

# PROGRESSIONS

NORTH ALLEGHENY'S ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL PUBLICATION FOR 9-12 FAMILIES

# **Table of Contents**

Click on an item below to jump to the page within the document

 Athletics High School Day at a Glance ......5 Arriving At School and School Hours FERPA Homeroom Morning Announcements Attendance Class Schedules Locker Assignments Student Drop Off Procedures • Parking Permits - NASH Things to Know for High School.....7

- Senior High Parking/Driving Fines and Rules
- Search Policy
- Open Houses at the High Schools
- Laptop Use at NAI and NASH
- Release of Information to Military Recruiters
- Utilizing the GI Bill While in High School
- Standardized Exams
- Keystone Exams
- Program of Studies

#### Preparing for Graduation ......9

- Graduation Requirements
- Naviance Student Connections Students and Parents/Guardians
- High School Checklists By Grade
- A.W. Beattie Career Center
- Register for the Kaplan SAT Preparation Course
- Free PSAT/SAT Resource

Testing Dates and Codes ......11

#### High School Resources for Students and Parents/Guardians.....12

- Volunteer Program
- Online Resources for Students at Home
- Online Resources for Parents/Guardians

#### Transportation Department ......13

- Audio and/or Video Recording on District Buses
- Buses
- Bus Safety Awareness

# District Information ......14

- Code of Conduct
- Custody/Court Orders
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- NASD School Locator
- Notification of Pesticide and/or Herbicide Use
- Participation Fees
- School Lunch Program
- SchoolMessenger Notification System
- Smoke-Free Policy
- Student Photos/Interviews/Reproductions of Original Work
- Student Records are Confidential
- Student Registration
- Superintendent's Coffees

#### Health Services Department......18

- CHIP Insurance
- Immunization Requirements
- Physical Exams for 11th Grade Students
- Medications at School
- Student Information in Tyler SIS
- Ticks and Lyme Disease
- Too Sick for School

#### 

- Building-Level Newsletters
- Communicating Closings or Delays
- Emergency Communications
- Safety and Security Communications
- Social Media Official North Allegheny Accounts

#### Safety and Security......22

- Lockdown Drills
- Safety and Security Reporting Options

Curriculum Update23	;
High School Buildings and Principals29	)

**Clickable hyperlinks throughout this document can be identified** as being underlined, bold, and in a golden font

# **Letter from the Middle School Administrative Team**

Dear High 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. It is our top priority to create a safe and caring learning environment where each student is prepared for success in a changing world. At North Allegheny, students will experience the challenge of a robust curriculum that promotes critical thinking and creativity. Your child's success in all areas including academics, the arts, athletics, and extracurricular and co-curricular activities is extremely important to us. We also believe it is important for each of our students to take responsibility for their actions and to embrace the many opportunities that our students will encounter throughout the school year. Our goal is to assist and guide each one of our students during this journey.

Building strong, meaningful relationships between students, parents/guardians, and staff is critical in our success as a school community. Our goal is to partner with you to create a supportive school environment that promotes thoughtfulness, individuality, and respect. The staff at both high schools 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 your student and your family to create an exceptional high school experience!

Several important aspects to a successful school year include communication, collaboration, and involvement/connectedness to the school community. Each day, high 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. We encourage that your student become involved in one or more of the many clubs, activities, and organizations that are offered at our high schools.

On behalf of the faculty and staff at NAI and NASH, we look forward to working with our students, families, and entire school community to provide the best possible learning environment for each one of our students. We cannot wait to see your child on the first day of school, August 23, 2021!

# It's a GREAT day to be a Tiger!

Respectfully,

NAI and NASH Administrative Teams

# **Links to Resources**

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



# **Important Dates for High School Families**

## **Key Dates for High School Families**

Refer to the <u>Activities Calendar</u> for a full list of events, times, and locations. NAI-specific events are highlighted in gold, NASH-specific events are highlighted in grey.

