

Student Handbook

Nelson County High School



2026-2027

Home of the Governors

Our Mission

NCHS aims to empower and prepare a community of lifelong learners who will serve as active citizens that are equipped with the skills needed to succeed in an evolving society.

Our Vision

NCHS will provide rigorous, academic, extracurricular, and technological experiences, with the help of internal and external support, to develop and refine students' communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and citizenship skills to prepare them to serve as active, independent, and successful citizens who will contribute to the collective good of the Nelson community and society at large.

GOVERNOR FIGHT SONG



*Play the game with all your might, team,
And give your school a winning score.
Just do your very, very best, team,
No school can ask for more.*

*And when you hear your school mates cheering
Remember it's the victor's cry
And that you're the mighty Nelson Governors
The proudest team of Nelson High.
Play the game with all your might, team,
Don't let old (blank) High School scores.
Just dig right in and hold that line, team,
You'll hear our cheering roar.
And when you hear the victor's cheer, team,
You're sure to know the reason why.
It's because you are the mighty Governors
The proudest team of Nelson High.*

Words by Connie Patterson
Tune, "Trio to Pursuit Squadron"
By K.L. King

2026-2026 BELL SCHEDULES



Nelson County High School 2026-2027 Bell Schedule



Class Block	1st Lunch	2nd Lunch	3rd Lunch
Arrival	7:45 - 8:05	7:45 - 8:05	7:45 - 8:05
1st	8:05 - 9:35	8:05 - 9:35	8:05 - 9:35
2nd	9:40 - 11:05	9:40 - 11:05	9:40 - 11:05
3rd & Lunch	11:10 - 11:35 <i>Science, Fine Arts, World Lang.</i>	11:10 - 11:55 12:00 - 12:25 <i>ELA, Math, History</i>	11:10 - 12:40 12:45 - 1:10 <i>CTE, PE</i>
	11:40 - 1:10	11:40 - 1:10	
Gov Time	1:15 - 1:45	1:15 - 1:45	1:15 - 1:45
4th	1:50 - 3:20	1:50 - 3:20	1:50 - 3:20

Revised 6/29/26



Nelson County High School 2026-2027 Bell Schedule 2 Hour Delay



Class Block	1st Lunch	2nd Lunch	3rd Lunch
Arrival	9:50 - 10:05	9:50 - 10:05	9:50 - 10:05
1st	10:05 - 11:10	10:05 - 11:10	10:05 - 11:10
2nd & Lunch	11:15 - 11:40 <i>Science, Fine Arts, World Lang.</i>	11:15 - 11:50 11:55 - 12:20 <i>ELA, Math, History</i>	11:15 - 12:25 12:30 - 12:55 <i>CTE, PE</i>
	11:45 - 12:55	12:25 - 12:55	
3rd	1:00 - 2:05	1:00 - 2:05	1:00 - 2:05
4th	1:50 - 3:20	1:50 - 3:20	1:50 - 3:20

Revised 7/19/26



Nelson County High School 2026-2027 Bell Schedule Pep Rally / Club Day



Class Block	1st Lunch	2nd Lunch	3rd Lunch
Arrival	7:45 - 8:05	7:45 - 8:05	7:45 - 8:05
1st	8:05 - 9:35	8:05 - 9:35	8:05 - 9:35
2nd	9:40 - 11:05	9:40 - 11:05	9:40 - 11:05
3rd & Lunch	11:10 - 11:35 <i>Science, Fine Arts, World Lang.</i>	11:10 - 11:55 12:00 - 12:25 <i>ELA, Math, History</i>	11:10 - 12:40 12:45 - 1:10 <i>CTE, PE</i>
	11:40 - 1:10	11:40 - 1:10	
4th	1:15 - 2:45	1:15 - 2:45	1:15 - 2:45
Pep Rally Clubs	2:50 - 3:20	2:50 - 3:20	2:50 - 3:20

Revised 7/19/26

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

At Nelson County High School, students are expected to complete all academic work honestly and with integrity. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, fraud, or any other attempt to gain an unfair academic advantage. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

- Copying another student's work or allowing someone else to copy yours.
- Using unauthorized notes, technology, AI tools, or other resources during assignments or assessments.
- Submitting someone else's work or ideas as your own without giving proper credit.
- Falsifying data, forging signatures, altering school records, or misrepresenting academic work.

Students are responsible for understanding assignment expectations, completing their own work, and asking their teacher for clarification if they are unsure about what is permitted.

[See NCPS Policy JFC-R](#)

AI (Artificial Intelligence): AI tools are only allowed when specifically permitted by the teacher. Students remain responsible for the accuracy, originality, and ownership of submitted work. Unauthorized AI use is considered academic dishonesty. [See NCPS AI guidance](#), [See Student Slideshow](#)

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

Academic recognition will be given each nine weeks to students by means of an “Honor Roll.” In order to earn Honor Roll, students must be taking three or more classes in a semester. There are two Honor Rolls: students earning all “A’s” and students who do not receive a grade below a “B.”

Students earning all “A’s” during quarters 1-3 are eligible to receive an academic letter. The first year students are awarded a chenille letter and a “Lamp of Knowledge” pin. An additional pin is awarded for each additional qualifying year.

Report cards are distributed to students at the end of each nine weeks to advise guardians of student progress. It is the responsibility of the student to deliver the report card to the guardians for the first three grade report periods. The final report for the year is mailed to guardians.

AFTER SCHOOL

When the dismissal bell rings, all students are to exit the building or report to an approved activity. Students remaining after school for make-up work, club activities, and other necessary reasons must report to their sponsor no later than 3:30 P.M. Any student staying back should take all necessary books, etc. to the activity area. Students should remain with their sponsor. **Any student found on the grounds unsupervised after 3:30 P.M. will be subject to disciplinary action.** The gym and weight room are off limits except for team practice and conditioning under a coach’s supervision.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, ANABOLIC STEROIDS & OTHER DRUGS

Students are prohibited from:

- Possessing, using, or distributing any of the restricted substances listed below on school property, on school buses or during school activities, on or off school property.
- Attempting to possess, use, consume, procure and/or purchase, any of the restricted substances listed below or what is represented by or to the student to be any of the restricted substances listed below or what the student believes is any of the restricted substances listed below.
- Being under the influence of any of the restricted substances listed below, regardless of whether the student’s condition amounts to legal intoxication.

Restricted substances include but are not limited to: alcohol, tobacco products, nicotine vapor products and Nicotine Vapor Products, inhalant products, and other controlled substances such as anabolic steroids, stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens, marijuana, imitation and look-alike drugs, drug paraphernalia and any prescription or non-prescription drug possessed in violation of School Board policy.

The School Board may require any student found in possession of, or under the influence of, drugs or alcohol in violation of School Board policy to undergo an evaluation for drug or alcohol abuse, or both. If recommended by the evaluator and with the consent of the student's parent or guardian, the student may be required to participate in a treatment program.

In addition to any other consequences that apply, a student who is a member of a school athletic team shall be ineligible to compete in interscholastic athletics for two school years if the school principal and the division superintendent determine that the student used anabolic steroids during the training period immediately preceding, or during, the athletic team's season, unless the steroids were prescribed by a licensed physician to treat a medical condition.

Electronic Cigarettes: Students are prohibited from possessing electronic cigarettes or vaporizers on school premises, on school buses or at school sponsored activities.

See [*NCPS Policy JFC-H*](#), [*Code of Va. § 54.1*](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements are read daily over the intercom at 8:10 a.m. and emailed to all students, faculty, and staff in the NCHS Daily Bulletin during the first block. Written copies are available in the Main Office, Counseling Office, and Library.

ASSEMBLIES

Assemblies are conducted in the gym or auditorium. Students will receive directions from administration and teachers concerning the nature of the assembly, where to sit, and any special instructions. Students are to report quietly to the designated location and give full attention to the speaker and/or performer. Cell phones are not allowed during assemblies. Students should treat the facilities with respect, maintain order, and place all trash in receptacles. Students will not climb over the back of the seats, and must use aisles appropriately. **Students who do not exhibit positive audience behavior will receive school discipline.**

ATHLETICS & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Nelson County High School offers a wide variety of interscholastic sports programs which complement the development of the total individual. Our teams are marked by fair play and good sportsmanship. The Governors participate in the Dogwood District, Region 2C of the Virginia High School League (VHSL). The following sports are offered to students at Nelson County High School.

