



# **Northfield High School**

## **Student Handbook 2021-2022**

1400 Division Street South

Northfield, MN 55057

Main Office: 507.645.3473

Attendance Line: 507.663.0616

Fax: 507.645.3455

Principal: Joel Leer

Assistant Principals: Nancy Veverka and Rico Bohren

[www.northfieldschools.org](http://www.northfieldschools.org)

### **Northfield Public Schools: Our Vision**

We will prepare every student for lifelong success within a world-class learning environment with a commitment to community partnerships and sustainability.

### **Northfield Public Schools: Our Mission**

We deliver educational excellence that empowers all learners to engage in our dynamic world.

#### **Beliefs**

- **Public Education**  
*We believe that public education is the foundation of our democratic republic.*
- **Learning**  
*We believe that everyone can learn and has unique gifts and talents that must be nurtured and valued. We believe that learning is a lifelong, multi-faceted process that involves more than academics.*
- **Decision-Making**  
*We believe decisions must be based on the district's mission and beliefs and relevant sources of information. We believe in an open decision-making process that invites honest dialogue.*
- **Shared Responsibility**  
*We believe that education is the collective responsibility of our students, families, schools and communities.*
- **Learning Environment**  
*We believe that everyone in our schools has the right to a positive learning environment that provides physical, emotional and intellectual safety, and nurtures mutual respect, responsibility and rigor.*
- **Diversity**  
*We believe that all learners have a right to equitable access to educational opportunities.*

#### **Strategies**

- **Quality Education**  
*We will hire and retain highly qualified educators and provide them with ongoing support and training to deliver high quality instruction that meets the unique needs of all learners.*
- **Climate**  
*We will create and strengthen an environment that fosters mutual respect, responsibility and rigor, and ensures the right to physical, emotional and intellectual safety for every person.*
- **Curricular Outcomes**  
*We will implement a consistent, comprehensive and challenging set of curricular outcomes that reach and engage all learners.*
- **Stewardship**  
*We will consistently demonstrate good stewardship by analyzing information, prioritizing needs and managing our financial, physical and human resources to support our mission.*
- **Communication/Partnerships**  
*We will build and strengthen bridges of open communication that engage staff, students, families and communities as effective partners in education.*
- **Diversity**  
*We will implement plans and practices that foster full participation by all learners and that address issues that include, but are not limited to, race, gender, culture, religion, sexual orientation, language, disabilities and socio-economic factors.*

<u><b>Ongoing Priorities</b></u>	<u><b>Near-Term Priorities</b></u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Prioritize recruiting and retaining diverse staff.</li><li>● Robust core subject instruction.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Building and fostering relationships - commitment to social/emotional health for all.</li><li>● Develop a long-term solution that allows for reasonable class sizes while maintaining financial stability.</li><li>● Spaces that are modern, innovative, creative and flexible.</li><li>● Equitable opportunities and support for all career and college paths.</li></ul>

## **WELCOME TO NORTHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL**

This handbook has been designed to be helpful in answering questions about Northfield High School's programs, policies, and procedures. This handbook is not an all-inclusive list of rules but rather an outline of expectations and procedures that assist in the operation of the school.

We welcome and encourage you to communicate with us at school. We look forward to working together with students and parents/guardians to give the students an opportunity to be successful in their education.

Our best wishes are for a productive positive school year.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Northfield High School is a community of learners who are safe, respectful and responsible.

## **2021-2022 NORTHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL STAFF/ADMINISTRATION**

Visit the [Northfield High School Directory](#) to contact staff.

# Northfield Public Schools 2021-2022 School Calendar

Approved by the School Board  
March 9, 2020  
Revised June 14, 2021

July 2021							July							January 2022							January																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
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## School Cancellation Procedures:

On the third and subsequent full day closures, the e-Learning day procedures will be implemented. The latest district e-Learning day guidelines can be found online at: <https://northfieldschools.org/parents/school-closures/>

	Holidays, No School		Holidays
	No School		Kickoff Family Conferences
	No School, Teacher Preparation or Staff Development Days		

## Student Days:

Term 1: 40 days  
Term 2: 47 days  
Term 3: 39 days  
Term 4: 47 days  
TOTAL: 173 days

## Summary:

173 student contact days  
11 non-student contact days  
3 contract days off calendar (3 conferences)  
TOTAL: 187 contract days  
87 days - first semester; 86 days - second semester

**NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
2021-2022 Calendar**

Approved by the school board on March 9, 2020  
Revised by the school board on June 14, 2021

**New Teacher Inservice**

Aug. 24            New SpEd & New/Returning from Leave Elementary Teachers  
Aug. 25 - 26      All New Teacher Inservice

**Teachers Back-to-School Workshop Week**

Aug. 30 - Sept. 2      Staff Development Days  
Sept. 3                Teacher Preparation Day

Sept. 6                **No School.** Labor Day  
Sept. 7 - 8            Family Conferences  
Sept. 9                First Day of School. Beginning of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

Oct. 21 - 22           **No School.** Fall Break (MEA)  
Oct. 25                School Resumes

Nov. 5                End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter (40 days)  
Nov. 8                **No School.** Teacher Preparation Day  
Nov. 9                School Resumes. Beginning of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter  
Nov. 24 - 26          **No School.** Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 23 - Dec. 31    **No School.** Winter Break

Jan. 3                School Resumes  
Jan. 17                **No School.** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday  
Jan. 27                End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter (47 days); End of First Semester (87 days)  
Jan. 28                **No School.** Teacher Preparation Day  
Jan. 31                School Resumes. Beginning of 3rd Quarter and Second Semester

Feb. 21                **No School.** Presidents Day. Staff Development Day

March 7 - 11          **No School.** Spring Break

April 1                End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (39 days)  
April 4                **No School.** Teacher Preparation Day  
April 5                School Resumes. Beginning of 4th Quarter

May 30                **No School.** Memorial Day

June 5                Graduation  
June 9                **Last Day of School.** 2-hour early dismissal  
                             End of 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter (47 days); End of Semester (86 days)

**School Cancellation Procedures for 2021-2022**

- If two (2) days are canceled, no make-up days for students or teachers.
- On the third and subsequent full day closures, the e-Learning Day procedures will be implemented. Students receive e-Learning day instructions for learning at home on these days from their school and teacher(s). The latest [district e-Learning day guidelines](#) can be found online.

