



Northfield Middle School

Student Handbook 2021-2022

2200 Division Street South
Northfield, MN 55057
Main Office: 507.663.0650
Attendance Line: 507.663.0655
Fax: 507.663.0660

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

WELCOME TO NORTHFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

This handbook has been designed to be helpful in answering questions about Northfield Middle 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

Middle School students are a unique population - intense, energetic, playful and open. We are dedicated to a caring and challenging environment that inspires self-directed learning, fuels curiosity, and encourages academic excellence.

2021-22 NORTHFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL STAFF/ADMINISTRATION

Visit the [Middle 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 1st Quarter

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

Nov. 5 End of 1st Quarter (40 days)
Nov. 8 **No School.** Teacher Preparation Day
Nov. 9 School Resumes. Beginning of 2nd 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 2nd 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 3rd 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 4th 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.

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Compulsory Attendance Law

Minnesota State Law provides that children enrolled in school after 1988 shall attend a public school or a private school, for a period of not less than nine months during any school year until age 18 or until they graduate. Both parents/guardians and students have responsibility for school attendance. This section outlines the procedures for attendance and consequences for unexcused absences. **PLEASE REVIEW WITH YOUR CHILD.**

Rules, Policies, and Guidelines

1. Reporting

Teachers record and report each student absence and tardy in every class period.

2. Verification

All student absences are verified by the Attendance Office. Verification occurs in several ways.

Parents/Guardians call in, send a note, or the Attendance Office calls home.

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 507-663-0655 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. School personnel will make every effort to contact the parent/guardian of absent students if the school has not received a telephone call from the parent/guardian on the day the student is absent. 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 morning the student returns.

3. Definition of Excused/Verified Absences

- *School activities

- *Illness

- *Non-illness absences requested by parent/guardian

- *Out-of-school suspension

- *In-school suspension

4. Definition of Unexcused Absences

- *Leaving school without permission

- *Any absence that does not meet the criteria specified in excused/verified absences

5. Consequences of Tardies

Students may receive a detention or a lunch detention for a set of 3 tardies in any class. If the detention is served within five school days, the student's tardies are erased for that class. If the detention is not served, detention will double or a full day of in-school detention may be assigned.

6. Consequences of Abuse of Attendance Policy

When students have accumulated an excessive amount of *excused* absences, the following steps are followed to attempt to have the student improve attendance:

- a. Guidance counselors are made aware of the concern about absences.

- b. Guidance counselors meet with the student and contact parents/guardians about the concern.

- c. The student and his/her family receive a notification letter of the attendance concern.

- d. The student and his/her family receive a notification letter noting that school officials will no longer accept excuses from the parent/guardian. A doctor's written verification for each absence will then be required.

7. Consequences of Unexcused Absence

Truancy. When a student has accumulated 7 unexcused absences during the school year, school officials can file truancy with the student's resident county.

8. Possible Loss of Credit

In general, students who are absent 12 or more times (excused or unexcused) or have 5 unexcused absences during a semester may have credit withheld for that semester. The Student Support Team will monitor this by sending a notification before students reach this level so students and parents/guardians have time to correct the problem. If the problem is not resolved, students may receive a grade of "F" in those classes that the attendance requirement was not met. If the student/parent/guardian disagrees with the decision they may request a review. The review committee will consist of the Principal, Assistant Principal, a Counselor and a teacher of the student/parents/guardians choice. Family vacations, extended illnesses, absences approved by a doctor and other long absences may be approved by the Administration and these absences will not count as part of the 12 absence limit.

9. Special Attendance Procedures

Appointments. If a student has an appointment during the school day, the parent/guardian should send a note with the student who must bring it to the attendance secretary. The secretary will give the student a pass to leave class at the appropriate time. Students must sign out before they leave the building and upon their return to school. If a student does not know the appointment or has forgotten a note, the parent/guardian may call the Attendance Office to excuse the student from school.

Illness while at school. If a student becomes ill during the day, he/she should get a pass from a teacher to go to the nurse. The nurse will determine whether a call home is warranted.

Leaving the building during the school day. Students cannot leave the school building during the school day without permission to leave or having a parent/guardian sign them out. Failure to do the above will result in an unexcused absence.

