



Bridgewater Elementary Greenvale Park Elementary Spring Creek Elementary

Student Handbook 2022-2023

Bridgewater Elementary School (K-5)	401 Jefferson Parkway	507.664.3300
Greenvale Park Elementary School (K-5)	500 Lincoln Parkway	507.645.3500
Spring Creek Elementary School (K-5)	1400 Maple Street	507.645.3470

Bridgewater Principal: Nancy Antoine
Greenvale Park Principal: Sam Richardson
Spring Creek Principal: Scott Sannes

www.northfieldschools.org

Reaching Out, Reaching Up: THE 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN



VISION

We prepare every student for lifelong success by developing critical thinkers who are curious and ready to engage in our society.

BENCHMARKS

1 All children are ready for kindergarten .	2 All students are connected to the community .	3 All students are at grade level in reading and mathematics by the end of third and sixth grades.
4 All students exhibit physical, social and emotional well-being .	5 All students have a connection with a caring adult beyond their parents as they transition to middle school.	6 All students have interests, goals and a vision for the future by the end of eighth grade.
7 All students graduate from high school with a plan to reach their full potential.	8 All employees report satisfaction in the workplace.	9 All parents report satisfaction with their children's educational experience.
10 The district maintains 14% of its annual expenditures in its unassigned fund balance to ensure financial stability .	11 Community education provides relevant and accessible learning opportunities for all residents.	Note: The first seven benchmarks are aligned with the language identified by Northfield Promise, a collective impact consortium of 20 community organizations committed to helping Northfield's youth thrive "from cradle to career."

STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS



People

We prioritize the engagement, satisfaction, and support of every student, staff member, and family.



Learner Outcomes

We prepare every student to be academically and socially ready to choose their preferred pathway after high school graduation.



Equity

We ensure that every child has a fair opportunity to reach their full potential.



Communication

We communicate effectively and transparently with all stakeholders.



Stewardship

We responsibly manage our personnel, finances, property, time and environmental impact.



Partnerships

We seek community partnerships that accelerate student achievement of district benchmarks.

WELCOME TO NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

This handbook has been designed to be helpful in answering questions about Northfield elementary schools' 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 and positive school year.

Northfield Public Schools 2022-2023 School Calendar

Approved by the School Board
June 14, 2021
Revised February 14, 2022

July 2022							January 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				
31													
August 2022							February 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31				26	27	28				
September 2022							March 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1				1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30		26	27	28	29	30	31	
October 2022							April 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31						30						
November 2022							May 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1							
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30				28	29	30	31			
December 2022							June 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1							
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	25	26	27	28	29	30	

School Cancellation Procedures:

On the second 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-closings/>

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

Student Days:

Term 1: 41 days
Term 2: 43 days
Term 3: 42 days
Term 4: 47 days
TOTAL: 173 days

Summary:

173 student contact days
14 non-student contact days
TOTAL: 187 contract days
84 days - first semester; 89 days - second semester

Daily Elementary School Schedules

Bridgewater Elementary School (Grades K-5)

8:20 a.m.	First Bell Rings (9:20 a.m. on late-start Wednesdays)
8:25 a.m.	Second Bell – Class Begins (9:25 a.m. on late-start Wednesdays)
3:20 p.m.	Dismissal Bell for all students–buses load

Greenvale Park Elementary School (Grades K-5)

8:15 a.m.	First Bell Rings (9:15 a.m. on late-start Wednesdays)
8:20 a.m.	Second Bell – Class Begins (9:20 a.m. on late-start Wednesdays)
3:15 p.m.	Dismissal Bell for all students–buses load

Spring Creek Elementary School (Grades K-5)

8:15 a.m.	First Bell Rings (9:15 a.m. on late-start Wednesdays)
8:20 a.m.	Second Bell – Class Begins (9:20 a.m. on late-start Wednesdays)
3:15 p.m.	Dismissal Bell for all students–buses load

Teacher's Hours:

Bridgewater Elementary: 7:35 a.m. - 3:35 p.m.

Greenvale Park Elementary: 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Spring Creek Elementary: 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Links to Staff Directory

[Bridgewater Elementary](#)

[Greenvale Park Elementary](#)

[Spring Creek Elementary](#)

NOTES

Bridgewater's non-bus students are asked **not to arrive before 8:00 a.m., or 7:55 a.m. for breakfast.**

- Note: On Wednesdays there is a one-hour late start and non-bus students are asked not to arrive before 9:00 a.m. or 8:55 a.m. for breakfast.

Greenvale's non-bus students are asked **not to arrive before 8:00 a.m.**

- Note: On Wednesdays there is a one-hour late start and non-bus students are asked not to arrive before 9:00 a.m.

Spring Creek's non-bus students are asked **not to arrive before 8:00 a.m.**

- Note: On Wednesdays there is a one-hour late start and non-bus students are asked not to arrive before 8:55 a.m.

During inclement and/or severe cold weather, children will be allowed entrance into the outer hallway.

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Parents or Guardians of a student who will not be in school should call every day of absence to the appropriate Student Absence Answering Service: (They are available 24 hours a day).

Bridgewater507.664.3306 or bwattendance@northfieldschools.org
Greenvale Park.....507.645.3506 or gvpattendance@northfieldschools.org
Spring Creek.....507.645.3474 or scattendance@northfieldschools.org

If a phone call is not received by 8:30 a.m. and your child does not arrive at school, you will be telephoned to verify the absence.

Students who arrive after the beginning of the school day are to check in with the front office for a late arrival slip before reporting to their classroom. If an absence is anticipated, call the attendance line prior to the absence.

Note: Parents/Guardians **may not** take their child from the school premises without notifying the office. For students to leave school early, parents/guardians must send a note to the classroom teacher and call the front office or attendance line. **When leaving early, parents/guardians are to meet students in the office and sign them out.**

It is believed that elementary students benefit from continuity in their educational program. If an educational family trip needs to occur during school, parents/guardians should contact their child's teacher so that class work that is missed can be made up. Because it is difficult to predict exactly how instruction will be paced during a student's absence, it may be necessary for students to make up work after they return.

Attendance Areas

District resident students attending Bridgewater, Greenvale Park, or Spring Creek shall be eligible for transportation to the school in their attendance area provided that they live beyond the walk boundary.

Walk Zone

The walk boundary for students in grades K through 5 is approximately .75 mile. Distances are calculated from the school property, using streets and paved pedestrian paths. If you are unsure whether your child is eligible for bus transportation, call Benjamin Bus.

