

Nipher Middle School



Nipher Handbook 2025-2026

700 S. Kirkwood Rd, Kirkwood, MO 63122
Phone: 314-213-6180 Fax: 314-213-6178

KSD/Nipher Mission

To equip students with the skills, knowledge, and understanding to be empathetic, successful, and to value all people.

KSD/Nipher Vision

Every student- engaged, empowered, and ready for success.

KSD/Nipher Priority Areas

- Student and Staff Social-Emotional and Mental Health
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Relevant and Rigorous Curriculum and Programs
- Communication and Engagement

Nipher Welcome!

August 2025

Dear Nipher Families:

On behalf of our entire Nipher staff, we welcome you to the 2025-2026 school year! We are excited to begin the school year with you and look forward to a year of learning and growing in fun and unique ways.

Nipher is privileged to work with such an awesome group of students. As well, we are fortunate and thankful for families and community members who are an essential part of our educational team. It is through these strong partnerships that we can truly empower students to be compassionate, work as a team, and persevere.

This handbook was created as a quick reference to help answer various questions you may have as we progress through the school year. In this book, you will find information about our Nipher learning community. We ask that you review and discuss this information with your child.

Thank you in advance for your support and continued involvement in the education of our children. If you have any questions or concerns at any time throughout the course of the year, please don't hesitate to call or stop by the office. We are eager to help you and your children.

Sincerely,

Dr. Laura Havener
Principal

Dr. Beth Ruta
Assistant Principal

Mrs. Savannah Christian
Assistant Principal

Table of Contents

Nipher Contacts	6
Nipher Daily Schedule	11
Student Arrival to School	11
First Week of School	11
Last Day of School	11
Drop-Off Procedures	11
After School Pick-Up Procedures	12
Nipher Bell Schedule	12
Attendance	14
Guidance/Counseling	15
Communication	15
Infinite Campus	16
Schoolology	16
eBlast Newsletter (Nipher Knights News)	16
Conference Schedule	16
Getting Involved (PTO)	16
Academics	17
Curriculum	17
Report Card/Grading Practices	18
High School Credit	19
Gold N Award	19
Homework and Planners	19
Homeroom	20
Climbing Wall	20
Library	21
Field Trips	22
Turkey Trot	22
Copyright/Plagiarism	22
Student Expectations	23
PBIS	23
Discipline Policy	25
Dress Standards	26
Buses	26
Electronic Devices	27
School-Issued Technology	28
iPads	28
Conduct Code	29

After-School Activities	30
Power Hour	30
Intramurals & Clubs	31
School Safety	33
Our SRO	33
Emergency Contacts	34
Emergency Situations and Drills	34
Searches and Weapons	35
Staff Boundaries	35

Nipher Contacts

Principal, 6th Grade Administrator: Dr. Laura Havener

314-213-6100 x8301

laura.havener@kirkwoodschoools.org

Assistant Principal, 7th Grade Administrator: Dr. Beth Ruta

314-213-6100 x8303

beth.ruta@kirkwoodschoools.org

Assistant Principal, 8th Grade Administrator: Mrs. Savannah Christian

314-213-6100 x8303

savannah.christian@kirkwoodschoools.org

School Secretary (6th): Aimee Moore

314-213-6100 x8301

aimee.moore@kirkwoodschoools.org

School Secretary (7th and 8th): Rachel Walther

314-213-6100 x8303

rachel.walther@kirkwoodschoools.org

Counselor Grade 6: Lauren Wallace

314-213-6100 x8041

lauren.wallace@kirkwoodschoools.org

Counselor Grade 7: Carmon Griffin

314-213-6100 x8040

carmon.griffin@kirkwoodschoools.org

Counselor Grade 8: Nelson Taylor

314-213-6100 x8043

nelson.taylor@kirkwoodschoools.org

Registrar and Guidance Secretary: Olivia Patrick

314-213-6100 x8042

olivia.patrick@kirkwoodschoools.org

Clinic: Meghan Stemmermann

314-213-6100 x8030

meghan.stemmermann@kirkwoodschoools.org

Cafeteria:

314-213-6100 x8350

Nipher.Cafeteria@kirkwoodschoools.org

NIPHER STAFF

Faculty and Staff	Ext.	PA	Room Number	Department	Team
Actis, Luis	8239	9101	W-107	Math	6 West
Amen, Lindsay & Nuno, Molly	8020		Main Office 2	School Psychologists	Resource
Ampey-Elong, Tonya & Jones, LaToya	8060		S-221 (Guidance)	Social Worker/SEL Coach	Guidance
Bartz, Chris (Dr.)	8237\8238	6214\6213	NE-282\N-213	Band\Band Practice Room	Explo
Beckerle, Jennifer	8233	6209	N-209	Math	7 North
Bodenschatz, Craig	8236	6212	N-212	Social Studies	7 North
Brady, Dan	8261	5115	S-115	Science	7 North
Breckenridge, Kim	8258	8012	S-012	Science	6 West
Buesteton, Liz	8231	6205	N-205	Math	Specialist
Burchett (Ogle), Amy	8230		NE-284	SOAR	Specialist
Burruss, Lindsay	8208	7105	S-105	ELA	6 South
Cafeteria Manager	8350	7024	S-022 (Kitchen)	Cafeteria Manager	Support
Christian, Savannah	8303		W-103 (Main Office)	Assistant Principal (7th)	Admin
Cochran, Jessica	8240	9102	W-108	ELA	6 West
Compass Classroom (Bellamy, Lauren)	8046	5110	S-110	Alternative Learning	Support
DeSchryver, Danni	8470	6113	S-121 (South Gym)	Health & Wellness	Wellness
Drayton-Conway, Fariga	1314	7007	N-214	Orchestra	Explo
Earnhart, Matt	8217	7207	S-207	Math & Geometry	8 North
Ebeling, Jennifer	8025		S-206 (Conf. room)	ESC	Guidance
Evans, Lara	8224	6105	N-105	SSD	Resource
Forrestal, Maggie	8267	5213	S-213	Science	8 South
Frederich, Emily	8213	7202	S-202	French	World Lang.
Glover (Elking), Allison	8246	7107	S-107	Wellness	Wellness
Goeke, Patty	8262	5114	S-114	Science	7 East
Goelz, Katie	8223	6104	N-104	SSD	Resource
Grana, Tony	8259	8009	S-009	Health & Wellness	Wellness
Griffin, Carmon	8040		S-223 (Guidance)	6th Grade Counselor	Guidance
Havener, Laura (Dr.)	8301		W-106 (Main Office 2)	Principal (6th grade)	Admin
Hessler, Kim	8000		Main Office 1	Secretary	Support
Holley, Ellen (Dr.)	8245		NE-184	Art	Explo
Howard, Kay	8257	8011	S-011	Science	6 South
Hunter, Colleen	8220	5214	S-210	Social Studies	8 North
Jackson, David	8112	6112\7117	N-112\N-113	Industrial Tech Lab\Shop	Explo
Kindle, Jeff	8110	6110	N-110\N-112	Music & Choir	Explo
Kipp, Jason	8216	7205	S-205	Social Studies	8 South
Kowalski, Andrew	8209	7106	S-106	Math	6 South
Langford, Dan	8229	6202	N-202	Math	7 East
Lanier, Annette	8042		S-221 (Guidance)	Secretary & Registrar	Support
Laudel, Kathryn	8222	6102	N-102	Reading Coach	Specialist
Laxton, Allison (+ Paras)	8022	7100	S-103 (or S-100)	SSD	Resource
Manne, Tyler	8470	6113	S-121 (South Gym)	Health & Wellness	Wellness
McPheeters, Jenny	8252	6208	N-208	Math & Algebra	8 South
Midkiff, Cara	8266	5212	S-212	Science	8 North
Moore, Aimee	8301		W-106 (Main Office 2)	Secretary	Support
Mueller, Cheryl	8047	6203	N-203	Social Studies	7 East
Muller, Gina	8263	5113	S-113	ELL	Specialist

