

2025-2026



North Middle School



North Middle School

Parent - Student Code Handbook 2025-2026

Principal - Brian Miller

Associate Principal - Anita Ranieri

2601 8th Street NE, Great Falls, MT 59404

406.268.6525 <https://www.gfps.k12.rnt.us/NMS>

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Parents and students, welcome to the Den!

North Middle School is a fantastic place to learn, grow, and develop into quality men and women of character, and we are thrilled that you have decided to join us!

This year, NMS will continue to join the district with two character-based initiatives: Character Strong and Responsibility Centered Discipline (RCD). Both programs will help us focus on the holistic growth and maturation of our students as well as encourage our staff and community to build healthy selves, relationships, and partnerships.

North Middle School will continue to offer many opportunities for students to pursue academic excellence as well as extracurricular activities and clubs. Opportunities such as Academic Bowl, Science Olympiad, Math counts, and Geography and Science Bowl. There will be sports, such as basketball, football, track, and volleyball, swimming, cross-country, and wrestling. NMS students will also learn the value of community service through our Team events as well as other service-minded activities and opportunities.

We are also continually committed to working with parents and strengthening our partnership with our supportive and surrounding community. If you would like to partner with us, we encourage you to sign up with our outstanding PTA organization. It is a great way to support your child, impact our school, and help make a difference in the lives of those who attend and work at North Middle School.

Thank you for partnering with us and entrusting us with your most prized possessions. We truly do appreciate the opportunity to take care of your children and are thrilled to play a role in these crucial years of their growth and development.

Brian T. Miller
Principal

Anita Ranieri
Associate Principal

Brittany Erdman
Administrative Intern

GRIZZLY PRIDE

PERSEVERANCE:

Try, try, try.... Never give up! Always do my best.

RESPECT:

Be kind to myself and others in all that I think, do, and say.

INTEGRITY:

Do what is right, even when no one is watching, and take responsibility for mistakes.

DISCIPLINE:

Think through before I do. I am in control of my emotions and behaviors.

EMPATHY:

Understand and respect the perspectives and feelings of others.

AED - Automated External Defibrillator

An AED is located in the gym. A second AED is on the second floor outside room 220. Selected staff members are trained to use the AED in emergencies.

AFTER SCHOOL STUDY BACK

After school study back is a time for students to get homework help from certified teachers. Students may choose or be asked to attend a Team Study Back after school on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 3:00-3:30 pm in a designated team classroom. Teachers will be available in classrooms to help students. Parents must provide transportation for students. NMS is not responsible for getting a student to and from Study Back. It is the child's responsibility to show up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Video announcements are shown in the morning each day and may include: the lunch menu, club information, team activities, student and staff celebrations, important upcoming events, schedules, student birthdays, etc.

ANONYMOUS TIP LINE

Reports may be made confidentially as needed at (406) 268-3301.

APPEARANCE (Dress code)

Students are to wear clothing that covers their undergarments. This includes boxer shorts and bra straps. Shoulder straps must be at least an inch thick. The inseam of shorts, skirts, etc. must be a minimum of 5 inches. Backs, midriff and cleavage must be covered. No clothing referencing drugs, weapons, tobacco or any obscenity will be allowed. Pajamas and/or slippers are not permitted.

Hats and hoods are allowed in the hallways, between classes, and during lunch, but out of respect for the teacher, students, and learning, they are not allowed in the classroom setting.

Earbuds: Bluetooth or wireless earbuds are an extension of the cell phone and are an equal disruption to learning. Earbuds should ***not*** be visible - just like cell phones- from 7:30 am- 3:00 pm.

If students want to use a Chromebook for music, they can use their corded earbuds or ones provided by the school.

Smart Watches: Smartwatches are permitted at North Middle School. If they become a distraction to learning, the cell phone policy will be adopted

Interventions:

When NMS staff see inappropriate attire, they will provide a reminder and ask the student to either change or turn their clothing inside out. If the dress violation continues to become a distraction, the office will be notified, and the student will have a meeting with the administration. Parents will be contacted. Continued distraction will require parents to schedule a meeting with the office to discuss a plan moving forward.

School Board Policy 3224, 3611

ASSEMBLIES

Students will have at least one assembly per trimester. Assemblies throughout the school year may include high school performing arts, guest speakers, or team/grade-level assemblies.

ATTENDANCE AND PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES

On days when your child will not be in school, notify the school by 9:00 a.m. (268-6526). The attendance clerk is on duty at 7:30 a.m. Please leave a message if there is no answer.

Attendance may impact sports participation. Students are expected to get all their daily work from each teacher's Google classroom.

For the District Attendance Policy, please refer to the GFPS District Board Policy 3122R

ATHLETICS - NMS Sports

North Middle School offers a comprehensive sports program for both boys and girls. We offer football, basketball, cross country, volleyball, wrestling, swimming, and track. Our sports program is designed around a participation philosophy, so a "no cut" policy is in place. All students who attend practices and put forth a good effort will be part of a team. Being involved in extracurricular activities is an important component of our educational program. We expect our students to maintain good school behaviors and sportsmanship to participate.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR ATHLETICS

Each student will need to complete the (4) documents before they will be allowed to practice, no exceptions. These are District requirements and will be strictly enforced. The documents necessary for your child to participate are: A current sports physical (must be conducted after May 1, 2025, to be valid for the current school year) GFPS Activity Agreement signed by the parent and student-athlete

