Student Family Handbook

2026-2027



Vision

North Port High School will prepare students to lead responsible lives by supporting their intellectual, emotional, social, and physical development.

Mission

North Port High School will inspire tomorrow's leaders by providing rigorous instruction, maintaining a safe and respectful environment, and developing socially responsible individuals in their community.

Motto

True North! Together to the Top!

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Welcome to North Port High School

Dear Bobcats,

Welcome to North Port High School and the 2026–2027 school year! We are excited to begin another year of learning, growth, and success together. Our faculty, staff, and administration are committed to supporting you every step of the way as you pursue your goals and make the most of your high school experience.

This Student Handbook serves as a valuable resource to help you understand our school's expectations, policies, procedures, and opportunities. It has been aligned with the policies set forth by Sarasota County Schools and the Florida Department of Education and are designed to create a safe, respectful, and engaging learning environment for all students. We encourage you to take time to review the handbook and become familiar with the information it contains. Throughout the first weeks of school, you will be introduced to key sections during assemblies, classroom discussions, and family communications.

At North Port High School, your education, safety, and well-being are our highest priorities. Together, we will foster a culture where every student feels valued, challenged, and supported. We encourage you to embrace our Bobcat PRIDE values—Positivity, Respect, Integrity, Discipline, and Excellence—as the foundation for your success both in and out of the classroom.

North Port High School is more than a school—it is a community. We are proud to have you as part of the Bobcat family and look forward to celebrating your achievements throughout the year. Thank you for taking the time to review this handbook and for doing your part to help make our school a place where everyone can learn, grow, and thrive.

We are excited for a fantastic year ahead and look forward to all that we will accomplish together.

Sincerely,

Ryan Shurley
Proud Principal
North Port High School

Campus Information

Campus Phone Number: 941-423-8558
School Website: https://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/o/northporthigh
School Hours: M-F, 7:30 am to 2:15 pm
Address: 6400 West Price Boulevard, North Port, Fl, 34291

Your Student Support Team

Name	Position	Location	Student Last Names
Mr. Ryan Shurley	Principal	1-102	
Dr. Agnes Pelopida	Asst. Principal Curriculum	1-133	
Mrs. Jamie Lowicz	Asst. Principal Administration	1-135	ESE
Dr. Eric Bishop	Assistant Principal	1-137	A-I
Mr. Tyler Doughty	Assistant Principal	1-134	J-R
Mr. Ron Corso	Assistant Principal	1-109	S-Z
Dr. Joe Bazenas	School Counselor	1-129	A-D
Mrs. Ashley Jennings	School Counselor	1-128	E-K
Mrs. Sophia Tison	School Counselor	1-127	L-Q
Mrs. Jennica Thomas	School Counselor	1-130	R-Z
Mrs. Adria Mize	School Counselor	1-121	AICE
Mrs. Christine McKay	School Counselor	1-122	DE/AP
Mrs. Sarah Drachler	ESE Instructional Facilitator	1-102	A-G
Mrs. Cynthia Conway	ESE Instructional Facilitator	1-116	H-O
Mrs. Tracy McKnight	ESE Instructional Facilitator	1-126	P-Z

North Port High School Bell Schedules 2026-2027

Revised 07/2026

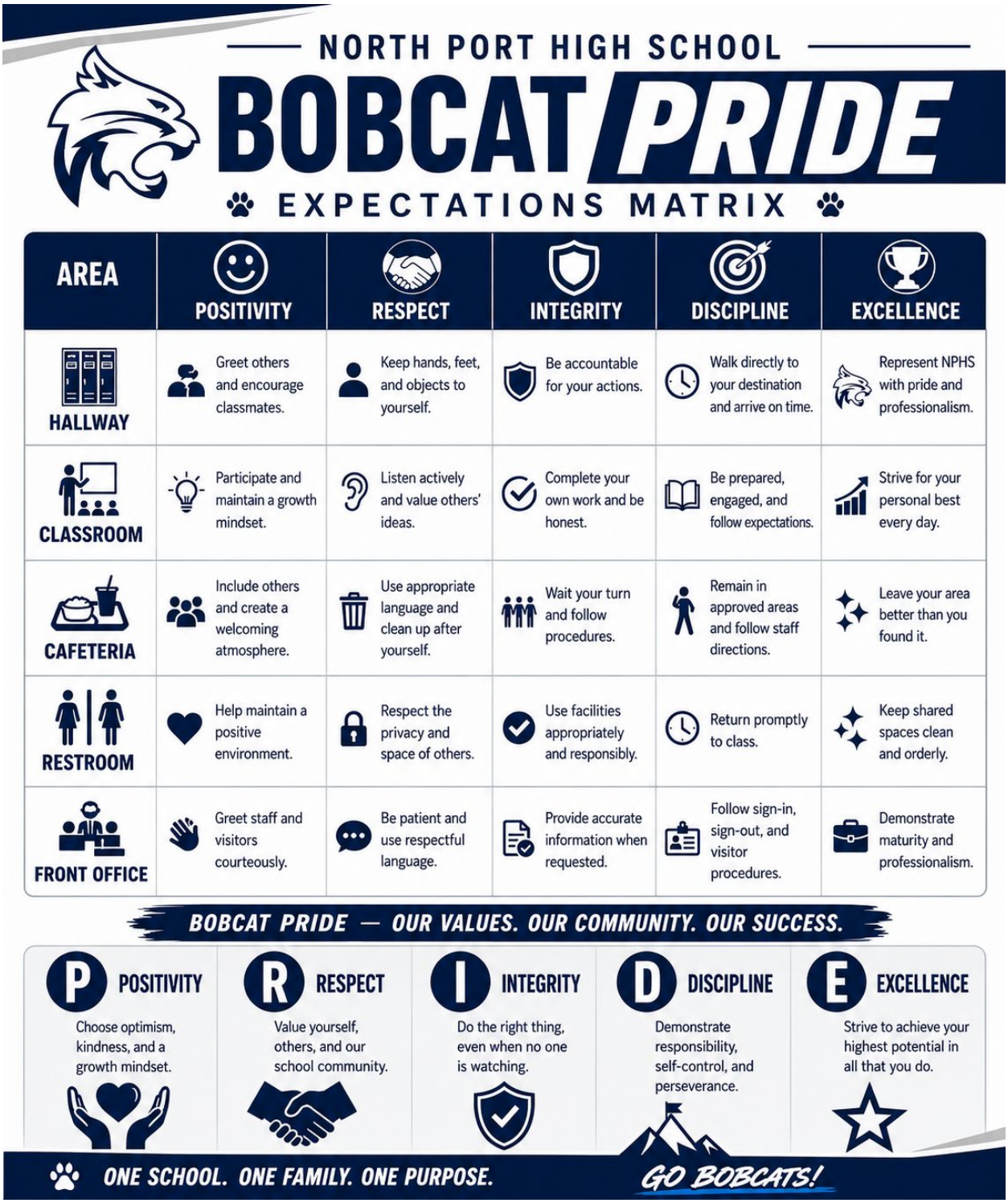
Regular Bell Schedule						
Per	***4th Lunch***	***Min***	***5th Lunch***	***Min***	***6th Lunch***	***Min***
1	7:30 – 8:21	51	7:30 – 8:21	51	7:30 – 8:21	51
2	8:26 – 9:15	49	8:26 – 9:15	49	8:26 – 9:15	49
3	9:20 – 10:09	49	9:20 – 10:09	49	9:20 – 10:09	49
4	10:09 – 10:39 (lunch)	30	10:14 – 11:03	49	10:14 – 11:03	49
5	10:44 – 11:33	49	11:03 – 11:33 (lunch)	30	11:08 – 11:57	49
6	11:38 – 12:27	49	11:38 – 12:27	49	11:57 – 12:27 (lunch)	30
7	12:32 – 1:21	49	12:32 – 1:21	49	12:32 – 1:21	49
8	1:26 – 2:15	49	1:26 – 2:15	49	1:26 – 2:15	49