Fall Sports: Boys' & Girls' Cross Country, Football, Volleyball, Golf, Football Cheerleading, & Competition Cheer

Winter Sports: Boys' & Girls' Basketball, Indoor Track, & Cheerleading

Spring Sports: Baseball, Softball, Outdoor Track, Boys' & Girls' Soccer, & Girls' Tennis

To be eligible to participate in Virginia High School League (VHSL) activities, students must be enrolled in a minimum of three (3) classes each semester. Students must also have passed a minimum of three credit classes the preceding semester. First semester 9th graders are eligible on the basis of their promotion from the 8th grade

the previous semester. Beginning July 2027, 8th graders must be enrolled at Nelson County Middle School to be eligible to play at NCHS in the 9th grade. Seniors considering Early Release or taking classes at Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) are responsible for checking with the School Counseling Department or the Athletic Director to make certain that it will not affect their eligibility.

Nelson County High School student-athletes who join one athletic team can not join another athletic team during the same season if that athlete either quits the original team or was dismissed from the original team. This policy does not eliminate the existing policy which allows for a student-athlete to participate on two teams in the same season as long as the Athletic Department policy guidelines are followed

Extra-Curricular Activities Conduct: When students are given the privilege of participating in any extra-curricular activity which is sponsored by the school, they are representing the school and community. Students are expected to obey all rules and regulations governing student conduct and to represent Nelson County High School in the most positive manner. Students who fail to abide by school rules and regulations may forfeit their privilege of attending school events for a designated period of time and could be subject to disciplinary action. While attending away games, students are to remain in the visitors seating area and shall not go to the home seating or bench area. To be afforded the privilege of attending after-school/extra-curricular activities, a student must have been present for the entire school day. Exceptions will be made for documented court/medical appointments.

Extra-Curricular Activity Participation:

- ***Suspensions (10 Days or More):*** Any student who is suspended out-of-school for ten (10) days and/or appears before the Nelson County Public School Division Disciplinary Committee and receives sanctions, will not be allowed to represent Nelson County Public Schools, to participate in sports or any other extracurricular activities, to attend practice or continue to be a member of that team, organization, or club. This will become effective immediately following the disciplinary action, and will continue until all regular and postseason activities have concluded, excluding tryouts for a new sports season.
- ***Suspensions (10 Days or Less):*** A participant who is given Out-of-School Suspension will be ineligible during the time of the suspension. This includes sports, competitions, performances, tryouts, and other activities. This suspension begins at the time the student is removed from the school by a guardian, public safety authority, or at the end of that school day. The suspension shall end on the day the student returns to school. In addition, the principal, athletic director, sponsor, or coach may impose further disciplinary action, including temporary or permanent suspension from the club, team, organization, or activity. All coaches, sponsors, and advisors are expected to enforce these guidelines fairly, equitably, and consistently.

Athletic Activity Pass (Optional): An athletic activity pass can be purchased by a student for admission to all home regular season athletic events for the 2026- 2027 school year. Any student who wishes to pay this fee will receive an Athletic Pass which will allow them to enter events.

Lettering: A student has the potential to earn a varsity letter or receive an athletic award as a representative of Nelson County High School by meeting the established requirements for participation, attitude, conduct, and any additional criteria established by the coach.

Marching Band: Marching Band is an extracurricular activity open to all students who are proficient on a band instrument. The marching band performs at all home football games and several other events throughout the year. Varsity letters are awarded to members in good standing.

Color Guard: Performing with the Marching Band, the Color Guard is selected at tryouts held in the Spring. The Color Guard is considered an extracurricular activity and members in good standing are awarded varsity letters.

Chorus/Show Choir: The Choral group at Nelson County High School is open to all students. The choir performs at a Holiday Concert each year. Individual performances are also given by chorus members. The Show Choir members are selected at auditions held in the spring. The Show Choir performs at selected events during the second semester and at the Spring Concert.

Nelson County High School Chapter of the National Honor Society: National Honor Society is an organization that recognizes students for scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Students are invited to apply based on these elements. To fulfill the requirement, students must have a cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.5.

Yearbook: The yearbook staff is composed of students interested in publishing a record of school life through pictures and words. There are two groups which make up the entire staff: the literary staff and the business staff. Students receive one credit for work within a yearbook class.

Drama: All students are allowed to try out for any of several drama productions throughout the school year. Any interested student should see the Drama teacher, Mrs. Driver.

Nelson County High School Student Council Association (SCA): The SCA promotes harmony between the student body and the faculty, creates a greater sense of responsibility and cooperation among students, and promotes the general welfare of the school. Mrs. Ramsey is the SCA Sponsor. The NCHS SCA will consist of representatives and officers.

Club Days: Club days will be held monthly on days designated by administration. Sponsors will determine meeting locations. Students are encouraged to join an organization or club to become an active participant in school.

ATTENDANCE POLICY & PROCEDURES

Attendance Rationale: Consistent student attendance is a critical factor in academic achievement and school success. In accordance with Virginia's Compulsory Attendance Law, all students between the ages of five and eighteen are legally required to attend school regularly. Families are expected to ensure that their children meet this obligation. At Nelson County High School, we are committed to fostering a culture where students attend school regularly and engage fully in their educational experience. All reasonable and proactive measures will be taken to promote regular attendance, including the development of engaging instruction, a positive and supportive school environment, and meaningful extracurricular opportunities. These efforts reflect our belief in each student's potential and well-being.

This attendance policy aligns with the Virginia Department of Education's emphasis on "time on task," reinforces the importance of personal responsibility, and helps prepare students for future expectations in the workforce and beyond. Students and families share in the responsibility of maintaining good attendance. Our block schedule makes regular attendance even more essential. When a student misses class, they forfeit valuable instructional time that cannot be fully recovered. Frequent absences make it difficult for students to keep pace with coursework, complete make-up assignments, and reach a proficient level of understanding. In addition to its impact on individual student success, attendance is a significant factor in the school's overall accreditation status. Therefore, it is essential that students are present and on time every day.

Attendance Policy: Students must attend school everyday, all day, when school is in session unless an alternative educational plan has been arranged. Guardians must seek homebound instruction for their children when they are absent for extended periods of illness.

- Guardians must provide a verification note or phone contact everyday, or part of a day, that a student is absent. The note must state the reason for the absence and be given to the first block teacher or the Attendance Clerk. **Notes must be turned in within five (5) days of the student's return to school.**
- If a student is absent more than nine times per semester in any one class, credit for that class may be withheld. Absences caused by school sponsored or sanctioned activities will not count toward the total.
- Students are marked absent from a class if they miss half of the block.
- Students are not allowed to participate in any after-school or night activities if they have **a)** been suspended, **b)** been in ISS, **c)** not attended school that day, or **d)** did not complete at least half of their school day and will be counted as absent.
- Excused absences and tardies do not prevent a student from being held accountable to Virginia's Compulsory Attendance Law. If a student accumulates 10 or more absences, excused or unexcused, the student will be referred to Court Services.

Attendance Procedures

Tardies to School: All students are expected to be on time to school every day. All tardies decrease time from learning and have a negative personal and school impact. If for some reason a student is late to school, they are expected to enter the building through the main office to receive a "Late Arrival" slip and report directly to class. A student will be considered tardy to school if he or she is not in the building when the tardy bell rings.

Students who are tardy to school or for reasons other than medical/court appointments are subject to disciplinary action.

- **1st offense-** lunch detention
- **2nd offense-** lunch detention
- **3rd offense-** lunch detention
- **4th and subsequent offenses-** after school detention

Excused tardies: Guardians must provide a verification note or phone contact with the reason for the absence to excuse a tardy. Notes must be signed and submitted to the attendance coordinator. Excused tardies include: personal illness, family emergency, doctor appointments, and court appointments. **All notes for tardies must be turned in by the following day.** After 6 notes from home for tardies, only professional notes from a doctor or the court will be accepted.

Unexcused tardies: A tardy will remain unexcused if a student fails to turn in a note from a guardian by the following day, or if they have exceeded the number of accepted notes from home, indicated in Powerschool as "UT". If the reason on the note does not meet the criteria for an excused tardy it will remain unexcused.

Tardies to Class: Students are marked tardy if they are not in the classroom at the beginning of each block. Students who are in the building before 1st block but are tardy to class will receive a class action and phone call home from the 1st period teacher for each unexcused tardy to class per the discipline matrix and an office referral for the 4th and subsequent tardies to class. Students who arrive to class more than 10 minutes late will receive a disciplinary referral for skipping to be investigated and addressed by an administrator.

