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**NORTHWEST
CHRISTIAN**
SCHOOLS, INC.

Secondary Student Handbook

2026 - 2027



STUDENT HANDBOOK

Grade 7 - Grade 12

(8/26 rev.)

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WELCOME TO THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR!

Dear Families,

Thank you for being a part of Northwest Christian Schools! We are all a part of something that is much more than just a school. We are members of a community with a rich and long-standing legacy of excellence in Christian education and student preparation. This community is comprised of students, families, faculty, and staff who share common principles and beliefs that focus on our Christian faith, values, and service to one another and the community around us.

Every day we partner together to provide a gospel-centered education for every student that not only prepares minds through instruction and activities but also creates opportunity for God and His Spirit to transform hearts to be sensitive to His leading and calling.

I realize a private education represents a significant investment and sacrifice on behalf of our families. In turn, we consider it a privilege to partner together, as we raise up our students in a loving and supportive environment, while instilling knowledge, wisdom, honor, leadership, creativity, and a reliance upon God within our students to significantly impact the world around them.

I look forward to this year ahead as we collaboratively journey together to fulfill the purposes of the Lord for each of our students and our community as a whole. May the Lord richly bless you, your family, and all you set your hand to.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Gerstenberger', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Roger Gerstenberger
Head Of Schools



Mission

Provide a gospel centered education every day for every student.

Values

- Biblical Thinking
- Relational Focus
- Vibrant Instruction

Educational Philosophies

Integrating Biblical Truth

We teach the Word of God in all curriculum and actively encourage students to pursue a relationship with Jesus. Bible classes are interactive and probing. Weekly chapels focus on practical application and joyful worship.

Encouraging Critical Thinking

Reading comprehension is the cornerstone of critical thinking. Students are taught to critically evaluate and articulate effectively in both written word and speech.

Honoring Our Nation's History

Our Nation's founding documents reflect Judeo-Christian values and honor our Creator. The freedoms we hold dear were hard fought and won. Although imperfect, we love and pray for our country and its leaders.

Providing Accountability

Personal responsibility is modeled and expected; grace and truth walk hand-in-hand. Thoughtful guidelines and involved teachers, staff, and coaches encourage individual expression that is modest and actions that are honoring to others.

Mentoring the Heart

Our halls are filled with joy and laughter. Students develop deep relationships with teachers and coaches who daily invest in their lives.

Prayer happens. Hearts are transformed. God is glorified.

AFFILIATION

Northwest Christian Schools is accredited through Christian Schools International (CSI), ensuring we are maintaining the highest educational standards and adhering to our Christian mission and vision. NWCS is a state-approved school with the majority of the teaching staff Washington State certified in compliance with the Washington Superintendent of Public Instruction.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES

Non-Discrimination Policy

Northwest Christian Schools admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship, and loan programs and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Application Process

- A student application can be accessed on our website at nwcs.org under the "Apply" button. The application, including references, student questionnaire, and application fee must be submitted online.
- The administration will review the application and assess the student's past academic and behavioral performance.
- Once the application is accepted, an appointment is arranged for the student and parents to interview with the appropriate administrator and/or staff representative. If a student is accepted, parents will need to complete the online enrollment process, which is separate from the application process.

Acceptance is Based on the Following Standards

- One parent/guardian must profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- The family should regularly attend a local Bible-believing church that embraces NWCS' Statement of Faith.
- The family must agree to the school's Statement of Faith and NWCS Board approved addendums.
- The family must support NWCS' stance on the Biblical definition of marriage as instituted by God: the union between one man and one woman.
- The student must desire to attend Northwest Christian Schools.
- The student must agree to demonstrate a positive work ethic in his/her studies and follow the policies of NWCS as outlined in the student handbook.
- The student must agree, with a teachable spirit, to pursue a lifestyle that honors the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The student must demonstrate integrity with his/her peers and teachers.

- The student must clearly understand that to remain as a student at Northwest Christian Schools, they must not demonstrate an attitude of antagonism toward the school's mission or be a negative influence on other students with regard to the school's mission.
- The student must understand that their continuous enrollment on an annual basis is subject to the student's satisfactory academic status along with proper compliance with the rules and regulations of Northwest Christian Schools.
- Students may be required to take math and English placement tests prior to admission.
- The student must meet a minimum academic requirement of a 2.0 GPA with no failing grades. If transferring mid-year, the GPA must be a minimum 2.5 with no failing grades.
- The student must academically and behaviorally be in good standing at their prior school.

Interviews

Each interview will be evaluated by the appropriate administrator and/or staff representative.

Vacancies

In addition to the above stated criteria, the actual enrollment of the student will depend on an existing vacancy. The vacancy may not be known until after the existing school families have had time to re-enroll their student for the forthcoming school year. The applicant can usually be told, however, if they have been accepted and will be enrolled when an opening occurs.

Enrollment (Contractual Arrangements)

Parents will have five (5) days after notification of acceptance to make contractual arrangements with the Business Office. If this does not occur, then the opening is extended to another student.

Immunization

For the safety of all students in our community and in accordance with the Washington State Department of Health (**WAC 246-105- 040**), all schools are required to have accurate student vaccination information on file. Students will not be allowed to attend Northwest Christian Schools until a current Washington State Department of Health **Certificate of Immunization Status** form is on file. Washington State Immunization laws are updated yearly, and vaccines may be added to the required list on an annual basis. Please consult with your family health care provider to ensure the student's vaccinations are up to date.

If parents have chosen for medical, personal, philosophical, or religious reasons not to have their student receive one or more of the required immunizations, the current **Certificate of Exemption** form **must be completed and signed** by a parent or guardian **and** the student's healthcare provider before they can attend school.

If an outbreak of any student communicable disease occurs for which a student is not immunized, the student will not be allowed to attend school or any extracurricular activities until the outbreak is over.

All immunization records must be submitted to the Administrative Office at the Upper Campus. In cases of noncompliance, parents will be notified by letter and given 30 days to submit the forms above.

Alternately, for students who have been vaccinated in the state of Washington, your student's Certificate of Immunization Form may be downloaded from **<https://app.myirmobile.com/auth/register>**. Download your student's current CIS form, sign, and date it at the top in both places and return to the school.

It is recommended you keep a copy of all immunization information for your records.

International Students

NWCS provides a cross-culture program in the Secondary School to allow international students the opportunity to obtain credits for their studies. NWCS has partnered with International Students Northwest (ISNW) to provide enrollment assistance and homestay care.

If the international student is applying to enter as a junior (11th grade) and has not attended a school in the United States for a full year, they must enter as a sophomore (10th grade student). If the student has gone to high school in the United States and wants to enter as a junior (11th grade), they must have 1 year of education in the United States and be able to meet all NWCS graduation requirements. Students may have the opportunity to challenge courses of study for credit to advance the year of graduation, depending upon the graduation requirements met. Tuition must be paid in full prior to attendance of the school year attending. International students will abide by the policies as stated in the NWCS Secondary Student Handbook.

Home School Students

The NWCS Home School program operates under the umbrella of NWCS according to the WA State Homeschool-Private School Extension option. Home School students must have a record of previous subjects taken, acceptable standardized test scores or portfolio of work. The registrar will evaluate the student's transcript prior to enrollment to determine what credit can be given for previous academic work. In addition, they will be required to meet the same expectations as traditional students. Grading, attendance, tardiness, dress, and behavior is the same for all students.

NWCS Home School students desiring to enroll in traditional classes, including Advanced Placement (AP) courses, will meet the same criteria as traditional NWCS students and will be charged additional tuition each semester per course in addition to the Home School program tuition and fees. NWCS Home School students who take only one course at NWCS Homeschool will be charged slightly reduced tuition in addition to the Home School program enrollment fees.

PARENT ORIENTATION

Parents should plan to attend **Back to School Events** at the beginning of each year. After a brief general session, parents will walk through an abbreviated schedule to visit all their students' teachers. Parents will also learn about ways to stay connected to NWCS through volunteer opportunities. Various volunteer opportunities are available for sign-ups during Back to School Night and through the front office during the year.

Volunteers

We strongly encourage **each family to commit to serving 10 hours** (1 hour each month) per year to serve our teachers and students and build a stronger community. Please see the Front Office for ways you can help. Volunteers must sign and agree to support the Statement of Faith form indicating they support the teachings of NWCS' mission, agree to support NWCS, and have a background check completed. Volunteers must observe appropriate dress that is in line with NWCS dress code standards which promotes modest, business-casual attire and is not a distraction to the schoolwork environment.

Some of the opportunities involve the following:

- Crusader Club
- Major Events (ie. NWCS Annual Benefit Auction, IMPACT, etc.)
- Minor Events (ie. Academic Awards Night, Career Day, Senior Events)

Confidentiality

While working at the school, school staff and volunteers may become aware of sensitive information. As a state-certified educational system, all school personnel and volunteers are accountable to state and institutional confidentiality laws.

SCHOOL DAY EXPECTATIONS

School Hours

School hours are from 8:20am until 2:50pm each day. Students are not allowed in the hallways prior to 8:05am. If a student must be on campus prior to 8:05am, they are expected to remain in the front foyer. After school, students who are not involved in school-sponsored activities should be off the school grounds by 3:30pm or constructively engaged under appropriate supervision. High school and junior high students waiting for rides may wait quietly in the front foyer. The gymnasium is not open after school unless staff supervision is present. Younger siblings of High School students are not to be left without parent supervision at the Upper Campus.

Early Release Days

School will start at 8:20am and dismiss at 12:00pm. Approved Early Release students are to leave the grounds at the time of their release or report to study hall. The registrar will instruct students where to report. Wandering around the building or grounds during class time is strictly prohibited.

After Hours

Students will not be allowed to enter any of the buildings without proper supervision and approval. Parents are encouraged to provide for timely transportation after school and for school-sponsored events.

Lunch

Hot Lunch is offered Monday – Friday (price varies) for grades 7-12. A menu is available at the front office or on RenWeb under Student > Lunch. **Cold bar** offerings include microwaveable dishes.

Students are to eat lunch in the dining hall or courtyard and then proceed to designated activity areas after supervisors have arrived. Students are not allowed to roam the upper halls, parking lots, or any unsupervised areas. Students may be permitted to eat in classrooms during lunch only under the supervision of a teacher. No food is allowed in the science laboratories, chapel, or activity center.

Dining Hall Expectations

- Be courteous to one another. Avoid loud talking and rough housing.
- After finishing lunch, leave the table in clean condition. Carefully dispose of your garbage (no three-point shots). Food throwing is strictly prohibited.
- Students should remain seated in the dining room or on the picnic tables outside.