Non-Resident Students (Open-Enrolled)

The district will provide transportation to open enrolled (non-resident) students who are attending Northfield Public Schools, using the closest safe pick-up/drop-off point on an existing route that serves the school that the student attends.

After School Activities

Transportation is not provided on regular route buses for non-school activities such as work, music or dance lessons, scouts, church activities, etc.

Safety

All elementary students in kindergarten through grade 5 are required to complete bus safety training at the beginning of every school year.

Parents/Guardians should review the following safety rules with their children.

- Bus doors will not be opened until students form an orderly line ready for boarding.
- When crossing the road to get on or off the bus, students must wait until the bus has stopped, the stop arm is out with red lights flashing, and the driver has indicated to the student to cross. **Students must cross in front of the bus only; never behind the bus.**
- Students should follow the directions of the driver.
- Students are to remain seated while the bus is in motion. Share the seat with others. Keep arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
- Students will not be allowed to extend any part of their body or place objects outside the windows. Windows may be opened halfway only, with permission of the bus driver.
- Students should talk quietly and act courteously at the bus stop and on the bus. No swearing, fighting, teasing, harassing, or horseplay. Be respectful of property at the bus stop.
- Students must not throw any object inside the bus or out of the bus.
- No eating on the bus. No beverages other than water on the bus. Use of tobacco, drugs, alcohol, lighters, matches, or vaping products on the bus or at the bus stop is prohibited.
- No weapons or hazardous objects on the bus.
- No animals, insects, or pets on the bus or at the bus stop.
- Students must not damage the bus or tamper with emergency exit devices.
- Students should help to keep their bus clean and safe.

Behavior, Bus Incident Reports

If a student is involved in a behavioral incident on a school bus or at a school bus stop or transfer point, a bus incident report form is issued by a driver, the bus company safety director, or school employee. The purpose is to provide communication to parents/guardians regarding the incident. A copy goes to the student's school, and corrective action may be initiated by the school district. When a student receives a bus incident report, the parent/guardian must sign the form and the student must present the signed form to the bus driver when boarding in the morning on the following day, or the next time the student rides the bus, whichever comes first. If a child is suspended from the bus, parents/guardians will be notified by school district administration.

Suspension of Riding Privileges

Transportation is a privilege and not a right for an eligible student. A student's eligibility to ride a school bus may be revoked for a violation of school bus safety or conduct policies, or violation of any other law governing student conduct on a school bus pursuant to the school district's discipline policy. Revocation of a student's bus riding privilege is not an exclusion, expulsion, or suspension under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act. Revocation procedures for a student who is an individual with a disability under 20 U.S.C. §1415 (Individuals with Disabilities Act), 29 U.S.C. § 794 (the Rehabilitation Act), and 42 U.S.C. § 12132, (Americans with Disabilities Act) are governed by these provisions. (Minn. Stat. § 121A.59)

Repayment for Damage to School Buses

Students and/or parents/guardians shall repay the bus owners for damages due to vandalism of school buses.

Attendance Procedures

Every minute of a child's time at school is important. Children who are absent for even one day, or who arrive later than their classmates, miss valuable instruction time and can easily fall behind in school. They also miss important socialization time and fun with their peers. With that in mind, please note the following.

Excused absences or tardies require parent/guardian communication with the school on or before the day of absence or tardiness. If such communication takes place, the following shall be considered an excused absence.

- A. Ill – flu, cold/cough, headache, strep throat, etc.
- B. Family emergency/special events – accident, funeral, wedding, educational family trip
- C. Childhood diseases
- D. Doctor/dental appointments that cannot be made outside of school hours
- E. Taking child home at the request of the school

Unexcused absences or tardies: No parent/guardian communication with school, sleeping in and suspension from school.

1. Any student not in school will be counted absent. Please call the **school attendance line** at your child's school (see numbers on previous page) by 8:30 a.m. every day that your child will not be in school. This line is a recorded message that you can call anytime, 24 hours a day. If the student is absent and there is no contact with a parent/guardian, the child will be considered unexcused.
2. Any student that arrives after the bell rings or leaves school early, for any reason, will be counted tardy. You must call the attendance line to report that your child will be tardy.
3. A letter of concern will be sent to the parents/guardians of any student who has three unexcused absences or six tardies, or excused absences that are negatively affecting the students' classroom achievement. **Four (4) unexcused tardies will be considered one (1) unexcused absence.**
4. A letter will be sent to parents/guardians requesting a meeting with the principal, nurse, social worker, and teacher to discuss their student's attendance when the student has five unexcused absences or ten tardies or excused absences that are negatively affecting the student's classroom achievement.
5. Since unexcused absences, tardies or excused absences can negatively affect the student's classroom achievement, should they continue after a meeting with staff and parents/guardians, a follow up by the District Truancy Coordinator will take place. If appropriate, an educational neglect report will be filed with the County Social Services.

Please try to schedule dentist, orthodontist, and doctor appointments outside of school hours. Also planning family vacations during days when school is not in session will help ensure minimal loss of instructional time for your student. Share with your child how important it is to be at school on time. Make sure they are in bed on time every night so that they can get up on time in the morning. We can help children learn a valuable life-long lesson by always encouraging them to be on time.

GENERAL STUDENT INFORMATION SCHOOL POLICIES, PROCEDURES, SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR THE NETWORK/INTERNET/E-MAIL SYSTEM

Student use of technology and the Internet is governed by [Policy 524-2](#).

ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS

The law allows the parent/guardian to inspect student school records. Any information believed to be inaccurate, incomplete, or unnecessary may be challenged. In most instances information in a student's cumulative record has been originally submitted by the classroom teachers or discussed at parent/guardian/teacher conferences. Requests to see student records should be directed to the building Principal.

Information concerning students and their family is confidential. Professional staff who work with the student are allowed access and must sign a review sheet in the cumulative folder.

AFTER SCHOOL PLANS

If a student is not going to their regular after school destination, a note signed by the parent/guardian must be sent to school. **REMINDER:** Once school is dismissed, there is *no* supervision on the playground. It is required that all students go home after school.

For safety reasons and our way of knowing you have knowledge of your child's whereabouts, please send a note on any day you would like to make other arrangements.

ART

The goal of the art education program in grades K-5 is to introduce students to a wide variety of art media and materials while teaching basic art concepts such as line, shape, color, space and texture.

Students are also taught skills in painting, drawing and construction, which direct them to use their visual senses. Viewing, discussing, and appreciating famous art works are also an important part of the art program.