Early Dismissals: Students will not be permitted to leave school prior to the end of the day except for the following reasons:

- Students have prior written permission from a guardian. In extenuating circumstances a guardian can call the attendance coordinator to dismiss a student early.
- Students are accompanied by school personnel or a guardian.
- Students encountering serious extenuating circumstances. An administrator must approve any emergency release and the guardian will be notified.

A student who leaves before 3:20 P.M. must receive an early dismissal pass before being released, sign out with the Attendance Clerk at the time specified, exit the building only through the front main office door, and leave the premises promptly. Students must attend at least half of the school day to be eligible to participate in extra curricular activities after school.

Truancy & Guardian Notification of Absences / Waiver Request: Virginia law requires that all students between the ages of 5 and 18 must attend school regularly. If students accumulate **too many unexcused absences OR are chronically absent**, schools must follow legal steps to help get students back on track. Students will attend school on a regular and punctual basis unless otherwise excused in accordance with School Board policy or regulation. If a student who is under 18 years of age has 7 or more **unexcused** absences from school, a truancy referral will be made.

Guardians must provide the school with a phone number where they can be reached at all times. The school will call each day the student is absent. Please be sure that the school has the best phone number for reaching you.

- Absence calls go out daily.
- **After 5 absences, excused or unexcused**, a guardian letter is sent.
- **After 7 or more unexcused absences**, absences for which the guardian has not provided a note or phone contact with the school, a student is considered “excessively absent” and a truancy meeting will be required.
- **After 7 excused absences** all further absences will require a professional note (court, doctor, etc.) to be excused.
- **At 10 or more unexcused absences** a student is considered “chronically absent” and a 2nd truancy meeting will be held. The student will be required to make up missed days in the seat time recovery program. Additional absences will result in truancy proceedings with the court services.
- If a student has accumulated more than 9 **excused or unexcused** absences in a semester, the guardians will be notified, by letter, that the student’s credit for the class or classes will be withheld. The letter will indicate the times that the Attendance Review Committee will meet to consider waiver appeals.
- The student/guardians can apply for a waiver to the attendance policy by calling the school for an appointment with the Attendance Review Committee.
- Excused absences are acceptable causes for the waiver. Verified absences include:
 - Death in the family
 - Subpoenaed court appearances
 - Verified chronic medical condition or illness
 - Absences prearranged and approved by the principal. College visits and military testing are approved.
 - Given just cause, the Committee may recommend to the principal that a waiver be granted.
 - Denied waiver requests may be appealed to the principal.
 - If the request is denied by the principal, it may be appealed to the Superintendent and, subsequently, to the School Board.

Seat Time Recovery Program: As part of our efforts to support student success and reinforce the importance of attendance, NCHS has implemented a Seat Time Recovery Program for students to recover absences. This initiative allows students to make up lost instructional time and remain eligible for school privileges by attending structured after-school sessions with a classroom teacher. Three hours of attendance outside of the

regularly scheduled school day will count as one full day of seat time recovery. Seat Time Recovery will be required for all students exceeding 10 absences to school, **excused or unexcused**. Seat time requirements are based on the total number of class blocks a student misses due to absences. Students who are classified as chronically absent and fail to complete the required make-up time shall be ineligible for certain school privileges, including, but not limited to:

- Driving and parking on campus;
- Attending school-sponsored events (e.g., prom and school dances);
- Participating in athletics, field trips, and extracurricular activities; and
- Receiving approval for work-release or office aide blocks.

Skipping: Students unaccounted for during a class will be considered to be skipping class and referred for disciplinary action. Skipping school or class will result in disciplinary action, possible suspension, possible loss of privileges, and a guardian conference. Students who arrive to class more than 10 minutes late will receive a disciplinary referral for skipping. See [NCPS Policy JED](#), [Code of Va. § 22.1-254.1](#)

BOMB THREATS

Students shall not possess, use, manufacture, distribute, or engage in any illegal conduct involving firebombs, explosives, incendiary materials or devices, hoax explosive devices, or chemical bombs, as defined in the Code of Virginia. Moreover, students will not make any threats or false threats to bomb school personnel or school property. See [NCPS Policy JFC-R](#)

BULLYING

A student, either individually or as a part of a group, will not bully others either in person or by the use of any communication technology including computer systems, telephones, pagers, or instant messaging systems. Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to, physical, verbal, or written intimidation, taunting, name-calling, and insults and any combination of prohibited activities. "Bullying" means any aggressive and unwanted behavior that is intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate the victim; involves a real or perceived power imbalance between the aggressor or aggressors and victim; and is repeated over time or causes severe emotional trauma. "Bullying" includes cyber bullying. "Bullying" does not include ordinary teasing, horseplay, argument or peer conflict. See [NCPS Policy JFC-R](#)

Cyberbullying: Cyberbullying is the use of electronic communication, including but not limited to text messages, social media, email, messaging applications, websites, online gaming platforms, or other digital technologies, to intimidate, harass, threaten, embarrass, or target another individual. Conduct that substantially disrupts the educational environment, interferes with a student's ability to participate in school activities, or infringes upon the rights of others may result in disciplinary action, regardless of whether the conduct occurs on or off school property.

Students who engage in cyberbullying may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with School Board policy and applicable law. Reports of alleged cyberbullying shall be investigated promptly, and appropriate interventions and disciplinary measures shall be implemented as necessary to maintain a safe, orderly, and respectful learning environment.

BUS RULES & REGULATIONS

Riding the school bus is a privilege, and all students are expected to help maintain a safe environment by following the directions of the bus driver at all times. Each student is required to ride his/her assigned bus and get on and off at his/her designated stop. A student may be allowed to ride a bus other than the assigned bus

and/or get on or off at a stop other than the designated stop if the student has written permission from the guardian, approved in advance by the school principal. See [NCPS Policy JFC-C](#)

Bus Conduct: Students should be at their bus stops at least five (5) minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive and stand away from the road when waiting on the bus. Students' behavior at the bus stop should be comparable to behavior expected at school. Students must board and exit the bus appropriately, remain seated while the bus is in motion unless given permission by the driver, keep their hands, feet, and belongings to themselves, use appropriate language and voice levels, and refrain from eating (except water is permitted), vaping or using tobacco products, bringing prohibited items, or engaging in behavior that distracts the driver. Electronic devices may be used only with headphones. Students shall not use electronic devices to photograph or record others and must not use them in any manner that interferes with the safe operation of the school bus. Students are expected to keep the bus clean and respect school property. School buses are equipped with video surveillance, and all bus conduct is subject to school disciplinary procedures.

The bus driver is in charge of all passengers and has the authority to assign seats and make any other arrangements deemed necessary to maintain a safe and orderly environment. Students are required to obey the directives of the driver. While students are on school-sponsored field trips, school rules and the Code of Student Conduct are in effect. Students who fail to follow school bus rules or engage in inappropriate behavior while riding the school bus may have their bus-riding privileges suspended or revoked, either temporarily or permanently.

Activity Bus: Activity buses will be available for after-school activities such as athletic practice, rehearsals, and club meetings. Riding the activity buses is a privilege. The activity buses are designed to transport **only** those students who are here for legitimate school activities and are supervised by a faculty member. Any students who are participating in afterschool events must remain with their sponsor until time to go to the activity bus, at which time, coaches and sponsors must escort students to the bus area and remain until buses are loaded.

CAFETERIA PROCEDURES

Nelson County High School has three lunch periods where deli lines are provided for students in a food court setting.

- Students must report to the cafeteria by the time the tardy bell rings. If a student is found anywhere else without a pass, this will be considered skipping. If students need to leave the area, they must have permission from an administrator.
- Lunch lines should be orderly. Breaking into lunch lines will not be tolerated.
- Students are not permitted to charge the cost of food.
- Students may bring a packed lunch from home; however, food can not be delivered to or brought to students during their lunch period from local restaurants. Lunches brought from home must be eaten in the cafeteria.
- Food, trays, dishes, and eating utensils are not to be taken from the cafeteria. All food and drinks must be consumed in the cafeteria area.
- There will be absolutely no sitting on the floor inside the cafeteria.
- Trash should be disposed of in containers placed for that purpose.
- Students are restricted to the cafeteria or the patio area outside of the cafeteria during lunchtime.
- During lunch students are to use the restrooms located in the cafeteria.
- No throwing of food or paper is allowed.
- Breakfast is available on the breakfast cart in the front hallway entrance before 8:00 A.M. each morning.

CHANGE OF INFORMATION

Any change of address and/or telephone number, or any change in guardianship should be immediately reported to both the Attendance Office and the School Counseling Office.

