student must maintain a secondary school grade point average of 95% as a junior and 93% as a senior for the 2024-2025 school year.
4. Students must be in good standing and must meet district attendance criteria.
5. The course must be approved by the principal or designee and guidance counselor.
6. Student assumes the responsibility for all tuition and fees, textbooks, and transportation.
7. If a student withdraws from the course, student will receive a failing grade and will be recorded on the student's academic record (transcript).
8. All dual credit decisions will be done on an individual basis and must be confirmed by the Dual Credit Committee.

THE COMMONWEALTH EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM

1. North Schuylkill participates in the Commonwealth early college program (CECP) program at Bloomsburg University. Senior students may take a minimum of 4 dual credit courses, 2 per semester and a maximum of 8 dual credit courses, 4 per semester. A semester is a 15-week session in the Fall or Spring.
2. Juniors may participate in Bloomsburg's CECP Program if they have a cumulative grade point average of 95% or higher. Juniors must take a minimum of 6 credits with a maximum of 8 credits.
3. Students participating in CECP may share a rank but will not be acknowledged as a Valedictorian or Salutatorian.
4. CECP students must take their dual enrollment courses during the fall or spring semesters in order for courses to count toward GPA, high school credit and class rank. Students may take winter or summer courses for their own benefit but they will not count toward high school credit, GPA or class rank.

College Does Not Give A+		College Gives A+	
College	NS	College	NS
A	100	A+	100
A-	93	A	97
B+	92	A-	93
B	89	B+	92
B-	85	B	89
C+	84	B-	85
C	81	C+	84
C-	77	C-	77
D+	76	D+	76
D	74	D	74
D-	70	D-	70
F	69 and below	F	69 and below

EVALUATION OF PUPIL PROGRESS

Pupil progress will be automatically reported to the student and parent/guardian four times a school year: after the 45th day of school, after the 90th day of school, after the 135th day of school, and at the conclusion of school. The following scale will be used for grading:

<u>Letter Grade</u>		<u>Point Value</u>
Excellent	A	93 – 100%
Good	B	85 – 92%
Fair	C	77 – 84%
Poor	D	70 – 76%
Failure	F	Below 70%

In addition, progress reports will be sent home by parent request, a physical copy will be given to students, and available on the parent portal. Parents are encouraged to utilize the CSIU Parent Portal for more frequent updates on their child's progress or to contact the teachers or guidance office directly if they have any concerns.

NOTE: Students must attain a minimum final grade of 50% in order to be eligible to make up that course in the credit recovery program.

HONOR ROLL POLICY

To obtain honor roll status for the marking period, the following must apply:

- Distinguished Honors - All A's;
- High Honors 93% average with no D's or F's
- Honor Roll - 85% average with no D's or F's.
- Honor rolls are sent to local newspapers at the end of each marking period and are published at their discretion. In addition, the honor roll is posted on the School Webpage.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Changes to a student's schedule must be made by the end of the fifth school day of the first semester of that current school year. After the fifth day of the first semester of the current school year, no schedule changes will be made for the first semester unless deemed appropriate by the administration. Changes to a student's schedule for the second semester must be made prior to the first day of the second semester. After the start of the second semester of the current school year, no schedule changes will be made for the second semester unless deemed appropriate by the administration.

KEYSTONE REMEDIATION

Students who do not score proficient or advanced will be required to take Keystone Remediation in place of an elective. Keystone remediation will be determined upon receipt of individual test scores. This course is designed to prepare students to retake the exams upon completion of the course.

FOUNTAIN SPRINGS CYBER ACADEMY

North Schuylkill School District offers an online alternative learning option through *Edmentum* courseware. This program is entirely virtual and completed from home, with no in-person learning component.

Enrollment in the Cyber Academy is limited to specific windows:

- **The first week of the school year**
- **The first week of the second semester**

These are also the only times students may request to transition back to in-person learning.

If you are interested in enrolling in Fountain Springs Cyber Academy, please contact your guidance counselor for more information and to discuss if this option is a good fit for your educational needs.

Please note: **North Schuylkill does not provide internet access, Wi-Fi, or mobile hotspots** to students participating in the Cyber Academy. Reliable internet access at home is required.

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

As a student at the North Schuylkill Junior/Senior High School, you are encouraged to become actively involved in any area that may interest you. There are a number of extra-curricular activities available to you. Your involvement can address any special abilities and talents you may possess.

CLASS OFFICERS

The North Schuylkill Junior/Senior High School freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior classes elect class officers to represent their entire class. Offices include: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian. Nomination petitions for participation in class officer elections can be obtained from the class advisor.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extra-Curricular activities and meetings will be scheduled by the club advisor. Students needing transportation will be transported by bus to the elementary school and ride home on the appropriate bus. Prior to riding the elementary bus, the student permission form for after school activities must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian. Students must also sign up in the high school office by 1PM the day they need to ride that bus. Activities may be disbanded upon circumstances.

CURRENTLY OFFERED ACTIVITY	GRADES
4H Club	7 – 12
Academic Team	7 – 12
AEVIDIUM	9 – 12
Art Club	7 – 12
Band	7 – 12
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	9 – 12
Chess	9 – 12
Chorus	9 – 12
Class Officer	9 – 12
Creative Technology Club (CTC)	9 – 12
Diversity Club	7 – 12
Envirothon	7 – 12
Friends Forever	9 – 12
Gaming	9 – 12
Halloween Window Painting	7 – 12
Junior Advisory	11 – 12
Math Club	7 – 12
National Honor Society	11 – 12
Pep Club	11 – 12
Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM)	7 – 12
Spartan Fire and Rescue	7 – 12
Spelling Bee	7 – 12
Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)	11 – 12
Ski Club	7 – 12
Spanish Club	9 – 12
Student Council	7 – 12
Teens Against Tobacco (TAT)	7 – 12
Theatre Arts	7 – 12
ThinkBIG	9 – 12
Trap Shooting	7 – 12
JH Volleyball Club	7 – 8
Weightlifting Workouts	7 – 12
Yearbook	10 – 12

FIELD TRIP GUIDELINES

1. Students must have a passing grade in the subject that is taking the field trip.
2. Students may not have more than 15 school absences per semester or 20 school absences for the entire school year to participate in a field trip. Any absences beyond that need approval by the principal.
3. Any student serving ISS/OCS/OSS on the day of the field trip cannot participate in the field trip.
4. Any student with repeated discipline problems could result in removal from the field trip at the discretion of the principal.
5. Final field trip participation is at the discretion of the principal.
6. Students may participate in a maximum of one field trips in any one-week period.
7. No field trips are permitted in September or May.
8. Additional field trip participation requirements are at the discretion of the teacher sponsoring the field trip.
9. Any chaperone on a field trip must have the proper clearances (as per policy of the school board).
10. The Teacher sponsoring the field trip must have a list of all students participating in the field trip to all teachers and administration for a minimum of **one week prior** to the field trip.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The objectives of the National Honor Society are to:

1. Create enthusiasm for scholarship
2. Stimulate a desire to render service to the school and student body
3. Promote worthy leadership
4. Encourage development of character

Members will be considered on the basis of scholarship, character, leadership, and service.

The following is a list of Honor Societies offered at the North Schuylkill Junior/Senior High School: National Honor Society, English Honor Society, Science Honor Society, Mathematics, Social Studies, Foreign Language, and Tri-M Music Honor Society.

Please refer to the district website to obtain more detailed information about the selection process and the advisors of each society. Each Subject Honor Society has its own specific standards for induction. Please see the respective advisor for more information.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The North Schuylkill Jr.-Sr. High School has a student council that serves as a governing body representing the entire student body. Nomination petitions for participation in student council elections and further information on the organization can be obtained from the student council advisor. Students are encouraged to see the designated/appointed advisor during September for further information.

ATHLETICS

The North Schuylkill School District endorses a policy of fair play and sportsmanship in all interscholastic activities. Athletes at North Schuylkill are expected to conduct themselves as fine young men and women on and off the field. Being a member of an athletic team at North Schuylkill is a privilege that can be revoked at any time if the student is not meeting the standards as required by North Schuylkill School District and the P.I.A.A.

In order to try out for and/or participate in a sport, a student must pass a physical examination as well as have signed parental/guardian permission and proof of medical insurance equal to or better than that provided by the medical insurance program approved by the Board of Education (available to be purchased through the school) before each season begins.

FALL SPORTS- GIRLS

Cheerleading (Football)	7 – 12
Cross Country	7 – 12
Volleyball	9 – 12
Golf	9 – 12
Soccer	9 – 12

FALL SPORTS- BOYS

Football	7 – 12
Cross Country	7 – 12
Soccer	9 – 12
Golf	9 – 12

WINTER SPORTS- GIRLS

Basketball	7 – 12
Cheerleading (Basketball/Wrestling)	9 – 12
Swimming	9 – 12
Bocce Ball	9 – 12

WINTER SPORTS- BOYS

Wrestling	7 – 12
Basketball	7 – 12
Swimming	9 – 12
Bocce Ball	9 – 12

SPRING SPORTS- GIRLS

Softball	7 – 12
Track	7 – 12

SPRING SPORTS- BOYS

Track	7 – 12
Baseball	9 – 12

ACADEMIC AND CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

You must pursue a curriculum defined and approved by your principal as a full-time curriculum.