	<u></u>	······································	
NAI Student Orientation	August 11	MORP Dance at NASH	February 5
NASH Junior/New Student Orientation	August 11	NASH College Information Night	February 8
NAI Walk Your Schedule	August 18	NASH Principal's/Counseling Coffee	February 17
NASH Walk Your Schedule	August 19	Presidents' Day (No Classes)	February 21
First Day of School	August 23	NAI Principal's/Counselor's Coffee	February 24
Labor Day (No Classes)	September 6	NAI Transition & Elective Fair	February 24
NASH Principal's Coffee	September 16	NASH Principal's/Counseling Coffee	March 17
NAI Open House	September 30	Professional Learning Day (No Classes)	March 23
NASH Open House	October 7	NAI/NASH Project Water Dodgeball Tournament	April 8
NAI Principal/Counselor Coffee	October 7	NASH Tiger Thon	April 9
NAI & NASH Homecoming Dances	October 9	Spring Break (No School)	April 11-15
College Financial Aid Night at NASH	October 12	NAI Principal's/Counselor's Coffee	April 21
NASH Counseling Coffee	October 21	NASH Counseling Coffee	April 21
Professional Learning Day (No Classes)	October 27	Senior Prom	May 14
Professional Learning Day (No Classes)	November 1	Spring Keystone Exams Testing Window	May 16-27
Professional Learning Day (No Classes)	November 2	Election Day (No School)	May 17
NASH Principal's/Counseling Coffee	November 18	NASH Counseling Coffee	May 19
Thanksgiving Break (No School)	November 25-26	NASH Senior Banquet	May 27
NAI Principal's/Counselor's Coffee	December 9	Memorial Day (No School)	May 30
NASH Counseling Coffee	December 16	Last Day of School for Students	June 3
Winter Break (No School)	December 24-Jan. 2	Class of 2022 Graduation	June 3
Professional Learning Day (No Classes)	January 14	Professional Learning Day (No Classes)	June 6
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No School)	January 17		
NASH Principal's Coffee	January 20		

# **School Pictures**

NAI	September 17
NASH — Juniors/Faculty	September 8
NASH – Senior Make-Up/Faculty	September 9
NASH – Group Photos	November 18

# **Senior Photos for Safari Yearbook**

Senior photos to be included in the yearbook must be taken by the school photographer, John Madia. Photos may be taken at NASH on scheduled photo dates or individual appointments can be made at the John Madia Photography Studio by calling 724-444-8884. There is no cost to have the photo taken and no obligation to purchase photo packages.

# **NASH Parking Permits**

Senior Parking Permits Sold	August 13, 9:00 a.m 3:00 p.m.
	August 16, 9:00 a.m 3:00 p.m.
Junior Parking Permits Sold	August 17, 2:00 p.m 8:00 p.m.
	August 18, 9:00 a.m 3:00 p.m.
Jr./Sr. Parking Permits Sold	August 19, 2:00 p.m 8:00 p.m.

# **High School Day at a Glance**

# **Arriving At School and School Hours**

Both high schools open at 7:00 a.m. Monday through Friday. The warning bell for Period 1 rings at 7:19 a.m. To avoid being marked as tardy, students must be in their first period class by 7:23 a.m for both NAI and NASH. To be deemed as a legal tardy or absence, excuses with valid reasons must be signed by a parent/guardian and submitted within three school days of the recorded absence/tardy. The last period of the day ends at 2:15 p.m. Students are not permitted on school property after the school day unless they are part of an approved and supervised extracurricular activity.

#### Homeroom

NAI and NASH Homeroom is after the first period class. Homeroom activities and announcements for the day are made between 8:04-8:15 a.m. at the Senior High and between 8:03-8:23 a.m. at the Intermediate High.

#### **Morning Announcements**

The Morning Announcements are broadcast each morning at both high schools. A copy of all announcements is available on the NASH and NAI websites.

#### Attendance

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 (form available on the NA website)
- Student Visits to Colleges
- School Sanctioned Activities
- Required Court Attendance
- Religious Holiday or Instruction
- 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 for both **NAI** and **NASH**.

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 NASH security vestibule or NAI attendance office.

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 for students and their parents/guardians 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.

PROGRESSIONS | 5

# **High School Day at a Glance**

# **Class Schedules**

Class schedules for 9-12 students will be available utilizing the Tyler Student Information System on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 after 3:00p.m. Students will be able to review their schedules in Tyler. Students should bring a copy or take a picture of their schedule for use during Student Orientations. Homeroom teachers will provide all students with a hard copy of their schedule on the first day of school.

• *Note:* Any student who has not submitted verification of updated immunization information will not have access to their online account to retrieve this information.

#### **Locker Assignments**

Locker assignments will be available via <u>Tyler SIS</u> on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 after 3:00 p.m. Students should keep their combinations confidential because they alone are responsible for their lockers and anything stored in them. Students are permitted to use only their assigned lockers and may not share lockers.