ASSESSMENT

Teaching involves constant evaluations of students so that learning activities may be appropriate to their needs, interests, and abilities. Evaluation provides the basis of determining student readiness for certain learning experiences and the growth resulting from previous learning experiences. The two procedures most frequently used in evaluation are behavioral observations and testing.

The district's elementary teachers constantly carry on the process of checking learning through direct observation. Many insights are gained by observing each student's vocabulary, ability to express thoughts and ideas, interests, ability to think quantitatively, physical development, motor skills, values, social skills, and emotional qualities. These characteristics are essential to planning successful learning experiences.

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment tests are also given in grades 3, 4 and 5. (Please see the Appendix for the parent/guardian guide to statewide testing.) You may contact Director of Instructional Services Hope Langston at hlangston@northfieldschools.org with any questions.

BAND

Membership in band is available to students in the fifth grade when they are physically mature enough to play the instruments. A high percentage of the students take advantage of this activity. Individual and group instrumental instruction, as well as band practice, is provided each week.

BEFORE SCHOOL PLANS

There is no supervision on the playgrounds at Greenvale Park until 8:00 a.m., Spring Creek until 8:00 a.m., and Bridgewater until 8:00 a.m. (all one hour later on Wednesdays). Please **DO NOT** send your student to school before that time unless they are having breakfast at school. See Breakfast Program.

BICYCLES/OTHER POSSESSIONS

Students may ride bicycles to school, but once they have reached the crossing guard area at the front of the school, they are to walk them to the bicycle rack. Students are not to ride their bicycles on the sidewalks to the racks. Bicycles must remain in the racks during school hours. Please emphasize to your students the need for bike chains/locks to secure their bicycles to the rack. The school is not responsible for bikes on the school grounds.

Other Possessions

Skateboards, roller blades, Heelys, or any other type of roller shoes, scooters, etc. are **not** allowed at school or on the playground. They are a safety concern for all.

BIRTHDAY INVITATIONS

Building a strong sense of community is an important part of a successful school year. Teachers work hard at building inclusive classrooms. The practice of students passing out birthday party invitations to some (or certain) classmates while excluding others negatively impacts our efforts at building strong inclusive classrooms. Families should plan on passing out birthday party invitations outside of the school day.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Bridgewater, Greenvale Park and Spring Creek Elementary Schools provide the opportunity for all children to have breakfast at their school on a daily basis. All children qualify for a free breakfast daily. The cost for an additional student breakfast is \$1.75. Adult breakfasts are also available and cost \$2.25.

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.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is an essential part of the school district services to students and parents/guardians. Along with Benjamin Bus, Inc., we welcome all community members to play a part in keeping our students safe. Every person can make a difference in the safety of students as they board, ride and exit school buses. Questions regarding transportation should be directed to Benjamin Bus, Inc. at 507-645-5720.

Routes

Bus routes and times are determined in coordination with scheduled school start and stop times. Routes are planned for safe and efficient use of school buses. Generally, school buses will not travel down dead-end roads or cul-de-sacs due to resulting added ride times and turn-around issues. However, there may be some things that

cannot be anticipated and routes may need to be adjusted after the school year begins. Parents/Guardians will be advised of any significant changes

Pick Up and Drop Off Locations

School bus service is between home and school. Based on their address, students are assigned to a specific bus stop and bus route. Students must ride to and from school on the bus(es) to which they have been assigned. Students are assigned to one pick up location and one drop off location. A student's daycare facility may be regarded as their home residence for the purpose of transportation, but the request must be consistent every day. A student's daycare facility must be located in the same attendance area as the student's school. Students are not allowed to alternate between bus stops. Although this policy is not always convenient for parents/guardians, it is the safest for students. If a child lives at two different addresses due to shared custody arrangements, please contact Benjamin Bus.

Students should be at the bus stop five minutes before the scheduled bus arrival time. They should stay out of the street so that they do not become a traffic hazard. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to wait with their child at the bus stop.

CELL PHONES/IPODS/HAND-HELD ELECTRONICS

Students should be discouraged from bringing cell phones or other expensive technological equipment/games to school for lack of secure locations to store them during the school day. The school is not responsible for articles students bring to school.

We recognize that cell phones/electronic devices are common tools for communication with many families. Our goal is to help students maintain a focus on learning. Please know that most elementary students have no need to carry a cell phone or a hand-held electronic device to school and these devices are vulnerable to theft. We are committed to using technology as an accelerant for student learning and provide the appropriate tools for our students in their classrooms.

Students who do need to carry a cell phone or a hand-held electronic device to school must have them turned off and stored out of sight during school hours. These devices may not be used to talk, take pictures, play games, record or text during school hours, including recess.

Consequences for not following the rules are as follows:

- 1st infraction – student will have the device taken away and can pick it up in the office at the end of the day.
- 2nd infraction – student will have their device taken away and placed in the office until a parent/guardian can come to school to retrieve it.
- 3rd infraction – student will no longer be allowed to bring a device to school until a parent/guardian conference with the Principal is held.

Please note: The school is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen phones or other electronic devices brought from home.

CHILD NUTRITION SERVICES

The mission of Child Nutrition Services is to provide quality nutritious meals that support the growth and development of our students to fuel their learning. Our cafeterias continue to meet challenging federal nutrition standards for school meals and snacks, ensuring that they are healthy, well balanced and include fresh, local foods. Information regarding payments and account balances,

refunds, menus, meal prices, etc. can be found [here](#), or go to the [child nutrition website](#) for more information.

CHOIR

The elementary choirs welcome participation by any student in fourth and fifth grade. No auditions are necessary to join. The choir program promotes advancement of vocal techniques and performance skills. Group cooperation and the opportunity for solo performances are added features of the program. Each elementary school has its own 4th and 5th grade choir. The two groups perform in the schools and community throughout the school year.

CITIZENSHIP

Schools, like families, need a few basic rules to ensure that each student's rights are respected. Please refer to the [Student Citizenship Handbook](#).

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SCHOOL AND HOME

School staff have a commitment to good communication between school and home. If a child is having difficulty at school, parents/guardians are encouraged to contact the classroom teacher. The social worker and principal are also available to help resolve a problem that your child might encounter at school. You may contact any of these people by sending a note or placing a phone call to the appropriate school office.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Community Education is a division of the Northfield Public Schools dedicated to lifelong learning, citizen involvement and the maximum use of school and community resources and facilities. Programs and services include early childhood family education, early childhood screening, Hand in Hand Preschool, early childhood initiative coalition, the Ventures programs for children, youth development and youth service, the Connected Kids Mentoring Project, volunteers in schools, recreation, adult basic education, adult enrichment, parent/guardian education programs, Project ABLE for adults with disabilities and community relations. For more information visit us at the [district website](#).