You must be passing at least six full-credit subjects, or the equivalent, as of each Friday during a grading period. If you fail to meet this requirement, you will lose your eligibility from the following Sunday through the Saturday immediately following the next Friday as of which you meet this requirement.

You must have passed at least four full-credit subjects or the equivalent during the previous grading period, except that eligibility for the first grading period is based on your final grades for the preceding school year. If you fail to meet this requirement, you will lose your eligibility for at least 15 school days of the next grading period, beginning on the first day report cards are issued.

AGE

In order to participate you may not have reached your 19th birthday on or before June 30 immediately preceding the school year. (15th birthday where interscholastic competition limited to grades 7 and 8; 16th birthday where limited to grades 7 through 9).

ATTENDANCE

You must be regularly enrolled in your school and maintain full-time attendance there. You are eligible only at the school at which you are enrolled. If you are absent from school during a semester for a total of 15 or more school days, you will lose your eligibility until you have been in attendance for a total of 45 school days following your 15th day of absence. Students who arrive at school without a doctor's excuse after 10:39 a.m. may not participate in athletic events for that day.

ELIGIBILITY

A student who participates in interscholastic athletics at a school which is a member of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc. ("P.I.A.A.") must adhere to the P.I.A.A. eligibility rules for student athletes. If you fail to comply with the P.I.A.A. rules, you will lose your eligibility to represent your school in interscholastic athletics. If you participate while ineligible, your school or team will be penalized. It is therefore important for you to be aware of the requirements to which you are subject.

The information contained here highlights and summarizes the major eligibility requirements you must meet in order to participate in interscholastic athletics. It does not list every rule or every detail. Unless otherwise indicated, each requirement applies to grades 7 through 12.

The principal of your school is responsible for certifying the eligibility of all students representing your school in interscholastic athletics. If you have any questions concerning your athletic eligibility, either present or future, you should see your school principal, who has available a complete copy of all the P.I.A.A. eligibility rules. Your principal may also obtain from the appropriate P.I.A.A. District Committee a formal ruling as to your athletic eligibility.

OUTSIDE PARTICIPATION

You will lose your eligibility in a sport for the remainder of the season if, while a member of your high school team, you participate in an athletic contest as an individual or a member of another team in the same sport during the same season, unless your school principal waives this rule by sending an appropriate letter to the P.I.A.A. Executive Director before you begin the outside participation.

If you participate as an individual or a member of a team in a non-school athletic program, while enrolled at a school which has a team in that sport, you will be eligible for the playoffs in that sport only if you are in uniform and available to participate as a member of your school team for at least 75% of its regular season contests.

PARTICIPATION FEE

Student athletes will be required to pay a participation fee associated with their sport. A \$10 fee will be paid when the student receives their physical from the school physician. All students getting the required physical from their family doctor would not pay this fee to the district. When team uniforms are assigned, athletes will pay a one-time fee of \$50/\$40/\$30 based on their Free and/or Reduced lunch status. The one-time fee will cover participation in all sports for the entire school year.

PERIOD OF ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION AND GRADE REPETITION

You will lose your eligibility when you have been in attendance more than eight semesters beyond the eighth grade. If you repeat a grade after eighth, you will be ineligible as a senior in that sport.

You may participate for a maximum of six seasons in each sport during grades seven through twelve with a maximum of three seasons in each sport during grades seven through nine.

You may participate only one season in each sport during each school year.

PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION

You are eligible only if you have participated in a pre-participation evaluation performed by an Authorized Medical Examiner (a licensed physician of medicine or osteopathic medicine, a physician assistant certified, or a certified registered nurse practitioner) before your first sport season's first legal practice date of that school year. Each athlete must be certified that their condition is satisfactory before they can commence to practice for their sport. Students can be re-certified no earlier than six weeks prior to the first practice day for each applicable sport; OR rely on a comprehensive initial pre-participation physical evaluation performed by a licensed physician of medicine or osteopathic medicine and certified to the PIAA Board of Directors recently adopted PIAA Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form. A re-certification is required, for each subsequent sports season, if the student (a) suffers an illness or injury which

renders the student unable to participate in 25% or more of the Regular Season Contest in the immediately preceding sports season; and/or (b) suffers an illness or injury which resulted in absence from school for ten or more days and/or which requires surgery.

TITLE IX

The North Schuylkill School District does not discriminate in any manner, including Title IX sexual harassment, in any District education program or activity. The District has established Title IX personnel to promptly respond to concerns and reports of sexual harassment and assault. All investigations into reports of sexual harassment and assault will be impartial, free of bias and conflicts, and will not prejudge the facts for either side. The District strives to maintain an environment where all students, staff, and greater community feel safe.

Documents found on our website at www.northschuylkill.net

Board Policy 247 Hazing

Board Policy 247 Attachment 1 – DISCRIMINATION/SEXUAL HARASSMENT/BULLYING/HAZING/DATING VIOLENCE/RETALIATION REPORT FORM

Board Policy 249 Bullying/Cyber Bullying

Board Policy 249 Attachment 1 – DISCRIMINATION/SEXUAL HARASSMENT/BULLYING/HAZING/DATING VIOLENCE/RETALIATIONREPORT FORM

For more information, please contact the District's Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator:

Kimberly Groody, Curriculum Director

North Schuylkill School District

15 Academy Lane

Ashland, PA 17921

kgroody@northschuylkill.net 570-874-0466

TRANSFERS

You are treated as having transferred whenever you change schools, even if you are out of school for a period of time before entering the new school. Except as provided below, if you transfer from one school district to another you are eligible immediately at the new school:

- When you live with your natural or adoptive parents in the new school district.
- When you live with a court-appointed legal guardian in the new school district, upon approval by the P.I.A.A. District Committee.

If you transfer between schools, you will be ineligible immediately if the transfer from one school to another is in whole or in part for any athletic purpose, or if you were recruited, you will lose your athletic eligibility in all sports for one year. This requirement applies even if you would otherwise be eligible at the school to which you transferred.

Most students who are not eligible immediately will be ineligible for one year from the date of transfer in each sport in which they participated within one year preceding the date of transfer.

RANDOM DRUG TESTING

ALL students who participate in any school sponsored activities, obtain a student parking pass, or are involved in extra-curriculars/athletics, must consent to our random drug testing policy. Refer to school board policy 227.1

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular attendance in school is of the utmost importance to ensure satisfactory course progress and awarding of credit for a subject. Successful completion of tests does not indicate that a student has mastered a subject. Instructors' lectures, in-class discussions, successful completion of homework assignments, and class participation are all factors that determine satisfactory course completion and credit attainment.

COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

It is the duty of the Commonwealth to require that every educable child within its jurisdiction receive at least an elementary and secondary education so far as such level may be attained. If the parent will not insist that child take advantage of the free educational opportunities offered, it becomes the duty of the state to require that this be done so that a democratic government may be assured of a population sufficiently well-educated to appreciate the responsibilities of citizenship.

Definitions - PA state laws, regulations, standards, and policies.

Compulsory School Age: Period of a child's life from the time the child's parents elect to have child enter school, which shall not be later than age of 6 years, until the age of 18 years (does not apply to kindergarten). (Ref. PA School Code, Article XIII, Section 1326)

Absence: Nonattendance of a pupil on days and half days when school is in session.

Unlawful Absence: Unexcused absence for all pupils of compulsory school age.

Unexcused Absence: Absence for a pupil for one of the following reasons:

- Truancy-Nonattendance of pupil on day(s) or half day(s) of school without the permission of school administration and/or parents or guardians
- Illegal Employment
- Parental Neglect - i.e., visiting, shopping, car trouble, missed ride to school, working on school assignments, oversleeping, etc.
- Students who are truant from school will face disciplinary actions when they return to school. (Ref. PA School Code Article XIII, section 1329)

EARLY MORNING APPOINTMENTS

If you have an early morning appointment (e.g., orthodontist, doctor, etc.) a doctor's note must be presented to the high school office upon your arrival for you to be marked excused tardy. If no note is presented, the absence will be considered as unexcused tardy. If you arrive after 10:39 a.m. for grades 7-12, you will be considered unexcused/illegal half-day absence.

ENFORCEMENT OF ATTENDANCE ISSUES

Enforcement of the compulsory attendance laws in North Schuylkill School District shall be in strict accordance with the school laws of Pennsylvania and the Department of Education.

