



Northfield Secondary Portage Online

Student Handbook 2022-2023

Northfield Secondary Portage Online School (6-12)
201 Orchard Street South
Northfield, MN 55057
507-645-1201 (Main Office)
612-695-2139 (Attendance line, call or text)

Director: Daryl Kehler dkehler@northfieldschools.org

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

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

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 SECONDARY PORTAGE

This handbook has been designed to be helpful in answering questions about the Northfield Secondary Portage program, 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

The Portage program will prepare every student for lifelong success through customized access to an education designed to meet the unique interests and abilities of every enrolled student resulting in measurable student engagement and academic growth.

2022-2023 NORTHFIELD SECONDARY PORTAGE STAFF/ADMINISTRATION

Visit the [Northfield Staff Directory](http://northfieldschools.org) at northfieldschools.org to contact staff.

Northfield Public Schools 2022-2023 School Calendar

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

July 2022							July	January 2023							January		
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa		Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa			
						1 2		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	2	New Year's Day Holiday	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	4	Independence Day	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	3	School Resumes
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	16	No School, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Day	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	End of Second Quarter	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		29	30	31					23-24	No School, Teacher Preparation Day	
31															25	Beginning of Third Quarter	
August 2022							August	February 2023							February		
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	22	New SpEd Teacher Inservice	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	23-24	All New Teacher Inservice	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	25-30	Staff Development Days	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	20	No School; Staff Development Day
28	29	30	31				31	Family Conferences	26	27	28						President's Day
September 2022							September	March 2023							March		
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa		Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa			
				1	2	3	1	Family Conferences				1	2	3	4		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	Teacher Preparation Day	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	5	Labor Day	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	6	First Day of School	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	24	End of Third Quarter
25	26	27	28	29	30			Beginning of First Quarter	26	27	28	29	30	31	27-31	No School; Spring Break	
October 2022							October	April 2023							April		
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	3-4	No School; Teacher Preparation Day	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	5	School Resumes; Beginning of Fourth Quarter	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20-21	No School, Fall Break (MEA)	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							November	May 2023							May		
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa		Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa			
		1	2	3	4	5	3	End of First Quarter		1	2	3	4	5	6		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	No School; Teacher Preparation Day	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	7	No School; Teacher Preparation Day	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	8	Beginning of Second Quarter	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
27	28	29	30				23-25	No School, Thanksgiving Break	28	29	30	31				29	No School, Memorial Day
December 2022							December	June 2023							June		
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa		Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa			
				1	2	3						1	2	3			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9	Last Day of School (2-hr early dismissal) End of fourth quarter	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	11	Graduation	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	Dec 23-Jan 2	No School; Winter Break	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
- 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

2022-2023 SECONDARY DAILY SCHEDULE

Learning Coaches and Content Tutors are available to schedule synchronous meetings anytime a student is in need of support. If a student remains on track, they are considered Level 1. If they start to fall behind, then the student is elevated to Level 2 and referred to the MTSS team. Then, the table below will apply depending on the level of support needed. The level of required synchronous meetings increases as a student demonstrates the need for increasing support to be successful in the Portage program. Content Tutor instruction is aligned to the specific needs of the class and/or individual students as identified in the courseware platform dashboard.

MTSS Tier table	Middle School	High School
Tier 1 - making good progress	Zoom meeting required once per week	Zoom meeting as needed
Tier 2 - experiencing challenge in one or more courses	Zoom meeting required 2-3 times per week	Zoom meeting required 1-2 times per week
Tier 3 - experiencing challenge in most or all courses	Zoom meeting required 3-5 times per week	Zoom meeting required 2-3 times per week

Secondary SPED Student Schedule

The special education case manager works collaboratively with the family and general education teacher to develop a personalized program and schedule to meet the needs of each Portage student with direct and/or indirect IEP service minutes. Depending on the individual IEP goals, a student may receive synchronous one-on-one teaching from the special education teacher, via small group instruction, or from an educational assistant with supervision from the special education teacher.

IMPORTANT SCHOOL NUMBERS

24-HOUR ATTENDANCE LINE	612-695-2139
Main Office to contact principal or teachers	507-645-1201
Counselor for grades, transcripts	507-645-1201
High School Activities Office	507-663-0632

ATTENDANCE AND ENGAGEMENT INFORMATION

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

school determines whether a student's absence is excused or unexcused.

Attendance for Portage students consists of making regular and continuous progress in their coursework, following the pacing prescribed in the learning platform or communicating with staff. Students are expected to regularly engage with their learning coach which includes responding to emails within 24 hours, participating in check-in meetings as designated by the learning coach and updating the district if there is any change in contact information.

