



**NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK
2020-2021**

School Office832-6240
Attendance Line.....832-6271
Latchkey832-6248
School Fax.....832-6241

SCHOOL HOURS

The instructional day for students in grades 2-6 will be from 9:10 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. The tardy bell will ring at 9:10 a.m. Students should plan to arrive between 8:55 a.m. and 9:05 a.m. Students may enter the building only after 9:00. Students having breakfast at school may enter the building at 8:50.

It is important that students know, each morning, how they will be getting home that day. If there is going to be a change, please notify your child's teacher as soon as possible. In the event of an emergency, parents may call the office to make other arrangements; however, calling the office should NOT be a regular occurrence. We want all children to get home on time and safe. When a call is made to change transportation it can often be confusing for the child, as well as office staff, teachers, and guest teachers. The more frequently these occur, the more likely to be a problem.

VISITORS

Northwood welcomes parents to be a part of their child's education and participation! In the event of parents wishing to visit their child's classroom, they must make arrangements, in advance, with the teacher. Timing of the visit is up to the teacher's discretion in order to prevent the visit from interfering with the classroom environment. Upon arrival to school, for the visitation, parents must sign-in at the office before going to the classroom.

TARDINESS

Any student arriving after the 9:10 bell should report to the office before going to the classroom. The student will sign-in at the office counter and take a pink tardy slip to his/her teacher. Parents are not required to do this with their student.

ATTENDANCE AWARDS

Northmont District will give students Excellent Attendance Awards under the following guidelines:

1. Students may not be absent, excused or unexcused, more than 4 days per school year.
2. Early dismissals will be calculated as follows:
 - a. After 2:10 PM - Full Day
 - b. Before 2:10 PM - One Half Day
3. Tardies (arrival before 10:40AM)
 - a. Three tardies equal one absence.
4. Late Arrival
 - a. After 10:40 AM - One Half Day absence
 - b. Before 10:40 AM - Tardy

NORTHWOOD MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Northwood Community, on our journey to learn and succeed, will inspire each other to be our best, to be responsible, and to respect ourselves and others.

NORTHWOOD BELIEFS

1. We love Northwood!
2. Our diversity makes us a community.
3. We are accepting of all differences.
4. We offer a welcoming family environment.
5. We are strong, passionate, persistent, and we work toward the same goal.
6. We are a true family - we fight, we love, we work together.
7. We have good families and our families support our school and come out for special events.
8. We really love our kids and do what's best for them.
9. We come together in times of need.
10. We have strong leadership.
11. Despite being less diverse than our student population, we work well with diverse students.

NORTHWOOD P.R.I.D.E.

As educators our main goal is to help all of our students succeed academically and personally. We believe that this can be accomplished in an educational setting where students feel respected and challenged to accept responsibility for their actions. Northwood Elementary is striving to increase the consistency, effectiveness, and efficiency with which our school meets the social and behavioral needs of all students. Our core values represent expectations for our Northwood school community. We believe that when we provide quality instruction that informs and teaches expected behaviors and appropriate responses for our students, they are successful. As a staff we also model these expectations for our students, they are successful. As staff we also model these expectations for our students.

Northwood Core Values

Prepared WITH A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

Respectful TOWARD OTHERS

I am responsible FOR MY DECISIONS

Determined TO SUCCEED

Engaged IN MY SCHOOL

As educators our main goal is to help all of our students succeed academically and personally. We believe that this can best be accomplished in an educational setting where students feel respected and challenged to accept responsibility for their actions.

Northwood Elementary is striving to increase the consistency, effectiveness, and efficiency with which our school meets the social behavioral needs of all students. During the 2005-06 school year, Northwood Elementary began implementing several components of the school-wide Positive Behavior Intervention Support program (PBIS) and named our program "The Northwood Way", recently named PRIDE. PBIS was initiated at Northwood because it emphasizes a school wide system of support that includes proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate student behaviors to create positive school environments. Instead of using a patchwork of individual behavioral management plans, a continuum of positive behavior intervention and support for all students within the school is implemented in areas including classroom and non-classroom settings (such as hallways, restrooms, recess). Northwood's goals in using the PBIS approach are to: a) improve school and classroom climate; b) reduce discipline referrals; c) provide teachers, students, and families with a predictable and positive structure for improving student behavior; d) enhance the continuum of behavior support for students who display significant behavior challenges; and e) increase the efficiency, effectiveness, and relevance of the school's efforts to provide behavior support systems. By creating more proactive school and classroom environments, Northwood Elementary is hoping to prevent the development of antisocial behavior and to

improve the provision of specialized interventions. Additionally, grades 2-4 will begin implementing the PAX Good Behavior Game for classroom with 5-6 using basic elements of the program. The following matrix is designed to help staff increase consistency while supervising common areas, and to provide teachers with a basis for teaching and re-teaching responsible behavior.