## 2021-2022 DAILY SCHEDULE

	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
Period	Start Time	End Time	Start Time	End Time	Start Time	End Time	Start Time	End Time	Start Time	End Time
1st Hour	7:51	8:38	7:51	8:38	8:51	9:31	7:51	8:38	7:51	8:38
2nd Hour	8:42	9:29	8:42	9:29	9:35	10:15	8:42	9:29	8:42	9:29
3rd Hour	9:33	10:20	9:33	10:20	10:19	10:59	9:33	10:20	9:33	10:20
4th Hour	10:24	11:11	10:24	11:11	11:03	11:43	10:24	11:11	10:24	11:11
Flex Hour	11:11	12:11	11:11	12:11	11:43	12:33	11:11	12:11	11:11	12:11
5th Hour	12:16	1:03	12:16	1:03	12:37	1:17	12:16	1:03	12:16	1:03
6th Hour	1:07	1:54	1:07	1:54	1:21	2:01	1:07	1:54	1:07	1:54
7th Hour	1:58	2:45	1:58	2:45	2:05	2:45	1:58	2:45	1:58	2:45

### MEDIA CENTER HOURS

Monday - Thursday 7:15 am – 3:15 pm

Friday 7:15 am – 3:00 pm

### VISIT YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR ACCORDING TO THE FIRST LETTER IN YOUR LAST NAME

Ms. Legros A-FA

Mr. Ensrud FE-L

Mr. Turnquist M-RA

Ms. Rasmussen RE-Z

### HIGH SCHOOL CODE FOR ACT/SAT 241-855

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must earn **23 credits** as follows:

- English – 4.0 credits
- Social Studies – 3.5 credits
- Math – 3.0 credits
- Science – 3.0 credits
- Physical Education – 1.0 credit
- Arts – 1.0 credit
- Health – 0.5 credit
- Electives – 7.0 credits

## IMPORTANT SCHOOL NUMBERS

24 HOUR ATTENDANCE LINE	663-0616
Activities Hotline for each day's activities	645-3456
Main Office to contact teachers	645-3473
Counseling Office counselors, grades, transcripts	663-0636
Assistant Principal discipline, attendance	663-0635
Nurse's Office	663-0634
Activities Office	663-0632

## GRADE POINTS

A = 4.000	B- = 2.667	D+ = 1.333
A- = 3.667	C+ = 2.333	D = 1.000
B+ = 3.333	C = 2.000	D- = .667
B = 3.000	C- = 1.667	F = 0

## **ATTENDANCE INFORMATION**

Attendance at school is a shared responsibility between the individual student, and their parents/guardians and the school. State law stipulates that it is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to ensure that their son/daughter attends school. The expectation is for parents/guardians to provide an honest reason for absence or tardiness and the school determines whether a student's absence/tardiness is excused or unexcused.

Learning is enhanced by regular school attendance. Regular attendance assists in maximizing the educational benefits for each individual student.

### **Absence Procedure**

If a student must be absent from class or arrive late to school, the student's parent/guardian must call the Attendance Line at 663-0616 the day of the absence or earlier. The attendance line is available 24 hours a day for your convenience. Absences must be excused within 24 hours or the absence may remain unexcused.

If the school and parent/guardian do not connect on the day of the absence, a note from a parent/guardian will be accepted the next morning. Absences may no longer be excused after the day the student returns. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to apply for an online access number to view their student's attendance record. See website for more information to Family Access.

All students who become ill during the school day are required to check out with the nurse's office prior to leaving the building. Check out must include contact between school officials and parents/guardians prior to leaving the building. Failure to properly check out with the nurse's office will cause the student to be unexcused and consequences may be assigned.

Any student who leaves the building for any reason, without checking out, is considered unexcused. Checking out means contact between parent/guardian and school official before the student leaves the building.

### **Excessive Absences**

The absence limit per semester is eleven (11). Upon the twelfth (12th) absence, the student may not earn credit in the class for the semester. (School sponsored activities/field trips, chronic medical conditions verified by a physician and extended medical excuses of at least three consecutive days verified by a physician are the only days that "do not count" in the 11 absences allowed per semester). In addition, students may lose credit upon reaching 3 unexcused absences in a class. Students with excessive absences will be referred to the Student Support Team (SST) for intervention.

### **Absence Appeal**

If a student, the parent/guardian, or the school feels that extenuating circumstances caused the excused/unexcused absence limit to be exceeded; an appeal may be filed with the Assistant Principal. The student/parents/guardians are responsible for filing an appeal by contacting the Assistant Principal's Office at 663-0635.

### **Athletic & Academic Activities**

All students are encouraged to participate in the athletic/academic programs. Please access the Activities Office Website [here](#) for more information.



### **Attendance Policy - Student Activities**

In order to practice, rehearse, compete or perform in any NHS co-curricular activity, the student must be in attendance that day for a minimum of the **last 4 periods of the day**. Pre-arranged absences with the approval of the Principal, Assistant Principal, or Activities Director will be considered an exception to the policy. All coaches/advisors are to explain this rule to the participants at the beginning of their season. Coaches/Advisors are expected to enforce this policy. If absences are not cleared by a parent/guardian, the absence will be considered unexcused.

### **Unexcused Absences:**

Students who have an unexcused absence receive no credit from their teachers for the class activities performed on the day of the absence.

Students with unexcused absences will be given appropriate consequences by their Assistant Principal. Consequences will be progressive with succeeding unexcused absences.

We support students' right to freedom of expression. However, the Supreme Court has ruled that freedom of expression cannot infringe other students' rights nor disrupt the educational environment. There are consequences associated with any civil disobedience and for missing classes. If absences to attend a protest, strike, or similar event, are not cleared by a parent/guardian, the absence will be considered unexcused.

### **Attending Post-Season Competitions as Spectators**

Students must have their parent/guardian excuse them *before* the day of the event. ***No phone calls or notes will be accepted the day of the event*** The absence must be pre-excused.

Students who do not have a parent/guardian excuse them before the event will be considered unexcused. Attendance at an event will count towards the attendance policy, except for students who are participants in that activity for NHS.

### **Academic Eligibility Policy Adopted June, 2019**

The purpose of this academic eligibility policy is to monitor, motivate and assist the students who participate in co-curricular activity programs, in order for the student to be academically successful. While the school's co-curricular programs are a vital part of the total education of our students, our primary mission is academics. Please reference the Co-Curricular Handbook for academic eligibility details.

### **Excused/Unexcused Absences**

Excused absences include:

- illness
- medical appointment (that cannot be made outside of the school day)
- post-secondary school visits
- family vacations/outings (with a parent/guardian)
- family emergencies verified by a parent/guardian (serious family illness, injury or death)
- absences caused by participation in school sponsored activities

Unexcused absences include but are not limited to-

- oversleeping
- car trouble

Unexcused tardiness for more than fifteen minutes is considered an unexcused absence.

Missing Classes - Students are not allowed to miss classes in order to make-up or complete work for another class. Parents/Guardians may not excuse students from classes to make-up or complete work for another

class. The school reserves the right to require medical verification in cases where student absences are excessive.

### **Homework Make-Up Policy**

If a student is absent, they should [email teachers](#) directly asking for homework, [check Schoology](#) for assignments, and/or call a friend and ask them to bring work home for them.

If a student knows they will be absent, it is their responsibility to connect with their teachers for their homework in advance. A parent/guardian will still need to report their student's absence to the Attendance Office.

The entire responsibility for making up school work missed due to any absence lies with the student. All classroom teachers will have a procedure for obtaining that make-up work.

1. Students may make up work missed due to an excused absence. Work missed as a result of an unexcused absence cannot be made up.
2. Students will have two days after returning from an absence to make arrangements with the teacher for completing work missed during the absence. Failure to make arrangements or failure to follow through with those arrangements will result in losing the right to make up the missed assignments.
3. Previously announced tests or projects are due immediately upon return to school. Individual Departments may elect to enforce alternative make-up test procedures.

### **Passes to Leave Campus**

Under no circumstances may any student just sign-out and leave school. A student must have an excused reason to leave school and must be issued a pass to leave the building. Failure to follow this procedure will result in disciplinary consequences.