CROSSING GUARDS

Bridgewater

Crossing guards will be on duty along Jefferson Parkway from 8:05-8:20 a.m. and 3:20-3:35 p.m. Students are expected to cross when guards are present. Students who walk to Bridgewater are asked to arrive no earlier than 8:05 a.m. (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday) and 9:05 a.m. (Wednesdays), when the crossing guards go on duty.

Greenvale Park

Crossing guards are on duty at the corner of Linden Street and Lincoln Parkway, at the west end of the school at Lincoln Parkway and Green Meadow and at the entrance of the staff parking lot from 8:00-8:15 a.m. and 3:15-3:25 p.m. Students are expected to cross at these crossings when the guards are present. Students who walk to Greenvale Park are asked to arrive **no earlier** than 8:00 a.m. (Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri.) and 9:00 a.m. (Wednesdays), when the crossing guards go on duty.

Spring Creek

Crossing guards will be available from 8:00-8:20 a.m. and 3:15-3:25 p.m. on the corners of Maple and Sibley Drive, Maple and Ames, and Ames and Nevada. Students are expected to cross when guards are present. Students who walk to Spring Creek are asked to arrive no earlier than 8:00 a.m. (Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri.) and 9:00 a.m. (Wednesdays), when the crossing guards go on duty.

504 PLAN

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities by school districts receiving federal financial assistance. Section 504 protects students from discrimination based upon their disability. A person is handicapped under the definition of 504 if they: 1.) Has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities; 2.) Has a record of such an impairment; or 3.) Is regarded as having such an impairment. "Major life activities means functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working.

When a condition significantly limits a major life activity, an accommodation plan must be developed for that student. These services are determined by a team of educators with the parents/guardians and sometimes the student. For more information on the Northfield District Section 504 Plan, contact Dr. Cheryl Hall, 504 Coordinator at 645-3410.

DENIAL OF RELEASE OF INFORMATION

The Denial of Release of Directory Information (as set forth on the next page) will be available in the fall. In completing this form, please read it carefully. If you sign and return this form, you are stating that you do not want the information made public, which includes your child's photo in the Class Picture and School Memory Book/Yearbook.

DRESS POLICY FOR STUDENTS

Students have the right to choose their manner of dress and personal grooming unless it presents a clear danger to the students' health and safety, is sexually suggestive by words, pictures or appearance; exhibits profanity, or interferes with the educational environment of the school or the classroom, or causes undue distraction in 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 and/or at school events.

Any students who feel 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.

It is important that parents/guardians keep the changing seasons in mind when it comes to clothing. As the colder weather approaches, hats, heavy coats, mittens, and boots should become a part of every student's wardrobe.

- Students are expected to wear appropriate clothing during the winter season, **which includes coats with hoods, or hats, mittens or gloves, boots, and snow pants.**
- Please mark all clothing items with some distinguishing identification and check the Lost and Found area frequently.
- Students are outside daily in the morning before school and during recess; therefore, being appropriately dressed for the weather is important.
- If the temperature is at or above 0° F the children will go outside.
- If the temperature is lower than -10° F wind chill they will be inside.
- State law dictates that students wear shoes on school property at all times.
- Hats, bandanas, and tattoos are not to be worn in school.
- Midriff tops, offensive shirts and tank tops with shoulder straps less than two-inches wide are not permitted.

APPENDIX C: DENIAL OF RELEASE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Parents/Guardians: Your child's photo will not be in the yearbook or in class pictures if you sign this document. I understand that by signing this Denial of Release of Directory Information, the affected student's name will not appear on some lists such as honor rolls. Further, I understand that I am denying release of all the directory information listed below.

Pursuant the Notice of Designation of Directory Information, directory information **MAY NOT** be released without my expressed written consent:

Directory Information:

- Student's name
- Student's address
- Student's telephone listing
- Student's photograph
- Student's date of birth
- Student's major field of study
- Student's dates of school attendance
- Student's grade level completed (i.e., first grade, tenth grade, etc.)
- Student's enrollment status (full-time or part-time)
- Student's participation in officially recognized activities/sports
- Student's height and weight, if a member of an athletic team
- Middle and High School Student Athletic Physical Examination Expiration Date
- Student's degrees, honors and awards received
- Student's most recent educational agency or institution attended
- Student's photographs, videotapes and other visual presentations for school-approved publications, electronic newsletters, yearbooks, newspapers, public presentations and web pages, including district, school and department social media sites.
- Student's parent(s) name, address and telephone number

Submitting this Denial of Release of Directory Information does not affect the release of directory information to Military Recruiters. In order to make all directory information about a student private to the public in general, including military recruiting officers, the parent/guardian or eligible student must complete the form below and also complete and submit a Denial of Release of Information to Military Recruiters (Appendix D).

The designation of directory information about a student as private will remain in effect for the current school year only. Return completed and signed copy to the Building Principal or the Superintendent of Schools by _____.

Signed _____ Address _____
(Parent/Guardian/Eligible Student)

Date _____

Student Affected _____ Address _____

School Currently Attending: _____
5/12; Updated 06/2018; Updated 02/2021

EMERGENCY CLOSING OF SCHOOLS

The following procedures will be observed when school is closed due to weather.

- When school is not in session, a decision to close schools will be made the night before, if possible, but not later than 7:00 a.m.
- When the weather is too severe to open school at the normally scheduled time, but is improving, a decision to have a late start may be made. In this case, school will be delayed for two hours. Bus pick-up and school opening times will be exactly two hours later than normal.
- When school is in session and the decision is made to close schools, dismissal times will be set to coincide with the anticipated arrival of buses.

Families will be notified via Skylert. Communication will be sent via email and/or phone. In each instance, the community will be informed by KYMN (1080 AM), KDHL (920 AM), and WCCO (830 AM) radio stations. If weather conditions are poor or worsening, please listen to one of these stations. You may also check the [district website](#) for updates.

It is necessary for us to know where students should be sent in the event school would be closed during the school day. A form requesting this information will be sent home the first week of school. It is essential that it be returned promptly.

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.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Greenvale Lone Oak Nature Area (GLONA)

The Greenvale Lone Oak Nature Area is made up of prairie and woodland. Student activities and units of study have been developed which are used throughout the year. This valuable resource is available to all students and community members.