Latchkey	*Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself *Use free-time wisely (homework)	*Be kind to others in speech and actions *Listen to adult directions *Share latchkey materials	*Clean up area after using materials/games
Arrival	*Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself	*Enter building quietly *Wait patiently to be dismissed *Walk directly to your destination *Listen to adults and safety patrol	*Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself
Hallways Quiet Zone	*Walk-single file, to the right *Face forward *Go directly to your destination	*Keep hands and feet to yourself *Keep doorways clear	*Keep hands and feet to yourself *Keep hallways clean by picking up trash *Close lockers
Restrooms	*Wash your hands *Use restroom in a timely manner	*Respect privacy *Keep your hands and feet yourself *No talking	*Keep area clean and free of writing or drawings *Flush toilet, turn water off, throw away your trash
Cafeteria/lun chroom	*Be prepared *Follow rules *Eat your own food *Use good manners	*No talking (lunch line) *Listen to adult directions *Raise your hand for help *Talk quietly (lunchroom) *Stay seated until dismissed	*Be polite to lunch staff (please and thank you) *Clear table, floor, tray, and recycle
Playground/ Recess	*Know and follow rules *Hands and feet to yourself *Walk through Quiet Zone	*Move quietly through Quiet Zone *Listen to adult directions *Share equipment *Take turns *Include others *Line up promptly at whistle	*Use equipment properly *Green equipment (3-6), rainbow equipment (2-3), teeter totters (4-6) *Grade appropriate fields and hoops
Dismissal	*Stay seated until bus is called *WALK directly to destination	*Stay quiet to hear busses *Listen to adults and safety patrol *Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself *Share the hallway	
Busses	*Know and follow bus rules *Stay in seat with book bag on lap *Keep feet out of aisle *Pay attention and be ready for your stop	*Talk quietly and with appropriate language *Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself on bus, at bus stop, and loading and unloading *Listen to bus driver	*Keep area clean

Classroom/Specials	SEE ASSERTIVE DISCIPLINE PLANS PER GRADE LEVEL/SPECIAL	SEE ASSERTIVE DISCIPLINE PLANS PER GRADE LEVEL/SPECIAL	SEE ASSERTIVE DISCIPLINE PLANS PER GRADE LEVEL/SPECIAL
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ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL

The addition of the bus lane at the south end of our school building has had a tremendous positive impact on our arrival and dismissal procedures and routines. We will continue to need our parents support to insure our students' safety during arrival and dismissal by observing the following:

1. Carefully observe and respect the "Buses Only" signs posted at the Bus Drive Entrance.
2. Noranda Drive will continue to be One Way (Traveling from the South to the North) during arrival and dismissal times.
3. Please do not pull into the north parking lot to drop off or pick up students during arrival and dismissal. We need to keep this area clear for bus traffic.
4. Please do not block the driveways located at the south and north ends of our building. Not only do we have buses entering and exiting the drives, but the Safety Patrol has a crosswalk in this area. Your car may be obscuring their view.
5. There will also be no parking in the rear parking lot from 8:30 to 4:00 on school days. Our students walk to and from the playground through this area.
6. Please do not "double park" or stop in the middle of the street to drop off or pick up students. This is an important safety concern and students are instructed to only enter /exit cars that are along the curb. ***Clayton Police will issue warnings and/or citations for any violations of the above in order to maintain the safety of all involved.***
7. **In an effort to ensure the safety of all students and staff, ALL DOORS WILL BE LOCKED DURING SCHOOL HOURS. Visitors will be "buzzed" in by office staff through DOOR #2. Students and staff are NOT PERMITTED to open doors to allow visitors entrance.**

SAFETY PATROL

Members of our Safety Patrol will be selected on the basis of merit and responsibility from the fifth and sixth grades. The patrol members are assigned the responsibility of assisting with the safety of our walkers and bus riders on or near school property. All students will be expected to obey directions of our Safety Patrol. The safety patrol from the sheriff's office and members of the Clayton Police Department will be assisting the school and Safety Patrol through training, observations, and traffic control as needed.