- ▶ Emergency card
- ▶ Concussion Form
- ▶ Payment or payment receipt (\$25 for 1 sport, \$45 for 2 or more)

Sports physical forms are available at NMS and payments will be made at the front office = cash or check

ATHLETIC SCHEDULE START DATES FOR 2025-2026

Football August 27	Girls Volleyball January 5
Girls Basketball Sept 2	Wrestling January 12
Cross Country Sept 2	Girls Swimming Feb 17
Boys Basketball Oct 20	Track March 30

GAME SCHEDULES

Athletes will be given game or meet schedules no later than the third week of each season. Schedules are changed each year due to the number of participants, teams, and starting dates, so schedules are not available for all sports at the beginning of the school year. A paper copy of the game/event schedule is given to each participant, schedules are posted on the school website, school Facebook page, and on the information bulletin board in front of the main office. All event times, practice sites, and even the number of events are subject to change based on transportation, weather, and even facility availability. Parents are responsible for transporting students home from events except for football.

TEAM SELECTION

The coaching staff looks at each student's speed, strength, skill, & especially in football SIZE before placing the participant on either the A or B team. Equal playing time for B players only- For A players one quarter of playing time is all that is guaranteed. The teams are leveled to keep teams competitive without lopsided scores. The number of teams is determined by the number of participants. Team requests are not permitted unless you have an extreme hardship.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Student-athletes are expected to follow the GFPS school board policies and NMS student code of conduct.

1. Be on time and in attendance at all practices and games
2. Follow directions the first time given
3. Be prepared with necessary equipment and school-issued materials
4. Be respectful of others and their property
5. Be productive
6. Show good sportsmanship to ensure safe and fair play occurs during all activities

Consequences for misbehavior will affect sports participation. Athletes with school discipline resulting in after-school detention may attend practice after the detention has been served. Athletes with school discipline resulting in ISS or OSS will not be allowed to practice or participate in the event while serving ISS or OSS. **A second ISS or OSS during the same season will result in removal from the team.**

As parents, we ask that you remain positive and focus on the athletes' experiences. Keep communication with a coach calm, well thought out, and always focused on the best interests of both the team and the individual. Please avoid any negative comments to referees or officials. Unsportsmanlike behaviors may result in individuals being asked to leave an event as per board policy 4315.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Before a student can participate in a scheduled game or event, he/she must have a minimum of 10 practices. Each practice will last approximately 1 to 1.5 hours, depending on the sport and the number of participants. Some practices may be scheduled in the morning before school. Practice schedules will be given to teams after team assignments are made. Each season lasts approximately 6 weeks.

- Only participants who practice immediately after school should remain on campus.
- Parents are responsible for transportation to and from practices.
- Students practicing after 3:30 pm must leave campus and return at their scheduled practice time. • Sports Study hall is offered only on Wednesdays for those students who practice at 3:30 pm; students who do not attend the Wednesday study hall must leave the campus until their scheduled practice. • A player with 3 unexcused absences from practices or games may be removed from the team. Excused Absences include Dr. appointments, church activities, personal loss, and injury/illness.
- Students will be issued one locker that they can use for sports and physical education classes
- Students are required to have personal items stowed and locked in their sports locker at all times
- *Students absent from school half the day or more cannot return that day for a practice or game.*
- Cell phones may never be used in the locker rooms or to video others in the building or at a school event
- *MR. GRADY HAS A VIDEO ON THE RISKS OF SPORTS TO SHOW PARENTS UPON REQUEST

CROSS COUNTRY: 5 Meets

- Practice: 3:10-4:00 p.m. for all 7th and 8th graders except Wednesday's practice from 2:20-3:00 p.m. on the running track. Runners will run different neighborhood courses during the week to prepare for Monday meets.
- Meets: Times and Locations vary; coaches will give slips to the athlete with all the information to take home. Bus transportation will be provided to the meets; parents must provide transportation home from the meets.

FOOTBALL: 5 Games

- **Practices:** Coaches will give a game schedule to all players. • Bus transportation will be provided to & from every game. • **Required items:** warm clothes, X-L shirt or practice jersey, mouthpiece, water bottle, bug spray. Cleats are optional.

BASKETBALL/NOLLEYBALL: 10-game season and single elimination tournament

- Practices:** may take place at 6:30 a.m. or 3:10, 4:10, 5:10, 6:10, or 7:10 p.m.
- **Games:** one hour in length and take place on weekdays anytime from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday mornings. The game location will be on the event schedules.
- **Transportation:** Students may catch a bus for any away game that starts at 3:30 or 4:45 only. No buses on weekends.

WRESTLING: 6 Meets

- **Practices:** 3:10 p.m. for all 7th and 8th grade boys except Wednesday's practice begins at 2:30 p.m. • **Meets:** start at 4:00 p.m. and are usually weekdays; transportation is provided to a regular weekday meet.

SWIMMING: 4 Meets

- **Practices:** take place at Great Falls High School pool; participants are bussed to practice. • **Meets:** start at 4:00 p.m. for all 7th and 8th grade girls and take place at the Great Falls High School pool. • **Required items:** Full-piece swimsuit and towel.

TRACK and FIELD: 8 Meets

- **Practices:** 3:10 p.m. for all 7th and 8th graders.
- **Meets: begin** at 4:00 p.m.; Participants may be in several events and will be called to the staging area prior to the event start.