10. Appeal

Parents/Guardians may appeal the loss of credit due to unexcused absences under the following circumstances:

- *If a good faith effort has been made to delete unexcused absences using the detention option.
- *If a request for an appeal hearing has been made within one week of notification of the loss of credit.
- *If good cause is demonstrated for the failure to abide by the attendance rules.

Any appeal will be decided by a Review Committee consisting of one (1) counselor, two (2) teachers and an administrator. The administrator will convene the meeting and provide any available information about the situation but will not have a vote in the final disposition. If parents/guardians are not satisfied with the decision of the Appeal Committee, the decision may be appealed to the administrator.

11. Exceptional Attendance

Guidelines to qualify for perfect attendance:

1. No tardies excused or unexcused for the full academic year.
2. No more than two periods of excused absence for the full academic year. This does not include school related activities.

GENERAL STUDENT INFORMATION SCHOOL POLICIES, PROCEDURES, SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Morning announcements are shown on classroom monitors daily and are posted on the Northfield Middle School website: www.northfieldschools.org. Students are encouraged to check announcements daily for important information.

ATTIRE

Students have the right to choose their manner of dress and personal grooming unless it presents a clear danger to the student's health and safety, is sexually suggestive by words, picture or appearance, exhibits profanity, or interferes with the educational environment of the school or the classroom. Clothing with lewd or vulgar expressions, with expressions which are sexually or racially offensive, or which advertises products that are illegal for minors or prohibited on school property will not be allowed during school hours or at school events. State law dictates that students wear shoes on school property at all times. Any student who feels offended by an individual's dress may report that concern to an adult in the building or to school administration. Students who dress inappropriately will be subject to student discipline procedures. **Hats, hoods, and head coverings are not permitted except for designated events and/or permission from administration.** Head coverings may be worn for religious or cultural reasons.

Individuals are prohibited from wearing or carrying backpacks, caps, headwear, hats, hoods, jackets, coats, choppers/gloves in school except when they are arriving or departing from the building. Individuals are further prohibited from wearing any attire, including jewelry, symbols or "colors" which signify or are likely to be interpreted as signifying membership in gangs, or offensive clubs to school or to school sponsored activities (i.e., dances, athletic events, field trips, evening events, etc.).

Individuals are further prohibited from any manner of dress or personal grooming which presents a danger to health or safety, causes an interference with work, or creates classroom or school disorder. Such attire includes, but is not limited to: clothing with drug, alcohol or tobacco advertising; print or graphics which are sexually explicit or suggestive; representations which are sexually explicit or suggestive; representations which are inappropriate, offensive or demeaning to any group; clothing which is suggestive or inadequate in its covering; and pants worn below the waist.

Dress and Grooming Guidelines

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.

Students in violation will be given an opportunity to correct their attire. Students in question can be sent to the office where a counselor and/or administrator will determine acceptability. If there are repeat offenses by a student, parents/guardians will be contacted. Continued violations will result in detention and/or suspension. If you have questions, please contact Greg Gelineau (principal) or Michael O'Keefe (assistant principal) at 507-663-0650 or a Counselor at 507-663-0664.

ATHLETIC & ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

All students are encouraged to participate in the athletic/academic programs. Seventh and eighth grade athletic students compete against other schools. Sixth grade students are involved in intramural competition.

In individual competitions (i.e. track, tennis, etc.), opportunities may be given to sixth grade students to compete with other students of similar size, strength, ability, and age level.

In order for students to be allowed to participate in the Middle School Athletic/Academic Programs, parent/guardian consent along with the proper fee must be submitted. No other forms (physicals, etc.) are necessary to be able to compete in the Middle School Athletic/Academic Programs. Registration is done online at [SmartSchool-K12](#).

District #659 Activities Fee Information 2021-2022

1. The following guidelines are for the use of scholarship/fee waivers for co-curricular programs offered through Northfield High School and Northfield Middle School. All students in items a & b below must qualify under the current school year's Free or Reduced Meal Program guidelines administered by the school district Food Service Department.

- a. Students who qualify for the Reduced Meal Program are required to pay 40% of the total cost of the activity.
- b. Students who qualify for the Free Meal Program are required to pay 20% of the total cost of the activity for which they are enrolling.
- c. Students who do not qualify for a Free or Reduced Meal Program, but who have a financial hardship must submit an application for a scholarship, and if granted are required to pay at least 20% toward the activity fee. A waiver form must be submitted for each activity, each season. Waiver Forms can be found on the School District Website or can be obtained by contacting the Middle School Activities Office.