STUDENT SAFETY

Walking to and from school:

All students should conduct themselves properly as they travel to and from school. They should plan to arrive at school shortly after 8:55 and go directly home when school is dismissed unless other plans have been made with their parents. Our walkers are reminded of the following basic guidelines and expectations as they go to and from school:

1. Respect the property of homeowners. Do not walk across lawns or take shortcuts.
2. Travel on sidewalks or along the left side of the road (facing traffic) if there are no sidewalks.
3. Proper behavior will be expected while walking to and from school. We have many children of all ages who must walk to school.
4. Obey the Safety Patrol. The patrol members' job is to remind you of the safety rules you have learned at home or in the classroom. If a student disregards the common safety rules, he/she will be reported to the Safety Patrol adviser for follow-up action. We request the cooperation and support of all students and parents involved. The safety of our children is everyone's concern.

BICYCLE SAFETY

Students in grades 2-3-4 *may not* ride bicycles to school. Children in grades 5-6 may ride their bikes to school with permission from their parents. The school does not encourage the riding of bicycles. Bicycle riding is a parental responsibility. The following rules will apply to all bike riders:

1. A student who rides a school bus must have a note from a parent indicating parental approval of bike riding in lieu of bus riding. A form must be completed, from the office, before permission is granted.
2. Bicycles are to travel on the right side of the road with traffic, not on the sidewalks. Stop signs and patrol signals must be obeyed.
3. Bicycles are to be walked while on school grounds. They are to also be walked to and from 4-way and 2-way. Bicycles should be walked on the sidewalk. Courtesy for walkers is a must.
4. Bicycles should be parked in the proper area during school hours and locked for safety. This is a student responsibility.
5. Students will ride one person per bike while traveling from home to school and school to home.
6. Bicycles should not be ridden to school when ice and snow are on the roads.
7. Bike riders who do not obey the common bike safety rules will lose the privilege of riding their bikes to school.
8. Students are encouraged to wear all safety equipment when riding bikes to school, for example helmets, pads, etc.

ABSENCES

The importance of regular attendance cannot be over-emphasized! A child should be in school every day he/she is physically able. It is extremely difficult to successfully keep up with class work if attendance is irregular. The school office will closely monitor attendance. If your child will be absent from school or arriving late for any reason, please call the attendance line (832-6271), identify yourself and leave a message including the child's name, homeroom teacher's name, and reason for absence or tardy. For your convenience, this call can be made at anytime, even the night before. The calls should be made by 10:00 a.m.

TARDINESS

Any student arriving at school after the 9:10 bell should report to the office before going to the classroom. The student will sign-in at the office counter and take a pink tardy slip to his/her teacher.

REQUEST TO LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY

A request to have a child excused from classes early should be sent, in writing, with the child on the morning of dismissal. The time and reason for leaving should be included. When possible, medical and dental appointments should be made outside of school hours.

A child will be released only to his/her parents or legal guardian unless the school has been notified by parents in writing that they have granted permission for someone else to pick up their youngster. The parent must report to the office to sign the student out for the early dismissal.

IMPORTANT PROCEDURES

If you have a change of address, home telephone number, or parent's work number, please notify the school office at once. Verification of residency must accompany an address change. Information and required forms are available in the school office.

HOMEWORK FOR ABSENT STUDENTS

When students are absent from school due to illness, homework requests will be handled as follows: If you desire work for an absent student, please make that request known to the office by 10:00 a.m. This process makes the request official. Parents may pick up student work in the office at the end of the school day (4:00 p.m.). Parents are not to stop at a student's classroom before the end of the school day.

HOMEWORK

The staff of Northwood Elementary believes that within the educational process there is a need to reinforce and practice skills as well as to extend the learning environment beyond the classroom. Homework is a process that allows for this review, practice and extension to take place. Parents can assume that assigned homework will meet one or more of the above mentioned criteria. Homework is a topic that yearly causes parent, staff, and student concern. It is our goal to minimize the concerns that arise concerning homework. We ask that parents consider the following as related to student homework:

1. Homework is individualistic as it relates to our students. What may take one student ten minutes may take another student thirty minutes. If you believe that your child is spending an unrealistic amount of time on homework on a daily basis, check into it. Any staff member will be happy to review the situation with you and then work with you on this matter. We too believe that the time spent on homework should be realistic and reasonable.
2. Make sure that the student has a set time and place to complete his/her homework. All students will be furnished with a daily agenda. Staff will be working with students in keeping all assignments and other school information in the agenda. We ask that you become familiar with the agenda and stress its importance.
3. Remember - homework is the responsibility of your child; you are there to offer guidance. If homework becomes a daily problem at your house, seek assistance. The staff, administration, and guidance department are available to work with you.