# **Student Drop Off Procedures**

NAI

- Buses: School buses will drop students off at the designated location at NAI either in the front or the back of the building.
- **Parent/Guardian Drop Off:** Parents/guardians bringing students to school must enter the parking lot from Cumberland Road between McKnight and NAI. Cars must proceed slowly and safely to the front of the lot to the drop-off point nearest the building. Cars will then be filtered in one of two distinct directions to exit the parking lot. Please use caution and follow the directions of the NAI staff at all times.
- Student Drivers: Students are not permitted to drive to NAI or park on or off school property. Students are also not permitted to park off-site and walk to NAI.

**NASH:** In order to avoid traffic congestion and increase safety measures during arrival and dismissal the following drop off procedure is in place between 6:50-7:20 a.m.

- **Buses:** All school buses will drop students off at the Main Entrance upon arrival.
- **Parent Drop Off:** Parents/guardians 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/guardians 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. Outside the 6:50 to 7:20 a.m. time frame, parents/guardians should drop their child off at the Main Entrance.
- **Student Drivers:** 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. All drivers should exercise caution when changing lanes on campus.

# **Parking Permits - NASH**

NASH students who wish to drive to school can register for driving/parking privileges by purchasing a parking tag at NASH in August as listed in the District calendar. In order to register, students must bring all required documents, including the NASH parking application with parent/guardian signature. Students must submit their driver's license and the owner's card for each vehicle to be registered. The total cost for the registration and parking permit is \$100. Cash and checks are accepted, with checks made payable to NASH.

# **Things to Know for High School**

# Senior High Parking/Driving Fines and Rules

The consequences for parking/driving violations at NASH for the 2021-2022 school year are as follows:

- A first time minor violation will result in a \$15 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 fee to have the permit returned.
- A first time major violation will result in a \$25 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 fee to reissue the permit.
- Any left-hand turn entering or leaving the tennis court exit will result in a loss of driving privileges.

A list of rules and regulations, along with examples of minor and major offenses, can be found in the NASH Student/Parent Handbook and on the parking/ driving application. Parents/guardians and students are strongly encouraged to read these rules and consequences at the beginning of the new 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. All vehicles parked on NASD school property are subject to search according to NASD School Board Policy #226. Any vehicle parked in a NASH or NAI parking lot is subject to video surveillance. Please note that NAI students are not permitted to drive to or from school, and/or park on or off school property en route to school.

Students who owe a financial obligation to the District will not be permitted to purchase a parking permit until these financial obligations are met. Students who have unserved detentions remaining from the previous school year will not be permitted to purchase a parking permit until all detentions are served.

# **Search Policy**

North Allegheny School Board Policy #226 outlines the policy related to conducting searches of student property. Student lockers are owned by the North Allegheny School District and loaned to students for their convenience. The school exercises exclusive control over lockers and a student should not expect privacy regarding items placed in a locker. Lockers are subject to search at any time by school officials. In conjunction with law enforcement officials, locker searches may also occur through the use of trained dogs. All students and their parents/guardians are required to sign an acknowledgment of receipt of this notification. No additional notice to students is required prior to a random or comprehensive search of students' lockers. Any contraband found in a locker will be considered in the possession of the student assigned to the locker.

# **Open Houses at the High Schools**

Open House at NAI is Thursday, September 30 at 6:30 p.m. Open House at NASH is Thursday, October 7 at 6:30 p.m.

On this important evening, parents/guardians will follow a shortened version of their student's daily schedule. Teachers will review the rules and expectations, course objectives and requirements, and homework procedures and policies. This is an excellent opportunity for parents/guardians to establish positive communication with their student's teachers. This evening is designed for parents/guardians only. Students should not attend.

# Laptop Use at NAI and NASH

The District-issued laptops are to be used for educational purposes. Students are reminded that it is their responsibility to come to school with a fully charged laptop every day. All students should review and understand the proper procedures for using a school-issued laptop each year. Parents/guardians can access information regarding laptop insurance on the District's Technology Services portion of the NA website.

# **Release of Information to Military Recruiters**

NASD will provide student names, addresses, and phone numbers to military recruiters upon request, unless a parent/guardian and/or student has opted out of providing such information. Parents/guardians and/or students may choose to opt out no later than October 1, 2021 by providing a written request to the School Counseling Department, North Allegheny Senior High School, 10375 Perry Highway, Wexford, PA 15090-9210. This information is provided as required by Section 9528 of the ESEA, 20 U.S.C. §7908 as amended by NCLB and 10 U.S.C. 503, as amended by §544 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Pub. L. No. 107-107).

