# Northampton High School
## Home of the Yellow Jackets!

# 2026-2027 Student Handbook



## Equal Educational Opportunity

It is the belief of this School to provide equal educational opportunities for all students, regardless of race, color, national origin, disability, age, religion, military status, or social or economic background. All students and other members of the School community are encouraged to promptly report incidents of discriminatory conduct to School Administration (757-678-5151) and/or Northampton County Public Schools School Board Office. School and Division Leadership can provide additional information concerning access to equal educational opportunity and on District policy, which may be accessed at https://www.ncpsk12.com

**ALL POLICIES IN THIS HANDBOOK ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON NCPS SCHOOL BOARD CHANGES/APPROVAL OF NEW AND/OR UPDATED POLICIES AFTER THE PUBLICATION DATE.**

Document Edited Summer 2026

# Welcome to Northampton High School

A Message from Our Principal – Mr. Justin Wheeler

Dear NHS students and families,

It is with great excitement that I welcome you to a new school year at Northampton High School. I am honored to serve as your principal and look forward to partnering with our students, families, staff, and community as we continue our commitment to excellence. For many of you, this is not our first time working together. Over the past several years, I have had the privilege of serving as Principal of Northampton Middle School, where I had the opportunity to work with three of our current grade levels. Those experiences allowed me to build relationships with many of our students and families, and I am excited to continue that journey as you enter this next chapter of your educational career. Joining me in this role as Assistant Principals are Ms. Courtney Kreft and Mr. Vernon Woodard.. Their genuine care for students and commitment to our school make them wonderful additions to the NHS community.

As we begin the year, I ask for your patience and flexibility as construction continues on campus. In September, we anticipate there will be changes to how we move throughout the building as renovation projects progress. While these adjustments may create temporary inconveniences, they are investments in the future of our schools, and we will do everything possible to ensure a safe and smooth transition.

Since Northampton High School and Northampton Middle School share one campus, one of our goals this year is to ensure that we both operate with the same expectations regarding Northampton County Public Schools policies. Whether it involves cell phone expectations, dress code, student behavior, or other school procedures, we want students and families to experience consistency across our shared campus. Clear expectations help create a safe, respectful, and productive learning environment for everyone.

To the many students who had me as Principal at Northampton Middle School, you already know I believe in high expectations. Those expectations for academics, behavior, and personal responsibility will continue here. The difference is that you are now young adults. With greater independence comes greater responsibility, and you will be expected to own your choices and the outcomes that follow. Your high school experience will ultimately be what **you** make it.

My commitment to every student is simple: when you walk across the graduation stage, I want you to be prepared for one of three paths—**Employment, Enrollment, or Enlistment.** Wherever your future leads, our responsibility is to ensure that you leave Northampton High School prepared to succeed. Everything we do should move you one step closer to that goal.

To the parents and families who supported me during my time at Northampton Middle School, thank you. Your partnership has meant a great deal, and I appreciate the trust you placed in me. To those who may not always agree with my decisions or leadership style, I want you to know that I genuinely look forward to working together. While we may not always agree, I believe we all share the same goal—to provide the very best educational experience possible for our students. I welcome open communication, mutual respect, and collaboration as we continue our journey together.

Finally, I want you to know that Northampton County is more than just the place where I work—it is home. Since arriving here as a teacher in 2012, this community has invested in me, supported my family, and allowed

me to grow as an educator and leader. Because of that, I am fully invested in the success of every student who walks through our doors.

I am excited about what lies ahead for Yellow Jacket Nation. Together—with our students, families, staff, and community—we will build upon our traditions, embrace new opportunities, and continue moving Northampton High School forward.

Thank you for your trust and support. I look forward to an outstanding school year and all that we will accomplish together.

**Go Jackets!**

**Mr. Justin Wheeler**
Principal
Northampton High School

# Northampton High School Contact Information

16041 Courthouse Road, Eastville, Va 23347
Main Office: (757) 678-5151, ext. 4103
Fax: 1-804-381-6470

**Webpage**: https://www.ncpsk12.com/page/northampton-high-school-welcome

**School Colors:** Royal Blue & Gold
Class colors:
Seniors:Gold Juniors: Purple Sophomores: Red Freshman: Blue

**School Mascot:** Yellow Jacket

| Team Member | Position / Role | Email Address | Extension |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Justin Wheeler | Principal | jwheeler@ncpsk12.com | 5101 |
| Ms. Courtney Kreft | Assistant Principal | ckreft@ncpsk12.com | 4131 |
| Mr. Vernon Woodard | Assistant Principal | vwoodard@ncpsk12.com | 4101 |
| Rev. Charles Kellam | Student Support Mentor | ckellam@ncpsk12.com | 4055 |
| Ms. Brianna Young | School Counselor (A-G) | byoung@ncpsk12.com | 5104 |
| Mr. Jordan Kellam | School Counselor (H-Pa) | jkellam@ncpsk12.com | 4114 |
| Ms. Ivory Turner | School Counselor (Pe- Z) | iturner@ncpsk12.com | 4105 |
| Mrs. Kay Lewis | School Guidance Secretary | klewis@ncpsk12.com | 4106 |
| Mrs. Deborah Mears | School Bookkeeper | dmears@ncpsk12.com | 4108 |
| Ms. Nashae Gholson | School Administrative Assistant | nslonaker@ncpsk12.com | 4103 |
| Mrs. Brittany Annon | School Nurse | bannon@ncpsk12.com | 4470 |
| Ms. Karen Thurman | School Nurse | kthurman@ncpsk12.com | 4470 |
| Ms. Renille McCaskill | School Social Worker | rmccaskill@ncpsk12.com | 4135 |
| Mr. John Edney | Athletic Director | jedney@ncpsk12.com | 4711 |

# Bell Schedule

ALL Bell Schedules Subject to Change

High School Operates on Alternating A/B Block Schedule
Entrance times are subject to change based on Transportation/Bus Arrival time

## Regular Bell Schedule

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7:45 - 9:20 | Period 1A / Period 1B | | |
| 9:25 - 11:00 | Period 2A / Period 2B | | |
| 11:05 - 1:05 | Period 3A / Period 3B | **HS Lunch 1 - 11:05-11:30** | **HS Lunch 2 - 12:40-1:05** |
| 1:10 - 2:45 | Period 4A / Period 4B | | |

## Bell Schedule for Two-Hour Late Opening

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9:45 - 10:45 | Period 1A / Period 1B | | |
| 10:50 - 11:50 | Period 2A / Period 2B | | |
| 11:55 - 1:35 | Period 3A / Period 3B | **HS Lunch 1 - 11:55-12:20** | **HS Lunch 2 - 1:10-1:35** |
| 1:45 - 2:45 | Period 4A / Period 4B | | |

## Bell Schedule for One-Hour Early Release

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7:45 - 9:05 | Period 1A / Period 1B | | |
| 9:10- 10:30 | Period 2A / Period 2B | | |
| 10:35 - 12:25 | Period 3A / Period 3B | **HS Lunch 1 - 10:35-11:00** | **HS Lunch 2 - 12:00-12:25** |
| 12:30 - 1:45 | Period 4A / Period 4B | | |

## Bell Schedule for Two-Hour Early Release

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7:45 – 8:45 | Period 1A / Period 1B | | |
| 8:50 - 9:55 | Period 2A / Period 2B | | |
| 10:00 - 11:05 | Period 3A / Period 3B | | |
| 11:10 - 12:40 | Period 4A / Period 4B | **HS Lunch 1- 11:10-11:35** | **HS Lunch 2 - 12:15-12:40** |

****Note:** Per NCPS Attendance Policy, early dismissals/outs are not permitted during the last 30 minutes of school unless an emergency or extenuating circumstance exists. A Doctors note may be required in order for students to be checked out in this window.

