



## **NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **North Allegheny Senior High School**

10375 Perry Hwy  
Wexford, PA 15090  
724-934-7200

August 2019

To Parents and Senior High Students:

The summer is quickly coming to a close and very soon students will be reporting back to North Allegheny Senior High School to continue their education and acquire skills that will prepare them for post-secondary opportunities. We look forward to an exciting and rewarding year. This document includes important information pertaining to the opening of school. You will also find value in referring to other documents housed on the District's website. Please use the hyperlinks embedded in this document for additional information regarding programming, services, expectations, and procedures. For a comprehensive list of Back to School Information, click [HERE](#).

#### **Opening Day:**

Opening day for all students is Tuesday, August 27, 2019. Parents and students should expect information from our Transportation Office regarding bus number, bus stop location, and times. All students should report to their first period class by 7:25 a.m. The student day concludes at 2:15 p.m. First wave busses depart 2:20 p.m.; second wave busses begin boarding at 2:30 p.m.

At dismissal time, each school bus is assigned a consistent parking space. Maps will be available to all students showing where their bus will be located after school. During opening week, busses are delayed a few minutes to ensure all students have boarded their assigned bus.

#### **Student Schedules:**

Student schedules will be accessible online on August 13<sup>th</sup> by utilizing the Parent Portal. Locker assignments and combinations are also available on the portal. A-Bank lockers will be issued to seniors and are located by the Athletic wing, B-Bank lockers are located by the Auditorium and will be issued to incoming juniors. All students will be provided with a finalized hard copy schedule in homeroom on opening day. Students should not share their locker combination with other students.

#### **Students requesting schedule changes:**

At this time the scheduling window has closed for the 2019/2020 school year. Schedule change requests are considered only for mechanical error, placement in an inappropriate level of course, scheduling a course to meet graduation requirements, replacing a study hall with an elective course without adjusting other aspects of the schedule, or counselor recommendation.

#### **Junior Orientation:**

Junior Orientation provides all juniors and students new to NASH to attend a brief program in the NASH Auditorium on Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM or on Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM. Orientation allows students to meet building principals and school counselors while learning about the instructional day, student expectations, and student life. Students should access their schedule through Tyler on August 13<sup>th</sup> so they can tour the building and access their lockers.

## PSAT/NMSQT

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) will be offered to juniors during the school day on Wednesday, October 16, 2019. The test is co-sponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) and is developed and administered for them by Educational Testing Service (ETS). All assessments include a Reading Test, Writing and Language Test, and a Math Test. Questions throughout the assessment will focus on the few things that research shows matter most for college readiness and success. The cost of the exam is \$20 and students must register to take the exam by Monday, October 7, 2019. Checks should be made payable to North Allegheny School District. Complete registration information can be found by clicking [HERE](#). Seniors will have a delayed start to the school day and should report to the cafeteria at 10:30 AM.

## Attendance:

There is a clear connection between attendance and academic success. When a student is absent from school, he or she must provide a written excuse to the Attendance Office within three days of the absence when returning to school regardless of their age. The excuse must contain the student identification number, date(s) of absence, the reason for the absence, and signature from a parent or guardian. Pennsylvania School Code and [NASD Board Policy 204](#) allow only the following reasons for valid excused absences from school: Personal Illness, Medical, Dental, Clinic or Hospital Appointment, Funeral of a Relative, Family Educational Trip, Student Visits to Colleges, School Sanctioned Activities, Required Court Attendance, Religious Holiday or Instruction, or Urgent Reasons deemed acceptable by administration. Unexcused or Unlawful Absences may have a negative impact on a student's grade and therefore submitting proper documentation for all absences is critical. Students will not receive credit for work due on the day of an unexcused or unlawful absence. A Student Absence Excuse Form is available online. Click [HERE](#).

On occasion, students are absent from school for several days. In the event your child is absent for several days, please refer to online resources made available by your child's teachers, such as Blackboard, to stay current with classroom activities and assignments. If these resources do not provide the information needed, please contact the teacher directly through their school email. Arrangements can be made to have assignments that are not accessible online available for pick up in the security vestibule.