2. Fees must be paid **BEFORE** the student/athlete will be allowed to practice or play.

3. Fees help cover costs of equipment, apparel, transportation, and officials. Fees are as follows.

Athletics - Middle School			
Full Fee - 100%	Reduced Meal - 40%	Free Meal - 20%	
\$95	\$38	\$19	7 th & 8 th Grade participating in Middle School Athletics
\$75	\$30	\$15	6 th Grade participating in Middle School Athletics

Academic and Fine Arts Activities - Middle School			
Full Fee - 100%	Reduced Meal - 40%	Free Meal - 20%	
\$60	\$24	\$12	Chess Club-Math League-Speech-Play/Musical-Knowledge Bowl

Family Limit - Includes High School and Middle School			
Full Fee - 100%	Reduced Meal - 40%	Free Meal - 20%	
\$605	\$242	\$121	Athletics, Academic & Fine Arts Combined

Refunds

Refunds are available if an athlete discontinues participation in the athletic program. The deadline for refunds is two weeks after the first practice session.

Activity Attendance Policy

Any middle school student missing two practices or contests because of an unexcused absence can be dismissed from the team. Any participant who is late for practice, or misses practice entirely, must give the coach a signed note from a parent/guardian or teacher prior to the absence, if possible, or upon return the next day.

Travel Release

All students are expected to ride to and from all events with the team. The only exceptions to this will be in special situations where the student rides with their parent(s)/guardian(s) or another parent/guardian. This will only be allowed with the written permission from the parent(s)/guardian(s) and activities director.

Co-Curricular Eligibility Requirements

The same behavioral expectations, which students have in the classroom, will also be in effect while participating in any activity. Behavior problems during the school day can result in losing the privilege of participating in co-curricular activities. Minnesota State High School League rules will be followed regarding training and violations; e.g., academic probation, the use of alcohol and drugs is prohibited. Possession or use of tobacco in any form on school property, in district buses or vehicles, or at district events is prohibited. Students who congregate in an area where smoking/vaping has recently occurred (bathroom stall, etc.) will each be considered smoking. This includes the use of e-cigarettes, vaping, any electronic nicotine delivery system, liquid nicotine and non-nicotine vaping products.

Northfield Middle School Athletic Activities Offered

<u>Fall Sports</u>	<u>Winter Sports</u>	<u>Spring Sports</u>
Football	Wrestling	Boys Tennis
Boys Soccer	Fitness Center	Boys Track
Girls Soccer		Girls Track
Girls Tennis		Fitness Center
Volleyball		Boys Golf
		Girls Golf

Game/contest & practice schedules will be handed out by coaches after practices begin. All activities will utilize Schoology to communicate with participants and parents/guardians.

Northfield Middle School Academic Activities Offered

Chess Club (September-November) (February – March)	Speech Club (December – February)
Math League (September – January)	Spelling Bee (December – February)
Chamber Orchestra (auditions in September, runs October - May)	Student Council (September – May)
Honors Choir (auditions in Spring)	Yearbook (September – May)
Geography Bee (December)	Knowledge Bowl (September – January)

BICYCLES AND SKATEBOARDS/LONGBOARDS

Bicycles and skateboards/longboards are not to be ridden on school property. This rule is in effect to prevent injuries. Northfield Middle School is not responsible for lost or damaged bicycles and skateboards. Students should walk their bikes or carry their skateboards until they are on the asphalt trails going away from the building.

BOOKS, MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

Students are responsible for all lost or damaged books, materials or equipment that has been issued to them. This includes one-to-one devices. Students can be fined for any lost or damaged items assigned to them. Any outstanding fines will need to be taken care of before a student may participate in any non-academic activities (i.e. Valleyfair).

BULLYING

Bullying is defined as behavior that:

- Is intimidating, threatening, abusive or hurtful
- Is 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

Cell phones are not permitted in classrooms, during transition times, or in the lunchroom between 7:45 am and 2:51 pm. If there is a need for a student to have a cell phone at school, staff should not hear it or see it. It should be put in a locker during the day. If any staff member sees a phone out in classrooms, during transition times, or in the lunchroom, it will be labeled and taken to the office. The phone can be picked up after 2:51 pm. Additionally, video recording students or staff without their consent is prohibited at Northfield Middle School.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/TELEPHONE NUMBER

Students/parents/guardians should provide change of address information and new telephone numbers to the Guidance Office.