CLASS DISRUPTIONS

Disruptive behavior is defined as "a violation of school board regulations governing student conduct that interrupts or obstructs the learning environment."

CLASS RANK

Many colleges ask for the class rank of a student as part of the information requested on a transcript. Class rank is based on grade point average (GPA) and will be determined at the end of the junior year for purposes of sending transcripts to colleges. Final rank will be calculated at the end of the senior year.

CLASS REMOVAL

If a student is sent out of class to an administrator, they should always report to the main office unless instructed otherwise. A student refusing to leave class, or who does not report to the main office upon leaving will be subject to additional disciplinary action including the possibility of suspension.

COLLEGE READINESS

Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT): PSAT is administered to all 11th graders who would like to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program who sign up and pay \$20.00. The PSAT will be administered during the school day in the fall and spring semesters. ***PSAT scores are not used by colleges as part of their admissions criteria.***

College Applications: A student who plans to apply to colleges or school institutions should request assistance from the college adviser or school counselor. A college guideline is available in the School Counseling Office.

Scholarships and Financial Aid: Scholarship bulletins are shared out on our scholarship bulletin board in front of the Counseling Office along with paper copies of scholarships. Additional information is announced on morning announcements, the [NCHS website](#), and through Government and English 12 classes.

Information concerning applications for financial aid and filing deadlines will be provided at appropriate times to seniors. It is the responsibility of the student to meet all deadlines.

COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Students may possess a cellular telephone, smart phone, tablet, Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) or other communications device on school property, including school buses, **provided that the device must remain off and away during the school day.** The division is not liable for devices brought to school or school activities.

Cellular Telephones & SMART Phones:

- Cell phones and other electronic devices are prohibited during the school day in all areas of the school, including classrooms, hallways, restrooms, the clinic, the library, the gymnasium, and the cafeteria.
- Electronic devices shall not be used during class changes or during a student's lunch period.

- Students are permitted to possess and use electronic devices on the school bus, provided their use does not create a disruption. If an electronic device produces sound, the volume must be turned off, and headphones or earphones must be used.
- Students riding activity or team buses are permitted to use electronic devices only with the permission of the driver, sponsor, or coach.
- Electronic devices, including cell phones, shall not be turned on or visible during instructional time. Students who choose not to comply with this requirement should leave their phones at home.
- Students shall not use personal electronic devices to photograph, video record, or audio record any person at any time during the school day, including while riding a school, activity, or team bus. Students who fail to comply with these requirements will have their electronic devices confiscated and may be subject to additional disciplinary action.
- **Students are not permitted to use cell phones in the main office**

Smart Watch Policy: Students are permitted to wear and possess smart watches; however, these devices may only be used for checking the time. Use of smart watches for communication or other non-approved functions during the school day is strictly prohibited. Violations of this policy may result in the loss of smart watch privileges. During testing or at a teacher's discretion, students will be required to remove smart watches and store them in their backpacks.

Misuse of Cell Phones and Disciplinary Action

- Students who use a cell phone to record an altercation, engage in inappropriate or disruptive behavior, or contribute to a substantial disruption or negative portrayal of the school environment will be subject to out-of-school suspension and loss of privilege to possess a phone at school.
- If a student is found in possession of a cell phone during instructional time, it will be confiscated by a staff member and a referral will be written.
 - **1st offense** Confiscate, guardian call, device returned at the end of the day
 - **2nd offense** Confiscate, guardian call, guardian has to pick up device
 - **3rd offense** Confiscate, guardian has to pick up device, 1 day of ISS
 - **4th offense** Confiscate, guardian has to pick up device, 3 days of ISS
 - **5th offense** Confiscate, guardian has to pick up device, 1 day OSS

Guardians and employers are encouraged not to send messages or attempt to contact a student on his/her cell phone during school hours, in keeping with the school policy regarding cell phone use. Your cooperation in this matter will greatly help to reduce the number of instructional interruptions. However, in the event of an emergency, every effort will be made to send a message to the student in a timely manner.

See NCPS Policy [JFC-M](#)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Students must complete a minimum of ten (10) Community Service hours to satisfy NCHS graduation requirements. Students are encouraged to choose any opportunity that meets their strengths, interests, and aspirations with approval from school counseling. Some examples are working with local churches, local emergency responders, the Nelson County Food Pantry, Meals on Wheels, Nelson County Historical Society, NCHS Athletic Department, Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals-Almost Home, and more. Students must submit a Community Service form, available in the counseling office. The form must be completed by a non-family member overseeing the service.

DANCES

School dances are not open to the general public. Only students in good behavioral standing are permitted to attend. Students who have received an out-of-school suspension during that semester are not in good standing. Guests may attend the dance if they are accompanied by an NCHS student, have been signed-up on the guest list prior to the activity, and have been approved by the administration. The student bringing the guest will be held responsible for the conduct of their companion. The following rules will be enforced:

1. Those who have paid admission must remain inside. Anyone who leaves the event will not be readmitted and must leave the property.
2. School rules apply at all activities. Possession or use of weapons, alcohol, drugs or tobacco is not allowed while on the property.
3. Law enforcement personnel will be on hand.
4. Guardians approved through the [volunteer application process](#) are welcome to attend.
5. Nelson Middle School students are not allowed to attend.

DEFIANCE OF THE AUTHORITY OF SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Students will comply with any oral or written instructions made by school personnel within the scope of their authority as provided by Board policies and regulations. Students are expected to comply promptly with reasonable requests and directions from school employees. Refusing to follow directions, engaging in disruptive arguments, or interfering with a staff member's ability to perform assigned duties may result in disciplinary action.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Refusing to follow reasonable directions from staff.
- Leaving an assigned area without permission.
- Refusing to identify oneself when requested by school personnel.
- Delaying or interfering with a staff member's efforts to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment.

DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

The only display of affection that is acceptable at the high school is holding hands. All other forms of displaying affection are prohibited. Disciplinary action will be taken for those who do not abide by this policy.

DISRESPECTFUL OR DISCOURTEOUS CONDUCT

Students are expected to communicate with others in a respectful, civil, and courteous manner. Speaking to or interacting with students, staff, or visitors in a rude, disrespectful, or discourteous manner is prohibited. This includes behavior, words, tone, or gestures that are intended to demean, insult, provoke, or show disregard for others. Students shall treat staff and fellow students with respect. Disrespectful conduct may result in disciplinary action.

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

Students are entitled to a learning environment free of unnecessary disruption. Any physical or verbal disturbance, which interrupts or interferes with teaching and orderly conduct of school activities, is prohibited.

DISRUPTIVE DEMONSTRATIONS

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that supports a safe, orderly, and respectful learning environment. Disruptive conduct is any behavior that prevents or interferes with the normal operation of the

school or school-sponsored activities, or that has the potential to provoke violence or create a safety concern.
[See Code of Va. § 18.2-415](#)

DRIVING AND PARKING

Parking Fee is \$30.00 per year. Students must register their vehicle with the school and agree to observe school safety/parking regulations. Students are encouraged to obtain their school parking decal as soon as possible. Students are expected to cooperate with faculty supervising the parking lot and to follow all school regulations.

- All students who drive a vehicle to school must purchase an NCHS parking hang-tag, which can be purchased from the assistant principal.
- Parking tag must be displayed in the windshield of the vehicle to which it is registered.
- Notify administration if the primary vehicle changes.
- It is understood there may be times when a student will need to drive an alternate vehicle to school. When this is necessary, place the parking tag in the windshield of the vehicle and notify the Main Office of the necessary vehicle information.
- Student drivers must be a licensed and insured driver. Students must drive with caution and obey the speed limit of 15 MPH or less while on school property.
- Students must park only in one parking space in between the lines of a designated parking space in the bottom 3 rows.
- Students must park in a designated parking space, not at a curb or side of the road.
- Students are expected to lock their cars while at school.
- The parking lot is off limits to all students during the school day. This includes the three lunch periods.
- Students are not to congregate in the parking lot in the morning or afternoon.
- Students arriving to school are to proceed into the building immediately and students leaving school are to proceed directly to their cars and leave the premises.
- Students who arrive on buses are not to go to the parking lot.
- Students are responsible for arriving at school and entering the building on time.
- Driving privileges can be taken away as part of school discipline procedures.
- Failure to purchase a parking decal, parking in unauthorized areas or lack of cooperation with faculty supervising the parking area may result in loss of parking privileges.
- Any automobile parked illegally in the handicapped areas will be assessed a \$100.00 fine by the Nelson County Sheriff's Department.
- Students who park in areas other than the parking lot must have special permission from the school's administration.
- Vehicles parked on school grounds are subject to search based on reasonable suspicion or observation of illegal contraband.
- Failure to stop for a stopped school bus with flashers on will result in disciplinary action and possible fines and/or loss of driving privileges.
- A student's vehicle permit can be suspended or revoked any time he or she fails to meet any of the qualifications for the permit.
- The permit fee is non-refundable no matter the reason for the suspension of the permit.
- Students are not allowed to park a vehicle on school property once the permit has been suspended.