NIPHER STAFF

Oliphant, Annette	8226	6108	N-108	Speech & Drama	Explo
Palleja, Emma & Mayo, Kalen	2473	8256	S-112	SSD Social Workers	Support
Patt, Melissa	8215	7204	S-204	SSD	Resource
Paulus, Anna	8234	6210	N-210	ELA	7 North
Pettit, Lynze	8241	9103	W-109	Social Studies	6 West
Pribish, Megan	8000		Main Office 1	Secretary	Support
Ragsdale, Leah	8218	7208	S-208	ELA	8 North
Restorative Center (Adams, Anthony)	8256	8010	S-010	Restorative Center (ISS)	Support
Rockholm, Kelly	8225	6106	N-106	Speech & Language (SSD)	Resource
Rozycke, Trish	8050	8000	S-008 (Custodial)	Head Custodian	Support
Ruta, Beth (Dr.)	8303		W-102 (Main Office)	Assistant Principal (8th)	Admin
Ruzycki, Margaret	8212	5111	S-111	Spanish	World Lang.
Schneider, Erin	8248	7201	S-201	Spanish	World Lang.
Scimone, Adam	8044	7003	S-001	Science	Cross-Team
Sievers, Jenn	8265	5211	S-211	ELA	8 South
Spellmeyer, Christie	8225	6106	N-106	Speech & Language (SSD)	Resource
Stemmermann, Meghan	8030	6130	N-107 (Clinic)	Nurse	Support
Stemmler, TJ (SRO)	8021		Main Office 1	Safety & Security	Support
Stoffel, Stephanie	8250	6206	N-206	Math	Specialist
Sullivan, Cyndi	8221	6101	N-101	Reading Coach	Specialist
Sury, Hannah	8206	7101	S-101	Social Studies	Cross-Team
Taylor, Nelson	8043		S-225 (Guidance)	7th Grade Counselor	Guidance
TA Classroom	8075	7206	W-208	Teaching Assistants (TAs)	Support
Tegels, Alec	8253		W-104 (Main Office)	Technology Specialist	Support
Tinsley, Clayton	8471	6121	N-151 (North Gym)	Wellness	Wellness
Toigo, Michael	8232	6207	N-207	ELA	7 East
Unger, Mary	8211	7109	S-109	Math	Cross-Team
Varady, Rob	8228	6201	N-201	Health	Wellness
Velez, Allison	8249	6204	N-204	SSD	Resource
Vierling, Kristi	8235	6211	N-211	SSD	Resource
Wallace, Lauren	8041		S-227 (Guidance)	8th Grade Counselor	Guidance
Walther, Rachel	8303		Main Office 1	Secretary	Support
Wassman, Amy	8270		Main Office 2	SSD (Area Coordinator)	Resource
White, Christy (+ Leanne Groves)	8061	9204	W-201 (Library)	Librarian	Specialist
Wilke, Hannah	8207	7102	S-102	Social Studies	6 South
Wilkinson, Rachael	8214	7203	S-203	German	World Lang.
Williams, Jill	8210	7108	S-108	ELA	Cross-Team
Williams, Nathan	8260		NE-182	Robotics & PLTW	Explo
Witt, Daniel	8254	9203	W-204 (Lab 3)	Journalism & Yearbook	Explo
Classroom 5S (Basement)	8202	7005	S-005	Open Space	
Classroom 111N (1st Floor)	8111	6111	N-111	Open Space	
Classroom 209S (2nd Floor)	8219	5209	S-209	Open Space	
Book Room (ELA - 1st Floor)	8247		N-103		
Conference Room (2nd Floor)	8268	9202	W-203 (Lab 2)		
Faculty Lounge (2nd Floor)	8255	9201	W-202 (Lab 1)		
Storage Room (Basement)	8242		S-003		
Wellness Room	8045		S-006		



2025-2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR

August 4-8	New Teacher Orientation
August 5	6 th Grade Orientation at Nipher (by appt. only)
August 6	7 th & 8 th Grade Open House (10AM-6PM)
August 12	District Opening Day
August 13	Parent Curriculum Night @ Nipher (details TBA)
August 19	First Day of School for K-12 Students
August 27	Wagner picture make-up day, 8:00AM-11:00AM
September 1	Labor Day Holiday - District Closed
September 3	PTO meeting @ Nipher Library, 6:00PM
September 9	First day of after-school activities (3:00-3:55PM)
October 1	7 th & 8 th Grade Information Night @ KHS, 6:00PM
October 2	No School for Students
October 6-9	6 th Grade Get Outdoors Camp
October 9	Wagner picture re-take day, 8:00AM-12:00PM
October 15	Parent-Teacher Conferences (by appt.); No ASAs
October 16	End of Q1; Parent-Teacher Conferences (by appt.)
October 17	No School for Students; Parent-Teacher Conferences
October 20	Records Day - No School for Students
October 21	Staff Development Day - No School for Students
October 29	PTO meeting @ 6:00PM; Bandemonium @ KHS
November 4	Staff Development Day - No School for Students
November 5	Nipher Orchestra Concert @ KHS, 6:30PM
November 11	Nipher Band Concert @ KHS, 6:30PM
November 12	6 th Grade VIP Breakfast, 7:15AM-8:00AM
November 13 & 14	Nipher Fall Musical, 6:30PM (doors open @ 6:00PM)
November 19	Festival of Choirs @ KHS, 6:30PM
November 25	Annual Nipher Turkey Trot; No ASAs
November 26	No School for Students
November 27-28	Thanksgiving Recess - District Closed
December 8-12	Elementary Music Open House @ Nipher
December 11	Nipher vs. NKMS Volleyball Games, 3:00PM
December 19	End of First Semester
December 22	Records Day - No School for Students

AUGUST 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
SEPTEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
OCTOBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
NOVEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						
DECEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
JANUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
FEBRUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
MARCH 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
APRIL 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
MAY 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- First Day of School
- No School
- ▲ Last Day of School