### **Tardiness**

Anyone not in the room at the bell is considered tardy. Two tardies are allowed per quarter. The third, fourth and fifth tardy will result in disciplinary consequences. The sixth may result in permanent removal from class. Unexcused tardiness for more than fifteen minutes is considered an unexcused absence.

## ACADEMIC INFORMATION

### AUDITING CLASSES

Auditing means taking a course for a personal benefit, but not for a grade or credit. Under special circumstances, this can be arranged through an agreement between student, teacher, school counselor and assistant principal.

### COURSE INCOMPLETES

Students who receive an “Incomplete” grade at the end of a quarter must make up the work within 2 weeks unless additional time has been granted by the teacher and assistant principal.

### COURSE STRUCTURE

Courses at Northfield High School are all one semester in length. A semester course awards 1/2 credit for successful completion. If a student fails one semester, they need to repeat that failed semester. The grade of record is the final semester grade. This is the grade that is entered on the student’s transcript and is used to determine cumulative grade point average and class rank. For a full-year course there are two grades of record, one for the first semester and one for the second semester.

### COURSE DROP/ADD POLICY

Course requests in early spring lead to schedules that are very difficult to adjust - especially when it comes to electives. If a scheduling conflict occurs, one or more student-selected alternate courses will be added to student schedules as necessary. If a schedule change is necessary for graduation or in order to carry at least six classes, students can initiate these changes on the designated schedule change day the week before school begins. Once the school year begins, the only allowed changes will be to drop a class for a study hall if there are seven classes in place or to add a class that is for required graduation credits. Students who have seven classes on their schedule and drop one in order to take a study hall must do so via a Drop/Add form before the midquarter point of the semester, which is approximately four weeks into the semester. Students who have six classes and wish to drop one must also add a replacement course via a Drop/Add form by the end of the fifth day of the semester. Students may not have two study halls/open hours (Senior Transition, TA) in the same semester. Dropping a course after the deadline results in a failing semester grade for the class.

### FINAL EXAMS

Final examinations will count no more than 20% of the final semester grade. Any exam changes must be approved by an administrator prior to exams beginning.

### GRADING SYSTEM

Student grade point averages and ranks are calculated by two possible methods. Under the “Normal” system, all courses are equally weighted according to the following system:

A+ / A =4.0	B+=3.333	C+=2.333	D+=1.333	F=0
A- =3.667	B=3.0	C=2.0	D=1.0	
	B-=2.667	C-=1.667	D-=0.667	

Under the “Weighted” system, all Advanced Placement course grades are weighted an additional 25% in GPA points as follows:

A=5.0	B=3.75	C=2.5
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## **MID-YEAR GRADUATES**

Students who can meet the necessary state and local requirements are eligible to graduate after the first semester of their senior year. Students desiring to graduate early must receive permission from the principal when registering for their senior year. Students are not eligible to participate in any school activities once they graduate. However, mid-year graduates may participate in the end-of-the-year commencement program.

## **MINIMUM CLASS LOAD**

The minimum class load for all students at Northfield High School shall be six courses each semester. Students in grades 9-12 are required to be in school seven periods each day unless they have arranged with the assistant principal for a senior transition or they are enrolled in post secondary courses, or online courses.

## **PASS-FAIL**

Under special circumstances, a course may be taken under a pass-fail grading system where the final semester grade is reported as a "pass" or "fail" rather than a standard letter grade. Course credit is earned with a passing grade, and there is no impact on G.P.A. A pass-fail grading system must be arranged through an agreement between student, teacher, school counselor and assistant principal.

## **POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS (PSEO)**

Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) is a program that allows 10th-, 11th- and 12th-grade students to earn both high school and college credit while still in high school, through enrollment in and successful completion of college nonsectarian courses at eligible participating postsecondary institutions. Most PSEO courses are offered on the campus of the postsecondary institution; some courses are offered online. Each participating college or university sets its own admissions requirements for enrollment into the PSEO courses. Eleventh and 12th-grade students may take PSEO courses on a full- or part-time basis; 10th graders are eligible to enroll in PSEO on a more limited basis. Students must meet the PSEO residency and eligibility requirements and abide by participation limits specified in Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.09. If a school district determines a pupil is not on track to graduate, they may continue to participate in PSEO on a term by term basis. For current information about the PSEO program, visit the [Minnesota Department of Education's Postsecondary Enrollment Options \(PSEO\) webpage](#).

## **REPORT CARDS**

Report cards are posted in Family Access every quarter (nine weeks) grading period. Students and parents/guardians will be able to access their report cards via Family Access electronically after grades are posted each marking period. Posting dates will be published in school announcements and newsletters.

## **SCHEDULE CHANGES**

Students must meet with a school counselor to initiate any change in their class schedule. Schedule changes are made only in exceptional circumstances.

## **SENIOR HONORS PROGRAM**

Through an agreement with St. Olaf College and Carleton College, Northfield High School seniors have the opportunity to enroll in lower-level college courses at no cost to the student. Each college has a specific application process. Application forms are available to students in late spring of their junior year. During the summer, students will be informed of the college's decision and given instructions on how to register for classes. If you intend to use a Senior Honors course to meet a graduation requirement (i.e. Economics), please check with your counselor in advance to ensure that the class is applicable. Administrative approval is

required prior to the start of these courses. Information may be obtained from the counselors for obtaining high school and/or college credits upon successful completion of the course. A senior in the Senior Honors Program who wishes to access the media center or computer lab during their work time must arrive at the beginning of an hour and stay the entire hour. All media center rules apply.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Special Education programs are an educational service provided to students who are having difficulty achieving in the regular school program and who meet state eligibility requirements that are verified through an assessment made by qualified personnel. The difficulties a student may encounter could be academic or emotional/behavioral. The student or parent/guardian may contact a guidance counselor, administrator or teacher for information about referrals. At that point, the child study procedure will begin and parents/guardians will be informed of the procedure and their rights, which are contained in State and Federal laws.

## **GENERAL STUDENT INFORMATION SCHOOL POLICIES, PROCEDURES, SERVICES AND PROGRAMS**

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

All students are expected to:

- Engage with honesty and integrity in their academic life.
- Attend NHS ready to learn and in their learning demonstrate the ability to discern right from wrong.
- Know which academic behaviors are acceptable and which are dishonest.
- Produce work that is their own or give credit when the work is not their own.

All parents/guardians are expected to:

- Adopt the spirit as well as the letter of this academic honesty policy.
- Review the policy with their child and encourage their child to practice ethical behavior.
- Refrain from completing assignments for their child.

All teachers are expected to:

- Review the Academic Honesty Policy with students as often during the school year as appropriate.
- Teach the skills necessary to prevent a violation of academic integrity.
- Enforce the policy in all instances of academic dishonesty following the procedures below.

All administrators are expected to:

- Support the spirit of the Academic Honesty Policy with students, parents/guardians, and staff members in conferences and in classrooms.
- Follow the student disciplinary process as outlined in the Academic Honesty Policy.  
Incidents of academic dishonesty will be cumulative for 4 years. The procedures whereby a student will be held accountable for infractions of the Academic Honesty Policy are as follows:

#### **Incident 1:**

1. The teacher will address the student with evidence when the infraction occurs and notify parents/guardians.
2. The student can receive a zero on the assignment, but may arrange a time to meet with the teacher and set up an opportunity to re-do the assignment with supervision.