Serving as agents of the state, principals are required to monitor student attendance closely. The PA Truancy Law, Act 138, imposes mandatory requirements on School Districts to take additional steps to improve the attendance of students. A School Attendance Improvement Conference will be scheduled with parents if a student acquires three unexcused absences from school. The purpose of the School Attendance Improvement Conference is to examine the student's absences and reasons for the absences in an effort to improve attendance with or without additional services by developing an Attendance Improvement Plan. A copy of the Attendance Improvement Plan will be placed in the student's permanent file. If a student records additional unexcused absences beyond the three days, the student will be referred to a school-based or community-based attendance improvement program. In some cases, the District may file a citation with the Magisterial District Judge.

## Morning Drop Off:

In order to avoid traffic congestion and increase safety measures in the morning, the following drop off procedure is in place between 6:50 and 7:20 AM. All school buses will drop students off at the Main Entrance upon arrival. **Parents who drive their child** to school should enter the campus from Rt. 19 at the traffic light and use the right hand lane to proceed to the back of the building. Staff members will be on duty to welcome students to the athletic entrance at the stop sign. Parents should continue straight towards the stadium. Northbound traffic should exit the campus using the traffic light and southbound traffic should exit by the tennis courts. **Student drivers** who enter the campus from Rt. 19 at the traffic light should use the left hand lane to access the student parking lots located on the southern end of campus. Red lined parking spaces are reserved for faculty parking; white lined spaces are reserved for students with parking permits. All drivers should exercise caution when changing lanes on campus. Outside the 6:50 to 7:20 AM period, parents should drop their child off at the Main Entrance.

**Daily Time Schedule:** [Printer Friendly Version](#)

Breakfast	6:45 – 7:20	
Period 1	7:25 – 8:07	
Homeroom	8:07 – 8:23	
Period 2	8:27 – 9:09	
Period 3	9:13 – 9:55	
Period 4	9:59 – 10:41	Period 5 Lunch 10:41 – 11:11 then proceed to Period 6/7
Period 5/6	10:45 – 11:27	
Period 6/7	11:15 – 11:57	Period 7 Lunch 11:27 – 11:57 then proceed to Period 8/9
Period 7/8	11:31 – 12:31	
Period 8/9	12:01 – 12:43	Period 9 Lunch 12:13 – 12:43 then proceed to Period 10
Period 10	12:47 – 1:29	
Period 11	1:33 – 2:15	
Bus Departure:	2:20	

A.W. Beattie bus leaves NASH at 12:05 p.m.

**Dress Code:**

Acquiring respect from others requires respect for yourself. A student’s manner of dress or hairstyle is the responsibility of the student and his/her parents or guardians. It is the responsibility of the school to stress decency, cleanliness, and appropriateness of dress for school; therefore, it remains the final decision of the administration in cases of questionable attire.

As you begin to purchase back-to-school clothing, please be sure to check the board policy for dress code and make responsible decisions. Students must wear appropriate clothing and footwear at all times. Student clothing and appearance must not disrupt the educational climate, call undue attention to the individual, violate federal, state, local, health or obscenity laws or affect the health, safety and wellbeing of their classmates. Students are not permitted to wear hoods during the school day. Examples of inappropriate dress in a school setting include items such as: soiled articles, articles that cause damage to other students or property or present a safety hazard, torn or ragged clothing, clothing depicting or suggesting sexual activity, innuendo, alcohol, drugs, violence, offensive or provocative materials, bare midriffs, hoods, shorts skirts or shorts, and any attire deemed inappropriate by a member of the administrative team. Undergarments should be worn and not visible. Students deemed to be dressed inappropriately will have the opportunity to make adjustments to their attire. Students who do not comply with this opportunity will be removed from the educational setting.

