



2021-2022

# BEGINNINGS

**NORTH ALLEGHENY'S ANNUAL  
BACK TO SCHOOL PUBLICATION FOR K-5 FAMILIES**

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# Letter from the Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! We are excited about the school year and look forward to our students returning and continuing the elementary learning journey. We are continuing to work with county and Commonwealth experts to ensure that we are creating a safe environment for our elementary students.

There are a few changes this year related to the Elementary Administration Team. Mrs. Guess, Assistant Principal at Franklin Elementary School, was on a special assignment last year working with the Curriculum Department but will now return to Franklin Elementary. We are currently in the recruitment and interview process to fill the Assistant Principal position at Marshall Elementary School and will be releasing that information when a final decision is made and the candidate is approved by the School Board. Mrs. Hudson, who was working as the NA Cyber Academy (NACA) Principal last year, will be returning to her position as Assistant Principal at McKnight Elementary School. She will continue to be the administrator overseeing the elementary NACA program in addition to her role as Assistant Principal at McKnight Elementary School.

We are excited to get back to a more routine year helping students experience the best learning experience they can as part of their elementary experience. Our teaching staff will continue to provide our students and families with a top notch educational experience. We also worked hard last spring and summer to present multiple transition activities to welcome our students who are being redistricted to a new NA elementary school as part of the redistricting process. We are confident that the students will love their new schools and meet and make many new friends.

The North Allegheny Elementary Program is a top quality program that will provide students with wonderful opportunities for learning as well as opportunities for remediation or enrichment as necessary. Parents can learn more about our educational programs at our upcoming Curriculum Night presentations. These events will be held in person at the seven elementary buildings. The purpose of these events is for teachers to provide parents with information about specific grade level curriculum as well as details about the teacher and classroom. Parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to attend these informative sessions.

Grades	Date	Time
Kindergarten and First	August 19, 2021	6:30 p.m.
Second and Third Grade	September 9, 2021	6:30 p.m.
Fourth and Fifth Grade	September 13, 2021	6:30 p.m.

On behalf of the entire elementary staff, we welcome you to the 2021-2022 school year. Parents should continue to visit the North Allegheny School District website for the most up-to-date information for the 2021-2022 school year.

Sincerely,  
**James M. Bradley, Ed.D.**  
Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education



# Elementary School Day at a Glance

## Arriving At School and School Hours

The elementary schools are open to students each school day from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Students arriving before 9 a.m. should report to designated areas where supervision is provided. Students should not arrive prior to 8:50 a.m.

- *Two-Hour Delay Schedule (for inclement weather):* When a two-hour delay is called, students should be at their bus stop two hours after their normal reporting time. Kindergarten students follow this schedule:
  - AM Kindergarten: 11 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
  - PM Kindergarten: 1:45 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

## Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance at school is important to a successful school career. Absences fall into one of two categories: LEGAL and ILLEGAL.

LEGAL absences include:

- Student illness
- Death of an immediate family member
- Absences approved by the Administration, including approved Family Educational Trips
- Religious holidays or instruction
- Urgent reasons deemed acceptable by the Administration

ILLEGAL absences include:

- Truancy
- Absence due to parental/guardian neglect
- Illegal employment
- Family Educational Trips not approved by the Administration

In order to request approval for a Family Educational Trip, parents/guardians must [submit a written request for excusal](#) at least five school days prior to the absence, and the absence must be for 10 or less school days. Students who will be participating in an extended absence due to a request for an educational tour or trip for more than 10 days will be withdrawn after the tenth consecutive day (on day 11) and the withdrawal date will be dated the first day of the consecutive absence.

Students with legal absences may have the opportunity to complete any missed assignments upon returning to school. The District's responsibility is to promote consistent school attendance and address the underlying risk factors that may lead to truancy. As a requirement of Act 138, students who accrue three illegal absences will be asked to participate in the creation of a School Attendance Improvement Plan (SAIP). Students who accrue six illegal absences will be referred to a school-based or community-based attendance improvement program or to the local children and youth agency. In addition, the District may file a citation for truancy with the local District Magistrate.

## Tardy Policy

Students are tardy if they arrive after 9:05 a.m. There are only three reasons that are recognized as valid excuses for tardiness:

- Severe weather conditions
- Bus transportation difficulties
- Personal accident or illness

Students must provide a note each time they are tardy. This note is to be signed by a parent/guardian and is to be submitted to the office upon arrival to school. Parents/guardians may also email the teacher and copy the front office secretary on the email.

## Homework Requests & Make-Up Work

Students are often concerned and anxious over work missed during their absences. Therefore, systems are in place to help students get their assignments during short-term and long-term absences. If students are absent for only one day, they should get the missed work directly from their teachers when they return. Parents/guardians should contact the teacher for details. All make-up work for absences of one week or more must be completed within two weeks after returning to school. Make-up work is the student's responsibility.

# Important Dates for Elementary Families

## Key Dates for Elementary Families

Refer to the [Activities Calendar](#) for the most up to date list of events, times, & locations.

Kindergarten/First Grade Curriculum Night)	August 19
<b>First Day of School</b>	<b>August 23</b>
Labor Day (No Classes)	September 6
Second/Third Grade Curriculum Night	September 9
Fourth/Fifth Grade Curriculum Night	September 13
Professional Learning Day (No Classes)	October 27
Professional Learning Day (No Classes)	November 1
Professional Learning Day (No Classes)	November 2
Thanksgiving Break (No School)	November 25-26
Winter Break (No School)	December 24-January 2
Professional Learning Day (No Classes)	January 14
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No School)	January 17
Presidents' Day (No Classes)	February 21
Professional Learning Day (No Classes)	March 23
Spring Break (No School)	April 11-15
PSSA English Language Arts - Grades 3-8	April 25-29
PSSA Mathematics - Grades 3-8	May 2-13
PSSA Science - Grades 4 & 8	May 2-13
PSSA Make-Up Dates - All Subjects	May 2-13
Election Day (No School)	May 17
Memorial Day (No School)	May 30
<b>Last Day of School for Students</b>	<b>June 3</b>
Class of 2022 Graduation	June 3
Professional Learning Day (No Classes)	June 6

## Building Acronyms

<b>BWE</b>	<b>Bradford Woods Elementary School</b>
<b>FES</b>	<b>Franklin Elementary School</b>
<b>HES</b>	<b>Hosack Elementary School</b>
<b>IES</b>	<b>Ingomar Elementary School</b>
<b>MCK</b>	<b>McKnight Elementary School</b>
<b>MES</b>	<b>Marshall Elementary School</b>
<b>PES</b>	<b>Peebles Elementary School</b>
<b>CMS</b>	Carson Middle School
<b>IMS</b>	Ingomar Middle School
<b>MMS</b>	Marshall Middle School
<b>NAI</b>	North Allegheny Intermediate High
<b>NASH</b>	North Allegheny Senior High
<b>NACA</b>	<b>North Allegheny Cyber Academy</b>
<b>CAO</b>	Central Administrative Offices
<b>NASD</b>	North Allegheny School District

## Photo Dates

BWE	September 27
FES	September 21
HES	October 8
IES	October 5
MCK	September 28
MES	September 10
PES	September 10

# Things to Know for Elementary School

## Approved Wipes/Sanitizers/Cleansers

NASD has created a list of disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizers, and general cleaners that have been approved for use in classrooms, available on the District website. Safety Data Sheets are available for each of the items on this list. Parents/guardians are asked to refer to these lists before sending items for classroom use out of courtesy for students who have allergies, breathing conditions, etc. This does not apply to products students bring for personal use.

## After-School Programs

One of the available after-school options for fourth and fifth-grade students is intramural sports. Programs and schedules vary by building. These sessions are offered in the fall, winter, and spring. Contact your school's main office or the Athletic Department at 724-934-7238.