# **Things to Know for High School**

# Utilizing the GI Bill While in High School

If a student is 18 years of age and an eligible dependent of a veteran, he/she may be eligible for GI Bill benefits for education and training. For information, contact your School Counselor and complete the Application for Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance available at www.gibill. va.gov. Click on Education Forms to download the form or click on Ask a Question and request the form be sent to you.

There is additional post-secondary educational funding available for gualified children of veterans. For more information on these programs, call PHEAA at 1-800-692-7392 or go to www.pheaa.org.

# Standardized Exams

Students participate in several standardized exams over the course of their experience in the K-12 program. Each exam provides important information about a particular aspect of a student's academic growth and achievement. Parents/guardians are urged to have their student attend school on every testing day and refrain from scheduling appointments that interfere with attendance. The insights provided by standardized tests are used to make critical decisions about curriculum and instruction. These decisions will provide the most benefit to your student if details about his/her academic performance are available for consideration. Following is the schedule of standardized exams students will take in the 2021-2022 school year:

- October 16
- PSAT/NMSQT Juniors @ NASH November 13 Pre-ACT Testing - Grade 10 @ NAI •
- December 1-15 Winter Keystone Exams Testing Window
- May 2-13 **AP Examinations**
- May 16-27 Spring Keystone Exams Testing Window

# **Keystone Exams**

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.

# The District will offer the spring Keystone Exams testing window from May 16-27, 2022.

Procedures for Students Who Do Not Pass a Keystone Exam: If a student's Performance Level on the Algebra I, Biology, and/or Literature Keystone Exam is "Basic" or "Below Basic", additional opportunities for a re-test will occur during future winter and spring testing windows. Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) can participate in the retest option and in other supplemental instruction as determined by the IEP Team.

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, or consider Alternate Pathways to Graduation by working with their School Counselor.

Senate Bill 1095 of 2018 made changes to the way in which Keystone Exams must be used as requirements for graduation in Pennsylvania.

# **Program of Studies**

The **Program of Studies** is a comprehensive document outlining the course offerings, course sequence, and related requirements for high school students. Minimally, high school students at North Allegheny must meet the graduation requirements outlined in Board Policy #217. Students are required to schedule at least seven (7.0) credits per year in grades 9-12.

# **Preparing for Graduation**

## **Graduation Requirements**

To graduate from the North Allegheny School District, a student must accumulate a total of 24 credits in grades 9-12. Those credits must be earned in specific curricular areas, which are outlined in detail in the **Program of Studies**. Additional details can be found under the **Policies**, **Procedures**, and **Information link of the District's website**. For more detailed information, call the Office of Secondary Education at 412-369-5896.

# **Naviance Student Connections - Students and Parents/Guardians**

Naviance Student is a college and career readiness platform that helps connect academic achievement to post-secondary goals. Students are able to take career interest inventories, explore career clusters, research colleges, and ultimately request transcripts and letters of recommendation for their college applications. This innovative, easy-to-use online application will assist our students and parents/guardians with the entire college and career planning process. In addition, Naviance Student provides a wealth of information on scholarships, resume building, and high school planning. The goal at NAI and NASH is to connect NA families with valuable resources and to provide an efficient way for students and parents/guardians to stay informed and keep organized through the college admissions process.

Take advantage of this free resource by logging in through TigerID. Any student or parents/guardians who would like additional information, including registration codes to access the website, can speak with their counselor. Current tenth and eleventh grade students who have changed their email address or have never registered to Naviance Student are encouraged to speak to their counselor to update their email address and/or obtain a registration code.

# **High School Checklists By Grade**

Click the buttons below to access easy checklists for students in grades 9-12 to help prepare them for success after North Allegheny.



# **A.W. Beattie Career Center**

A.W. Beattie Career Center is an extension of nine school districts located in northern Allegheny County. The career center offers 19 programs to provide students an educational experience to be college and career ready after high school graduation. The programs fulfill elective credit requirements for 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students. Seniors who attend A.W. Beattie may take the NOCTI exam, which awards industry certifications and college credits based on test results.

Students who attend A.W. Beattie receive hands-on, real world experiences. Students in the career center's Carpentry, Building Construction, and HVAC programs design and build houses to local municipality specifications to be sold to the public. Students in the Culinary Arts and Pastry Arts program prepare food for and manage a restaurant that is open to the public Wednesdays and Thursdays for breakfast and lunch. Qualified cosmetology students work in a salon open to the public. Qualified seniors throughout the career center have co-op and clinical opportunities to work in local businesses and nonprofits.