ELEVATOR

Elevator use is restricted to students who are injured or disabled. Any student requiring permission to use the elevator must present a letter to the nurse, in the clinic, from his/her doctor stating the nature of the injury and the length of time that the student will need to use the elevator.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In the event that it is necessary to evacuate the school building due to an emergency situation, it is imperative that students follow the instructions of teachers and other school staff. They are knowledgeable of evacuation procedures and guidelines and will instruct students accordingly. Our school plan for handling various crisis situations is on file and can be viewed in any administrative office. When the fire alarm sounds, everyone is required to leave the school building immediately. Always follow the directions of classroom teachers regarding procedures and exit routes.

EXTORTION

Students are prohibited from obtaining or attempting to obtain anything of value from another by using a threat of any kind.

FAILURE TO REPORT TO AN ASSIGNED DISCIPLINARY SETTING

Students who are assigned a disciplinary consequence are expected to report as directed and comply with all expectations of that assignment. Failure to report, leaving without permission, or refusing to participate in the assigned disciplinary setting may result in additional disciplinary action. This includes, but is not limited to detention, In-School Suspension (ISS), Saturday School, or other disciplinary assignments approved by school administration.

FALSIFICATION OF INFORMATION OR SCHOOL RECORDS

Students are expected to provide truthful and accurate information at all times. Falsifying, altering, forging, or knowingly providing false information on school records, documents, notes, forms, passes, identification, or other official records is prohibited. Misrepresenting one's identity, providing false statements to school personnel, or assisting another person in doing so will also result in disciplinary action. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Altering or forging school documents or records
- Providing false information to school staff
- Falsifying parent or guardian signatures
- Misrepresenting facts during a school investigation
- Using another person's identity or allowing another person to use yours

FELONY CHARGES

Students charged with any offense, wherever committed, that would be a felony if committed by an adult may be disciplined and/or required to participate in prevention/ intervention activities.

FIGHTING AND INCITING CONFLICT

Fighting and physical altercations are prohibited. Fighting is defined as mutual physical contact between two or more individuals, including but not limited to pushing, shoving, hitting, or other physical actions, regardless of whether injury occurs. Students are prohibited from engaging in behavior that contributes to or escalates a conflict, including teasing, taunting, provoking, threatening, or engaging in verbal confrontations that could lead to a physical altercation.

Students shall not encourage, promote, or incite a fight, including verbally encouraging others to engage in an altercation or recording, sharing, or distributing videos of fights or other physical conflicts. Students who

participate in, encourage, instigate, or otherwise contribute to a physical altercation may be subject to disciplinary action.

Assault: Students are prohibited from engaging in actions intended to cause physical injury or harm to another person. Assault includes attempting to cause physical injury, threatening actions that place another person in reasonable fear of imminent harm, or engaging in conduct that demonstrates an intent to physically harm another individual. Students who commit assault may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with school policy and applicable laws. *See Policy [NCPS JFC-R](#)*

FIRE ALARMS, FIRE-RELATED DEVICES, AND MATERIALS

Students activate a fire alarm or other emergency alarm or intentionally make a false report of a fire or other emergency. Students are also prohibited from tampering with fire alarms, emergency equipment, or other safety systems. Students shall not possess, use, or bring to school any unauthorized device, material, or substance that could start a fire, ignite materials, produce excessive smoke, or otherwise create a fire hazard or disrupt the safety of the school environment.

Any action that creates a fire hazard, interferes with emergency procedures, or endangers the safety of students or staff may result in disciplinary action in accordance with School Board policy and applicable law.

GAMBLING

Students shall not gamble or participate in games involving money or anything of value on school property, on school buses, or during any school-sponsored activity.

GANG ACTIVITY

Gang-related activity is not tolerated. Symbols of gang membership are expressly prohibited (i.e., clothing that symbolizes association, rituals associated with, or activities by an identified group of students). *See Policy [JFCE Gang Activity or Association](#)*

GRADE REPORTS

Course Credit: Most courses are offered only as one credit. Yearlong courses are awarded two credits which will reflect on the student's transcript at the end of the academic year.

Maximum Credit: Students are permitted to earn up to eight (8) credits in a school year. In extenuating circumstances, the principal has the authority to grant a waiver to this limit. Students should contact their school counselor to request a waiver application.

Grade Level Promotion

- Grade 10: 6 credits
- Grade 11: 14 credits
- Grade 12: 19 credits
- *A student must go through the normal progression of four years of high school before graduation unless extenuating circumstances warrant an exception.

Grading System: Nelson County Public Schools uses a 10-point grading scale. All grades are reported in letter form.

Grading Scale:

A+	98 – 100	A	93 – 97	A-	90 – 92
B+	87 – 89	B	83 – 86	B-	80 – 82
C+	77 – 79	C	73 – 76	C-	70 – 72
D+	67 – 69	D	63 – 66	D-	60 – 62
F	59 and below				
P	Pass	W	Withdrawal	WF	Withdrawal Failure

When a student receives an "I" (Incomplete), the student is responsible for contacting the teacher to arrange for make-up work. All missing work must be completed within two weeks after the end of the marking period. If the work is not completed within that time, the "I" will be recorded as an "F." The numerical grade assigned will reflect the weight of the incomplete work.

End of Quarter Dates: Students will receive report cards approximately eight days after the end of each nine weeks as noted:

- End of 1st quarter - October 7, 2026
- End of 2nd quarter - December 18, 2026
- End of 3rd quarter - March 12, 2027
- End of 4th quarter - May 27, 2027

Two Semester Courses and Grading: A grade for the first semester of a two-semester course will not be recorded on a student's official transcripts until that student has successfully completed and has met all class requirements for the second semester of the course. The grade of the first semester and the grade of the second semester will be averaged together to determine the final average grade.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & DIPLOMA TYPES

In order to be eligible for graduation, students must earn Standard Units of Credit and Verified Units of Credit for the Standard and Advanced Studies diploma options. Standard Units of Credit are based on coursework. Verified Units of Credit are earned by passing the course and the Standards of Learning (SOL) end-of-course test. **Please Note: (See the Program of Studies for the specific courses that must be completed to satisfy each specific diploma requirement or contact your school counselor)**

GRADUATION

Students who do not complete all graduation requirements cannot participate in any graduation exercises. Seniors who are unable to graduate will be notified prior to graduation by their school counselor. Seniors must pay outstanding fees prior to graduation ceremonies, or they will not participate in the graduation ceremony.

HALL PASSES

Students are allowed to use the time between classes to go to the restroom. An e-hall pass is required of students when moving from place to place in the building during class time.

HALL CONDUCT

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a safe, respectful, and orderly manner while in the hallways. Running, horseplay, excessive noise, loud or disruptive behavior, and the use of inappropriate language are prohibited. Public displays of affection, including hugging and kissing, are not permitted. Students are not allowed to sit or gather on hallway floors, stairs, or stair railings, or block entrances to restrooms or other areas.

of the building. Students should proceed directly to their next destination and are not allowed to loiter in the hallways between classes. During instructional time, students must have a valid hall pass when outside of a classroom.

HARASSMENT

Students shall not harass another student, school employee, volunteer, student teacher, or any other person on school property or at school-sponsored activities. See Policy [JFHA/GBA Prohibition Against Harassment & Retaliation](#)

HAZING

Students shall not engage in hazing. Hazing is any intentional or reckless act that endangers the health or safety of a student or causes bodily injury as part of initiation into, admission to, affiliation with, or continued membership in a club, organization, association, fraternity, sorority, or other student group. A student's willingness to participate does not excuse or justify hazing. The principal shall report any hazing incident that results in bodily injury to the local Commonwealth's Attorney, as required by Virginia law.

INAPPROPRIATE EXPOSURE & LEWD & INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

Students are expected to maintain appropriate behavior and dress that supports a safe and respectful school environment. Exposing private body parts, engaging in lewd, indecent, or sexually inappropriate behavior, or participating in public displays of inappropriate conduct is prohibited. This includes behavior occurring in person or through electronic communication or digital platforms when it impacts the school environment. Students who engage in indecent exposure, lewd behavior, or other inappropriate public conduct may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with school policy.