The PFA/PTA/PTO organizations at each school sponsor a variety of other after-school classes each year. Classes are scheduled on an availability basis for a small fee, cover a variety of topics, and are taught by teachers, parents/guardians, and other community members. For further information, contact your PFA/PTA/PTO after-school coordinator.

## Curriculum Nights

Parents/guardians of elementary school students are invited to attend the Curriculum Nights. Parents/guardians will have the opportunity to meet their student's teachers, each of whom will provide an informative and detailed presentation for the grade level curriculum. Additionally, parents/guardians will receive a copy of NA's Curriculum Guide for their child's grade level. These evening sessions are designed for informational purposes, not for conferencing with teachers regarding individual students.

- Kindergarten/First Grade: Thursday, August 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (*Note: this date is prior to the first day of school*)
- Second/Third Grade: Thursday, September 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Fourth/Fifth Grade: Monday, September 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

## Dress Code

While North Allegheny accommodates a wide variety of individual taste, inappropriate dress is not acceptable. The following should be used in determining appropriate school attire:

- Articles must be clean (not soiled with grease, oil, paint, or dirt).
- Clothing with slogans/emblems/etc. is acceptable as long as it does not depict illegal substances, indecent writing, or indecent pictures.
- Warm weather clothing is appropriate with the following guidelines: halter tops or tank tops with spaghetti straps, tops exposing the midriff or immodest display of undergarments, and torn or ragged clothing is NOT permitted.
- Oversized/baggy pants present problems regarding safety both for the individual student and fellow classmates. School staff will insist that appropriate fitting pants are worn so that students can maneuver with ease, particularly in an emergency situation.
- Items of dress that disrupt the educational process and climate are inappropriate. Students are not to wear hats or bandannas during the school day inside the building unless it is for an approved fundraiser or activity.
- Footwear must be worn by all students. Flip-flops and other backless shoes are not encouraged. "Wheelie shoes" are NOT permitted at school.
- Shorts or skirts must reach at the fingertips while arms are hanging naturally at the sides.
- Tights or leggings may not be used underneath shorts or skirts to substitute length. Leggings may only be worn under appropriate length (fingertip) shorts, skirts, or dresses.

# Things to Know for Elementary School

## Food in the Classroom

There are an increased number of students in our schools who have serious food allergies. Out of concern and respect for their well-being and an overall emphasis on health and wellness across our District, guidelines related to food items that may be brought into our classrooms have been reviewed and refined. In general, it is necessary to submit a request to bring food items into the school a minimum of 48 hours in advance. In some schools, there may be more stringent guidelines due to specific circumstances. Please consult your child's student/parent handbook for specific details on this topic. The North Allegheny School District encourages parents/guardians to consider bringing non-edible treats for students to enjoy instead of food items.

## School Lunch Program

To view lunch menus and information about Food Services, [visit the Food Services section of the NA website](#). Complete meals are available at no charge for the 2021-2022 school year. A la carte items are available and can be purchased separately.

Nutritious meals that emphasize quality and variety are available to students at every school within the District. Printable versions of monthly menus for the elementary program are posted on the District website. The daily elementary school lunch features are posted on the District and school homepages of the website. Parents/guardians may request a printed copy in the main office of their home school. Students may make cafeteria purchases by utilizing the Point of Sale (POS) computerized debit system, which requires them to provide their Personal Identification Number (PIN).

Each student is assigned a six-digit PIN upon enrollment. The PIN number is used for two purposes. The first purpose is to verify student identity and reference important student information like food allergies, dietary restrictions, and limitations on purchases established by parents/guardians. The second purpose is to subtract monies from student accounts to eliminate the need for students to pay with cash.

Payments to establish student accounts may be sent directly to the student's school, with his/her PIN number clearly indicated on the check. Pre-printed envelopes for this purpose are available in each school cafeteria. Checks should be made payable to "NASD Cafeteria Fund." Questions regarding account balances or requests for patron participation reports may be directed to the Food Service Office at 724-934-7201. The District has implemented an online payment system for school lunches. More information can be found at [www.payschoolscentral.com](http://www.payschoolscentral.com). PaySchools Central is a secure, online payment option for the convenient and secure management of a student's lunch account. This resource makes it easy to apply funds to a child's account and to check an account balance. PaySchools Central accepts credit card and checking account prepayments 24 hours a day with an automated update to the POS system at the school. It allows parents/guardians to fund their child's account from the comfort of their home or office, night or day. Registration, credit card information, and checking account information is protected on PaySchools Central with the most advanced Internet security.

## SchoolMessenger Notification System

SchoolMessenger is a web-based automated system and is one of the North Allegheny School District's communication vehicles for the delivery of information to parents/guardians and staff via phone, email, and/or text. Messages may include attendance notifications, school delays or cancellations, information about a serious health-related issue, or a crisis response update. Visit [www.northallegheny.org/schoolmessenger](http://www.northallegheny.org/schoolmessenger) for information on how to create your account and set your preferences.

## School Supplies

Parents/guardians of elementary students sometimes ask what school supplies they should buy during the summer to prepare their children for the start of school. There is no standard list of school supplies for elementary students, as requirements vary by teacher and grade level. Please check your school's website or your child's homeroom teacher's website for more specific information about required or requested school supplies before purchasing any supplies. It is often best to wait until the first few days of school to make purchases after your child's teacher has announced what supplies your child needs.

**Click here to visit the Elementary Education  
homepage on the NA website**

# Things to Know for Elementary School

## Standardized Exams

Students in the North Allegheny School District participate in several standardized exams over the course of their experience in the K-12 program. Each exam provides important information about a particular aspect of a student's academic growth and achievement.

Parents/guardians are urged to have their children attend school on every testing day and refrain from scheduling appointments that interfere with attendance. The District believes that assessment is a vital part of the educational process. The insights provided by standardized tests are used to make critical decisions about curriculum and instruction.

The schedule of standardized exams elementary students will take in the 2021-2022 school year is as follows:

- April 25-29 PSSA English Language Arts - Grades 3-8
- May 2-13 PSSA Mathematics - Grades 3-8
- May 2-13 PSSA Science - Grades 4 & 8
- May 2-13 PSSA Make-Up Dates - All Subjects

## Student Information in Tyler SIS

Contact information in [Tyler SIS](#) must be reviewed prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year. NASD will deliver important student information via email, so it is vital that all parents/guardians have an accurate email address on file as part of each student's record. Information to be updated may include phone numbers (home/work/cell), email addresses, and emergency contacts. These updates cannot be made in the Tyler 360 app. The Tyler Parent Portal also includes your child's health information. You can view your child's screening results, immunization records, and any medication that was prescribed for your child during the school year.

## YMCA Program for Childcare

The North Allegheny School District partners with the Baierl Family YMCA to provide daycare for District students before and after school hours. The program is offered to all elementary students but is hosted at Franklin, Marshall, and McKnight Elementary Schools only. Morning hours are 7-9 a.m., afternoon hours are 3:30-6:00 p.m. and bus service is available. The student-teacher ratio is 10:1. The program is state-licensed and a full-time director is at each site. For more information regarding registration and fees, call the YMCA at 724-934-9622.