Advisory Bell Schedule						
Per	***4th Lunch***	***Min***	***5th Lunch***	***Min***	***6th Lunch***	***Min***
1	7:30 – 8:15	45	7:30 – 8:15	45	7:30 – 8:15	45
2	8:20 – 9:35	75	8:20 – 9:35	75	8:20 – 9:35	75
3	9:40 – 10:25	45	9:40 – 10:25	45	9:40 – 10:25	45
4	10:25 – 10:55 (lunch)	30	10:30 – 11:15	45	10:30 – 11:15	45
5	11:00 – 11:45	45	11:15 – 11:45 (lunch)	30	11:20 – 12:05	45
6	11:50 – 12:35	45	11:50 – 12:35	45	12:05 – 12:35 (lunch)	30
7	12:40 – 1:25	45	12:40 – 1:25	45	12:40 – 1:25	45
8	1:30 – 2:15	45	1:30 – 2:15	45	1:30 – 2:15	45

PRIDE Bell Schedule						
Per	***4th Lunch***	***Min***	***5th Lunch***	***Min***	***6th Lunch***	***Min***
1	7:30 – 8:13	43	7:30 – 8:13	43	7:30 – 8:13	43
2	8:18 – 9:00	42	8:18 – 9:00	42	8:18 – 9:00	42
PRIDE	**9:05 – 9:54**	**49**	**9:05 – 9:54**	**49**	**9:05 – 9:54**	**49**
3	9:59 – 10:41	42	9:59 – 10:41	42	9:59 – 10:41	42
4	10:41 – 11:11 (lunch)	30	10:46 – 11:28	42	10:46 – 11:28	42
5	11:16 – 11:58	42	11:28 – 11:58 (lunch)	30	11:33 – 12:15	42
6	12:03 – 12:45	42	12:03 – 12:45	42	12:15 – 12:45 (lunch)	30
7	12:50 – 1:32	42	12:50 – 1:32	42	12:50 – 1:32	42
8	1:37 – 2:15	43	1:37 – 2:15	43	1:37 – 2:15	43

Bobcat PRIDE

Our Bobcat PRIDE promotes and celebrates campuswide expectations of our students, staff, and visitors to our campus and to our school related events and activities. Below are examples of these expectations in various parts of campus.



Daily Life at North Port High School

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Arrivals

- **7:00 am – 7:30 am**
  - Campus is open for students.
  - Students may enter through the courtyard or bus loop gates
- **7:30 am – 2:15 pm**
  - Students must enter through attendance office to check in
  - Students may NOT open doors or gates to allow other students onto campus
  - Students may not leave campus without permission and properly signing out through the attendance office

Dismissals

- **7:30 am – 2:15 pm**
  - Students may only leave by checking out through the attendance office
  - Proper documentation is required by parent/guardian
  - Students may not leave class until called or receive a pass
- **2:15 pm**
  - Students should report promptly to the bus loop, parent pick-up, parking lot, bike rack, or leave campus

After 2:45 pm, only students involved in staff-sponsored activities may remain on campus under the supervision of a staff member.

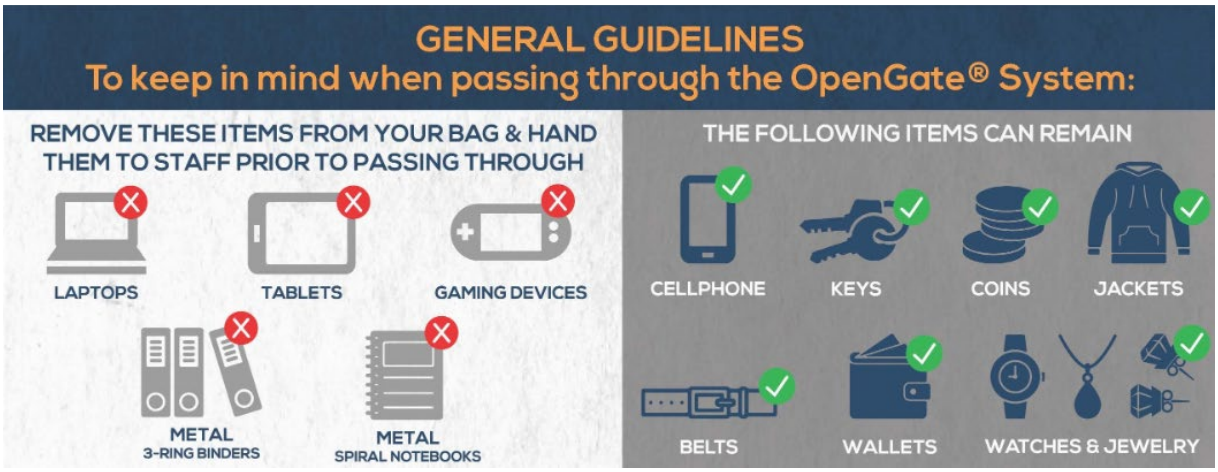
Student ID's

Every student will be issued an ID card at the beginning of the school year. This ID card will be visibly displayed on the student's perso. ID's are required to enter campus. Any student entering campus without an ID will have a new card printed in the front office. Replacement cards are $5. Students may wear their own lanyard or purchase a NPHS lanyard for $2.