For a student to remain in good standing for attendance, they need to attend 5 of the 7 days each week. The days are flexible, however staff will be available Monday through Friday during the regularly scheduled school hours so please keep this in mind if assistance is needed. **Attendance counts as communication with a staff member or logging into Edgenuity.** The Portage Administrative Assistant will communicate the attendance with families a minimum of once per week if attendance criteria is not being met.

Absence Procedure

If a student must be absent for the day, the student's parent/guardian must call or text the Attendance Line at 612-695-2139 the day of the absence or earlier. The attendance line is available 24 hours a day for your convenience, however the office will respond within the school day hours. Absences must be excused within 24 hours or the absence may remain unexcused.

If the school and parent/guardian do not connect on the day of the absence, written communication from a parent/guardian will be accepted the next morning. Parents/guardians are encouraged to apply for an online access number to view their student's attendance record. See district website for more information on [Family Access](#).

Excessive Absences

Attendance for online learning programs is different from the traditional setting in that a student is expected to engage in the learning process which counts as attendance instead of being physically in a building. Below are the Participation Guidelines expected of students. If a student becomes disengaged from the learning, they will be referred to the Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) team and their schedule will become more prescriptive to ensure proper support is provided for the student to be successful and making progress.

Participation Guidelines for Secondary Portage Students

- Check messages and emails daily - be active receivers of communication
- Five days per week log in to learning platform via the student portal
- Commit to the course requirements for meetings and expectations when enrolling in a Portage course
- Students who are not meeting participation guidelines will be referred to the MTSS team for additional support
- Frequency of family/student communication is determined by the need of individual students
 - Level 1 - students on track: as needed
 - Level 2 - students not on track: minimum weekly check in. These students may also use tutors and require daily communication. **Refer to the MTSS tier table.**

ATHLETIC AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

All students are encouraged to participate in the athletic/academic programs and are eligible to participate while enrolled in the Northfield District. Please note that MN High School League eligibility requirements do

apply. Please access the Activities Office Website [here](#) for more information.

Attendance Policy - Student Activities

In order to practice, rehearse, compete or perform in any NHS co-curricular activity, the student must log in to Portage that day. All coaches/advisors are to explain this rule to the participants at the beginning of their season. Coaches/advisors are expected to enforce this policy. If absences are not cleared by a parent/guardian, the absence will be considered unexcused.

Academic Policy

Students in Portage must satisfy two criteria to be eligible for participation in athletic and fine arts programs. Information will be provided through the Edgenuity platform.

1. Students must be passing each class as calculated by the actual grade.
2. Academic progress will be determined by the calculation of completion progress for each class. For example, if a student is 40% of the way through the course but should be 50% of the way through the course, his/her Progress Ratio is 40/50, or 0.8. The student's Actual Grade is the product of the Overall Grade and the Progress Ratio. This would be the Overall Grade times 0.8.
3. Exceptions to the above will be made in the following circumstances:
 - a. Students on 504's or in special education may have different standards written into their plan upon the approval of the student's counselor, special education teacher, the Activities Director and Principal. Eligibility standards for these students may be waived if that student has made every possible effort to meet the standards.
 - b. A plan different from the above could be written to meet the individual needs of a particular student. This would only occur if it could be shown that the above plan is not working or has not worked, or in some other way is inappropriate. Such a plan must be approved by the parents, Activities Director and Principal.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

COURSE STRUCTURE

Courses through Edgenuity are typically one semester (.5 credit) in length, although students can take year long or quarter length classes if needed. Each semester class is designed to take 90 hours to complete, this means students are expected to spend 3-4 hours per week per course actively engaged to stay on pace. Students' pace is individualized, but Portage staff will refer to the student's pacing frequently. This means the pace of a typical High School student, which amounts to completing the graduation requirements in four years. Once a student completes a course, they will be given the grade that is entered on the student's transcript and is used to determine cumulative grade point average and class rank.

MINIMUM CLASS LOAD

The Portage caseload is structured similarly to the traditional high school schedule. To be considered a full time student, a student will be scheduled for a minimum of 5 courses in Edgenuity per semester with the expectation to have them complete by the end of each semester. Students may determine how they want to focus on the courses, for example they could work on 2-3 courses at a time or they could work on all at the same time.