## Be Sure Your Children are Ready to Learn

Like other parents/guardians, you want your children to do their very best in school. You realize that their success in life may very well depend upon how seriously they take their education. Children who are prepared to learn:

- Arrive at school well-rested. They've gone to bed at a reasonable time, had a good breakfast, and are looking forward to their day.
- Understand that you have set aside a period of time each afternoon for homework. They need your support as they complete their assignments at home, without competition from television, radio, or friends.
- Realize that you are interested in how they do in school. Be sure to ask them what they learned and relate those lessons to other activities that are going on in either the news or the family. They need to understand that their studies are relevant to their daily activities.
- Have families who are interested in their education and in them. Spend at least one-half hour each day with them discussing their homework or any other topics of interest.
- Are encouraged to read. Children should view reading as enjoyable. Don't nag. Let them read whatever appeals to them. Their taste in reading material will change and grow as do their interests.
- Don't sit for hours in front of the television. Monitor your children's use of TV. Encourage them to watch programs that provide some educational value. Discuss the program content during commercials or after the show.
- Feel good about themselves. Build your child's self-esteem by helping them complete tasks successfully and recognize their accomplishments in doing so! Show them that they are important and loved. Listen to them and encourage them to share their feelings and thoughts.
- Aren't worried about how they will get to and from school. See that your children ride the bus, take them to school yourself, or provide a dependable carpool. Don't keep changing the transportation arrangements.

Source: "INSIGHTS FOR FAMILIES"



# Elementary School Resources

## Parent/Faculty Organizations

Each elementary school is supported by a Parent/Faculty Association (PFA), Parent/Teacher Association (PTA), or Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO). These groups organize book fairs, fundraisers, parties, newsletters, and much more. All parents/guardians are urged to join. Meetings and activities are listed in the Activities Calendar. For membership information, contact the appropriate association president:

Bradford Woods PFA	Erin Froehlich	<a href="mailto:bwe.pfa@gmail.com">bwe.pfa@gmail.com</a>	<a href="#">BWE PFA Website</a>
Franklin PFA	Danielle Pisani	<a href="mailto:franklinpfa@gmail.com">franklinpfa@gmail.com</a>	<a href="#">FES PFA Website</a>
	Kelly Ross	<a href="mailto:franklinpfa@gmail.com">franklinpfa@gmail.com</a>	
Hosack PFA	Gina Anetakis	<a href="mailto:hosackPFA4kids@gmail.com">hosackPFA4kids@gmail.com</a>	<a href="#">HES PFA Website</a>
	Carrie Wirth	<a href="mailto:hosackPFA4kids@gmail.com">hosackPFA4kids@gmail.com</a>	
Ingomar PTO	Melissa Simon	<a href="mailto:ingomarpto@gmail.com">ingomarpto@gmail.com</a>	<a href="#">IES PTO Website</a>
	Megan Masztak	<a href="mailto:ingomarpto@gmail.com">ingomarpto@gmail.com</a>	
Marshall PFA	Meighan Nalducci	<a href="mailto:mesfpa2@gmail.com">mesfpa2@gmail.com</a>	<a href="#">MES PTA Website</a>
	Cara Stirling	<a href="mailto:mesfpa2@gmail.com">mesfpa2@gmail.com</a>	
McKnight PFA	Jennifer Schroeder	<a href="mailto:mckpfapresident@gmail.com">mckpfapresident@gmail.com</a>	<a href="#">MCK PFA Website</a>
Peebles PTA	Alexis McKinley	<a href="mailto:alexis.unkovic@gmail.com">alexis.unkovic@gmail.com</a>	<a href="#">PES PTA Website</a>

## Volunteer Program

Each elementary building has a volunteer program that is closely aligned with the teachers' delivery of the curriculum to assist with student learning. Within the parameters of the volunteer program, the building staff and building-based parent association are responsible for the recruitment, training, recognition, and involvement of interested volunteers. There are specific regulations regarding the clearances that are required by the state in order for parents/guardians or community members to be classroom volunteers. Please visit the [volunteer page on the District website](#) to find out more about clearances and other volunteer information, or contact your student's school principal for further details regarding each school's volunteer program.

## Online Resources for Students at Home

The North Allegheny Library Department has arranged free home access to a number of quality information references for elementary students. [Visit the NA Library Department page on our website to find all of the resources.](#) Usernames and passwords to access these resources are required, and both are available from the school librarians. [Links to individual building library websites can be found on the NA website.](#) From here you can access the school library's online card catalog, Destiny. Each student has a Destiny account, which is the same username and password used to log on to any networked computer in the District. Not only can students search for resources from home, but educationally-accurate website links have been embedded into the catalogs. To utilize the "search" feature, type keywords into the main search bar and click "enter". From the tabs above the returned results, select "websites" to view a result list featuring a site summary, age recommendations, and other information. In order to access these websites, students must be logged into Destiny.

## Online Resources for Parents/Guardians

**Managing Technology  
at Home**

**Online Elementary  
Textbook Resources**

**Screen Time and Limits**

**Securly Home**

**Tips for Parenting in a  
Digital World**

**YouTube for Parents**

# Transportation Department

## Audio and/or Video Recording on District Buses

NASD is permitted by law to equip school buses and vehicles with audio and/or video recording equipment. The School Board authorizes the use of such equipment for school discipline and security purposes. Notice that students may be audio/video recorded must be posted in a clearly visible manner on each school bus or school vehicle that is furnished with audio/video recording equipment.

## Buses

The safety of all students riding the buses is of prime importance. Safety procedures are maintained through organization and good citizenship. The responsibility for bus safety rests with all persons involved. Students are to ride **ONLY THEIR ASSIGNED BUS**. A request by parents/guardians for special permission for a student to ride an alternate bus **MUST** be approved by the school administration and/or transportation department. Please note that due to seating capacity on District buses and other factors, some requests may not be approved. A parent/guardian must send a note to the school's front office at the start of the day indicating their child plans to ride a different bus home from school. Students who choose to walk home rather than ride their bus must submit a note from their parents/guardians which outlines the request and indicates the date for which the request is made. This rule does not apply to students playing intramurals.

## Bus Safety Awareness

Courteous behavior on the school bus is a matter of safety! Inappropriate action by just one student can jeopardize everyone's safety. NA has a ladder of discipline for bus behavior offenses:

1. Warning
2. Detention and/or bus seat change
3. Bus safety school plus parent/guardian conference

Repeated or serious offenses may result in revocation of transportation privileges. Please be aware of these rules:

- Be at the assigned bus stop five minutes ahead of schedule.
- No playing or standing in the street at the bus stop.
- Board and depart in an orderly manner.
- Always cross 15 feet in front of the bus. Cross only when red lights are flashing and traffic is stopped.
- Remain visible to the bus driver at all times. Stay in assigned seats.
- Observe classroom conduct.
- Talk quietly. Be polite. No abusive or inappropriate language.
- No eating, drinking, radios, electronic games, cell phones, iPads, or animals.
- Bring only items that fit on your lap.
- Keep the bus clean. Do not tamper with equipment.
- Cooperate with your driver.
- Follow all rules posted in every school bus.
- If you miss your stop, notify the driver; do not try to get off at the next stop.



Remember to respect others and make safety a priority. The District's Code of Conduct applies at all times. If you have questions, please call the Transportation Department at 412-369-5500.

## Bus Tag Colors

Bus tag colors will be standardized across the District this year. Each grade level will have the same color, regardless of school:

- **Kindergarten: Orange**
- **Grade 1: White**
- **Grade 2: Red**
- **Grade 3: Green**
- **Grade 4: Light Blue**
- **Grade 5: Goldenrod**

**Click here to visit the Transportation  
Department section of the NA website**

## District Information

### Athletics - Elementary Intramural Programs

Each elementary school offers at least one intramural program throughout the year. The building and its faculty sponsor determines eligibility and activities offered. Participation is open to boys and girls. Intramurals are offered at the following buildings during the designated seasons:

- BWE - Fall and Winter
- FES - Fall and Winter
- HES - Winter and Spring
- IES - Fall and Spring
- MCK- Fall
- MES- Fall and Spring
- PES - Fall and Winter

#### Athletic Department

Website: <http://athletics.northallegheeny.org>

Phone: 724-934-7238

- Athletic Director - **Bob Bozzuto**: [bbozzuto@northallegheeny.org](mailto:bbozzuto@northallegheeny.org)
- Admin. Asst. - **Patti McClure**: [pmcclure@northallegheeny.org](mailto:pmcclure@northallegheeny.org)
- Admin. Asst. - **Brittany Glass**: [bglass@northallegheeny.org](mailto:bglass@northallegheeny.org)

Parents/guardians should contact their home school's main office for more information on their building's intramural offerings.