CHAPELS

NWCS is privileged to worship God and receive Christian teaching from invited guests. This is a time of Christian fellowship, worship, music, sharing, prayer, and teaching designed for spiritual growth. The current school biblical theme and guidelines are given to guest speakers. Chapel days are on Wednesdays for all secondary school students (separate chapel times for junior high and high school). All students are required to wear professional dress on Wednesdays (See Professional Dress Guidelines, page 12).

Chapel Behavior Expectations

- Chapel attendance is required. All students are expected to be in chapel.
- Good behavior is expected. This includes being quiet and attentive during chapel and arriving on time.
- Students are to bring only Bibles and note-taking materials. Backpacks are to be left in students' lockers or the students' next classrooms.
- Cell phones and homework should be left with backpacks.
- Students are to avoid leaving chapel to use the restroom, etc. There is time before chapel to take care of necessities.
- Chairs should be left where they are placed. Students are not to use them for footrests unless they have experienced an injury.
- No food or drink is allowed in chapel except for water bottles.

Worship Team

The worship team will help lead worship at the junior high and high school chapels. Team members must demonstrate musical and leadership ability to lead worship and must maintain academic eligibility. Applications for worship team are available each spring.

ATTENDANCE

Student Absences (per semester)

Because consistent classroom engagement is critical to student success, students should not exceed 12 absences in any one period over the course of a semester. Excessive absences, whether unexcused or excused, adversely affect the student's ability to be successful in the classroom. Please note the following guidelines:

- Administration will communicate to the student and parent on the 6th absence of the semester in any specific period so the student and parent can adjust attendance habits.
- On the 10th absence of the semester, administration will connect with the student and parents to create an action plan that includes the option for after-school absence recovery – structured time designed to help students reclaim lost instructional hours, recover missed learning, and reduce the number of absences for a specific class.
- Students who finish the semester with 13 or more absences in a course

may lose credit for that class.

- Appeals may be directed to the principal for consideration.
- At semester's end, the number of absences will revert to zero.

Below is a list of identified School Excused Absences:

- Illness or health condition
- Family emergency
- Medical appointments
- Religious observance
- School approved activity

Pre-Arranged Absence

Please fill out and return a Pre-Arranged Absence Notice (available at the Front Office) **one week** in advance of a pre-arranged absence. This allows the teacher time to work out assignments with students prior to leaving. Not providing notification for pre-arranged absences may result in late grades or even no credit received for the days missed.

- Students who have a signed, pre-arranged absence notice are granted a day for every day absent, up to 7 calendar days, to make up missing work.
- Arrangements for make-up tests, labs, or presentations, should be established between student and teacher prior to absence.
- Athletes, and any other students involved in school-sponsored extra-curricular activities, are expected to notify teachers and turn in assignments when they know they will be missing class.
- Families are encouraged to consult the all-school calendar available on nwcs.org prior to making vacation arrangements to avoid missing finals weeks or other important calendar dates.

Parental Communication of Non-Planned Student Absence

In the event of any student absence, parents are requested to notify the front office receptionist on the day of the absence.

- An unexcused tardy or absence must be excused **within 48 hours** or it will remain unexcused.

Tardy Policy

Students should make every effort to be seated in class before the tardy bell rings. Those arriving late to class are a disruption to the learning environment. If a student misses more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of a class period, he/she will be considered absent. 3 excused or unexcused tardies will equal 1 absence for that period.

Consequences for Repeated Tardiness

- When three (3) unexcused tardies are incurred in a semester, a lunch detention is assigned, which will be arranged within five (5) school days. An email detailing the detention will be sent to parents.
- Following serving lunch detention, if another three [3] tardies are incurred then a 45-minute after school detention will be assigned. This

will be arranged within five [5] days of the notification. Parents will be notified of the assignment of detention.

- The student's tardy record will be cleared at the conclusion of each semester if detentions are satisfactorily completed.

Tuancy

Tuancy is defined as an **intentional unexcused absence** from class. The consequences of truancy are as follows:

- First offense during a semester will result in a meeting with administration, a possible detention, and an email to parents.
- If detention is assigned, it must be served within ten (10) school days.
- If the scheduled detention is not completed, parents will accompany the student for a meeting with administration before the student is admitted to class.
- If a student is truant, they should expect to receive no credit for any assignments, tests, etc., missed that day.
- If a student misses more than ½ of a class period and does not have an excuse, it will be considered an unexcused absence resulting in a truancy.
- Chronic trancies will result in a conference with the parents and the principal. If a student continues to choose to be truant without any excuse, suspension and/or expulsion may be considered.

DRESS GUIDELINES

The purpose of a dress code at Northwest Christian Secondary School is to ensure an effective educational environment focused mainly on learning, to honor Christ and promote modesty, respect for self, others, school, and community. The dress code is in effect on all school days.

General Guidelines

- Clothing must be modest and not disruptive to the school environment.
- Nothing students wear may convey an anti-Christian or inappropriate message or suggest sex, drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, profanity, violence, racism, or gangs.
- Students can wear hats and beanie caps to school with respect to individual teacher preferences in the classroom. If a teacher asks a student to remove their hat while in class, the student will do so.

Accessories

- Earrings are allowed.
- High School boys are allowed one single piercing in each ear.
- One small stud or hoop in the nose is allowed.
- Ear gauges and jewelry in lips or brows is not allowed.
- Visible or excessive tattoos that negatively reflect on the values and beliefs of NWCS, or distract from the learning environment, are not allowed.

- *Junior High Dress Code policy is the same with exception of earrings and nose studs for boys, which will not be allowed until high school.

The administration reserves the right to determine if piercings or other jewelry are excessive or in conflict with the spirit of the Northwest Christian Dress Code. Students may be asked to remove such jewelry and not to wear it again or cover visible tattoos.

Hair

- Hair, including facial hair for boys, is expected to be neat and clean.
- Extreme or distracting hairstyles or colors are not allowed.
- Hairstyles must allow eyes to be visible at all times.

If a student's hairstyle or facial hair is deemed unacceptable, they will have until the following Monday to remedy the situation unless it is distracting and/or deemed an intentional violation of school policy.

Approved Shirts and Tops

- Shirts must be appropriate for school and modest with no holes or rips.
- Shirts must cover stomach, chest, abdominal sides and back while standing and sitting. **NO** crop tops or half-shirts are allowed.
- For girls: shirts must have a minimum shoulder strap of 3 inches wide. No spaghetti straps, halter tops, off the shoulder shirts, or tube tops are allowed. Shirts must fully cover undergarments and cleavage.
- For boys: no tank tops or muscle shirts.
- Hooded sweatshirts are allowed on days that are not professional dress days, but the hood must not be worn inside the building at any time.

Pants, Shorts and Jumpers

- Pants and shorts must be of appropriate fit (not excessively tight or loose) and free of holes and rips at the fingertip and above.
- Shorts must be fingertip length.
- Rompers and jumpers must be at fingertip length and not reveal any cleavage or midsection.
- Excessively casual clothing is not allowed, including but not limited to, pajama pants, snuggies and slippers, unless on a specified school spirit day.

Skirts and Dresses

- Skirts and dresses should be fingertip length and must be of appropriate fit (not excessively tight or loose).
- Dress slits must be no higher than the bottom of the fingertips.
- Necklines of dresses cannot reveal cleavage and must have a minimum shoulder strap of 3 inches wide.
- Stomachs, backs and abdominal sides must be covered.

Shoes

- Shoes must be worn at all times.
- Slippers may not be worn.

Professional Dress Days (typically on Chapel days)

There will be days during the school year designated as all school professional dress days. These are school days where a more formal appearance is expected of students out of respect for the special purpose of the day. The following guidelines apply for the **entire day**:

- Appropriate shoes and socks are required. No flip flops or slippers are allowed.
- A neat and clean button or zip-up jacket/coat is acceptable to wear over the top of professional dress.
- Dress shorts of appropriate length are allowed.
- T-shirts are not allowed on Professional Dress days.
- No head coverings are allowed.
- No ripped or distressed pants are allowed.
- For boys: minimum requirements are casual dress pants (khaki, etc.), non-blue denim pants, or dress shorts and collared shirts or sweaters.
- For girls: skirts or dresses no shorter than fingertip length, dress pants or non-blue denim pants with appropriate tops can be worn.
- *Students will be asked to remove sweatshirts or coats during chapel.*

Violation of the Dress Code Will Result in the Following

In response to dress code violations, NWC will have some apparel options available for students to borrow, or a family member can bring a change of clothes for the student. If student fails to return any borrowed items at the end of the day, a \$10 fee will be charged to the family facts account or billed according to their tuition plan. If a student is unable or unwilling to make appropriate changes, the student may be sent home.

- Each violation of the dress code policy beyond the second will result in detention.
- Dress Code violations reset at semester.

Spirit Day Dress Guidelines

- Students must comply with school dress code unless specific exceptions are communicated by the school.

P.E. Dress Requirements

- Shirts: clean, appropriate fitting t-shirts for both boys and girls. Not acceptable: tank tops, muscle shirts, half shirts, or shirts with inappropriate images/slogans/words.
- Shorts/Sweats: Clean and fingertip length when extend arms down. Sweatshirts and sweatpants are expected during cold weather.
- Shoes/Socks: Shoes must have non-marking soles and be laced-up athletic shoes. Socks must be worn.
- Students must return to school appropriate attire after PE, before returning to class.

The administration will be the final judge of student appearance questions not explicitly covered in the dress code guidelines.

GENERAL BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Students at Northwest Christian Schools are expected to have a teachable spirit. While we hope that we are all growing in Christ, all students are expected to make progress in relationship to biblical standards of behavior. Each student will demonstrate respect for authority, maintain healthy relationships, and make his/her best effort to follow all classroom and school rules. When a rule is broken, students will be held accountable, and they will be expected to receive consequences with a respectful, teachable spirit. The offense and consequences will be entered in the student's behavior log. Parental contact will be made whenever appropriate.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

Students are not allowed to carry their cell phone with them during the school day. Cell phones brought onto campus should be stored in students' lockers and/or in their closed backpack during school hours (8:20AM - 2:50PM). If a student is seen using their cell phone, it will be confiscated for the duration of the day, and the student will pick up the cell phone from the front office at the end of the day. Any extra or "burner" phones are prohibited from being brought on campus. If students are found with an additional phone after their phone has been confiscated, serious disciplinary actions will ensue. Students should not use smart watches in a manner that mimics phone use (communication, entertainment, etc.). Similar steps/consequences will be enforced with students who use smart watches in this manner.