BACKPACKS/PURSES

Backpacks or purses should be locked in coat lockers. Students with medical documentation may carry an epi-pen bag with them.

BINDERS

All students should have and maintain a 3-ring binder. The binder should go home each night so parents can check student homework and progress. The binder is similar to the Wednesday envelope that parents check each week in elementary. Middle School does not send home a Wednesday envelope.

BUS INFORMATION

Bus schedules are listed on the Great Falls Public Schools website at <https://gfps.k12.mt.us/> at the bottom of the main page under the Safety & Transportation bus icon. For busing questions or concerns, contact Big Sky Bus Lines at 454-1283 or the Great Falls Public Schools Transportation Department at 268-6015.

School buses provide transportation for field trips and other school-related events when needed. Students must ride on the buses even when their parents are chaperones unless a **Transportation Request and Release Form** has been filed with our Main Office at least one (1) week (five (5) school days) in advance of the trip.

CAFETERIA RULES/LUNCH INFORMATION

Students eat with their team. There are three lunch periods each day with two teams assigned to each lunch. One team will go directly outside for a 10-minute recess before eating and the other team will eat for 20 minutes first and then go outside. The purpose of this is to reduce congestion on both the playground and in the cafeteria, resulting in a more relaxed lunch period for students and supervisors. The order of recess and eating will be reversed at various times during the year.

LUNCHTIME EXPECTATIONS:

1. Students access their coat lockers to drop off their binders and pick up their coats if necessary before lunch.
2. Line up in an orderly fashion inside the cafeteria and outside. Enter the building from outside following FLOWS.
3. Clean up eating areas (table and floor) and wait to be excused.
4. Use acceptable table manners, which include keeping noise at an acceptable level, not taking other students' food, and not placing unwanted food in another student's table area.
5. All food and beverages are to be consumed inside the cafeteria or other assigned area.
6. On the blacktop area outside, students must avoid standing near classroom windows to respect students in class.
7. Parents should not arrange parties during lunches or bring lunches to share with friends, and door dashes are not allowed to be delivered to the school. Please call 268-6525 with questions.
8. Students may not use their cell phones during lunch.
9. School personnel cannot be responsible for a student's food choices. Parents can, however, monitor purchases by contacting the school lunchroom at 268-6551, or by using the school lunch online tracking program <https://www.myschoolbucks.com>

2025-2026 Breakfast and Lunch Prices

PRICES GRADES 7-8 LUNCH

BREAKFAST-Regular \$2.05/ Reduced \$.30

LUNCH-Regular \$3.20/ Reduced \$.40

Purchasing lunches through Myschoolbucks online: To sign up, go to the Great Falls Public Schools Website. You will need your child's school ID and the zip code of your child's school (59404) along with your credit/debit card number. You may check your child's account balance and see what they have eaten. Please be aware that there is a small processing fee attached to this service.

Free and Reduced lunch applications: Families who wish to apply for free or reduced-cost meals may complete a form on the GFPS website under the school nutrition button. Families need to complete only one application for their family if they list all of their children on the application. A new application must be completed at the beginning of each school year within the first 30 days. If new applications are not completed within the first 30 days, the family will be required to pay full-price lunches after the 30-day grace period.

CHARACTER STRONG

On Tuesdays, during Connections, students and staff will have mini-lessons on character development. These include mini-movies and discussions about topics such as responsibility, integrity, empathy, attitude, hard work, and creative behavior.

CELLULAR TELEPHONE, ELECTRONIC DEVICES, AND ACCESSORIES

Please reference School Board Policies: 3612, 3612F, 3630 and 3231

Great Falls Public School's mission, vision, and belief statement states (under Student Achievement), "The district will develop and implement targeted strategies to improve student learning outcomes and develop the essential skills necessary for citizenship, career, and/or college readiness, as measured by academic achievement data."

North Middle School believes developing essential skills is holistic, including thinking patterns, choices, actions, and mindset. It is also a process that requires teaching, reteaching, patience, and support. We are preparing students to be college, career, and citizen-ready in many ways, including but not limited to the following:

Cell Phones/Technology:

We understand that technology and cell phones have invaded our lives and world faster and more aggressively than we could have imagined. Especially in the world of education.

North Middle School believes cell phones and the opportunities they provide, although helpful in many ways, have become a distraction to learning, are easily used for disruption, and are deeply addictive. They challenge our task of developing essential skills and encourage young minds to get and stay off task. We believe a reduction in cellphone use will help students appropriately grow emotionally, socially, and cognitively.

Expectations:

From 7:30 am to 3:00 pm, students may have their cell phones, but they should be kept out of sight (ie. In lockers) and turned off during class, lunch, and recess. This includes using cell phones for music.

We are aware that many students are required to have a cell phone to accommodate their health plan, IEP, or other admin-approved reasons. These will be approved on a case-by-case basis.

To avoid confusion or mistakes, we encourage students to place cell phones in their lockers. North Middle School is not responsible for any lost or broken devices.

Interventions:

When NMS staff see a cell phone, they will provide a reminder. If the cell phone continues to become a distraction, the office will be notified, and the cell phone will be placed in the office vault for the day. Continued distraction will require parents to schedule a meeting with the office to pick up the cell phone and discuss a plan moving forward.

Earbuds: Bluetooth or wireless earbuds are an extension of the cell phone and are an equal disruption to learning. Earbuds therefore should ***not*** be visible - just like cell phones - from 7:30 am - 3:00 pm.