### Code of Conduct

The 2021-2022 Code of Conduct is available for [review on the District website](#). The Code of Conduct includes important information on the District's [Anti-Bullying Policy \(#249\)](#), [Responsible Computer, Telecommunications, and Information Technology Use Policy \(#224.1\)](#), [Controlled Substance and Paraphernalia Policy \(#227\)](#), [Weapons Policy \(#218.1\)](#), and more. Building principals will review this information with each student at the beginning of the school year. A Student and Parent/Guardian Sign-Off Sheet has also been developed for use at all grade levels.

### Custody/Court Orders

At times, there are legal papers in the form of custody agreements or court order documents that pertain to students and their specific circumstances. If parents/guardians are aware of the modification of existing paperwork, it is their responsibility to provide the updated paperwork to the school office. If the school office is not aware of changes, the last copy provided is the copy that will be the official copy. It is the responsibility of a parent/guardian to notify school personnel of any custody agreement or court order when it is initiated or modified. A notarized copy of any of these forms may be presented to the school office annually. Even if the paperwork isn't modified or canceled, parents/guardians may be required to submit copies at the start of each school year to assure that any necessary paperwork is up-to-date.

### FERPA

Every parent/guardian has the following rights guaranteed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) relative to his/her student's educational records:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the school receives a request for access. Parents/guardians who wish to inspect their student's records should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parents/guardians of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parents/guardians believe are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. Parents/guardians who request to amend their student's education record should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested, the school will notify the parents/guardians of the decision and the right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment.
3. The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202.

For more details regarding FERPA, contact the Student Services Department at 412-635-4110.

## District Information

### McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act provides guidelines for school districts to assist students and families who find themselves in a situation where they are homeless. The Act requires that students who qualify as homeless are able to remain at their current school or enables them to immediately register to attend school. The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless Children and Youth as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, which includes the following conditions:

- sharing housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.
- living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or campgrounds due to lack of alternative accommodations.
- living in emergency or domestic violence shelters.
- abandoned in hospitals.
- living in public or private places not designed for, or ordinarily used as, regular sleeping accommodations for human beings.
- living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus, or train stations, or similar settings.
- living as migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

If you or someone you know is in a situation meeting these definitions, please contact the NA Homeless Liaison (Dr. Michele Dowell, Director of Student Services at 412-635-4110 or [mdowell@northallegheny.org](mailto:mdowell@northallegheny.org)) so that the District can assist and provide resources to impacted individual(s).

### NASD School Locator

The [NASD School Locator](#) can be used to locate elementary and secondary schools in our community and view associated school attendance zone boundaries. The NASD School Locator assists existing home owners and prospective home buyers when making a real estate decision.

### Notification of Pesticide and/or Herbicide Use

Pennsylvania Act 35 and Act 36 require every school district in Pennsylvania to create and implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan that includes notifying registered individuals when pesticides will be used and posting signs in the areas where pesticides will be used. Any student or employee who is highly sensitive to pesticides and/or herbicides and would like to be notified by the District before an application of pesticides inside or outside of school facilities occurs should request and complete a Notification Form. Forms and more details are available in all school offices and on the District website.

### Participation Fees

Participation fees will remain in effect in 2021-2022 for many extracurricular activities, such as interscholastic athletics, Marching Band, intramurals, and various select ensembles and clubs. The implementation of a participation fee for extracurricular activities is necessary to offset costs and help continue the depth and breadth of such programs. There are three participation fee categories:

- Interscholastic Athletics – \$75 per season per athlete with a student and/or family cap of \$225
- Marching Band – \$50 per season per Marching Band participant with a family cap of \$150
- Other – \$25 per activity per participant with a student and/or family cap of \$75 (e.g., intramurals, club sports, select ensembles, and select competition groups)

Therefore, the maximum amount that any family will pay is \$450, or the sum of the family caps in each category ( $\$225 + \$150 + \$75 = \$450$ ). A provision for economically disadvantaged students is included in this plan. There are more details, including a Frequently Asked Questions document, available by [clicking here](#).

When a student becomes a member of a team or a group, one of these two letters will be distributed by the coach or sponsor:

- Participation Fee Parent Letter – [Athletics](#)
- Participation Fee Parent Letter and Form – [Non-Athletics](#)

# District Information

## Smoke-Free Policy

The NASD Board of School Directors passed policies #222, #323, #423, and #523, declaring all District-owned property, facilities, buses, and athletic fields to be “no smoking/no tobacco zones.” Tobacco use includes use or possession of a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, or other lighted smoking equipment; any smokeless tobacco product; any other nicotine product; as well as e-cigarettes or vapors. This policy applies to all persons, including students, parents/guardians, employees, officers, volunteers, visitors, etc. The use of tobacco products is also prohibited at the Carl E. Newman Stadium and in the surrounding complex at all times. This policy is in line with the Pennsylvania Legislature’s School Tobacco Control Law, Act 168 of 1977 and Act 128 of 2000.

## Student Photos/Interviews/Reproductions of Original Work

School Board Policy allows the District to photograph or videotape students and their work for use in District publications, including but not limited to newspapers, newsletters, marketing materials, and the NASD website. The District makes every effort to notify parents/guardians in advance when public media is going to be in a school or attending a school event, when District representatives themselves have advance notice.

As a result of this policy, at the beginning of each school year or when a student enrolls in the District, building administrators will distribute the Photo/Video Release Letter to all NASD students. This letter will be available on the back of the Student/Parent Handbook and Code of Conduct sign-off sheet. It states that, if a family does not want images and/or recordings displayed or used in District publications, a written request should be sent to the office of the child’s school by the second week of school each school year, along with a current photo of the student.

## Student Records are Confidential

NASD protects the confidentiality of personally identifiable information for all students in accordance with state and federal law and the District’s student records policy. Records cannot be released without parent/guardian written consent except for directory information and incidents specified in the policy. Directory information may consist of name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, honors won and offices held, recognition for achievements, post-high school endeavors, recognition of graduating seniors, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height (for members of athletic teams), dates of attendance, enrollment status, degrees and awards received, and the last educational agency or institution attended by the student. If you do not want directory information about your child transferred, you may prevent release by contacting the District in writing within 30 days from receipt of this notice. Please address such requests to the building principal.

## Student Registration

All new/re-enrolling student registrations are processed at the Central Administrative Offices between the hours of 8-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Parents/guardians must go to the District website to complete the registration forms, upload supporting documents, and then schedule a virtual appointment. Once scheduled for an appointment, parents/guardians will be able to finalize the registration. Parents/guardians with questions related to the online registration process can call 412-369-5434.

To verify which school a child will be attending, parents/guardians may refer to the [NASD School Locator](#).

## Superintendent’s Coffees

The Superintendent will be hosting a series of Coffees in various schools around the District in the 2021-2022 school year. Parents/guardians and any interested community members may attend a Coffee at any location. Dates, times, and locations are as follows:

- September 2, CAO Board Room, 9:30 a.m. (*Newcomer’s Coffee*)
- October 7, MES, 9:30 a.m.
- December 15, MCK, 9:30 a.m.
- February 3, FES, 7:00 p.m.
- April 7, IMS, 9:30 a.m.