1st offense: Student will lose their phone for the day, and parents will be notified.

2nd offense: Student will be required to check-in their phone to a designated staff member at the beginning of the day and will pick up their phone at the end of the day for one week. Parents will be notified.

3rd offense: Recorded as a major notice of concern (see pg. 17 for details). Student will be required to check-in their phone for two weeks. A parent meeting will be required and may involve a behavior plan. All subsequent offenses will result in further major notices of concern and corresponding consequences.

Important: All text messages and social media posts must be appropriate and Christ honoring. Inappropriate text messages or social media posts will result in immediate disciplinary action. Phones, iPods, and other electronic content (music, photos, videos, etc.) must be clean and Christ-honoring. **Any inappropriate material or cyber-bullying will result in serious disciplinary action. Photographing/filming anyone without their permission is strictly forbidden.**

Social Media

Texting, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Tik-Tok, and other social media sites have increased and are used by most students here at Northwest Christian in one form or another. Students should be aware that third parties – including the media, faculty, future employers, and athletic officials – could easily access your profiles and view all personal information. This includes all pictures, videos, comments, and posters. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the student, their family, and the school. This can also be detrimental to a student's future employment options. **Inappropriate postings that defy expected student conduct or reflect negatively on the values and beliefs of NWCS can result in student discipline up to and including dismissal as a student.**

To determine appropriate consequences, content will be evaluated for severity using the following three criteria:

- Music and media usage
- Actions and behaviors
- Appearance

If a student is ever in doubt of the appropriateness of their online public material, they should consider whether it upholds and positively reflects their own values and beliefs as well as the values and beliefs of Northwest Christian Schools.

Healthy Friendships/Public Display of Affection (PDA)

Northwest Christian Schools promote healthy biblical relationships. While inclusive friendships are encouraged for maintaining a Christ-centered atmosphere, exclusive relationships that separate, isolate, or leave others out are discouraged. Ultimately, dating and courtship are matters of parental discretion, however, any romantic behavior (e.g. hugging, kissing, holding hands, etc.) that distracts from the educational environment will immediately be brought to the students' and their parents' attention. **Public displays of affection are prohibited on the school grounds and at any school-related functions.** Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action.

Also, because the junior high school and high school are distinct and separate identities, any exclusive relationships or romantic activity between a junior high school student and a high school student is strictly prohibited.

Off-Campus Behavior

Students are to demonstrate behavior consistent with school policies when off campus. Students who are involved in inappropriate off-campus behavior will be subject to the same disciplinary procedures as appropriate for on-campus violations.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

NWCS' program is gospel-centered and is led by quality and caring teacher-leaders. Each teacher is a trained professional who is responsible for maintaining a safe, positive, and orderly environment conducive to optimal learning.

Each class period has learning objectives facilitated by our teachers. These objectives will be communicated for each period. To ensure a positive learning environment the following school-wide expectations will be fulfilled:

- Students will be excused from their desks by the teacher (not the bell) at the end of the class period.
- Students have four minutes passing time between periods for restroom and locker stops. Class time should not be used for these reasons.
- Food and drinks may be brought to class only at the discretion of the teacher. No food or drinks are allowed in science labs. Only food and drink containers with lids are allowed in the classroom and hallway.

Hallways

Students are not allowed in hallways during class periods without a hall pass. Students are not allowed in hallways during class periods without permission. Students are responsible for keeping hallways clean and orderly. Running, rough housing, and excessive noise are not permitted. Hallways must remain quiet during instructional periods.

Daily Assignments

Incomplete, messy, or illegible papers will be returned un-graded. A late grade penalty may also be applied to any of these returned papers.

Late Work

Late class work (not to be confused with missing work from excused absences) will be accepted within an appropriate time limit but will not receive full credit unless excused by the teacher for extenuating circumstances. The individual teacher determines the penalty given. Common penalties include points deducted per day, a 20% deduction per day up to 5 days, or 60% maximum credit given up to the last day of the unit.

Absences

- Students are responsible for all missing work. They should talk to each teacher about assignments missed whenever absent. Students should email teachers when necessary.
- Excused absences (e.g. illness)—Full credit will be given for work that is missed.
- Students have the number of days absent to complete the work.
- An admit slip is required to re-enter the class after an absence. Admit slips can be picked up at the front office.
- Pre-arranged absences need prior approval by teachers and administration (see Page 9 for Pre-Arranged Absence policy).

Procedure for Non-Cooperative Classroom Behavior

- Teachers will clearly communicate classroom expectations and consequences for non-cooperative behavior. Students are expected to respectfully follow all expectations. In the event of non-cooperative

behavior, the teacher will give a warning, with a view toward mentoring student growth.

- If behavior persists, a "Notice of Concern" form may be filled out and submitted to an administrator for appropriate consequences and parents may be notified.
- If non-cooperative behavior continues, the student is immediately sent to an administrator and parents will be informed of the behavior and steps taken.
- Re-entry interview with student, teacher, and administrator occurs as needed.

NWCS' APPROACH TO DISCIPLINE

Preparing Minds...Transforming Hearts

Clear expectations and consistent applications of NWC's discipline policy are necessary. Individual needs of students and particular circumstances must also be considered. Teachers and administrators will use their discretion to enforce discipline based upon all available information, making every effort to be fair and consistent.

Preparing Minds

We will strive to provide academic excellence through effective teaching in the following areas: Biblical worldview integration, differentiating instruction, collaboration, instructional strategies, curriculum, classroom management and lesson design. At times, students may require additional accountability and support through Educational Action Plans.

Transforming Hearts

NWCS functions to support families and churches in Spokane in the spiritual and academic development of students. We are neither the church, nor the family per se, but a community of likeminded believers who desire to partner with one another to facilitate raising children to Christlikeness.

DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES

Intervention/Action Plan

The principal may find it necessary to intervene if a student's performance or conduct is unacceptable. This step precedes suspension and is designed to correct behavior or performance. It may include an action plan developed by the administrator with teacher/parent input, setting goals for student progress.

Minor Notice of Concern

- 3 minor offences = 1 major Notice of Concern.
- Minor notices are documented via email by teachers to administrators.
- Minor Notices of Concern are documented in RenWeb.
- Examples of a minor notice of concern:
 - Excessive talking/disruption

- Minor disrespect
- Foolish/rough play
- Inappropriate language
- Negative attitude/uncooperative
- Minor vandalism
- Inappropriate cell phone use
- The count for minor notices of concern resets each year.

Major Notice of Concern

- 1 major offence = after-school detention + parent notice.
- 2 major offences = behavior plan/meeting with students and parents.
- 3 major offences = suspension (in-school or at-home).
- Major Notices of Concern are documented via RenWeb
- Example of a behaviors that may result in a major Notice of Concern:
 - Bullying/Harassment
 - Elevated minor Notice of Concern examples (per the interpretation of the administration)
- The count for major notices of concern resets each year.

Suspension

In some cases, inappropriate student conduct will require a suspension ("in-house" or "at-home" as required by the principal). The policy for suspension is outlined below:

- The student will be given action points for the time and location of the suspension. "In-house" suspension is fulfilled at school under the supervision of the administrator. "At-home" suspension is fulfilled at home under the supervision of parents. Parents will be notified of the suspension actions, and they may organize their own plan of action for the suspension if it is to be served at home.
- Student daily work will receive no credit for the day(s) the suspension is served. Students will be allowed to make up tests, quizzes and projects, which are due on the day of the suspension.
- Students will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular NWCS school- sponsored activities on the day(s) the suspension is served. This includes practices, games, performances, etc.
- Suspensions are documented via RenWeb and become a permanent part of the student's academic record.
- Examples of behaviors that may result in a suspension:
 - Use of illegal substances (on or off campus)
 - Fighting/physical violence
 - Sexual harassment or abuse
 - Elevated major notice of concern (per the interpretation of the administration)
- A parent meeting is required before entrance back into school.

Expulsion

In most cases, expulsion will occur only after attempts have been made to correct misbehavior. However, when a student clearly demonstrates no desire

to comply with the rules and regulations of NWCS, expulsion may occur immediately. Also, if a student demonstrates an attitude of antagonism toward the school's mission and proves to be a negative influence on other students with regard to the school's mission, expulsion may occur. Any illegal or volatile act which may include, but is not limited to, theft, possession of alcohol, illegal drugs or tobacco, weapon possession, etc., may result in immediate expulsion.

Illegal Acts (Alcohol, Illegal Drugs, Tobacco or Weapons)

Any illegal act may be subject to law enforcement investigation independent of school involvement. **Northwest Christian Schools, in compliance with state law, is an alcohol-free/drug-free/ tobacco-free/weapons-free school.**

Re-Admittance After Expulsion or Withdrawal

Junior high and high school students who leave Northwest Christian Schools for academic or behavioral reasons may apply to be readmitted after a minimum of one semester of successful attendance at another school. The student's academic, social and spiritual behavior during the interim is carefully considered in the process of evaluating for re-enrollment. This stated policy will also apply to prospective students who have similar circumstances and would like to attend Northwest Christian Schools.

Self-Reporting

Self-reporting is an opportunity for a student and parent to approach the administration to discuss a violation of an NWC policy and to seek assistance through positive intervention. The intent is to help a student correct a mistake. Self-reporting allows the student, parent and school to partner in developing a plan to intervene before the behavior becomes so problematic that the resolution will result in severe consequences. Self-reporting is only valid when reported to an administrator and may not be invoked once a parent and/or student has been notified of a behavior concern by an administrator. Administration will consider the act of self-reporting as a desire to correct behavior and may adjust consequences accordingly.

The self-reporting process is confidential and is confined to the student who is self-reporting. Demand for information or other students' identities is not a required part of this process. Upon receiving information relating to involvement or behavior of other students, the administration will maintain the confidentiality of this information but is obliged to inform parents of the identified students of the information provided. Self-reporting may necessitate that the administration take further action, including but not limited to additional research. This research may result in disciplinary consequences for other students and/or contacting proper authorities.

BULLYING

Our NWCS core values promote a biblical and relational approach to relationships which are designed to reflect John 15:12- "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

Rationale

In an effort to instill biblical values and create a loving environment the school seeks to deal biblically with conflict that can occur from time to time. Northwest Christian Schools realizes that while bullying may occur, it is never acceptable. We seek to implement a framework for dealing with bullying incidents to protect our students and help them learn how to relate in a way that is in line with biblical standards.