# Northampton High School Vision, Mission, Values & Pledge

## Vision

Educating All Students For Lifelong Success

## Mission

Northampton County Public Schools Inspiring Learners for Life through achievement and success! Every Child, Every Day.

## Values Guiding Student Behavior at Northampton High School:

1. Show respect to others and yourself through your actions and your words.
2. Listen twice as much as you speak.
3. Kindness - Speak it, practice it, live it.
4. Be safe. Keep our school safe for you and others.
5. Follow all School Board policies and local, state, and federal laws.
6. Actively engage in your education and take responsibility for your choices - Good and Bad.
7. Focus on what you can control and keep the distractions away - cell phones and Social Media included.
8. Be honest and act with integrity.

## Pledge

We are strong. We are bold. We are the mighty blue and gold. Today we will soar to success in our home hive because as Northampton students, we have Yellow Jacket Pride.

## Start of the Day: Student Arrival, Safety Checks, & Grab-n-Go Breakfast

Students may enter the building at 7:20 a.m. on regular school days. This time may be adjusted by any delays due to inclement weather. Upon entering the building, students are to ensure that phones and all electronics are off and away for the day and have their bags open and ready for safety checks. All students and visitors are subject to safety checks. They then receive their Grab and Go breakfast and immediately report to their first block class. Students are only to enter the building through the designated doors. The Tardy bell rings at 7:45am. At this time, any student not in their first block class for the day are tardy. After 7:45 am, students should enter through the main entrance, stop at the Attendance desk to get a pass, at which point the student will be marked as tardy for the first block.

When students enter their classroom in the morning, it is expected that they complete any work from the teacher. This is a great opportunity to complete missing work or study for upcoming assessments. Teachers may have activities or work planned out for students during this time and it is expected that students complete these tasks. Once students arrive in their classroom in the morning, they are expected to stay in the room unless an emergency situation arises.

## Student Dismissal

Student dismissal begins at 2:45 pm. All parents picking up their child before dismissal time must enter the front office and sign-out their child at the attendance desk. Students will only be released to those approved family members as listed on the **REGISTRATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR PICKUP FORM,** which is kept on file in the Guidance office. Our number one priority is the safety of all students. Therefore, please ensure that this form is completed with designated individuals authorized to transport your child. Updates can be made by contacting the front office or Guidance Office. **Parents/Guardians are required to present ID to the attendance clerk prior to picking up their child. Per NCPS Attendance Policy, early dismissals/outs will not be allowed during the last 30 minutes of school unless an emergency or extenuating circumstance exists.**

Northampton High School students may not leave the campus during the instructional day without permission of the building administration or with a parent/guardian. Once students leave campus, they are only permitted to return with a parent and/or guardian. Students who stay after school for tutoring or after school activities are subject to all rules and expectations during the school day and administration reserves the right to revoke after school opportunities due to behavior or safety concerns.

**Once students leave the school and enter the bus lot and parking lot, it is expected that they do not go back in the building. Students who participate in after school activities should report directly to those after school activities at dismissal. Should students need to visit their vehicle after school, they must check in with their coach/sponsor and wait until dismissal procedures have been completed before going out to their vehicle at 3:00 pm. Bags and items should not be brought back into the building from vehicles after school and may be subject to bag check protocols. Students who go out to the buses or parking lot during dismissal from 2:45 to 3:00 pm will be expected to get on buses and/or go home during dismissal.**

**Early Outs by Parent Pick-up -** All students must be signed out by a parent or guardian at the attendance desk. Students are not permitted to leave without expressed written or in-person permission from a parent or guardian.

## Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence

Virginia Code 22.1-202 mandates that each school board require the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in each classroom of the school division. Students shall not be compelled to recite the Pledge if they or parents/guardians object on religious, philosophical, or other grounds. Students who are thus exempt from reciting the Pledge shall stand or sit quietly at their desks while others recite the Pledge and shall make no displays that disrupts or distracts others who are reciting the Pledge. Students who cause disruption or distraction shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action for disruptive behavior.

# Classroom Behavior

Students will be expected and required to follow the classroom teacher's management and discipline plans, accordingly. All classroom teachers will review and discuss classroom management and discipline plans during the first week of school. Students who continually disrupt and distract from the learning environment will be removed and are subject to disciplinary consequences. **Everyone has a right to learn in an environment conducive to learning and safety.**

# SMARTPass - Restrooms & Hallways

Students may use the restrooms before the day, after the first 15 minutes of class and before the last 15 minutes of class, and during lunch periods. Students may use the restroom during class for emergencies and/or at the permission of the classroom teacher. Students should not hang out in the restrooms or violate any other safety protocols in these spaces.

Students will use the designated hallways to transition between all classes. Students should move between classes in an orderly fashion and stay on the right side of the hallway when moving to classes. Students should not enter bathrooms and classes they are not assigned to during hallway transitions. Students should stop at lockers if needed, and proceed directly to their next classroom.

**Excessive/Intentionally Late/Tardy To Class** may result in disciplinary action including but not limited to phone calls home, time in ISS, other privileges being revoked. Students are expected to go directly to class from their location. Doing "laps" around the building, loitering at lockers instead of moving to class, or intentionally dragging their feet to be late to class is not acceptable. Students have 5 minutes in between classes which is more than enough time to get from class to class and stop at a locker if necessary. Students may need to strategically carry items they need with them to classes. Parents may be notified by teachers or administrators for being excessively late/intentionally late. **We expect our students to be learning from bell to bell, therefore, they need to be in class and seated when the bell rings.**

During classes, High School students must use the SmartPass system for passes out of class. These passes may need to be approved by location. Students are limited to 2 passes per day. There are exceptions to this limit that can be discussed with the Administration.

Students who are seen the hallway too often as evidenced by the SmartPass system and Hall Monitor, or who cause disruptions in the hallways, may be subject to being placed on the Hall Restriction list. In this case, student passes will be turned off and students will need an adult escort to leave the classroom. These passes are then entered into the system and still tracked.

The High School will follow the 15-15 Rule. Students are not permitted to leave during the first and last 15 minutes of class or while direct instruction (while your teacher is teaching) is occurring. The only exception to the 15-15 rule is if it is an emergency, in which case, the nurse should be called, who will then escort the student to the Nurses station.

Students are responsible for following teacher protocols for the pass system. This could include, but is not limited to turning your chromebook towards the front of the room, placing your chromebook next to the door upon exit, or using kiosks in classrooms. **Students should not end passes on other students' chromebooks. Only you or a teacher should be ending your pass.**

**It is imperative that students end their passes in a quick and timely manner when returning to the classroom. This ensures the hallway is clear and if another student in the same classroom needs to create a pass, they have the ability to do so. Students whose passes are consistently over the time limit, may be subject to hall restrictions.**

****Parents have access to the student pass system. Contact School Administration for login information.**

**Hall Sweeps will be conducted on a regular basis. Students who are continually caught in Hallsweeps are subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the NCPS code of conduct.**

## Cafeteria Expectations

Students will be expected and required to follow all cafeteria rules and directives of adults, accordingly. This includes upon entering the cafeteria, going through the lunch line, staying seated, and dismissal from the cafeteria. Students are also expected to keep the cafeteria area clean and orderly. Students should limit talking to those at their own tables (inside voices). Students will only be permitted to enter the lunch line one time and get what they need. If students are not getting lunch or purchasing items, they should remain seated. Students who wish to use the restroom or get up for any purpose, should raise their hand and wait to be acknowledged by adults in the cafeteria. This is a student safety protocol.