2025-2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR

December 23-January 1	Winter Recess - District Closed
January 2	Staff Development Day - No School for Students
January 5	School Resumes (Q3 begins)
January 7	8 th Grade Information Night @ KHS, 6:30PM
January 13	Wagner new student picture day, 8:30AM-11:00AM
January 19	Martin Luther King Day - District Closed
February 4	Festival of Bands @ KHS, 7:30PM
February 5 & 11	Parent-Teacher Conferences (by appt.); No ASAs
February 11	PTO meeting @ Nipher Cafeteria, 6:00PM
February 13	Staff Development Day - No School for Students
February 16	Presidents Day - District Closed
February 19	Nipher vs. NKMS Basketball Games @ NKMS, 3PM
March 1	Festival of Strings @ KHS, 3:00PM
March 4	7 th & 8 th Grade VIP Breakfast; 5 th Grade Parent Night
March 5 & 6	Nipher Spring Musical, 6:30 PM (doors open @ 6PM)
March 6	End of Third Quarter
March 11	Night of Percussion @ KHS, 6:30PM
March 16-20	Spring Recess - District Closed
March 23	No School for Students
March 24	School Resumes
April 1	PTO meeting @ Nipher Library, 6:00PM
April 7	Staff Development Day - No School for Students
April 10	8 th Grade Class Photo, 2:40PM
April 17	Teacher Work Day - No School for Students
April 28	Nipher vs. NKMS Track Meet @ KHS, 3:30PM
May 1	8 th Grade Dance @ Nipher, 6:00-8:00PM
May 7	Last day of after-school activities
May 8	Last morning of EIM; Moving in the Middle Day
May 13	Nipher Band Concert @ KHS, 6:30PM
May 14	Nipher Orchestra Concert @ KHS, 6:30PM
May 18	8 th Grade Family Social @ Nipher, 5:00-7:00PM
May 21	Last Day of School for Students - Early Release
May 25	Memorial Day - District Closed

AUGUST 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
SEPTEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
OCTOBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
NOVEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						
DECEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
JANUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
FEBRUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
MARCH 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
APRIL 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
MAY 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- First Day of School
- No School
- ▲ Last Day of School

Nipher Daily Schedule

Building opens for students (Bell 1)	7:45am
School Begins (Bell 2)	8:00am
School Ends (Dismissal Bell)	3:00pm
Buses Leave	3:05pm
Activity Dismissal Bell	3:55pm
Activity Bus Leaves	4:00pm

NOTE: On days when After-School-Activities are in session, the Activity Bus will be available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays for students who qualify for bus transportation.

Student Arrival to School

Supervision for students begins at 7:45am. Doors will be locked before this time. Parents should drop off their student(s) after 7:45am. Students must report directly to their class upon arrival. (See Drop-Off Procedures on the next page for further information)

First Week of School

Tuesday, August 19th will observe a Friday Schedule
Wednesday, August 20th will observe a Wednesday Schedule
Thursday, August 21st will observe a Thursday Schedule
Friday, August 22nd will observe a Friday Schedule

Last Day of School

The last day of school is Thursday, May 21st. This is an early dismissal day. Early dismissal time is 11:25am. On this day, lunch will not be served.

Drop-Off Procedures

If you will be bringing your child to school, enter campus on the north side - closest to the Magic House. Follow the drive along the north side of the school and proceed around the back of the building to the south side near the basketball hoops.

Once your child exits the car onto the sidewalk (after 7:45), please drive slowly to exit campus. Students may be dropped off between **7:45am-7:55am**, as we do not have supervision before this time. Please do NOT stop and drop off your child in the middle of the drive as this may cause traffic to back up behind you, resulting in a dangerous situation as cars try to pull into our lot from Kirkwood Road.

After School Pick-Up Procedures

If you will be picking up your child from school, utilize the north parking lot on the north side- closest to the Magic House. For the safety of our students, the south side of our building is reserved for use by our school buses and students who walk. When you pull into the north parking lot, please pull up along the north side of the school and proceed around to the back of the building- the east side. You may wait in a line on the right side of the drive to pick up. Students should walk on the sidewalk that runs along the north and east sides of the school. Once you pick up your child, you may pull to the left to pass other waiting cars. Then, turn left onto School Drive and exit onto Angenette during pickup times of 3:00-3:10pm. Please do NOT stop and pick up your child in the middle of the drive as this may cause traffic to back up behind you, resulting in a dangerous situation as cars try to pull into our lot from Kirkwood Rd.

Nipher Bell Schedule

6th Grade

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-9:33	1 Homeroom/ WIN	2 Core or Wellness	1 Homeroom/ WIN	2 Core or Wellness	1 8:00-8:45 (HR) 2 8:48-9:33
9:36-11:12	3 Core or Wellness	4 Core or Wellness	3 Core or Wellness	4 Core or Wellness	3 9:36-10:22 4 10:25-11:10
11:15-12:30 1st Lunch 11:15-11:45 2nd Lunch 12:00-12:30	5 Explo	5 Explo	5 Explo	5 Explo	1st Lunch 11:13-11:43 5 11:43-12:27 OR
12:33-1:22	6 Explo	6 Explo	6 Explo	6 Explo	5 11:13-noon 2nd Lunch noon-12:30
1:25-3:00	7 Core or Wellness	8 Core or Wellness	7 Core or Wellness	8 Core or Wellness	6 12:30-1:17 7 1:20-2:07 8 2:10-3:00

7th Grade

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-9:33	1 Core or Wellness	2 Homeroom/ WIN	1 Core or Wellness	2 Homeroom/ WIN	1 8:00-8:45 2 8:48-9:33 (HR)
9:36-10:23	3 Explo & WL	3 9:36-10:22 4 10:25-11:10			
10:26-11:57	5 Core or Wellness	4 Core or Wellness	5 Core or Wellness	4 Core or Wellness	5 11:13-11:57 6 noon-12:47
Noon-2:10 1st Lunch 12:30-1:00 2nd Lunch 1:00-1:30	7 Core or Wellness	6 Core or Wellness	7 Core or Wellness	6 Core or Wellness	Lunch 12:50-1:20 7 1:20-2:07
2:13-3:00	8 Inst Music, Explo, WL	8 2:10-3:00			

8th Grade

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-9:33	1 Explo/WL or Core or Wellness	2 Core or Wellness or WL	1 Explo/WL or Core or Wellness	2 Core or Wellness or WL	1 8:00-8:45 2 8:48-9:33
9:36-10:24	3 Homeroom				3 9:36-10:22 (HR)
10:27-10:57	Lunch				Lunch 10:25-10:55
11:00-11:45	4 Explo: Instrumental Music or Wellness				4 10:57-11:42 (Explo)
11:48-1:22	5 Core or Wellness or WL	6 Core or Wellness or WL	5 Core or Wellness or WL	6 Core or Wellness or WL	5 11:45-12:32 6 12:35-1:22
1:25-3:00	7 Core or Wellness or WL	8 Core or Wellness or WL	7 Core or Wellness or WL	8 Core or Wellness or WL	7 1:25-2:12 8 2:15-3:00

Attendance

Early Dismissal:

If it is necessary to be excused early from school, the parent or legal guardian should call the main office to notify them they are on their way. Students will be called to the office at the pick-up time and can exit the main office when they have signed out AND when they see your car by the exterior “pencils.” Again, all students must sign out at the office when leaving the building.

Excessive Absences:

As a school, we realize that some absences are unavoidable. It becomes very difficult for a child to master a subject and to succeed in school when they are excessively absent. Missouri law mandates that we report excessive absences to the Family Court. Communication between school and home is very important for the success of our students. The following procedures are in place in order to assist in providing each child with the best opportunity to be successful.

When a child has exceeded five absences for any reason during a given quarter, a letter will be sent home making families aware of the exact number of days the child has been absent from school. At this time, a school counselor may become involved with the family.

If the student continues to have excessive absences, the assistant principal’s office will contact a parent or guardian via telephone. At this time, a meeting with the team teachers, administrator, and parents may be necessary. The assistant principal’s office may request a doctor’s note for absences due to medical reasons.

If the student’s attendance does not improve, or exceeds ten days, the school may be obligated to file a report on the child with either the city or County Juvenile Court.