INAPPROPRIATE MATERIAL

Students are prohibited from creating, possessing, posting, distributing, displaying, transmitting, or sharing materials that are inappropriate for the school environment. This includes printed materials as well as content shared through electronic devices, social media, email, text messages, messaging applications, websites, or other digital platforms. Materials that are obscene, sexually explicit, profane, threatening, discriminatory, harassing, promote illegal activity, or otherwise substantially disrupt the educational environment are prohibited. Students who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, regardless of whether the material is shared on or off school property if the conduct has a substantial impact on the school environment.

LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS

The only students who have permission to leave school grounds are those who are scheduled to do so or who have an early dismissal slip. Note: Students who have an early release (3rd or 4th block) must remain in school on days with a change in schedule until the end of their last class period. Please let employers know your schedule. Students with early dismissal must leave school property and are not to re-enter the building to wait for, or to meet, other students.

If an emergency arises during the school day which requires a student to leave school, the student must report to the Attendance Office and ask the Attendance Clerk to telephone their guardian. If the guardian agrees, the student should leave school according to arrangements. Only when transportation is available will a student have permission to sign out.

A student who leaves without following this procedure will be considered skipping school. Also, students are not to go on the grounds of other schools during school hours (this includes the Middle School). Any student who is found on other school property will face disciplinary action.

Students are not permitted to leave school to purchase food or have food from local eating establishments.

LOCKERS

Each student will have the option of using a locker. All lockers are the property of Nelson County High School and are only rented by a student. Lockers must be used only for the temporary storage of personal school items such as books, notebooks, lunches, paper, coats, etc. Lunches or any other food items must not be left in the locker overnight. Students should keep their lock on their locker at all times to prevent others from storing items in their assigned locker. All students are advised that lockers can be inspected for “reasonable cause” at any time. If a locker must be searched, the student’s cooperation may be sought, but permission is not required. The school cannot be held responsible for items left in lockers.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost and Found is located in the Main Office. If items become lost, misplaced or stolen, report the missing items to an administrator as soon as you discover them missing, and at the same time, file a lost/damaged report. If items are found, they should be turned in promptly to the Main Office or an administrator. All items unclaimed at the end of each year will be donated or discarded.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RESTRICTIONS

Students are not allowed to enter the Middle School complex without permission from an administrator or his/her designee. Students who enter the Middle School complex without the proper authority will be subject to disciplinary action.

MINUTE OF SILENCE

Teachers and students will observe a daily minute of silence in accordance with Virginia State law. During that one minute period of silence, students are to remain seated and silent without making any distracting display to the end that each student can, in the exercise of his/her individual choice, meditate, pray, or engage in any other silent activity which does not interfere with, distract, or impede other students in the like exercise of individual choice. Disciplinary action will result if students fail to adhere to the policy. See [*Virginia Code 22.1-203*](#)

NURSE

A registered nurse is on duty in the clinic from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30p.m. The nurses’ office is located on the CTE wing. Students needing services are required to secure a pass to the clinic from a classroom teacher except in emergency cases. If the nurse is not available, students should report to the main office. In addition to handling student illnesses and providing first aid, the nurse is responsible for the following:

- Collection and maintenance of immunization records
- Health appraisals and follow up of student health concerns reported by teachers
- Individual testing of any student suspected of having a hearing or visual problem. (A student may refer themselves or be referred by a teacher.)
- Acting as a resource person for any teacher who wishes instructional assistance with a health related topic, including drugs and cleanliness
- Collection and maintenance of student emergency medical forms

- Maintenance of all medical records
- Dispensing of any medication with a doctor's note

Medication

- All medication (prescription or over-the-counter) must be left with the school nurse to dispense
- A doctor's note is required for the school nurse to dispense any prescription medication. The name of the medication, dosage, and time schedule must be included in the doctor's note.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Nelson County Schools will not be liable for theft or loss of personal property. Students are responsible for ensuring their property is secure and should consider leaving valuable property at home.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students are required to wear appropriate clothing for physical education classes and to participate unless they are excused by a doctor for health reasons. All students enrolled in a PE course may use a PE locker. Valuables are not to be left in gym lockers overnight and are not the responsibility of NCHS.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

State regulations require the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. However, no student can be compelled to recite the Pledge if they or their legal guardian objects on religious, philosophical, or other grounds. Students who are thus exempt from reciting the Pledge must remain quietly standing or sitting at their desks while others recite the Pledge and must not make any display that disrupts or distracts others who are reciting the Pledge. School board codes of conduct will apply to disruptive behavior during the recitation of the Pledge in the same manner as provided for other circumstances of similar behavior. See [*SB 1331, amendment to 22.1-202 of the code of Virginia*](#)

PROFANE, OBSCENE, OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE OR CONDUCT

Students are not allowed to use vulgar, profane or obscene language or gestures or engage in conduct that is vulgar, profane, obscene or disrupts the teaching and learning environment.

Students are prohibited from using slurs, derogatory language, or demeaning remarks directed toward another person or group based upon actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, national origin, citizenship or immigration status, weight, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, or any other protected characteristic. This includes verbal, written, visual, or electronic communication, including comments made through social media, text messages, messaging applications, or other digital platforms. Such language is harmful, disrespectful, and inconsistent with a safe and inclusive school environment. Students who engage in the use of slurs or derogatory remarks may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with school policy.

PUBLISHED RULES & REGULATIONS

Students will comply with additional School Board policies and school policies published in the school student handbook or otherwise brought to the students' attention, including the Nelson County Athletic Regulations.

REPORTS OF CONVICTION OR ADJUDICATION OF DELINQUENCY

Any student for whom the Superintendent has received a report of an adjudication of delinquency or a conviction for a serious offense may be suspended or expelled. See [Va. Code § 16.1-305.1](#) and [subsection G of Va. Code § 16.1-260](#)

PROPERTY

Your school belongs to this community. The building, grounds, and equipment have been designed and selected to enhance the educational opportunities for students. The appearance of Nelson County High School reflects the character of those who attend. Those who willfully destroy property will be required to pay for the damages incurred and disciplinary action will be taken.

No student should bring anything to school, which is prohibited by statute, policy, or school rule. The administration has the authority to search school property, student property (including cars) and student's person when there is reason to believe a student has violated a statute, policy, or rule.

RECKLESS BEHAVIOR AND HORSEPLAY

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a safe and responsible manner at all times. Engaging in reckless, unsafe, or disruptive behavior that creates a risk of injury to oneself or others is prohibited. This includes horseplay, rough play, or any actions that have the potential to result in harm, create a safety hazard, or interfere with the learning environment. Students who engage in reckless behavior or horseplay may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with school policy.

RESTROOMS

Restrooms are to be used for their intended purpose only.

- Students are not permitted to loiter in restrooms.
- Photography or Videography is not permitted in restrooms.
- No more than one student is permitted in a stall at a time.
- Paper towels, sanitary napkins, and other trash should be placed in trash cans.
- Behaviors such as fighting, vandalism, and horseplay may result in out of school suspension and restitution.
- Students should report any damage or needs for custodial attention to an adult immediately.

SALES AND SOLICITATIONS

No sales, solicitations, collections, advertisements or distribution of notices will be allowed without prior permission of the principal. All fund-raising projects must be approved by the principal and central office.

SCHOOL COUNSELING

Academic Counseling: Counseling that assists students to acquire knowledge of the curricula choices available to students, to plan a program of studies, to arrange and interpret academic testing, and to seek post-secondary academic opportunities.

Career Counseling: Counseling that helps students acquire information and plan for work, jobs, apprenticeships, and post-secondary educational and career opportunities.

Personal and Social Counseling: Counseling that will assist a student to develop an understanding of themselves, the rights and needs of others, how to resolve conflict, and how to define individual goals which reflect their interests, abilities and aptitudes. Such counseling may be provided either (1) in groups in which generic issues of social development are addressed or (2) through structured individual or small group, multi-session counseling which focuses on the specific concerns of the participant (s).

Guardian Involvement & Referrals: Guardians can request counseling services for their child at any time. Students can opt out of personal/social counseling via written guardian request. Referrals to community resources (e.g., mental health, Region 10, DSS) are coordinated through the counseling office.

Transcripts: Students who need transcripts of their educational records for college applications or for prospective employers must complete a Release of Educational Records form. These forms are available in the School Counseling Office and must be signed by a guardian.