Campus Entry / OpenGate

Students and visitors entering campus will pass through OpenGate. OpenGate is a walk-through metal and weapons detection system designed to rapidly scan people for dangerous and prohibited items. The goal is to provide a quick, unobtrusive way to bring an additional layer of safety and security.

Laptops or other items will need to be removed from backpacks and passed to staff to avoid the system from alerting. If the detector's lights turn red, individuals will be asked to go through the detection system a second time. If the red signal appears again, individuals will be escorted to a secondary screening location and their backpacks and personal items will be searched as part of a more thorough investigation.



Campus Expectations

NPHS Campus Pride

We are very proud of our campus. The custodial staff works every day to keep our campus clean and neat. This is an impossible task without the students' help and support. Waste receptacles are located in all areas, and everyone should make a special effort to see that these receptacles are used. All trash should be put into these receptacles. **This is your campus, so we want to keep it clean and neat.**

Care of School Property

Each student is responsible for the proper care of all books, supplies, and furniture supplied by the school. A student who vandalizes or does damage to school property or equipment will face progressive disciplinary action and be required to pay for the damage done or replace the item.

Hall Passes / SmartPass

No student should be outside the classroom during the school day without an electronic SmartPass issued with the permission of their assigned teacher or another staff member. It is the student's responsibility to have a smartpass while outside the classroom. All electronic devices, including ear buds, should be left in class when a student is out on a pass during instructional time. Any student out of class without a pass, without a visible school ID, out of their assigned areas, or with an electronic device, will be sent back to their assigned class and are subject to progressive discipline.

Restroom Use

Restrooms are designated for their intended use only. They should not be used for time-outs, phone calls, breaks, or any inappropriate activities, including vandalism or smoking/vaping. If a student anticipates being late to class due to a restroom visit, they should check in with their teacher first.

For safety and privacy, only one student is allowed per stall. Being in a stall with another student will result a student search and a referral.

Students must receive a SmartPass to use the restroom during class time and may only use the restroom they are assigned on the pass. Any student found using a restroom different than the one they are assigned is subject to progressive discipline.

Electronic devices should remain put away while going to, from, or inside the restroom, and should remain in the classroom when using the restroom during class time.

Lunch

North Port High School is operated under a **closed campus policy**. All students must remain on campus during the school day. No one is allowed off campus for lunch. Each student shall have 30 minutes for lunch. The school cafeteria has a designated indoor and outdoor eating area where students are supervised. Food may not be taken outside of the cafeteria or outdoor eating area. Students who are not in designated areas during their assigned lunch are subject to discipline.

Students MAY NOT order lunch from outside vendors or have food delivered to the school during school hours by their family or friends. Any attempted food deliveries will not be accepted by the front office and North Port High School will not be responsible for any financial loss because of the rejected delivery.

Lockers

Lockers and PE lockers will be available to the students for a $5.00 usage fee. The locker and lock are the property of the School Board. Use only the locker assigned to you and keep it locked. It is your responsibility to lock up your items in the locker. Do not tamper with another locker or give your combination to another person. Lockers are provided as a service to students, and the school accepts no responsibility for the contents of any locker or any items lost or stolen if a student fails to use a locker. A student's locker or other storage area is subject to search, upon reasonable suspicion, for prohibited or illegally possessed substances or objects.

Lost and Found

Any student who finds lost articles is asked to take them to the Attendance Office where the owners can claim them. Items are kept until June of each school year.

Parent Pick-Up

A student being picked up or dropped off by his/her parents must use the designated pick-up area that is in the front area of the campus. Parents are strongly encouraged to use the pick-up and drop-off locations in the front of the Gymnasium. **Any student being picked up during the school day must be signed out through the attendance office. During the school day parents should park in a designated visitor's parking space. See the attendance policy for specifics on early dismissal procedures.**

Student and Family Rights and Responsibilities

The district publishes a Student and Family Handbook each year to provide families with important information about procedures, behavior, academics and health. The handbook is online in several languages at https://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/. Please use the District handbook to assist your student in becoming a productive member of his/her school community. Families, it is your responsibility to read, understand and abide by the District handbook, while supporting your students in doing the same.

The roles and the responsibilities of the **parents/guardians** are to:

- Read and understand the rights and responsibilities in this handbook.
- Maintain current home and work addresses and emergency telephone numbers in the student contact information files, including the doctor and hospital preferences.
- Be involved in the education of their children and understand that parents/guardians can be held responsible for the actions of their children.
- Inform the school of pending legal matters that may affect their child.
- Maintain communication with school personnel concerning their child's academic progress and conduct.
- Ensure that their child is in daily attendance and promptly report an absence or tardiness in writing to school within three school days after an absence.
- Provide their child with the resources needed to complete class work.
- Assist their child in being healthy, neat, and clean.
- Identify responsible adults who may pick up their child from school.
- Bring to the attention of school authorities any problem or condition which affects their child or other children at the school.
- Understand policies related to the dispensing of medicine to students and the prohibitions against student self-medicating and sharing medications with other students. Notify the school of anything that may affect the student's ability to learn, to attend school regularly, or to take part in school activities.
- Understand each school's guideline for student arrival on campus prior to the official start of the school day and student departure from campus at the end of the school day. Comply with transportation policies and understand that bus drivers may not allow students off the bus except at the designated stop unless permission is granted by a school administrator and the Transportation Department.
- Understand the rights of school officials and law enforcement officers regarding the search of student storage spaces and vehicles.
- Report knowledge of dangerous or harassing situations to school personnel.
- Discuss progress reports and work assignments with their child.
- Remember that silence hurts!
- Report criminal or dangerous activities to school administration or contact the school district Safety, Security & Emergency Management Department at 941-966-SAFE(7233).
- In case of an emergency, call 911.

The roles and responsibilities of the **students** are to:

- Read and understand the rights and responsibilities in the Code of Student Conduct.
- Abide by the rules and regulations of the school and each classroom teacher.
- Attend all classes daily and be punctual in attendance.
- Be prepared for class with homework and appropriate work materials.

- Be respectful of all individuals and property.
- Use appropriate language rather than profane or inflammatory statements.
- Behave in a safe and responsible manner.
- Be clean and neat and comply with the school dress code.
- Be responsible for his or her own work.
- Report knowledge of dangerous or harassing situations to school personnel. Remember: silence hurts!
- Report criminal, dangerous or harassing to school administration or use the FortifyFL app to anonymously report suspicious or disconcerting activity.
- In case of an emergency, call 911.