Definition

Bullying occurs when a person or group is intimidated, frightened, (intentionally) excluded or hurt by a pattern of behaviors directed at them by others (Greg Griffiths, *"Bullying in Schools-the hidden curriculum"*, 2003). For our purposes, it takes place in the school, on school property, or on school field trips, and via school transportation. Various forms of bullying include verbal, physical, sexual, social, and psychological words or actions that are intended to target and harm another student or group.

Awareness

NWCS staff is committed to prevent bullying and mentor students while holding students who seek to harm others accountable for their actions. Staff receives training which includes an intentional focus on student mentoring, class meetings, accountability groups, Bible Class, chapels, advisory groups training which help students relate to one another and solve conflict bringing them to light in a Christ-like manner.

Reporting

Students and their parents are encouraged to report any harassment or bullying to their teacher(s) or administrator using the Mathew 18 guidelines for conflict resolution. Each report, whether written or verbal, will be taken seriously and responded to in a timely manner by the appropriate administrator. Attempts to reconcile and restore relationships where bullying has been involved will include an appropriate apology and disciplinary action(s) to include both present and future accountability plans for those involved.

Harassment

Harassment is not tolerated at Northwest Christian Schools. Threatening or harassing language/behavior toward students or staff (including sexual) are strictly prohibited. Harassment (whether verbal, written, physical, or via electronic device) will result in major disciplinary action. This includes demeaning online or phone postings of photos, videos, or text. Also, threats to do bodily harm, intimidation/bullying, threats of violence of any kind and threats to cause physical damage to students, staff, property, or school will result in serious administrative consequences.

Fighting

Fighting will not be tolerated at NWCS. All actions with the intent toward physical harm will be met with serious consequences.

Language

It should be understood at a Christian school that we expect our students to use appropriate language. Ephesians 4:29 says, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." This scriptural standard is upheld at NWCS in all verbal and written communication. Profanity and verbal abuse is strictly prohibited at all times.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND CURRICULUM

The curriculum of Northwest Christian Schools complies with and exceeds the standards of the State of Washington. A distinctive feature of our school is an integrated Bible program. By this, we mean that our entire curriculum is taught in light of God's truth, and that the Bible is the ultimate source of truth in all subject matters. In addition to biblical integration, each department implements Biblical Enduring Understandings, Essential Questions, learning objectives, best practice instructional strategies, as well as formative and summative assessments. The goal is to help students develop as independent lifelong learners and be college and career ready within a biblical worldview. A helpful resource describing our educational program is the **Secondary Course Offerings Handbook**.

Computer and Technology Use

All 7th -12th grade students are required to bring a school-managed Chromebook to class each day. **Only school-managed Chromebooks will be allowed for use in the classroom.**

Office 365/Google Classroom

Students will receive a free Office 365 account. The account will include email, Word, Excel and a full suite of Office work, communication, and collaborative tools. Using the same email/password, students will also be able to access their Google Classroom.

RenWeb Gradebook and Google Classroom

There are two important components of communication regarding grades and assignments:

RenWeb Gradebook is accessible online for students and parents to see every grade in every class; teachers strive to maintain updated gradebooks and most assignments are updated weekly (larger projects, test, and papers may take up to two weeks to be graded and entered).

Google Classroom is an online tool for students, providing basic information regarding daily assignments and classroom activities for each class. While NOT a substitute for being in the class, it can allow students to see and access documents, instructions, or general information about class each day.

Media Policy

Generally speaking, videos are only to be used for instructional purposes. Junior

high school students are allowed to view educational G and PG films. PG-13 films (when deemed educationally necessary) may be shown with prior parental communication.

Student Leadership and Clubs

High School: All elected ASB and class leaders are expected to maintain a 3.0 GPA as well as display exemplary behavior in every class. If the GPA drops below 3.0 or poor behavior is being demonstrated, the student's leadership responsibilities will be temporarily suspended.

ASB: The purpose of the Associated Student Body (ASB) Leadership Team is to actively serve and direct the student body. Each student leader is expected to be a godly example for his/her peers. Specific leadership assignments and roles will be determined by the team in coordination with the ASB advisor. The goal will be for the team to function well by the contribution of each team member for the benefit of the NWCS student body.

Leadership, social event planning, finances and meeting minutes will be addressed in deciding the make-up of the ASB Leadership Team. Common roles that may be identified for the team include record keeper, team captain, finance coordinator and ministry coordinator.

Class Leadership Teams

High School: Each class will elect six team members. Two members will serve in conjunction with the ASB Team. Four class leadership members will be assigned specific roles: record keeper, team captain, finance coordinator and ministry coordinator. It is our hope that the character and function of student government at NWCS will be enhanced by the intentional instruction in the area of the biblical leadership.

Junior High: Leadership is offered as an elective class for 8th graders. ASB roles are determined each semester from within the class and include such roles as President, Vice President, Ministry Leader, and Tech Coordinator. The junior high ASB is involved with planning junior high specific events and spirit days as well as sharing devotionals and helping with announcements. Students in this class also learn about different types of leadership through units on teamwork, individual strengths, habits and convictions, and future and career. Through a variety of interactive activities and discussions, students grow in their own skills as leaders and are able to put these into action in various ways throughout the year.

Advanced Academic Placement

If a student is enrolled in an advanced math course and/or an honors course, he/she must maintain a grade of a B or better at progress report and quarter grade checks to remain enrolled in the course. If the student fails to meet that standard, he/she will be evaluated and potentially placed into the appropriate on-level course. Once a student is moved to an on-level course, they will remain in that course for the remainder of the school year.

Academic Progression Policy (Mathematics and World Language)

Mathematics and world language courses are cumulative, with each course building directly upon the knowledge and skills developed in the previous level. To be eligible to advance to the next course in the sequence (e.g., Algebra 1 to Geometry, or Spanish 1 to Spanish 2), students must demonstrate mastery by earning **both** of the following:

- A minimum final course grade of 69.5% (C-), AND
- A minimum score of 69.5% (C-) on the comprehensive final exam.

Both standards must be met. A passing course grade alone does not qualify a student for advancement if the comprehensive final exam score is below 69.5%. Students who do not meet this academic progression requirements will be required to repeat the course prior to advancing. Northwest Christian Schools does not accept outside or online coursework for credit recovery in courses that are offered on campus.

Educational Support Services

Educational Support Services are available for junior high and high school students who need academic support and accommodations and have a formal assessment completed. There are varying levels of support available for students based on their individual diagnosis and needs. Some services may incur additional fees. If your student needs academic support and accommodations, please contact the ESS Coordinator for more information.

Educational Action Plans

Academic Action Plan

Students who need additional academic help and accountability will set goals with teachers, parents and an Administrator to identify steps for success. Students are placed on an academic action plan when their grade point average is less than 2.0 or they have a failing grade in any class. A copy of their academic action plan will be provided to parents. This plan is designed to help monitor classwork, improve study habits, and provide the necessary accountability for satisfactory academic performance. If the student fails to improve under the academic action plan, he/she may be placed on academic probation.

Academic Probation

Academic probation is designed to help monitor class work, improve study habits and provide the necessary accountability for satisfactory academic performance. When students are placed on academic probation, parents will be informed in order to help students reach their goals. Students will be held accountable to reach the plan's academic goals (e.g. grade and homework expectations). All documentation will be stated in an academic probation plan that will be monitored by an administrator. Students who are placed on academic probation will forfeit all co-curricular activities and will be required to attend after-school academic detention at a cost of \$10 per day, twice a week, to provide necessary support. Individual family schedules

will be taken into consideration in arranging time for academic detentions. Academic probation remains in effect until grades improve. Failure to improve grades, or if it is determined that no graduation pathway can be achieved by the student, he/she may be unenrolled at NWC.

Secondary Curriculum

Please refer to the Junior High School or High School Course Offerings Handbook located on Parents Web for full course descriptions.

Add/Drop Policy

Much time is spent prior to registration establishing a student's schedule for the following year. Consequently, requests for class changes each semester must be cleared by parents, registrars, and administrators. As teacher schedules are determined prior to the academic year based upon student requests, adding or dropping class is reserved for cases of academic misplacement, adding a new course offering, or to fill gaps in a student schedule.

Students need to complete a Change of Schedule Form in order to add, drop, or change a class after the semester has begun. The form may be obtained from the Front Office. **Students have ten school days following the beginning of the new semester to drop a class.** They must enroll in another class unless it is determined that the student has a valid reason for not carrying a full load.

Course changes are not final until approved by the teachers, parents, registrar, and administration. Beyond the tenth day, no student may drop or change a course without the recommendation or permission of the registrar, teacher, administrator and parent, and a withdrawal will be noted on the student's transcript.

If a student drops a class during the first eight (8) weeks, the grade will be entered on their transcript as a W/P (withdrawal pass) if the student has a 60% or above. It will be entered as a W/F (withdrawal fail) if the student has a 59% or below. Once the second/fourth quarter has begun, a withdrawal from the class will result in a W/F (withdrawal/fail) which will appear on the students' permanent transcript and is calculated into the student's GPA.

The reasons for dropping classes after this time without having a W/F or W/P appear on the student's transcript are as follows:

- Determination by the teacher/parent/registrar that the student has been academically misplaced in the wrong class level, in which case the student will be transferred to the correct class level.
- A letter from a physician verifying a medical condition which makes it necessary to decrease academic load.
- At the determination of the principal due to extenuating circumstances.

A student may drop a class scheduled for the entire year at the end of the first semester with no penalty but a Schedule Change Form must be filled out and signed by the teacher, administrator and parent before being returned to the Registrar.

GRADING POLICY

Progress Reports

Student progress will be discussed in October at the parent/teacher conferences. Progress reports will be available on Parents Web and emailed to parents/guardians during the fifth week of each quarter.

Report Cards

All grading scores for students will be recorded in Parents Web. Student report cards will be emailed home to parents/guardians the week following each quarter end. The emailed link will be active for 2 weeks. Individual teachers establish the components of their grading program and inform students of these criteria. There are four nine-week grading periods during the school year. There are specific times for conferences in the fall. Semester grades are used for GPA computation and are recorded on the student's official transcripts.

Weighted Grades

NWC High School uses a weighted grading system for purposes of ranking students based on academic performance. Weighted grades provide an incentive for students to challenge themselves academically. Weighted grades reward students who take tougher courses, recognize higher levels of academic accomplishment, and provide a balanced system of grading. Some academic awards are still awarded based upon an unweighted GPA.