Pre-Arranged Absence Request:

Any student who will be absent from school for multiple days should notify their teacher via email. Parents/guardians should email the grade-level counselor and administrator or call the main office (314) 213-6180 to ensure the absence is recorded. It is the student’s responsibility to complete any assignments missed due to an absence, and they must communicate/coordinate with their teachers.

Reporting an Illness or Absence:

If a student is ill, parents are asked to call the main office at 314.213.6100 x8125 before 9:30 a.m. When a phone call is not possible, the student should bring a note signed by a parent or guardian, explaining the absence, the first day he or she returns. In order for a student to be

excused, a parent or guardian must call or write a note. Any student who has been ill should not return to school until his or her temperature and or other symptoms have subsided for 24 hours. Students must be at school to attend any after-school activity or ceremony, unless prior arrangements have been made.

Tardiness to a Class During the Day:

Students are expected to be in all their classes on time. Teachers and staff sending students late to their next class should provide the students with a pass. Students who are late to class without a pass will be marked as tardy.

Consequences (per quarter/per class):

1. All offenses will result in a student issued a warning and tardy will be recorded in Infinite Campus.
2. On the 5th tardy, an administrator or counselor will meet with the student to discuss a plan to maximize instructional time. If this situation does not improve, students will be assigned time in the restorative center.

Guidance/Counseling

Nipher Middle School is staffed with three school counselors. A counselor is assigned to each grade and meets weekly with the team faculty members. Counselors help all students in their academic and social development, while providing important information to students, parents, and teachers regarding early adolescence. The counselors help teachers plan special activities in the classroom, lead discussion groups, give tests, and explain test results to parents and/or students. They are also available to assist students with any problems or questions they may have. Students may email their counselor to request a personal visit. If it is an emergency, they may speak with their teacher first.

Mrs. Lauren Wallace: Grade 6 Counselor (x8041)
Mrs. Carmon Griffin: Grade 7 Counselor (x8040)
Mr. Nelson Taylor: Grade 8 Counselor (x8043)
Ms. Olivia Patrick: Registrar and Guidance Secretary (x8042)
Main Office: 314.213.6180

Communication

At Nipher Middle School, we strive to strengthen the school-home relationship in part through excellent communication with families. Here are a few methods we utilize to communicate.

Infinite Campus

Infinite Campus is our district online grade book program. You can expect grades in Infinite Campus to be updated regularly. As well, you will also have access to online report cards from this site. Each Thursday, an automated email is sent to you from Infinite Campus that lists your child's missing assignments.

If you do not already have access to this online gradebook, please email icportal@kirkwoodschools.org with the following information: your full name, student's name, school, grade level, and reason for the email (ex: login information/account).

Schoology

Schoology is our building learning management system. A folder for each course will be available for students and parents to view and access curricula materials.

eBlast Newsletter (Nipher Knights News)

Each Wednesday during the school year an email communication will go home to parents. This communication is full of important dates and happenings at Nipher Middle School. If you are not receiving this email, please contact Nipher (314-213-6180) so we can be sure your email is correct in our system.

Conference Schedule

Families are encouraged to contact the school to discuss their child's progress. There will be opportunities in the fall and spring to review progress by scheduling an appointment at the Nipher conferences each semester. All conferences are by appointment. Please sign up with the link provided in the weekly Nipher Knight News eBlast as the dates near.

Wednesday, October 15	Nipher Conferences 3:30-7:30pm
Thursday, October 16	Nipher Conferences 3:30-6:30pm
Friday, October 17	Nipher Conferences 8:00-10:00am
Wednesday, February 5	Nipher Conferences 3:30-7:30pm
Thursday, February 11	Nipher Conferences 3:30-6:30pm

Getting Involved (PTO)

All parents or guardians are invited to participate in our active Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). All of our initiatives and events are carried out by volunteer teams who typically work with only one crew.

Our officers & chairs meet only four times a year to oversee all of the amazing work being done by the various teams. Those four dates are:

September 3, 2025- 6:00-7:00pm
October 29, 2025- 6:00-7:00pm
February 11, 2026- 6:00-7:00pm
April 1, 2026- 6:00-7:00pm

Here are some of the ways we enhance the Nipher experience:

- Host appreciation gatherings
- Host conference nights
- Host orientations
- Host parent education events
- Plan and implement dances
- Plan and implement celebrations
- Plan and implement Turkey Trot
- Provide funding for field trips
- Provide funding for orientations
- Provide scholarships for teachers' classrooms
- Support Positive Behavior Incentive Programs

Here are some fundraising opportunities with which you can get involved. Please look for more information in the Nipher eBlast:

- Greentree French Fry Booth- September 12-14, 2025
- Giving Opportunities through MySchoolBucks - ongoing

Academics

Curriculum

Core:

Our core curriculum provides students with the skills and concepts they need to be successful in every content area. The core curriculum includes English Language Arts (ELA), social studies, mathematics, and science. All students participate in this core program.

Exploratory Programs:

Exploratory activities provide an opportunity for students to investigate a variety of activities in the aesthetic arts, practical arts, and modern languages. The sequence, beginning with 6th grade rotations, involves experiences in these areas with the eventual opportunity for some student selection of electives.

Wellness Program:

The Wellness program is a combined curricular offering of health, physical education, and fitness. Each student is enrolled in a year-long wellness course.

Report Card/Grading Practices

Parent Internet Viewer:

Parents and students have the ability to view cumulative student grades and individual assignment grades online. We provide this access through an Infinite Campus (IC) feature of our teachers' online gradebooks. This secured access requires an Internet connection, and a confidential username and password that are issued to parents by the school office.

Policy: Each quarter rubric scores will be given to students for all of their courses. Letter grades are only given for high school credit courses.

3.5 and 4.0

The student meets and frequently surpasses defined standards and expectations illustrated by higher-level thinking, in-depth inferences, and applications.

3.0

The student consistently meets defined standards and expectations.

2.0 and 2.5

The student is nearing defined standards and expectations, but not demonstrating secure performance with standards and expectations.

1.0 and 1.5

The student struggles to meet the defined standards and expectations.

NA (Not Assessed): The teacher does not have enough evidence to make an accurate assessment of the student's competence. Teacher will supply a comment in IC as to why evidence of learning is not available.

Report Cards:

The tentative dates for report cards are listed below. Teachers should keep their gradebook updated weekly with communication of student progress.

Tuesday, October 21

1st Quarter Report Cards on Infinite Campus

Monday, January 5

2nd Quarter Report Cards on Infinite Campus

Thursday, March 12

3rd Quarter Report Cards on Infinite Campus

Tuesday, May 26

4th Quarter Report Cards on Infinite Campus

High School Credit

Students who successfully complete Algebra 1, Geometry, and or a full-year of a course in one of the world language classes will be eligible to receive high school credit for their academic work. Students will receive a grade for these courses, and the academic letter grade will be a part of their high school GPA. High school grading and GPA equivalent is as follows:

- Grade of A = GPA 4
- Grade of A minus = GPA 4
- Grade of B+ = GPA 3.5
- Grade of B = GPA 3
- Grade of B minus = GPA 3
- Grade of C+ = GPA 2.5
- Grade of C = GPA 2
- Grade of C minus = GPA 2
- Grade of D+ = GPA 1.5
- Grade of D = GPA 1
- Grade of D minus = GPA 1
- Grade of F = GPA 0

Gold N Award

This scholastic award is given to all Nipher grade 8 students who have earned an average rubric score of 3.4 or above. This score is calculated after the 3rd quarter of grade 8.