# Health Services Department

## CHIP Insurance

Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) has expanded to cover all uninsured kids and teens in Pennsylvania. Now, no family makes too much money to qualify for CHIP. If you need health insurance, it's worth looking into CHIP. Coverage is available for doctor visits, immunizations, emergency care, prescriptions, dental, and eye care. For more information, visit [www.CHIPcoversPAkids.com](http://www.CHIPcoversPAkids.com) or call 1-800-986-KIDS (5437).

## Dental Exams for Kindergarten and 3rd Grade Students

The Pennsylvania School Health Law requires that all students receive a dental examination on entrance to school for kindergarten and 3rd grade. This exam can be dated anytime during the 12 months prior to the start of the mandated exam school year. Therefore, since your child will be starting school on August 23, 2021, the dental exam can be dated anytime from August 23, 2020. If you are unable to pay for an examination by your dentist, please notify your child's school nurse. Your child can then be scheduled for a dental exam by the School Dentist.

## Head Lice (Pediculosis)

Please make sure that you are checking your child's head on a regular basis for head lice. Periodic checks of your child are recommended after sleepovers or when there is likely to be potential for head-to-head contact. A child may experience one or all of the signs and symptoms of infestation including:

- Tickling feeling on the scalp or in the hair
- Itching caused by the bites of the louse
- Irritability and difficulty sleeping (lice are more active in the dark)
- Sores on the head (caused by scratching, which can sometimes become infected)

Finding a live nymph or adult louse on the scalp or in the hair is an indication of an active infestation. They are most commonly found behind the ears and near the neckline at the back of the head. Lice are wingless insects and cannot fly or hop. They move by crawling and are spread most often by direct head-to-head contact with an infected person. When there is intense itching and scratching of the scalp and the back of the neck, look closely at the scalp for small, whitish eggs firmly attached to the hair shaft, especially at the nape of the neck and above the ears. Although these eggs may look like dandruff, dandruff can easily be removed from the hair while the eggs cannot. Both over-the-counter and prescription medications are available for the treatment of head lice infestations. If you have further questions, please contact your school's Health Office.

## Immunization Requirements

All students (grades K-12) must have completed immunizations before the first day of school. Documentation must be provided from your Primary Care Provider verifying that these requirements have been met.

- *Medical exemption* – when the physical condition of the child is such that immunization would endanger life or health (requires physician's signature)
- *Religious/Moral exemption* – when the parent/guardian adheres to a religious or moral belief whose teachings are opposed to such immunizations (requires parent/guardian signature)

## Kindergarten Lead Testing Requirements

The Allegheny County Health Department requires lead testing for all students entering kindergarten. All documentation should be submitted to your school nurse at the beginning of the school year.

## Physical Exams for Kindergarten Students

The Pennsylvania School Health Law requires that all students receive a physical examination on entrance to school for kindergarten. This exam can be dated anytime during the 12 months prior to the start of the mandated exam school year. Therefore, since your child will be starting school on August 23, 2021, the physical exam can be dated anytime from August 23, 2020. The best interests of your child are served by having a continuous relationship with a Primary Care Provider. A copy of a camp physical or athletic physical form will suffice in lieu of the NA physical form. If you are unable to pay for an examination by your primary care provider, please notify your child's school nurse. Your child can then be scheduled for a physical exam by the School Physician or Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner.

# Health Services Department

## Medications at School

If a licensed prescriber deems it medically necessary for your child to take medication during the day, the following procedures must be completed:

1. Written authorization from the licensed prescriber must accompany all medications. That written authorization may come in the form of:
  - A completed North Allegheny School District Request for [Medication Administration in School Form #210](#), or
  - Written instructions/orders on the licensed prescriber's letterhead or prescription pad.
2. Parents/guardians must complete the demographic and parent/guardian signature sections of the Request for Administration of Medication in School Form #210. [Click here to print the medication form.](#)
3. The initial dose of medication must be provided prior to the request of administration at school.
4. All medication is to be in its original labeled container.
5. When someone other than the parent/guardian delivers medication to school:
  - Container is to be placed in a sealed envelope.
  - Medication is to be delivered to the health office upon the student's arrival at school.
  - The parent/guardian assumes all responsibility for medications sent to school.
6. Acceptable amounts of medication to be stored at school:
  - One-week supply for acute (short-term) illness.
  - Thirty-day supply for chronic (long-term) conditions.
7. Changes in medication must be accompanied by a licensed prescriber's written statement. A faxed written statement with a licensed prescriber's signature will be accepted.
8. In addition, for students who carry and self-administer emergency medications (i.e. rescue inhaler, Injectable Epinephrine), an order is required from a licensed prescriber indicating that it is necessary for the student to carry the medication and that the student is competent of self-administration (Form #210).

## Student Information in Tyler SIS

The Tyler Parent Portal includes your child's health information. You can view your child's screening results and immunization records. If you have any specific questions, please email your child's [School Nurse](#).



# Health Services Department

## Ticks and Lyme Disease

Lyme Disease is a bacterial infection transmitted to humans primarily through the bites of infected deer ticks. Many people are not aware when they've been bitten by a tick and may not make a connection when they begin to experience symptoms. Symptoms include fever, headache, general achiness, swollen glands, fatigue, and a possible bullseye rash. Symptoms may not appear for weeks, months, or even years after a tick bite. Children and youth are the most susceptible to Lyme Disease, and initial symptoms may go unrecognized and be considered normal childhood illnesses. By the time it is clear there is something wrong, the symptoms are often neurocognitive, usually showing up with behavior changes, changes in performance at school, and psychiatric issues. For further information, please go to [PA Lyme Resource Network](#) or the [Centers for Disease Control](#).

Prevention is key to avoiding a tick bite. Here are a few tips you can follow.

- Avoid exposure in wooded, overgrown areas, and stay on marked trails when hiking.
- Avoid going into the tall grass and brush if you can.
- Sports and athletic fields with well-groomed grass are safer.
- Wear protective clothing such as long sleeves, long pants tucked into socks, and closed-toe shoes.
- Use insect repellent such as DEET on the body or Permethrin on clothes. Be sure to review safety information and assess the risks/benefits of these products, as many doctors consider them unsafe for use on children under the age of three. Consult your doctor if you're hesitant of the products.
- Perform tick checks as soon as you come in from outside. Important areas to check for ticks include behind the knees, under the armpits, in the scalp, along the waistline, and the back.
- Shower daily.

How to remove a tick:

1. Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick as this can cause the mouth-parts to break off and remain in the skin.
3. If this happens, remove the mouth-parts with tweezers.
4. After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.
5. Never crush a tick with your fingers. Dispose of a live tick by putting it in alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag/container, wrapping it tightly in tape, or flushing it down the toilet.

## Too Sick for School

Schools provide an environment where the transmission of illness from one child to another can occur rather easily. Being sick at school puts your child at greater risk for prolonged illness, but it also puts the children around him/her at greater risk. This year in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, make sure that you refer to the District COVID-19 decision making tool daily, in determining when to send your child to school. Please do not send your child to school with any of the the following:

- Fever of 100 degrees or higher – children should be fever-free without the aid of fever-reducing medication for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Acute cold or persistent cough.
- Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea – children should be free from vomiting for 24 hours before returning to school.

For further information, please check out [Health Services Webpage - Too Sick for School?](#)

**Click here to view a directory of  
Building Nurse Staff throughout the District**

**Click here to visit the Health Services  
Department homepage on the NA website**



# Communications Department

## Building-Level Newsletters

Effective and consistent communication is a vital part of the District's relationship with our parents/guardians. **Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, the District will send a building-specific email newsletter every Friday evening (except scheduled holiday breaks) to parents/guardians.** This newsletter will highlight the top happenings at each building, upcoming important dates, District information, and links to community flyers. An archive of emails will be available on the District website and updated with the latest newsletters each Monday morning.