PDE has recommended procedures for school districts when responding to student absences. The law states that a parent/guardian must send in a note within three days of the child's absence, or the child will have an unlawful absence. If a student is absent 3 consecutive days, a doctor's note is required for it to be an excused absence. A note explaining your child's absence may be written on any paper. You do not need the school absence form. After ten (10) days of absenteeism, your child will need a note from the doctor if absent for medical condition. **THE STUDENT MUST BE SEEN BY A DOCTOR, NO NOTES WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM A DOCTOR-STATING THAT THE STUDENT IN QUESTION WAS NOT SEEN BY A DOCTOR.** Parents/guardians will be responsible for being aware of how many days their child has been absent. A courtesy letter will be sent; however, the policy will be in effect after the 10th day absent.

Students who are absent from school will have the opportunity to make up missed assignments. The amount of time to make up assignments will be calculated by taking the number of total consecutive days absent to turn in the work when they return to school. Students who are seriously ill and will be out for a significant amount of time should have their parent(s) contact the guidance office in order to make arrangements to obtain schoolwork.

ATTENDANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

See flow chart regarding truancy, attached at the end of the document.

EXCESSIVE TARDINESS

In Order to ensure a consistent educational program, students are expected to arrive at the Jr. /Sr. High School on time and be prepared for the school day, which begins promptly at 7:39 a.m. with first period. If you arrive after 7:39 a.m., you must report directly to the main office for a tardy slip before reporting to your class.

See flow chart regarding truancy, attached at the end of the document.

LEAVING SCHOOL

Students are not permitted to leave the school campus at any time during the school day without permission from the principal or designee. Students may be permitted to leave school for medical or dental appointments, court appearance or family emergencies. If you wish to be excused early during the school day, you must present a note to the high school office by 8 a.m. the morning of the early dismissal. The note should indicate: (1) the date and time of dismissal; (2) the reason for dismissal; (3) your parent's/guardian's signature. Office Personnel will then authorize the early dismissal and you should present the note to your teacher to be dismissed from that class. Upon returning to school, report to the office to sign in and present your doctor's note. If no note is presented, the absence will be considered as illegal/unexcused. Students must remain in school until 1pm in order for their attendance to count as a full day. Students requesting access to their vehicle must be escorted by administration or the school resource officer.

See flow chart regarding truancy, attached at the end of the document.

REPORTING TO SCHOOL

Students who arrive at school before 7:20 a.m. are to go directly to the cafeteria under the supervision of proctors. Students may also wait outside in designated areas until they are allowed to go to their lockers and first period class. Students are not permitted to loiter in the school parking lot. They must report to the cafeteria or wait outside by the main entrance. At 7:20 a.m. students may leave the cafeteria and enter the building.

At 7:37 a.m., a warning bell will ring and by 7:39 a.m. students must be in Home Room. Teachers will not admit any student after 7:39 a.m., unless the student has an admission slip from the office.

AUTOMOBILE REGULATIONS

Driving is a privilege and with any privilege, there is a responsibility. All students driving to school must be a junior or senior responsible driver and follow the regulations for driving set forth in the North Schuylkill Junior Senior Handbook.

DRIVER CONTRACT

All cars driven to school must be registered with the high school administration and parked in their assigned numbered parking spaces. Students will be charged a \$50 non-refundable fee to register the vehicle(s). Replacement permits are \$5 per vehicle.

1. The \$50 fee will be prorated at the following rate schedule:
Permits purchased prior to September 30 = \$50, October 31 = \$45, November 30 = \$40, December 31 = \$35, January 31 = \$30, February 28 = \$25, March 31 = \$20, end of school year = \$15.
2. The student will place the school permit on the back of the rear-view mirror. Illegally parked vehicles without an appropriate parking permit and/or a vehicle with a suspended permit may be towed off school property at the owner's expense.
3. Students are not permitted to sit in cars for any reason. The student is to vacate his/her vehicle upon arrival and report to the building.
4. Students cannot park in the lower parking lot during school hours.
5. The privilege of driving on school property will be revoked for unsafe driving, violations of parking regulations or violations of other school policies, including excessive tardiness and excessive unexcused absences to school. Car trouble will not be a valid excuse for being tardy to school.
6. School buses always have the right of way. At dismissal, student drivers must not leave until all buses have exited.
7. All cars are subject to search for controlled substances, alcohol, firearms, or weapons if reasonable suspicion of use or possession of such items exists.
8. Any student being picked up at dismissal prior to the departure of the school buses must secure their ride in the parking lot. Any cars parking in front of the buses, on the road, or in the grass will be asked to leave and will not be permitted to return.
9. Any student violating the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code and Regulations will have his/her driving privileges revoked for the remainder of the school year. He/she will be cited for engaging in conduct contrary to ordinances of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on the first offense. This includes, but is not limited to, failing to completely stop at the stop sign or turning left onto Route 61 from Spartan Drive.
10. Students may not operate a vehicle other than their own.
11. Students are not permitted to go to vehicles in the parking lot during the school day without permission from the administration.
12. Owners of vehicles moved out of their spaces and into exit areas prior to dismissal will have their driving privileges taken away for the remainder of the year on the first offense.
13. When exiting the parking lot, drivers must drive in the driving lane and not cut across parking lanes.
14. Seat belts must be worn at all times. Driving privileges will be revoked if seat belts are not worn.
15. Unsafe, reckless or discourteous driving may result in suspension or revocation of driving privileges.
16. Illegally parked vehicles without an appropriate parking permit and/or a vehicle with a suspended permit may be towed off school property at the owner's expense.
17. Students obtaining a driving permit agree to participate in the random drug testing policy.

Refer to North Schuylkill Jr./Sr. High School Discipline Code for specific misconducts and consequences.

CODE OF CONDUCT

LIVESTREAMING

Recording of livestream lessons is not permitted without permission from the teacher being recorded. Any use of such recordings taken with the permission of the teacher being recorded shall be limited to review for educational purposes only. Recorded shall not be distributed or viewed in public.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

According to Funk and Wagnall's Standard Dictionary of the English Language, to cheat is, "to deceive and act dishonestly." The North Schuylkill Junior/Senior High School will not tolerate cheating in any form. This goes against the ethical behavior that we wish to instill in our students. This policy will use the broader term of "academic dishonesty" to classify any form of cheating.

Academic Dishonesty has occurred if a student(s):

- Obtains a test or quiz materials without the teacher's knowledge
- Uses any electronic device inappropriately in a situation where they are not permitted
- Shares work that should be individually/independently produced
- Uses cheat sheets during testing situations
- Copies, faxes, emails, or in any way duplicates assignments that are submitted, wholly or in part, as original work
- Copies either published or unpublished work of another person without giving the person the appropriate credit (i.e. plagiarism, inappropriate use of AI)
- Exchanges assignments with other students, either handwritten or computer generated, whether they are believed to be copied or not
- Uses any form of a memory aid during a test/quiz without authorization
- Gives or receives answers during a test/quiz
- Uses summaries/commentaries or movies in lieu of reading assigned material
- Has a friend, sibling, or parent/guardian complete any type of assignment
- Discusses the contents of a quiz with another student who will take the quiz at a later time

It should also be noted that talking to another student or using a cell phone during a test would be construed as cheating.

Determination/consequences of academic dishonesty will be in accordance with the discipline code.

ANTI-TOBACCO PROGRAM

North Schuylkill School District is a tobacco free school. The Board recognizes that the use of tobacco in any form presents a health hazard, which can have serious consequences for both the tobacco and non-tobacco user. Therefore, the purpose of the policy is to protect the health and welfare of all students, employees, and visitors to the North Schuylkill School District and to abide by the laws of Pennsylvania.

School Board Policy #222 and section 3.5 of Act 128 of 2000 indicates that tobacco use or possession by pupils is prohibited in school buildings, on school buses, vans or other vehicles and on property owned, leased by or under the control of a school district and at school-sponsored events held off school premises. For further information, please see Board Policy #222.

Consequences for students in possession or use of tobacco may include:

- Referral to the Student Assistance Program for assessment of tobacco cessation class.
- Restrictive Lavatory Privileges. Students will sign in at the main office to use the lavatory.
- Citation: A student who commits an offense under Act 145 of 1996 shall be subject to prosecution initiated by the local school district and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine for the benefit of the school district in which such student resides, and to pay court costs.
- Automatic 3-day OCS
- Electronic Vaping devices are subject to further testing to determine if a controlled substance is present in the contents. Additional disciplinary action will be taken.

BULLYING / CYBER BULLYING POLICY

The North Schuylkill School District is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for district students. The District recognizes that bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, distracts from the safe environment necessary for student learning, and may lead to more serious violence. The North Schuylkill School District prohibits bullying by district students. Bullying / Cyber Bullying means an intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting which includes in the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop or any activity sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the school or has an adverse impact upon the student such as attendance, academic performance or well-being while in school. Bullying / Cyber Bullying is severe, persistent, or pervasive and may have the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education, creating a threatening environment, or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING BULLYING

The North Schuylkill School District encourages students who are being bullied to follow the chain of command and promptly report such incidents to a teacher, the building principal, or designee. North Schuylkill continues to develop and implement anti-bullying prevention and intervention programs. Such programs shall provide district staff and students with appropriate training for effectively responding to, intervening in, and reporting incidents of bullying / cyber bullying. A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the North Schuylkill Discipline Code.