## Classroom & Main Office Phones

Office telephones are for emergencies only during the school day. If a student is sick, ill, or injured, calls will come from the school clinic. Students may only use the main office telephone to call parents to pick them up from after school activities or in case of emergencies. Students who stay for an after school activity will be allowed the use of the phone if a cancellation of the activity occurred. Classroom phones are for teacher use only. Students are not permitted to use classroom telephones.

## Student Clinic Guidelines

Northampton High School has a full-time nurse to handle illnesses and medical emergencies that occur at school. Students who become ill during school hours must report to the clinic. The nurse will determine if the student should be sent home, and she will contact the parent or guardian. <u>All students who leave the building without nurse approval are considered to be truant</u> <u>and the absence is "unexcused" in accordance with the attendance policies</u>.

Student illness guidelines are available on the school webpage. Students will be seen by the nurse when necessary. For attendance purposes, handwritten parent notes are acceptable for student illness acknowledgement. Prolonged illnesses or medical conditions resulting in medical attention, should have accompanying documentation from a medical provider. If your child is sent home ill or injured from school, the early out is excused for attendance. Student Individualized healthcare plans must be renewed annually by a medical provider and provided to the school clinic at the start of each school year by the parent/guardian.

****Masks -** If a student is wearing a medical grade mask, it is to be worn properly covering both mouth and nose and should be instructed to do so for a certain amount of time by a doctor. As long as it is worn correctly, these masks can be utilized by a student with parent preference for the year, however masks will not be supplied by the school or any staff members for use by students. Should a student feel they have gotten ill enough during the school day to want to wear a mask in school an assessment of symptoms will be made and parent notified. Medical masks are NOT covered under the dress code and should not be worn unless the above process has been followed.

## Medications

All medication, including Over The Counter (OTC) medication, are preferably brought in by the parent/guardian and stored in the school clinic. All OTC medications brought to school must be sealed when it enters the building. No student should be carrying ANY medication around the building without the knowledge of the school nurse and doctor documentation. Parents/Guardians must complete the proper medical or parental documentation before students are allowed to receive medication from the clinic.

## Change of Address or Phone Number

Students and/or parents/guardians are to contact the school guidance office **immediately** if your address, phone number, emergency contacts, or other family information changes. For the welfare and safety of all students, it is **critical** that the Northampton High School front office have a **current** emergency phone number for each and every one of our students.

## Emergency School Closure / Inclement Weather

If school is closed or delayed due to inclement weather, check the local news outlets including WESR and Wavy10. Notifications will also be provided on all NCPS Social Media Channels (Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram) and school division webpage (www.ncpsk12.com).

## Fire/Emergency Drills

Fire and other emergency drills are part of the school's safety program.

- At the sound of the first signal, all students are to leave the building in a quiet and orderly manner in their groups following the instructions of their teachers.
- Students are not to take books or other supplies – unless the drill has been pre-announced to do so. Girls may take their purses. Directions for exits are posted in every classroom throughout the building.
- Students are to follow teacher directions.
- Tornado drill procedures are specific in requiring students to move to hallways and away from certain parts of the building.
- Lock down announcements require students to remain in classes behind locked doors and to follow specific instructions given to teachers depending on the nature of the emergency.

## School Property - Lockers

All students are assigned a locker and are expected to use it to store coats, backpacks, and other items. Unsecured or broken lockers should be brought to the attention of the Administration for repair or replacement. Student lockers will be assigned upon enrollment at NHS. Locker assignments and combination information is available to each Student in PowerSchool or in the school Guidance Office.

ALL LOCKERS ARE SUBJECT TO BE OPENED BY A SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR AT ANY TIME.

1. Students are responsible for the care of their lockers at all times.
2. Students are responsible for all items in his/her locker.
3. Students can ONLY utilize lockers during transition times throughout the day and before/after school.
4. Students should not "SHARE" their lockers and/or locker combinations with other students. Students who do share may have their locker privileges revoked.
5. Food should be kept in sealed containers in lockers.
6. Students can decorate lockers at their discretion as long as it can be easily removed and stays within the student code of conduct.

## Personal Property

**Northampton High School is not responsible for lost or stolen personal property including cell phones, smart technology, jewelry, clothes, money, and other items of value.**

School Administration may or may not assist with tracking down lost or stolen items. This could include conducting an investigation, reviewing camera footage (if available), and performing searches, in compliance with NCPS Policy. **If you don't want it to go missing, please do not bring it to school.**

**Items of value may be turned in to any administrator or the main office for safe keeping during the day as an alternative if item(s) must be brought to school. These items will be stored in a safe, secure place and students will have access to the items when necessary.**

## After School Hours

All students remaining at school after dismissal at 2:45 pm must be under the supervision of an adult. There will be no hanging out in the building or on the grounds unsupervised. The only students permitted to use the after school buses are those participating in supervised athletic/extracurricular events and those staying for after school programs/clubs. **Once a student leaves the school property, he/she is not permitted to return to the building unless they are with a parent/guardian. Students who leave campus and attempt to return are not permitted to ride an after school activity bus to go to another location. School Administration reserves the right to restrict students from staying in the building after school hours due to any reason including but not limited to behavior at other after school events, being in the building unsupervised, or disruptive behavior during after school activities.** Students staying for afterschool tutoring are expected to be in their classroom working.

## NHS & Social Media

Students who use Social Media messaging or posts to attempt to incite issues at the school, may be subject to in school disciplinary action. It is understood that some students use Social Media and others do not. Social Media is not permitted to be used during instructional hours. Should issues arise on Social Media that cause a significant disruption or distraction to the safety of other students or staff and/or the learning environment at Northampton High School, appropriate action will be taken. **We strongly encourage parents to monitor their students' usage of Social Media and text messages.** This includes student group messages/chats and other forms of online communication. This is subject to any applicable state laws and regulations regarding online student communication/social media usage. This also includes communication between students, faculty, and staff. Parents reserve the right to take additional action outside of the school through the local magistrate. State laws effective July 1, 2025 require school districts to intervene in cases of cyberbullying regardless of if it occurs during school hours or on school campus. Please report and possible instances of cyberbullying to school administration along with supporting documentation of your claim (screenshots).

## Cell Phones, Other Electronic Devices & Sharing of Inappropriate Materials

The Northampton County School Board recognizes that student access to cell phones and other electronic devices is common today. However, it is imperative that students, parents, and staff understand there are appropriate and inappropriate times for the use of such devices. Schools must provide a learning environment free of unnecessary distraction and disruption.