The roles and responsibilities of the **school** are to:

- Create a safe, orderly, and drug-free environment and maintain an atmosphere conducive to teaching and learning.
- Exhibit an attitude of respect for students, staff, parents, and visitors.
- Administer discipline based upon the fair and impartial treatment of all students. Plan a flexible curriculum to meet the needs of all students.
- Promote training for all staff in the areas of effective discipline and behavior management.
- Develop a good working relationship among staff and with students.
- Encourage frequent parent/guardian communication with the school.
- Encourage parent/guardian participation in school activities.
- Provide all written and oral communication between school personnel and parents of current or former English-Language Learners in the parents' primary language or other mode of communication commonly used by the parents unless clearly not feasible. Specific Authority 1001.02 FS. Law Implemented 1003.56 FS., as amended by Chapter 2002-387, Laws of Florida. History: New 10-30-90.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

This section summarizes the broad principles of student rights. Each right has a corresponding responsibility in a free and democratic society. A primary responsibility for students is to understand the importance of reporting dangerous, potentially dangerous, or harassing behaviors to school personnel. The following rights and responsibilities are basic and reflect recent court decisions regarding student rights.

- Florida school laws grant principals, assistant principals, teachers, bus drivers, and other school staff the authority to control and discipline students. Students are expected and required to follow the requests and directives of all administrators, teachers, bus drivers, school staff members, coaches, school volunteers and chaperones when on School District property or at other places where they are under the supervision of School District personnel or designees.
- Students have a right to learn through equal educational opportunities that are appropriate to their needs and are provided in a safe, orderly, positive, and drug-free environment.
- Students have the responsibility to:
    - Behave in a manner that does not interfere with the learning of other students.
    - Utilize the educational experiences made available to them.
    - Cooperate fully and exert every effort to achieve mastery of basic skills.
    - Behave in a manner consistent with school and district rules and policies.

Academics

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is founded on the principles of respect for knowledge, truth, scholarship and acting with honesty. Representing someone else's work as your own is dishonest. It compromises your integrity and diminishes what we stand for as a school community. We believe that your success is dependent on your efforts. Your work represents what you can and cannot do. North Port High School is intolerant of scholastic dishonesty.

The district publishes a Student and Family Handbook each year to provide families with important information about procedures, behavior, academics, and health. The handbook is online in several languages at www.SarasotaCountySchools.net.

Cheating includes, but is in no way limited to the following:

- Copying others' homework and claiming it as your own.
- Allowing someone to copy your work.
- Looking on another student's test or quiz or letting another student look on your test or quiz.
- Reporting to other students what is on a test or quiz, including providing questions or answers.
- Writing answers on any part of the body, clothing, etc.
- Asking for assistance or copying answers during any type of assessment.
- Doing work on computers and making multiple copies to distribute to others.
- Plagiarism, i.e., copying verbatim a reference or internet source without giving credit.
- Using artificial intelligence (AI), including but not limited to text generators, essay writers, or any technology that generates content automatically
- Programming answers to a test/quiz into cell phones, calculators and/or other technology.
- Other instances may arise that are considered dishonest and will be subject to the same consequences at the discretion of school administration.

Grading System

A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C= 70-79 D = 60-69 F = 0-59

See your course syllabus for details regarding individual class grading systems.

Graduation Requirements

North Port High School is subject to promotion, progression, and graduation policies as mandated by the School Board of Sarasota County and the State of Florida. Specific grade level information is available in the Guidance Office and each student is encouraged to carefully review all requirements for graduation with his/her counselor.

Course	Credits
English	4
Math (including Alg 1 and Geo)	4
Science (including Biology)	3
World History (Grade 10)	1
American History (Grade 11)	1
American Government (Grade12)	.5
Economics (Grade 12)	.5
Practical and Performing Arts	1
HOPE	1
Personal Finance and Money Management	.5
Electives	9.5
Total	**26**

Additional Requirements

- A passing score on the 10th Grade FAST PM 3 Reading and Algebra 1 EOC Assessments
- A minimum GPA of 2.0

Homework Policy

Please refer to the teacher's syllabus.

Employability Skills

In keeping with the School Board rule regarding employability skills, attendance is part of every student's grade. Twenty percent (20%) of the grade will be based on the development of the following positive work habits: attendance, punctuality, bringing required materials, maintenance of an assignment notebook, completion of homework, appropriate dress for class, attitude of cooperation with staff and students, and time in class devoted to the appropriate task. These skills will be clearly outlined in the course syllabus developed by the instructor of every course. The syllabus will define teacher expectations and methods of documentation.

Registration and Scheduling

It is very important that you select your courses carefully. **The ONLY schedule changes that will be allowed during the FIRST TWO weeks of school are the following:**

- Students who have not taken a course pre-requisite
- Students who have missing classes
- Students who did not get required teacher approval of a course

- Course level placement, academic acceleration
- If you need any help in selecting your classes for next year, please seek the advice of your guidance counselor.

Report Cards

Report cards are available at the end of each nine-week session. The grading periods will end each quarter. Report cards will be available on the Parent/Student portal approximately 7-9 days after each of these dates. Parents are strongly encouraged to check their students' progress regularly on the Focus Portal**.**

Parent Portal

Grades and attendance should be monitored by students and families regularly via the **Focus parent portal. Students and parents are strongly encouraged to monitor their academic progress and attendance regularly on the Focus Portal.** Progress reports and report cards are also made available through this portal.

Senior Responsibilities

- Check for credits and testing requirements with School counselors by October 1 of senior year.
- Purchase cap and gown.
- Utilize School Links for college application process, which includes counselor documents and transcript requests.
- Provide brag sheets to school counselors and teachers at least two weeks prior to requested letter of recommendation.
- It is recommended that all college applications are submitted before 11/1
- Complete all Financial Aid requirements including FAFSA and Bright Futures applications
- Make sure all graduation and future plan requirements have been fulfilled

Attendance

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is imperative to student achievement and success.

Please see the district attendance policy at https://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/o/scs/page/section-2-attendance-activities

Acceptable reasons for an Excused Absence

- Student illness (if documented by parent/guardian or medical doctor).
- Observance of a religious holiday/service by members of student faith.
- Medical appointment with documentation.
- Death or documented major illness in the immediate family.
- Subpoena by law enforcement agency or mandatory court appearance.
- Other absences beyond the control of the parent, as approved by the principal.