DANCES

The Northfield Middle School Student Council sponsors all dances. Middle school dances are planned for Northfield middle school students and normally run from 3:00 - 5:00. Any guests must have written permission from an administrator at least one day prior to the dance. Students are responsible for finding their own rides home.

DETENTION

Detention is an after-school service or study hall time assigned to students as a consequence. Detention may be assigned by teachers or administration and may be held in the teachers' classroom or student office. Office detentions are from 3:00-3:45, Monday through Thursday.

One of the following could happen if a student fails to complete a detention:

1. The detention time can double.
2. A full day of in-school detention can be assigned.
3. Loss of privileges (i.e. lunch seating, non-academic activities, etc.)

DISCIPLINE

See District's "Student Citizenship Handbook".

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/>.

FRAGRANCES

Many people are sensitive or allergic to fragrances. Students who choose to wear a personal fragrance should do so sparingly. All fragrance containers should be left at home and may be confiscated. Antiperspirant should be a stick, cream or roll-on type with minimal fragrance, and stored in physical education lockers.

GRADES

Mid-quarter reports will be sent home with students if receiving a grade lower than a "C-". Report cards are distributed to the students to take home one week after the last day of the quarter.

Access to Grades Online

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.

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

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

HEARING AND VISION SCREENING

Hearing and vision screening for all 7th grade students are held every October.

HONOR ROLL

The Middle School generates an "A" and "B" honor roll after each quarter. The criteria for attaining honor roll status are listed below:

Students with a grade point average of 3.6 or above are eligible for the “A” honor roll.
Students with a grade point average of 2.6 to 3.59 are eligible for the “B” honor roll.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Immunizations must be current according to Minnesota State Law. Those who are not in compliance will be notified by the nurse, and will not have an iPad checked out to them (Grade 6) or locked digitally (Grades 7-8), and will not be allowed to attend school.

INTERNET

Student use of technology and the Internet is governed by [District Policy 524-2](#) regarding the use of technology and telecommunications systems. See the Student iPad Loan Agreement for additional details about iPad implementation.

LASER PENS

Laser pens are prohibited at the middle school and will be confiscated immediately. Students will not be given these items back, but a parent/guardian can come in to collect them.

LOCKERS

All locks and lockers are the property of the Northfield Middle School, not the students. Students are assigned to a locker. Students are responsible for their lockers and will be charged a replacement fee if they are damaged. Food is not to be stored in lockers overnight or for long periods of time.

1. Northfield Middle School is not responsible for any items stolen from a student's locker.
2. Students are assigned Physical Education locks and lockers on a yearly basis. Fees may be charged for lost or damaged locks.

Sharing lockers is not allowed and students are strongly urged to not tell anyone their combination.

LOST AND FOUND

Any lost and found items will be kept in the cafeteria unless they are found in the Physical Education area. Items found in the physical education area will be kept in the Physical Education Office. Any item that is not claimed by the end of each quarter, will be donated to charity or discarded.

MAKE-UP WORK

If a parent/guardian knows of a student's absence in advance, the absence should be called in to the attendance line. Students should also connect with their teachers to assure any missed work will be posted to Schoology. Students are responsible for completing all work posted to Schoology. Students returning from an absence will need to schedule arrangements with the teacher for completing any work that could not be completed during the absence. Homework will not be collected in the office for a student prior to absence:

- Parents/Guardians call attendance line 507-663-0655 to report the absence.
- Students contact the teacher to assure that any missed work will be posted to Schoology and schedule arrangements to make up the work.

MEDIA CENTER

The Media Center is open from 7:45 a. m. until 3:15 p.m., daily. Students may use the media center after 3:15 p.m., with staff supervision.

Respect for others requires that you take proper care of materials and return checked out materials on time. Failure to follow Media Center rules will result in disciplinary action with possible loss of non-curriculum Media Center privileges. Replacement cost will be charged for Media Center materials that are lost or damaged. Students with unpaid fines may lose non-academic privileges.

NURSE -- Call 507-663-0656

The nurse is on duty each day from 8:00 a.m. until 3:15 p.m. Students should 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.