Standard Grading Scale			College & Hnrs. Grading Scale			AP Grading Scale		
Academic	Grade Scale	GPA Standards	Academic	Grade Scale	GPA Standards	Academic	Grade Scale	GPA Standards
A	92.5-100%	4.00	A	92.5-100%	4.50	A	92.5-100%	5.00
A-	89.5-92%	3.67	A-	89.5-92%	4.17	A-	89.5-92%	4.67
B+	87.5-89%	3.33	B+	87.5-89%	3.83	B+	87.5-89%	4.33
B	82.5-87%	3.00	B	82.5-87%	3.50	B	82.5-87%	4.00
B-	79.5-82%	2.67	B-	79.5-82%	3.17	B-	79.5-82%	3.67
C+	77.5-79%	2.33	C+	77.5-79%	2.83	C+	77.5-79%	3.33
C	72.5-77%	2.00	C	72.5-77%	2.50	C	72.5-77%	3.00
C-	69.5-72%	1.67	C-	69.5-72%	2.17	C-	69.5-72%	2.67
D+	67.5-69%	1.33	D+	67.5-69%	1.83	D+	67.5-69%	2.33
D	62.5-67%	1.00	D	62.5-67%	1.50	D	62.5-67%	2.00
D-	59.5-62%	0.67	D-	59.5-62%	1.17	D-	59.5-62%	1.67
F	Below 59.4%	0.00	F	Below 59.4%	0.00	F	Below 59.4%	0.00

High School Honor Roll

The NWCS Honor Roll has provisions for two levels of academic performance, based on **weighted** Grade Point Average (GPA).

Scholars List/Academic Letter	=	4.0
Honor Roll	=	3.65 – 3.99

Junior High Honor Roll/Scholar's List

NWC Junior High uses an unweighted or standard grading scale. The Junior High Honor Roll has provisions for two levels of academic performance, based on **unweighted** Grade Point Average (GPA).

Scholar's List	=	3.85 – 4.0
Honor Roll	=	3.5 – 3.84

Academic Awards Chapels

Each spring, Northwest Christian Secondary hosts dedicated Academic Awards Chapels—held separately for Junior High and High School—to celebrate student diligence and academic achievement based on cumulative performance across 1st Semester and 3rd Quarter grades. During these chapels, students in grades 7–12 are recognized for earning Scholars List and Honor Roll distinctions, alongside departmental teacher awards celebrating classroom excellence and Christlike character. Additionally, the High School chapel specifically highlights upperclassman honors, including the formal announcement of Valedictorian and Salutatorian selections, National Honor Society recognitions, and top performance on standardized assessments such as the PSAT, SAT, and ACT.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students who enter NWCS their freshman year are required to meet the graduation requirements that best meet state and NWCS requirements. Students must attend NWCS on a full-time basis their senior year.

Full year class = 1 credit; semester class = .5 credit; 7 class periods each day

Bible	4 credits
CTE (Career & Technical)	1 credit
English	4 credits
Fine Arts	1 credit
Health	.5 credits
Mathematics	3 credits
Physical Education	1.5 credits
Science*	3 credits
Social Studies**	3 credits
World Languages	2 credits
Electives	3 credits
TOTAL REQUIRED	26 credits

*Science requirement must include two lab sciences.

** 3.5 if Washington State History was not taken in Middle School.

Classes meeting 5 days a week for the entire year earn 1 credit. Most four-year colleges require 3 years of Math (excluding Pre-Algebra and Consumer Math), 3 years of Science, 3 years of History, 2 years world language, & 1 year of a fine art. If Pre-Calculus level in math has not been achieved, then during the senior year a math-based class can be taken for a full year. These classes could include a math-based science (Physics, Chemistry) or any math class.

Students are required to carry a minimum of six classes each semester they are enrolled at NWCS and must reach 26 total credits to meet graduation requirements.

Late Work

In cases of excused absence, full credit will be given for late work completed within the prescribed number of days. Students will have the number of days absent to complete late work. For example, if a student is absent on Monday and Tuesday, he/she will be given two days to complete all late work (due on Friday for full credit). Other late class work will not receive full credit unless excused by the teacher. The individual teacher determines the penalty given. If assignment deadlines cannot be met, please contact your teacher to make other arrangements before the assignment is due. Specific requirements will be outlined in each teacher's course syllabus. Also, priority for correction and Parents Web entry is given by teachers to **work that is handed in on time**.

Incompletes

If a student's work is incomplete at the end of a quarter, and the teacher has approved acceptance of late work, he/she has 10 school days to complete this work. All incompletes convert to the earned grade at the end of 10 school days.

High School Student Service Hours

- Students will be expected to complete a minimum of 80 hours of service over their four-year high school career.
- A minimum of 50% of a student's service hours must be "Direct Service Hours" which are hours that serve the disadvantaged in our community or elsewhere. Examples would include mission trips, nursing home visits (non-family members), serving the homeless, supporting missional organizations such as UGM or a local foodbank, completing projects for a disabled/sick/elderly neighbor (non-relative), etc.
- A maximum of 50% of a student's service hours can be "Indirect Service Hours". Examples of this type of service would include volunteering within your church, serving at a youth camp, volunteering at NWCS events, volunteering at community events such as Bloomsday or Hoopfest, etc.
- Students must log hours on the MobileServe app that they can download to their phones or computers.

Junior High Promotion

We celebrate the accomplishments of our 8th grade students during a special ceremony that looks back over their junior high years and looks forward to their upcoming high school years. 8th grade students must have a 2.0 overall GPA to participate in the ceremony. All eligible 8th grade students are expected to participate in the ceremony. Professional dress is required.

NWC Junior High Progression to High School

Admission to high school from junior high is contingent upon the student maintaining a minimum 2.0 GPA during his/her 8th grade year. If a student fails to achieve this standard, a meeting with the secondary principal will be held with the student and family to determine the student's future enrollment at NWC.

Senior Graduation

Graduation is a special ceremony that focuses on praising God for the privilege

and opportunity He has provided for students and their families while at NWCS. In addition, special recognition is given to individual students with unique characteristics and accomplishments in the class. All graduating seniors are expected to participate in the ceremony. Professional dress is required.

Valedictorian/Salutatorian Selection Criteria

The Valedictorian and Salutatorian are selected each year from the graduating class. The Valedictorian ranks first in scholarship and is considered the top student of his/her class; the salutatorian ranks second in scholarship and is considered the second highest student in his/her class. Criteria are based primarily on cumulative weighted GPA and class rank. More than one student may qualify for the valedictorian and salutatorian distinctions. Candidates must attend classes at Northwest Christian High School during at least four semesters of their junior and senior years.

Valedictorian candidates will be determined by the following:

- Students who are in the top 5% of class based on **weighted** cumulative GPA.
- Students who have maintained a 4.0 **unweighted** cumulative GPA
- The student(s) meeting the above criteria after seven semesters shall be considered for Valedictorian. If, in any given school year, no student meets the above criteria, the student(s) who most closely meet(s) the above criteria with the highest GPA will be considered for Valedictorian.

Salutatorian candidates will be determined by the following:

- Students who are in the top 10% of class based on **weighted** cumulative GPA.
- The student(s) meeting the above criteria after seven semesters shall be considered for Salutatorian. If, in any given school year, no student meets the above criteria, the student(s) who most closely meet(s) the above criteria with the highest GPA will be considered for Salutatorian.

It is the responsibility of the students selected as Valedictorian and Salutatorian to maintain their level of achievement during the final semester. Anyone not maintaining the aforementioned level of achievement risks the potential of losing the designated honor of Valedictorian/Salutatorian.

The Northwest Christian High School Administration, Academic Advisors, and Registrar will meet at the midpoint of the 4th quarter of the students' senior year to determine who will be awarded the honor of Valedictorian(s) and Salutatorian(s). Selections will be made based on a panel review of the criteria mentioned above. Students will be informed of the Valedictorian and Salutatorian selection at the Academic Awards Assembly prior to graduation.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, PLAGIARISM, & AI POLICY

Core Standard of Academic Integrity

Northwest Christian Schools holds students to the highest standard of personal and academic honesty as a reflection of Christlike character. Academic

dishonesty in any form undermines genuine learning, misrepresents student growth, and violates biblical standards of truthfulness.

Definitions of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- **Cheating:** Copying work from another student, sharing answers during an assessment, using unauthorized notes/materials ("cheat sheets"), or allowing another student to copy one's work.
- **Traditional Plagiarism:** Submitting work, ideas, phrasing, or research created by another person without proper attribution and citation.
- **Unauthorized AI Generation:** Submitting AI-generated text, outlines, or content as original student work.

Generative AI Usage & Classroom Tiers

- **Default Rule (Tier 0):** Unless explicitly authorized by a teacher for a specific assignment, the default rule across all secondary classes is that Generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT, Gemini, or AI writing assistants) are **prohibited**.
- **Permitted AI Usage:** When AI tools are authorized, teachers will specify the designated **AI Tier (Tiers 1–4)** on lesson plans and assignment instructions. See NWC's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) for more details.
- **Citation Requirement:** When AI usage is permitted, students must properly cite AI assistance using MLA guidelines (AUP Appendix A) and disclose prompts/logs upon request. AI tools may never be cited as a primary factual source.

Investigation Steps & Evidence Evaluation

When a teacher suspects academic dishonesty, plagiarism, or unauthorized AI usage, the following two-step protocol will be followed:

- **Step 1: Teacher Investigation & Determination** The teacher will hold a private conversation with the student. Determination of academic dishonesty will be based on multiple points of evidence, including:
 1. Comparison against the student's in-class, non-AI baseline work (Tier 0 assignments).
 2. Document edit history, keystroke analysis, or version history.
 3. An **Oral Comprehension Defense**, wherein the student must verbally explain their work, define vocabulary used, and demonstrate mastery of the submitted content.
 4. AI detection software indicators.
- **Step 2: Administrative Due Process & Appeals** If a student believes they have been wrongly accused after the teacher's determination, the matter will be referred to administration. A panel of no fewer than **two administrators** will review the collected evidence, inspect version history, and conduct a student interview to make the final determination.

Consequences for Violations

Confirmed violations of the Academic Integrity Policy result in:

- **First Offense:** Zero credit on the assignment/test, parent notification, and referral to the Dean of Students for a Notice of Concern.

- **Repeated Offenses:** Zero credit, parent-administrator conference, academic integrity contract, potential loss of course credit, additional consequences including detention, suspension, and potential expulsion.

