



2021-2022

TRANSITIONS

**NORTH ALLEGHENY'S ANNUAL
BACK TO SCHOOL PUBLICATION FOR 6-8 FAMILIES**

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Letter from the Middle School Administrative Team

Dear Middle School Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! We look forward to working closely with you to make this a positive and rewarding educational experience for your child. Our goal is to create a safe and welcoming environment, encourage student voice, and ensure all students feel a sense of connectedness to school.

Middle school is a time of growth and reflection. Friendships may also change as your child develops a sense of identity. We offer many activities that foster social development, responsible decision-making, and a positive self-image. Encourage your child to get involved. Your child will have the opportunity to meet new friends with similar interests and will develop a sense of belonging to the school community. Explore our building websites with your child to view clubs, organizations, and other available opportunities. There is something in our middle schools for everyone!

Your child's success in academics, the arts, athletics, and extracurricular and co-curricular activities is important to us. During the first month of school, each middle school will set aside a designated day to draw attention to such things as team building, diversity and inclusion, bully prevention, school rules, expectations, and adhering to the Return to School guidelines in place for this school year. On September 3rd, each middle school will have their special day, CMS's Someplace Special Day, IMS's Proud to be Ingomar Day, and MMS's Marshall Matters Day on the Activities Calendar.

One aspect to a successful school year is communication. Each day, middle school students receive morning announcements that remind them of upcoming club meetings, special schedules, and school-wide events or activities. For your convenience, announcements are posted on each building's website and your child has access to them via Blackboard. Please note that the District Activities Calendar will be modified based on current conditions.

Building strong relationships between students, parents/guardians, teachers, and the school community is a priority. Teachers, counselors, and administrators welcome your questions and feedback. We want to work in partnership with you to create a supportive atmosphere that promotes thoughtfulness, individuality, and respect. The staff at each middle school is dedicated to quality teaching and learning. We also realize that your child's well-being includes not only academic growth, but also social and emotional growth. We look forward to working closely with you to create an exceptional middle school experience!

We can't wait to greet your child on the first day of school, August 23, 2021!

Respectfully,

The Middle School Administrative Team

Middle School Day at a Glance

Arriving At School and School Hours

The middle schools are open to students each school day from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Students arriving before 8 a.m. should report to homeroom.

- *Opening Bell:* 8:00 a.m. Students report to their assigned homerooms.
- *Late Bell:* 8:10 a.m. Students who arrive to school late must report to the office with a written excuse from his/her parent/guardian explaining the reason for tardiness.
- *Dismissal Time:* 2:58 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.

What is Perfect Attendance? To qualify for perfect attendance, a middle school student must have no legal or illegal absences during the entire year.

The following guidelines also apply:

- Four excused tardies or four excused early dismissals or a combination of the two are permitted, not to exceed a total of four.
- All-day school-related activities (out of the building) are always recorded as days attended in the student's records. They do not count as absences.
- All-day absences (not school-related) disqualify students for perfect attendance recognition.
- Even though excused, religious holidays and religious retreats with educational components must, by state law, be counted as absences. At NASD, these absences will not disqualify a student from perfect attendance. Take Your Child to Work Day does not count against perfect attendance.
- Other exceptions such as family funerals, court subpoena, or extraordinary circumstances will be handled on a case-by-case basis by building administrators.

Middle School Day at a Glance

Tardy Policy

Students are tardy if they arrive after 8:10 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

Tardy slips are issued for tardiness to school. Students who are late must obtain a tardy admission slip from the office. It must be presented to the class teacher of the period in which the tardiness occurs and, at the close of the session, and is to be left with the homeroom teacher. For the third unexcused tardy to school and every unexcused tardy thereafter, students will be assigned one detention.

Tardy to Class: When late for class, the student must have an admission slip. Lateness is determined by the classroom teacher. Students who are tardy to class without an admission slip may receive a warning, a misconduct card, and/or a detention.

Make-Up Work

Teachers post homework on Blackboard each day. This resource is an effective way for students to stay informed about school work that was missed during an absence. Students should also check with their teachers when they return from an absence to ensure complete understanding of missed instruction. During an extended absence, parents/guardians may contact the school office for details. All make-up work for absences of one week or more must be completed within two weeks after returning to school. If the work is not completed, a failing grade may be recorded. Make-up work is the student's responsibility.