Bullying/intimidating behaviors can include but are not limited to:

- Taunting
- Name calling
- Rumor spreading
- Making up stories to get other children in trouble
- Telling other children not to be friends with a target child
- Kicking, tripping, or pushing another child
- Teasing other children and making remarks about their culture, religion, ethnicity, weight, physical appearance, disabilities, or medical conditions
- Intimidating others
- Taking other children's possessions or demanding money from them
- Damaging other children's property
- Hiding other children's books, bags, or other property
- Picking on other children, even when they're upset
- Making threats to other children
- Manipulating others, getting them to do things that they may not want to do

SAFE 2 SAY SOMETHING

See it. Report it.

Mobile App

Tip Line: 1-844-SAF2SAY

Online: SAFE2SAYPA.ORG

DISCIPLINE

The goal of the North Schuylkill School District is to provide each student with the finest education possible. In order for the North Schuylkill School District to achieve this goal, the school must be safe, orderly, and free of unnecessary disruptions. Students share the responsibility with teachers and administrators to develop a positive educational climate.

The Discipline Code of the North Schuylkill School District is a clearly defined document that identifies types of student behavior that are unacceptable and states consequences for such acts.

In order to offer the best possible educational climate in which students are free to learn and teachers are free to teach, an organized set of rules of social conduct must be established. Likewise, this set of rules must be communicated to all parties in the educational process. Uniform and consistent enforcement of the rules is also essential. The policy serves as the Student Code of Conduct, setting forth the rules for social interaction in the North Schuylkill School District and is intended to offer direction to students, parents/guardians, teachers, and administrators. Emphasis shall be on courteous cooperation in all aspects of this policy. It is the responsibility and the discretion of the building administrator to utilize an appropriate disciplinary option available to achieve desired changes in student behavior.

Students have certain responsibilities regardless of age, including regular attendance, conscientious efforts in the classroom, and compliance with school rules, regulations, and expectations. Students also have the responsibility to make positive contributions to the school climate. No student has the right to interfere with the educational process of any other person. Students are expected to be courteous, cooperative, and respectful of the rights of other persons in the educational process. An individual student's rights end when that student's actions detract from the rights of other persons.

A list of disciplinary infractions, interventions, and disciplinary options, while not all inclusive, is noted below to assist students to achieve a good understanding of prohibited behavior. Disciplinary infractions are delineated into three (3) levels. Each successive level is considered to be of a more serious nature. The failure of a student to meet the behavioral expectations of the district will result in an appropriate form of disciplinary action. Possible interventions and disciplinary options are specified for each level.

REMOVAL FROM CLASSROOM

When a student is removed from a classroom-including settings such as the cafeteria or library-at the request of a teacher or proctor, a minimum consequence of detention will be assigned. Based on the severity of the behavior, additional disciplinary actions may include In-School Suspension (ISS), Off-Campus Suspension (OCS), or Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

A student's removal that requires an administrator to respond directly to the classroom constitutes a significant disruption to both the learning environment and school operations. Such incidents not only impact instructional time but also divert administrative staff from their responsibilities. For this reason, any removal from class will result in, at minimum, a detention.

Students who have concerns about a staff member are encouraged to request a meeting through their guidance counselor or a school administrator. However, such concerns should be addressed proactively and not in response to disciplinary action for classroom misconduct.

DETENTION

Detention will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- Depending on the type of infraction committed, weekly detention may be assigned. The wellbeing and safety of all students and staff is the number one concern of the North Schuylkill School District. Detention may be assigned as a result of behavioral concerns.
- Students assigned to detention must report promptly to the office at 2:30 p.m. and **MUST COME PREPARED**. All students must sign in, maintain complete silence at all times, and respect the authority of the teacher present. Students must have transportation home. If students do not have transportation, they may take a designated van home that will be provided.
- Misbehavior at detention may result in further disciplinary action, such as additional detentions, ISS, and/or OCS.
- If school is cancelled due to inclement weather, etc., detention will be rescheduled for a later date.

- Each student must write a **2 to 3 paragraph reflective essay** summarizing the incident that led to their disciplinary action. The essay should also include an explanation of how the situation could have been handled more appropriately.

ISS

In School Suspension

- Student disciplinary infraction deems it necessary for the student to spend the remainder of the day in ISS.
- Student disciplinary infraction deems it necessary for the student to spend one to three days in ISS.
- Students are to follow all ISS procedures. It is the student's responsibility to check their Google Classroom and ensure that all assignments are completed that day.

In-School Suspension (ISS) Procedures

The following procedures will guide a student's time in ISS:

- Upon arrival at school, students must report directly to the **main office**. They should **not** report to Homeroom.
- Students will be transported to FSCA to serve their ISS and will return to the main building at the end of the school day.
- Upon arrival to ISS, the proctor will collect all phones and store them in a visible location at the front of the room until the end of the school day.
- Teachers will be notified via email of students assigned to ISS.
- Students are required to access and complete all assigned classwork through **Google Classroom**. It is their responsibility to stay current with their academic responsibilities while in ISS.
- The ISS proctor will assist in the completion of class work or SA assignments and require quality work.
- Each student must write a **2 to 3 paragraph reflective essay** summarizing the incident that led to their disciplinary placement. The essay should also include an explanation of how the situation could have been handled more appropriately.
- Each student will meet with an administrator with their essay prior to be returned to their normal schedule.

SUSPENSIONS

OFF CAMPUS SUSPENSION (OCS)

Off campus suspension means that a student will report to Fountain Springs Cyber Academy to complete work assigned by their teachers. The student has the responsibility to complete work and make up exams. It is the responsibility of the parent to provide transportation to and from Fountain Springs Academy. All work must be completed and turned in at the end of each day.

Students are to follow ISS Procedures while serving their Off Campus Suspension at the Fountain Springs Cyber Academy.

OFF CAMPUS SUSPENSION IS AN EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL FOR A PERIOD OF ONE TO TEN CONSECUTIVE SCHOOL DAYS. SUSPENSION MAY BE GIVEN BY ANY APPROPRIATE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified by the administration of a suspension and may be required to meet in a conference regarding the re-admission of their child.

When the suspension exceeds three (3) consecutive days, the student and parent will be given the opportunity for an informal hearing. A suspended student may not attend or participate in after school activities including practices and rehearsals. Multiple day suspensions that involve weekends will prohibit students from participating in school activities over the weekend.

Each student must write a **2-3 paragraph reflective essay** summarizing the incident that led to their disciplinary placement. The essay should also include an explanation of how the situation could have been handled more appropriately.

Each student will meet with an administrator with their essay prior to be returned to their normal schedule.

OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS)

Out of school suspension means that a student will not report to any school campus during the suspension. The student is responsible to complete all work and make up assignments.

Out of school suspension is an exclusion from school for a period of one to ten consecutive school days.

Each student must write a **2 – 3 paragraph reflective essay** summarizing the incident that led to their disciplinary placement. The essay should also include an explanation of how the situation could have been handled more appropriately.

Each student will meet with an administrator with their essay before returning to their normal schedule.

EXPULSION

Expulsion refers to the removal of a student from school for a period exceeding 10 consecutive school days and may result in permanent exclusion from the school's enrollment. Expulsion may be imposed on students who repeatedly violate school rules or engage in conduct that threatens the safety, health, or well-being of themselves or others.

HEARINGS

Hearings are fundamental elements of due process to which all students are entitled. Hearings are basically of two types:

1. The informal hearing enables the student to meet with the appropriate school official to explain the circumstances surrounding the event for which the student is being suspended.
2. The formal hearing is required in all expulsion actions initiated by school officials. This hearing may be held before the Board of Directors, a duly authorized committee of the Board, or a qualified Hearing Examiner appointed by the Board.

DRESS CODE

NS DRESS CODE STARTING AUGUST 22, 2023:

North Schuylkill School District Student Dress Code 2025–2026

Students are encouraged to take pride in their physical appearance and to select clothing that is complimentary to them and appropriate to the weather and season. When students come to school inappropriately dressed, as determined by the administration, the faculty and administration will take steps to correct the situation. Such correction will include a change of the clothing found to be inappropriate. The right of interpretation and enforcement of these basic guidelines is delegated to the school principal or designee.