#### **Incident 2:**

1. All of the disciplinary action of the first offense will occur.
2. The student will receive an automatic zero on the assignment or test and no make-up work will be offered to compensate for lost points.
3. The teacher will file an incident referral form with the Assistant Principal, who will conference with the student and notify parents/guardians.

### **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS**

To review academic eligibility for student activities, refer to the Co-Curricular Handbook.

### **ACADEMIC AWARDS**

Two types of awards are presented.

The academic letter, certificate, or bar are awarded to those students meeting the following criteria.

- A chenille “N” letter and certificate will be given to the student who has a weighted 3.5 or better cumulative grade point average after five semesters of high school.

A transfer student to NHS who has a weighted 3.5 cumulative grade point average after five semesters at an accredited high school must have completed at least one semester at NHS.

- Once a student has received the chenille “N” letter and certificate, a “bar” and certificate will be awarded for each successive semester that the student continues to maintain a weighted 3.5 cumulative grade point average.
- All college courses taken for high school credit will be included in determining each student’s grade point average. However, students taking college courses must be enrolled in at least four Northfield High School courses to qualify for an academic award.

A commended student award will be presented to students nominated by teachers who wish to recognize a student’s work in a particular department. Criteria include: most improved, making great progress, responsible, hard-working, and achieving up to potential.

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

The main doors located on the east side of the building have been designated as our main entrance for handicapped accessibility. An elevator is available for use within the building. Handicapped designated parking is located in the front and near the “D wing” and “M wing.” entrances. Only those vehicles with the designated handicapped license plate or window sticker are permitted to park in the handicapped area.

## **BULLYING PROHIBITION**

Bullying is defined as behavior that is:

- Intimidating, threatening, abusive or hurtful conduct
- Objectively offensive
- Involves an imbalance of power and is repeated, or materially and substantially interferes with a student’s education or ability to participate in school activities

Any act of bullying or cyberbullying is strictly prohibited as defined in School District Policy 514. Students and/or families should report instances of bullying as outlined above to the building principal or assistant principal. While not required, the use of [this form](#) is encouraged to assist in a prompt investigation.

## **CELL PHONES**

We recognize that cell phones have become an integral and necessary part of our school, community, and society. We also recognize that cell phones can become a significant distraction to our learning environment and students' ability to concentrate on instruction. Students are expected to be respectful in the use of their cell phones so as not to distract from the learning environment. If cell phone use becomes a distraction, teaching and administrative staff are authorized and directed to address the issue with the student. Consequences can include, but are not limited to, teacher conference, administrative conference, and/or a potential confiscation of the device for the remainder of the class period or school day.

## **CHEMICAL HEALTH**

Students are responsible for cooperating with school authorities to keep our schools free of drugs, tobacco,

nicotine, any electronic nicotine delivery system, liquid nicotine and non-nicotine vaping products, and alcohol. Students should report any presence of chemicals on school grounds. Students with a chemical violation will be referred to the Student Support Team. A chemical health counselor is available to students. Call the Counseling Office for more information.

## **CHILD NUTRITION DEPARTMENT**

See Appendix A

## **CLOSING OF SCHOOL**

In the event of bad weather, school closing announcements will be made over KYMN AM-1080 and WCCO AM-830 radio stations, and via Skylert and Schoology.

## **DETENTION**

Detention will be held during FLEX hour. Students must check with the Attendance office to reschedule. A student may change their scheduled detention only once. Students must come into the attendance office prior to the scheduled detention to make the change.

### **Detention and Rules**

1. Students must arrive on time.
2. Students must have something to study or read.
3. No talking, sleeping, or cell phone use.
4. Students must remain in the room throughout the assigned time.

## **DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES**

See district “Student Citizenship Handbook”

## **DRUG DOG SEARCHES**

The district will conduct periodic searches of the schools and their adjacent parking lots with the assistance of local and county law enforcement officers and drug-sniffing dogs. Each canine unit will be accompanied by at least one school district staff, and when possible, the school resource officer. In the event of a positive identification by the canines, two school personnel will conduct a search of the locker or vehicle in question. If the search reveals unauthorized or illegal items, district personnel may ask that law enforcement finish the search of the locker or vehicle.

## **E-LEARNING DAYS**

Northfield Public Schools uses e-Learning days (formerly called flexible learning days) to mitigate the loss of instructional time when the weather forces school closures. Students receive e-Learning day instructions for learning at home on these days from their school and teacher(s). The latest district e-Learning day guidelines can be found online at: <https://northfieldschools.org/parents/school-closings/>.

## **EIGHTEEN-YEAR OLDS**

Students who are 18 years of age or older must follow all school district policies and all school regulations, including the regulations that are outlined in the student handbook. Additionally, when a student turns 18 years of age, the following rules will apply:

1. All rights to make educational decisions will transfer to the student, including the right to make decisions about special education, unless a conservator or legal guardian has been appointed for the student.



2. Subject to all applicable laws, the school district may continue to provide educational data to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of an adult student, provided that the parent(s)/guardian(s) continue to claim the adult student as a dependent for tax purposes. If an adult student is claimed as a dependent but the student does not want the district to share educational data with his or her parents/guardians, the student may submit a written request for the district to end all communications with the parent(s)/guardian(s). The district will evaluate such requests on a case-by-case basis to determine the appropriate course of action.

3. If the district grants an adult student's written request to stop sharing educational data with the student's parent(s)/guardian(s), and the student later changes his or her mind, the student will be required to submit a signed form authorizing the district to resume sharing educational data on the student with the parents/guardians.

### **FAMILY ACCESS/GRADES ONLINE**

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to apply for a family access number. This will allow parents/guardians to view attendance, food service accounts, schedules and grades. Go to [northfieldschools.org](http://northfieldschools.org) to apply.

Parents/Guardians and students have access to student grades via Student Access and Family Access. Scores as they appear on Student Access and Family Access should be considered unofficial. In the unlikely event of discrepancies between the teacher electronic gradebook and Student/Family Access, the teacher gradebook shall be the official record of all grades.

### **FLEX PERIOD**

FLEX is a 60-minute period that occurs daily between 4th and 5th hour, and provides students an opportunity to have lunch and engage in academic supports, physical activity, social opportunities, or unstructured time in supervised settings. A weekly schedule of activities and options for FLEX period is available to students on their iPads. FLEX also includes the Career & College Readiness program each Tuesday for 25 minutes. Seniors have the option to leave campus during FLEX period except when Career & College Readiness programming is delivered. 9th, 10th, and 11th graders are expected to be on campus for the entire FLEX period. Teachers have the option to require students to attend academic supports periodically during FLEX to ensure students are keeping up with their work.

### **FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

Freedom of expression is necessary to promote creativity and teach tolerance of others' ideas. Verbal, written or symbolic speech, which causes disruption, will not be tolerated.

The administration will make judgments based on the following criteria:

1. It must not be obscene.
2. It may not make personal attacks on students or school employees.
3. It may not advocate or cause disruption of the school day.
4. It may not invade others' privacy or be libelous.
5. It may not denigrate any religion, creed, race, gender, or sexual preference.