Schedules for Middle School Students

The middle school philosophy is one of exploration, allowing students to take a wide variety of courses. Sixth and seventh grade students will take two periods of English/Language Arts (ELA) each day. Eighth grade students will have one period of ELA. ELA is the integration of English and language arts. These classes fill five of the periods in the seven-period day. They also take classes in art, family and consumer sciences, keyboarding, and technology education, collectively called "unified arts". Every other day, all students have a physical education (PE) class. Students will not change for PE class this school year. On alternating days, students take either band, orchestra, chorus, or general music.

Middle school student schedules will be available in Tyler SIS on August 17 at 3:00 p.m. This provides the maximum amount of time needed for administrators to adjust schedules before publishing them. Once schedules are published, they cannot be changed. North Allegheny utilizes a teaming approach to scheduling at the middle school level. Using this approach has many benefits for students. However, a schedule change for a single student may result in the need to change the schedules of many other students.

First Week of School

All students at IMS, CMS, and MMS should report to the homeroom listed on their schedule. Homeroom teachers will spend time each day the first week of school explaining and reviewing the new school procedures and rules highlighted in the Return to School Plan and answer any questions students may have. Students will be assigned an individual locker during this week.

Things to Know for Middle School

Approved Wipes/Sanitizers/Cleansers For Classroom Use

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.

Blackboard

Blackboard (Bb) is a learning management system designed to provide an interactive platform where parents/guardians can access information regarding their child's classes. Parents/guardians will receive an email from the District prior to the first day of school with their parent-specific username/password for Blackboard access. Blackboard will provide you with access to your child's homework and class materials/resources. Tyler SIS continues to be the electronic tool to view grades and attendance information.

Cell Phones

Cell phones are to be turned off and put away during the school day. Cell phones will be confiscated from students who disregard this policy. Parents/guardians will be required to pick up a confiscated cell phone in the school office. Telephones are available for student use in each middle school. Repeated infractions of this rule will result in detention. Parents/guardians may contact their child through the school office. NOTE: Please do not text or call your child during the school day. If your child is ill, they should report to the nurse to be dismissed. If you receive a text from your child, please call the school, please do not report to the school prior to speaking with the nurse.

New Experiences at Middle School

Although each middle school prides itself on being unique, the three middle schools all have much in common. First and foremost, the curriculum is consistent throughout the North Allegheny School District, offering students the same strong foundation in preparation for high school. Other new experiences at each middle school include:

- **Counselors:** Counselors are assigned alphabetically to each student, which helps students realize academic success and develop positive relationships. Counselors take a lead in scheduling, standardized test administration, and responding to parent/guardian and student concerns as they arise.
- **Extra-Curricular Activities:** The middle schools have similar extra-curricular features as well. Student Councils in all three schools participate in school-wide fundraisers, and money raised from the fundraisers pays for many student activities, assemblies, and special events. Other new opportunities at middle school include: a school-wide intramural program offering a variety of sports for each season; an annual talent show; a middle-school musical production; school dances; awards assemblies for academics and sports; athletic events; semi-annual band, orchestra, and choral concerts; interdisciplinary units planned by team teachers; and building-wide community service projects. Extracurricular activities will be modified based on the Return to School Plan.
- **Mini-Course Days:** All three schools host an annual Mini-Course Day. Teachers, with the help of parent/guardian volunteers, introduce students to a variety of experiences outside the general curriculum. The courses vary according to student interest. In the past, they have ranged from drama, storytelling, and artistic creations, to fantasy football, gardening, martial arts, remote control car racing, and roller skating, to name a few. Mini-Course days will be modified based on the Return to School Plan.

Open Houses at the Middle Schools

Each of the three middle schools will host an Open House on Thursday, September 23 at 6:00 p.m. During this important evening, parents/guardians will experience middle school firsthand by following a condensed version of their child's daily schedule. It is important for parents/guardians to arrive early to be in their child's homeroom by 6:00 p.m. in order to follow their child's entire schedule.

Teachers will review their routines and expectations, course objectives and requirements, plus homework procedures and policies. In addition, teachers will preview important electronic learning resources that will be used throughout the school year. Open House is an excellent opportunity for parents/guardians to establish positive communication with their child's teachers. This evening is designed for parents/guardians only; students are not permitted to attend. Further information will be sent home with the students after school begins.