STUDENT DRESS

The home and school need to cooperate in the matter of dress. School is the child's place of business, and children who are dressed in appropriate school clothing seem to do a better job. The Northwood administration reserves the right to determine inappropriate school dress.

The following are guidelines in the selection of clothing and standards of personal grooming.

1. Any style of dress which brings ridicule or disrespect to the national, ethnic, or religious origin of any student or employee of the Board of Education will not be tolerated.
2. Any style of dress of personal grooming which tends to undermine or destroy established orderliness or discipline within the school will not be permitted.
3. Any style of dress that exceeds generally accepted standards of decency will not be tolerated.
4. Students must recognize that brief and revealing clothing are not appropriate apparel in school. The following guidelines on brief clothing are examples and do not cover all situations. Students shall not wear tank tops, halter tops, garments with spaghetti straps, or strapless garments. Garments that are "see-through", cut low, or expose one's midriff are not acceptable. Sleeveless garments must extend to the end of the shoulders and fit closely under the arms. Short skirts and short shorts are not permitted, even with leggings or tights. Undergarments must not be visible.
5. Sagging pants. Students shall not wear pants that, when fastened, sag or fit below the waist. All pants must fit around the waist and be properly fastened.
6. Students shall not wear hats in the district buildings except for a medical or religious purpose, or a school hat day.
7. Students shall not wear items of clothing or jewelry that contain messages that are vulgar, offensive, obscene, or libelous; that denigrate others on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability; that promote alcohol or drug use or violence; or that are otherwise contrary to the school's educational mission.
8. Footwear must be worn at all times. Due to safety concerns, flip flops are not recommended for outdoor recess.
9. No shoes with wheels/rollers are permitted.
10. Billfolds with chains or chains as jewelry are not permitted.
11. Pajamas are not appropriate dress for school and are not permitted, unless it is a "spirit day" approved by administration.
12. All clothes should be clean and in good repair. Clothing may not be torn, ripped or have holes that are excessive, even if by design.

13. The administration has the right and responsibility to determine what is appropriate and acceptable attire.
14. Students violating these guidelines will make the necessary corrections or be sent home. Parents may be contacted.

PLAYGROUND RULES

The playground is a place to have fun and exercise our bodies. Many activities are provided so that skills can be developed. Whenever the “Real Feel” temperature is approximately 20 degrees or higher, we will go outside for recess. Please dress your child appropriately. Safety is our prime concern. The following playground rules are in effect for all students. They apply at grade level recess, noon recess, and latchkey play times.

1. Use equipment correctly

- Swing the same direction on swings (swing toward the building). No swinging side to side. Those waiting on swings must be a safe distance away. Jumping out of swings is dangerous and not permitted.
 - Go down all slides in a forward, seated position--no stopping or sitting inside the slide.
 - Monkey bars--move across them toward the building.
 - There will be no standing on the benches.
 - There will be no pushing, pulling, or competitive climbing on the Eagles’ Nest.
- *Follow rules for all games including Gaga Ball and 4-square.

2. Play correctly

- Students are to walk to and from the playground and are to pause at the sound of a whistle.
- Tag/Chasing is dangerous and not permitted anywhere on the playground.
- Tackling and excessive physical contact is dangerous and students are not to engage in these activities.
- All playground equipment/balls will be provided. Students are not to bring those items to school.
- All games played at recess will follow the rules and guidelines taught in physical education.
- Gravel areas-- they are dirty
- no sitting or digging in gravel area
- no throwing gravel at any time

3. Use respectful language

4. No tackle football

* During indoor lunch recess, you are to follow the rules explained by your homeroom teacher and posted on your classroom wall.

POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES

If school rules are broken, these are a few consequences that could be issued:

1. *REPLACEMENT BEHAVIOR SESSIONS* – students will be required to attend the sessions as assigned by staff. Either during lunch/ before school for 30 minutes, or after school for 75 minutes. Parents will be notified of all sessions. Replacement behavior sessions will focus on helping students identify inappropriate behavior and ways they can replace that behavior.
2. *SATURDAY DETENTION* - For those students that continue to display inappropriate behavior following three replacement behavior sessions, or as deemed appropriate by administration. Parents will be notified.
3. *CONFERENCING* - May involve parent, teacher, counselor or administrator. The purpose is to counsel the student in regard to his/her behavior and seek assistance and support from all involved parties. This process will be used when necessary or in conjunction with any of the listed consequences.
4. *EMERGENCY REMOVAL* – Parents will be called to remove the child for the remainder of the day.
5. *SUSPENSION* (In-School/Out-of-School) - will be given for serious infractions or for repetitive rule violations. Parental involvement will be part of this process.
6. *DUE PROCESS* - Due process will be followed in all disciplinary actions.