The above criteria also apply to school-sponsored forums and will be used to judge whether verbal or symbolic speech may be punished.

### **GRADUATION/COMMENCEMENT**

Only NHS students are eligible to participate. Students enrolled in other programs will participate in that

program's commencement.

Students who have or will have successfully completed graduation requirements by the last day of the school year may participate in the commencement program and receive a diploma. Students who are one-half semester credit short of either the required courses or of the total credits required may also participate in commencement but will not receive a diploma until all graduation requirements are completed. Any student who is more than 1/2 credit short of either requirement is not allowed to participate in commencement.

Seniors are expected to fulfill all obligations prior to graduation. These obligations include, but are not limited to: returned textbooks, iPads and chargers, class fees, textbook fines, and negative food service account balances. Seniors with outstanding obligations will be notified of their outstanding obligations and will need to fulfill all obligations before they are eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Seniors are expected to behave appropriately up through graduation. Inappropriate behavior could result in a variety of consequences, including their removal from the commencement ceremony.

### **HARASSMENT-FREE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (HUMAN RIGHTS/TITLE IX)**

The Northfield School District takes Human Rights complaints (including Title IX complaints) seriously. Students are responsible for maintaining an environment free from harassment, intimidation and abuse. Students are also responsible to report incidents of physical, sexual and verbal harassment, intimidation and/or abuse that they have experienced or of which they are aware. School Board Policy 413 and its associated procedures and School Board Policy 522 govern the process for addressing these complaints.

Such reports should be made to:

Molly Viesselman

Director of Human Resources, Human Rights Officer/Title IX Coordinator, Northfield Public Schools  
201 Orchard Street South, Northfield, MN 55057

Phone: 507.663.0600

Email: [mviesselman@northfieldschools.org](mailto:mviesselman@northfieldschools.org).

While not required, individuals can make complaints using [this form](#).

### **HONOR STUDENT DESIGNATION**

Those students graduating with a weighted cumulative grade point average of 3.70 or higher will be designated as "Highest Honor Students." Students with a weighted cumulative G.P.A. of 3.5 to 3.699 will be designated as "Honor Students." The determination of these grade-point averages will be made after the first semester of the student's senior year. Those designated as "Highest Honor Students" will receive a black honor cord to be worn at commencement. Those designated "Honor Students" will receive a gold honor cord to be worn at commencement.

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

The assistant principal or principal may involve the Northfield Police Department, a school resource officer, or other appropriate law enforcement agency when a public law has been violated at school. The police may be alerted to theft, vandalism, drug distribution, or assault. Any altercation involving injury to a person will also be reported. Prosecution by criminal complaint does not preclude disciplinary action by the school district. In addition, the student's parent/guardian may be held liable for damages relating to vandalism or injury as permitted by statute.

Generally, law enforcement will not be present during an administrator's interview of a student. If a student violates a district policy that also violates a law, the student may be referred to the police. A district administrator may be present during a search and related questioning by law enforcement.

Law enforcement officers may interview students on campus about issues outside of the school's jurisdiction only when parents/guardians have granted permission. The interview will take place in a closed room away from the view of students and adults. An administrator may be in attendance.

Where a local welfare agency or law enforcement agency asks to conduct an interview on school property in connection with an investigation into alleged child abuse, the district will allow the interview as described in [Board of Education Policy 519](#).

## **LOCKERS**

Students can be assigned a locker upon request. While students have the right to expect some privacy, lockers remain the school's property. School officials reserve the right to search a student's locker at any time.

## **LOCKER ROOMS**

Students **MUST** have a pass from a teacher/school personnel to enter school locker rooms during the school day.

## **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

National Honor Society is an organization designed to recognize scholarship, stimulate a desire to give service to others, promote leadership and develop character in students. Students participate in activities providing service to the school and community. Selection for membership is by a faculty council and is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership and service. Students in grades 11-12 who have a cumulative unweighted grade point average of 3.6 are eligible.

## **NURSE – CALL 507.663.0634**

The nurse is on duty each day from 7:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Students ***must*** have a pass from a teacher in order to visit the nurse. All students who become ill during the school day are required to check out with the nurse's office, prior to leaving the building. Check out must include parent/guardian contact between school officials and parents/guardian ***prior to leaving the building***. Failure to properly check out with the nurse's office will cause the student to be unexcused.

Legitimate visits to the nurse during class time are excused, counted absences.

Any and all medications that students take at school must be distributed and stored in the high school nurse's office.

Prescription medications (i.e. Ritalin, Imitrex, Zoloft) that are dispensed at school need to have a written prescription from the physician indicating medication, dose, route, time, duration and diagnosis as well as a parent/guardian signature. The physician/parental consent form can be obtained through the nurse's office. The medication must be sent in a prescription bottle as issued by a pharmacist. (A duplicate bottle can be obtained from the pharmacist upon request.) Permission for Tylenol, Ibuprofen and other over the counter medications may be given on the emergency form provided to you by the school. Additional forms are available upon request. Emergency Forms are mandatory, are updated annually and must be turned in to the nurse's office. Individual health care plans are written when appropriate. Students must bring an unopened, sealed bottle of Ibuprofen or Tylenol to the nurse's office if they need these medications on a regular basis.

## **PARENT/GUARDIAN GUIDE AND REFUSAL FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN STATEWIDE TESTING**

See Appendix B

### **PARKING LOT/VEHICLE POLICY**

All motorized vehicles parked at Northfield High School by faculty, staff and students, must display a valid permit. The cost of a parking permit is \$100.00 per year (or \$50.00 for second semester). Additional permits (including lost permits) will be \$5.00. All parking permits must be registered with the office and may not be transferred to any other vehicle other than the vehicle described on the vehicle registration form. No sale/transfer of parking permits is permitted from student to student or sibling to sibling. Parking permits are full price per individual student. No family discount will be given. Any unauthorized parking offense will result in the following:

#### **Permitted Vehicles**

- 1st Offense: Written Parking Violation Warning
- 2nd Offense: Administrative Referral
- 3rd Offense: Loss of Parking Permit and/or towed at owner's expense

#### **Non-Permitted Vehicles**

- 1st Offense: Written Parking Violation Warning
- 2nd Offense: Administrative Referral
- 3rd Offense: Vehicle towed at owner's expense

Vehicles must only park in valid student parking spaces. Any vehicle parked illegally may be subject to towing without previous warning at the owner's expense. Unauthorized parking includes: Music Reserved, Visitor, Handicapped Parking, District Visitor, Technology, Reserved and Staff Parking. All non-valid parking spaces, no parking zones, blocking a driveway, failure to park in the lot(s) designated by your permit number (permits 1-159 H-wing lot, permits 160-600 remaining lots), or not displaying a valid permit may result in towing at owner's expense. Students may be restricted from parking or driving on school property if they are driving carelessly, violate parking regulations, leave campus or take underclassmen off of campus during school hours. All vehicles on school property are subject to search. Bicycles and mopeds are to be parked in the rack provided.

### **PERSONAL SEARCHES**

A school official, or a law enforcement officer acting at the request of a school official, may search a student's person and belongings on school property if the school official has a reasonable suspicion that the search will produce evidence showing the student has violated or is violating the law or a school rule. For example, a school official may search a student's backpack or purse if the school official has reasonable grounds to believe the backpack or purse contains an item that is illegal or is prohibited by a school rule.