If students want to use a Chromebook for music, he/she can use their corded headphones or ones provided by the school.

Smart Watches: Smartwatches are permitted at North Middle School. If they become a distraction to learning, the cell phone policy will be adopted.

North Middle School believes these are crucial years for development, and we want to get the most we can out of this opportunity. We understand these expectations will be difficult for some and welcomed by others. No matter which side you fall on, whenever frustration or concerns arise, please contact the school and let us know of the situation. We are committed to working with you and our community and welcome any conversation that can help bridge the gap of understanding and support.

Safe and Secure School:

North Middle School wants to ensure the safety of all students, which includes the need for students and parents to have a cell phone on their person in case of an emergency, North Middle School is adapting district policy 3630 which states, "**At no time will any student operate a cell phone or other electronic device with video capabilities in a locker room, bathroom, or other location where such an operation may violate the privacy right of another person.**"

CHROMEBOOKS:

North Middle School is committed to providing an equal and equitable education. We will continue providing Chromebooks to all students, under the following expectations.

Chromebooks are to be used for academic purposes only. Games not approved by a classroom teacher or inappropriate sites that distract from learning are considered a misuse of North Middle School property.

Games are not permitted during school hours unless specifically assigned by a teacher. Students who continually abuse this privilege will have their Chromebooks taken for some time. Students will still be expected to keep up with their work and responsibilities. Computers will be available in the library before, during, and after school for these students.

In the classroom, when students are done with their work, they can review class materials, work on classwork from other classes, read a book, or work on IXL.

During study Hall, students are expected to study. If they are caught up on work, they are encouraged to read, complete IXL, or study for tests. Students who do not need a study hall will be placed in other learning environments.

Music usage is not an expected allowance. It is at the teacher's discretion. Students who are permitted to listen to music must use corded headphones.

Insurance: Parents may purchase insurance from the district. Forms are in the NMS office

CLUBS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Numerous clubs and opportunities are available for all students during Club time. These activities are designed to be of high interest for students and are sponsored by teachers in the building. Many of the clubs center around the 16 World of Work topics.

THE GRIZONE (PRONOUNCED, "GRIZ ZONE) IN THE LIBRARY

The GRIZone is an active space in the library for up to 8 students at a time to relax and constructively interact with peers. They play games of all sorts, including card games, board games, STEAM activities, and classroom appropriate physical games. These games challenge students to win and lose appropriately, socialize with both familiar and unfamiliar students, and be responsible for setting up and cleaning up their area. These tasks help students develop better social emotional learning and responsibility. To qualify for the GRIZone, students must have a C or better in all classes, be current on all assignments, and respectfully interact with peers and materials

CONNECTIONS

The purpose of Connections is:

1. To build relationships and social skills capacity for students - teacher to student, student to student, and student to school.
2. To assist students with organization and planning.
3. To truly connect with students. Every student should leave Connections feeling as though their teacher is their advocate, their caring adult, and their mentor.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Current addresses, phone numbers, and emergency contacts should be updated at the beginning of each school year or any time the information changes. Besides parent or guardian information, we can list up to three emergency contacts. No one is allowed to pick up a student or visit with a student unless they are on the demographic listing.

DETENTION

Minor infractions may result in detention. Teacher-assigned detention is usually 30 minutes after school. Office-assigned detentions are 60 minutes and served after school from 3:00-4:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and on Wednesdays from 2:15-3:15 p.m. Parents will be notified in advance of detentions, and they are responsible for picking up their children. Parents will receive a detention notice hand-carried home by the child or a mailed notice. School Board Policies 3300 and 3310.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

On the occasions when consequences for unacceptable student behaviors are administered, they will be within the guidelines of the student School Board Policies - 3000 series. Parents will be notified of such actions. The action may affect sports participation. Consequences may range from a conference with the student to more serious consequences, up to and including suspension, depending on the severity of the infraction. Fighting and threatening behavior will not be tolerated. **At times, video surveillance or an alcohol sensor may be used to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students, and visitors. The School Resource officer will be contacted for citable offenses.** School Board Policies 3300R, 3310, 3311, 3312R, 3235, and 3340. A list of all School Board Policies including behavior consequences can be found at: <http://gfps.k12.rnt.us/content/3000-series-students>.

Consequences for Poor Choices may include

Students who fail to meet NMS positive behavior expectations will face consequences. This may include:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| • Warning | In School Suspension (ISS) |
| • Lunch detention | Out of School Suspension (OSS) |
| • After school detention | Referral to MIP course |
| • Saturday school | SRO involvement |
| • Loss of privileges (including sports) | Parent conferences |

Illegal activities such as vandalism, graffiti, use or possession of tobacco, drugs, alcohol, and paraphernalia are prohibited. Matches, lighters, knives, weapons, firearms, or any other dangerous items are illegal on campus. Intimidation, fighting, or harassment are prohibited. All of these will result in suspension, expulsion, and/or police action.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION AND TREATMENT

The school will provide first aid or emergency treatment in case of sudden illness or injury to a student, but further medical attention is the responsibility of the parent or guardian. For this reason, each parent or guardian is asked to provide current emergency information containing phone numbers for themselves and other designees in case an emergency does arise. This information will be filed with your child's records. **Please keep the office informed of any change in phone numbers, emergency contacts, work numbers, or addresses.** Students should NOT use a cell phone to call or text their parents or guardians. They should request permission from the supervising staff member to go to the office and office staff will contact the parent. This will ensure students are safely being cared for by office staff and the school nurse until a parent can pick them up.

