

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2026-27

North Liberty School

Home of the Stars

523 Enola Road

Morganton, NC 28655

Phone: 437-9656



MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of North Liberty School is to provide a safe, supportive environment where students develop the communication, self-advocacy, and decision-making skills needed to reach their highest potential and achieve lifelong independence.



BURKE COUNTY
Public Schools

2023-2028
Strategic Plan

Our **All-In** Promise

People and Relationships First! The BCPS All-in Promise cultivates genuine relationships between students, staff, parents/caregivers, and the community. It recognizes the contributions of all, implements exemplary learning opportunities for all, supports well-being for all, and strengthens all school and community partnerships. We believe all students have a bright future and will make positive contributions to the community throughout their career journeys. While each student's path is unique, it is our responsibility to equip them with the educational tools they need to make their dreams come true. We are committed to all students to continuously improve school experiences by putting people first, offering Academic Opportunities For All (Goal 1), supporting All-around Well-being (Goal 2) and All Schools Connected to the Community (Goal 3).

Goals	Student Objectives	Faculty/Staff Objectives	Parents/Caregivers Objectives
Academic Opportunities for All	- Individual learning - Extracurriculars - Early learning - Post-secondary support - Digital resources	- Recruit - Retain - Support - Develop - Leadership - Personalize PD	- Resources - Engagement
All-around Well-being	- Safe environment - Instructional time - Relationships - Responsibility	- Safety training - Restorative practices - Mental/physical health - Substance abuse awareness/prevention	- Safety protocol resources - Social issue resources
All Schools Connected to the Community	- Student achievement recognitions - Service and workforce opportunities - Mentors	- Internal communication - External communication - Fiscal responsibility	- Parent collaboration - Parents/community engagement - Two-way communication between home and school
Measurables	Indicators for All Academic growth Graduation Rate Attendance Enrollment Retention		

Burke County Public Schools | www.burke.k12.nc.us | 700 E Parker Rd, Morganton | 828-439-4312



Welcome to North Liberty School!

Welcome! On behalf of the faculty and staff, I welcome you to North Liberty. I am pleased that you are part of our school community. Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education this year. I appreciate your involvement in making North Liberty a learning-centered environment that reflects an active partnership of students, staff, parents, and the community.

Our school serves students in grades Pre-K -12 with a curriculum specifically designed to meet the individual needs of each student based on the North Carolina Extended Content Standards. North Liberty has a strong vocational transitional program for our young adults. Students are provided with an individualized education plan that may include life skills education, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, adaptive physical education, assistive technology, library, and academics.

Our theme for this school year is, **Growing Every Day - Believe. Challenge. Grow.** This is a commitment we make to you, our students, and each other.

We believe every student has the capacity to learn, communicate, and become more independent.

We challenge students by creating meaningful opportunities to think, communicate, problem-solve, and persevere with the right level of support.

We grow together by celebrating progress, reflecting on our practice, and helping every student move forward from where they are today.

Burke County schools are committed to the belief that all children can learn. Our goal is to challenge each child with high expectations to learn, achieve, and fulfill his/her potential. Thank you for your support as a member of our school family. Feel free to call me at 828-437-9656 if you have questions or if I can help you in any way.

Sarah Call,

Principal, North Liberty School

North Liberty School Staff

Principal: Sarah Call Front Office: Karen Wheeler EC Coach: Jenny Kurzer School Nurse: Amanda Waters Custodian: Mary Woodard Media TA: Tammie Canerday PE: Jeff Duckworth		Tech Engineer: Ashley Sirkle, Kory Suttles Inst Tech Facilitator: Travis Childers School Psychologist: Hannah King Physical Therapist: Dan Perkins County AAC: Melinda Vasquez, Brandi Mull Speech Therapist: Kathy Long Occupational Therapist: Jacob Anderson, Megan Hollar	
	Teacher	TA	PCA
Pre-K	Amy Olsen	Lizzie Fisher	
Elementary	Laura Digh	Sharon Collins	Paula Cogdell
	Megan Wheeler	Dakota Nichols	
	Caitlin Mickles	Amber Poteet	Lilly Calebro
	Tabby Pearson	Shirley Hilton	Emily Ashworth
Middle	Chrystine Caldwell	Kelly Monk	Nikki Bradish Pam Walker
	Lori Wheeler	Audrey McCray	Amber McCall Barbara Simpson
High	Libra Deaton	Agana Johnson	Terra Karst Ila Simmons
	Monte Absher	Tammy Burleson	
	Wendy Williams	MeLisa Smith	Shawn Cassady Tabitha Kirk
	Kathryn Edwards	Amanda Thompson	

School Hours

School hours are from 8:00 am - 2:50 pm. Students are allowed to enter the building at 7:30 am. Students should be picked up by 3:05 pm. After 3:05 pm, students will be moved to the office for pickup. The office will be open daily from 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

Breakfast/Lunch

Breakfast will be served from 7:45 am to 8:15 am in the classrooms or the cafeteria at teacher discretion. Lunch will be served between 10:40 and 11:40 in the cafeteria. Breakfast and lunch will be free for all students this school year.

Communication

Communication between school and home is essential as we work together to meet the needs of our students. Class Dojo is an important communication tool at North Liberty School. Through Class Dojo you will receive updates from your student's teacher, our principal, and other important information throughout the year. Student planners are used for daily contact between home and school as well.