Homework and Planners

You should expect your child to devote an average of one to one and one-half hours per night on work completed at home. This may vary during the course of the year, depending on special projects or assignments. Teachers will provide you with more specific guidelines as they relate to the expectations of their classes. The purpose of assignments includes: providing teachers with evidence of student learning, extending the practice of skills, reviewing material, extending the classroom learning, or completing a project.

We believe that learning is important and should continue after school hours. Regular homework is a means to reinforce, encourage, and extend the learning experience. If a student has been absent from school, he or she will need to talk to their teachers in order to make up work. Teachers may be emailed at any time with questions.

Each student will be provided with a planner for their use as an organizational tool. Use of this planner to record assignments and due dates will be taught as part of the Homeroom course. If a student loses their planner, a new one may be purchased from the office for a fee.

Homeroom

Homeroom is a class that is held during the first period for grade 6, second period for grade 7 and 8th period for grade 8. It serves as an advisory period for all students. Homeroom classes are designed to foster intellectual, social, emotional, and ethical development for students in the middle grades. In Homeroom, students will participate in character education lessons and team-building activities through our district resource, Second Steps and Common Sense Media. Students will use part of this time as an academic study block. The goal of Homeroom is to provide each student with the opportunity to develop a trusting relationship with the Homeroom teacher and a sense of community among Homeroom classmates.

Climbing Wall

Throughout your child's three years at Nipher, he or she will participate in wall climbing activities. Your child may be climbing during Physical Education and Fitness classes or as part of the intramural program. Indoor rock climbing is one of the fastest growing activities today. It simultaneously develops coordination, strength, flexibility, and cardiovascular fitness. Additionally, important life skills like problem solving, team building, goal setting, perseverance, inner confidence, and patience will be learned from various climbing activities.

At Nipher Middle School, we are climbing on a 20-foot by 20-foot vertical wall and 20-foot by 10-foot traverse wall. When climbing vertically, students will learn the proper techniques and safety precautions involved in belaying one another. When climbing horizontally, on the traverse wall, students will challenge themselves as they find new routes and gain confidence.

In order for your child to be an active participant, review the Dress Standards, Rules and Expectations, and Permission to Participate that follow. Then, sign the permission form online through MySchoolBucks. Without a signed permission form, your child may not be an active participant in climbing.

Dress Standards:

1. All climbers should wear loose fitting, comfortable clothing that will allow for ease of movement and adequate ventilation.
2. All jewelry including rings, necklaces, bracelets, watches, etc. should be removed prior to climbing. This safety precaution is non-negotiable. (Students are responsible for the safekeeping of any personal possessions).
3. Shoes, such as tennis shoes with a sticky rubber base, are essential for successful climbing. Climbers should avoid shoes that have a hard rubber base or higher heel. Shoelaces must be tied tightly during all climbing activities.
4. Climbers will lose all climbing privileges for any unsafe or inappropriate behavior for the remainder of the school year.

Rules and Expectations:

1. Any use of the climbing wall must be approved in advance and supervised by at least one qualified climbing wall instructor.
2. Student climbers will experience “challenge by choice.” Participants will be asked to attempt no more than they “choose” to do.
3. All climbers must have a “spotter” who has been taught and has demonstrated the skills of safe “spotting” and belaying when climbing.
4. All climbing wall participants must have a signed permission form. (Climbers under 18 are required to have their parent’s or guardian’s signature on the form). This form must be on file or presented at the time of climbing. No exceptions will be made to this rule!
5. Climbers are prohibited from walking underneath a climber while he or she is on the wall.
6. Climbers are prohibited from climbing above the three-foot safety line on the traverse portion of the wall.
7. Shoes must be worn at all times. Shoelaces must be securely tied during all climbing activities.

Permission to Participate:

My child and I have read and reviewed the climbing wall safety rules and expectations together. We understand that climbing involves some risk of injury and have stressed the importance of following the safety rules and expectations. My child has no physical or psychological problems that would prohibit my child’s participation in the climbing wall activities or inhibit my child’s ability to understand or follow the rules and expectations.

I understand that although Nipher Middle School has taken precautions to provide proper use and supervision, there are certain dangers inherent in the activity and it is impossible to guarantee safety. Knowing all of this, I understand that my signature on MySchoolBucks gives my child permission to participate in the climbing wall activities at Nipher Middle School and I waive any claim which may arise against Nipher Middle School, Kirkwood School District R-7, and or its employees, agents, and administrators and Board of Education.

Library

The mission of our school library media program is to ensure that students and staff are effective users of ideas and information. The school library media specialists empower students to be critical thinkers, enthusiastic readers, skillful researchers, and ethical users of information. All students are encouraged to use the library between 7:45 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. When not accompanied by a teacher, each student must have a pass. Our Ebook and audiobook collection is accessible on the school issued iPad through SORA.

Borrowing materials from the library is a privilege, and the prompt return of library materials is necessary so that all students may have equal access. Books may be checked out for a

three-week period, and students have a responsibility to return or renew books when they are due. There are no daily overdue fines, but students may not check out new books if they have an overdue book. Replacement fees are charged for lost or damaged materials. Nipher's Library is always ready to help students find books to suit their diverse needs and interests and to assist with class projects and research.

Field Trips

When students leave the Nipher campus for field trips, appropriate behavior (following the Knight Vision) is expected. Students at each grade level will be able to participate in field trips throughout the year. More information about grade level specific field trips will be available during the school year.

Turkey Trot

The Nipher Turkey Trot will be held on the morning of Tuesday, November 25. This is a beloved annual tradition, and a chance for our students to promote fitness and spirit by walking or running through our beautiful community. Students will have the option of walking or competing in a two-mile road course. We will have parents acting as corner marshals and the Kirkwood Police Department will be assisting in keeping our children safe. Teachers will also be accompanying children on both the run and the walk.

Copyright/Plagiarism

What do students need to know to protect themselves from copyright and plagiarism violations?

Did you know?

- Computer software violations are a **felony**.
- Compiling video clips from several different videos is a violation of copyright guidelines.
- Information found on the Internet is copyrighted unless accompanied by a message explicitly permitting duplication.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Academic integrity is demonstrated by students when the ideas and the works of others are properly cited and respect for the learning process is maintained. In an era of artificial intelligence (AI), the lines around what is acceptable may be blurred. The following guidelines will help provide direction when using AI in schools.

- Students are responsible for their own work. This means the use of an AI tool to generate a response to an assignment and claim it as their own is considered plagiarism.

Artificial intelligence, when used responsibly and appropriately, can play a role in the learning process. There will be a wider range of learning resources available to students as technology

advances. When using these resources, it's important that students maintain credibility and honesty in their work.

- Students should be aware of the potential for AI to be used to cheat or plagiarize. If a student is unsure whether or not their use of AI is fair, honest, and acceptable for a specific assignment, they should ask their teacher for guidance.
- Students should cite all sources that they use, including AI-generated sources. This includes giving credit to the AI program or algorithm that generated the source, as well as any other sources that were used in the creation of the work. Teachers will provide guidance for if/when AI generated materials would be acceptable.

By following these guidelines, students can help to create a fair and honest learning environment in the age of artificial intelligence.

The artificial intelligence policy in its entirety can be found in Board Policy [EHBD](#) and [EHBD-AP](#).