FIELD EXPERIENCES

All field trips are designed to enhance classroom instruction and increase student learning and all are chaperoned. Parents will be notified ahead of time that the students will be out of the building for the field experience. Students must ride on the buses even when their parents are chaperones unless a **Transportation Request and Release Form** has been filed with our Main Office one (1) week or five (5) school days in advance of the trip.

FIRST 10 LAST 10

Students are expected to be on time for class every period, every day. Students are allowed to get a pass and leave after the first 10 minutes or before the last 10 minutes of each class period. Every teacher begins with a bell ringer and the lesson objective (first 10) and ends with an exit strategy or review of the objective (last 10). Students mustn't miss the instructional focus or review. Tardy students will not be allowed to leave class during that same class period.

FEE SCHEDULE

Some classes in middle school require a class lab fee. The class fees cover the cost of materials, resources, or additional costs associated with an enhancement to a project. Examples are perishable foods, kitchen tools and supplies, computer programs, wood, and woodworking tools.

Middle School Fees:

Computer Applications \$7.00 Financial Literacy \$7.00

Family Consumer Sciences \$20.00 Industrial Technology \$20.00

FLOWS

FLOWS is a procedure for moving in a safe and orderly fashion through our halls. The expectations are:

- File to the right

- Lower your voice

- Open pathways for others; open and close lockers quietly

- Walk, please

- Students must respect one another and staffs direction.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Grades are reported in two ways: on academic report cards, which are reflective of students' progress toward content standards, and during parent-teacher conferences, which reflect both academic and behavioral standards.

Teachers communicate regularly via Parent Square (what used to be Remind). They also update class work and expectations through Google Classroom and PowerSchool. It is expected that parents have access to these online platforms so they can easily be updated on their child's homework, classwork, and success.

In most classes, grades are reported on an A, B, C, D, and F basis. Standards-based grading is another form of academic reporting using a rubric 4,3,2,1. Homework completion, tests, quizzes, and classwork are considered when calculating a grade.

PowerSchool is available online to all parents so they may check their child's progress in classes. Parents should have received usernames & passwords. Please call 268-6525 for help. Parents may also sign up for Parent Square communication. Teacher's lesson plans can also be found in Planbook. Links are located on our school webpage.

GRIZZLY DEN

The Grizzly Den contains a vending machine and is a common area. The vending machine may not be used during the school day or during the lunch period. **Vending machines are used at one's own risk, as refunds for money lost in the machines are not available.**

The Grizzly Den is used for club meetings, cross-country attendance, and as a warm area to wait before school and after school when the temperature drops below zero.

GRIZZLY EXPECTATIONS

- Perseverance
- Respect
- Integrity
- Discipline
- Empathy

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

Counseling services are provided for each student. In addition to assistance with individual problems and career awareness, the counselors provide instruction on various topics within the District-Adopted Guidance and Counseling Curriculum. **The general goal of this program is to help students achieve the greatest personal value from their educational opportunities.**

Therapeutic counseling is not offered by NMS counselors, but referrals and information are available to students and families. Alluvion does provide therapeutic counseling in our building each week, and students can be referred by a counselor or administrator. Parents must complete paperwork with Alluvion before counseling can begin.

GUM

- Chewing gum is a privilege determined by each teacher in his/her classroom.
- Gum is not permitted in the lunchroom, library, or music classrooms.

HEALTH ENHANCEMENT INFORMATION/LOCKER ROOM PROCEDURES 1.

Each student is responsible for providing his/her lock for their basket or gym locker.

2. Students remain in the locker room for the last 5 minutes of the period.

3. All valuables should be locked in the health enhancement office by the teacher. 4. All clothing items should be locked in the gym locker during HPE class. Items left in the open locker area or a locker with no lock are at risk of being taken. 5. No cellular phones are allowed to be used in the locker rooms at any time. *MEDICAL CONDITIONS*

In most cases, all students dress out for P.E. In the case of a medical problem that restricts activity, students will be asked to engage in light walking. Students with extreme medical conditions, as verified by a physician, will be excused from physical education.

In the physical education sections of our health enhancement curriculum, students are expected to change into gym clothes. Health enhancement letter grades are a combination of health and physical education for each grading period and are included in the overall GPA. Failure to come prepared may result in a lower grade in all classes.

HOMEWORK

Homework is an important part of the educational process. Assignments are designed to reinforce classroom instruction and to provide practice in basic skill areas. All assigned homework is to be completed. Failure to complete homework results in lower grades, students not being allowed to attend team events, and an assignment to a team's After School Study Back from 3:00 - 3:30 on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Parents will be responsible for transportation at 3:30 p.m. on those days.

Teachers will communicate regularly with parents via Parent Square. Parents can stay updated on their child's work and success through Google Classroom and PowerSchool.

Please check your child's binder and daily assignment pages, the NMS web page homework link, PowerSchool Parent Portal, the teacher's lesson plans on Planbook, and Parent Square on your home computer to verify actual assignments. There are no Wednesday envelopes in Middle School.

HONOR ROLL/PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Students earning a 4.0 grade point average (GPA) will be acknowledged each trimester on the NMS honor roll list. Students with perfect attendance will also be acknowledged.