Rachel Carson Nature Area at Bridgewater

The newest nature area to be developed in Northfield is located at Jefferson Parkway and Highway 246 South. Many elementary students grew the plants and trees and then planted them at Rachel Carson Nature Area during the 1996-97 school year. A pond and “feeding kitchen” are focal points of this area. Student activities and science lessons will be held in the performer/audience arrangement of this nature center.

Spring Creek Nature Area

The Spring Creek Nature Area is a 10-acre wilderness preserve next to Spring Creek School. As part of their life science studies, students learn about the environment and inhabitants of the marsh. Volunteers help with classroom preparation and teachers guide their classes in their outdoor exploration during fall and spring.

FIELD TRIPS

Occasionally a student’s teacher will extend classroom instruction and concepts through a field trip experience. The teacher will provide rationale for the trip and request that permission slips be signed by the parent/guardian. No student is allowed to participate without written parental permission.

FIRE DRILLS

Fire drills will take place throughout the year. Fire drills are held on those days when the weather is least likely to be a problem. Each building is required to hold five drills per year.

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](#).

HEALTH POLICY

The Board of Education of the Northfield School District recognizes the importance of good physical, emotional and mental health and supports the well-being of all students and families. The following guidelines define this statement:

1. The school district acknowledges that students have a right to developmentally appropriate information about their health care in accordance with state and federal laws. The school recognizes the right of a student and the student's parents/guardians, together, to request that the student not be provided health care information. Waiver forms are available, if desired, in each building in the nurse's office.
2. The school district recognizes that parents/guardians and families have the primary responsibility to provide health care. Professional employees of the school district will encourage minor students to seek the involvement of their parent(s)/guardian(s) in decisions relating to health care. School employees will not bring students to health care providers, except in cases of medical emergency.
3. Confidentiality of student communications will be maintained unless a student presents a danger to self or others.
4. Professional employees will not impose their personal values on students.
5. All employees of the school district will report suspected incidents of physical and sexual abuse and neglect in accordance with the Minnesota mandated reporting.

First Aid

In case of an accident, first aid will be administered in the health office and the parent/guardian will be called. If a student needs further treatment, the parent/guardian, ambulance, or rescue squad will transport the student to the doctor or hospital. In the event that a parent/guardian cannot be reached, the school will contact the physician listed on the student Health and Emergency Form on file in the office to make whatever arrangements necessary to provide health services to the student or call the rescue squad.

Fragrances

Many people are sensitive or allergic to fragrances. Students, staff and families who choose to wear a personal fragrance should do so sparingly. All fragrance containers should be left at home.

Illness

To help assure good health care for students and alert health authorities to the presence of specific disease, parents/guardians are asked to call the school **by 8:30 a.m. EACH** morning the student is absent for any reason and to notify the school later if a specific disease develops.

Since most diseases spread before being recognized, it is impossible to prevent exposure. Control measures are designed to protect individual students from complications. Parents/Guardians are urged to keep their children home if they develop any symptoms suggestive of a communicable disease. Their temperature should be normal at least 24 hours **BEFORE** a student returns to school. The parent/guardian will be called if a student becomes ill at school. It is their responsibility to take the student home.

Temperature Guideline

In the event a student has a temperature of 100 degrees, the student must go home. Students should not return to school unless the temperature goes below 100 degrees for 24 hours. Please do not send students who have an undiagnosed rash to school. ***Your child should be fever, vomit and diarrhea free for 24 hours before returning to school.***

COMMON CONCERNS IN SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Note: Children and adolescents should not be given aspirin containing medications unless specifically prescribed by a physician. Good hand washing is the best prevention of disease.

DISEASE	SYMPTOMS	INCUBATION PERIOD	USUAL SCHOOL ACTION AND COMMENTS ON COMMUNICABILITY	SOURCE OF INFECTION AND MODE OF TRANSMISSION
Shingles/ Chickenpox	Slight fever, general feeling of illness, rash resembling water blister appearing after 3-4 days. Scabs appear later.	2 to 3 weeks	1. Exclude from school until chickenpox vesicles are dry and crusted. 2. Contagious a few days before eruption and about six days after last crop of vesicles. 3. May be in school if shingles covered.	Virus spread directly from person through discharge from the nose and mouth, also by discharges from the skin and mucous membranes of infected persons. Readily communicable. One attack usually confers immunity. Children on immunosuppressive drugs at high risk.
Cold Sores (Herpes Simplex)	Vesicles usually on lips but may occur anywhere on skin or in mucous membranes. May be confused with Impetigo.	2-12 days	1. No restriction. 2. May be communicable as long as seven weeks after lesion appears.	Virus is transmitted by direct contact with infected persons, a majority of whom have an apparent infection.
Common Cold	Acute upper respiratory signs, including watery eyes, sneezing, running nose, general feeling of illness.	12 hours to 3 days	1. No restriction unless fever more than 100 degrees 2. Communicable 24 hours before onset and for five days after nasal involvement	Virus spread directly through coughing and sneezing and indirectly through articles fleshly soiled by discharge of infected person.
COVID-19	Fever of 100.0 degrees or higher, new onset or worsening cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive fatigue, new onset of nasal congestion or runny nose.	A minimum of 5 days	1. Stay home until you have had no fever for at least 24 hours AND improvement of other symptoms AND it has been five (5) days since you tested positive for COVID. 2. Some spread might be possible before people show symptoms (when they are asymptomatic).	The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It spreads between people who are in close contact. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Washing your hands and cleaning frequently touched surfaces often is a good way to prevent you from getting COVID-19.
Influenza	Chills, body ache, headache, fever sore throat, followed by cough, runny nose and possibly stomach ache.	24-72 hours	1. Exclude from school until well, usually 2-7 days. Fever of more than 100 degrees for 24 hours. 2. Use non-aspirin products to treat fever.	Virus spread directly through coughing, sneezing and contact with nose or throat discharges of patient. Possibly airborne.
Impetigo	Blisters, pustules rapidly covered with honey-colored crust. May be confused with cold sores. Usually seen first near mouth or nose, can spread rapidly.	1-6 days, occasionally longer	1. Contagious until lesions are healed. 2. May return to school when treated with over-the-counter antibiotic ointment.	Bacteria spread by direct contact with sores, sometimes with contact from discharges from nose or throat of patient; airborne transmission also occurs. Usually caused by Streptococcus or Staphylococcus bacteria.

