

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

"The Direction of Greatness"

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We are...Northwest! Go Mounties!

Northwest Alternative High School (NWAHS) is celebrating 35 years of offering new and innovative educational opportunities to students beyond traditional school.

Over the past 3 decades, NWAHS has adapted and changed our approach to traditional education based on the needs of our community. Being able to provide various pathways of education for all students has been a huge undertaking. Reaching out to our local community, we have been able to provide a top notch education for all students. Now, our program has expanded to be stronger than ever.

NWAHS has developed a great relationship with the Northwest High School. Many students take a class at the High School while they are enrolled at the Alternative. Class subjects can vary from PE, Art, World Language, and AP classes.

Annually, our sophomores tour the Jackson Area Career Center where they can choose the three areas of greatest interest to them. They are given time to explore each occupation in detail. At the end of the tour, students have the option to enroll in the career program of their choice.

Another avenue for our high school students is to attend Jackson College either in person or online. Jackson College has a number of various programs available to NWAHS students. Students can enroll in the Jackson College Early College 13th year, Dual Enrollment, or choose a certificate program. All classes and fees are paid by Northwest Community Schools.

YouthBuild, a non-profit organization created in 1990 by the US Department of Labor, is another opportunity that NWAHS has for our students. Students learn vocational skills in construction by splitting their time between classes at NWAHS and vocational on the job training. In addition to earning a Northwest High School Diploma, students enrolled in this program will also receive a pre-apprenticeship certification. In the YouthBuild program, students learn the importance of community service through the construction of affordable housing for low-income or homeless families. YouthBuild uses a wrap around support system to help students with academics, counseling,

employment, apprenticeships, and college. Students will learn how to work as a team, be a leader, and take care of the community.

Additionally, this year we have partnered with Michigan Works. The Michigan Works program focuses on three levels of Career Readiness. The program concentrates on soft skills and expectations in the workplace, individual portfolios, personal finance, time management, entrepreneurship, summer internships, assisting students file FAFSA (**Free Application for Federal Student Aid**) forms, learning about legislation and how it affects our daily lives, and participating in legislation at the State Capitol.

Finally, at NWAHS we offer an online program for our high school students called the Northwest Virtual Learning Program. This program has flexibility, as well as, parameters for our students to experience success. We allow students to participate in the Jackson Area Career Center or Jackson College in conjunction with our Virtual Learning Program.

The Northwest Alternative High School provides a variety of learning opportunities to our students. Partnering with local programs has given our students an unique education that reaches far beyond a traditional high school classroom. If you are looking for building great leadership skills, a sense of community, career readiness skills, vocational skills, solid common core education, and exposure to college classes, then the Northwest Alternative High School is the perfect educational experience for your student. Offering an expansion of educational choices for every student is essential. We have listened to the needs of our community, and have responded. We are Northwest. Go Mounties!

NWAHS Office of Student Services

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