Absence Procedures

- Absence notes must be emailed to 1251-Attendance@sarasotacountyschools.net or submitted to the Focus portal within three (3) days of absence
- Parents/guardians must include the following in the email/note
    - Student's full name
    - Date of absence
    - Email address – must be the one listed in the parent portal
    - Reason for absence (all notes without a reason will not be processed)
- Parent notes that exceed 3 consecutive days may require further documentation. Parents can excuse up to nine (9) absences per semester. Further documentation is required for absences exceeding that limit.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS
A doctor's note will be required after excessive absences. Any student who has 15 unexcused absences within a rolling 90-day period is habitually truant and will be reported by the Superintendent to the Department of Highway and Safety and Motor Vehicles resulting in suspension of a driver's license or permit.

Early Dismissal Procedures

- Early dismissal notes must be emailed to 1251-Attendance@sarasotacountyschools.net
- Parents/guardians must include the following in the email
    - Student's full name
    - Date and time student is leaving
    - Email must be received prior to 9:30 am to be processed.
    - Email address must be the one listed in the parent portal
- Once an email is sent, the student will be called to the Attendance Office to obtain an early dismissal pass which will excuse them from class at dismissal time.
- When leaving campus, students must sign out through the Attendance Office.
- If the student returns to campus that day, the student will report back to the Attendance Office, sign in, and receive a pass back to class.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS
There will be no students dismissed after 1:45 pm unless previously arranged. When picking up your child for early dismissal, there is no need to come into school if the process above has been followed.

Unexcused Absences

- Inadequate or unacceptable reason for the absence, i.e. car trouble, oversleeping, alarm and power failures are all unexcused.
- Results from school disciplinary action.
- Truancy.

Students must meet attendance and tardy requirements outlined above to participate in Student Government-Sponsored Events.

Driver's License Law

Students who have excessive 15 unexcused absences in a 90-day period will be reported to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV). Monitoring of attendance for driving privileges is done by class periods. Students who hold a Florida driver's license will have their license suspended if they accumulate excessive periods of unexcused absences. Students who have not yet received their driver's license may be unable to obtain a license. Application for reinstatement of the driving privilege can be made after the student has attended school for 30 consecutive school days with no unexcused absences, including single-period absences. There is a hardship appeal process; parents/guardians should check with school administration for information regarding appeals.

Tardiness

- Students must report to all classes on time.
- Students who arrive late will be marked tardy by their classroom teacher. Consequences for late arrival are as follows. Tardies beyond the 4th occurrence will be addressed by administration as defiance/ insubordination.

All possible actions have not been included on this chart, and the omission of any behavior from this chart does not preclude the school administration from taking appropriate action to resolve the situation.

	Occurrence #1	**Occurrence #2**	**Occurrence #3**	**Occurrence #4**
Z 1.1 **Tardiness, Habitual** *Reporting late to school or class as evidenced by district procedures.*	• Relationship Based Practices • Parent/Guardian Contact • Notice of Concern	• Parent/Guardian Contact and/or Conference • Loss of Privileges • Detention • Relationship Based Practices • Notice of Concern	• Parent/Guardian Contact and/or Conference • Loss of Privileges • Relationship Based Practices • Event & Discipline Report • Referral to Truancy Procedures • Attendance Contract	• Parent/Guardian Contact and/or Conference • Loss of Privileges • Relationship Based Practices • Event & Discipline Report • Check-In & Check-Out • Attendance Contract

- After 7:30 am all students must report to the front window of the attendance office which is accessed through the front office. Students will sign in and receive a pass to enter class. If a student has a valid note for being tardy**, it will be turned into the attendance office at that time.
- On time arrival is a key factor in our Bobcat PRIDE expectations. Be on time!
- Chronic tardiness will lead to consequences such as but not limited to:
    - Loss of parking privileges
    - No admission to prom, homecoming, and/or Grad Bash
    - Loss of employability points in class. (students may earn back employability points at teachers' discretion)

Make-up Work

A student who has an excused absence, or an absence resulting from a suspension, shall be expected to make up the missed work. Students on suspension should complete all work upon their return to school. In the case of all other unexcused absences, students will be afforded an opportunity to make up the work; however, there may be an academic penalty at the discretion of the teacher. A student must complete all work missed within a time frame equal to the number of days absent.

Participation in Student Government-Sponsored Events

For students to take part in after school social events, such as Prom, Grad Bash, or Homecoming, they must meet the following requirements:

- Unexcused absences
    - Homecoming – no more than 3 unexcused absences
    - Prom/Grad Bash – no more than 8 unexcused absences
- Tardies
    - Homecoming – no more than 5 in a single class period
    - Prom/Grad Bash – no more than 10 in a single class period
- Grade point average (GPA)
    - Homecoming, Prom, and Grad Bash – 2.0
    - Homecoming/Prom court – 2.5
- No unsettled fines or fees
- Disciplinary referrals will be considered individually

Student Expectations and Conduct

Code of Conduct

All students enrolled in school shall be subject to the laws, regulations of the State Board of Education, the rules and policies of the School Board and the Code of Student Conduct and shall be under the control and direction of the principal or designee during the time they are transported to or from school at public expense, during the time they are attending school or a school-sponsored activity, and during the time they are on School Board premises for school attendance and authorized activities.

The primary purpose of school is educational; therefore, the following statements are to serve as guidelines for acceptable behavior.

- Students are required to attend all scheduled classes.
- During lunch periods, students should remain in the cafeteria or designated outdoor eating areas.
- Students must have a hall pass and teacher permission to be excused from classes to go to other areas.
- Students are financially responsible for lost/damaged school equipment, supplies, and textbooks.
- Students must always remain on the school grounds. Parking lots are off limits to students during the school day.
- Students are not permitted to use or be in possession of any vaping or tobacco/nicotine/THC products to school. Any student found smoking, including electronic cigarettes or possessing

tobacco/nicotine/THC products, will be suspended and/or fined and face progressive discipline for multiple offenses.

- **Students must always wear Student IDs while on campus.**
- **Students will refrain from recording other students or staff. Students will not record or post unwanted images or videos of students and/or staff.**
- **Students placed on a Second Chance Agreement will be placed on the no-event list and are subject to loss of extracurricular activities per their administration.**

Conduct at Athletic and School Activities

Students are expected to exhibit proper behavior at both home and away events. This includes no fighting, booing or heckling, throwing or dropping of refuse and no loitering in the immediate area before or after an event. School policy prohibiting the use or possession of tobacco, vape/nicotine products, drugs and alcohol applies at all events in which the school is involved, regardless of the site. Students on out-of-school suspension may not attend any school-related activities.