Copyright Compliance Steps

- Plan projects in advance of the deadline allowing time to request permission from copyright holders. Ask your teacher or library media specialist for a sample letter requesting permission from the copyright holder.
- Do not assume you may use any and all material without asking for permission.
- There are guidelines for print, audiovisual, video, multimedia, music, and others. Students are permitted to use limited amounts of material without permission.
- Cite sources according to APA or MLA Formatting. Give other authors credit for their work.

Student Expectations

PBIS

The Nipher Middle School Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Plan is designed to help create a climate of academic excellence, respect, and safety for all students at Nipher. This plan is based on seven guiding principles. We believe these principles will help create an optimal learning environment for the students and staff at Nipher Middle School.

The seven principles of PBIS are:

1. Clear expectations for student behavior
2. Clear and consistent strategies for teaching appropriate behavior
3. Clear and consistent strategies for encouraging appropriate behavior
4. Clear and consistent strategies that discourage inappropriate behavior
5. A support system for students with exceptional needs

6. Strategies for communicating the behavior plan to teachers, students, and parents
7. Methods for evaluating and revising the plan



All students are expected to comply with all school and classroom expectations. Failure to comply could lead to disciplinary action. School rules apply in the school building, on the school grounds, at recognized school functions, and on the way to and from school. Knight Vision tickets may be given to students for displaying compassion, teamwork and/or perseverance and can be entered into regular drawings for prizes.

Behaviors That Affect Learning:

Behaviors that affect learning are three standards that Kirkwood middle school teachers have identified as those impacting learning in all content areas and deserving of feedback on our standards-based report card. The behaviors that affect learning are:

Behavior #1: Character and Compassion

1. Student treats others with kindness
2. Student volunteers to help others
3. Student seeks to understand other perspectives
4. Student contributes appropriately

Behavior #2: Learning and Perseverance

1. Student submits quality work on time
2. Student responds well to feedback and uses it to improve
3. Student arrives prepared for class
4. Student accepts challenging work and strives to learn from it
5. Student demonstrates effort through the revision process

Behavior #3: Teamwork and Relationships

1. Student makes an effort to build connections
2. Student listens to others' ideas and praises others' contributions
3. Student contributes appropriately during lessons and or activities

Discipline Policy

Philosophy of Student Discipline: The role of the Kirkwood School District (KSD) staff is to ensure all students learn in a safe, respectful, effective, nurturing environment. The purpose of discipline is to provide opportunities for students to develop empathy, learn and practice self-regulation skills, and learn prosocial behaviors.

Commitments

1. We believe positive relationships with students and families are essential in establishing an environment of trust.
2. Discipline must include proactive and preventative practices, as well as reflective, responsive, and restorative techniques.
3. Expected behaviors must be taught, reinforced, and addressed consistently, while remaining respectful of each child's needs and developmental level.
4. Because student discipline is directly related to learning, we believe all staff must be equipped to address student behavior in a positive, holistic manner.
5. Ongoing professional development is essential for KSD staff to be responsive to the individual needs of our learners and helps to provide discipline in ways that teach and instill desired behaviors and life skills.
6. In order to maximize learning opportunities, we are committed to reducing the time any student is not included in the classroom.
7. Practices that remove students from the classroom, such as in-school suspension, will be used to provide opportunities for students to reflect, restore relationships and/or make reparations for behaviors.
8. Out-of-school suspension (OSS) is limited to incidents posing a serious and credible threat to the safety of students and/or staff, including incidents where suspension is required by the Safe Schools Act.
9. Minimizing out-of-school suspension is a goal of the Kirkwood School District.

The discipline policy in its entirety can be found in Board Policy JG-R1.

Detentions:

Generally, detentions are assignments to supervised study areas during lunchtime or after school hours. A detention may range from 30 minutes to an hour at the discretion of school officials. For after-school detentions, eligible students will be allowed to ride the 3:55 p.m. activity bus. Failure to report will result in further disciplinary action.

In-School Suspension (ISS):

Students assigned to ISS will abide by the established guidelines and must complete assignments given by teachers. The program is designed to aid students in developing controlled behavior and to promote advancement within the school program. Additionally, Nipher Middle School participates in restorative practices to problem solve and ease the

student transition back into the classroom. Violations of ISS rules will result in an out-of-school suspension. **Students may not participate in after-school activities on the days they are assigned to ISS.**

Out-Of-School Suspension (OSS):

Students may be suspended from school for serious or chronic infractions. Suspensions of up to ten days may be assigned by the principal or assistant principal. Recommendations for suspensions of over ten days or expulsion will require a hearing with the superintendent or assistant superintendent. **During the time of a suspension, the student is not permitted on any Kirkwood School District property.**

Dress Standards

The Board of Education has established policy Administrative Procedure (JFCA) on dress and grooming. It reads as follows:

The Board of Education recognizes the value of allowing individual student expression as well as the necessity of protecting student health and safety and maintaining an atmosphere conducive to education. Student dress code procedures must be designed with the goal of balancing these competing interests.

All dress code procedures will adhere to health and safety codes and comply with applicable law. Dress that materially disrupts the educational environment will be prohibited. No procedure will impose dress and grooming rules based on gender in violation of Title IX. District procedures will specifically define ambiguous terms, and examples will be provided when practicable.

The Board of Education has established policy Administrative Procedure ([JFCA-AP\[1\]](#)) on dress and grooming. The full policy can be accessed through [Board Docs](#)

When a student's dress or appearance does not comply with the criteria outlined in policy JFCA-AP(1), the student may be required to make modifications. No employee or volunteer shall direct a student to remove an emblem, insignia or garment, including a religious emblem, insignia or garment, as long as it is worn in a manner that does not promote disruptive behavior.

Buses

Some bus basics include:

- Only students who live 1.5 miles or more away from school or in an area that is designated a hazardous route qualify for free transportation to and from school.

- Students who do not qualify for bus transportation are NOT permitted to ride the bus to a friend's house.
- Any student who misses the bus should come to the office and a call will be made to a guardian to arrange transportation home.
- Guardians must notify the office in writing at least 24 hours in advance if it is necessary for their student to get off at a different stop. This note must be approved by the office and presented to the bus driver. Because many buses are filled to capacity, it is not always possible for your child to ride a bus that is not their assigned bus. Thank you for understanding and working with us.

Nipher Middle School supports bus safety and wishes to assist students as they make positive choices before and after school. It is our opinion that time spent in transit should be viewed as an extension of the school day, and we try to support children and drivers in their safe transportation. In accordance with this belief, it is important that students face logical consequences for inappropriate choices made on the way to and from school. Students who make poor choices deserve the opportunity to learn from their mistakes, but it is our responsibility to ensure safe transportation for all students.

Please note: Serious bus behaviors may result in additional consequences at school. For example, if a student is fighting on the bus, a disciplinary action may be prescribed in accordance with the Student Discipline (located under JG-R1 of school district policies).

Students who receive referrals for bus behavior will face consequences consistent with Kirkwood School District policy. These consequences may include suspension from riding the school bus for one or more days.