COMMON CONCERNS IN SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN, cont'd

DISEASE	SYMPTOMS	INCUBATION PERIOD	USUAL SCHOOL ACTION AND COMMENTS ON COMMUNICABILITY	SOURCE OF INFECTION AND MODE OF TRANSMISSION
Mononucleosis	Fever, sore throat, swollen lymph glands (neck)	Probably 2-6 weeks	1. Restrict only according to doctor orders. 2. Period of communicability unknown.	Virus spread by saliva, kissing, sharing drinking glasses.
Lice (Pediculosis)	Infestation of the head hair or other hairy parts of the body or clothing with lice or nits. Scratching causes reddened rash-like area. Nits are tiny white eggs, stuck to hair usually close to scalp and neckline and/or behind ears.	Variable, eggs hatch in one week	1. Exclude until live louse are adequately treated. 2. Nurse to check head when return to school. 3. Advise exam of household contacts for nits and lice. 4. When appropriate, school may exclude until all nits are removed.	Louse transmitted primarily by direct contact with infested person. Lice can also be transmitted through combs, brushes, bedding, wearing apparel and upholstered furniture. Thorough cleaning and washing of clothing and bedding required to rid household of lice.
Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis)	Redness of conjunctiva. May or may not have purulent discharge. Eye irritation.	24-72 hours	1. Refer for medical diagnosis and treatment of purulent drainage. 2. Communicability depends on agent. 3. May remain in school unless purulent drainage.	Most are viral in etiology; some bacterial. May be spread through hand-eye contact. Redness of eye may also be results of allergic reaction.
Ringworm Body (Tinea Corporis)	Ring-shaped or irregular lesion with elevated vesicular or scaly borders. May show central clearing. May become inflamed and crusted.	1-3 weeks	1. Communicable as long as fungi can be recovered. 2. Treated with over the counter antifungal ointment.	Contact with human or animal infected with the fungus or its spores and by contact with contaminated articles.
Scabies	Itching, scratch marks or burrow marks. Common sites are thighs, beltline, wrists, elbow, webs of fingers. Scratching may cause secondary infections or rash.	Days to weeks	1. Exclude from school until adequately treated. 2. Communicable until treated. 3. Family should be examined.	Mite is transferred by direct contact with an infected person and to a limited extent, undergarments or soiled sheets freshly contaminated by an infected person.
Strep Throat, Scarlet Fever, Scarletina	Fever, sore throat, headache, nausea, vomiting. (If associated with rash it is called Scarlet Fever/Scarlatina)	1-3 days	1. If positive for strep, exclude from school until 24 hours after antibiotic treatment is started and until clinically well. 2. Communicable until 24 hours after treatment is started. 3. Exclude until fever is less than 100 degrees for 24 hours.	Bacteria spread directly from nose or throat discharges of infected persons.

COMMON CONCERNS IN SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN, cont'd

DISEASE	SYMPTOMS	INCUBATION PERIOD	USUAL SCHOOL ACTION AND COMMENTS ON COMMUNICABILITY	SOURCE OF INFECTION AND MODE OF TRANSMISSION
Fifth Disease	Characteristic rash "slapped cheek" redness of cheeks. Rash often later found on arms, upper body, legs. Very fine lacy appearance. Sometimes fever or sore throat.	4-21 days	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If other rash-causing illnesses are ruled out, there is no need to exclude. 2. Treat fever and sore throat with over the counter pain medicine (non aspirin). 3. Pregnant women exposed to Fifth Disease should contact their health care provider. 	Most contagious before onset of rash. Spread from nose and throat discharge. Thoroughly wash hands with soap and warm running water. Dispose of soiled tissues.
Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease	Lesions (blisters) in mouth, on palms of hand, soles of feet with low grade fever.	3-5 days	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exclude from school till fever is normal for 24 hours. Lesions may still be present 2. Use non-aspirin products to treat fever. 	Spread via oral-fecal route. Good hand washing. Cover nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing.

Updated 06.2022

HOLIDAYS

Traditional holidays, such as Halloween, Thanksgiving, winter holidays around the world, and Valentine's Day, may be observed in the classrooms and used as learning experiences. Any questions you may have regarding this policy should be referred to the building Principal and the Wellness Committee Coordinator.

KIDVENTURES “Where learning and fun are one!”

KidVentures is an enrichment and care program available on school days (before and after) and most non-school days from 6:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Students enrolled will have a chance to participate in a variety of activities that build social, emotional, physical, and academic skills. The curriculum is designed around the unique interests and needs of the various age groups in which our program serves. We encourage the children to play an active role in the generation of themes, projects and special events. They assist in planning, creating and implementing many different learning experiences.

We use a program model that is both age and developmentally appropriate and encompasses our enrichment philosophy in our integrated curriculum model. Students get to work with a variety of hands-on materials during clubs, camps and special events. We collaborate with each of the elementary school programs on a daily basis to utilize and share space including the gyms, cafeteria, computer lab and outside areas. The students also participate in a number of recognition programs including DEAR (drop everything and read), Sport Stacking, and service projects around the community throughout the year. Our goal is to build on the knowledge and skill development that is occurring during the school day by incorporating the standards into the enrichment activities we plan for our out-of-school time programs.

We offer a variety of enrollment options for your child, so participation is flexible depending on your schedule or your child's needs. If you have any questions regarding the KidVentures programs, please contact Breezy Barrett, Program Supervisor. She can be reached at the Community Services Office Monday-Friday at 507-664-3750. She can also be contacted through email: bbarrett@northfieldschools.org. Families can also contact their site leader with specific questions regarding individual programs.

Greenvale Park Elementary	Bridgewater Elementary	Spring Creek Elementary
Lacey Neuman Bissonnette (507)645-3507 lneumanbissonnette@northfieldschools.org	Tonya Skluzacek (507)664-3395 TMerritt@northfieldschools.org	Aimee Gerdesmeier (507)645-3422 AGerdesmeier@northfieldschools.org

LOW COST HEALTH INSURANCE FOR FAMILIES

Thousands of Minnesota families are eligible for low cost health insurance under MinnesotaCare. Enacted by the legislature the plan is open to families who meet certain income guidelines. More information and/or applications are available through the school social worker, call 1-800-657-3672 and ask for MinnesotaCare, or go to the [Minnesota Department of Health's Guide to Minnesota's Public Health Care Programs](#).

MEDIA CENTER

The elementary school media center is an extension of the classroom. It is an inviting learning area where a wide range of information on both print and non-print materials is available for students and teachers. Not all students learn at the same rate or equally well from the same material. In the media center students may look for information in reference books, or digital resources. They can work individually with materials that fit their needs and abilities, or they may participate in large or small groups for instruction, discussion, viewing, or listening.