Dress Code Policy

The Sarasota County School District has established procedural guidelines for student dress, in accordance with School Board Policy 5.37. Individual schools are expected to use the District dress code guidelines as minimum standards and are encouraged to extend their own standards to meet the uniqueness of their school community. The principal or their designee's decision on the appropriateness of dress will be final. Refusal to comply with the school's dress code policy is an infraction under this code and is subject to progressive discipline.

Students have a **right** to;

- Wear appropriate clothes as long as those clothes or the way the clothes are worn are appropriate for the school setting, adhere to the school dress code, are not dangerous to health or safety, and do not disrupt the learning environment.
- Learn without a disruption to the school or classroom environment

Students have a **responsibility** to;

- Comply with the school dress code.
- Wear their current/valid student ID (visible at all times).
- Be respectful of their peers at all times regardless of what they are wearing.
- Come to school fully clothed and wear clothes which are not dangerous to health or safety, do not disrupt the learning process, and stay within the school dress code.
- Dress in a way not offensive to others at school or at school-sponsored events, including, but not limited to:
- At all times, no:
    - exposed undergarments
    - jeans, shorts, skirts, dresses or pants worn below the hips; jeans, shorts, skirts, dresses or pants with rips above the mid-thigh
    - excessively short skirts, shorts, or dresses that at any time expose underwear or body parts in an indecent or vulgar manner
    - pajamas or slippers

    - excessively low-cut tops see-through clothing (includes mesh material mid-thigh and above)
    - clothing of an ethnic or racially offensive nature
    - blankets, beach towels, or sheets
- Clothing must cover the midriff when standing naturally
- Sleeveless shirts must have straps with a minimum width of one inch (about two fingers) and the gap below the armpit cannot be excessive of three inches (about four fingers)
- Not wear items or markings which are offensive, suggestive, indecent, or associated with gangs, as identified by the Florida Gang Intent Act of 1990.
- Not wear items which encourage the use of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, violence, weapons, or support discrimination on account of race, color, religion, ethnic or national origin, age, disability, veteran or military status, marital status, pregnancy, sex, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation.
- Follow the flag etiquette and not wear the United States flag as an article of clothing as outlined in the U.S. Flag Code – Title 4, Section 8

Any student wearing inappropriate clothing that cannot be modified to comply with the dress code will be sent to ISR in rm. 4-101 where they will be required to turn in their non- compliant article of clothing and put on school provided replacement item that complies with the District Policy. The non-compliant item of clothing will remain in rm. 4-101 until the end of the day. Parents will be made aware of the dress code infraction. A student who continually wears inappropriate clothing to school or school-related events will be subject to progressive disciplinary actions.

Technology/Cell Phone/Electronic Device Policy

Technology is an integral part of a student's educational experience and must be used in a way that is consistent with the goals of Sarasota County Schools. Technology includes, but is not limited to, computers, smart phones, other electronic devices, software, email, the Internet, other network resources, and cameras. Student use of technology is a privilege; students are responsible for using technology appropriately. This includes the use of school district equipment away from school grounds.

Students may possess an electronic device at school. Tablets, smartphones, smart devices, laptops or other devices or technology that receive, send or store digital data are acceptable, provided that the students are using the devices for educational purposes, in conformance with School Board policies and procedures, and have permission from a staff member at the school. The School Board is not responsible for preventing theft, loss, damage, or vandalism to electronic devices or technology brought onto its property or vehicles or used during or for a school-related purpose. Refer to Sarasota County School Board Policy 5.38 below.

By default, electronic devices (including earbuds) **MUST** be silenced and kept away when entering a class or office. Students are permitted to use their cell phone/electronic devices **ONLY** under teacher direction for instructional purposes, which will be indicated by a green "**Electronic Devices Permitted**" sign. If the sign indicates "**Electronic Devices Must Be Silenced and Put Away**," then all personal electronic devices should be kept silenced and put away in the student's bag or teacher's designated cell phone caddy.





Possession of District technology or personal technology by a student is a privilege that may be forfeited if the student fails to abide by the terms of District policy or law or otherwise engages in misuse of this privilege. Violations of this or other District policies or law may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the technology or device. If the technology or device is confiscated, it will be returned to the student's parent or guardian as defined by Florida statute.

For more District information on cell phone policy, please refer to:
https://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/o/scs/page/538-student-use-of-electronic-devices

The following are inappropriate and/or illegal uses of technology:

- Photographing or using photographs of individuals without their knowledge or consent
- Accessing or distributing offensive, inflammatory pornographic or obscene images, language or materials, including screen savers, backdrops, and/or pictures on school district-owned technology or on any other electronic device brought to school
- Transmission of any materials in violation of federal, state, or local law, or School Board policy, regulation, or Code of Student Conduct. This includes, but is not limited to copyrighted material; threatening, obscene, or pornographic material; vandalizing data, test questions and/or answers; student work products; trade secrets; and computer viruses, "worms" or "Trojans"
- Utilizing technology for commercial activities unless explicitly permitted by the School Board
- Downloading and/or printing music, games, videos or inappropriate files during school hours
- Modifying the school district's original pre-set software or hardware, including, but not limited to: loading software applications not authorized by the school district; changing the computer name; changing or removing operating system and extensions; altering security/filtering software; altering the pre-loaded operating system or application; or taking apart the computer for access to internal parts, accessing or altering password
- Using email, instant messaging, web pages, or other technology operations to threaten, disrupt, or interfere with the safety and welfare of the school community
- Gaining or attempting to gain unauthorized access to the district's network, computer servers, or data files utilizing district equipment

- Profanity, obscenity, other language which may be offensive to another user, or reposting and copying personal communications without the author's prior consent, when using computer network access
- Attempting to log on to the district's network using another person's identity
- Bypassing or attempting to bypass the district's filtering software
- Using computers, networks, and online telecommunication systems unrelated to students' educational systems. This includes the prohibition of plagiarism, reproduction of state- or teacher-made tests, textbooks, teaching materials, non- authored text, cheating and theft of ideas
- Accessing or distributing offensive, obscene, inflammatory, or pornographic material
- Using network access to destroy information that belongs to others
- Copying personal communication to others without the original author's permission
- Copying software or other copyright-protected materials in violation of copyrights laws
- Using the network for any illegal activity or private business purposes or accessing inappropriate Internet sites
- "Hacking" into the school's computer systems or unauthorized modification of computer setting. These acts will be considered vandalism and disruption of a school function and will be treated as such.
- Using technology to threaten, harass or bully other students or staff
- Using a computer, video, camera, or program in any manner other than for appropriate educational purposes

Fighting Policy

Any student involved in a fight, defined as an exchange of physical aggression (including hitting, slapping, pushing, shoving, kicking, or other physical contact), is subject to disciplinary action. Consequences may include out-of-school suspension, a Second Chance Agreement, and/or a recommendation for expulsion. In addition, law enforcement may pursue criminal charges when appropriate. These consequences will align with the district student code of conduct and follow progressive discipline.