All medication (prescription and over-the-counter) should be brought, by an adult, to the nurse's office. Any medications that students take at school must be distributed and stored in the nurse's office. A note stating the name of the medication, dosage, and the time it should be given must accompany the medicine. This note must be dated and signed by the parent/guardian and physician. A doctor's note must accompany any dose changes for daily medications such as Ritalin, Dexedrine, etc. Prescription medication must be in a prescription bottle from the pharmacy with the student's name on it. Students are not allowed to carry medication with them during the school day. Inhalers used for asthma are the only exception. Students may carry them after reporting to the nurse and filling out the necessary paperwork.

Emergency Forms are updated annually and turned in to the nurse's office. Individual health care plans are written when appropriate.

OFFENSIVE BEHAVIOR

Offensive behavior, such as teasing, name-calling, putdowns, inappropriate language, coercive behavior or other mean-spirited behavior is prohibited. This includes the displacement of another student's clothing. Depending upon the circumstance, these behaviors could constitute harassment (see also Bullying).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Students are invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance during announcement time on Monday mornings. Students and staff will respect an individual's right to choose not to participate.

RETENTION

Any student who fails to earn credit for two or more core courses will be considered for retention. The Student Support Team will review each case individually and develop a contract to earn promotion to the next grade.

RIGHT TO KNOW

The Northfield Public School recognizes the importance of our students' and employees' health and well-being. Therefore, we are examining and reducing our use of pesticides and utilizing Integrated Pest Management techniques in our school buildings and on school grounds to minimize the possible long-term unknown health effects of pesticides.

The Northfield Public Schools will make available, in the school offices, for parents/guardians and employees, the estimated schedule of application of pesticides classified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as designated under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. Parents/Guardians may also request that the school notify them prior to the application of such pesticides on a day different from the days specified in the notice.

SAFETY EXERCISES

Emergency safety exercises will be conducted so that every person in the building knows the procedure to be followed in the event of an emergency. Fire and severe weather procedures are posted in each room.

SCOLIOSIS SCREENING

Scoliosis screening for all 7th & 8th graders is held every February.

SEARCHES/CANINES

The district believes strongly in implementing and utilizing policies and procedures that work toward keeping its schools safe, and drug & tobacco free. To this end, 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 two school district staff and when possible, the school resource officer. In the event of a positive identification by the canines, 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.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Northfield Middle School has a full range of Special Education Services. Contact Student Support Services for further information about assessment and eligibility.

STUDENT RIGHTS

- The district will accord students the following rights:
- The right to a free and full education.
- The right to equal educational opportunity and non-discriminatory treatment.
- The right to participate in student activities.
- The right to due process of law.
- The right to freedom of inquiry and expression.
- The right to privacy.
- The right to personal property.
- The right to be informed of district and school rules.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The Student Support Office offers students an opportunity to receive assistance with academic and/or personal problems. Parents/Guardians are also encouraged to call or set up an appointment with one of the counselors if they have academic or other concerns/questions about their student. Students are assigned to a counselor by alphabet. Please call our Student Support Office at 507-663-0664. Our Student Support Office Secretary will assist you in connecting with the appropriate staff member.

Students whose last name begins with A through L – Jenny Streefland

Students whose last name begins with M through Z – Cori Yamry

Social Worker – Heather Stanton-Ims

Psychologist – Marcy Korynta

STUDENT SUPPORT GROUPS

The Middle School offers a number of support groups for students. If students or parents/guardians would like more information about these or any other groups, please contact Student Support Services.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are furnished by the school district. Students are expected to take care of books and they will be expected to pay for any lost or damaged books.

VISITORS

Parents/Guardians are always welcome to visit Northfield Middle School. Classroom visits require administrative approval.

Visitor Requirements:

1. Only one visitor per student.
2. A written request must be given to administration 48 hours in advance and permission will be granted or denied based on the educational value of the visit.
3. All visitors must have a visitor's pass from the Administration.
4. No visitors within the last two weeks of any quarter.
5. No visitors within a week of any breaks.

VOLUNTEERS

Parents/Guardians and community members are always encouraged to 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 that parents/guardians and community members who volunteer on a regular basis complete a background check before serving students affiliated with Northfield Public Schools. This is subject to change dependent on the public health situation.

WELLNESS

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

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. 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. 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/AIC 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 academic 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 > 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 _____

Posted May 2019