Click here to visit A.W. Beattie Career Center's website

**PROGRESSIONS** 9

# **Preparing for Graduation**

Marketing yourself for college does not just begin in your senior year when you are filling out college applications - it begins the first day you start making educational and extracurricular choices. "The College Digest" offers the following tips by Anthony F. Capraro III, publisher, on how to build a record of commitment rather than involvement.

- Select the courses recommended by your teachers or counselor. Investigate and sample as many extra-curricular activities as you can from a variety of areas: athletics, academic clubs, community service, music, drama, and student government. Assess which ones you enjoy and why.
- Continue to take the recommended courses, earning the best grades you can, as well as any other academic honors or awards. Narrow down your extra-curricular activities to your favorites, taking care to balance your choices from different areas.
- Continue the recommended course sequence. If your teachers or counselors recommend advanced courses, take them, even if you think you might earn a slightly lower grade than in an easier course. Build upon the subjects and extra-curricular activities you believe you are best at and enjoy the most.
- The first semester of high school is probably the most important one of all. It is when you will confirm the trend you have established. Don't load yourself down with electives, but continue your "serious" academic courses to the highest level of which you are capable. Don't take a "sabbatical" this year. Intensify your commitments and be the best you can be.
- Periodically, throughout the course of the school year, members of all branches of the United States Military are available during lunch periods to
  discuss careers and opportunities available through the military. Students planning to enter the military should make an appointment with their
  school counselor and plan to take the ASVAB Test during their senior year. Students interested in entering the workforce upon graduation should
  meet with their school counselor to align their coursework with their career plans.

# **Register for the Kaplan SAT Preparation Course**

The goal of the preparation course is to provide students with an overview of the SAT and provide instruction on test-taking strategies applicable to the subtests. The Kaplan Preparation Course will also provide students with the opportunity to discuss, dialogue, and problem solve as they work on acquiring new strategies and practice taking actual tests. The Kaplan Prep Course is offered in four sessions of Saturday classes. The dates coincide with scheduled SAT dates. Registration information will be emailed home prior to the start of each session. It will also be posted on the website under Student Services. You may also call 412-635-4110 for additional information.

# Free PSAT/SAT Resource

The College Board and Khan Academy provides a set of free, online practice materials for students preparing to take the redesigned PSAT and SAT college admissions exam. The preparation materials include full-length practice tests with study and test-taking tips, interactive quizzes, personalized practice recommendations based on how the student answers questions, and instant feedback on answers after completing a quiz. The materials also include the type of explanatory videos that demonstrate how the student should approach different types of questions. To access the site, visit <a href="https://www.khanacademy.org/sat">https://www.khanacademy.org/sat</a>.

Click here to visit the NAI School Counseling webpage Click here to visit the NASH School Counseling webpage

# **Testing Dates and Codes**

# SAT Reasoning Test and SAT Subject Test Dates at NA

Students can register online at www.collegeboard.org

August 28, 2021
October 2, 2021
November 6, 2021
December 4, 2021
March 12, 2022
May 7, 2022
June 4, 2022

NA Senior High School Test Center Code for SAT: **39-550** NA High School Code for SAT: **393-745** 

#### ACT Test Dates at NA

Students can register online at <u>www.act.org</u>

September 11, 2021
October 23, 2021
December 11, 2021
February 12, 2022
April 2, 2022
June 11, 2022

NA Senior High School Test Center Code for ACT: **184030** NA High School Code for ACT: **393-745** 

Registration Bulletins for SAT and ACT are available in the School Counseling Office. Students can mail registration directly to the testing agency.

# Kaplan SAT Preparation Course Schedule

SAT Prep classes will be offered prior to SAT Administrations through Kaplan. Courses are offered online, and are best taken immediately before the SAT test that students have registered for. The cost for each SAT Prep session is \$299. Bimonthly email communications will be sent to families of students in grades 10-12 with course and registration details. A link to the flyer can also be found on our webpage. For more information, call 412-635-4110.

Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT): October 16, 2021 Advanced Placement Program (AP) Examinations: May 2-13, 2022

# **High School Resources for Students and Parents/Guardians**

# **Volunteer Program**

Our District has had the good fortune of utilizing our volunteers' rich pool of wisdom and energies through our Comprehensive Planning Process and school-based volunteer programs. The two primary goals of our volunteer program are to enrich the students' educational experiences and to enhance parent/guardian awareness of the District's mission through first-hand school experiences.