### **POSTING OF INFORMATION**

Students may put up posters/signs in designated areas. All signs must be approved by the Principal's Office.

### **PROM**

The prom is a special event specifically designed for juniors and seniors. Only juniors and seniors, graduates of NHS under 21, and juniors and seniors from other schools with approved guest applications are allowed to attend. NO EXCEPTIONS. Freshmen and sophomores will not be allowed to attend the prom under any

circumstances.

### **SCHOOL DANCES**

All dances are for Northfield High School students. *No Middle School students* are permitted to attend. A student ID is required to enter.

Northfield students may attend with a date that is not a student at Northfield, if the date is of high school age and a guest pass is presented at the admission door. Guest passes may be secured in the office prior to the dance. Students leaving the dance are not permitted to re-enter. Admittance to the dance ends one half hour after the start of the dance. Students who know they will be coming later than one half hour, due to work or other legitimate reasons, need to get permission from the advisor in advance. All school rules apply.

### **SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICIES**

The most successful school creates mutual trust and respect among students, parents/guardians, teachers and administrators. A complete list of school district policies are [online](#).

### **SENIOR FEES**

A \$20.00 fee will be collected at the beginning of the year to cover senior expenses such as transcripts and graduation.

### **SENIOR TRANSITION**

Only seniors may obtain a 1st or 7th hour transition period. Forms are available in the office. Students who have a transition period may not be in the school building or on school grounds during that time. If a senior with a transition period wishes to access the media center or computer lab during their transition period, they must have a pass, arrive on time and stay the entire period. Senior Transition will be revoked if a student is not making adequate academic progress.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT**

Northfield school district students are expected to demonstrate socially accepted behavior. Student participants in co-curricular activities represent the school in a very public manner, and thus student conduct is under close scrutiny. Because of their visibility and status as a role model for younger students, proper conduct and abiding by school rules, Minnesota State High School League rules and local and state laws is expected of all students involved in activities.

Students representing NHS are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will not cause the school parents/guardians, our community, and team/group nor coaches/advisors embarrassment. This applies whenever the student is part of any activity; before or after a contest/performance or practice, in transit to and from activities, or at any function associated with the activity. Parents/Guardians, who are role models for their children, are also expected to display positive sportsmanship at all contests. The Big 9 Conference has established a sportsmanship credo, which ALL individuals are expected to follow.

Any acts of student misconduct may result in disciplinary action whether or not this misconduct is directly involved with a school event or activity. Students will be disciplined for misbehavior at both home and away events. The MSHSL Code of Responsibility allows school authorities to discipline students for violation of League rules.

### **STUDENT DRESS POLICY**

Students are responsible to dress in such a manner that is not disruptive nor likely to disrupt the learning

environment, is not a health and safety hazard, is not obscene, is not sexually explicit, discriminatory or associated with threat/hate groups, including gangs. Clothing that displays references to weapons, alcohol, chemicals, tobacco or other products that are illegal for use by minors is not permitted.

## **STUDY CENTER INFORMATION AND STRUCTURED STUDY CENTER GUIDELINES**

1. Students are expected to arrive on time and bring study materials.
2. All students will report at the beginning of each study center for attendance and then students who have passes will be released to the media center/computer lab, and to other teachers' classrooms.
3. Study center supervisors will not give students passes to spend the period in another class or media center. These passes must come from the classroom teacher.
4. Students wanting to go to the Counseling Office must have a pass signed by a counselor with the appropriate appointment time or return with a signed pass from the Counseling Office.

### **Structured Study Center Placement**

Counselors and teachers may place students for academic reasons. (i.e. If a student receives an "F" for a quarter or semester grade, or if a student receives one failing midquarter or two or more D's. ). Individual Structured Study Center teachers may implement further guidelines

## **VISITOR POLICY**

All visitors, upon entering the building, are to check in via the secure entrance. Students wishing to bring friends or relatives from other schools must get permission in advance from the Assistant Principal. The purpose of a visitor's pass is for a guest to visit our school and learn more about NHS. Visits to NHS should be limited to one visit during any school year. Students may not have visitors during the last two weeks of the semester or school year.

## **VOLUNTEER / EMPLOYEE CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY**

Parents/Guardians and community members are always encouraged to apply as an employee or volunteer at their student's school and / or with the Northfield Public Schools. Volunteers provide a valuable service to students and staff. Minnesota Statute requires a school hiring authority to request a criminal history background check on all individuals who are offered employment in a school and on all individuals, except enrolled student volunteers, who are offered the opportunity to provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular services to a school, regardless of whether any compensation is paid. Parents/Guardians and community members who volunteer on a regular basis must complete a background check before serving students affiliated with Northfield Public Schools. This is subject to change dependent on the public health situation.

## **WEBSITE**

Northfield High School Website can be accessed at [northfieldschools.org/schools/northfield-high-school/](http://northfieldschools.org/schools/northfield-high-school/).

## **WELLNESS**

The district's [child nutrition webpage](#) hosts wellness policy information and resources for parents/guardians.

## **USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS BY STUDENTS**

Student use of technology and the Internet is governed by [district policy 524-2](#) regarding use of technology and telecommunications systems. See the Student iPad Loan Agreement for additional details about iPad implementation. **iPad Loan Agreement:** [English](#) | [Español](#)



## Appendix A

### Child Nutrition Department

[Child Nutrition information is available on the school website.](#) All students have their own individual meal accounts with a 4-digit PIN (Personal Identification Number) to record meal and individual food purchases. Students will use their same 4-digit PIN as last year. New students will be assigned a PIN at open house or on the first day of school. Ending meal account balances carry over from year to year. Students may purchase meals and food items by submitting a payment to their meal account or by making a payment at the time of service. Parents/guardians are responsible to monitor their student's meal account balances. If a student does not have money in their lunch account a meal will be provided, however, the student will be charged for this meal and the parents/guardians will be held responsible to pay for this meal purchased. Students who have a negative lunch balance will not be allowed to purchase à la carte items. The school district recognizes that it has an obligation to notify the parents/guardians of their student's meal account balances. The Child Nutrition Department will make every reasonable effort to notify or remind families of the need for a meal account payment by using Skylert for both low balance and negative balance calls and emails depending on selected notification preferences. Parents/Guardians should update their contact information in Family Access annually. For information on our negative meal account balance process read this [procedure document](#).

### Payments

Families may pay for meals by using cash, check or the Revtrak online payment system.

Cash and check payments may be made daily and sent to any school the student attends. All schools have payment envelopes and collection boxes placed in the child nutrition area for receipt of payments and each school collects and posts money daily into individual meal accounts. Money collected will be posted into the account as it is turned in or at least by 10:30 am and again by 2:00 pm. All other cash or check payments will be posted the following day.

- Cash payments will be accepted in a sealed envelope with the student and parent's/guardian's first and last name, PIN number, and the amount of payment written on the outside of the envelope. Payments may also be mailed to Northfield Public Schools, Child Nutrition Office, 201 Orchard Street South, Northfield, MN 55057.
- Checks should be made out to Northfield Public Schools and must include the student's first and last name and personal identification number (PIN). Payments may also be mailed to Northfield Public Schools, Child Nutrition Office, 201 Orchard Street South, Northfield, MN 55057.