Students who witness or become aware of a potential conflict should immediately report it to a teacher, administrator, or campus security officer. Students should never attempt to resolve conflicts through physical confrontation. School staff and administrators are responsible for addressing and resolving these situations safely and appropriately.

Students who encourage, instigate, or promote fighting—including spreading rumors, encouraging others to fight, or acting as a go-between for individuals who later engage in a fight—are subject to the same disciplinary consequences as those directly involved in the altercation.

Students who experience intimidation, harassment, or threats from another student should report the behavior to a staff member or administrator immediately.

Fighting is prohibited on school grounds, on school buses, and at all school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events. School administrators will work in collaboration with School Resource Officers regarding any potential legal consequences. Students who record, distribute, or share videos of a fight or

other violent incident may also be subject to disciplinary action comparable to those involved in the incident.

Harassment/Bullying

Harassment and bullying, including cyberbullying, are not tolerated at NPHS. If you are a witness to bullying or harassment, or a victim of it, please notify a staff member immediately. For clarification on the district policy please refer to: https://sarasotacsfl.sites.thrillshare.com/o/scs/page/270-bullying-and-harassment

Tobacco/Nicotine/THC Products

In compliance with the Florida State Law, use or possession of tobacco, nicotine or THC products by any student is prohibited on school grounds. Students who disregard this policy will be referred to an administrator for disciplinary action. Students who are found using or in possession are subject to progressive discipline and monetary fines as determined by law enforcement.

Safety and Security

Emergency Procedures

Drills at regular intervals are required by law and are an important safety precaution. It is essential that when the first signal is given, everyone obeys orders promptly by the prescribed route as quickly as possible. The teacher in each classroom will give instructions to the students.

Emergency Drills

Lockdown Drill

- Report to safe corner
- Remain quiet
- Turn off cell phones
- Disregard any fire alarms during lockdown
- Listen for administration or police to clear the lockdown and announce completion of drill

Fire Drill

- Leave belongings behind
- Evacuate in a calm manner to the designated area
- Remain with your teacher until the completion of the drill
- Once drill is cleared, return to the classroom

Bomb Threat Drill

- Evacuate to the football field or another designated area
- Remain with your teacher until the completion of the drill
- Once drill is cleared, return to the classroom

Prohibited Items on Campus

Any item, which may cause an interruption to the academic atmosphere or prove to be a safety hazard, will not be allowed on campus. Violations may result in serious disciplinary actions, including arrest if any criminal law is broken. Examples of disruptive or unsafe items would be:

- Skateboards/Roller skates/Roller blades (items should be placed in the SRO's office)
- Laser pointers
- Tobacco/vape/nicotine products
- Lighters/Matches/Paraphernalia
- Defensive spray such as pepper spray or Mace
- Other items deemed by administration or law enforcement to be a disruption or safety concern to the learning environment

Forbidden by Law* (State of Florida or School Board Policy)

- Possession of drugs, paraphernalia, or under the influence of drugs at school or a school activity
- Possession of, or under the influence of alcohol at school or a school activity
- Carrying a knife or any other weapon
- Disruption of school environment
- Serious vandalism or theft
- Physical violence/battery

*The police must be called for these offenses.

It is important that all students and parents understand that certain criminal and/or disruptive behavior must, by School Board Policy and Administrative regulations, be reported to the appropriate police authorities. Any person involved in the use, possession, sale or transmission of controlled substances, paraphernalia, or alcoholic beverages on school premises or at any school sponsored activity, except as prescribed by a licensed physician, will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Search Policy

300.4 — Student Search and Seizure: F.S. 1006.09 (9)

- **School personnel may search students reasonably suspected of being in possession of contraband or other prohibited items while on school district property or wherever students are under the official supervision of district employees, such as on field trips, at extracurricular activities, or while being transported to and from such places either by school bus, by approved drivers, or by other means of conveyance.**
- School personnel may conduct a search of a student, a student's possessions, a student's locker, or any other storage area on school property without a warrant when school personnel have reasonable suspicion that illegal, prohibited or harmful items or substances, or stolen property, may be concealed on a student's person or in a storage area.
- School personnel are encouraged to attempt to obtain consent from a student to search for illegal, prohibited, harmful items or substances, or stolen property, but may proceed with a search without a student's consent, upon reasonable suspicion of a prohibited or illegally possessed substance or object.
- School personnel have the authority to search a student's backpack, purse, or wallet, upon reasonable suspicion, if the student refuses to reveal the contents inside.

- School lockers are the property of the district and are subject to periodic searches without prior notice and without reasonable suspicion of a violation of the law.
- Parking a vehicle on school district property is a privilege that may be extended to students. All students desiring to park a vehicle on school district property shall be required to sign a consent form allowing the vehicle, upon reasonable suspicion, to be searched by the principal or his or her designee. Refusal of a student to cooperate in the request to search his or her vehicle shall result in the revocation of the student's parking permit for two (2) years from the date of refusal.

https://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/o/scs/page/531-student-detention-search-and-seizure

Reporting Suspicious Activity

Students are encouraged to use report suspicious or concerning activity to any trusted adult on campus. They may also use FortifyFL, an anonymous reporting system, to report suspicious or disconcerting activity. FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows students to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.



Visitors

Visitation to NPHS is strictly monitored to ensure campus safety and security. All visitors are subject to any state laws governing the state of Florida and must provide a driver's license at the front office to check in each time. There will be no student shadowing permitted at NPHS. Outside visitors must have prior approval from administration.

Extracurricular Activities and Athletics

Athletics/Interscholastic Activities Eligibility

To be eligible for athletics and interscholastic activities, a student must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 in all courses taken which are required for graduation. A student's eligibility is determined after each semester (not a nine-week grading period).