PACING

The online format offers an individualized pace, however it is important to stay on the usual pace so the student doesn't get behind in credits. In order to do this, the Portage Online program has quarterly progress reports instead of a traditional report card. This will include the credits needed each year, as well as where the student is currently in terms of credit progression. Because the courses can be completed earlier or later (depending on the student's pace), this method will avoid Fs or incompletes for traditional grading terms.

Normal High School pace	Credit per year	Credit at the end of each year	Portage pace
9th grade	6	6	3 semester courses completed each quarter
10th grade	6	12	3 semester courses completed each quarter
11th grade	6	18	3 semester courses completed each quarter
12th grade	5	23	3 semester courses completed each quarter
Total	23		

IN-PERSON LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Portage Middle School students may enroll in no more than two in-person classes at Northfield Middle School each year. The following classes are available to any Portage student in the 2022-2023 school year:

- Amistades (for students formally enrolled in elementary Companeros)
- Band, Choir, Orchestra

Additionally, any Portage student may enroll in the following classes only if space is available:

- CTE (Career Technical Education)
- FACS
- Middle School Art

Portage High School students may enroll in no more than two in-person classes at Northfield High School each year.

- AP Courses
- Band, Choir, Orchestra
- Woods, Metals, Autos, Robotics, Engineering
- Art department

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students earn a Northfield High School diploma and therefore must earn **23 credits** as follows:

- English – 4.0 credits
- Social Studies – 3.5 credits
- Math – 3.0 credits

- Science – 3.0 credits
- Physical Education – 1.0 credit
- Arts – 1.0 credit
- Health – 0.5 credit
- Electives – 7.0 credits

GRADE POINTS

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

MID-YEAR GRADUATES

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

PASS-FAIL

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

PORTAGE COURSE OFFERINGS

The following courses are offered through Portage Online using the Edgenuity platform.

English 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Math 6 & 7, Algebra 8, Geometry, Algebra II, PreCalculus, Statistics

Science 6, 7, 8, Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics

Social Studies 6, 7, 8, US History, Civics, World History, Geography, Economics

Spanish 1, 2, 3

Intro to Art, Art History, Fundamentals of Digital Media, Physical Education, Health, Physical Fitness, Foundations of Personal Wellness, Lifetime Fitness

Electives: Teaching and Training Careers, Online Learning and Digital Citizenship, Career Management, Career Explorations, Small Business Entrepreneurship, Personal Finance, Financial Math, Keyboarding and Applications, Food Safety and Sanitation, Intro to Careers in Health Sciences, Psychology, Family and Community Services, Intro to Human Growth and Development, Engineering and Design, Science and Math in the Real World

POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS (PSEO)

Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) is a program that allows 10th-, 11th- and 12th-grade students to earn both high school and college credit while still in high school, through enrollment in and successful completion of college nonsectarian courses at eligible participating postsecondary institutions. Most PSEO courses are offered on the campus of the postsecondary institution; some courses are offered online. Each participating college or university sets its own admissions requirements for enrollment into the PSEO courses. Eleventh and 12th-grade students may take PSEO courses on a full- or part-time basis; 10th graders are eligible to enroll in PSEO on a more limited basis. Students must meet the PSEO residency and eligibility

requirements and abide by participation limits specified in Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.09. If a school district determines a pupil is not on track to graduate, she/he may continue to participate in PSEO on a term by term basis. For current information about the PSEO program, [visit the Minnesota Department of Education's Postsecondary Enrollment Options \(PSEO\) webpage](#). Contact Portage Director Daryl Kehler for PSEO enrollment and/or options for combining Portage courses with PSEO.

REPORT CARDS

Due to the individualized nature of Portage, the program will use progress reports every quarter instead of report cards. This will show families and students the typical pace and where the student is at in relation to that.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Students must communicate with the school counselor or principal to initiate any change in their class schedule. **Please Note: A Portage student is only allowed to return to in-person at the High School or Middle School at the semester break.** If a student qualifies for the grades 9-12 ALC and would like to enter at the start of one of their grading periods that is also allowed.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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

GENERAL STUDENT INFORMATION SCHOOL POLICIES, PROCEDURES, SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students are expected to:

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

All parents/guardians are expected to:

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

All teachers are expected to:

- Review the Student Citizenship Handbook's Scholastic Dishonesty section with students as often during the school year as appropriate.
- Teach the skills necessary to prevent a violation of academic integrity.
- Enforce the policy in all instances of academic dishonesty following the procedures below.