IMMUNIZATIONS REQUIREMENTS

For middle school entry in 6th grade, the minimum requirements are listed below. For further information or clarification, please contact the City-County Health Dept. at 454-6950. School Board Policy 3413.

VACCINE TOTAL NUMBER ADDITIONAL DOSE REQUIREMENTS Polio/ 3 doses At least 1 dose after the 4th birthday.

DTP/OT/ 4 doses One dose must be given after the 4th birthday

DTaP/TdAP

Tdap Booster 1 dose prior to entering the 7th grade a pupil must receive a dose of Tdap. This schedule applies to pupils who have completed the Prior 4 doses listed above.

MMR/ Dose 1 on or after A pupil entering any grade from 7 to 12 who has not already. the first birthday and received the 2 required doses at kindergarten age must dose 2 prior to kindergarten receive the second dose.

Varicella/ 2 doses All students in kindergarten through 12th grade will need to have two (2) doses of the varicella vaccine.

LIBRARY

The library is open during school hours. Students will attend an orientation in the fall to learn more about the library.

LITERACY CLASS

Literacy class offers assistance to all students in the areas of reading and writing skills. If you are among a group of selected students, you will be regularly assigned to a literacy class.

LOCKERS

Backpacks are not permitted during the day. Therefore, students must leave them in their locker, which they have access to throughout the day, as needed (See School Board Policy 3231.)

Each student is assigned a coat locker by their Connection teacher. Students may not share lockers or store items not belonging to them in their lockers. Students are responsible for keeping lockers clean. Perishable items should not be left in lockers for an extended period. Gym lockers are assigned through HPE teachers. Gym lockers require a padlock. Lockers may be searched from time to time.

LOST AND FOUND

Items that have been lost or found are placed on the Lost and Found Table behind the main office. Electronic devices are brought to the main office and stored in the vault. Please check the table often. The items are bagged and donated regularly.

MEDICATIONS

All medications brought to school must be stored in the main office with the appropriate signed documentation and will be placed in the school vault. This includes common medications such as cough medicine, Tylenol, etc. Documentation for over-the-counter medications and prescription medications must be completed. Each form requires a parent's signature or a parent and physician's signature. State law mandates that all prescription medication must be in the original container. There is a form specifically for inhalers (School Board Policy 3416F), and these forms are in the main office. **The office will NOT provide any medication for any student that has not been approved, documented, and stored.**

Students with specific medical needs, such as carrying an inhaler, EpiPen, or diabetic necessities, must have office documentation to carry these items. Medications are never to be stored in a student locker. We recommend a second inhaler, EpiPen, or diabetic items be stored in the school vault. School Board Policy 3416, 3418.

MUSIC PERFORMANCES

Music performances include evening concerts, performances during the school day, and weekend events. Performances are the end-of-unit tests. Parents are responsible for transporting students to and from events outside the regular school day hours. A calendar of music events can be found on the school Activity Calendar, on the school website, and music concert schedule. Students absent from school for half the day or more cannot return that day for a concert. Student attendance and behavior may affect event participation.

Music classes have grades that include daily work and participation, outside practice time, and concerts and performances that can be compared to tests and have a higher point value. Concerts and performances are required and a makeup assignment must be completed if a student is absent.

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

The purpose of the National Junior Honor Society is to recognize and encourage academic excellence, outstanding character, service, leadership, and citizenship. In early April, all students who have maintained a 3.5 GPA or above for the first two trimesters (and have not already been inducted into NJHS) will receive a letter and online application link. The NJHS online application must be completed by the student and submitted by the stated deadline to be considered for membership. Students who do not submit a completed application will not be considered further for membership. Students with a high number of absences may not be selected for membership in NJHS for the current year. Eligible students must attend GFPS on a full-time basis, carry a full academic load of classes, and have fewer than 10 absences.

Students selected for membership will receive a letter in mid to late April notifying them that they have been selected for membership.

Equal educational opportunities shall be available for all students without regard to race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, ethnicity, language barrier, religious beliefs, physical and mental handicap or disability, economic or social conditions, or actual or potential marital or parental status. Any student may file a discrimination grievance using the procedure outlined in Board policies 3210, 3215, 3225, and 3226. Copies of these policies are available in the main office. The Title IX officer is the Associate Principal Mrs. Ranieri 268-6565.

PARKING LOT PROCEDURES

The student drop-off is in front of the building. **Parents pull into the diagonal parking in the first lane to drop off students. Then pull forward and exit through the second lane.** This helps with congestion. To ensure the safety of all students at North, students are not to be dropped off in the bus loop, teachers' parking lot on the south of the school, or the southwest driveway by the loading dock. **Do not drop off or park in the fire lane. See page 31 for diagram.**

PASSING TIME

Students have 3 - 4 minutes of passing time between each class period.

PASS TO LEAVE CLASS

Students must have a pass to leave class for any reason. This is a safety concern. Students may get a pass to leave class after the first 10 minutes or before the last 10 minutes of each class period. Students who walk out of class without permission will receive a school consequence.

PICTURES

Individual school pictures are taken of each student and faculty member during the Fall and in the Spring.

PLANBOOK.com

This is a teacher lesson plan book available to students and parents through an online link on the school webpage.

POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL

PowerSchool is available online to all parents so they may check their student's progress in classes. Parents can "link" all their GFPS students under one username and password. Parents need the student ID# and parent password to set this up. Please go to the Parent Portal and follow the directions to create your parent account. Please be aware that once you change your password, we cannot help you access your account so please be sure to document your new username and password.