Electronic Devices

These are personal devices such as cell phones, iPods, iPads, AirPods, Smartwatches, etc. Personal electronic devices that are brought to school must remain turned off ***in the student's backpack*** during the school day from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Students who choose to bring these items to school are doing so at their own risk. Nipher will not be responsible for the loss of these items. Consequences for use of these items are as follows per quarter:

1. Offenses 1-2: verbal warning from teacher, teacher records violation
2. Offenses 3-5: teacher records violation and notifies student, teacher notifies home, teacher assigns a lunch detention
3. Additional offenses: referral to Administrator, administrator notifies home, additional consequences may be assigned

If you must reach your child during the day, please call the main office at 314-213-6180. If they need to reach you, there is a phone in the office they may use with permission for this purpose.

Generally speaking, communication between and among students that takes place outside of school is not of concern to Kirkwood staff unless it is brought to our attention because there is a disruption to the learning environment and/or to our students. If there are conflicts or disruptions brought to our attention, these will be addressed through our discipline guidelines. Common reasons for our involvement include name calling, bullying, and threats. Here are some examples to further clarify how our discipline guidelines and school procedures can intersect with student cell phones and internet activities:

Example #1: A conflict at school that begins with comments written on the internet will be evaluated according to our discipline guidelines. If the comments reflect name calling, bullying or threats, we will address these as if they happened at school or were written on a piece of paper.

Example #2: If students have identified themselves as Kirkwood School District students on social media sites, and it is brought to our attention that they have made comments which do not reflect our behavior expectations, the student may be investigated and or disciplined pursuant to our discipline guidelines.

Example #3: If, while responding to a disciplinary concern, there becomes a reasonable suspicion resulting in an investigation of student belongings (backpack, pockets), we may also search the calls, photos, and text records of a phone if the phone records relate to the disciplinary investigation.

Example #4: If a phone has been lost and is then found, we will read information in the phone in order to learn the identity of the owner.

We want parents and students to be fully informed that internet communication and cell phones will remain private until a disruption of the learning environment is brought to our attention, and then we will review them in the same way we would review any other item thought to be posing a threat or disruption.

School-Issued Technology

iPads

Kirkwood School District is excited to loan Nipher Middle School students with an iPad, heavy-duty case with keyboard, cord and charger for their use during the school year. This is seen as a tremendous opportunity to personalize learning for students and help develop future-ready skills.

iPads are to be kept covered and handled carefully. Students will be charged fines for lost or damaged iPads, cases, cords, and chargers. Note: Even if you have purchased insurance but

the case is removed or badly damaged, insurance will NOT cover the cost of repairs, nor will it cover lost items not turned in.

We ask that students take care of the equipment they are issued and use it in a responsible manner. Students who do not comply with the technology expectations may lose the privilege of using the equipment.

Conduct Code

We Are Compassionate

1. Treat all iPads with respect and care, this includes a keeping case on the iPad
2. Keep sound off unless instructed otherwise by teacher
3. iPad should have the screen down unless instructed otherwise by teacher

We Work As a Team

1. Arrive at school and come to class with fully charged iPad
2. iPads must be charged at home every night

We Persevere

1. Only take photos or video recording when instructed by teacher and with consent of individual
2. Recording or taking photos of a staff member without permission will result in an immediate office referral
3. Online posting is only permitted when instructed by teacher
4. Must use district-issued email account

Minor Infraction Discipline Procedure:

1. warning and loss of iPad for class period
2. lunch Detention (served in Restorative classroom)
3. After-school detention
4. Office Referral

Insurance Payment:

The Kirkwood School District offers an opportunity to families who wish to enroll in a self-funded insurance pool that will cover the cost of accidental damage or theft of a district-provided device.

All families are required to complete the Infinite Campus annual update for each school year. While confirming or updating this information, you will have the opportunity to review and express interest or not in participating in the Device Protection Plan for each child. Families will be automatically invoiced through MySchoolBucks in August, and will have 30 days to complete the purchase.

More information and details on the device protection plan can be found on the KSD website.

To pay for iPad or laptop insurance, lunch fees, and activity fees through your My School Bucks account:

1. Log in to www.myschoolbucks.com, or create a free account.
2. Click School Store at the top of the page and select Browse All Items
3. Choose the Store item and add it to your cart.
4. Check out!

Parents can also download the MySchoolBucks app to set up an account. Payments are not always possible through the phone app, though. For consistent success, please use a browser. Those who prepare to not use our online payment option can pay via cash or check, working directly with the school office.

After-School Activities

Power Hour

Nipher Middle School students may participate in Power Hour as one of many after school activities. Nipher staff will be available to help students strive towards their academic goals. "Power Hour" will take place every week.

Power Hour begins at 3:00 p.m. Attendance records will be maintained, and students are expected to arrive on time prepared to immediately begin their schoolwork. Students will not be allowed to leave the Power Hour areas until dismissal at 3:55 p.m.

Students must follow the Power Hour rules in order to maintain their participation in the program.

Power Hour Rules:

1. Arrive to the cafeteria immediately upon dismissal at 3:00. A teacher will walk you to the Power Hour classroom.
2. Enter the area quietly and remain quiet throughout the session.
3. Arrive with all of the work materials, rubrics, assignments, writing utensils, books, and supplies that you need to complete 50 minutes of work.
4. You must be respectful to all Power Hour team members and to all Power Hour participants.
5. You may not leave the Power Hour area without a pass from a Power Hour team member.

6. You may not bring food, candy, or drinks into the Power Hour area with supervisor approval.
7. Students who cannot follow all of the Power Hour rules will not be allowed to participate in the Power Hour program for temporary or extended periods of time, based on their individual history of behavior during Power Hour.

To stay for Power Hour, students must sign up electronically via the link sent by the school.

Intramurals & Clubs

Extracurricular activities are an integral part of the middle school years. Intramural sports, clubs, and fine arts productions enhance students' academics, as well as provide time to explore common interests with new friends. Most importantly, participation in any of the after school activities will provide students with a sense of accomplishment and personal pride. The activities are designed to encourage organization of time and promote school spirit.

Nipher Middle School's Activity Program offers a variety of activities each semester to students of all grade levels. Activities take place after school at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. **Activities are available to all students after they pay their \$20 activity fee. The activity fee is \$10 for students who qualify for free or reduced price meals.** Payments can be made through the student's MySchoolBucks account or students can pay via cash or check, working directly with the school office.

Students MUST sign up for ALL activities electronically by 1:00pm on the day of the activity in order to stay and participate. Students are expected to report directly to the cafeteria at 3:00pm. Students are to depart promptly from school grounds or wait at the bus loading area when the activity concludes and the bell rings close at 3:55 p.m.

Intramurals are designed to promote recreational opportunities while enhancing skills, social development, and physical fitness. Students are reminded that participation in the Nipher Intramural Programs and Clubs are a privilege and that all school rules apply. Participation guidelines include:

1. Appropriate conduct and a cooperative attitude are expected at ALL times. All regular Nipher school rules are in effect before, during, and after activities.
2. Students are expected to follow the fundamental rules and regulations for each activity.
3. Students are expected to be on time (3:00 p.m.), at the proper location, and with the appropriate equipment (including tennis shoes) when participating in an activity. Activities begin at 3:00 p.m. Students will be dismissed at 3:55 p.m. You must arrive on time and stay for the duration of the activity.
4. You MUST participate in the assigned activity. There will be no observing, only participating.