Policy 221.1 Standard Dress Code

The following specific dress and grooming provisions will apply:

1. Students are responsible for keeping themselves, their hair and their clothing clean.
2. Length and style of hair, clothing or jewelry will be regulated to eliminate any health or safety hazards, and to prevent any disruption of the educational process. Students with long hair may be required to wear restraining devices in certain situations such as technology education labs, science labs, home economics, physical education and athletic contests.
3. Clothing displaying profanity, obscene pictures, gestures, or words, drug or alcohol use, alcohol or tobacco products, weapons or sexual innuendoes is not acceptable.
4. Clothing that is tight or revealing that tends to disrupt the educational process is not acceptable. No clothing may purposely expose undergarments.
5. Clothing or jewelry that creates, or may permit to create, danger or disruption to the school community is prohibited. Suggestive clothing is disruptive to the educational process and will not be permitted. Likewise, jewelry which may pose a danger to the student or others will not be permitted.
6. It is against school policy for any individual to harass another based on race, religion, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability or national origin. Clothing which creates a substantial disruption of schoolwork, classes, events or activities, or interferes with the rights of others is prohibited.
7. Students may wear hats or head coverings to and from school, but not while school is in session. Any request for an exception based on religious beliefs should be submitted to the building principal. Hair restraints may be worn during school to hold hair safely in place.
8. Tops will not expose the mid-section of the body. Spaghetti straps, as well as completely bare shoulders, are not acceptable. Sleeveless clothing is permitted as long as undergarments are not shown, and they comply with dress code provision #4. In addition, tops or shirts must be cut modestly.
9. Wearing of Shorts – (A.) Secondary – Shorts of mid-thigh length or longer may be worn during the school year with consideration given to temperature and weather conditions. (B.) Elementary – Shorts of mid-thigh length or longer may be worn during the school year throughout daylight saving time, providing the weather is appropriate for such attire.
10. Skirts of mid-thigh length or longer may be worn.
11. Students must wear safe footwear that will not mark or damage school property.
12. Gloves or outerwear coats are not to be worn in the school unless permitted by the teacher due to the temperature in the classroom.
13. The clothing items noted below are considered inappropriate and are not permitted to be worn in school. This is not an all-inclusive list as the administration maintains the right to determine articles of clothing that may be disruptive to the educational process.
 - Clothing which hangs from the body and/or may drag on the floor
 - No open toe shoes or open heel shoes (NSE Only)
 - Any holes in jeans/pants/shorts
 - Jewelry which interferes with speaking, hearing or seeing
 - Spiked jewelry and wallet chains
 - Bathing suits or swimwear
 - Outerwear coats
 - Any clothing purposely exposing undergarments
 - Kerchiefs or bandanas
 - Roller sneakers

- Sunglasses
- Tank tops and muscle shirts
- Pajamas

BOOK BAGS/GYM BAGS

Students will be permitted to use regular book bags and gym bags. Clear and/or mesh book bags and/or gym bags are still acceptable. Transporting Chromebooks to and from school should be considered when purchasing book bags for the upcoming school year. Any damage to the Chromebook is the responsibility of the student. Students are required to store their book bags and/or gym bags in their lockers during their lunch periods. Junior High will be permitted to carry their book bags to the cafeteria during their lunch period.

DISCIPLINE GUIDE

LEVEL I

Acts, which constitute a violation of rules and regulations, or acts, which impede orderly classroom procedures, or with orderly operation of the school, are Level I infractions.

The order of listed disciplinary actions is not ranked or sequential, nor is it to be considered an all-inclusive list. The type and duration of discipline are within the discretion of the administration, based on the severity of the offense.

Examples (not exclusive)	Intervention(s)	Disciplinary Options
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullying • Bus misconduct • Cheating • Damage to property (unintentional) • Disrespect • Disruptive behavior • Improper use of District equipment, facilities, and/or resources • Indecent/Obscene behavior • Late to class • Lying/dishonesty • Possession of any type of electronic device, without permission (Policy 237) • Presence in unauthorized area • Tardiness • Unacceptable clothing • Unacceptable language • Unsafe behavior • Use/Possession of personal cell phone without permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff action • Referral to administration • Notification to parent/guardian • Referral to School Counselor • Informal hearing • Log of infraction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral contract • Detention • Guidance/Health services • Loss of make-up privilege and/or credit • Parental conference • Rearrangement of seating • Restitution for damage (replacement/repair of damaged property) • School/Community service • Special assignment • Suspension • Temporary removal from class • Verbal reprimand • Warning • Withdrawal of privileges

LEVEL II

Acts whose frequency or seriousness disrupt the learning climate of the school, as well as, acts which may constitute a threat to the health, safety, property and/or welfare of students and/or staff are considered to be Level II infractions.

Level II infractions may require the intervention of outside agencies, including the police.

The order of listed disciplinary actions is not ranked or sequential, nor is it to be considered an all-inclusive list. The type and duration of discipline are within the discretion of the administration, based on the severity of the offense.

Examples (not exclusive)	Intervention(s)	Disciplinary Options
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bullying• Class cut• Computer vandalism/physical damage to computer resources, purposeful deletion of information stored by others• Disruption/Threat of disruption or harassment, caused by use of any type, electronic devices (Policy 237)• Extortion• Failure to serve detention or other disciplinary action• Fighting• Forgery of a document• Harassment (Policy 248)• Indecent/Obscene behavior or possession/use of indecent/obscene material• Insubordination (failure to follow directives)• Leaving school property (without permission)• Plagiarism• Stalking• Theft• Truancy• Vandalism/Destruction of property• Violation of probation• Use of social media which may adversely affect the school community• Second cell phone violation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff Action• Referral to administration• Notification to parent/guardian• Referral to School Counselor• Informal Hearing• Police/Agency referral• Counselor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administrative probation• Detention• Expulsion• Guidance/Health services• Parental conference• Police/Agency referral• Restitution for damage (replacement/repair of damaged property)• School/Community service• Alternative Education• Citation• Suspension• Withdrawal of privileges• Parent required to pick up cell phone

LEVEL III

Acts which result in violent actions directed toward another person, destruction of property, or which pose a clear and present threat to the health, safety, and/or welfare of others in the school are considered to be level III infraction.

Level III infractions are in violation of laws or regulations established by various government agencies and will involve the police.

The order of listed disciplinary actions is not ranked or sequential, nor is it to be considered an all-inclusive list. The type and duration of discipline are within the discretion of the administration, based on the severity of the offense.

Examples (not exclusive)	Intervention(s)	Disciplinary Options
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Severe/pervasive/persistent bullying or threats• Arson• Assault – verbal or physical• Possession/Use of drug or controlled substance, look-alike, alcohol/being under the influence (Policy 227)• Possession/Use of weapon or look-alike (Policy 218.1)• Selling/Distributing/ Trafficking drug or controlled substance, look-alike, alcohol (Policy 227)• Possession/Use of a tobacco (Policy 222)• Threatening/Terroristic statements or actions (Policy 218.2)• Unauthorized use of fire alarm system• Use of computer resources for obscene, threatening, violent or illegal purposes (Policy 815)• Use of electronic device which may pose a danger to the safety of others (Policy 237)• Use of social media which may substantially impact the school community adversely• Third Cell Phone Violation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff action• Referral to administration• Verification of offense• Student removal from situation• Student/Parent/ Guardian conference with administrator• Informal hearing• Police/Agency referral• Board hearing• Student Assistance Team referral• Drug/Alcohol evaluation• Mental health evaluation• Log of offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administrative or Board probation• Expulsion• Police/Agency referral• Restitution for damage (replacement/repair of damaged property)• Suspension• Withdrawal of privileges• Alternative Education• Citation• School/Community service• 15 Day Social Probation/Contract

GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ASSEMBLIES

At all times a student's behavior should be refined and courteous. An indication of the cultural level of a school is the conduct of the student body at an assembly. Whether guests are present or not, each student is personally responsible for the impression made by the school as a whole. Unacceptable conduct includes whistling, uncalled for clapping, boisterous behavior, sleeping, use of cell phone, reading books and talking during a program. These types of behavior may result in disciplinary action. Expectations will be placed on students in order to attend assemblies.

BOOK BAGS/GYM BAGS

Students will be permitted to carry book bags and/or gym bags throughout the day with the exception of lunches B and C.

BOOK LOSS AND DAMAGE

Schoolbooks are loaned to students and become their responsibility until returned to the teacher. A record is kept of the number of each book distributed to students. Students must make restitution for any loss or damage that occurs to the book.

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICES (BYOD)

Electronic communication devices will follow Board Policy 237 and students must submit the Student Electronic Communication Devices Permission Form. Cell phones are not permitted to be used during school hours (or during the school day) including in hallways, in the cafeteria and in classrooms.

CAFETERIA PROCEDURE

The school cafeteria is maintained as a vital part of the health program of the school. To encourage good nutrition, a well-balanced lunch is offered at a reasonable price. All students must abide by the following rules while in the cafeteria at all times.