As concerns arise, we encourage parents to initiate conferences to enhance their child's progress. Conferences can always be scheduled as needed at a convenient time for the parent and the teacher. Please limit non-emergency phone calls to the teachers until after school. All non-emergency phone calls will be given to the teacher as a message, and the teacher will return the call as soon as possible without interrupting student instruction. Teachers are available before and after school for conferences to prevent interruptions of the instructional day.

Volunteers

Our volunteer program gives our school an opportunity to work with parents and the community in providing services to our students. Please ask your child's teacher about volunteering. Your services will be greatly appreciated. The principal must approve all volunteers.

Visitors

All visitors must report to the school office through the front door. Visitors must sign the visitor's log when entering the building. To maintain the safety of all students, parents will not be allowed to enter the hallway doors or back classroom doors during the instructional day.

Student Records

Your child's records are available for review at any time by appointment as outlined by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. When transferring to another school, let

the school know immediately. We will send records to the receiving school once we receive a record request.

Field Trips

When a field trip is to be taken, your child will bring home a permission form giving the destination and date. This form must be signed and returned to the teacher before your child can go on the trip. Please include an up-to-date phone number so we can contact you if needed. Only North Liberty students enrolled in the classroom attending the trip may participate.

Early School Dismissal/Delays

When weather conditions require early dismissals, delays in starting school, or school closings, you will receive a phone call from the automated phone system for Burke County Public Schools. In the case of an early dismissal, North Liberty School will follow the times set for elementary schools.

You will be sent a letter requesting information on arrangements for your child when we have early dismissal at school. This will include whether they are to ride the bus or if they will be picked up at school. Please complete this information and return it to the school office. In the event of any changes, please make sure we have updated contact information on file in the office so that you receive all automated communication from us.

****On half days, the NLS car rider line will begin dismissal at 11:20 a.m. to avoid traffic issues with Liberty Middle School.**

Attendance/Tardies

Students are expected to be in school and on time (8:00 am) except in cases of emergency, illness, or school-approved absences. Students must be present at least one-half day to be counted present.

Lawful Absences

The superintendent, principal, or teacher who is in charge of a school has the right to excuse a student temporarily from attendance on account of sickness or other unavoidable causes. Listed below are examples of lawful temporary nonattendance of a student at school.

- **Illness or Injury:** An illness or injury that prevents the student from being physically able to attend school.
- **Medical or Dental Appointments:** When the absence results from a medical or dental appointment of a student.
- **Death in the Immediate Family:** When the absence results from the death of a member of the immediate family of the student.

- **Court or Administrative Proceedings:** This child must be a party to the action or under subpoena.
- **Religious Observance:** Absence excused if the tenets (a principle or belief, especially one of the main principles of a religion or philosophy) to which a student or his/her parents adhere require or suggest an observance of a religious event.
- **Hospital/Homebound:** If a student is confined at home or in a hospital, cannot attend school, and receives homebound instruction from his/her home school/LEA, he/she is to be considered Hospital/Homebound. Once a school/LEA personnel has contacted the students to provide instruction, the student should be counted as PRESENT. The student should continue to be counted present for the span of time during which regularly scheduled hospital/homebound instructional services are delivered. Supporting documentation should be maintained at school.

Tardiness

A student is tardy after 8:00. A parent must walk the student into the front office if they arrive after 8:00, sign the student in, and wait for classroom staff to take the student to class. A doctor's or dentist's note will constitute an excused tardy.

Release of Students

1. If a child leaves during the school day, parents must check him/her out in the front office. Notify the school of any changes in persons permitted to sign out your child prior to the time of check out.
2. Please keep the school informed of any change in the workplace, telephone number, or address.
3. Students may only be picked up by individuals listed on your student's emergency contact information sheet. A valid license must be provided for identification.
4. Students will not be able to leave through the back classroom door or classroom hallway doors for early dismissals. For the safety of all students, all early check outs must be through the front office.

Transportation

The car unloading/loading area is at the first side entrance of North Liberty. Please follow the traffic flow and do not block bus entrances/exits or other cars. Car unloading/loading supervision is provided in the mornings and afternoons. Car riders cannot enter the school until 7:30 a.m. If your child is picked up before 2:50 p.m., you must go to the office and sign your child out. All students should be picked up before

3:05. At 3:05, your child will be taken to the office, and you will need to come into the building to pick up your child.

School Bus Conduct and Safety

We know you share our concern for the safety of every student who rides a school bus. We ask you to impress upon your child that it is absolutely necessary to follow the rules and obey the bus driver. Passengers must be on time. The driver cannot wait for tardy riders.

Student Behavior

All children need boundaries and expectations. Boundaries provide safety and security. Expectations enable students to grow and achieve their full potential.

We will:

1. Define/teach the boundaries.
2. Provide gentle guidance to redirect.
3. Use a consistent communication system to provide words for our students.

Supplies

Your child's teacher will provide you with a list of needed supplies for the year at Open House. They may also share requests for supplies for special classroom events or projects throughout the year. Every child needs to bring a seasonally appropriate change of clothing labeled with their name that includes top, bottom, underwear, and socks.