Personal Conduct and Appearance

Students shall dress appropriately and their clothing or personal hygiene should not cause a health or safety hazard or disrupt the educational process. Age-appropriate guidelines are published in the respective building Student Handbooks. The establishment of these guidelines is supported by [North Allegheny School Board Policy #220](#).

Things to Know for Middle School

Personal Conduct and Appearance

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GUIDELINES: Standards for Dress (please review in the Student/Parent Handbook)

- Students are expected to wear neat, clean, appropriate clothing that does not interfere with the purpose of learning.
- Heads should not be covered at any time; however, religious headwear is permitted.
- Footwear must be worn at all times. Flip-flops, sandals, and slippers are not recommended due to potential safety hazards.
- Clothing may not interfere with the educational process or the rights of others and should not depict, advertise, or encourage indecent content or the use of any illegal substances. Clothing that includes derogatory slurs or implies hatred or prejudice toward any race, gender, social group, or religion may not be worn.
- Sleepwear is not permitted.
- All clothing must cover the buttocks when standing or sitting with fingertips as a guideline for shorts.
- See-through garments, mesh shirts, and muscle shirts worn alone are prohibited.
- Tops need to be tucked into or overlap bottom garments. Clothing should cover the back, chest, midriff, buttocks, and undergarments.
- Chains that could present a danger are not permitted on clothes or accessories.
- Dress citations will be issued as a written warning to students violating dress guidelines. A student may be asked to change his or her clothes to adhere to the above dress guidelines. Progressive discipline will be assigned when a student receives a second dress citation.
- The school administration reserves the right to make final decisions regarding the appropriateness or safety of any dress disruptive to the educational process.

School Lunch Program

To view lunch menus and information about Food Services, [click here to visit the Food Services portion 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 are posted on the District 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. 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 for information on how to create your account and set your preferences.

Things to Know for Middle School

School Supplies

On the first day of school, your child needs to bring their District-issued iPad FULLY CHARGED, a pencil, and a spiral notebook. Each team or individual teacher will share specific supply requests during the first week of school. Assignment books are provided by the District free to all sixth graders and available at a minimal cost to seventh and eighth graders. General suggestions from the teachers at the three middle schools are that students have a large (two or three inch) binder (not a Trapper), plenty of loose-leaf notebook paper, number two pencils, pens with blue or black ink, and a zippered pencil case that can be snapped into the binder. Your child will also need earbuds and may prefer to use a stylus to write on the iPad. If you are purchasing supplies for your child's homework, you may also want to buy markers, colored pencils, scissors, a ruler, scotch tape, hole reinforcers, and a hole punch. A more detailed supply list will be sent out with the Principal Letter.

Student Information in Tyler SIS

Contact 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.

Important Dates for Middle School Families

Refer to the [Activities Calendar](#) for a full list of events, times, and locations.

CMS, IMS, MMS New Student Orientation	August 12
First Day of School	August 23
CMS Someplace Special & Cyber Safety Day IMS Proud to be Ingomar Day MMS Marshall Matters Day	September 3
Labor Day (No Classes)	September 6
All Middle School Open Houses	September 23
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
Last Day of School for Students	June 3
Class of 2022 Graduation	June 3
In-Service Day (No Classes)	June 6

Building Acronyms

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

Parent Coffees

CMS	IMS	MMS
October 14	October 14	October 14
February 23	February 23	February 23
March 31		

Mini-Course Days

CMS	October 22
IMS	May 31
MMS	May 31

Picture Dates

CMS	October 1
IMS	September 24
MMS	October 15

Middle School Resources

Parent Coffees

Parents/guardians who have been active in the PFA at an elementary school are often on the lookout for similar organizations when their children move to middle school. Attending Middle School Parent Coffees may be the answer! Parent Coffees are held at all middle schools for all middle school parents/guardians who want to meet with building principals to share ideas and information. Topics of interest for parents/guardians are presented and discussed, including curriculum, testing, homework, discipline, extracurricular activities, and technology. Parents/guardians are also updated on District-wide news by representatives of committees such as the Unified Boosters and the Superintendent/Parents Liaison Committee (SPLC). School Counselors sometimes report on special topics such as scheduling and Student Council representatives are often present to provide updates on their activities. Parents/guardians have an opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns as well. Please take advantage of this excellent opportunity to enhance home-school communication at the middle school level. The Parent Coffee meeting schedule for the 2021-2022 school year at the middle schools is as follows:

Carson	Ingomar	Marshall
Thursday, October 14 at 9:30 a.m.	Thursday, October 14 at 9:30 a.m.	Thursday, October 14 at 9:30 a.m.
February 23 at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. <i>(6th & 7th Grade Scheduling)</i>	February 23 at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. <i>(6th & 7th Grade Scheduling)</i>	February 23 at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. <i>(6th & 7th Grade Scheduling)</i>
Thursday, March 31, 9:30 a.m.		