I. Use of Personal Communication Devices - Students may possess cell phones and PCDs on school property, during school hours, while participating in after-school activities, and while attending school-related functions.
   - **A. <u>Cell phones and PCDs must be powered completely off, properly stored away, and not visible.</u>**
   - **B. <u>During instructional time, cell phones and PCDs must be stored in a personal backpack or similar personal bag or purse, in teacher-designated areas within the instructional setting, in lockers, or in a personal vehicle.</u>**
     1. **<u>PCDs should not be kept on the person or in the clothing of a student.</u>**
     2. Students are expected to use the NCPS-provided computer for all educational activities while on school grounds unless the student or the student's parent/guardian has requested and received an exception from an administrator.
   - C. Students may use PCDs on NCPS transportation vehicles at the discretion of the bus driver, and/or the sponsor/advisor/coach present in the vehicle. Prior permission for such use will not be required, but permission may be revoked at any time.
   - D. With prior approval from an administrator, a student may keep his/her PCD powered on for

health care communication that may be met by using a PCD, including, but not limited to, heart monitors, diabetes monitors, and other PCD assistive technology that is included in an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Section 504 Accommodation Plan (504 Plan), or other Health Care Plan.

E. Unauthorized audio or video recording is prohibited.

**II. Expectations for Students**

A. Students are responsible for knowing how to properly and effectively use their PCDs. NCPS will not provide any means of support for any PCD.

B. The use of cell phones (and all other personal electronic devices, including headphones, earbuds, smartwatches, and other Bluetooth-enabled devices) is prohibited during the regular school day.
   1. This use includes recording or taking digitized photos of teachers, staff, adults, or other students without their permission.

C. Cell phones and other electronic devices must be out of visible sight and powered off upon students' arrival at school and continuing through dismissal from school. **Cell phones and other electronic devices must be placed out of sight in a backpack or other personal bag.**

D. Leaving the classroom during instructional time to use PCDs in another setting will be subject to disciplinary action.

**III. Parental Expectations and Involvement**

A. Each parent of a student enrolled in Northampton County Public Schools has a duty to assist in enforcing this policy, along with the Standards of Student Conduct.

IV. NCPS reserves the right to monitor, review, and restrict the use of any PCD. The contents of the equipment are subject to review at any time for any lawful reason, consistent with the policies of NCPS and applicable law.

V. NCPS assumes no responsibility in any circumstance for loss, destruction, damage, theft, or charges made on monthly statements for any PCD. Students will be responsible for locating lost/stolen items and other expenses accrued to their PCD accounts.

VI. NCPS assumes no responsibility for any data contained on any PCD.

VII. Prohibited Conduct Below are acts deemed prohibited behaviors, and students engaging in such conduct are subject to disciplinary action.

A. Using cell phones or other electronic devices to:
   1. Tease, bully, intimidate, threaten, or harass another individual.
   2. Collaborate with, encourage, or incite others to participate in violent or unlawful acts on school property or at school-sponsored activities.
      a) This includes creating and sharing video of an act in a manner that causes a disruption or disturbance.
   3. Record/take photos of teachers/staff/adults or other students without the individual's permission.
   4. Create, possess, exchange, distribute, post, or transmit any photograph, digitized image, or video of a person in any condition of nudity or a person engaged in any sexual act.
   5. Engage in academic dishonesty or cheating.

B. Use of a PCD for any action that is disruptive of the educational process, including but not limited to cyberbullying, any form of harassment, and/or display of nudity, lewd or other sexually inappropriate images, will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion, and/or legal action.

C. Use of a PCD for any action that includes the initiation and/or passing on of threats against persons or property will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion and/or legal action.

VIII. For violations of the acts noted above, the cell phone or other electronic device may be confiscated and used as evidence, and the student will be restricted from possessing one at school for the remainder of the school year. Other consequences, including short—or long-term suspension or expulsion, may apply based on the outcome of the investigation. Refusing to surrender a cell phone or other electronic device when directed to do so by school personnel shall possibly result in a school suspension, either in school

or out of school for refusal of a request by an adult. (BSO3).

**Parents will be required to come to the school and pick up the cell phone when confiscated. Phones will not be returned to students without a parent or guardian to accompany them at time of pick up.**

**NOTE: Students are not permitted to use headphones in classrooms when not instructionally necessary. This means that students should NOT be using sites like Youtube, Spotify, Apple Music and other streaming services during instructional hours.

## Student Fees

**Student Fees may include the following:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Driver's Education Fee | No Charge |
| Driver's Education Behind the Wheel | $50.00 |
| Student Parking Permit | $25.00 |
| Replacement Parking Permit | $15.00 |
| Transcript Fee | Order Online Through Parchment |
| Copy of Diploma Fee | $5.00 |

**Student Parking Permits-**

These are **Non-Refundable** and subject to space availability. Seniors will be given priority when spaces are available. Juniors will be available on a first come, first serve basis once all senior are accounted for. Students are not permitted to deface their school parking spot. Parking passes can be revoked at any time due to refusal to park in your assigned space, continued traffic violations, attendance, and/or code of conduct violations. Parents can also request revocation. Cars found to be in the student lot that are not assigned or permitted to be there during the school day are subject to being removed by Tow truck at owners expense. Students who drive to school are expected to use their assigned parking space and enter the building upon entering school property. **Driving to school is a privilege. Drive responsibly.**

**School Debts**

Students who owe debts to the school, an activity, or library fines or who owe for lost or damaged books will not be allowed to participate in the following:

- VHSL activities, including athletics
- Dances, prom, other school social activities
- Extracurricular field trips.

**Sales/Promotions**

1. Selling, advertising, and soliciting for private non-school groups or organizations are not allowed.
2. Not-for-profit organizations must have written administrative approval prior to posting notices.
3. All fund-raising by school organizations must have prior administrative approval.
4. Students are not permitted to bring items to school either store bought, or homemade, to sell to other students, faculty, or staff unless it has been previously approved by school administration and is for official fundraising purposes only.

## Food, Snack, Beverage & Glass Bottles

(not including School provided Breakfast & Lunch if in classrooms)

Outside food, snacks, and beverages are not permitted in classrooms.

Students may bring SEALED drinks or water bottles, EMPTY Tervis Cups, Stanley cups, and other bottles to school. These must be filled in the building to be used and are subject to search. If these are brought into the

building open or with liquid in them, they will be emptied on student arrival during safety checks. Heavily caffeinated beverages and energy drinks such as Prime Sports Drink, Red Bull, Monster, Celsius, etc. may not be brought to or consumed at school. This includes store bought coffees and other drinks. These will be confiscated and disposed of.

**Glass bottles/containers are not permitted to be in the school or on the school bus and will be confiscated.** This includes but is not limited to drinks, bottles of cologne, perfume, and body sprays. These will be confiscated, labeled, and returned to the parent/guardian only by appointment only OR to the student at the end of the school year. Food and drink in glass containers will be disposed of unless in student lunch boxes (tupperware only).

**Outside food and drink is only permitted to be consumed in the cafeteria and is subject to be searched at safety checks.** Breakfast items can be consumed during designated breakfast times in classrooms. **Parents/Guardians are permitted to bring students lunch/meals to only their student, but they are also required to be consumed in the cafeteria during designated lunch periods only.** Students will be notified of these items and can be retrieved/picked up only during designated lunch periods. Students do not have access to a microwave or other food heating devices. Students are not permitted to have food delivered via services such as doordash to the school.

Homemade and store bought products are not to be shared, traded, exchanged, or sold between students on school grounds. This includes any food, snack, or beverage.

Students do not have access to vending machines during school hours or during after school tutoring hours. Snacks are provided through the cafeteria or can be provided by parents for this purpose.