1. Cell phone usage is not permitted in the cafeteria.
2. Report to the cafeteria on time. Tardiness will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action.
3. Backpacks are permitted in the cafeteria for Junior High only.
4. Beverages brought into the cafeteria must be in unopened cans or unopened bottles of water. (NO HIGH CAFFEINE / ENERGY DRINKS, e.g. Monster, Red Bull, Amp)
5. No student is allowed to go through the serving line a second time until all students have been served once.
6. Form and maintain single file lines at all times when entering the serving area.
7. Follow proctors' directions regarding seating (assigned seats). They will let you know when to get in line and when to leave.
8. Stay at your assigned table or booth. Do not visit other tables without permission from the proctors.
9. Do not yell or shout while in the cafeteria.
10. Deposit all litter in wastebaskets. Students having litter on or around their table will be expected to pick it up prior to being dismissed, whether they are responsible for it being there or not.
11. Return all trays and utensils to the dishwashing area.
12. Wait for the proctor to dismiss you.

CLOTHING SALES PROCEDURE

All clothing designs need to be approved by the administration.

All clothing sales to students and staff from groups, clubs or teams selling NS apparel must be approved by administration before advertising.

SCHOOL STORE

Students are permitted to visit the school store during their academic prep. One student may leave a given classroom at a time (with the exception of a Math, Science, Library, or ELA class), and will be issued a SCHOOL STORE PASS. Students who do not present a school store pass will not be permitted to make purchases at the school store.

DANCES

Eligibility for Junior High Dances:

1. Only 7th and 8th grade students are allowed to attend the dances.
2. Students who anticipate attending 7th and 8th grade dances must enroll in the North Schuylkill Random Drug Testing.
3. Excessive absences from school and disciplinary issues could prevent a student from attending the dances. Approval would be needed and would be at the discretion of the administration.

Eligibility for Junior/Senior Prom:

1. All Juniors and Seniors of North Schuylkill Junior/Senior High School are eligible to attend.
2. Freshman and Sophomores invited by a Junior or Senior of North Schuylkill Jr./Sr. High School are eligible to attend.
3. Students who wish to bring a guest who does not attend NS, must get the Date Request Form approved by the principal prior to purchasing a ticket. Guests must be under the age of twenty-one (21). The North Schuylkill Jr./Sr. High student is responsible for the conduct of his/her guest. If a student attends another school, the Date Request Form must also be signed by the principal from that school. The building Principal shall determine a non-student's eligibility based upon the available information.
4. Students who anticipate attending the prom must enroll in the North Schuylkill Random Drug by March 1st.
5. Excessive absences from school and disciplinary issues could prevent a student from attending the prom. Approval would be needed and would be at the discretion of the administration.

Eligibility for Winter Snow Ball:

1. All 9th – 12th grade students of North Schuylkill Junior/Senior High School are eligible to attend.
2. Students who wish to bring a guest who does not attend NS, must get the Date Request Form approved by the principal prior to purchasing a ticket. Guests must be under the age of twenty-one (21). The North Schuylkill Jr./Sr. High student is responsible for the conduct of his/her guest. If a student attends another school, the Date Request Form must also be signed by the principal from that school. The building Principal shall determine a non-student's eligibility based upon the available information.
3. Students who anticipate attending the winter semi-formal or 7th and 8th grade dances must enroll in the North Schuylkill Random Drug Testing by October 1st in order to attend the Winter Semi-Formal.
4. Excessive absences from school and disciplinary issues could prevent a student from attending the Winter Formal. Approval would be needed and would be at the discretion of the administration.

EDUCATIONAL TRIPS (ALSO COLLEGE VISITS)

The North Schuylkill Board of Education believes that students must be in regular attendance in order to benefit fully from the educational programs and services offered by the North Schuylkill District.

Students and parents are encouraged to schedule educational trips and tours when school is not in session. Parents who are planning to take their children on an educational trip during the time that school is in session may request an excused absence if the following conditions are met:

1. The pupil's parents or guardian submits to the principal's office, at least one week prior to the trip, a written request for excusal on a district form (available in the school office).
2. The student presents, to each of the student's teachers, a written request for assignments expected to be completed during the period of the student absence.
3. The parent or guardian accepts total responsibility for the education of the student during the period of absence.
4. The student completes the educational trip assignment requested by the school principal and hands in this assignment to the high school office after completion of the educational trip.
5. A total of 10 days may be approved. A student must not have a record of excessive absences.

The North Schuylkill School District will not approve any educational trips during the first two weeks of school or during the last two weeks of the school year, or during the state testing window applicable to the specific student.

HALL PASSES

When students use the halls other than to pass to classes, they shall have a yellow hall pass signed by their teacher. The yellow hall pass must have the date, destination, time leaving and/or arriving, and their teacher's signature. When students would like to use the lavatory during class time, they must sign out with the teacher and take a hall pass.

LIBRARY

The purpose of our library is to provide educational materials and information needed by our students for curriculum, personal knowledge, and general reading in both written and electronic form. Everyone must follow procedures established by the library aide.

LOCKERS

9th – 12th grade students will be assigned to a school locker at the beginning of the school year. No student may change lockers without permission. Students are responsible to keep their locker clean and will be held responsible for costs associated with damage to the locker they occupy for the school year. No more than two students are permitted to a locker. NEVER SET YOUR LOCKER. Students setting lockers may face disciplinary action. THE SCHOOL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY STOLEN PROPERTY FROM THEIR LOCKERS.

All students are permitted to use their lockers in the morning before first period class, before / after lunch, and at the end of the day. Senior high students are also permitted to use their lockers after 3rd period class. Students must have all books and supplies with them for their morning classes. After lunch, students must have their books and supplies with them for their afternoon classes. Students will not be permitted to go to their lockers between classes. Lockers are school district property and subject to searches at any time.

LUNCH ACCOUNTS – MYSCHOOLBUCKS

Cafeteria lunch accounts must be paid through a MySchoolBucks account online. The cafeteria will not accept cash to pay for lunches. MySchoolBucks is a secure, online payment service provides a quick and easy way to add money to your student's meal account using a credit/debit card or electronic check. This service allows you to deposit money directly into your child's school meal account and view balance/purchase information for the past ninety days. You can also view recent purchases, check balances, and set-up low balance alerts for free. Please visit www.myschoolbucks.com to register your child's account.

MONEY AND VALUABLES

The school district will not be responsible for the personal property of pupils, employees, or other personnel using the school facilities. Articles of clothing, jewelry, money, and any other items of the personal nature or constituting personal property are the responsibility of the student, employee or person while he or she is in the school facility. Students should be reminded not to leave money and/or valuables in an area that is unattended.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

For physical education classes in grades 7 – 12, a change of clothes is required to participate. Appropriate attire consists of sweatpants, shorts, athletic pants, sneakers, and appropriately sleeved t-shirts. Students are required to wear sneakers for all physical education classes. Students are required to change when they are scheduled for swimming. In any co-ed swimming class, all students will need to wear a t-shirt over their bathing suits until entering the pool.

If a student chooses to use a locker, they will be given the option of purchasing a combination lock from the physical education department at a cost of \$4.00. The \$4.00 fee will be refunded at the end of their senior year if they wish to return the lock. Students are encouraged to keep all personal property locked at all times. Once physical education class begins, all locker rooms will be locked until class ends. Therefore, students reporting to physical education class who wish to change should be on time.

SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAM

The school health program considers the physical well-being of the students and his/her education for healthful living. Services provided include but are not limited to physicals, eye screening, and hearing testing.

Except in case of extreme emergency, students should report to their classroom teacher for a pass before reporting to the nurse.

All medication both over the counter and prescription that must be taken during school hours must be given to the school nurse before homeroom. Prescriptions must be in the labeled container from the pharmacy. The prescription container must be in a sealed envelope with the parent's/guardian's signature across the sealed area. The student's name and the number of pills must be written on the envelope. Students are not allowed to take or possess medication of any type during school hours without the nurse's knowledge.

PA State law prohibits the dispensing of any medicines (aspirin, Tylenol, Midol, etc.) directly by school officials without written permission from a parent or guardian. For prescription medication, the name of the prescribing physician must be included in the written consent form. Parents/Guardians have the right to opt-out of the provisions (Board Policy 210.1)

related to the administration of a stock epinephrine auto-injector. To opt-out, a parent/guardian shall sign and return the district's exemption form to the school nurse. Forms are available in the main offices and on the district's web site.

SEARCH POLICY

The North Schuylkill School District has a vested interest and a responsibility in protecting the health, welfare and the safety of all students, staff and the public in maintaining discipline in the classroom and on school grounds. Accordingly, students, their personal belongings, and their vehicles if parked on school property may be searched by school administrators where the school administrator has determined that a reasonable suspicion exists that a student is in possession of illegal substance, weapons, or other materials which are prohibited by school district policy, rules, or regulations by law.