Volunteer Program

There are many opportunities for parents/guardians to be actively involved as volunteers at the middle schools. Parents/guardians who wish to volunteer must have a Pennsylvania State Police Clearance and Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance. Parents/guardians who have not lived in Pennsylvania for the past 10 years are required to have an FBI Clearance in addition to the two Pennsylvania Clearances. Clearances are good for five years from the date of issuance. More information on volunteer clearances can be found by [clicking here](#). Each middle school invites parents/guardians to sign up to volunteer for the activities of their choice through both virtual sign-up events during the first few weeks of school. Keep an eye out for information from your child's building via email if you're interested in signing up to volunteer!

Online Resources for Students at Home

The North Allegheny Library Department has arranged free home access to a number of quality information references for 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

Blackboard for Parents

**Managing Technology
at Home**

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.

[Click here to visit the Transportation Department section of the NA website](#)

District Information

Athletics

North Allegheny School District is a member of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) and part of the District 7 WPIAL (Western PA Interscholastic Athletic League). The PIAA guidelines for all high schools in Pennsylvania offers interscholastic programs for students in 7th through 12th grades. Throughout each school year, there are three distinct sports seasons - fall, winter, and spring. North Allegheny offers numerous programs throughout the school year:

North Allegheny Athletic Department Middle School Sport Offerings (for boys and girls in 7th and 8th grade):

- **Girls Fall:** Cheerleading, cross country, field hockey, slow-pitch softball, soccer, volleyball
- **Boys Fall:** Cross country, 7th grade football, 8th grade football, soccer
- **Girls Winter:** 7th grade basketball, 8th grade basketball, cheerleading
- **Boys Winter:** 7th grade basketball, 8th grade basketball, ice hockey, wrestling
- **Girls Spring:** Softball, track and field
- **Boys Spring:** Baseball, track and field, volleyball

Registration Information: All registrations for grades 7-12 athletics must be completed on the www.familyid.com website. Listed below are the dates when you can begin registering for each season:

- Fall 2021 Sports Registration began June 1, 2021, deadline is August 6, 2021
- Winter 2021-2022 Sports Registration begins October 1, 2021, deadline is November 8, 2021
- Spring Sports Registration begins January 17, 2022, deadline is February 25, 2022

Participants must complete the online registration, physician's form, baseline concussion testing, and participation fees in order for a student to try out for a sport. [Click here to visit the Athletic Department website to access the pre-participation forms required for interscholastic and club sports.](#)

Intramural Programs: Each middle school has the option of offering at least one intramural activity during the academic school year that is sponsored either solely by the middle school or shared with all three middle schools. Eligibility is open to grades 6 through 8, and activity programs are determined by each school, its faculty sponsor, and approval from the District's Athletic Director. Participation is open to girls and boys. Parents/guardians should contact their home school's main office for more information on their building's intramural offerings.

Athletic Department

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

Phone: 724-934-7238

- Athletic Director - **Bob Bozzuto:** bbozzuto@northallegheny.org
- Admin. Asst. - **Patti McClure:** pmcclure@northallegheny.org
- Admin. Asst. - **Brittany Glass:** bglass@northallegheny.org

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.

District Information

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.

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) 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)

District Information

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](#)

Smoke-Free Policy

The North Allegheny School District 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 student will be attending, visit <https://nasd.school/locator21-22>.

Superintendent’s Coffees

The Superintendent of Schools will be hosting a series of Coffees in various schools around the District in the 2020-2021 school year. Parents/guardians and any interested community member may attend a coffee at any location. Dates, times, and locations are as follows:

- September 2, CAO Board Room (*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 or call 1-800-986-KIDS (5437).