Schedule Changes: Schedule change requests are accepted during the first three (3) days of the semester. A guardian's signature is required for all student-initiated schedule changes. Schedule changes will be considered, but not guaranteed. Schedule changes will be made under the following circumstances:

- Failure of a course that is a prerequisite for a scheduled course or graduation requirement
- Human or computer error
- Change in a program of studies
- Balancing class size

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

A School Resource Officer has been assigned to Nelson County High School for this school year. This officer will assist in establishing and maintaining a close working relationship between school staff, faculty members, students, guardians, and law enforcement agencies in the resolution of school related problems. Please see the Memorandum of Understanding with the Nelson County Sheriff's office for more information.

SEXUALLY INAPPROPRIATE COMMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS

Students are prohibited from making, writing, posting, or sharing sexually suggestive comments, innuendos, propositions, or other remarks of a sexual nature. This includes verbal, written, visual, or electronic communication through text messages, social media, email, messaging applications, or other digital platforms. Such conduct has the potential to create a hostile, uncomfortable, or disruptive school environment and is not permitted. Students who engage in sexually inappropriate communication may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with school policy.

STALKING

Students will not engage in a pattern of behavior that places another person in fear of serious harm.

STUDENT CONDUCT

This publication of the NCHS Student Handbook is provided for each student and gives detailed information that applies to the operation of Nelson County High School. The following are standards of student conduct established by the School Board for all students. The consequences of any act are determined on the basis of the facts presented in each situation at the reasonable discretion of the Board, its designated committees and other appropriate school officials.

Guardian Responsibility and Involvement Requirements: Each guardian or guardian has a duty to assist the school in enforcing the student code of conduct and attendance policies in order that education may be conducted in an atmosphere free of disruptions and threat to persons and property and supportive of individual rights. See [Virginia Code 22.1-279.3](#)

STUDENT DRESS

Students are expected to dress appropriately for a K-12 educational environment. Any clothing that interferes with or disrupts the educational environment is unacceptable. Clothing with language or images that are vulgar, discriminatory, or obscene, or clothing that promotes illegal or violent conduct, such as the unlawful use of weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, nicotine vapor products, or drug paraphernalia or clothing that contains threats such as gang symbols is prohibited.

Clothing should fit, be neat and clean, and conform to standards of safety, good taste and decency. Clothing that exposes cleavage, private parts, the midriff, or undergarments, or that is otherwise sexually provocative, is prohibited. Examples of prohibited clothing include, but are not limited to:

- sagging or low-cut pants, low-cut necklines that show cleavage
- spaghetti strap tops, tube tops, halter tops, backless blouses or blouses with only ties in the back
- clothing constructed of see-through materials and head coverings that could conceal identity, such as hoodies and “skis.”

Additionally, disciplinary action will be taken against any student taking part in gang-related activities that are disruptive to the school environment, which include the display of any apparel, jewelry, accessory, tattoo, or manner of grooming that, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, or any other attribute, denotes membership in a gang that advocates illegal or disruptive behavior.

Guardians of students requiring accommodation for religious beliefs, disabilities, or other good causes should contact the principal. Students not complying with this policy will be asked to cover the noncompliant clothing, change clothes or go home.

Violations of Dress Code Guidelines: Students out of compliance with the dress code will be asked to correct the violation. No further action will be taken if the student complies. If a student is unable to correct the violation on his/her own, the student will be sent to the office to phone a guardian to bring appropriate clothing for the student or arrange transportation for the student to change into appropriate attire. The student will be assigned to sit in ISS until the school appropriate clothing arrives. If the guardian cannot come, the student will remain in ISS for the rest of the school day.

STUDENTS IN GOOD STANDING

The State Department of Education and the Division of Motor Vehicles require students to be in good standing at school to obtain their license. A student in good standing is one who attends school on a regular basis, has not received an out-of-school suspension, and has passed 3 courses during the previous semester. Some auto insurance companies require verification of a student’s good standing which may also include academic grades to be considered for insurance discounts. Students with outstanding debts are not in good standing.

SUSPENSION REVIEWS

A guardian can request to have a suspension reviewed by the principal and may further request the principal’s ruling to be reviewed by the Superintendent’s designee. A student who questions the direction of a staff

member should first comply with a reasonable request and then follow with a review by an administrator. Any student who is suspended may be required to return with a guardian for a re-admittance conference.

TECHNOLOGY

Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) for computers: An acceptable use policy (AUP) is a written agreement signed by students, guardians, and staff members which outlines the terms and conditions of technology use. It establishes acceptable use guidelines, rules of online behavior, and access privileges for all users. Users are identified as all Nelson County Public Schools' students and staff members, as well as other individuals who utilize the school division's technology. The AUP also covers penalties for violations of the policy, including security violations and vandalism of the system and/or equipment. Prior to using school division technology resources, each user is required to sign an AUP agreement and to know that it will be kept on file as a legal, binding document. **Students will not be allowed to use the computer until the AUP has been received.**

Teacher Responsibilities: Teachers will provide students with a sequential, structured approach to gaining the skills that will allow them to become independent, responsible users of technology. In all cases, teachers will make reasonable effort to ensure that students are directed to sites with age- and topic- appropriate materials and resources. All students and staff members will receive required instruction in Internet safety using the Nelson County Public Schools' approved curriculum. Teachers will model appropriate use of the Internet and will monitor and advise students in independent Internet use.

Discipline for violations of the Acceptable Use Policy: If a student uses his/her chromebook or school Google account in a way that violates our AUP policy, they will receive a disciplinary referral. For severe violations, that involve pornographic material for example, a warning will not be issued. The tiered discipline system for AUP violations is as follows:

- **1st offense** - Warning
- **2nd offense** - 1 day of ISS & restricted access for 2 weeks
- **3rd offense** - 2 days of ISS & restricted access for 4 weeks
- **4th offense** - 3 days of ISS & restricted access indefinitely
- **5th offense & beyond** - 1 day OSS for every subsequent offense

Inappropriate use of the network, which includes the Internet, could result in termination of access and result in disciplinary action, which may include suspension from school. Depending on the severity of the violation, criminal or civil liability is also possible. See [*Policy IIBEA Acceptable Computer System Use*](#)

Chromebooks: Each student is issued a Chromebook device. The Chromebook includes a charger and a protective cover to help prevent breakage from accidental drops or excessive wear and tear. Students will receive technical support from district staff to address service issues which may arise in the use of the Chromebook. Each student will be responsible for the protection and operation of their assigned Chromebook. Students will also be responsible for equipment repair or replacement costs if the Chromebook is lost, stolen or damaged. Insurance is available for purchase at individual expense to cover repair or replacement costs should equipment be damaged, lost or stolen.

TESTING

Standards of Learning (SOL) Tests: Verified Credits are earned by passing the course and the Standards of Learning (SOL) end-of-course test. SOL tests are administered in the following subject areas:

- **English:** English 11 Reading; English 10 Writing
- **Math:** Algebra I; Geometry; Algebra II
- **Social Studies:** World History I; World History II; US History

- **Science:** Biology

Advanced Placement Examinations: All students enrolled in an Advanced Placement course are expected to take the National Placement Exam in May. The cost of the exam is the student's responsibility.

TEXTBOOKS

Students will be loaned textbooks and are responsible for returning them at the end of the course. Students will be required to pay the replacement cost for lost and damaged textbooks.

THEFT

A student shall not intentionally take or attempt to take the personal property of another person by force, fear or other means.

THREATS OR INTIMIDATION

Students are prohibited from making any verbal, written, or physical threat of bodily injury or use of force directed toward another person. Students should not use electronic technology or communication devices, such as the internet or cell phones, to intimidate or threaten for any reason.

TRESPASSING

Students are prohibited from trespassing on school property or use school facilities without proper authority or permission, or during a period of suspension or expulsion. Any student who has been suspended from attendance may be considered a trespasser if he/she appears on any Nelson County Public School property during the suspension period. Violation of this section will be considered an additional infraction and will require a separate disposition.

Students who arrive at school before school opens or remain after the close of their school day without specific need or appropriate authorization and supervision may be considered trespassers.

Any student who is requested by an administrator to leave school property is expected to do so immediately. Failure to do so may be considered trespassing. Students are not to make unauthorized visits to any other Nelson County School during the instructional day. They may be charged with trespassing.

Disciplinary action may be initiated for acts committed away from school property and outside of school hours which are detrimental to the interests of the school or adversely affect school discipline.