**Laptop Computers**

All students are required to bring their district issued laptops to school. Students must develop a habit of charging their laptops on a nightly basis and be ready to use them in the classroom to support instructional activities. Students experiencing difficulty with their computers should submit a Help Desk ticket using the icon on their desktop. Students may also visit the Help Desk located in Room 267 where loaner laptops are available during servicing. The District recommends parents and students consider purchasing laptop insurance to cover unexpected damage to laptops. **This insurance policy must be updated annually.** [More information is on our website.](#)

**Electronic Devices and Cell Phones:**

The North Allegheny School District recognizes that the appropriate use of electronic devices can provide great potential for enhanced learning opportunities for all students. However, there are many other uses of electronic devices which can distract from the learning process or otherwise violate the rights of students; thus the use of electronic devices for legitimate educational purposes is permitted, only under

the direction of the classroom teacher with approval from the building administration and in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

On July 10, 2015, Governor Wolf signed Act 26 of 2015 into law, resulting in the creation of a new crime: Cyber Harassment of a Child (18 PA.C.S. §2709 (a.1)). Cyber harassment of a child is committed when another person repeatedly contacts a child through electronic means (such as through text messages, instant messages or through social media services) with the intent to harass, annoy or alarm the child and makes seriously harmful comments about the child or threatens to harm the child. It is important for students and parents to realize that cyberbullying behaviors can now be criminally charged as a misdemeanor offense under this new law. Parents should discuss household rules about online activity with their children, and remind them not to engage in mean, harmful messages about or to others. For more information on bullying go to the [Center for Safe Schools](#) or the [Cyberbullying Research Center](#).

### **NASH Student Parking Permit Information for the 2019-2020 School Year**

NASH students who wish to drive to school can register for driving/parking privileges by purchasing a parking tag at NASH in August prior to the start of school. The cost of registration and parking permit is \$100.00. Cash/check for \$100.00 payable to NASH. Due to a limited number of parking spaces, only 700 permits will be sold.

In order to register, students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian when applying for a [permit](#). Students must submit their driver's license and the owner's card for each vehicle to be registered. Applications will not be processed unless both parent/guardian and student appear in person to complete the necessary documentation. Students who owe any type of obligation to school district will not be permitted to purchase a driving/parking permit until these obligations are met.

Dates for purchasing a NASH parking tag are as follows:

SENIORS accompanied by their parent/guardian may register at North Allegheny Senior High School:

August 15, 19, 26	9:00 am – 3:00 pm
August 16, 23	2:00 pm – 8:00 pm

JUNIORS accompanied by their parent/guardian may register at North Allegheny Senior High School:

August 22, 26	9:00 am – 3:00 pm
August 21, 23	2:00 pm – 8:00 pm

### **Parking/Driving Fines and Rule Violations at NASH**

The consequences for parking/driving violations at NASH are as follows:

- A first time minor violation will result in a \$15.00 fine or loss of driving privileges for 30 days.
- Any subsequent minor offense will result in a loss of driving privileges for 60 days and a \$10.00 fee to have the permit returned.
- A first time major violation will result in a \$25.00 fine or loss of driving privileges for 60 days.
- Any subsequent major violation will result in a 90-day loss of permit, and a \$10.00 fee to have the permit returned.
- Any left-hand turn entering or leaving the tennis court exit will result in loss of driving privileges for 90 days. This is a serious safety violation.

A list of rules and regulations, along with examples of minor and major offenses, are outlined in the [NASH Student/Parent Handbook](#) and on the [parking/driving application](#). Parents and students are strongly encouraged to read these rules and consequences at the beginning of the school year. Ignorance of the rules will not prevent the administration from enforcing the consequences for violation.

Be advised that students should not expect privacy regarding items placed in their vehicles. School officials, in accordance with [School Board Policy #226](#), may conduct random searches of student vehicles parked on school property.

**Visiting the School During School Hours:**

The safety of our students and staff is paramount. Parents and visitors seeking to enter the building for educational reasons must use the Main Entrance located in the front of the building. All visitors will be carefully screened at our security desk and will need to provide a driver's license. For the safety of our students and staff, all visitors will be issued a visitor badge and will be escorted to and from their meeting location. Upon exiting the building, all visitors will be asked to sign out at the security booth and return their visitor badge.