## Media Center & Library Protocols

1. The library will be open from **7:30 am** until **2:30 pm** for any student accompanied by a teacher or having an authorized pass. The library is used for research and study, not as a social hall.
2. All students must have a pass that will be shown upon entry into the library. Only one student per pass will be allowed and students are to remain in the library for the entire time unless specified by the teacher.
3. Students will conduct themselves in a business-like manner, being considerate of others, at all times while in the library. Violation may result in a student's forfeiture of library privileges.
4. All library materials are to be checked out at the main desk. This will be done on the computer. Materials can be checked out for a three-week period of time with renewal. However, reference materials can only be checked out overnight. Return all materials promptly so other students can use them. There is a fine of ten cents per day for non-reference materials. All overdue and lost books must be cleared by the end of the school year.
5. All library materials that are not returned for any reason or are damaged after being checked out by a student must be paid for by that student. Student fines from elementary school and middle school are carried over to the high school. These fines are posted to the high school delinquent fee list. The student is responsible for the fines, which must be paid to the school.
6. No food, candy or drinks are allowed in the library.
7. The computers are for serious research and completion of assignments. Students may also be sent to the library to complete online assessments.

## High School Athletics

Northampton High School participates in the Group A, Region A, Division 2, Eastern Shore District VHSL Sports. The following are offered to our students: Band, Varsity and JV Baseball, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Golf, Varsity Football, JV Football, Forensics, Indoor Track, Boys & Girls Outdoor Track, Soccer, Scholastic Bowl, Soccer, Softball, Girls Tennis, Volleyball,

and Wrestling. **NHS Student athletes are subject to all policies and procedures outlined in the NCPS Athletic Handbook. Contact Athletic Director Mr. John Edney for more information.**

# Northampton County Dress Code

The primary responsibility for a student's dress and grooming resides with the student and/or the student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s). Students should comply with the dress and grooming codes, seek guidance from school administrators when modifications, accommodations, or waivers are needed, and cooperate in resolving disagreements.

1. Dress or grooming codes applicable to students shall be subject to the following:
    a. Permit any student to wear any religiously or ethnically specific or significant head covering or hairstyle, including but not limited to hijabs; Yarmulkes; headwraps; braids; locs; and cornrows.
    b. Maintain gender neutrality, subjecting any student to the same set of rules regardless of gender or gender identity.
    c. Not have a disparate impact on students of a particular gender.
    d. Be clear, specific, and objective in defining terms, if used.
    e. Prohibit School Division employees or agents from enforcing the dress or grooming codes by direct physical contact with a student or a student's attire.
    f. Prohibit any School Division employee or agent from requiring a student to undress in front of any other individual, including the enforcing School Division employee or agent, to comply with the dress or grooming code.
    g. Clearly set forth any dress or grooming standards that are required for a student to participate in a school or school sponsored activity (sport or club uniforms/jewelry/hair requirements, safety or health rules for classes, internship, etc.) and provide a process for a student to seek a modification or accommodation to such dress or grooming standard.

**B. Dress and Grooming Standards**

Northampton County Public Schools (NCPS) expects that all students will dress in a way that is appropriate for the school day or any school-sponsored event. Student dress choices should respect the Division’s intent to sustain a community that includes a diverse range of identities. While NCPS recognizes the rights of individuals to express themselves through their appearance, our essential mission is the education of students. Any clothing or accessory that is unsafe, discriminatory, or that causes or could cause a substantial disruption from the learning environment of the building/classroom will be prohibited.

"Dress or grooming" standards means any practice, policy, or portion of a code of student conduct that governs or restricts any enrolled student's attire, appearance, or grooming, including hairstyle. Jewelry, makeup, body art, electronic communication, recording, photographing devices, and their supporting accessories when worn on the body or as part of attire, perfume, or applied fragrances may be considered in dress or grooming standards. Accordingly, the NCPS dress code is intended to allow for personal expression while maintaining a learning environment focused on instruction.

**School administrators will adopt dress and grooming standards that align with the NCPS Student Dress and Grooming Code Regulation 9412. Students may be issued disciplinary consequences for dress code violations.**

## NHS Specific Guidelines (Reg 9412-R):

All students will have the opportunity to "make it right" before disciplinary action is taken. This includes using resources such as the Kids Closet accessible through the Clinic or calling home to have appropriate items brought to them. Students may be asked to report to ISS or stay in a given location until dressed appropriately. When proper adjustments have been made, students will be permitted to return to class. Students who refuse these options will be subject to disciplinary action/consequences as described by the NCPS code of conduct.

**Students MAY NOT Wear Clothing or Accessories:**

- Which depict or promote illegal, violent, or lewd conduct
- Which depict or promote the unlawful possession or use of weapons, alcohol, tobacco, drugs, drug paraphernalia, or other controlled substances
- Which expose private body parts
- Which expose underwear (visible waistbands or straps worn under other clothing are not a violation)
- Which obscure the face with headwear such as helmets or other headgear (except for religious observance or documented medical necessity)
- Headwear, including hats, hoodies (covering their head in the building), sweatbands, bonnets, skull caps, and bandanas are generally prohibited in the school building.
    - Exceptions for headwear will be made for students to reasonably accommodate medical/health or disability-related issues (i.e., protective helmets), as an expression of sincerely held religious belief (i.e., hijabs or yarmulkes), or cultural expression (i.e., geles).
- Bathing suits, blankets, or pajamas (pajamas may be worn only when approved for a school-sponsored spirit day or special event)
- Sunglasses (unless medically necessary with documentation)
- Bulletproof vests, body armor, tactical gear, or facsimiles
- Contain hate speech or imagery targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or any other protected classification
- Could be considered dangerous or used as a weapon, including but not limited to dog collars, chains, wallet chains, safety pins, spiked jewelry, fishhooks, etc.
- Apparel, jewelry, accessories, tattoos, or grooming that, by color, arrangement, trademark, or other attribute, denotes membership in a gang or organization that advocates illegal or disruptive behavior.

**Footwear** -

For safety reasons, all students must wear footwear with closed toes and solid soles at all times when on school property, except in instances when changing for practices, performances, or physical education classes. This guidance may change during after school hours for athletics or other events. Football/Baseball/Softball Cleats are not permitted to be worn in the building at any time. Shoes must have a solid sole bottom and be secured to the foot.

- Athletic shoes that are close-toed, secured in the back, and have a rubber or hard sole will be required for participation in certain school-based activities (i.e., physical education classes, extracurricular sports or clubs, wood shop, or other career and technical education classes, science labs involving chemicals, etc.).
- **House shoes, slippers, bedroom shoes, and slides are not permitted as they do not provide secure footwear for school activities or emergency situations.**

Students are expected to have appropriate clothing and footwear for Health/PE (sneakers/athletic shoes). Students will also be required to "dress out" for Health/PE when required. Gym clothes must also be in compliance with any and all dress code regulations and requirements. It is recommended that students wear appropriate length athletic shorts and a t-shirt when required to change out.

Hoodies, shirts, and tops should not be tied up in the back during the school day.

Pants should be worn appropriately above the waist, not exposing undergarments.