COMMUNICATION

Parents are a vital part of the NWCS team as we seek to train and instruct your children. In addition to praying for your student and encouraging them daily, parents are encouraged to daily check-in with their students regarding homework, major projects, and student life.

Contacting Teachers

Teachers are working with students from 8:15am to dismissal at 3:00pm. Please do not plan for teacher contact during this time. In an emergency, please call the school and explain the situation to the school receptionist, leave a message, or leave a voice mail for the teacher. If you would like to talk with your student's teacher before or after school, please make an appointment with the teacher

through email. Teachers will be able to give **quality** conference time, without the sacrifice of student contact time, to parents who follow this procedure.

Messages

A voicemail may be left for teachers during their regular classroom teaching time, or a note left in their box through the front office.

Telephone

The office and classroom phones are only for important matters and must be used with permission.

Addressing Concerns (Godly Conflict Resolution)

In any group of people, conflicts are inevitable. The difference between God's children and the world is not that we have conflict, but how the Lord uses us amid it! Northwest Christian Schools is committed to Biblical principles of godly communication and conflict resolution. Proactive problem solving is best accomplished when **Matthew 18:15-20** is applied. Though specific to the church setting, this passage has principles that apply to NWCS as well. Parents are a vital part of the NWCS team as we seek to train and instruct your children. Therefore, please follow this school procedure when addressing concerns:

1. Communicate with the teacher/staff person involved to discuss the concern.
2. If unable to resolve the issue, and additional support is requested, meet with the teacher/staff person, along with an administrator.
3. If there is still a concern, the administrator will arrange a meeting with all concerned parties and the Head of Schools.
4. If unable to resolve the issue, the Head of Schools, upon request may arrange a meeting with a board representative.

Please join us in our commitment to speak the truth in love, trusting the Lord that

true maturity and effective problem solving will be accomplished. "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." - Ephesians 4:3.

Social Media Policy

We ask that parents and students address concerns with the school directly and keep social media posts about the school positive. If and when conflict arises, the public forum of social media should not be used to vent frustrations and concerns publicly or among parents to one another. The principles of Matthew 18 should be followed to honor the Lord through those things that are of "good report" - (Philippians 4:8).

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Specific times are set aside for fall conferences. Please refer to the school calendar for specific dates. In addition, communication through the newsletter conveys conference information. It is most beneficial when both parents attend the conferences.

Teachers and parents have the latitude to request a conference with one another at any time. If the parent would like to talk with a teacher before or after school, please email for a scheduled time. Teachers will be able to give more quality conference time to parents who follow the procedure.

RenWeb Gradebook and Learning Management System (LMS)

Two important communication components regarding grades and assignments are accomplished through RenWeb.

Gradebook is accessible online for students and parents to see every grade in every class; teachers strive to maintain updated gradebooks and most assignment are updated weekly (larger projects, test, and papers may take up to two weeks to graded and entered).

Learning Management System provides basic information regarding daily assignments and classroom activities for each class. While NOT a substitute for being in the class, it can allow students to see and access documents, instructions, or general information about class each day.

ParentsWeb

School information is available on the Northwest Christian Schools' **ParentsWeb** site. ParentsWeb includes current academic grades postings for 7th-12th grade and other important student and parent information. To access this information, go to nwcs.org and login to ParentsWeb using the school access code **NCS-WA** and a parent username and password.

Website

The NWCS website (nwcs.org) is organized by school (Elementary, Junior High School, High School) and contains valuable resources. The High School CruNews, Jr. High Weekly, and all College & Career Readiness Resources and resource documents can be found on the Junior High School or High School

pages of the website.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

NWCS has a full-time Registrar and Academic Advisor who coordinate our schools' college and career planning efforts and equips our staff to connect with our students to aid them in their post high school decisions. Throughout the course of the school year, NWCS provides the following opportunities for students and families:

PSAT

- The PSAT is administered for all 9th-11th grade students.

SAT

- NWCS administers two school day SATs each year. Registration is through the Academic Advisor two months prior to the test date. The fee for the testing is determined by College Board.

Career Path Planning

- ASVAB testing is offered during the 10th grade year for students to discover their career path strengths and weaknesses.
- Small group planning sessions are held throughout the academic year to help students prepare for college and career choices.

Advisor Hours

- One-on-one assistance is offered during school hours with the Academic Advisor by appointment.

College Awareness and Resources

- Promotion for local college fairs and campus visits by local college representatives.
- Scholarships that are being offered are also available to students by visiting the College and Career Readiness section under the high school tab at nwcs.org

MAJOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Retreats

All junior high and high school students should plan to attend their fall retreats. The goal of each event is to set the spiritual tone for the upcoming year, provide a sense of school unity among students, allow new students to get acquainted with the student body, and provide a time for students to form bonds with the faculty.

Senior Retreat: The objective of this retreat is to provide a time to develop unity within the class, plan events for the current year, and promote Godly leadership characteristics.

Spirit Days

High School - The ASB, cheerleaders and high school leadership team work together to plan and implement activities that challenge our students and faculty to demonstrate greater school spirit. Skits, dress-up, and various themes have sparked student enthusiasm.

The appropriate grade-level advisor will approve all class skits, routines, songs and hallway decorations during spirit day activities. In addition, the advisor or an approved adult will supervise the hallway decorating and clean-up activities. Class advisors will work closely with the ASB advisor to make each Spirit Day a success.

Junior High - Junior high staff, with input and help from the leadership class, create and run several spirit days throughout the year. Spirit days are designed to promote community and relational growth within the junior high.

Parent/Student Socials

Each High School class organizes a parent/student social to provide a special evening for school families. Events include: Daughter/Daddy Date Night, Father/Son Night, Mother/Daughter Social, Mother/Son Social.

Class Fundraisers

Each Junior High and High School class, under the direction of the class advisors, may raise funds for their class as approved by the administration. Monies raised from fundraising each year continue on with the class.

Lilac Princess Coronation

Each year the Spokane Lilac Association selects a senior girl from the NWCS student body to represent the school in the Lilac Festival Court. The young ladies who compete for Lilac Princess have been faithful testimonies to all who observe the event.

NWCS Dance/Social Policy

The NWCS Secondary Leadership Team, in conjunction with student and parent volunteers, coordinates three all-high school dances/socials a year; Homecoming, Sadies, and Prom. Students must have a parent signed permission slip to attend these events and abide by NWCS student policies for behavior. The planning committee must meet with the principal and ASB advisor to discuss advertising, ticket sales, and guidelines for each event. Events are highly chaperoned.

Other (Non-Sponsored) Social Events

NWCS students are expected to evaluate all forms of entertainment considering Biblical standards for holy living and to abstain from those that do not meet such standards.

CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Eligibility

Any student participating in a school-sponsored event other than athletics (e.g. theater) will be subject to the same basic eligibility requirements as athletes during the duration of their event.

Choirs and Bands

The NWCS music program encourages students to value music as a gift from God. Junior high and high school students are given skills instruction in all aspects of choral and instrumental music during choir and band classes. In addition, they gain performance experience at school, in the community, church and competitions. There are junior high and high school bands and choirs that each requires a one-year commitment. Smaller ensembles are also formed at the discretion of the music teacher. The goal is for participants to have a well-rounded musical experience, so they can glorify and honor the Lord Jesus Christ using their musical talents. Students may also try out for the Crusader Pep Band.

Theater

The NWCS theater program provides annual opportunities for students to perform for the glory of God. Try-outs for school-wide productions are well advertised and open to both junior high and high school students. The goal of theater classes and performances is to teach students to present a theatrical offering for the edification of their audiences and the glorification of the Lord.

DECA

DECA is a club open to all high school students and helps prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. It offers a wide variety of competitive events for participants, choosing from topics in marketing, finance, hospitality, tourism, sports and entertainment, sales, business law and ethics, retail operations, management, or community involvement, and teaches skills like communication, problem solving, and teamwork.

Math/Science/Robotics Teams (High School)

Year to year, based on availability, students who are interested may apply for the NWCS Math, Science or Robotics teams. In the past, teams have won many awards for their abilities at local and regional competitions.

Knowledge Bowl Team (High School)

Year to year, based on availability, students who have academic talent and are interested in using their abilities in an interscholastic competitive environment are invited to apply for the NWCS Knowledge Bowl Team. Our team has been very successful in the NE2B league and in state competitions.

CyberPatriot (High School)

Year to year, students who are interested may apply to join the CyberPatriot team. CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Education Program. At the center of CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. The competition puts teams of high school and middle school students in the position of newly hired IT professionals tasked with managing the network of a small company. In the rounds of competition, teams are given a set of virtual images that represent operating systems and are tasked with finding cybersecurity vulnerabilities within the images and hardening the system while maintaining critical services. Teams compete for the top placement within their state and region, and the top teams in the nation earn all- expenses paid trips to Washington, DC for the National Finals Competition where they can earn national recognition and scholarship money.

National Honor Society: The National Honor Society is designed to promote appropriate recognition for students who reflect outstanding accomplishments in the areas of scholarship, character, leadership, and service, and to encourage continued commitment to these ideals in the lives of members.

Students wishing to be considered for membership must meet the following expectations:

- Sophomore or Junior class status* (freshmen are not eligible).
- Have attended NWCS at least one full semester prior to selection.
- Maintain a cumulative weighted GPA of 3.75 or higher for a minimum of three consecutive semesters.
- High moral character approved by the faculty of NWC.
- Satisfactory attendance rate and minimal tardiness.
- Upon being informed of initial eligibility, each candidate must submit an application detailing leadership and service involvement in the school, church, workplace, or community.

*Seniors are not currently eligible to enter NHS during their final year at NWCS. Given the expectation to attend meetings and complete the mandatory service project, they would not have the needed time throughout senior year for equitable participation and project completion.

Data gathered on each candidate will then be given to the faculty for comments and consideration. Faculty members are encouraged to comment on prospective students, especially on student character in writing to the council. At that time, faculty and staff will review each candidate and vote on selection for NHS. The selection of each member shall be by a majority vote faculty and staff members.

Current NHS members are responsible to plan and present the induction ceremony for new members each spring. After the induction, a meeting will be held to nominate officers for the following year.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM

See Athletic Handbook for Full Program Details.

Northwest Christian Schools provides numerous opportunities for junior high and high school students to participate in athletics. Each student must have a physical exam, be academically eligible, demonstrate the appropriate attitude and meet W.I.A.A. approval to participate in the NWCS Athletic Program. **Please consult the NWCS Athletic Handbook for specific information.**

Each athlete must sign a "Code of Conduct" and maintain athletic, behavioral, and academic eligibility to participate in the program. Each athlete and parent are required to read the NWCS Athletic Handbook and attend the pre-season team meeting.