Revtrak payments using a credit or debit card can be made online through Family Access, the district's web-based parent portal, or directly through the RevTrak portal.

Steps for making online payments through Family Access are as follows:

- Log into [Family Access](https://bit.ly/2PW7BUh) (<https://bit.ly/2PW7BUh>) to continue. If you do not have or do not know your Family Access login and password [click here](#).
- Once you have logged in to Family Access, you need to click on the Food Service tab to the left of the screen. This will bring up your child/children. From here you click the "Make a Payment" button next to the child's name. This will link you to Revtrak where you can make a payment.

Steps for making online payments at Revtrak directly are as follows:

- Go to [RevTrak](#)



- Click Meal Payments and follow the prompts to complete payment.

### **Account Balance Statements**

Statements are available upon request. To request a statement, parents/guardians or staff may contact the kitchen at each school or Stephanie DeAdder, Child Nutrition Admin Assistant, by email: [sdeadder@northfieldschools.org](mailto:sdeadder@northfieldschools.org). We encourage the use of Skyward Family Access to view meal account balances, view payments and purchases, or to print statements. Families will receive bi-weekly automated phone or email messages, depending on selected Skylert Food Service notification preferences, for low and negative account balances.

### **Refunds**

Balances remaining on accounts at the end of the school year will be automatically carried forward to the following school year. Balances follow students to their next building assignment. Positive senior meal balances will be transferred to a younger siblings account or Angel funds account if no other siblings attend Northfield schools and a refund is not requested. Refund requests must be submitted in writing by completing the [refund request form](#). A check will be issued in the amount of the refund. No cash refunds will be made. Before submitting a refund request make sure that you have auto replenish turned off. These are the [instructions](#) on how to turn off auto-replenish payments in RevTrak.

### **Menus**

The Northfield Public Schools participate annually in the National School Breakfast and School Lunch Programs. These programs make available a nutritious breakfast and lunch meal daily for a reasonable cost. Families who are eligible for free or reduced priced meals receive meals at no charge which includes the alternative meal choices. One half-pint of milk is included with every meal. Individual milk purchases do not fall under the free and reduced meal benefits. Students who bring lunch from home or want an additional milk may purchase it for \$.50 per carton. If students bring food or beverages from home, we encourage all families to select nutritious choices. Elementary schools offer cold sandwiches and salads as alternative daily lunch choices. Secondary schools offer hot and cold sandwiches, salads and a second hot entrée lunch choice daily. Most of the cafeterias operate on a continuous serve basis during the entire meal period. Menus are planned using the USDA Menu Planning guidelines. Menus will be posted on the district website at [northfieldschools.org](http://northfieldschools.org). Fall menus will be posted on the district website a month prior to the start of school, and monthly throughout the year.

### **Offer vs. Serve**

The “offer vs. serve” federal regulation requires that students be offered (rather than served) 5 required food components comprising the full lunch meal. Students may choose 3, 4, or 5 lunch food items based on their preferences instead of having to take some of each food. Students are required to take a full serving of a fruit or vegetable at lunch as one of the meal components. Students will be offered 4 required food components at breakfast and must choose at least 3 of the food items. Federal regulations require meals to be priced as a complete unit and students must pay the full price even if they did not choose the complete meal. Students are encouraged to take all of the food items offered, because it provides a balanced meal for the best price.

### **Food Allergies and Special Dietary Needs**

The Child Nutrition Department may honor dietary restrictions due to allergies or intolerances with the proper documentation from a medical authority on file. A suitable alternative will be provided when possible. For students with a lactose intolerance, a lactose reduced milk product will be provided at no extra charge, with a complete meal, on the written request of the parent/guardian or physician. Forms for allergies and any special dietary needs are available on the Child Nutrition Department webpage or from a building nurse.

Please contact a building nurse, the District School Nurse or the Child Nutrition Director if you have any questions.

### Free and Reduced Meals

Free or reduced meals are available for children who qualify. **An educational benefits form must be completed each school year** and submitted to the Child Nutrition Office for review and approval.

Applications for free or reduced meals are mailed out to each household in August. The applications are also available online, at each Principal's Office and in each school kitchen. Families can now complete the educational benefits application online through Skyward Family Access. If you wish to complete your application online, you must first log in to Family Access. After logging in, click the Food Service button located on the left side of the screen and select a child's name. Click the applications tab and follow the prompts to complete the application. The District Child Nutrition Office will process applications as soon as possible, however, it may take 7-10 days for an application to be reviewed and a response sent to the parents/guardians. A letter indicating your benefits will be e-mailed and saved on Skyward Family Access under the Food Service tab. Please save this letter in case you need to show proof of benefits for other programs. **Benefits from the previous school year will be carried over until October 18, 2021.**

**Applications may be completed at any time throughout the year; however, any family that has not reapplied by October 18, 2021 will be changed to full priced meals.** Families receiving MFIP, Food Stamps or FDPIR and enrolled in Northfield Public Schools by June 15 for the following year will be directly certified by the State of Minnesota to receive free meals and may not need to complete an application. Payment will be required for any meals purchased prior to the approval of the application.

### Meal Prices

Meal prices are shown in the following charts. The monthly cost is based on 20 days per month. Extra milk may be purchased for \$0.50 per half pint at any of the school sites. Prices are subject to change, per school board approval and state and federal regulations.

Elementary Student Meal Prices						
Single Day				Monthly		
	Breakfast	Lunch	Both	Breakfast	Lunch	Both
Full Price	\$1.75	\$2.70	\$4.45	\$35.00	\$54.00	\$89.00
Reduced	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free

Secondary Student Meal Prices						
Single Day				Monthly		
	Breakfast	Lunch	Both	Breakfast	Lunch	Both
Full Price	\$1.75	\$2.85	\$4.60	\$35.00	\$57.00	\$92.00
Reduced	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free

Staff / Adult / Visitor / Second Meal Prices						
Single Day				Monthly		
	Breakfast	Lunch	Both	Breakfast	Lunch	Both
Full Price	\$2.25	\$4.25	\$6.75	\$45.00	\$85.00	\$130.00

**Staff Meals, Adult Meals, Visitor Meals and Second Meals**

Parents/Guardians and other family members may eat with students during their meal time. All visitors are required to sign in at the school office. Staff meals, adult meals, visitor meals and second student meals are priced higher because the Child Nutrition Department does not receive any federal or state reimbursement for those meals, as we do for a student's first meal. The cost for a non-student meal is \$2.25 for breakfast and \$4.25 for lunch. Exact change is appreciated.

**À la Carte**

À la carte food items are available for purchase at the Middle School, High School and for staff at the elementary schools. Elementary students may only purchase extra milk for \$0.50 per half pint. There will be no charging of a la carte items if an account has a negative balance. A la carte purchases must have sufficient funds in the account for the total purchase amount. Prices of a la carte items are posted in the school kitchens. Food items and prices may vary throughout the year.

**Questions/Comments**

Spring Creek 645-3490	Bridgewater 664-3324	Greenvale/NCEC 645-3509
Middle School 663-0668	District Office 663-0618	High School/ALC 663-0604

Comments regarding your student's lunches may be directed to the Child Nutrition Department at the school your child attends. Please place your calls before 10:30 a.m. or after 12:30 p.m.

## Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing

This information will help parents/guardians make informed decisions that benefit their children, schools, and communities.

### Why statewide testing?

Minnesota values its educational system and the professionalism of its educators. Minnesota educators created the academic standards which are rigorous and prepare our students for career and college.

The statewide assessments are how we as a state measure that curriculum and daily instruction in our schools are being aligned to the academics standards, ensuring all students are being provided an equitable education. Statewide assessment results are just one tool to monitor that we are providing our students with the education that will ensure a strong workforce and knowledgeable citizens.

### Why does participation matter?

A statewide assessment is just one measure of your student's achievement, but your student's participation is important to understand how effectively the education at your student's school is aligned to the academic standards.

- In Minnesota's implementation of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, a student not participating in the statewide assessments will not receive an individual score and for the purpose of school and district accountability calculations, including opportunities for support and recognition, will not be considered "proficient."
- Students who receive a college-ready score on the high school MCA are not required to take a remedial, noncredit course at a Minnesota State college or university in the corresponding subject area, potentially saving the student time and money.
- Educators and policy makers use information from assessments to make decisions about resources and support provided.
- Parents and the general public use assessment information to compare schools and make decisions about where to purchase a home or to enroll their children.
- School performance results that are publicly released and used by families and communities, are negatively impacted if students do not participate in assessments.
- English learners not taking ACCESS or Alternate ACCESS for ELLs will not receive a score to meet English learner program exiting criteria.

### Academic Standards and Assessments

#### What are academic standards?

The [Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards](#) are the statewide expectations for student academic achievement. They identify the knowledge and skills that all students must achieve in a content area and are organized by grade level. School districts determine how students will meet the standards by developing courses and curriculum aligned to the academic standards.

#### What is the relationship between academic statewide assessments and the academic standards?

The statewide assessments in mathematics, reading, and science are used to measure whether students, and their school and district, are meeting the academic standards. Statewide assessments are one measure of how well students are doing on the content that is part of their daily instruction. It is also a measure of how well schools and districts are doing in aligning their curriculum and teaching the standards.

#### Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) and Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS)

- Based on the Minnesota Academic Standards; given annually in grades 3–8 and high school in reading and mathematics; given annually in grades 5, 8, and high school for science.
- Majority of students take the MCA.
- MTAS is an option for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

#### ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for English Learners

- Based on the WIDA English Language Development Standards.
- Given annually to English learners in grades K–12 in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.
- Majority of English learners take ACCESS for ELLs.
- Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is an option for English learners with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

### Why are these assessments effective?

Minnesota believes that in order to effectively measure what students are learning, testing needs to be more than answering multiple choice questions.

- To answer questions, students may need to type in answers, drag and drop images and words, or manipulate a graph or information.
- The Reading and Mathematics MCA are adaptive, which means the answers a student provides determine the next questions the student will answer.
- The Science MCA incorporates simulations, which require students to perform experiments in order to answer questions.

All of these provide students the opportunity to apply critical thinking needed for success in college and careers and show what they know and can do.

### Are there limits on local testing?

As stated in Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.301, for students in grades 1–6, the cumulative total amount of time spent taking locally adopted districtwide or schoolwide assessments must not exceed 10 hours per school year. For students in grades 7–12, the cumulative total amount of time spent taking locally adopted districtwide or schoolwide assessments must not exceed 11 hours per school year. These limits do not include statewide testing.

In an effort to encourage transparency, the statute also requires a district or charter school, before the first day of each school year, to publish on its website a comprehensive calendar of standardized tests to be administered in the district or charter school during that school year. The calendar must provide the rationale for administering each assessment and indicate whether the assessment is a local option or required by state or federal law.

### What if I choose not to have my student participate?

Parents/guardians have a right to not have their student participate in state-required standardized assessments. Minnesota Statutes require the department to provide information about statewide assessments to parents/guardians and include a form to complete if they refuse to have their student participate. This form follows on the next page and includes an area to note the reason for the refusal to participate. Your student's district may require additional information.

A school or district may have additional consequences beyond those mentioned in this document for a student not participating in the state-required standardized assessments. There may also be consequences for not participating in assessments selected and administered at the local level. Please contact your school for more information regarding local decisions.

### When do students take the assessments?

Each school sets their testing schedule within the state testing window. Contact your student's school for information on specific testing days.

- The MCA and MTAS testing window begins in March and ends in May.
- The ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs testing window begins at the end of January and ends in March.

### When do I receive my student's results?

Each summer, individual student reports are sent to school districts and are provided to families no later than fall conferences. The reports can be used to see your child's progress and help guide future instruction.

### How much time is spent on testing?

Statewide assessments are taken one time each year; the majority of students test online. On average, the amount of time spent taking statewide assessments is **less than 1 percent of instructional time** in a school year. The assessments are not timed and students can continue working as long as they need.

### Why does it seem like my student is taking more tests?

The statewide required tests are limited to those outlined in this document. Many districts make local decisions to administer additional tests that the state does not require. Contact your district for more information.

### Where do I get more information?

Students and families can find out more on our [Statewide Testing page](https://education.mn.gov) (education.mn.gov > Students and Families > Programs and Initiatives > Statewide Testing).



Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.31, subdivision 4a, requires the commissioner to create and publish a form for parents and guardians to complete if they refuse to have their student participate in state-required standardized assessments. Your student's district may require additional information. School districts must post this three-page form on the district website and include it in district student handbooks.

## Parent/Guardian Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Assessments

To opt out of statewide assessments, the parent/guardian must complete this form and return it to the student's school.

To best support school district planning, please submit this form to the student's school no later than January 15 of the academic school year. For students who enroll after a statewide testing window begins, please submit the form within two weeks of enrollment. A new refusal form is required **each year** parents/guardians wish to opt the student out of statewide assessments.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ (This form is **only** applicable for the 20\_\_\_\_ to 20\_\_\_\_ school year.)

Student's Legal First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Legal Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Legal Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Student's District/School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

**Please initial to indicate you have received and reviewed information about statewide testing.**

\_\_\_\_\_ I received information on statewide assessments and choose to opt my student out. MDE provides the *Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing* on the [MDE website](http://education.mn.gov) ([education.mn.gov](http://education.mn.gov) > Students and Families > Programs and Initiatives > Statewide Testing).

Reason for refusal:

Please indicate the statewide assessment(s) you are opting the student out of this school year:

\_\_\_\_\_ MCA/MTAS Reading

\_\_\_\_\_ MCA/MTAS Science

\_\_\_\_\_ MCA/MTAS Mathematics

\_\_\_\_\_ ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

Contact your school or district for the form to opt out of local assessments.

**I understand that by signing this form, my school and I may lose valuable information about how well my student is progressing academically. As a result, my student will not receive an individual score. Refusing to participate in statewide assessments may impact the school, district, and state's efforts to equitably distribute resources and support student learning; for the purpose of school and district accountability calculations, my student will not be considered "proficient."**

**If my student is in high school, I understand that by signing this form my student will not have an MCA score that could potentially save time and money by not having to take remedial, non-credit courses at a Minnesota State college or university.**

Parent/Guardian Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

To be completed by school or district staff only.

Student ID or MARSS Number \_\_\_\_\_

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