STATE ASSESSMENTS

Students will be administered PSSA tests and/or Keystone Exams during the testing window listed below. Testing dates, years and subjects will vary based on a student's grade level and schedule. Individual student assessment results will be provided to students and/or parents as per FERPA requirements. Parents may request, in writing, to view the test materials for religious beliefs/religious exception. Written requests should be given to the applicable school principal.

Starting with the graduating class of 2020, there will be a graduation requirement set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Education requiring students to test proficient or advanced on the Algebra, Biology and Literature Keystone exams. If a student does not test proficient or advanced on a Keystone exam, the student will be removed from an elective class and placed in a Keystone Workshop class for remediation and will then take a retest of that Keystone exam. If the student does not test proficient or advanced on the retake Keystone exam, the student must follow the requirements set forth in Act 158.

PA STATE TESTING WINDOW 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR:

PSSA English Language Arts	Grades 7 and 8	April 21 – 23, 2026
PSSA Mathematics	Grades 7 and 8	April 27 – 28, 2026
PSSA Science	Grade 8	April 29 – 30, 2026
Winter Wave 1 Keystone Testing		December 4 – 18, 2025
Spring Keystone Testing		May 11 – 22, 2026

STUDENT MEDICAL EVALUATION FORMS

In order to preserve confidentiality of sensitive student information, all Student Medical Evaluation Forms from a doctor's office (Geisinger, Hershey, etc.) must come through the Guidance Office. The forms will then be distributed to and collected from the student's teachers. Once collected, a copy of the forms will be kept, and the original will be mailed to the appropriate facility. These forms are often given to the student's parents to assist the medical professional in evaluating a student for a specific condition such as: ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder), OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder), ODD (Oppositional Defiance Disorder), etc.

STUDENT INSURANCE

Each year the opportunity is given to students to purchase low-cost group insurance that provides protection in the event of an accident in school, going to and from school, or for any scheduled school activity. A full explanation of the coverage provided is included in the brochures distributed by the company and made available to each student. All students are encouraged to take this insurance. In addition, a whole year, 24-hour plan is also available. Since the school is not liable for injuries incurred during the normal school day, including physical education classes and intramural sports, parents should determine whether their own insurance covers the costs associated with such injuries when deciding whether or not to purchase this insurance. Students who participate in athletics and band are covered by an All-Sport Policy purchased by the school.

TRANSPORTATION (SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 810)

Transportation is provided for all children who do not live within reasonable walking distance of the school or must cross busy or unsafe roadways. The following rules are designed to serve as guides to ensure safe transport to and from school. Inappropriate behavior on the bus will result in disciplinary action that may include suspension of bus riding privileges.

The North Schuylkill School District through its administration and teaching staff advocates and supports good discipline throughout the educational environment, when it is administered fairly and taken through the proper channels. Whenever there is a discipline problem on a district vehicle (bus, van) which cannot be immediately resolved by the bus or van

driver, the driver will report the student(s) committing the offense to the high school or elementary principal for disciplinary action. The bus driver is the responsible adult in the supervisory role on the bus from the beginning to the end of the trip.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All students must be eligible for a diploma in order to participate in graduation exercises. To be eligible, a student must complete all graduation requirements prior to the date of commencement. All North Schuylkill Jr.-Sr. High School Seniors are eligible for the graduation awards regardless of race, religion or residence. Please refer to the Course Selection Guide for information regarding specific graduation requirements.

CLASS DUES AND FUNDRAISING PROCEDURES

Freshman Class

The freshman class has an opportunity to participate in fundraising activities during his or her 9th grade year in order to offset the cost of the junior class dues. If a student chooses to participate in the fund-raising activities during his or her 9th grade year, the profits earned will be applied to his or her junior class dues.

Sophomore Class

The sophomore class has an opportunity to participate in fundraising activities during his or her 10th grade year in order to offset the cost of the junior class dues. If a student chooses to participate in the fund-raising activities during his or her 10th grade year, the profits earned will be applied to his or her junior class dues.

Junior Class

The junior class dues are \$75.00 per student. Juniors will have the opportunity to participate in the various fundraisers throughout the year to offset or cover the total cost of the class dues. If a student's profit exceeds \$75.00 during his or her junior year, the profit will be applied to his or her senior dues.

In order to receive a senior class sweatshirt, each junior student is required to earn or pay their \$75.00 dues by the end of his/her junior year.

Senior Class

The senior class dues are \$75.00 per student. Seniors will have the opportunity to participate in the various fundraisers throughout the year to offset or cover the cost of the class dues. The senior class dues provide each student with a yearbook, cap and gown, tassel, diploma cover, and flower for graduation.

*Any additional profits earned by a student throughout his or her sophomore, junior, or senior year that exceed the required class dues of \$150.00 (total of junior and senior dues) will be applied to cover the cost of his or her prom ticket only. Profits earned by one student cannot be shared with another student or be used to pay for his or her prom date's ticket. All additional profits earned become part of the class treasury, which are used to cover the additional class expenses for graduation.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Please refer to the Course Selection Guide for information.

STUDENT GRADUATION PROJECT

Please refer to the Course Selection Guide for information.

SPECIAL EDUCATION / GIFTED PROGRAMS

ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAMS

1. INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2004

The North Schuylkill School District is required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 ("IDEA") to provide a free, appropriate, public education ("FAPE") to "children with disabilities." Pursuant to the IDEA, students are considered to be children with disabilities if they need special education and related services and have one or more of the following physical or mental disabilities:

- Autism
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Deaf-Blindness
- Other Health Impairment
- Emotional Disturbance
- Specific Learning Disability
- Hearing Impairment including Deafness
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Intellectual Disability
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Multiple Disabilities
- Visual Impairment including Blindness

The IDEA further requires the provision of FAPE to children with disabilities between the age of three and the school district's age of beginners known as "eligible young children." The Schuylkill County Intermediate Unit provides early intervention services and programs to eligible young children located within the North Schuylkill School District. Children who are developing more slowly than other children their age may need Early Intervention Services. Delays in the following developmental milestones can alert parents to the potential need for Early Intervention Services:

1. Physical Development (ability to move, see, and hear)
2. Language Development (ability to talk or express needs)
3. Social and Emotional Development (ability to relate to others)
4. Self-Help Development (ability to eat, dress, and take care of themselves)
5. Cognitive Development (ability to think and learn)

Parents who feel their young child may not be reaching developmental milestones should contact the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit at 570-544-9131 x 1229 for the purpose of screening, evaluation and appropriate program and services if necessary. Eligible young children are afforded the same rights as school age children.

2. SERVICES FOR PROTECTED HANDICAPPED STUDENTS

The North Schuylkill School District must provide services to and may not discriminate against "protected handicapped students" in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. A protected handicapped student is a student who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such an impairment or is regarded as having such an impairment. Protected handicapped students may qualify for special services to ensure equal opportunity to participate in the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate for the individual student.

3. GIFTED EDUCATION

In Pennsylvania, school age students qualify to receive specially designed instruction when they have been identified as "mentally gifted." A student is mentally gifted when he or she has outstanding intellectual and creative ability that requires specially designed programs or support services not ordinarily provided in the regular education program. The North Schuylkill School District will determine whether a student is mentally gifted based upon multiple criteria, including I.Q. score. The determination of gifted ability will not be based on I.Q. score alone.

North Schuylkill School District utilizes a universal screening process using school benchmark data. The benchmark assessments reviewed at North Schuylkill include: DIBELS/Amplify for reading, DIBELS/Acadience for math, Spring Math, IXL diagnostic benchmarks, curriculum-based assessments, average grades, PSSA scores, PVAAS projections, Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT) and Keystones. Students are referred for a gifted screening when benchmark data is consistently above benchmark, or they are above the 90th percentile when compared to same aged peers.

We invite parents to connect with our gifted teacher or administrators at any time to initiate a screening or evaluation for their child. We are committed to ensuring that every student has access to the tailored support and enriching opportunities they deserve to excel academically and personally.

4. SCREENING AND EVALUATION

The North Schuylkill School District uses procedures to help identify children who may qualify for services, including parent/teacher referrals, review of student records and screening for hearing, vision and speech and language problems. Pre referral intervention through the Instructional Support Team Process is available in grades K through 6, along with Shield/SAP Team interventions in grades K through 12. If you believe that your child may be eligible for special education and related services, or gifted education screening and evaluation services designed to assess the needs of your child and his/her eligibility are available to you at no cost. You may request screening and evaluation at any time, whether or not your child is enrolled in the district's public-school program. Requests for screening and evaluation may be made in writing to the district address or to your child's building principal. All requests will be kept confidential.

5. ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE/ LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

The North Schuylkill School District shall provide a program for each student whose dominant language is not English for the purpose of facilitating the student's achievement of English proficiency and the academic standards. The program shall include bilingual - bicultural or English as a Second Language Instruction. More information about ESL/ELL procedures can be obtained in the NSHS Special Education Office.

The North Schuylkill School District has an LIEP Program Plan which describes our EL Program Plan which describes our EL Program. We also have a service agreement with the IU29. The IU has a handbook for EL teachers.