All administrators are expected to:

- Support the spirit of academic integrity with students, parents, and staff members in conferences and in classrooms.
- Follow the student disciplinary process as outlined in the Student Citizenship Handbook. Incidents of academic dishonesty will be cumulative for four years. The procedures whereby a student will be held accountable for infractions of scholastic dishonesty are as follows:

Incident 1:

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

Additional Incidents:

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

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

To review academic eligibility for student activities, refer to the [Co-Curricular Handbook](#).

ACCESSIBILITY

The online platform Edgenuity has several accessibility features which staff can share with families upon request.

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.

CHEMICAL HEALTH

Students are responsible for cooperating with school authorities to keep our schools free of drugs, tobacco, nicotine, any electronic nicotine delivery system, liquid nicotine and non-nicotine vaping products, and alcohol. A Chemical Health Counselor is available to students. Call the main office for more information.

CHILD NUTRITION SERVICES (for students on campus during lunch)

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.

CLOSING OF SCHOOL (Applies to students attending a school building)

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

DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES

See district [Student Citizenship Handbook](#).

e-LEARNING DAYS (Applies to students attending a school building)

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.

EIGHTEEN-YEAR OLDS

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

1. All rights to make educational decisions will transfer to the student, including the right to make decisions about special education, unless a conservator or legal guardian has been appointed for the student.
2. Subject to all applicable laws, the school district may continue to provide educational data to the parent(s) of an adult student, provided that the parent(s) continue to claim the adult student as a dependent for tax purposes. If an adult student is claimed as a dependent but the student does not want the district to share

educational data with his or her parents, the student may submit a written request for the district to end all communications with the parent(s). The district will evaluate such requests on a case-by-case basis to determine the appropriate course of action.

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

FAMILY ACCESS/GRADES ONLINE

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

Parents 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.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

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

The administration will make judgments based on the following criteria:

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

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

GRADUATION/COMMENCEMENT

Students who have or will have successfully completed graduation requirements by the last day of the school year may participate in the Portage Online commencement program and receive a Northfield High School diploma. Students who have never attended the Northfield High School, are not eligible to walk with the High School graduation ceremony. Students need to meet the additional requirements in order to walk with the Northfield High School. 1) The student has attended at least one year at the Northfield High School. **OR** 2) The student has attended any part of their senior year at the Northfield High School.

Students who are one-half credit short of either the required courses or of the total credits required may participate in commencement but will not receive a diploma until all graduation requirements are completed. Any student who is more than 1/2 credit short of either requirement is not allowed to participate in commencement.

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

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](#).

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The Director may involve the Northfield Police Department, a school resource officer, or other appropriate law enforcement agency when a public law has been violated at school. The police may be alerted to cyberbullying or harassment. Prosecution by criminal complaint does not preclude disciplinary action by the school district. In addition, the student's parent/guardian may be held liable as permitted by statute.

LOCKER ROOMS (Applies to students attending a school building)

For those students that attend part of the day at the High School; students MUST have a pass from a teacher/school personnel to enter school locker rooms during the school day.

LUNCH (Applies to students attending a school building)

Portage students attending on-site classes may purchase meals when in school during meal times. All students enrolled in the school district for on-site learning can receive free breakfast and lunch every day.

Milk is included in the price of a breakfast and lunch meal. Students who take milk only at meals will be charged \$0.50 per carton.

Our schools receive funding to support students based on the number of families that qualify for free or reduced meals. You may also receive reduced rates for fee based activities.

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

See Appendix

PARKING LOT/VEHICLE POLICY (Applies to students attending a school building)

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

Permitted Vehicles

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

Non-Permitted Vehicles

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

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

PERSONAL SEARCHES (Applies to students attending a school building)

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

Please remember that if a student is using a school issued device, the Northfield staff may search the device at any time.

PROM

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICIES

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

SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT

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

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

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

STUDENT DRESS POLICY

Although most activities will be done virtually, if students participate in a Zoom meeting or attend a school building for class or an activity, the following applies. 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.

VISITOR POLICY

We welcome visitors in our virtual environment, however please obtain prior approval from the class teacher and/or administration before having a visitor join your Zoom or other virtual activity.

VOLUNTEER / EMPLOYEE CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY

Parents 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 and community members who volunteer on a regular basis must complete a background check before serving students affiliated with Northfield Public Schools. This is subject to change depending on the public health situation.

WEBSITE

Northfield Portage online website can be accessed [here](#).

WELLNESS

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

USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS BY STUDENTS

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

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.

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:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> MCA/MTAS Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> MCA/MTAS Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MCA/MTAS Mathematics | <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS |

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

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