(All Northmont students are subject to the rules that are established by the Board of Education. A copy of these rules is provided in the student agenda.)

PERSONAL ITEMS

1. Children are responsible for any moneys, jewelry, or other valuables brought to school. Any electronic devices/toys are not to be brought to school. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items. **Cell phones are to be turned off, stored in their book bag, and not used during the school day.** Students who violate this policy will have their phones confiscated and parents must pick the phone up, in the office, **no exceptions.**
2. Inappropriate items that students can use to cause disruption or that could be considered dangerous to the students and others will be confiscated and the parent notified.
3. Selling or trading among students at school, on the school grounds, or on the bus is an inappropriate behavior.
4. Children must obtain teacher's permission before bringing pets, toys or other personal items to school.
5. Aerosol and glass containers are dangerous and not to be brought to school.
6. Students are not to chew gum at school, unless permitted specifically by administration.
6. Due to safety concerns, all student backpacks must be stored in lockers during the day. However, "roller backpacks" do not fit in lockers. Use of these items is prohibited.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

Northwood's Guidance and Counseling program consists of a variety of services aimed at helping our students learn and develop to their highest potential. These include individual and group counseling, parent and teacher consultation, classroom guidance, information services, and referral assistance to other programs and services in the community. Guidance classes are conducted in all classrooms during the school year. Usually six to eight sessions are held in grades 2-4. Topics and activities focus on one or more of the following areas:

- 1) Self Knowledge/Inter-personal Skills; 2) Education; 3) Careers.

All students who are new to Northwood at the beginning of the year will be given the opportunity to participate in a "New Kids Group" designed to better acquaint them with our building and its staff as well as to answer their questions and encourage their positive adjustment to our school. (New students coming later in the school year will meet with the counselor individually.)

A variety of small groups for our students will be available throughout the school year. Possible groups will include, but not be limited to *DIVORCE/SEPARATION, STUDY SKILLS, FRIENDSHIP, and COPING SKILLS.* (Students will be required to have parent permission to participate in the above-mentioned group discussions.) The counselor is scheduled at Northwood three days per week. Appointments can be made by calling the school office at 832-6240.

INTERVENTION ASSISTANCE TEAM (IAT)

Solutions for student problems are often discussed by the IAT Team. The team is composed of the principal, classroom teacher(s), and others who might be able to offer suggestions, such as special education teachers, school nurse, school psychologist, guidance counselor, and others. Parents are asked to participate in team meetings to help devise plans to meet the student's individual needs. The plans are documented and the team reconvenes, as needed, to discuss progress.

LIBRARY POLICY

1. Students in grades 2-3 are allowed to check out as many as three (2) books.
2. Students in grades 4-6 are allowed to check out as many as six (4) books.
3. All books are checked out for a one (1) week period, and can be renewed.
4. There is a two (2) cent fine per day for overdue books. If a student is absent, no fine is charged for the day(s) absent. The maximum fine is \$1.00.
5. If a book is lost or damaged beyond repair, it must be paid for at current replacement prices.

ACADEMICS

A+ Award: All A's on the report card with 3 or less missing/late/incomplete assignments

Honor Roll: All A's and B's on the report card with 5 or less missing/late/incomplete assignments

DETERMINATION

Those students who have shown improvement academically or behaviorally may earn a Determination Award. This will be decided at the discretion of the grade level team. Students on special behavior contracts may receive recognition for improvements by their teacher at the assembly.

ATTENDANCE

Those students who have attended school all days of the quarter and have no reported tardies will earn an attendance award.

PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

Registration and emergency medical authorization forms (InfoSnap) must be completed if your child is attending the program. All registration information must be kept up to date. No child will be released to anyone other than the authorized persons (noted on the registration forms) without previous notification to the child care staff. Please do not bring a sick child to school. In most cases it will be necessary to call you immediately to pick up your child; this creates an unnecessary burden for everyone.

*** Principal reserves the right to adjust the above consequences, based on the severity of each individual situation.**

SCHOOL FEES 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Grade 2 = \$74.43

Grade 3 = \$59.03

Grade 4 = \$56.73

Grade 5 = \$52.23

Grade 6 = \$66.83

This is in addition to the \$30 iPad insurance fee. Students new to the district in Grade 5/6 will add an additional \$4.50 for a general music instrument.