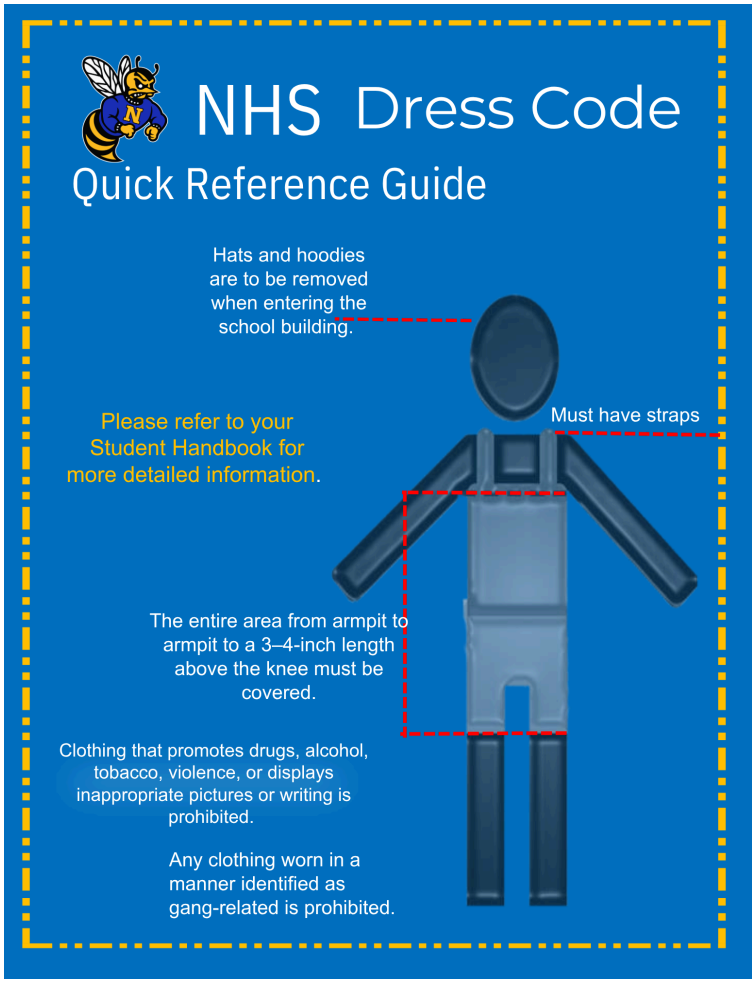
Cell Phone Length Shorts Rule of Thumb - place your cell phone on your knee up your leg. If your shorts do not touch the cell phone (without a case), they will be considered too short and will not be permitted to be worn. This is in compliance with the diagram on the next page, as most cell phones are 4-5 inches in length.

Leggings, spandex shorts, and one piece spandex (bodysuit/jumpsuit) outfits are not appropriate. Students will be asked to put clothing over top of these clothing articles. If students wish to wear these underneath their regular clothing, they are welcome to. Any clothing that is worn to be in compliance with the dress code (example: zip hoodie/coat over a shirt that is not appropriate length), are expected to be worn appropriately all day in all classrooms. Teachers will enforce the dress code appropriately.
Students who wear hooded sweatshirts to school are expected to wear them appropriately - Hood off the head, arms kept in the sleeves. Staff may request students remove sweatshirts if worn improperly. This is a safety concern and prevents students from concealing items under their tops.

Leggings or shorts must be worn under any pants that have excessive holes in them (in compliance with above regulation)

Headscarves and coverings that cover the entire head and do not fall under the regulation (ethnic/religious), may be allowed with prior administrative approval.

Hats, face coverings, and ski masks are permitted to be brought to school when weather conditions are conducive to these items. They are not permitted to be worn or displayed during school hours. This includes being "hung" from pants pockets, backpacks, or items. They must be kept in lockers and/or backpacks during the school day.



# NCPS Attendance Policy (JED)

1. **Students are expected to:**
    - Attend school every day.
    - Be on time.
2. **Parents are expected to:**
    - Ensure their child attends school daily and is on time.
    - Provide the school with a note (within 5 business days) indicating the reason(s) for the absence

Our Attendance Hotline email is attendance@ncpsk12.com or can be reached at ext 4116 - Ms. Toni Boxer-Paki.

A few reminders:

- Unverified/unexcused absences milestones:
    - 5 days - School based Attendance meeting
    - 10 day - Division-level truancy team meeting
    - 10+ days - Court services Referral Possible
- Please attempt to schedule appointments, vacations, etc. around the school calendar to avoid missing instructional days/time.
- Medical notes and parent/guardian notes are also acceptable for absence excusals.

**Students who drive to school and are chronically late or absent may be subject to the revocation of their driving status. No refund will be provided for the parking pass if this occur**

# NCPS Statement on Student Conduct

PURPOSE: To establish standards of student conduct, disciplinary consequences for violation of those standards, and reporting requirements

**Student Rights and Responsibilities**

A student has all rights expressed and guaranteed by the United States Constitution and by federal, state, and local laws. These rights do not permit a student to disrupt the educational process, break school rules, present a health or safety hazard, or disregard the directions of those in authority.

Individual rights do not include infringing upon the rights of others in the school community. To the extent permitted by applicable law, students have the right to the following:

- a public education; an orderly school and classroom environment which will allow optimum learning; and
- freedom of expression in speech, writing, or symbols consistent with their constitutional rights and board policy.

Students have the primary responsibility to maintain a climate of mutual respect and trust so that the dignity of the individual is protected and each student's opportunities are realized.

**<u>Students are responsible for the following:</u>**

- knowing and complying with any rules or regulations of the board, as well as local, state, and federal laws;
- attending school regularly, equipped with the materials needed to attend class;
- completing class assignments and/or requirements; and
- contributing to a climate of mutual respect for all within each school so that the hopes and ambitions of all individuals may be realized.

Students who observe or are subjected to inappropriate actions as described in the Code of Student Conduct are expected to report such incidents to their school administration. In addition, all students must report to a school staff member any information regarding threats or disruptions that pose a risk to students, staff, or the school environment. To the extent possible and as permitted by law, the anonymity of students who report threats, safety concerns, or other disruptive conduct shall be protected.

**Parent/Guardian Rights and Responsibilities**

Northampton County Public Schools (NCPS) strives to ensure every student, staff member, and family member receives a safe, engaging, and welcoming environment in our schools. Parents/guardians play an important role as an educational partner in this endeavor. NCPS encourages parents/guardians to review the Student Code of Conduct with their students annually to support a safe and positive school environment. The NCPS Code of Conduct will be shared with families prior to the start of each school year through the division website, the student handbook, or other appropriate communication channels. Below are some examples of the rights and responsibilities of parents/guardians.

Rights and Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians. Parents'/Guardians' rights include, but are not limited to:

- being actively involved in their children's education;
- being treated courteously, fairly, and respectfully by Northampton Schools employees;
- receiving information about the policies and procedures of Northampton Schools that relate to your children's education;
- receiving regular reports (written or oral) from school staff regarding your children's academic progress or behavior, including but not limited to grade reports, behavior progress reports, and conferences;
- receiving information and prompt notification of inappropriate or disruptive behaviors by your children and any disciplinary actions taken by administrators or school staff;
- receiving information about due process procedures for disciplinary matters concerning your children, including information on conferences and appeals;
- receiving information from school staff about ways to improve your children's academic or behavioral progress;
- receiving information about services for students with disabilities and English language learners, when applicable; receiving communication through provided translators.