Students log in differently than parents. Students will retain their student username and password however their username (student ID number) must have a lowercase (s) in front of the number. Please call (406)268-6525 for help. School Board Policies 3612, 3612F.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are produced every trimester. Report cards during the school year are hand-carried home by the students, and the final report cards are mailed home approximately one week after the last day of school.

RTI (Response to Intervention)

Response to Intervention integrates assessment and intervention within a multi-level prevention system of support to maximize student achievement and reduce behavioral problems. With RTI, schools use data to identify students at risk for poor learning outcomes, monitor student progress, provide evidence-based interventions, and adjust the intensity and nature of those interventions depending on a student's responsiveness. Customized learning plans may be written as a goal template for the student.

SATURDAY SCHOOL

Students with inappropriate behaviors or missing work may be assigned to Saturday school. Parents are responsible for transportation to and from NMS on the assigned Saturday school day. Saturday school takes place from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on an assigned date. Students who do not attend Saturday school will have additional school consequences.

SCHOOL DAY

School hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 7:50 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., and Wednesday 7:50 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. NOTE: Our building hours are from 7:15 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Students are not to be in the building after the 3:00 p.m. dismissal (2:15 on Wednesdays) or before 7:30 a.m. unless involved in a school-sponsored activity. Each Wednesday, students are dismissed at 2:15 p.m. to allow for teacher training. Please do not have your child wait at school past the dismissal time. **Students should be off campus within 10 minutes of dismissal. Office hours are 7:15-4:00 p.m. daily.**

7:15 a.m. Breakfast
7:30 a.m. Students enter the building
7:48 a.m. Warning bell; students report to first class.
7:50 a.m. School day starts. The tardy bell for first class.
3:00 p.m. Dismissal except on Wednesday.

TARDY: When the bell rings this signifies the beginning of a period. Students are responsible for being in the classroom and/or at their desks. Tardy students will have classroom consequences for their behavior.

TRUANCY: Skipping a portion of a class period will result in school consequences which may include Saturday school.

SEARCH and SEIZURE

School officials may search any individual student, his/her property, or District property under his/her control when there is a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence that he/she is violating the law, Board policy, administrative regulation, or other rules of the district or the school. Reasonable suspicion shall be based on specific and objective facts that the search will produce evidence related to the alleged violation. The types of student property that may be searched by school officials include but are not limited to lockers, desks, purses, backpacks, student vehicles parked on District property, cellular phones, or other electronic communication devices. School Board Policy 3231

SECURITY OF PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Our procedures are designed to reduce the theft of personal items. They include using personal locks on athletic lockers. It is the student's responsibility to lock belongings in assigned lockers in locker rooms. All students are encouraged to take the necessary steps to prevent losing valued items. Additionally, students should mark all personal belongings for identification purposes. **It is strongly recommended that students do not bring large sums of money or items of great value to school, such as cellular phones or other electronics.**

STUDENT SERVICES/SPECIAL EDUCATION

Access to Special Education programs (for students with disabilities) is predicated upon procedures of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. (IDEA) School Board Policy 3202.

STUDY HALL BASIC RULES

The purpose of study hall is to allow students to complete work during the school day and to reinforce literacy and math skills. Students who participate in sports and other activities may find a study hall very beneficial.

1. Students bring materials to study or a book to read and sit in the assigned seat.
2. There is no talking. Students are expected to work independently.
3. When students arrive in the study hall with a pass to seek support from a classroom teacher or work in the library, the pass must be placed on the study hall supervisor's desk at the beginning of each period.

TECHNOLOGY USE POLICY

Technology during school hours is for school and learning purposes. Students accessing technology and the Internet must comply with district guidelines regarding appropriate usage. The purpose of District-provided Internet access is to facilitate communications in support of research and education. Not playing games. Any misuse of technology will result in administrative action. Misuse may include damage to the equipment and/or inappropriate information accessed on the Internet. Internet access is available to all students. The District does provide filtering software for computers accessing the Internet. However, for a student to remain eligible as a user and to avoid disciplinary consequences, he/she must assume the responsibility of appropriate usage that furthers the purpose of research and education. Inappropriate computer or internet use may result in termination of computer privileges, other administrative action, or legal action. School Board Policy 3612 and 3612F.

TEAM CELEBRATIONS

Each team at NMS honors and celebrates students throughout the school year with awards, assemblies, and team celebrations. Students may earn team celebrations for various behaviors such as a 4.0 GPA, perfect attendance, academic achievement, or other team-specific requirements.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks, computers, and charging cords are bar-coded and checked out to students through the library at the beginning of the school year. Students are responsible for returning textbooks at the end of the year or upon checkout. They are responsible for the book they checked out in the fall, returning the same book with the same barcode.

Should a student lose a book during the year, they cannot receive a replacement until they submit payment for the missing book. Parents may give the library an undated check for the amount of the book. They are then given a replacement textbook. The checks are kept in the office until the textbooks are returned in the spring. Oftentimes, the missing textbook is turned in and the undated check is returned to the parent. Should the missing textbook not be returned, the check is cashed to replace the missing textbook.

After all the books are returned, letters will be sent to the parents of the students with missing textbooks stating that they have a missing textbook or other financial obligations.

THEME WEEKS

NMS celebrates various theme weeks and theme days throughout the school year. This may include students dressing up to match a theme. For example, during Red Ribbon week, students may wear silly mismatched socks for "Sock it to drugs" day.