Visitors seeking to enter the building to purchase tickets for athletic and evening events should enter the building through the athletic wing entrance located on the southern part of the building toward the stadium.

**Student Progress:**

All students and parents have access to our online grade book via the [Student Data Portal](#). Grades are updated on a weekly basis to keep students and parents apprised of academic performance. If you feel your child's grade has not been updated, please call or email the teacher of the course in question.

Please take note of the following codes that are used to in certain situations:

Z – A “Z” is entered into the gradebook when a student's absence from class is recorded as Unexcused or Unlawful. A score of “Z” is calculated as zero points and has a negative impact on the student's overall grade.

M – An “M” is entered into the gradebook when a student is missing an assignment or test and has the opportunity to submit the work for full or partial credit based on individual circumstances. A score of “M” does not adversely affect a student's grade, however, if the assignment or test is not submitted it will be changed to a 0.

0 - A “0” is entered into the gradebook when a student does not score any points on an assignment. This could occur for a variety of reasons such as: poor performance on the assignment or the assignment was not submitted within a reasonable amount of time. A score of “0” has a negative impact on the student's overall grade.

The following dates are established for more formalized notification of student progress. Report periods and availability of access are scheduled for the following dates:

<u>Grading Period</u>	<u>End of Period</u>	<u>Reports Available Online</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> 9 Weeks:	November 1	November 14
2 <sup>nd</sup> 9 Weeks:	January 24	February 7
3 <sup>rd</sup> 9 Weeks:	April 1	April 17
4 <sup>th</sup> 9 Weeks:	June 11	June 22

**Graduation Requirements:**

The graduation requirements for North Allegheny High School are detailed in [Board Policy #217](#). The Board requires that each candidate for graduation shall have earned twenty-four (24) credits. All other requirements are contained in required and elective courses.

Chapter 4 of the Pennsylvania School Code notes that one path to graduation in Pennsylvania requires that students demonstrate mastery of the PA Core Standards on the Keystone Exams. Keystone Exams currently exist for Algebra I, Biology, and Literature. These exams are typically taken during the spring of the year in which a student is enrolled in the appropriate course, regardless of the grade he or she is in. For instance, a student will take the Biology Keystone Exam when he or she is enrolled in a Biology course in grades 9 or 10. The Literature Keystone Exam is aligned with North Allegheny's 10th Grade English course.

If a student does not receive a score of “Advanced” or “Proficient” on a Keystone Exam, the student is permitted to take a re-test during designated windows established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Students may take the retest as many times as desired prior to graduation.

Senate Bill 1095 of 2018 made changes to the way in which Keystone Exams must be used as requirements for graduation in Pennsylvania. Regulatory guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education is expected during the fall of 2019. Once this guidance is received by the District, graduation requirements outlined under Senate Bill 1095 of 2018 will be codified in a new North Allegheny Graduation Policy and distributed to students and parent(s)/guardian(s) at North Allegheny Intermediate and North Allegheny Senior High Schools.

**North Allegheny Policy and Procedure:**

The [2019/2020 Student Handbook](#) and [2019/2020 Code of Conduct](#) are currently available online. These handbooks contain important information about programs, policies and procedures. We ask parents and students to carefully review this information and become familiar with its contents.

**Directory Information:**

The School District is required to provide a mailing list of all students to the United States Armed Forces. If you do not want your name to appear on the listing, you must notify Dr. Kreider, in writing, no later than Friday, September 13, 2019.

Working in unison as students, parents, and educators, we are confident that all students will experience success at North Allegheny Senior High School. Should you have any questions regarding programing, services, expectations or procedures, please feel free to contact us. We look forward to a successful and rewarding school year.

Sincerely,

John W. Kreider, Ed.D.  
Principal

Angela L. McEwen, Ed.D.  
A-K Assistant Principal

William E. McGahee Ed.D.  
L-Z Assistant Principal