Parent/guardian email addresses are collected at the time of registration and are used to share District and building-level communications, and to provide updates from the District's online gradebook and student information system. It is important for parents/guardians to update any changes in their email address by contacting your student's building secretary.

## Communicating Closings or Delays

On occasion, weather conditions or other unexpected circumstances (i.e. power outage, water main break, etc.) will make it necessary for school to be delayed or canceled. The safety of our students is always paramount in this decision-making process. Every effort is made to communicate a delay or cancellation as early and as efficiently as possible. Staff members are out very early in the morning to evaluate road conditions and to gather information from local municipalities, police, road maintenance crews, and the National Weather Service. Their observations are evaluated by the Superintendent. While we know conditions can change quickly, our goal is to make a decision about delaying or canceling school by 5:30 a.m. Sometimes, bad weather conditions will not arise until after 5:30 a.m. and communication issues become a particular challenge.

The possibility of a delay becoming a cancellation always exists, so parents/guardians should monitor communications on an ongoing basis. As soon as a decision is made about a cancellation or delay, a message is programmed into the SchoolMessenger automated system and activated for delivery. Setting up the message generally takes about 15 minutes.

### ***How North Allegheny Communicates With Parents/Guardians for Closings and Delays:***

- Notification via [SchoolMessenger](#)
- Information sent to KDKA-TV, WPXI-TV, and WTAE-TV (*Note: The District has no control over how or when the stations report this information*)
- Posting on the North Allegheny School District [homepage](#)
- Posting on North Allegheny social media

It is very important that parents/guardians keep their contact information up-to-date in Tyler SIS. SchoolMessenger and Tyler SIS sync on a daily basis. This means that if you change a contact phone number or email address in Tyler, SchoolMessenger will be updated automatically with that new information the following day.

Other important information pertaining to closings and delays:

- **Two-Hour Delay Schedule (for inclement weather):** If a two-hour delay is called, students should be at their bus stop two hours after their normal reporting time. Kindergarten students follow this schedule:
  - AM Kindergarten: 11 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
  - PM Kindergarten: 1:45 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
- **Early Dismissal:** In very rare circumstances, it may be necessary to dismiss students early from school. The same communication resources outlined above are implemented.
- **Snow Contingency/Make-Up Days and Flexible Instructional Days (FIDs):** Pennsylvania law requires public schools to provide 180 days of instruction each year. During the 2021-2022 school year, the District is scheduling 182 days which means that two snow days are built into the schedule. If it is necessary to cancel more than two days during the year, the District will utilize up to five Flexible Instructional Days (FIDs). On a FID, students will complete learning activities and assignments provided by their teachers at home. FIDs are considered a school day and count toward the number of instructional days required under the Public School Code and the State Board of Education regulations. If additional instructional days are needed to meet the 180 day requirement, they will be added at the end of the school calendar.

# Communications Department

## Emergency Communications

There are a number of key details about which parents/guardians should remember in the unlikely event of a school-based emergency:

1. First and foremost, the safety of our students and staff is our primary focus and responsibility. While we understand that receiving information in a fast-paced technological world is vital, we will always place the safety of our most precious resources as our number one priority.
2. Parents/guardians will receive the most accurate, up-to-date information available via SchoolMessenger as soon as it's available. Parents/guardians must ensure their SchoolMessenger account is updated in order to receive phone calls, emails, and/or text messages regarding emergency situations. Please note that in emergency situations information is changing rapidly, so details may be sparse at the beginning of a situation in order to avoid sharing inaccurate information.
3. As a safety precaution, a school campus may be closed to all visitors except emergency and law enforcement personnel during a crisis situation. If the school campus is closed, parents/guardians will be directed to an identified staging area. *In the event of a school-based emergency, please do not report to the school to pick up your child unless directed to do so by the District.*
4. Parents/guardians should check the official NA website and official NASD social media accounts for the latest, up-to-date information. Please avoid unofficial social media posts by individuals who are not affiliated with the District. Often times, speculation and rumors are posted on social media from unofficial sources and can cause panic. The District works as quickly as possible during these rapidly evolving situations. We will never beat the speed of text messages, smartphones, and rumors on social media, so we highly encourage that all parents/guardians only utilize official District resources to obtain the latest and most accurate information.
5. Parents/guardians should not call the school building. Any available school telephone lines should be kept open for emergency communications.
6. If a student is injured during an emergency situation, every effort will be made to contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to complete and submit emergency contact information via Tyler SIS and to keep the information current.

### ***How North Allegheny Communicates With Parents/Guardians for Emergency Communications (listed in order of priority):***

1. Notification via [SchoolMessenger](#)
2. Posting on the North Allegheny District homepage and/or building homepage
3. Posting on North Allegheny social media

## Safety and Security Communications

North Allegheny makes case-by-case decisions about further communications to parents/guardians based on the facts associated with each matter regarding Safety and Security, including credible and non-credible threats. The District understands that stakeholders would sometimes prefer more in-depth details regarding a situation; however, certain information often cannot be disclosed in order to preserve the integrity of a criminal investigation and/or protect the privacy of underage students. The District works strategically and carefully to balance proper communication with the rights of individuals.

### ***How North Allegheny Communicates With Parents/Guardians for Safety and Security Matters:***

- Non-Credible Threat: Email sent to parents/guardians
- Credible Threat: Notification sent via SchoolMessenger

## Social Media - Official North Allegheny Accounts

North Allegheny shares news, important information, and stories about what's happening throughout the District on social media. The District maintains three official social media outlets that are open to the public:

- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/northallegheny/>
- Twitter: [@na\\_schools](#)
- Instagram: [@na\\_schools](#)

The District also encourages use of the hashtag **#NASDlearns** on Twitter and Instagram to share happenings around the District. Please note that the District does not own this hashtag and does not have exclusive control over who uses it.

# Safety and Security

## Lockdown Drills

Lockdown drills are held periodically throughout the school year to ensure our staff and students feel confident of our emergency plans in place at each building. Practice drills also allow buildings to evaluate our emergency operation plans and improve on response skills. While we hope to never need to call for a lockdown in a real-life situation, we can never be too prepared when it comes to the safety of our students and staff. When lockdown drills are held at each building, parents/guardians will be notified via email of the occurrence.

## Safety and Security Reporting Options

We encourage you to take a moment to review the various safety and security reporting options available to the NA community. These options are available to support the safety of students and others.

- 1. Contact 9-1-1.** In the event of a real-time threat or life-threatening emergency situation, all individuals should contact 9-1-1. Calling 9-1-1 for any type of in-the-moment emergency allows first responders to provide assistance as fast as possible.
- 2. Talk to a trusted adult/staff member.** North Allegheny strongly encourages students to talk with a trusted adult at home or at school. We continue to work with all students to foster positive relationships and promote their awareness in talking immediately with a trusted adult if they have questions or concerns. Direct reporting to a trusted adult is an essential practice to promote a safe learning environment. This information allows school officials to begin investigating immediately and address the concern appropriately.
- 3. TIPSLine.** North Allegheny's TIPSLine allows tips to be made anonymously and quickly directly to law enforcement officials. The TIPSLine (724-933-TIPS) allows for the immediate involvement of law enforcement and collaboration, if appropriate, with school officials.
- 4. Safe2Say Something.** On January 14, 2019, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania launched the Safe2Say Something program. This program allows an individual to report a safety concern securely and anonymously to help identify and intervene upon at-risk individuals before they hurt themselves and/or others. The program is mandated by Act 44 of 2018 and requires all K-12 school districts to participate. A phone number, smartphone app, and web-based application are options for reporting. These reports will be triaged by the Crisis Center at the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. A communication process is then initiated to the county 911 dispatch center and a set of pre-identified school district officials. North Allegheny's law enforcement partners will then be involved in the threat assessment process and any potential investigations. Due to the age appropriateness of the program, [the District and Safe2Say Something facilitators are only training middle and high school students on how to utilize the program.](#)

**Click here to visit the Safety and Security  
section of the North Allegheny website**

# Curriculum Update

The mission of North Allegheny School District is to prepare students for success in a changing world. This past school year has certainly been an example of how quickly the world can change and how important it is for school districts, staff, students and families to change with it. Teaching and learning were challenging throughout the 2020-2021 school year, yet our staff, students, and families responded in such a way that made a year of challenges also a year of growth. Regardless of the instructional model required, the North Allegheny staff continued to bring a meaningful curriculum to every student in every course. As we move into the 2021-2022 school year, our instruction across the district must continue to be flexible enough to respond to the needs of children who learn in many different ways, while also preparing students for a changing world and workforce. Now more than ever we must be responsive to our students' learning styles, learning gaps, and social and emotional needs as we enter into a year of recovery and reimagination and reinvention. We will continue to have a strong commitment to developing programs with relevant topics that engage all young people to become critical thinkers, life-long learners, and dedicated citizens.