By involving parents/guardians, NASH seniors, and college students in learning-centered activities, chaperoning, tutorial, and clerical responsibilities, we not only gain extra pairs of hands that can support our instructional goals, but also benefit from the knowledge and experiences each volunteer brings to our school.

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. <u>More information on volunteer clearances can be found by clicking here</u>.

The success of our schools will continue to be directly linked to the participation of parents/guardians in their children's education. Please contact your student's school principal for further details regarding each school's volunteer program.

#### **Online Resources for Students at Home**

The North Allegheny Library Department has arranged free home access to a number of quality information references for elementary students. <u>Visit</u> the NA Library Department page on our website to find all of the resources.</u> Usernames and passwords to access these resources are required, and both are available from the school librarians. <u>Links to individual building library websites can be found on the NA website</u>. 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**



# **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



# Athletics

North Allegheny 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 seasons - fall, winter, and spring. North Allegheny offers numerous programs throughout the school year. Listed below are the sports offered at North Allegheny for each of the three sports seasons:

- North Allegheny Athletic Department High School Sport Offerings: (MS = Middle School, F=Freshmen, JV=Junior Varsity, V=Varsity)
  - <u>Girls Fall</u>: Cheerleading (MS, F, JV, V), slow-pitch softball (MS, JV, V Club), soccer (MS, JV, V), cross country (MS, JV, V), field hockey (MS, JV, V), golf (JV, V), volleyball (MS, JV, V), water polo (JV, V Club), Flag Football (V Club), Tennis (JV, V)
  - Boys Fall: Football (MS, F, JV, V), soccer (MS, F, JV, V), cross country (MS, JV, V), golf (JV, V), water Polo (JV, V Club)
  - <u>Girls Winter</u>: Basketball (MS, JV, V), bowling (JV, V), cheerleading (MS, F, JV, V), diving (V), gymnastics (V), indoor track and field (V), swimming (V), wrestling (JV, V)
  - <u>Boys Winter</u>: Basketball (MS, F, JV, V), wrestling (MS, F, JV, V), bowling (JV, V), diving (V), indoor track and field (V), ice hockey (MS, JV, V), in-line hockey (JV, V), swimming (V)
  - Girls Spring: Lacrosse (JV, V), rowing (JV, V Club), softball (MS, JV, V), track and field (MS, JV, V)
  - Boys Spring: Baseball (MS, F, JV, V), lacrosse (JV, V), rowing (JV, V Club), tennis (JV, V), track and field (MS, JV, V), volleyball (MS, JV, V)

**Registration Information:** All registrations for grades 7-12 athletics must be completed on the <u>www.familyid.com</u> 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:* The following high school intramural programs are offered for boys and girls in grades 9 through 12. Parents/guardians should contact the Athletic Department for more information on these intramural offerings:

- Boys/Girls Diving Fall (6th 12th Grade)
- Boys/Girls Weight Training at NASH Winter & Spring

Athletic Department Website: <u>http://athletics.northallegheny.org</u> Phone: **724-934-7238** 

- Athletic Director Bob Bozzuto: <a href="https://www.bbozzuto@northallegheny.org">bbozzuto@northallegheny.org</a>
- Admin. Asst. Patti McClure: pmcclure@northallegheny.org
- Admin. Asst. Brittany Glass: <u>bglass@northallegheny.org</u>

*Ticket Information - Football Games:* Student pre-sale tickets for all home Varsity Football games are \$6. Student tickets will be available at NASH in the Athletic office during lunch periods on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday before each home game. Tickets will also be available online at <a href="http://eservicespaas.com/public/events/northallegheny">http://eservicespaas.com/public/events/northallegheny</a>. There are no student tickets sold at the gate, only General Admission tickets. General Admission tickets are \$8 and Single Reserved tickets are \$9, which will be available the week of the game in the NASH Athletic Office. Reserved parking passes are \$10 per game and are sold only as a package (all 5 home games). For most other home varsity and JV sporting contests, adult admission is \$6 and students are \$4. Pre-sale tickets are only available for football games. Online tickets will be available for all contests, and credit cards will now be accepted. Please go to the athletic website for more information.

#### **Code of Conduct**

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

# Custody/Court Orders

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

# FERPA

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

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

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

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



# Notification of Pesticide and/or Herbicide Use

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

## **Participation Fees**

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

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

Therefore, the maximum amount that any family will pay is \$450, or the sum of the family caps in each category (225 + 5150 + 575 = 5450). A provision for economically disadvantaged students is included in this plan. There are more details, including a Frequently Asked Questions document, available by <u>clicking here</u>.