STUDENT SERVICES

GUIDANCE PROGRAM

The center of the Guidance Program is the student, whatever his or her need, and it is for this reason that the guidance staff places its major emphasis on individual student conferences, assistance in course selection and aiding students with future career plans. There are three school counselors available to assist students: one counselor for junior high students and two counselors for senior high students. Although students are called to the Guidance Office throughout the school year, they are encouraged to stop at any time and arrange for a personal conference. Counselors can meet with students to academic, career, and personal/social concerns. Parental conferences may be scheduled at any time throughout the school year by contacting the guidance department secretary.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE TEAM – SAP TEAM

The student assistance program is designed to help students who are experiencing disciplinary, personal, family, social, or chemical dependency problems that may interfere with academic performance. The team is composed of teachers, administrators, the school nurse, guidance counselors and at least one non-school professional with experience in the mental health and/or chemical dependency field. The team meets every week. Anyone who has a concern including students can refer a student to the team.

SAP Team Members

Dr. Robert Ackell	Ken Roseberry	Knute Brayford	Jenna Dyszel
Nicole Leiby	Leah Wallace	Joe Tomtishen	Melissa Lorady
John Cuthie	Michelle Misiewicz	Nick Sajone	Robert Shaffer
Kristine Russell	Renata Blozousky		

HOMELESS STUDENT RESOURCES

The North Schuylkill School District believes that homeless youth should have access to free and appropriate public education and wishes to limit the barriers that homeless students may face. Our goal is to have the educational process continue as uninterrupted as possible while children are in homeless situations.

Homeless students are defined as individuals lacking a fixed, regular, and nighttime residence, which include students living in the following conditions:

1. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship.
2. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations.
3. Living in an emergency, transitional or domestic violence shelters.
4. Abandoned in hospitals.
5. Living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings.
6. Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, transportation stations, or similar settings.
7. Living as migratory children in conditions described in previous examples.
8. Living as runaway children.
9. Being abandoned or forced out of homes by parents/guardians or caretakers.
10. Living as school age unwed mothers in houses for unwed mothers if they have no other living accommodations.

Unaccompanied youth mean a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. This includes youth who have run away from home; been abandoned or forced out of home by a parent, guardian, or other caretaker; or separated from a parent or guardian for any other reason.

Should you have any questions, you can contact the NSSD Homeless Liaison, Mrs. Rollenhagen
mrollenhagen@northschuylkill.net or 570-874-0495 x 1178.

- Pennsylvania Department of Education – Homeless Education
- Pennsylvania Department of Education – Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program
- Schuylkill Community Action Resource Directory
- North Schuylkill School District – Homeless Students – Policy 251
- North Schuylkill School District – Enrollment in District – Policy 200

North Schuylkill School District – Special Education – Policy 113



North Schuylkill School District Chromebook Damage Repair Plan



The North Schuylkill School District is self-funded, so please help us keep premiums and deductibles low by taking very good care of the Chromebook. The provisions in this Plan restrict coverage. Please read the Plan to understand your family's rights and responsibilities and what is covered.

A. Costs

1. Yearly premium of \$25.00. This premium is good for one school year.
2. If there is a claim under this Repair Plan, there is a standard **per-breakage deductible of \$25.00** for the second claim. The first claim is covered by the Repair Plan Premium.
3. Students who have Repair Plan claims on their Chromebook more than two times during a school year, for their regular, loaner, or replacement Chromebook, will face higher per-breakage deductibles. **The deductible for the third Repair Plan claim, and any claims thereafter, will be the total cost of the repair per claim. Lost power cord replacement cost will be \$30.00.**
4. The school administration has the final say in determining Repair Plan coverage and repair situations.
5. After September 15, 2025, no refunds will be issued.
6. Repair Plan Premiums are due 10 (ten) school days following student enrollment date.

B. Covered Equipment

1. The coverage provided applies to any Chromebook issued to your child by the North Schuylkill School District, whether it is the originally issued Chromebook, a loaner, or a replacement.
2. The deductible is the same, whether the machine is the original, a loaner, or a replacement Chromebook.
3. There will not be an additional premium for the use of a Chromebook loaner. Your child's yearly \$25.00 premium covers their original Chromebook and any other Chromebook issued to your child for the current school year.

C. Exclusions

The North Schuylkill School District will **not** pay for loss or damage resulting from the following:

1. Not informing the Main Office **immediately** of damage to the device may void the Repair Plan coverage for that incident. Examples being: damage from a liquid spill, dropping of the device that may expose internal parts.
2. Damage caused maliciously/on purpose to the device.
3. Dishonest, fraudulent or criminal acts.

D. Claim Procedures

1. Go directly to your school's main office.
2. The Technology Department will examine the Chromebook to determine if there is a qualified Repair Plan claim.
3. If there is a claim, the computer technician will fill out the appropriate paperwork and inform the office staff. You will receive a telephone call, letter and/or email from office staff when a claim is filed on your child's Chromebook.
4. Once the claim is in process, a loaner will be issued to the student.

Chromebook Repair Cost Schedule (with Damage Repair Plan Paid Premium)

Incident	Damage	Cost
1st	Accidental	\$0
2nd	Accidental	\$25.00
3rd	Accidental	Cost of repair or replacement of device (\$325.00 as of July 2025)
Any	Misuse, neglect, intentional damage or loss	Cost of repair or replacement of device (\$325.00 as of July 2025)

How to Care for your North Schuylkill School District Chromebook

General Precautions

- Chromebooks should not be placed on soft surfaces or laps during use due to potential overheating.
- No food or drink should be next to Chromebooks.
- Cords, cables and removable storage devices (e.g. thumb drives) must be inserted carefully into the appropriate port on the Chromebooks.
- Chromebooks should not be used or stored near pets.
- Chromebooks should not be used with the power cord plugged in when the cord may be a tripping hazard.
- Heavy objects should never be placed on top of Chromebooks.
- Chromebooks should never be loaned to another student or individual during the school day or otherwise.

Carrying Chromebooks

- Always transport Chromebooks with care.
- Students should hold the Chromebooks (cover closed) with two hands if they need to carry the Chromebook.
- Never lift a Chromebook by the screen.
- Never carry a Chromebook with the screen open.

Opening and Closing Chromebook

- Open and close the Chromebook only when it is resting on a flat surface such as a table or desk.
- Do not attempt to force open the screen beyond its angle, as the screen will break if forced.
- Before closing the screen, make sure there is nothing on the keyboard to prevent the full closure of the device.
- Obstacles on the keyboard could cause broken screens or damaged hinges.
- Close the screen gently using two hands – one at either corner of the screen.

Screen Care

The Chromebook screen can be damaged if subjected to heavy objects, rough treatment, some cleaning solvents and other liquids. The screens are particularly sensitive to damage from excessive pressure.

- Do not put pressure on the top of a Chromebook when it is closed.
- Make sure there is nothing on the keyboard before closing the lid (e.g., pens, pencils, or disks).

Student Name:

Chromebook Name:

North Schuylkill School District
15 Academy Lane
Ashland, PA 17921

Agreement for Loaned Chromebook

Grade:
Homeroom:

Parent/Guardian:

By signing this form, I understand that this equipment is being loaned to the North Schuylkill family listed below for educational purposes only. Since this equipment is being used off school grounds, the student and the student's family understands that:

1. The parent and/or student is financially responsible for loss, damage or theft of equipment. In the event of loss, theft or damage to this equipment, the parent and/or student will contact their school's main office as soon as possible to report the event.
2. The computer is and shall remain the property of the North Schuylkill School District. **North Schuylkill Chromebooks must be used for school related activities ONLY. Use of Chromebooks is subject to the laws of Pennsylvania, North Schuylkill School Board Policies, District administrative regulations, rules, practices, and protocols.**
3. North Schuylkill reserves the right to demand the immediate return of the equipment at any time. **Technology must only be used by North Schuylkill students. The District reserves the right to file legal action against the parent/guardian and/or student for failure to timely return Chromebook or associated equipment including for replacement costs.**

Student Name:

Chromebook Name:

Printed Parent/Guardian Name

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

☐ By checking this box I acknowledge that I am declining the North Schuylkill School District Chromebook Repair Plan. By declining this plan I assume all financial responsibility for all Chromebook damage.

North Schuylkill School District Student Repair Plan Fee

The Repair Plan Fee is due 10 days after enrolling in the District or receiving your Chromebook. If the fee is not paid by the due date, you agree to be financially responsible for all repair and/or replacement costs to the Chromebook.

Financial Hardships:

If the technology fee creates a financial hardship on the student or parent, please contact the District Office about payment options.

Office Use Only

Student Name:

Chromebook Name:

Parent Name: _____

Payment Type: ☐ Check (Payable to North Schuylkill School District) # _____ ☐ Money Order ☐ Cash

Payment Date: _____

Received By: _____