Dental Exams for 7th Grade Students

The Pennsylvania School Health Law requires that all students receive a dental examination on entrance to school for 7th 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. All 7th grade students are required to have a tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis (Tdap) and meningococcal vaccine (MCV4) by the first day of school. If these requirements are not met prior to the 2021-2022 school year, your child will not be permitted to start classes on August 23, 2021. Families will receive notification by email if these immunizations are not up-to-date. To review the requirements, [please visit the NASD website.](#)

- *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/moral belief whose teachings are opposed to such immunizations (requires parent/guardian signature)

Physical Exams for 6th Grade Students

The Pennsylvania School Health Law requires that all students receive a physical examination on entrance to school for 6th 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 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.

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 for your child during the school year. If you have any specific questions, please email your child's [school nurse](#).

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.

Health Services Department

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 2020-2021 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.
- ***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 parents/guardians as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians 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.](#)

For additional resources and information on North Allegheny Safety and Security, please visit <http://www.northallegheny.org/safety>.

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 reimagining 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!

BCIT

During the 2020-2021 school year, students had to adapt to many different learning environments. They saw firsthand how teachers had to change the instructional model for delivery. Similarly, all companies needed to re-evaluate how they conducted their business practices in an ever-changing environment. The marketing of products and services changed; management and leadership within organizations was altered; organizations had to reallocate their finances; technology was utilized to meet the demands of remote, but secure, connections. These significant events and changes all impacted the Business, Computer, and Information Technology (BCIT) Curriculum. As the BCIT Department continued to provide the evolutionary, forward-thinking curriculum – we were able to utilize current events and trends as a means of delivery of that curriculum.

The department continued to implement the recommendations presented in their 2016 full Curriculum Review. These continued to focus and align education to emulate the changing landscape of practices seen in today's business world. While no new textbooks were adopted this year, evaluations began for selecting updated Business Communications and Entrepreneurship materials. A new web based touch typing software, EduTyping, was implemented in the 2020-2021 school year.

During the upcoming school year, staff development will continue to focus on adding leadership and project-based activities within individual curriculums. Technologies will be utilized to gather information, understand perspectives, identify issues, and establish best practice standards. The BCIT Department continues to strive to provide flexible and interactive learning environments.

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 McGraw-Hill's *StudySync* for grades 6-8.

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.

Curriculum Update

Family and Consumer Sciences

During the 2020-2021 school year, the Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Department continued to focus on sustainability; further integrating composting systems at each secondary building. We were recognized in December 2020 as part of the Healthy Schools Recognition Program, receiving High Honor Roll for our department's work toward environmental sustainability.

Our 8th grade FCS students at both brick and mortar buildings and NACA enjoyed learning how to sew on a button and use a needle and thread as they constructed felt monsters. At IMS, 8th graders learned about the importance of reading to children and created children's books based on their felt monster. Our 8th graders also studied superfoods and included a variety of nutrients into their diets; applying their learning making stromboli and superfood snacks. CMS 7th graders participated in a name brand or generic blind taste test challenge, and all of our 7th graders learned about consumerism and became "label aware." 6th graders across the district practiced measuring in the kitchen, making whole grain pizza and biscuit calzones. They also made job flyers to use this summer as they look for creative ways to serve others and earn money.

The department looks forward to another exciting school year in which our comprehensive courses continue to focus on imparting knowledge and skills needed for success in an ever changing world for every North Allegheny student. Follow the FCS Department on Twitter @NA_FCS for department news and achievements.

Health and Physical Education

The Health and 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.

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.

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).

Curriculum Update

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 accepted 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.

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.

Curriculum Update

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. This Gizmos & Pivot for various middle and high school courses. Gizmos & Pivot will be renewed for next year only on a course-by-course basis based upon curriculum needs. Long term subscriptions to these 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.

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.

Technology and Engineering Education

Over a year ago, traditional education changed forever. The educational community across the nation was forced to adapt, change, and implement innovative distance learning options for students. Despite many challenges with pandemic restrictions, the hands-on nature of our courses, and the first year of our curriculum review implementation, the Technology and Engineering Education Department was able to deliver meaningful experiences to our students through rigorous courses, unique projects, and cooperation of all stakeholders.

During the 2020-2021 school year, our department moved forward with recommendations highlighted in our curriculum review. At the middle school level, we will be implementing a revised 8th grade curriculum concentrating on skills and concepts in the areas of Robotics, Electronics, Computer Integrated Design, and Advanced Manufacturing. This updated course will be enhanced with the newest technologies including the continued use of VEX Robotics, 3D printers, and CNC routers, along with traditional tools and machines exposing students to a well-rounded experience supported by various problem-solving methods.