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 <u>Athletics</u>
- Participation Fee Parent Letter and Form <u>Non-Athletics</u>

#### **School Lunch Program**

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

The daily school lunch features are posted on the District and school homepages of the website. 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 to verify student identity and reference important student information like food allergies, dietary restrictions, and limitations on purchases established by parents/guardians, and 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 also uses <u>PaySchools</u> <u>Central</u>, an online payment system for school lunches.

# 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 <u>www.northallegheny.org/schoolmessenger</u> for information on how to create your account and set your preferences.

# **Smoke-Free Policy**

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

# Student Photos/Interviews/Reproductions of Original Work

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

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

## **Student Records are Confidential**

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

# **Student Registration**

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

To verify which school a student will be attending, visit <a href="https://nasd.school/locator21-22">https://nasd.school/locator21-22</a>.

# Superintendent's Coffees

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

- September 2, CAO Board Room (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 <u>www.CHIPcoversPAkids.com</u> or call 1-800-986-KIDS (5437).

# **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 12th grade students are required to have a meningococcal vaccine (MCV4) by the first day of the child's 12th grade school year. 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, <u>please visit the</u> <u>NASD website</u>.

- *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 11th Grade Students**

The Pennsylvania School Health Law requires that all students receive a physical exam before beginning 11th 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. A copy of a camp physical, athletic physical, or driver's license 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.

# **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. <u>Click here to print the medication form.</u>
- 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).

# **Health Services Department**

# **Student Information in Tyler SIS**

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

# 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 <u>PA Lyme Resource Network</u> or the <u>Centers for Disease Control</u>.

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

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

How to remove a tick:

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

# **Too Sick for School**

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

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

For further information, please check out the 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

PROGRESSIONS | 19

# **Communications Department**

## **Building-Level Newsletters**

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

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

#### **Communicating Closings or Delays**

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

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

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

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

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

Other important information pertaining to closings and delays:

- **Two-Hour Delay Schedule (for inclement weather):** If a two-hour delay is called, students should be at their bus stop two hours after their normal reporting time.
- 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.
- 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. At NAI and NASH, where we currently have School Resource Officers (SROs) posted during the school day, we encourage students to approach these sworn officers with issues of concern to themselves or to the broader school community; the SROs have been posted in the schools as a resource to the District, and they are truly vested in fostering a safe, secure, and positive learning climate for all students. We continue to work with all students to foster positive relationships and promote their awareness in talking immediately with a trusted adult if they have questions or concerns. Direct reporting to a trusted adult is an essential practice to promote a safe learning environment. This information allows school officials to begin investigating immediately and address the concern appropriately.
- **3. TIPSLine.** North Allegheny's TIPSLine allows tips to be made anonymously and quickly directly to law enforcement officials. The TIPSLine (724-933-TIPS) allows for the immediate involvement of law enforcement and collaboration, if appropriate, with school officials.
- 4. Safe2Say Something. On January 14, 2019, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania launched the Safe2Say Something program. This program allows an individual to report a safety concern securely and anonymously to help identify and intervene upon at-risk individuals before they hurt themselves and/or others. The program is mandated by Act 44 of 2018 and requires all K-12 school districts to participate. A phone number, smartphone app, and web-based application are options for reporting. These reports will be triaged by the Crisis Center at the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. A communication process is then initiated to the county 911 dispatch center and a set of pre-identified school district officials. North Allegheny's law enforcement partners will then be involved in the threat assessment process and any potential investigations. Due to the age appropriateness of the program, the District and Safe2Say Something facilitators are only training middle and high school students on how to utilize the program.

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

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

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

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

#### 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 *Actively Learn* for grades 9-12.

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

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

#### **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.

NASH preschool opened this spring after facilitating preschool lessons virtually; senior students maximized time in person by collaborating with the NASH science department. NASH foods and nutrition students discovered recipes that can be made with pandemic pantry staples, always with budget in mind. FCS Fashion students coordinated the costumes for the NASH Fall Play "Almost Maine" and students in the Real World participated in realistic mock interviews. Interior Design students refreshed several NASH spaces, including the GOAL office, Dr. Buchak's office, and the NASH main office conference room. Sports Nutrition class continues to work with a number of student athletes continuing their careers at high levels beyond NA. NAI FCS students successfully engaged in lab experiences while being active participants in reducing food waste, such as utilizing lab leftovers to create new dishes and adding food scraps from lunches and snacks to the classroom compost bin.