Gr. 9-12	<u>Fall (Aug.-Oct.)</u>	<u>Winter (Nov.-Feb.)</u>	<u>Spring (Mar-May)</u>
	X Country (B,G) Volleyball (G) Football (B) Soccer (G)	Basketball (B,G) Wrestling (B)	Track (B,G) Baseball (B) Softball (G) Golf (B,G) Soccer (B)
Gr. 7-8	X Country (B,G) Volleyball Football	Basketball (B,G)	Softball (G) Baseball (B)

Academic Standard Eligibility

Students must meet both NWCS and WIAA standards to be eligible for athletics and activities.

- Minimum WIAA standards: passing 6 out of 7 classes at the end of the semester.
- NWCS standards: 2.0 GPA or higher, no failing grades in any classes.

Eligibility

- The "first" grade check will be done 5 weeks into the 1st semester.
- After the first initial grade check each semester, grades will be checked every 3-5 weeks (flexibility is dependent on holidays, progress/report card dates, etc.)

Grade Check Date

Students are notified if they are not meeting the academic eligibility requirements, and they then have two weeks at the minimum to improve their academic standing, or their eligibility will be compromised. Athletes will be eligible to participate in practices and games during this time frame.

Reinstatement Date

Grade check will be done again for athletes who did not meet standards on the "Grade Check Day". Grades will be checked through the FACTS system, or a

teacher can email the Athletic Director on the reinstatement date. If the athlete's GPA is not at a 2.00 (or above) or the failing grade is not improved to passing, the athlete is declared academically ineligible, and ineligibility will last for **one week**. Athletes will be eligible to practice on "red," but athletes will not be eligible to participate in games, travel with the team, or dress for home games

School Attendance Policy Gameday & Practice Eligibility

Students must be at school to participate in practices and games unless they have an excused appointment such as a doctor, dentist, physical therapy, orthodontist, counseling, or a pre-approved situation by the A.D. Exceptions to this policy can only be made by the Athletic Director, Principal, or Head of School. Please call the A.D. in the morning if there is a situation that you feel could be excused and get approval. Athletes will not be able to miss more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of their scheduled classes for this excused appointment or situation to participate in a practice or game. For teams arriving back extremely late from an away game, an excused late arrival could be permitted the next day, but this decision must be made by the A.D. or administration.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

Classrooms and Shared Facilities

The classrooms and shared facilities on both campuses are to be kept neat and orderly. At the end of a period, the room should be picked up and prepared for the next class. Especially in the shared facilities (chapel, science lab, music rooms, art room, etc.) all items such as instruments, music, equipment, etc. are to be put away and surfaces wiped clean, if needed.

Stewardship of School Property

It is important that we exercise care and common sense at all times to maintain safety and good stewardship of our building and property. Absolutely no roughhousing is allowed on school grounds. We ask that students not sit on desks and tables or lean back in chairs. Snacks, drinks, and gum are allowed in the classroom ONLY at the teacher's discretion. Please exercise good sense and help us maintain the condition of the school that God has provided us.

School Equipment and Furnishings

All school equipment and furnishings are school property and may not leave the campus without the permission of an administrator. Damage done by a student to school equipment or furnishings must be paid for by the student or parent before receiving the next report card or diploma. Intentional damage (vandalism) will result in serious administrative consequences.

Hallways and Common Areas

Students may study in the halls if requested by the teacher. Drinks must be carried in covered containers. Eating is allowed, but please be mindful to keep

the halls clean and notify a teacher of a mess or spill. The front foyer is provided for students who do not have class or who may be waiting to leave after school.

Students must clear all hallways by 3pm. Playing with any type of ball is not allowed in the classroom or halls. Toys which may distract from the educational process should not be brought to school. Skateboards are not allowed at school, along with any type of snowboard or sled. Also, throwing **snowballs** on school property is not allowed. Due to the safety hazard that it poses, snowball throwing will result in **detention**.

Lockers

Students are provided lockers for their school materials and personal belongings. It is the student's responsibility to keep his/her locker orderly. Lockers should always be closed when not being used. Nothing is to be placed on the outside of the locker unless it is school approved. **Note: All pictures, messages, and items inside the locker should be honoring to our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Lockers are subject to being inspected at any time. Food or beverage is not to be stored in lockers overnight. Money and valuables should not be kept in lockers. If any item does not fit in the locker, it should be stored in the storage units provided in the hallways between the lockers and not on the floor.

Mandatory locker clean out will take place quarterly. A student may lock their locker with a padlock **only** with administrative approval. An extra key or combination must be kept in the office so that it may be accessed in emergencies. Stickers and permanent markings are not acceptable on/in lockers. If a student desires to change lockers, they need permission from an administrator and must notify the front office.

Sports Bags

Sports bags may be kept in lockers if space allows. Large sports bags may be placed within the storage shelves provided.

Poster/Advertising Approval

Posters must be approved and initialed by an administrator prior to posting. This includes birthday decorations, etc. It is important to place displays in school-approved spaces only, and to use approved means for attaching to walls, etc.

Lost and Found

All valuable items found are to be left at the main office. Clothing items and misplaced books found by the janitorial staff will be placed in the designated lost-and-found locations. **Any items not claimed will be sent to the NWCS Thrift Store quarterly.**

SAFETY AND SECURITY ON CAMPUS

It is Northwest Christian Schools' on-going commitment to ensure that staff, students, and parents feel safe, and are as prepared as possible for an emergency situation. We take very seriously the responsibility of providing a safe environment for your children. The campus security team meets regularly to keep security issues at the forefront of daily operations during the school year. We are also committed to regular communication with school families. A security task force consisting of school administrators, teachers, local law enforcement, and emergency response experts meets regularly and has created security action points for all campuses:

- Awareness: Empowering the staff/faculty in all aspects of safety and security is the most vital component of the plan.
- Practice: The school will complete six evacuation/fire drills yearly, two lock down drills, and one off-site evacuation drill.
- Training: A yearly training session is conducted in August for staff and faculty with specific focus on handling various scenarios that may be encountered at the school, including an active shooter. Ongoing training is being provided for responders.
- Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP): Quick reference guides were added to our current EPP and continually being updated with consultation provided by our parent advisory team of law-enforcement professionals.

General Safety Considerations

In cooperation with the Spokane Police Department, the administration of NWCS has identified ways to increase the safety and security of students and adults at both campuses. Please note the following procedures:

- For the safety of everyone, please adhere to the speed limit on campus which is 20 mph.
- All 7th-12th grade students arriving between 7:00-8:05am must wait in the foyer.
- After school students must be in a sport activity and wait quietly in the foyer if they are to remain on campus. Students who need to wait on a regular basis need permission from the principal.
- Parents must use front entry when picking up sick/injured students, when picking them up early for appointments, emergencies, or when escorting them from the building.
- All parents, guests, and volunteers at NWCS must enter through the front door and sign in with our receptionist who will give all visitors a visitor/volunteer badge to wear while on campus. Please return your badge as you sign out for the day.
- Washington State Patrol (WSP) background checks are required for all adults working with students.
- We regularly practice fire, lockdown, and evacuation drills at all campuses for the safety and security of our faculty, staff, and students.

Closed Campus

Students must plan to stay on campus during the entire school day, including breaks and lunchtime. Students must remain in the buildings, play fields, or other supervised areas during school hours. Students are not allowed in parking lots or outside grounds during school hours. On the rare occasions when students leave campus early for approved reasons (e.g. doctor's appointments, school-approved ministry, early release, etc.) they must sign out and exit through the front office doors.

Visitors

NWCS welcomes visits from potential students, pre-approved guests, and alumni in good standing. Students from other schools are not permitted to visit during the school day but are permitted to join us at extra-curricular activities. All visitors must check first with the front office receptionist to receive a visitor's badge. All visits should be pre-approved by the appropriate teachers/administrator. Prearranged Visitor Forms are available in the front office. Repeat visitors will require special permission from the appropriate administrator. **Classroom visitations are reserved for potential students interested in attending NWCS.**

Animals on Campus

Please refrain from bringing animals on campus. Exceptions will be made for pre-arranged show and tell or scheduled class curriculum project when approved by the teacher and an administrator.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Safety Drills/Lockdown/Evacuation

Every precaution is taken to ensure student safety during normal school hours. Teachers and students are trained in correct safety procedures in case of fire or any other emergency. Periodic fire, lockdown and evacuation drills are executed to provide opportunities for students to learn proper procedures and adhere to all safety guidelines. Students must take all drills seriously and cooperate when teachers are taking attendance. A bell will ring when the drill is over. **In the event of a heightened cause for concern on campus, the school administrator or designee will issue a "precautionary lock-in procedure" until further information regarding any potential danger is assessed before an official lockdown or evacuation is needed.**

Emergency Early Release

If power goes out or in the event of an evacuation or emergency, we will notify families via the parent Facebook page, website and through our text blast notification system.

Snow Day Procedures/School Closure/Late Starts

In the event of school closure, late opening, early dismissal due to bad weather, or other reasons, families will receive a **text blast notification** from the school. All families enrolled in Northwest Christian Schools, who have provided a cell phone

number in their contact information, will automatically receive the text blast. Information will also be posted to the nwcs.org website and on the Parents Facebook page. Every effort will be made to have the announcement on the media by 6:30am. **Please watch for these announcements rather than calling the school.**

In addition, we would like to remind all parents and teenage drivers to give ample time for travel to and from school or to meet bus stops by avoiding rushing, as well as allowing for plenty of stopping distance between cars.

TRANSPORTATION

School Bus Safety Rules

Students have the privilege of using the transportation services of NWCS. Strict standards of discipline must always be maintained on the bus in order to satisfy safety requirements. Whenever the driver must direct his/her attention away from the road, danger exists. The safety of our passengers is always foremost in our minds.

These rules apply to **all** school transportation, both to and from school and on field trips. While Riding the Bus:

- Enter in an orderly manner and take a seat. Seats may be assigned if needed.
- Face forward and remain seated.
- Respect others (bus driver, other students, NWCS property).
- Be self-controlled. Students will observe quiet conduct on the bus.
- Students will not throw paper or objects on the floor or seats of the bus.
- Students will not have open food or drinks on the bus (this includes gum).
- Aisles need to remain clear of bodies, knees and backpacks.
- No part of the body shall be extended through the bus window.
- Students will not leave the bus from the emergency door unless an emergency exists.
- No firearms, knives, breakable contents or animals are allowed.
- Electronic devices with earphones are allowed on the bus with the driver's permission. Cell phones may only be used with permission. All devices must only contain school appropriate content.