MEDICATIONS

Some students need to take medicine during the school day. A note stating the name of the medication, dosage, and the time it should be given must accompany the medicine. It is now required that we have a signed permission form obtained by parent/guardian at the time the medication is dropped off at school. This note must be dated and signed by the parent/guardian. Prescription medication must be in a prescription bottle from the pharmacy with the student's name on it. Adults should bring the medication to the nurse's office.

The school does not supply over-the-counter medications any longer unless it is an emergency and we have verbal parent/guardian permission. Over-the-counter medications (such as non-aspirin pain relievers, cough syrup, etc.) must also be accompanied by a permission form signed by parent/guardian for use. Aspirin will not be given unless we have a physician's permission because of possible complications of Reye's Syndrome. Cough syrup is recommended rather than cough drops.

When possible, parents/guardians should try to schedule all medication administration during non-school hours. Because of the danger of choking, parents/guardians are asked to not allow their children to bring hard candy (such as: suckers, jolly ranchers, etc.) to school.

MUSIC

The general classroom music curriculum in the Northfield Public School District is based on the approaches of Carl Orff, Zoltan Kodaly, and Emile Dalcroze in accordance with Minnesota standards, students learn to:

CREATE - generate, revise, and complete original artistic works

PERFORM - develop, refine & make artistic choices to convey meaning for and through performances

RESPOND - analyze, interpret, and evaluate artistic work

CONNECT - understand the personal, societal, cultural, and historical contexts of music

ORCHESTRA

The elementary orchestra is open to all fourth and fifth graders playing violin, viola, cello, or string bass. The orchestra rehearses twice each week throughout the school year, and performs at various times and locations during the year. Orchestra members receive one lesson each week.

OUTSIDE RECESS

Fresh air and exercise are very important. If a child has a cold or other illness or injury and the parent/guardian wants them to stay in during recess one day, the parent/guardian needs to send a signed note requesting that and stating the reason. If a parent/guardian feels the condition will require two or more days inside during recess, they must obtain and send a note from a doctor stating the reason and length. Students are outside when the temperature is at or above 0 degrees. If the temperature is lower than -10 degrees wind chill they will be inside.

PARENT/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT/PTO

There are a number of ways for parents/guardians to become involved with their child's school. Being a parent/guardian volunteer is probably the most active way to become involved. A form will be provided for parents/guardians to volunteer their services.

All parents/guardians are members of our Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO). Meetings will be held 7-8 times per year to discuss areas of interest. An agenda will be published and all parents/guardians are welcome to attend. Parents/Guardians may contact their representative or the school to provide input on topics of interest. The goal of the PTO is to support schools through parent/guardian involvement. Plans for this year

include strengthening the relationship between the elementary buildings to support the total elementary program. Parents/Guardians also have opportunities to attend open houses, parent/guardian/teacher conferences, and other school functions throughout the year.

PTO Purposes:

- Advisory capacity to School Administrative Staff.
- Forum for discussion of school policies/procedures.
- Vehicle for communication of school program/curriculum to parents/guardians.
- Promotion of all parent/guardian or student programs/activities.
- Identifying and communicating needs to the community.
- Not a forum for discussion of personnel issues.

PETS

If you are bringing a pet of any kind to school, please first let the child's classroom teacher know and also check in with the nurse's office so that she can check out any possible allergies in that particular classroom. Dogs on school grounds, including before and after school, need to be on a leash and muzzled for safety purposes.

PHONE CALLS

The best way to reach a child's teacher is to call the school office and leave a message on their voicemail. The teacher will return the call as soon as possible. Classroom interruptions are avoided. At Bridgewater, staff is available for phone calls between 7:35-8:20 a.m. and 3:20-3:35 p.m. each day, except during PLC Hour. At Greenvale, staff is available from 7:30-8:15 a.m. and 3:15-3:30 p.m., except during PLC Hour. At Spring Creek, staff is available from 7:30-8:15 a.m. and 3:15-3:30 p.m., except during PLC Hour.

Students will be allowed the use of school phones only in the case of an emergency. Please try to plan ahead regarding after school plans to keep student messages to emergencies or sudden change of plans. **Please call the elementary schools no later than 2:40 p.m., to have messages delivered to your students.**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education gives students the skills, knowledge, and disposition to pursue a lifetime of healthful physical activities as a physically educated person. Elementary students will actively participate in P.E. class four days each week (for a 30 minute period). The goals in elementary physical education are:

Students will:

- Have the skills necessary to perform a variety of physical activities.
- Know the benefits from involvement in physical activities.
- Participate regularly in physical activity.
- Engage in fitness related activities.
- Value physical activity and its contributions to a healthy lifestyle.

REPORTING TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Report Cards are sent home after each semester. The main purpose of these report cards is to give parents/guardians information on whether or not their child is progressing appropriately. Parents/guardians are invited to attend individual student conferences two times during the year in October/November and March.

Reporting Grades to Parents/Guardians

4=ADVANCED (Exceeds the standard with independence; Exceeds expectation for this time of year)

3=PROFICIENT (Meets the standard with independence; Meets expectations for this time of year)

2=PARTIALLY PROFICIENT (Making progress toward the standard with support; Meets basic expectations for this time of year)

1=NOT PROFICIENT (Lacking expected progress toward the standard; Does not meet basic expectations for this time of year)

N/A=Not assessed at this time

SCHOOL RULES

Each school has established a set of 3-4 age appropriate school rules which will be communicated to students and families. Some examples of school rules are:

- Treat others kindly.
- Follow the directions of the adult in charge.
- Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
- Walk quietly in the hallway.

Classroom rules are also established and communicated to students and families.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Special supportive services are provided to teachers, parents/guardians, and students whenever needed to help a child educationally. Supportive services are provided by the school nurse, and the special education department, which consists of speech therapists, an occupational/ physical therapist, a psychologist, resource teachers for the learning disabled and mentally impaired, a social worker, a behavior specialist, and a consultant for hearing or visually impaired.

If at any time parents/guardians or school personnel feel that a student is having problems that are interfering or may in the future interfere with the student's progress in school, the school will assess the problems to determine how to best meet the student's needs. Parents/Guardians may initiate an assessment by contacting the building Principal or classroom teacher. When school personnel wish to initiate an assessment, parents/guardians will be informed that a referral is being made.

STUDENT CELEBRATIONS AND FOOD

Student wellness is to be considered for all foods provided to students during the school day, including classroom-wide celebrations, parties and snacks. Making those special events and the food that accompanies them as nutritious as possible is important in making sure children get the nutrients they need to grow, play hard and be healthy. The District Wellness Policy encourages non-food treats whenever possible. Some options could be stickers, pencils, a classroom book, board game, or DVD donated in your student's name. For healthy celebration suggestions please visit the Wellness tab located under the [Child Nutrition Department](#) website.