Unauthorized Presence in School Areas: Students are expected to remain only in authorized areas of the school campus during the school day. Students should not enter or remain in classrooms, offices, locker rooms, parking lots, staff-only areas, or other restricted locations without permission. Loitering in hallways, stairwells, restrooms, or other areas without authorization, or remaining in an area after being directed to leave by a staff member, is prohibited. Students found in unauthorized areas of the school campus may be subject to disciplinary action. This applies only to unauthorized presence on campus and is separate from violations related to school or class attendance.

UNWANTED OR INAPPROPRIATE PHYSICAL TOUCH

Students are expected to respect the personal space and physical boundaries of others. Unwanted or inappropriate physical contact with another person is prohibited. This includes any physical contact that is unwelcome, disruptive, threatening, intimidating, harassing, or inappropriate for the school environment, regardless of whether injury occurs. Students who engage in unwanted or inappropriate physical contact may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with school policy.

THROWING OBJECTS

Students are prohibited from throwing objects in a manner that has the potential to cause a disturbance, injury, or damage to property. Throwing objects that may disrupt the learning environment, create a safety concern, or endanger others is not permitted, regardless of whether injury or damage occurs. Students who engage in this behavior may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with school policy.

UNAUTHORIZED DEMONSTRATIONS

Any student who takes part in or causes or attempts to cause another student to take part in an unauthorized demonstration, boycott, or strike will face disciplinary action including suspension. If warranted, the student will be taken before the Superintendent's Disciplinary Committee for further disciplinary action.

VANDALISM

Students may not willfully or maliciously damage or deface any school building or other property owned or under the control of the School Board. In addition, students may not willfully or maliciously damage or deface property belonging to or under the control of any other person at school, on a school bus or at school-sponsored events.

VISITORS OF THE BUILDING

Guardians are welcome to visit the school. All visitors must report to the Main Office to secure the appropriate visitor's pass and show a valid state-issued ID. Guardians coming to the school to pick up their child must come into the Main Office. We will not dismiss a student in the parking lot. Alumni are to visit the school after 3:30 P.M. Students are not permitted to have guests during the school day without prior permission from the principal. Unauthorized visitors in the building or on school grounds without permission will be subject to trespassing laws. Authorized visitors must wear a visitor's pass from the front office at all times. Visitors must check-out after each visit. For security purposes, all doors will remain closed and locked during the school day. Any student who opens a door for a visitor or props a door open, will be subject to disciplinary action.

To help maintain a safe and secure school environment, students are not to bring, invite, or allow unauthorized individuals onto school property or into the school building without prior approval from school administration. Students who assist or encourage unauthorized entry may be subject to disciplinary action. Unauthorized individuals include anyone who is not a currently enrolled student, a school employee, a parent or guardian conducting school business, or a visitor who has received approval and properly checked in through the school's visitor procedures. Students should immediately notify a staff member if they become aware of an unauthorized person on campus.

WEAPONS OR OTHER DANGEROUS ARTICLES

Students are strictly prohibited from possession of any firearm or other dangerous weapon or device. The possession or use of a firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, operative or inoperative, on any school property or

during any school activity is prohibited and will be prosecuted by the school division. Possession also includes storing it in a vehicle, locker, or other receptacle. Firearms include pellet guns, BB guns, air pistols, stun guns, paint ball guns and any other device which meets the definition of firearm in the Code of Virginia. Violation of this rule will result in an immediate recommendation for expulsion. Students should be aware that weapons of any type including hunting equipment such as a shot gun, rifle or knife are prohibited on school property at any time. *See Policy JFCD Weapons in School, additional information in the Nelson County Public Schools' Code of Student Conduct booklet*

WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, school may be delayed, close early, or closed for the day. School closings or delays will be announced upon approval by the Superintendent. These announcements will be made in the following ways:

- Via phone and email to all NCPS-registered phone and email addresses for NCPS students and guardians.
- On the NCPS website at <https://www.nelson.k12.va.us/>, and on NCPS official social media sites, including Facebook.
- Through local news channels via their weather updates.

NCPS STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The NCHS Student Handbook serves as a guide to student life and expectations at Nelson County High School. Comprehensive information regarding student rights, responsibilities, and disciplinary procedures is available in the NCPS Parent Handbook and Student Code of Conduct 2026-2027, which is posted on the division website and [linked here](#).

Appendix

STAFF DIRECTORY

Principal	Mr. Belako	sbelako@nelson.k12.va.us
Assistant Principal Students Last Names A-J	Mrs. Knight	eknight@nelson.k12.va.us
Assistant Principal Students Last Names K-Z	Ms. Poindexter	apoindester@nelson.k12.va.us
School Counseling Director 10-12th grades A-H	Mrs. Day	sday@nelson.k12.va.us
School Counselor 10-12th grades J-Z	Mr. Wingate	zwingate@nelson.k12.va.us
School Counselor 9th grade	Ms. Stokes	astokes@nelson.k12.va.us
School Counseling Secretary & Registrar	Ms. Berry	bberry@nelson.k12.va.us
Athletic Director	Mr. Mullins	gmullins@nelson.k12.va.us
Athletic Trainer	Ms. Crawford	rcrawford@nelson.k12.va.us
School Nurse	Mrs. Parrish	wparrish@nelson.k12.va.us
Librarian	Ms. Herrick	hherrick@nelson.k12.va.us
Secretary (Main Office)	Ms. Staton	wstaton@nelson.k12.va.us
Attendance Secretary (Main Office)	Mrs. Burnley	aburnley@nelson.k12.va.us
Bookkeeper (Main Office)	Mrs. S. Campbell	scampbell@nelson.k12.va.us

Clubs/Organizations and Sponsors

Club	Sponsor
4-H Club	Ms. Berry
Art Club	Mrs. Gleason
Auto Club	Mr. Durkee
Carpentry	Mr. Connell
Chess Club	Mr. Sharp
Cosmetology (SkillsUSA)	Mrs. Adams
Creative Writing Club	Mrs. Cober-Lake
Debate	Ms. Roberson
Drama Club	Mrs. Driver
FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America)	Ms. Yordy
FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes)	Mr. Mansfield
FFA (Future Farmers of America)	Mr. Ramsey/Mrs. Seaman
HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America)	Mrs. Seay
Horticulture	Mrs. Seaman
National Honor Society	Mrs. Cober-Lake/Mr. Maranzano
Outdoorsmen Club	Mr. Berkey
Post Graduation Club	Ms. Berry
Principal Advisory Committee	Mr. Belako
Prom Committee	Mrs. Marquez
SCA (Student Council Association)	Mrs. Ramsey
YPC (Youth Philanthropy Club)	Mrs. Hauschner
Class	Sponsor
Senior Class Sponsor	Mrs. Campbell/Mrs. Seaman
Junior Class Sponsor / Prom Committee	Marquez
Athletic Teams	Coaches
Baseball (V)	Coach Dowdy
Baseball (JV)	Coach Belako
Boys Basketball	Coach Watson
Girls Basketball	Coach Tyree
Cheerleading- Basketball	Coach Stalnaker
Cheerleading- Football Varsity	Coach Stalnaker
Cheerleading - Football JV	Coach Casto
Cross Country	Coach Sabino
Football (V)	Coach Butler
Football (JV)	Coach Dolan
Golf	Coach Durkee
Soccer- Boys (V)	Coach Torres
Soccer- Boys (JV)	Coach Hansen
Soccer Girls (V)	Coach Ferren
Soccer Girls (JV)	Coach Cober-Lake
Softball	Coach Dowell
G. Tennis	Coach Burrell
Track- Indoor & Outdoor	Coach Dunnick
Volleyball	Coach Belako

STUDENT FEES

9th-12th grades Workbook Fee (<i>all students</i>)	30.00
Activity Passes: Student	30.00
Activity Passes: Family/Season	175.00
Activity Passes: Family/Year	300.00
Activity Passes: Individual/Season	100.00
Activity Passes: Individual/Year	175.00
Advanced Band	10.00
Advanced P.E. & Weight Lifting Locker Fee	3.00
ART I-IV	15.00
Chorus	10.00
Class or Activity	Fee
Concert Band	20.00
Driver's Ed –Behind the Wheel	200.00
FFA – Agriculture	15.00
Jazz Band	10.00
P.E. – 9 th & 10 th Grade (FirstAid/CPR)	6.00
Painting and Printmaking	15.00
Photography	20.00
Pottery and Sculpture	15.00
Show Choir	10.00
Student Parking Permit	30.00
Yearbook	15.00