Students who ride the bus to and/or from school and their parents will sign the school bus safety rules agreement annually and respect the contract with their bus driver and the school. Students may have riding privileges revoked for a length of time for conduct that is detrimental to the safe operation of the bus. The administrator, teacher, and/or the transportation coordinator will contact parents should the need arise.

Bus Passes

Every student riding the bus to and/or from school must purchase a bus pass prior to their ride. The driver may ask to see the pass at any time. Bus passes can be purchased by visiting or calling the front office at either Colbert campus.

Annual, monthly, and punch passes are available. We understand that at times you may not have purchased a pass for your student(s), or your student(s) is/are out of punches prior to their ride. In these cases, you will be charged the single pass rate for each trip taken until a pass or punch card is purchased. The driver will not accept payments. The Bus Schedule can be found on Parents Web under Resource Documents or on the website under each school's (Elementary, Junior High and High School) resource page.

Students and parents will sign bus rider safety and respect contracts with their bus driver and the school. The driver has full authority over the bus and the students. He/she may revoke riding privileges for a length of time for conduct that is detrimental to the safe operation of the bus. The driver, administrator and/or teacher will contact parents.

High School Student Drivers/Parking

There is no charge for a student parking pass but vehicle identification information should be given to the main office receptionist – car make, color, and license number – to receive a parking pass. Student drivers are to park their cars in parking lots that have been designated for students.

Students must obey all posted speed limits (20 mph) and signs on campus. Failure to do so may result in immediate loss of driving privileges.

Music volume on car sound systems must be kept within the vehicle. Under no circumstances may a student drive another student's vehicle without proper approval from the appropriate student and parent. Also, any type of vandalism directed toward another vehicle will result in disciplinary action or law enforcement involvement as appropriate. Reckless or unsafe driving on or near campus will result in immediate disciplinary action and potential loss of driving privileges on campus.

Students are not to be in their cars during regular school hours unless a teacher or administrator has given permission. Students should vacate the parking lot by 3:05 pm unless they are staying for after school sports/activity.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Medical Emergency Procedure

Medical emergency information is given at the time of enrollment and entered on ParentsWeb. **Please make sure information on the emergency card is current.**

Legally, school personnel can only give medication when the parent/physician Medical Request consent form is completed (authorization can be written on the emergency card). Forms are available in the front office. **Parents must provide the medication for their student and label it with the student's name. This includes aspirin, Tylenol, etc.** as we no longer keep a supply of these in the office. All medications will be kept locked in the front office. The school will try to notify parents when a student becomes ill. If parents cannot be reached, the emergency card will be used to contact a relative or friend who can come for the student.

Medical and Contact Information

It is the parent's / Legal Guardian's responsibility to update their student's medical and contact information in Parents Web.

Medication Administration Policy

Pursuant to Chapter 195, Laws of 1982, and Chapter 28A.210 RCW, Northwest Christian Schools is authorized to administer oral, topical or nasal medications, and eye drops, or ear drops to students during school hours. It is our policy that such medications will only be administered when the failure to receive the medication may result in the student being unable to attend school and/or be well enough to participate in learning activities. We define medication to mean all drugs (prescription, over the counter (OTC), homeopathic, naturopathic, vitamins, bug spray and essential oils). Medication must be brought to the Front Office by the parent/guardian/custodian unless the student is approved for self-carrying the medication. **Medication authorization is good for the current school year only.**

The following conditions must be met:

Dispensed Medication

- Your student will check in at the Front Office/Health Room at the appropriate time to obtain their medication.
- If dosing is half of the tablet, you or your pharmacist must halve the tablets before bringing the medication to school.

Back-up Medication

- It is recommended that students who self-carry medication for life-threatening health conditions (i.e. epinephrine, insulin, inhalers) keep back-up medications in the Front Office or Health Room.
- Back up medication will be required for extra-curricular sports and activities.

Prescription Medication

- All prescription medication must have written doctor orders. The Medication Request Form or Self-Carry Medication Request Form must be signed by a Licensed Healthcare Professional that has prescriptive authority.
- All prescription medication must have signed parent/guardian permission.
- All prescription medication must be in the original prescription bottle (container), unexpired, and properly labeled with student's name, name of drug, dosage, name of health professional who is prescribing, and the time of day to be given.
- When Prescription Medication is approved for self-carry, a Self-Carry Medication Request Form must be filed with the Front Office / School Nurse.

Non-Prescription Medication

- All non-prescription medication (i.e. vitamins/supplements, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, or any over-the-counter (OTC) medication) must have written doctor orders. The Medication Request Form or Self-Carry Medication Request Form must be signed by a Licensed Healthcare Professional that has prescriptive authority.
- All non-prescription medication must have signed parent/guardian permission.
- All non-prescription medication must be in the original bottle (container), unexpired, and properly labeled with student's name.
- When non-prescription medication is approved for self-carry, a Self-Carry Medication Request Form must be filed with the Front Office / School Nurse.

Self-Carried Medication

- Due to proximity of preschool-aged children, Colbert Lower Campus, Cedar Elementary, and Homeschool students are not permitted to self-carry medication. Exception will be made for life-saving medications.
- Self-carried medication (prescription or OTC) will only be allowed at Colbert Upper Campus when a Self-Carry Medication Request Form has been successfully completed and filed with the Front Office.
- Only a one day's supply of the medication may be carried by the student.
- A copy of the completed Self-Carry Medication Request Form must be kept with the medication.
- All self-carried medication must be in the original bottle (container), unexpired, and properly labeled with the student's name.
- Exception: Sunscreen may be self-carried and applied by the student with parent permission only. An Authorization for Sunscreen Application Form must be filed with the Front Office / Health Room. Spray or aerosolized sunscreen is discouraged due to other students with asthma and allergies.

Non-Oral Medication

- School personnel may administer eye drops, ear drops, nasal drops/sprays, ointments, & topical medication.
- School personnel (except school nurses) will NOT administer rectal or injectable medication. These medications must be self-administered by the child or the parent/guardian/custodian, or an adult designee may come to school and administer the medication. Exception: Injectable medication in life-threatening situations (i.e. epinephrine for anaphylaxis, glucagon for hypoglycemia).
- If medication is self-administered, it must be indicated on the Medication Request Form.
- If medication is ordered, "If a nurse is available...", this does not imply or guarantee a nurse will be on site at all times to give that medication.

Controlled Substances

- Controlled substances-scheduled drugs are NEVER allowed to be self-carried.
- Controlled substances-scheduled drugs (e.g. cough syrup with codeine or Ritalin) will be counted weekly and recorded. On the weekly medication counts, the nurse or designated staff member needs to have a witness to the actual count of the medication.
- No more than a twenty-day supply of controlled substances-Schedule II-V should be brought to the school at any one time.
- Theft or suspected theft is to be documented and reported to the School Nurse and school administrator. The incident may be reportable to local law enforcement.

Chronic Health Conditions

If your student has **asthma**, a **seizure** disorder, or a **life-threatening allergy** your student will need to have a respective Care Plan completed in lieu of an NWC Medication Request Form. If your student has **diabetes**, please contact your endocrinologist to have a Diabetic Medical Management Plan (DMMP) completed. All Medication Request Forms, Care Plans, and DMMPs require a signature from you and your healthcare provider. **New Medication Request Forms, Care Plans, and DMMPs are required every school year.** Completed Medication Request Forms, Care Plans, and DMMPs can be delivered directly to the Front Office, mailed to the school, or faxed to 509-292-6713 – ATTN: School Nurse. For your convenience, the NWCS Medication Administration Policy, Medication Request Form, Self-Carry Medication Request Form, and blank asthma, severe allergy / anaphylaxis, and seizure Care Plans can all be accessed on the NWC website under Parent Resources.

If your student has a chronic health condition noted upon (re)enrollment or at any time during the school year for which prescribed medical devices or medication may be needed (i.e. epi-pen, inhaler, etc.) all devices and current prescription medication must be turned in to the Front Office / School Nurse in the original packaging with a corresponding Medication Request Form, Care Plan, or DMMP as appropriate by the first day of school. Failure to have current medications, medical devices, and paperwork on hand will result in the student not being able to remain at school until the current medications, devices, and paperwork are turned into the Front Office / School Nurse.

Illness Guidelines – When to Keep Your Student Home

We appreciate your commitment to have your student at school and on time ready to learn every day. However, please do not send your student to school if they have any of the following:

- Coughing, chronic cough – if persistent and accompanied by other symptoms such as fever, loss of appetite, and rapid, noisy, obstructive breathing.
- Diarrhea – students can return to school 24 hours after last event.
- Eyes – reddened and irritated, thick mucus or pus draining from the eye.

- Fever – temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. To allow him/her to fully recover and to guard against a relapse of the illness, please keep your student at home for a full 24 hours after his/her temperature has returned to normal without the use of Tylenol, ibuprofen, or cold medications that contain Tylenol or ibuprofen.
- Head Lice – students can return to school 24 hours after completed lice treatment and no evidence of eggs (nits) or lice in the student's hair.
- Nasal Discharge – thick, green nasal discharge.
- Sore Throat – especially when the student has a fever or swollen neck glands.
- Vomiting – students can return to school 24 hours after last event.
- COVID-19 Symptoms – please follow NWCS COVID-19 procedures.

If your student shows any of the above symptoms while at school, it will be necessary to pick him/her up from school. We recommend for all students presenting with any of the symptoms listed above to be evaluated by their primary health care provider.

- Bringing a student to school with any of the above symptoms puts other students and staff at risk of getting sick.
- If all parents keep their sick student at home, we will have stronger, healthier, and happier students.
- While we regret any inconvenience this may cause, in the long run this means fewer lost workdays and less illness for parents too.

Food and Environmental Allergies

If your student has a food allergy, please inform the Front Office and your student's teacher. If the food allergy is severe, please inquire at the Front Office about an Anaphylaxis Care Plan that we can share with the School Nurse, Administration, Kitchen, and applicable teachers/staff. Latex balloons are not allowed on campus due to severe student allergies. Please refrain from sending latex balloons for your student.

Medical Appointments

Whenever possible, doctor, dental and other appointments should be made after school hours. A written request must be sent to the student's teacher and/or the Front Office Receptionist in advance of the student's absence. No student will be released to anyone other than those authorized in Parents Web or by a "one time" written note by the parent or Legal Guardian.