Additionally, Parents'/Guardians' responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- having children regularly attend school on time and communicating reasons for absences and tardiness;
- informing staff about any concerns and/or complaints in a polite, respectful, and timely manner;
- working with school administrators and teachers to address any academic or behavioral issues;
- participating in a face-to-face return to school conference following completion of your child's out-of-school suspension;
- supporting Northampton Schools by communicating with your children about acceptable and expected school behavior;
- becoming familiar and complying with the policies and regulations of Northampton Schools, administrative regulations, and the Code of Student Conduct;
- providing and maintaining updated contact information to Northampton Schools and your children's individual school(s);
- supporting student completion of homework and participation in offered academic support programs; and
- being polite and courteous to all staff, other parents, guardians, and students at all times.

# School Jurisdiction

Students are subject to corrective action/disciplinary action for any misconduct within the school's jurisdiction. The authority of the school over the conduct of students extends to the following:

1. At all times when the student is on the grounds of any Northampton County Public School or other board property, whether it be before, during, or after school hours or hours of facility operation and whether or not the school or facility is presently used or occupied,
2. At all times when the student is at the site of any school-related activity, function, or event, including those that occur off school grounds, whether or not the student is a spectator or participant,
3. At all times, when the student is at a school bus stop,
4. At all times, when the student is being transported on a school bus or other school board-owned vehicle,

5. At all times when the student is participating in a school-sponsored field trip or is otherwise being transported by any means of conveyance as part of a school group to a school-related activity,
6. At such times as the student commits an act off school grounds which, if committed on school grounds, would be in violation of the Code of Student Conduct, the act has a nexus to the school, the conduct has a detrimental or harmful effect on the welfare or safety of the school and its students, and the act disrupts or is likely to disrupt the school environment,
7. At such times as the student commits an act off school grounds that leads to an adjudication of delinquency pursuant to VA Code §16.1-305.1 or a conviction for an offense listed in VA Code §16.1-260 or a charge that would be a felony if committed by an adult,
8. In such circumstances as jurisdiction is extended to the school by federal, state, or local law, ordinance, or regulation and
9. The virtual learning environment.

Students who observe or are subjected to inappropriate actions as described in this policy or the Code of Student Conduct are expected to report such incidents to their school administration. In addition, all students must report to a school staff member any information concerning threats or disruptions involving the safety of students, staff, or the school environment.

## Law Enforcement Notification

Violations of the law must be reported to law enforcement in accordance with Section 22.1-279.3:1 of the Code of Virginia, including but not limited to acts constituting assaults and battery, certain threats against school personnel, weapon possession, felony drug or alcohol offenses, truancy, or other violations of the Code of Virginia. Violations of the law will be reported to the School Resource Officer or other appropriate authority, who will initiate appropriate legal action. Parents/guardians will also be notified as required by law.

### Search and Seizure

Please refer to policy JFG and regulation JFG-R

## In School Suspension

When a student is assigned in-school suspension (ISS), they will be assigned work that is reflective of what is being taught in the class they are missing.

Teachers are expected to send work to the ISS Monitor for any student who is assigned ISS during their block. They will be contacted by the ISS monitor for this work via a Google Sheet. If a student is assigned ISS for an entire day, that student should report to breakfast and then directly to the ISS Room.

When a student is assigned to ISS, the following rules and regulations must be followed:

1. Teachers are to provide students' assignments to the ISS monitor. Students will be given credit for all class work completed. Students must complete all work during ISS to the satisfaction of the teacher and the ISS monitor.

2. Absences from school do not excuse students from assigned days to ISS.
    a. Example: If Student A is absent on Monday and is assigned ISS for this day, Student A will serve this ISS when he/she returns to school.

3. Report to the ISS room before the first tardy bell and be seated at the direction of the ISS Monitor.
    a. If the ISS monitor is not in the room upon arrival, students are not to enter the room. They are to come directly to the Front Office.

4. Bring all necessary materials to ISS: chrome book / charger, books, pens, paper, pencils, notebook etc.

5. NO gum or food allowed in ISS (Breakfast ONLY)

6. Students who are assigned ISS for Block 3 will report to ISS at the end of Block 2 and remain in ISS until the beginning of Block 4. Students will eat lunch while in ISS.

7. During lunch in ISS you may NOT:
    a. Purchase snacks or sodas
    b. Talk to the students
    c. Wander about the commons area or cafeteria
    d. Use your cell phone/smart technology
    e. Sleep

8. Respect the rights of others at all times

9. Failure to abide by these rules will result in extra days in ISS or suspension/removal from school

10. ISS will not be assigned for any of the following:
    a. Fighting, incitement/posturing
    b. Profanity Directed at any adult in the building
    c. Possession of vapes, alcohol, or other drugs
    d. Possession of firearms
    e. Threats
    f. Other infractions as defined by the NCPS Code of Conduct

11. Any student-athlete who is issued ISS/OSS will not be eligible to participate in any after school extra curricular activities and athletics on the day ISS was assigned
    a. Students cannot participate in any sporting events while serving OSS/ISS.

12. Headphones are not permitted to be used while in the ISS environment unless it is instructionally necessary.

## Northampton High School Stance on Bullying

Please also see NCPS Policy JFHA/GBA - Prohibition against Retaliation and Harassment

What We Believe:
NHS is deeply committed to creating a safe and positive school environment where all students feel safe every day. Our staff is committed to responding to all observed and reported incidents of verbal and/or physical acts of bullying and harassment that get reported within 24 hours.

Definition of Bullying:
According to the code of Virginia (22.1-276.01), "bullying is aggressive and unwanted behavior that is intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate the victim. It involves a real or perceived power imbalance and is repeated over time or causes severe emotional trauma." Bullying includes cyberbullying. **Bullying does not include ordinary teasing, horseplaying, arguments, or peer conflicts.**

Key Elements of Bullying Include:
· Intentionally aggressive behavior designed to inflict harm.
· Repetitive behavior planned into the future.
· Interpersonal relationships are marked by an imbalance of power.

Forms of Physical Bullying:

Could include, but is not limited to, hitting, punching, shoving, poking, pinching, jabbing, kicking, choking, unwanted touching, cornering, tripping, etc.

Forms of Emotional Bullying:
Could include, but is not limited to, name-calling, threatening, taunting, incessant teasing, spreading rumors, mocking, public humiliation, etc.

Forms of Cyberbullying:
Refers to threats through text messages, emails, or websites. It involves electronic means to communicate deliberate, hostile, hurtful, or vulgar messages, intended to harm others.

Harassment:
Harassment is a course of conduct which annoys, threatens, intimidates, alarms, or puts a person in fear of his or her safety. Harassment is unwanted, unwelcomed, and uninvited behavior that demeans, threatens or offends the victim and results in a hostile environment for the victim and bystanders.

Sexual Harassment:
Any unwelcome sexual advances, regardless of sexual orientation, requests for favors, and other inappropriate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

Discriminatory Harassment:
Harassment based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identification, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by federal and/or state law.

Administrative Responses to Bullying:
Reports of bullying and harassment are taken very seriously by school administrators, and the confidentiality of the students involved is always maintained. Administrators will work as a team with students, parents, teachers, and counselors to investigate and address incidents of bullying as they arise. Disciplinary consequences will be progressive and will be determined based on the frequency and severity of the incident, including but not limited to a **conference, in-school suspension, or out-of-school suspension based on the NCPS Code of Conduct. Appropriate interventions will be implemented for both the bullies and the victim(s).**

## Honor Roll

An honor roll is published at the end of each nine weeks for students who receive grades that average 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale. If a student receives an "incomplete" or a grade below "C," that student is not eligible for the honor roll during that reporting grade period. Students maintaining a 3.5 or better are placed on the Principal's List.