As we embark upon a new school year, we are pleased to share an update from each academic department. As each "year in review" summary is presented, it will be evident that exciting teaching and learning continues to happen throughout the District. From our earliest learners joining us in kindergarten to our high school students selecting from over 24 Advanced Placement courses and 50 College in High School courses, there is something that will spark learning in every child.

The goal of our work is to ensure college and career readiness for all students and provide a variety of resources and opportunities to reach that goal. Through collaborative efforts with our schools, we provide access to rigorous standards, relevant content, and quality instruction to enhance the learning process. As we continue down this path of learning, our curriculum and instruction will continue to evolve and reflect the needs of our students and the rapidly changing world we live in. What an exciting time to be a student at North Allegheny! Have a wonderful school year!

## English Language Arts

The 2020-2021 school year marked the first year of implementation of recommendations from the Curriculum Review that concluded in 2019 with a partial implementation of new curriculum and resources across grades K-12. ELA teachers were able to pilot new texts, resources, and assessments within their classes and provide valuable feedback to the Curriculum Writing Team in preparation for a full implementation beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. Professional learning for teachers included the use of embedded technology curriculum resources for HMH's Into Reading for grades K-5, McGraw-Hill's StudySync for grades 6-8, and Actively Learn for grades 9-12.

Year 2 of implementation in 2021-2022 will mark the full implementation of new curriculum maps for K-12 created using the Understanding by Design format, a closer alignment with PA Core Standards, Skills, and Content; and an increased emphasis on the "4 C's": Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking and Creativity. Also in keeping with the findings of the Curriculum Review, the curriculum maps at each grade level will include a more diverse selection of core texts with consideration of thematic differences, cultural point of view, and critical analysis of multiple genres of text (fiction, nonfiction, current events, etc.) to promote critical and cultural literacies.

During the 2021-2022 school year, professional learning will focus on the continued implementation of new resources and embedded technology within the new curriculum; the integration of Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening through English Language Arts Instruction for grades 6 and 7; the development and implementation of common assessments, rubrics, and instructional practices for teaching writing; and increased cross-curricular work and alignment with the Social Studies Department.

## Health and Physical Education

The Health & Physical Education Department is proud to announce that due to the grant writing, The NA Foundation, and the hard work of our staff we will have biking as part of our HPE curriculum at all of our elementary schools in the year to come. Across all K-12 courses we will be continuing to focus on our 4 Pillars (Physical Fitness, Health & Physical Literacy, Nutrition, and Social Emotional Health) created during the 2018-2019 Curriculum Review.

Coming off of relaxed expectations for exercise levels in school during 2020-2021 we are looking forward to challenging our students to move into their stretch zones in 2021-2022 while continuing our focus on self-care. We started implementation of our updated skills based health curriculum last year at the middle school level and will continue to update lessons in both middle school and ninth grade health to the skills based model. Skills-Based Health is a health education framework focused on mastering vital life skills and understanding essential health concepts for the purpose of empowering students to live healthy lives.

# Curriculum Update

## Library

During the 2020-2021 school year, the Library Department, like other departments, spent considerable time adapting our lessons for online learning. Elementary librarians collaborated to develop district grade-level lessons pushed out weekly to all buildings to ensure consistent, spiraled, engaging content. Secondary librarians addressed the challenge of advancing students through the research process during the ever-changing learning models and promoted and monitored meaningful independent reading.

Although the majority of our students still prefer print books to digital, increased and improved access to digital books had to be a focus. SORA, an Overdrive product, offered to North Allegheny families as part of an AIU consortium through TigerID, was a well-received addition to previous options in Destiny, Mackin, and PebbleGo. Students and staff were encouraged to request materials, and new titles were added daily.

The Librarians continued to place an emphasis on providing students and staff with an exceptional collection of books and resources that meet the diverse curricular, developmental, cultural, and social needs of the learners, staff, and community and to encourage all to take an active part in that development.

The Librarians continued to place an emphasis on providing students and staff with an exceptional collection of books and resources that meet the diverse curricular, developmental, cultural, and social needs of the learners and community. With remote learning, this proved even more important, and within the first week, North Allegheny students were provided with access to thousands of digital ebooks and audiobooks to support classroom and personal interests needs. Students and staff were encouraged to request materials and new titles were added daily.

## Mathematics

During the 2020-2021 school year, the Mathematics Department completed the fifth year of the implementation phase of the Curriculum Review (2016). The inquiry-based approach to teaching mathematics continues to be a welcomed piece of the teachers' instructional practices. The recommendations from the Review continued to be implemented into the department during CADI (6-12) and Grade Level Meetings (K-5). The professional development for the teachers included: Implementation of the Changes to the SAT/PSAT, Curriculum Writing in Rubicon Atlas, Development and Implementation of Common Assessments, Textbook Training, Problem Based Instruction, Project Based Learning, and Virtual Instructional Techniques and Strategies.

The Mathematics Department is looking forward to the sixth and final year of the implementation phase of the 2016 curriculum review in the fall of 2021.

The Mathematics Department continues to analyze and make necessary changes to the unit-based curriculum in Rubicon Atlas as new topics in mathematics education present themselves (i.e. Inquiry Based Instruction, Keystone Exams, PA Common Core Standards, Eligible Content, STEM, SAT's and ACT's, and Problem/Project based learning).

## Music

Last year, we stated that "the music department was thankful for the performances that we were able to give in the 2019-2020 school year. During that year, more than 5,300 students participated in concerts. We are sorry that we missed the opportunity to provide instrument fittings and test drives at the end of the 2019-2020 school year." We believe that those statements are still true today. The music department was, however, able to create many unique and wonderful opportunities during the 2020-2021 school year. Teachers and students explored new ways to enhance student learning, engagement, and performances. We look forward to meeting 3rd and 4th grade students in the fall and giving them the opportunity to join band and orchestra at that time.

The music department will continue to refine curriculum, instructional strategies, and blended learning through Curriculum and Departmental In-service (CADI) sessions throughout the 2021-2022 year. The department plans to continue to align our spiraling curriculum throughout our K-12 musical offerings. The Music Department is excited for again being named one of the "Best Communities for Music Education," by the NAMM Foundation. We would like to congratulate the many students who auditioned for and were excepted to participate in PMEA Honors Orchestra, PMEA District Band, PMEA Honors Band, PMEA Region Chorus, PMEA Junior High Band, PMEA Junior High Chorus, PMEA Singfest, PMEA Elementary Band, Alle-Valley Band Festival, PMEA District Chorus, PMEA District Orchestra, PMEA All-State Ensembles, and PMEA Jazz Band.