Lastly, all courses in grades 6-12 will continue to be hands-on, project-based learning labs with a focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). The department is also looking forward to once again hosting our annual robotics competition and participating in 'in-person' regional and state competitions.

Curriculum Update

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.

The Visual Arts faculty is proud of the creative accomplishments of North Allegheny students. In 2020-2021, 26 NA students throughout grades 7-12 received 52 regional awards. The National Art Honor Society chapter at NASH focused on community service through art, with 31 newly inducted members in 2021. Some community projects included fundraisers for charities, creating holiday cards for senior residents, school-based projects, murals, and more. Seniors committed to their volunteer service throughout the year received honor cords at graduation.

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.

World Language

The World Language Department explored new ways to enhance student learning and engagement during the troubling times of the pandemic. Teachers collaborated with one another to learn new computer applications and websites for increasing student interest and participation. The Department found new and innovative ways using sites such as GoFormative, Blooklet, Gimkit and Flipgrid. These opportunities allowed interaction between remote students and cyber academy students alike.

This year with the addition of North Allegheny Cyber Academy, the Department was charged with finding ways to offer our language classes to students enrolled in this cyber academy. With new technology that was provided in each classroom, teachers were able to offer a dual enrolled situation where the remote students were able to participate in live synchronous classes, allowing students to receive the same instruction in person as well as remotely. The Department also developed new ways to facilitate and assess communication for all students in the Hyflex and dual enrollment environments.

National exams were able to be administered remotely for all languages at various levels. The French and German Honor Societies were even able to hold their respective induction ceremonies in a new way. Professional development time was spent finding these new and creative ways to continue to offer a high quality education for students during these unprecedented times. Finally, the teachers found exciting ways to engage students in culture while they were remote by offering cooking lessons of authentic foods. Several teachers at the middle level and high schools were able to offer lessons in each of the languages.

Who to Call in Middle School

Parents/guardians often wonder whom to call when they have particular concerns. As a general rule, it is best to seek a solution at the building level with the individual(s) closest to the origin of the concern. Here are some frequently occurring examples:

Concern	Person to Call
Grade	Teacher who issued the grade
Detention	Teacher who issued detention (Asst. Principal if concern remains)
Placement	School Counseling Office at the beginning of the year; teacher/School Counselor at mid-year
Peer Problems	School Counselor, Asst. Principal/Principal
New Student	School Counseling Office
At-Risk Student	School Counselor/Principal/Student Assistance Team
Homework	Teacher/School Counselor
Homework Requests (illness)	Refer to Blackboard
Bus Discipline	Bus Monitor/Asst.Principal/Principal
General Transportation	School Counseling Office/Transportation Department
Teacher Complaint	Teacher first, then Principal
Medical	Nurse
Tutoring/Homebound Instruction	School Counseling Office
Vacation/Education Trip Requests	Secretary
Program/Curriculum	Teacher/School Counselor/Principal
Extracurricular Activities	Sponsor/Coach/Asst. Principal/Principal/Athletic Director, as necessary

Middle School Buildings & Principals

Carson Middle School

300 Hillvue Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Phone: 412-369-5520

[Website](#)

Katherine Krivak, Principal
William McGahee, Ed.D., Asst. Principal

Ingomar Middle School

1521 Ingomar Heights Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Phone: 412-348-1470

[Website](#)

David Deramo, Principal
Jason Harding Ph.D., Asst. Principal

Marshall Middle School

5145 Wexford Run Road
Wexford, PA 15090
Phone: 724-934-6060

[Website](#)

Dan Swoger, Ed.D., Principal
Matt Buchak, Asst. 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

Links to Resources

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

[Activities Calendar](#)

[Administration](#)

[Alumni Association](#)

[Athletic Department](#)

[Careers at NA](#)

[Code of Conduct](#)

[Diversity at NA](#)

[FOCUS 2020](#)

[Health Services](#)

[Lunch Menus](#)

[NA Foundation](#)

[PaySchools Central](#)

[Return to School](#)

[Safety and Security](#)

[School Board](#)

[SchoolMessenger](#)

[Student Data Portal Instructions](#)

[Student Services](#)

[Technology Services](#)

[Transportation](#)