Athletic Participation

Prior to participating in athletics, the Florida High School Athletic Association requires that a student must provide the following through the HomeCampus portal:

- Pre-Participation Physical (FHSAA EL2, current school year)
- Consent and Release from Liability Certificate (FHSAA EL3)
- Parent/Guardian Release and Hold Harmless Agreement for High School Athletic Participation (notarized)
- Copy of current insurance carrier information or copy of insurance card if purchased through www.schoolinsuranceofflorida.com online
- Affidavit of Compliance with Policies on Athletic Recruitment and Non-Traditional Student Participation (FHSAA GA4, notarized)
- Acknowledgement of Standards for Participation in Athletic Activities
- Authorization to Release medical Information for Athletics
- Emergency Medical Treatment Field Trip Consent Form
- Release for Out-of-County or Overnight Travel for Athletics and Field Trips (notarized)

A complete packet can be obtained in the Athletic Office or downloaded and printed.

All of the above requirements must be turned into the Athletic Office prior to participating in any athletic activities.

All future and current athletes must be enrolled in activate.com before participating, practicing or playing. No exceptions!

See Athletic Director Mark Kemble in the Athletics Office or email mark.kemble@sarasotacountyschools.net with questions.

Clubs

All students are welcome and encouraged to participate in our after-school clubs. Parent permission forms will be required from each participant. The NPHS Student Government Association (SGA) and Inter-Club Council (ICC) oversee the organization and facilitation of all NPHS club activities. Information regarding all clubs can be found in the Guidance Office.

Each club requires a signed Parental Permission Form which will be provided by the club advisor.

Transportation

Busses

Students must be registered through the transportation department in order to ride the bus this school year. Parents can register their students through the district transportation website: https://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/page/2026-27-sy-register-for-a-bus. Students and parents can download the MyRide k-12 App and parent use guides to track your bus and receive transportation updates during the school year.

Student Parking

Students who are interested in parking at North Port High School should be aware of these policies. PARKING ON CAMPUS IS A PRIVILEGE. Due to limited space the following regulations will be in effect:

- Parking will be limited and assigned on a first come, first served basis.
- Any vehicle parked on campus must always display a valid parking decal and be parked in their assigned space.
- Drivers must obey state laws and school policies.
- No students are allowed in the parking lot during the school day without a pass.
- Failure to comply with school parking and driving regulations may result in a $20 citation on the first offense, $20 on the second offense, and suspension or revocation of parking privileges including forfeiture of the non-refundable parking decal on the third offense.
- Students with outstanding debts to NPHS will not be eligible for a parking permit.
- Administration may revoke parking privileges at any time in response to attendance or behavioral concerns.

Student Services

Media Center

Every student enrolled in North Port High School has the privilege of checking out media materials. Three (3) items (not including textbooks) may be checked out for three weeks and may be renewed unless there is a request for the item. Overdue or lost items will result in fines and loss of privileges. All fines must be reconciled prior to graduation.

Computers with Internet access and Microsoft Office are available for research purposes and staff is always on hand to assist. Students need a Media Pass to enter the Media Center during the instructional day but are encouraged to utilize the Media Center before school and after school. The hours of the NPHS Media Center are 7:00 am to 2:45 pm daily. Food and drink are not permitted.

Clinic, Illness and Medication

Any student too ill to remain in class should report to the school Clinic with a pass. The student may remain there for a short period of time or contact his/her parent for permission to leave school and go home.

The parent/guardian should notify the clinic immediately of a student's health concerns. A registered nurse provided by the County Health Department is on campus and will counsel any student on health-related issues.

Both prescription and non-prescription medications may be administered during school hours by the school nurse or a trained staff member, provided a completed and signed parental authorization and physician's order is on file with the school. Medication forms must be renewed each school year.

Over-the-Counter (OTC) Exception: A significant exception exists for **headache relief**. Students may possess and use FDA-regulated OTC medication for headaches while on school property or at school-sponsored events **without a physician's note or prescription**

Students found in possession of any other forms of medication while on campus or during any school related activity are subject to progressive discipline.

Student Support Team

All students have a designated **School Administrator, School Counselor,** and **ESE Instructional Facilitator (for students with an IEP)** to support their academic, behavior, and social/emotional needs. This team will work collaboratively with each student and their families to help them progress towards graduation and achieving their post-secondary plans, whether it be college, military, or the workforce. See page 4 for your Student Support Team.

Student Insurance

A group accident insurance policy is available to every member of the student body at a nominal cost. This school insurance is private coverage and not North Port High School insurance. Every student participating in athletics MUST be covered by insurance.

Family Information and Involvement

Change of Address or Phone Number

The parent/guardian must inform the Registrar's Office and update the information in the FOCUS Parent Portal if a change of home address or telephone number occurs.

Directory Information

Students' parent(s), as defined by Florida Statutes, shall be notified annually in the Student and Family Handbook that the School Board may release "directory information" to the general public. For clarification on the district policy please refer to: https://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/o/scs/page/571-directory-information

Release of Educational Records

School Board policy prohibits the release of educational records (other than directory information) of a student without written consent of the parent/guardian or student if 18 years of age.

School Advisory Council (SAC)

The SAC is comprised of members, which include the school principal, teachers, staff, parents, and students. The purpose of the council is to enhance school site decision-making regarding school improvement. Meetings occur the second Monday of each month and are open to the public. All interested parties are invited to attend. See the NPHS website or Facebook page for SAC updates and meeting dates/times.

Volunteers

We encourage parent involvement here at NPHS and need all parents of every parent booster organization to know that every hour you volunteer is important to us. Each volunteer must contact the volunteer coordinator or APA to verify approval prior to volunteering. Please make certain before you volunteer that you sign up electronically and log every hour with our front desk, or your organizations president, leader, etc. These hours earn awards for our school, and YOU are the reason we achieve the accolades and awards our school is achieving.

Financial Obligations

Fees

Students may be responsible for fees associated with school-issued items, privileges, and services. Fees may include, but are not limited to:

- Student parking permits. Permits are available for purchase from the Administration Office for $35
- Student Parking Violation Consequences
    - Students who violate campus parking rules will face the following consequences:
        - 1st Offense: $20 parking violation fine
        - 2nd Offense: $20 parking violation fine
        - 3rd Offense: Student parking privileges will be revoked and the vehicle will be subject to towing.
    - Students are expected to follow all parking regulations to maintain a safe and orderly campus environment. Repeated violations may result in additional disciplinary action.
- Replacement student identification (ID) cards
- Replacement lanyards
- Other school-issued materials, equipment, or services as determined by the school

Financial Obligations

A student owing money for library fines, parking fines, textbooks, etc., must meet his/ her obligations when due. Any student with financial obligations may be restricted from participation in school events, including graduation.

Any policy or procedure not addressed in this student handbook will defer to the policies set forth by the Sarasota County Schools Student Code of Conduct and Sarasota County School Board Policy.