Treats prepared at home are not to be brought to school. The State Health Department requires that food which is served in a food establishment, as defined in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 157, shall be obtained from sources which are approved and inspected by either the federal, state, or local regulatory authority. As a result, we are unable to allow the distribution and service of food items including "treats" which are prepared in individual homes. This requirement would not, however, apply to the distribution of commercially prepared, packaged, or individually wrapped food items. However, commercially prepared, packaged, or individually wrapped food items are required to meet the Federal "Smart Snack" guidelines. These guidelines are available on our [Child Nutrition Department](#) website.

STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM

Mission

To receive referrals from any person who has identified a student as at-risk for academic, social, emotional, or behavioral problems. To initiate comprehensive and coordinated services for such students. To serve as a resource for families of those students and for the staff who work with them. To address appropriate program and policy issues, especially those related to students' non-academic concerns (e.g. attendance, limited access, mandatory reporting).

Responsibilities:

- To be an access point for concerned persons to refer at-risk students.
- To assure that, within the team, the exchange of ideas and concerns will occur on an open, yet confidential, basis.
- To determine appropriate resources for referred students and to develop an action plan to meet their needs.
- To implement the action plan, provide feedback to the person who initiated the referral, and monitor follow-up.
- To refer appropriate students to the Special Education Referral Review Team and provide the referral form to the regular education teacher.
- To identify and address program and policy issues which affect the student group served by the team.

Membership:

Principal	Social Worker	Referring Person
Psychologist	Special Education Teacher	Nurse

STUDENT VISITORS

Only students enrolled in a Northfield elementary school are allowed in the school building.

SUPPLIES

The school furnishes all necessary texts and workbooks for students as required by law. Students are asked to bring their own gym shoes, paper, pencils, notebooks, crayons and similar small items for classroom work. Classroom teachers will notify parents/guardians with regard to specific items needed.

TECHNOLOGY USE

Computer literacy is essential in a society shaped to a large degree by technological developments. Each classroom has devices (iPads) for student use. Student use of technology and the internet is governed by [Policy 524-2](#) regarding use of technology and telecommunications systems.

TITLE I

Title I is part of the federal Improving America's School Act that supports state and local reform of teaching and learning carried out under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The emphasis is on high academic standards with aligned curriculum, assessment, and professional development. This program is an important part of Minnesota's Basic Skills and Graduation Standards reform movement.

TORNADO EMERGENCY PLAN

A Disaster Emergency Procedure Plan has been established in the Northfield School District for the purpose of protecting the health and safety of every child as well as the school staff. Since tornados are the kind of disaster which generally do not permit time to send students home, all students and staff will move to a

designated safety area of the school. All of our students have had the experience of being in a drill with their teachers. Practices are held each year to make sure everyone knows what to do in case of such an emergency.

VISITORS

Parents/Guardians are always welcome to visit school when COVID restrictions are not in place. We ask that you contact the classroom teacher two days in advance. For the security of students, all visitors are required to sign in and out at the office. A visitor's badge will be given to you to wear while at our school.

VOLUNTEERS

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 each school year before serving students affiliated with Northfield Public Schools. This is subject to change depending on the public health situation.

WELLNESS

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

Statewide Assessments: Parent/Guardian Participation Guide and Refusal Information

Your student's participation in statewide assessments is important as it allows your school and district to ensure all students have access to a high-quality education. In the past, students with disabilities and English learners were often excluded from statewide assessments. By requiring that all students take statewide assessments, schools and teachers have more information to see how all students are doing. This helps schools to continuously improve the education they provide and to identify groups, grades, or subjects that may need additional support.

Assessments Connect to Standards

Statewide assessments are based on the [Minnesota Academic Standards](#) or the [WIDA English Language Development Standards](#). These standards define the knowledge and skills students should be learning in K–12 public and charter schools. Minnesota prioritizes high-quality education, and statewide assessments gives educators and leaders an opportunity to evaluate student and school success.

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

MCA and MTAS are the annual assessments in reading, mathematics and science that measure a snapshot of student learning of the Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards.

ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for English Learners

The ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS are the annual assessments for English learners that provide information about their progress in learning academic English based on the WIDA English Language Development Standards.

Statewide Assessments Help Families and Students

Participating in statewide assessments helps families see a snapshot of their student's learning so they can advocate for their success in school. High school students can use MCA results:

- For course placement at a Minnesota State college or university. If students receive a college-ready score, they may not need to take a remedial, noncredit course for that subject.
- For Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) and College in the Schools programs.

English learners who take the ACCESS or Alternate ACCESS and meet certain requirements have the opportunity to exit from English learner programs.

Taking Statewide Assessments Helps Your Student's School

Statewide assessments provide information to your school and district about how all students are engaging with the content they learn in school. This information helps:

- Educators evaluate their instructional materials.
- Schools and districts identify inequities between groups, explore root causes and implement supports.
- School and district leaders make decisions about how to use money and resources to support all students.

Student Participation in Statewide Assessments

Student participation in state and locally required assessments is a parent/guardian choice. If you choose to have your student not participate in a statewide assessment, please provide a reason for your decision on the form. Contact your student's school to learn more about locally required assessments.

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Consequences of Not Participating in Statewide Assessments

- The student will not receive an individual score. For ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS, the student would not have the opportunity to exit their English learner program.
- School and district assessment results will be incomplete, making it more difficult to have an accurate picture of student learning.
- Since all eligible students are included in some calculations even when they do not participate, school and district accountability results are impacted. This may affect the school's ability to be identified for support or recognized for success.

Check with your local school or district to see if there are any other consequences for not participating.



(education.mn.gov >
Students and Families >
Programs and Initiatives >
Statewide Testing)

Additional Information

- On average, students spend less than 1 percent of instructional time taking statewide assessments each year.
- Minnesota statutes limit the total amount of time students can spend taking other district- or school-wide assessments to 11 hours or less each school year, depending on the grade.
- School districts and charter schools are required to publish an assessment calendar on their website by the beginning of each school year. Refer to your district or charter school's website for more information on assessments.

(Note: This form is only applicable for the 20__ to 20__ school year.)



Statewide Assessment: Parent/Guardian Decision Not to Participate

By completing this form, you are acknowledging that your student will not participate in statewide assessments and will not receive individual assessment results. This form must be returned to your student's school before the applicable test administration.

Student Information

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Current Grade in School: _____

School: _____ District: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

Contact your school or district for more information on how to opt out of local assessments.

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