5. You MUST sign up for the activity electronically the day of the activity. You may not sign up your friends. If you fail to follow the sign-up rules and then show up to play, you will be escorted to detention and risk being suspended from all after-school activities per the discipline guidelines.
6. Bell-to-bell NO CELL includes after-school activities. Phones must be put away.
7. Students are responsible for their own equipment or property. Nipher does not assume responsibility for students' personal possessions.
8. All injuries should be immediately reported to the Activity Sponsor.
9. After-school detentions take precedence over activity involvement. In- or out-of-school suspension will forfeit your privilege to participate in ALL after school activities for that day.
10. Participation in Nipher vs. North and student vs. faculty games is dependent upon consistent school attendance, academic achievement, appropriate behavior, and involvement in the designated activity.

Activity Bus Information:

The after-school activity bus is a service offered to Nipher students who are eligible to ride a school bus and participate in after-school clubs, intramurals, detentions, or other approved activities. The activity bus will operate on a regular schedule (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) each week. Students will be informed of any cancellations as soon as possible so they can ride their regular bus home or make other necessary arrangements. The Kirkwood Activity buses typically depart Nipher between 4:00 p.m. and 4:05 p.m.

Students who ride the activity bus will meet in the South Gym at 3:55 p.m. to sign up for a bus drop off location. After that time, students will line up against the red mats and then board the bus as a group after being dismissed from the gym (about 4:00pm). Students will be picked up on the south side of Nipher. Since there is only ONE activity bus for resident students, the bus will not stop at all stops that are designated during their regular route. Please work with your student to determine the closest stop to your home prior to their participation.

Activity Bus Stops:

Big Bend & Milwaukee
Fillmore & Gordon
Rose Hill & Couch
Craig & Craig Woods
Craig & Kinyon Ct
Old Big Bend & Ballas
Ballas & Thursby
Ballas & Woodbine
Big Bend & Glenwood East
Big Bend & Glenwood West

Barrett Station & Barret Brae
Big Bend & Barberry
Big Bend & Glenwood South
Big Bend & Glenford Ct
Big Bend & Forest
Big Bend & South Geyer
Big Bend & Lacouer
Homes & Melshire
Holmes & East Elliot
Holmes & Monroe
Holmes & Argonne
Argonne & Sappington
Sappington & Lockwood
Sappington & Hawbrook
Sappington & Essex
Sappington & Moreland
Sappington & Brownell
Sappington & Kirkham
Sappington & Glenmoor
Sappington & Nancy Carol
Manchester & Sturgis
Manchester & Mariedale
Dickson & Dickson Ct (behind Hucks)
Dickson & Chelsea
Dickson & Gaslite
Dickson & Essex
Essex & Woodlawn
Longview & Taylor

School Safety

Our SRO

Hello Nipher families, I am Officer Anthony “TJ” Stemmler. This will be my third year at Nipher as the School Resource Officer, but I have been with the district for 8 years working with the Elementary Schools. I have 22 years of Law Enforcement experience and 11 of those years have been dedicated to working with youth.

I am passionate about what I do. I believe in the National Association of School Resource Officer (NASRO) triad. First, I am a Law Enforcement Officer. With that said, and I want this to be clear, I AM NOT A DISCIPLINARIAN. The safety and security of my staff and students is of

the utmost importance, but discipline related matters would be addressed by administrators. It is important to me to promote a positive school climate by visiting classrooms, being visible and approachable, and building relationships with students, their families, and staff. Feel free to stop by the main office to discuss any questions or concerns you may have.

Second, I am an educator. I am able to provide educational programs on topics such as the role of law enforcement in the community, criminal law, personal safety, bullying, drug prevention, mental health and internet safety. I will also work with the school and community to develop programs that address crime and safety issues in their neighborhood.

Third, I am an informal counselor or mentor. Nipher has an excellent support staff and I will be an additional support/resource for them and the students. I want students who are struggling with peer pressure (drugs, alcohol, etc), bullying, or mental health to know I am always available to talk with.

I encourage you to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns about your child's safety or well-being. You can contact me by phone at 314-213-6180 (x8021) or email at tj.stemmler@kirkwoodschoools.org or stemmlaj@kirkwoodmo.org

I look forward to working with you and your student this school year.

Respectfully,
Anthony "TJ" Stemmler
SRO
Kirkwood Police Department

Emergency Contacts

If your child is ill or hurt during school hours and the nurse or designated staff believe the student should go home, a family member or emergency contact person will be notified before the student is released. Please make sure the school has up-to-date contacts and emergency pickup information for your child or children at all times. It is essential that you notify the school of any changes regarding phone numbers of parents, guardians and emergency contacts.

Emergency Situations and Drills

Students will participate in regular fire, tornado, earthquake, and ALICE/Intruder drills throughout the year. All teachers and students will be given information about safety procedures appropriate for such situations. In the event of an actual emergency situation, guardians may understandably want to pick up their child from school. Be sure to check the local news and radio stations, or our district website www.kirkwoodschoools.org for emergency

information. NOTE: Emergency information will NOT be initially shared via Facebook or Twitter because not all families use those social media tools.

It is the Kirkwood School District's goal to notify families of an incident or crisis as quickly as possible. We strive to provide the most accurate and timely information. We ask that you remember that all of the KSD staff members care about your children. We know you are worried and anxious. We want to provide you with information without creating undue alarm or anxiety.

When an incident occurs at any of our schools, district personnel work to assist the school and the police as well as communicate with families. The District will use auto call, email, the web and social media sites to convey information. Social media sites are instantaneous, whereas an auto call or an email has a longer notification process.

We must communicate what we know – when we know it – without jeopardizing the safety of the people within the school. Please remember communication in a crisis is difficult. We will do our very best to be fast and accurate, knowing the possibility of human error exists.

Searches and Weapons

The possession or use of a weapon by any person, except where authorized by law, shall be prohibited in all school buildings, on or about school grounds, and at all school activities.

A weapon shall be defined as any instrument or device customarily used to attack or defend against an opponent, adversary or victim or any instrument or device used to inflict physical injury or harm to another person. Violators of this policy may be referred to the appropriate legal authorities. In addition, any student who violates this policy will be subject to suspension and or expulsion from school.

In accordance with federal law, any student who brings or possesses a firearm (as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921) on school property will be suspended from school for at least one calendar year and will be referred to the appropriate legal authorities. The suspension may be modified on a case-by-case basis upon recommendation by the superintendent to the Board of Education.

Staff Boundaries

Per Board of Education Policy GBH

Staff members are expected to maintain courteous and professional relationships with students. All staff members have a responsibility to provide an atmosphere conducive to learning through consistently and fairly applied discipline and the maintenance of physical and emotional boundaries with students. These boundaries must be maintained regardless of the

student's age, the location of the activity, whether the student allegedly consents to the relationship or whether the staff member directly supervises the student.

Reporting

Any person, including a student, who has concerns about or is uncomfortable with a relationship or activities between a staff member and a student should bring this concern immediately to the attention of the principal, counselor or staff member's supervisor. If illegal discrimination or harassment is suspected, the process in policy AC will be followed.

Any staff member who possesses knowledge or evidence of possible violations of this policy must immediately make a report to the district's administration. All staff members who know or have reasonable cause to suspect child abuse shall immediately report the suspected abuse in accordance with Board policy. Staff members must also immediately report a violation or perceived violation of the district's discrimination and harassment policy (AC) to the district's nondiscrimination compliance officer. Staff members will be subject to disciplinary action for failing to make such reports.

The district will not discipline, terminate or otherwise discriminate or retaliate against a staff member for reporting in good faith any action that may be a violation of this policy.