# Curriculum Update

## Professional Development

The start of a new school year is a busy time for the Professional Development Office. We recognize the desires of our educators, and are working diligently to bring meaningful and purposeful professional development sessions to them. Our Instructional Support Staff (Instructional Technology Integrators and Literacy Coaches) are also working to enhance instruction through the use of technology and best practices using coaching cycles. This is an exciting time for the Professional Learning and Development Office as we continue to build our learning organization at NASD!

The beginning of the school year is also a great time to review your Act 48 hours and determine if you are on track to complete the continuing education required to maintain an active teaching certificate. Act 48 hours can be accessed at <https://www.perms.pa.gov/screens/wfpublicaccess.aspx>.

Many of you will notice your deadline date was extended. Act 13 of 2020 gave educators a one-year extension to complete the required Act 48 professional development requirements for their original five-year period. A change to the deadline depended upon when the educator was certified and if the educator had any other extensions during that time. However, most teachers/certificate holders will have benefitted from this “gift” of additional time. Any hours of outstanding credit from District In-services and Summer Time Option attended and due to you will post to accounts over the summer months.

We are all on our own learning continuum and it is important that just as we personalize lessons for our students, we must personalize professional development for our educators. If you would like additional support, or have ideas to further the growth of NA, please reach out to the Professional Learning and Development office.

## School Counseling

After such a difficult year for so many, the School Counseling Department wants to assure the community that we will remain committed and vigilant to providing support for all students and stakeholders. Because the Department follows the American School Counseling Association's comprehensive and developmental model, students and families can utilize the School Counseling staff for support in the areas of Academics, Career and Personal/Social development. In addition, the School Counseling team will continue to build on current Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) classroom and individual lessons for students. More than ever, building resilience in our students will provide lifelong skills necessary to cope and process life's situations.

In addition, North Allegheny continues to meet and exceed Pennsylvania Department of Education's Career Readiness Index. The School Counseling Department will continue to provide career and post-secondary planning for all students. These classroom lessons are designed to help students navigate a changing world of work and explore multiple pathways to reach their educational and personal goals.

## Science

The science department curriculum review has been extended through the 2021-2022 school year in order to allow the curriculum team adequate time to evaluate resources and write curriculum. The review will culminate in a school board presentation in May 2022.

At the start of the 2020-2021 school year, the science department purchased several online programs to help supplement online and hybrid instruction. These included Mystery Science for elementary science. We have decided to continue the Mystery Science subscription into the 2021-2022 school year for the elementary grades. Long term subscription to this and other programs will be evaluated during the curriculum review.

Throughout the curriculum review, new textbooks, elementary, and middle school science programs will be evaluated for adoption to replace older and expiring materials.

A return to a more standard instructional model will allow the Science Department to refocus efforts both on project-based learning and common assessments & lab activities. These assured experiences will ensure common skills as students move from grade level to grade level.

Curriculum scope & sequence will be evaluated K-12, with consideration of gaps and overlapping topics throughout all academic pathways. The new Pennsylvania Science Standards as well as Next Generation Science Standards will be included in our rewritten course curricula following the completion of the curriculum review.



# Curriculum Update

## Social Studies

During the 2020-2021 school year, the Social Studies Department continued to implement recommendations made in the comprehensive 2017 Curriculum Review for grades K-12. These recommendations included curriculum modifications to address civic online reasoning and digital citizenship skills, promotion of data interpretation in history and the social sciences, additional primary source analysis, and developing global competencies through problem-based and project-based learning. One additional area of focus this year and moving forward is to engage in ongoing review of materials and resources with an eye toward ensuring an inclusive and responsive learning experience for all students.

During the 2021-2022 school year, professional development will focus on further embedding skill development within the curriculum and expanding opportunities for problem-based learning, critical thinking activities, and increased cross-curricular work and alignment with the ELA Department. The Department will also undertake revision of common assessments and audit of materials and curriculum in preparation for a more comprehensive curriculum review in 2023.

## Visual Arts

The Visual Arts Department is dedicated to helping students explore their creative potential, realize their abilities, develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and form meaningful connections with their world through art. Throughout 2020-2021, teachers and students engaged in experiences in new and unique ways, reflecting the goals of meaningful arts learning in remote and in-person settings. The Visual Arts Department will always remain committed to delivering a high-quality visual arts education to our students.

In 2021-2022, the department will engage in a curriculum review to identify content, scope and sequence, strategies, and resources that continue reflecting best practices in Visual Arts and emphasizing the artistic processes expressed within the national standards. Teachers will also continue exploring how technology and digital media supports all aspects of artistic processes and visual arts learning. The Traveling Art Gallery (TAG) elementary program will continue to further support and enhance visual literacy beyond the art classroom, with new framed prints and updated resources made available to all elementary buildings.

While building art shows did not occur in 2020-2021, artwork by NA students was still celebrated around the community with rotating displays in District buildings and virtual shows accessible to the community. The Visual Arts Department looks forward to the return of art shows in the future, while exploring fresh and innovative ways to bring student art into the community.

## Links to Resources

Click on a button below to access the resource on the Internet

<a href="#">Activities Calendar</a>	<a href="#">Administration</a>	<a href="#">Alumni Association</a>	<a href="#">Athletic Department</a>
<a href="#">Careers at NA</a>	<a href="#">Code of Conduct</a>	<a href="#">Diversity at NA</a>	<a href="#">FOCUS 2020</a>
<a href="#">Health Services</a>	<a href="#">Lunch Menus</a>	<a href="#">NA Foundation</a>	<a href="#">PaySchools Central</a>
<a href="#">Return to School</a>	<a href="#">Safety and Security</a>	<a href="#">School Board</a>	<a href="#">SchoolMessenger</a>
<a href="#">Student Data Portal Instructions</a>	<a href="#">Student Services</a>	<a href="#">Technology Services</a>	<a href="#">Transportation</a>

## Elementary Buildings & Principals

### Bradford Woods Elementary

41 Forest Road Bradford Woods, PA 15015  
724-935-5081 | [Website](#)  
Jaime Eimiller, Principal



### Franklin Elementary

2401 Rochester Road Sewickley, PA 15143  
412-366-9663 | [Website](#)  
Jeff Anderchak, Principal  
Tommie Erin Guess, Assistant Principal



### Hosack Elementary

9275 Peebles Road Allison Park, PA 15101  
412-366-9664 | [Website](#)  
Amanda Mathieson Ed.D., Principal



### Ingomar Elementary

602 W. Ingomar Road Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
412-366-9665 | [Website](#)  
Tracie Michalowski Ed.D., Principal



### Marshall Elementary

5135 Wexford Run Road Wexford, PA 15090  
724-935-4044 | [Website](#)  
Marc Thornton Ed.D., Principal  
TBD, Assistant Principal



### McKnight Elementary

500 Cumberland Road Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
412-635-4105 | [Website](#)  
Chris Shute Ed.D., Principal  
Carla Hudson, Assistant Principal



### Peebles Elementary

8625 Peebles Road Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
412-366-9667 | [Website](#)  
Susie Bjalogobok, Principal



### North Allegheny School District Central Administrative Offices

200 Hillvue Lane, Pittsburgh PA 15237  
412-366-2100

Lobby and phone hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Monday through Friday, except during holidays.

If you have questions relative to the following, please contact the appropriate administrators:

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 for Individuals with Disabilities: Director of Student Services – 412-635-4110
- The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990: Assistant Director of Facilities – 412-369-5432
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 Gender Equity in Programs:
  - Employee Matters: Director of Human Resources – 412-369-5416
  - Student Matters: Director of Student Services – 412-635-4110
- Education for Homeless Children and Youths: Director of Student Services – 412-635-4110
- Pennsylvania Right to Know Law, Act 3 of 2008: Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/School Board Secretary – 412-369-5419