## Promotion Requirements

| | |
|---|---|
| From Grade 9 to Grade 10 | 6 Units |
| From Grade 10 to Grade 11 | 12 Units |
| From Grade 11 to Grade 12 | 19 Units |
| Graduation | 24/26 Units |

## Class Rank

Class rank is computed at the end of the students' junior year and at the end of the first semester of the senior year.

# Graduation Requirements

| NCPS Graduation Requirements | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Content Area** | **Standard Diploma** | **Advanced Diploma** |
| English | 4 | 4 |
| Math | 3 | 4 |
| Science[1] | 3 | 4 |
| History/Social Studies[2] | 3 | 4 |
| Health & PE | 2 | 2 |
| Econ & Personal Finance | 1 | 1 |
| World Language | 2 | 3 |
| Fine Arts/CTE | | 1 |
| Electives[3] | 6 | 3 |
| **Total Credit Hours** | **24** | **26** |

[1]Standard: 3 courses from at least 2 different content areas
Advanced: 4 courses from at least 3 different content areas

[2]Must include a course in US/VA History, US/VA Government, and World History/Geography

[3]Must include at least one sequential elective course sequence

| Additional Requirements | |
|---|---|
| Community Service | 40 Hours (10 per year) |
| Verified (SOL) Credits (5) | 1 Reading & 1 Writing (Eng 11)<br>1 Math<br>1 Science<br>1 Social Studies |
| CTE Credential OR H/DE/AP/IB/HQWBL | |
| First Aid, CPR, & AED Training | |

| Credits Required for Promotion | |
|---|---|
| Grade 09 to Grade 10 | 6 credits |
| Grade 10 to Grade 11 | 12 credits |
| Grade 11 to Grade 12 | 19 credits |

*Promotion to Grade 11 to Grade 12 requires completion of Eng 9 and Eng 10.

*No student will be allowed to take two classes within the same academic discipline during school year if the student previously failed a course in that discipline unless classified as a senior.

*No student (including seniors) will be allowed to take more than two classes within the same academic discipline during a school year.

*Promotion from Grade 11 to Grade 12 requires that students be enrolled in classes that will lead to graduation in June of the school year in which the classification was made.

# Full-Day Requirement

According to The Standards for Accrediting Secondary Schools in Virginia all students in Grades K-12 shall maintain a full-day schedule of classes (5 ½ hours). Therefore, Northampton County Schools requires all secondary students to take the equivalent of seven classes per year. Seniors may be granted permission to enroll in less than seven classes per year with written permission of the principal or designee.

**Full Day Schedule Waiver Requests** must be approved by the Principal or his/her designee. These must be renewed at the start of each semester with the Principal. Students who request a schedule modification for jobs, internships, and other reasons may be required to show proof of continued employment throughout the year.

Students also must be current with all graduation requirements, meet all NCPS eligibility including GPA and in good standing with the attendance policy in order to apply for consideration for an Early Out. **Students who participate in after-school activities such as the arts (band/choir/theater) or athletics are NOT eligible for Early Outs.**

## Guidance and Counseling Program

Students who wish to visit their School Counselor may do so. The Counseling Department is set up alphabetically, so that students will have the same counselor from 7th grade through 12th; however, any student in crisis can see any available counselor. Students who wish to speak with their school counselor should use email or SmartPass to set up appointments to speak with them.

The Guidance department at NHS offers a comprehensive continuum of services designed to promote the academic, social and career development of all students. They provide a variety of services to students to include:

- Individual and small group counseling
- Crisis intervention
- Assisting with career information and choices
- Consultation with parents and teachers
- Assisting with course selections
- Maintain records and transcripts
- Classroom guidance
- Develop and define educational goals
- Identifying and exploring vocational interests
- Exploring scholarships and grants
- Explaining graduation requirements

## Schedule Changes or Withdrawing from Classes

A student is required to maintain a full day schedule of seven classes. If a student is performing an internship and/or is participating in a work-study program, permission to enroll in fewer than seven classes may be granted.

Before the school year begins, counselors will attempt to change the schedule of students who are given the <u>same teacher and class</u> that was previously failed provided that...

A. A different teacher is available.
B. The schedule change does not prevent the student from meeting a graduation requirement.
C. A roster imbalance does not occur.

If a student requests a change in his or her schedule, the following conditions must be adhered to:

- The student must obtain written permission from the parent.
- All requests must be reviewed by Guidance and/or approved by administration.
- Written notification of an approved change will be given to the student, the parent, and the teacher.
- The teacher must receive a "Student Course Change Notice" before changing a student's status on a class roster.
- When a student is allowed to change courses, the teacher will prorate the grade received in the previous class and average that grade received in the new class to determine the nine weeks grade.
- All change requests must be made within the **<u>first two (2) weeks</u>** of the semester.

## Transcripts

Transcripts will be sent to colleges for enrolled students free of charge. Additional transcripts must be purchased through the transcript link on the school's website

# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Program of Studies brochure lists the diploma programs. Please refer to the current brochure which lists the diploma requirements. This brochure may be obtained from the Guidance office at Northampton High School and will also be posted on the school's Web site.

## Early Graduation

Only students working towards a standard diploma are eligible for early graduation consideration. Early graduation consideration should be made in the student's Freshmen year.

## Community Service Graduation Requirement

The Northampton County School Board mandates that all students entering 9th grade in the fall of 2019 and beyond will complete a local civics/work ethics course as part of graduation requirements.

Each student is required to provide ten (10) hours of community service each year in order to graduate. A Board of Education Seal for Excellence in Civics Education will be awarded to students who earn either a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma and completes Virginia and
U.S. History, and VA and U.S. Government courses with a grade of "B" or higher, and have good attendance and no disciplinary infractions, and completes 50 hours of voluntary participation in community service or extracurricular activities.

## Reporting Hours

The Guidance Department will provide a form on which students will record each volunteer activity along with the signature of the organization's advisor. The form will also be used for pre-approval if necessary. The student will hand in the completed form to his or her counselor. The counselor will record the information in the computer data system.

## Unfulfilled Hours

The yearly service requirement is viewed like an annual academic requirement in that a student is expected to meet the ten hours minimal each year.

## Honor System

The Northampton High School Honor System is based on the belief and attitude that students are responsible for their academic behavior just as administrators and faculty are responsible for academic leadership. The intent of the honor system is not to punish nor create an oppressive academic environment, but to guide by example and to foster an academic community in which the work of the students is both a spirited search for knowledge and a true and honest reflection of that effort.

Our honor system is based on the realization that high school students, though not yet adults, are no longer young children. It is incumbent upon everyone in our school community to expect and demonstrate honest academic behavior; as the adage says, "Actions speak louder than words."

## Title IX Compliance - Policy JFHA/GBA

Northampton County Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs or activities and is required by Title IX not to discriminate in such a manner. Questions or concerns related to Title IX may be directed to the division's Title IX Coordinator:

Clara B. Chandler
Title IX Coordinator
(757) 678-5151 ext. 2101
cchandler@ncpsk12.com

**All Policies and Regulations in this document are subject to change with any changes made by the Northampton County Public School Board throughout the School Year. This document is meant to be as comprehensive as possible. Parents, Guardians, Students, and Community members are encouraged to stay current with any policy changes at School Board Meetings. More information can be found on our website under our Menu by clicking on School Board followed by clicking "BoardDocs: Agenda, Meetings, & Policy".**