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) Meetings. 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. Probability and Statistics will see the majority of the changes for the 2021-2022 school year. There will be many changes as we move forward on how mathematics is taught for the staff and students as the District moves into the 2021-2022 school year.

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

# Music

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

The music department will continue to refine curriculum, instructional strategies, and blended learning through Curriculum and Departmental In-service (CADI) sessions throughout the 2021-2022 year. The department plans to continue to align our spiraling curriculum throughout our K-12 musical offerings. The Music Department is excited for again being named one of the "Best Communities for Music Education," by the NAMM Foundation. We would like to congratulate the many students who auditioned for and were 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 <a href="https://www.perms.pa.gov/screens/wfpublicaccess.aspx">https://www.perms.pa.gov/screens/wfpublicaccess.aspx</a>.

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

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

#### **School Counseling**

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

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

#### Science

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

At the start of the 2020-2021 school year, the science department purchased several online programs to help supplement online and hybrid instruction. This includes 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.

The Social Studies department continued to partner with La Roche College, offering 10 courses as College in High School (CHS) courses, which enabled students to earn college credit upon successful completion of these courses. In addition, two new elective courses, Honors Introduction to Philosophy and AP United States Government and Comparative Politics that were offered in the 2019-2020 school year are anticipated to be CHS classes in 2021-2022. This year was the second full year of the revamped required eleventh grade history and government course which features utilizing case studies of modern history and politics in order to better prepare students to be active and informed citizens. Teachers of this course continued to develop and refine resources in the eleventh grade course in lieu of a traditional textbook which worked particularly well in the hybrid/remote models of instruction and allowed for more flexibility and individualized assignments.

Beginning in 2020-2021, the Pennsylvania Department of Education required that a locally developed assessment of U.S. history, government, and civics be given at least once to students during grades 7-12. In response, the 11th grade teachers collaborated to design a common assessment that measures student knowledge in the areas of historical and civic knowledge and engagement. All 11th grade students were given this assessment during the 2020-2021 school year and results were reported to the PDE.

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 by implementing many new courses, including three new honors level courses- Honors Principles of Engineering, Honors Digital Electronics, and Honors Computer Integrated Manufacturing. Each course is part of the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) engineering pathway and is eligible for college credit. In addition, many courses have been renamed and updated to provide students more opportunities to enroll in areas of interest and to increase engagement of demographics traditionally not represented in our courses.

During the 2021-2022 school year, the department continues with the second year of our curriculum review implementation. We are proud to offer the new course, Honors Engineering Design and Development (EDD), which is the capstone course in the PLTW high school engineering pathway. EDD is an open-ended engineering research course in which students work in teams to design and develop a solution to a well-defined problem. In addition, the course Construction Systems has evolved to Home Maintenance and Repair providing students with the opportunity to explore the many different areas and fundamental systems related to home maintenance, repair, and ownership.

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.

# **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.

# **High School Buildings and Principals**

# **North Allegheny Senior High School**

10375 Perry Highway Wexford, PA 15090-9210 724-934-7200

## **Website**

Natasha Dirda Ed.D., Principal Angela McEwen Ed.D., Asst. Principal TBD, Asst. Principal

# North Allegheny Intermediate High School

350 Cumberland Road Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5485 412-369-5530

# <u>Website</u>

Caitlin Ewing, Principal Jenna Fraser, Asst. Principal (part time) John Morey, Ed.D., Asst. Principal



#### **NASH Phone Directory**

Natasha Dirda, Ed.D., Principal	724-934-7216
Angela McEwen, Ed.D., Asst. Principal	724-934-7214
TBD, Asst. Principal	724-934-7214
Robert Bozzuto, Athletic Director	724-934-7238
Attendance Office	724-934-7228
School Counseling Office	724-934-7221
Health Office	724-934-7239
Student Assistance	724-934-7260
Transportation Office	412-369-5500

#### **NAI Phone Directory**

Caitlin Ewing, Principal	412-369-5451
Jenna Fraser, Asst. Principal	412-369-5473
John Morey, Ed.D., Asst. Principal	412-369-5462
Robert Bozzuto, Athletic Director	724-934-7238
Attendance Office	412-369-5468
School Counseling Office	412-369-5464
Health Office	412-369-5426
Student Assistance	412-369-5466
Transportation Office	412-369-5500

# 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