TRANSPORTATION REQUEST AND RELEASE FORM

School buses provide transportation for field trips and other school-related events when needed. Students must ride on the buses even when their parents are chaperones unless a **Transportation Request and Release Form** has been filed with our main office at least one (1) week (5) school

TOYS and BLANKETS

Toys and blankets are not permitted in school unless special permission has been given by a school administrator or designee. Toy guns and other weapons are not allowed. See School Board Policy 3311 on weapons or look-alike weapons.

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

All individuals may use the complaint procedure if they believe that the Board, its employees or agents have violated their rights under Montana constitutional, statutory, or administrative law; United States constitutional, statutory, or regulatory law; or Board policy 3215.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

The school campus has several cameras. The purpose is to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students, and visitors to District property. Video documents violations of Board policies, administrative regulations, District or building rules or law, and provide a historical record to assist in investigations as authorized or permitted by law. School Board Policy 3235

WEBSITES

Great Falls Public Schools <https://gfps.k12.mt.us/>

North Middle School <https://nms.gfps.k12.mt.us/>

PowerSchool Login <https://ps.gfps.k12.mt.us>

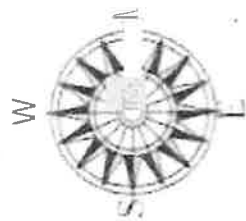
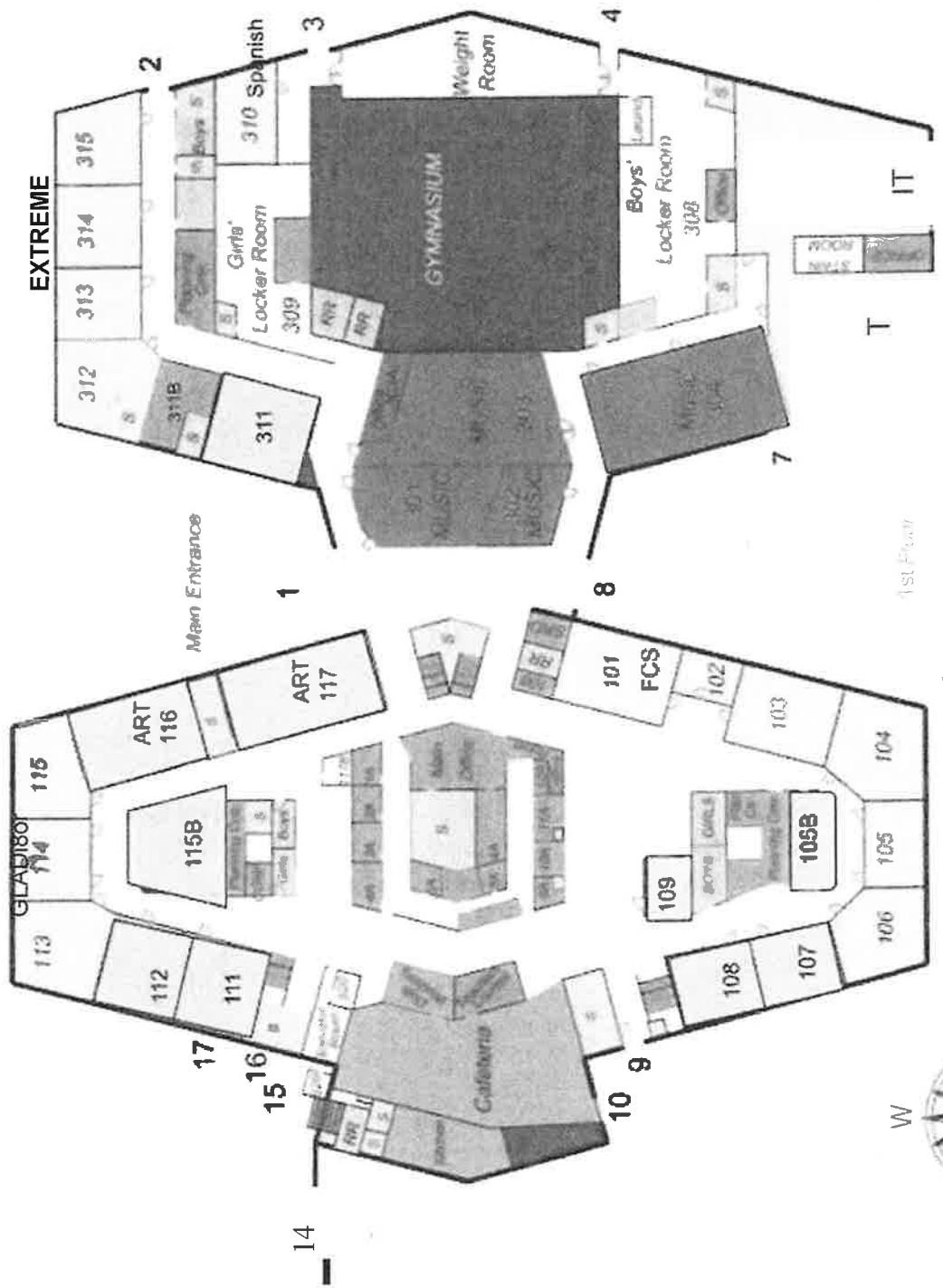
CPM Math <http://www.cpm.org/student>

Khan Academy Login <http://www.khanacademy.org/login>

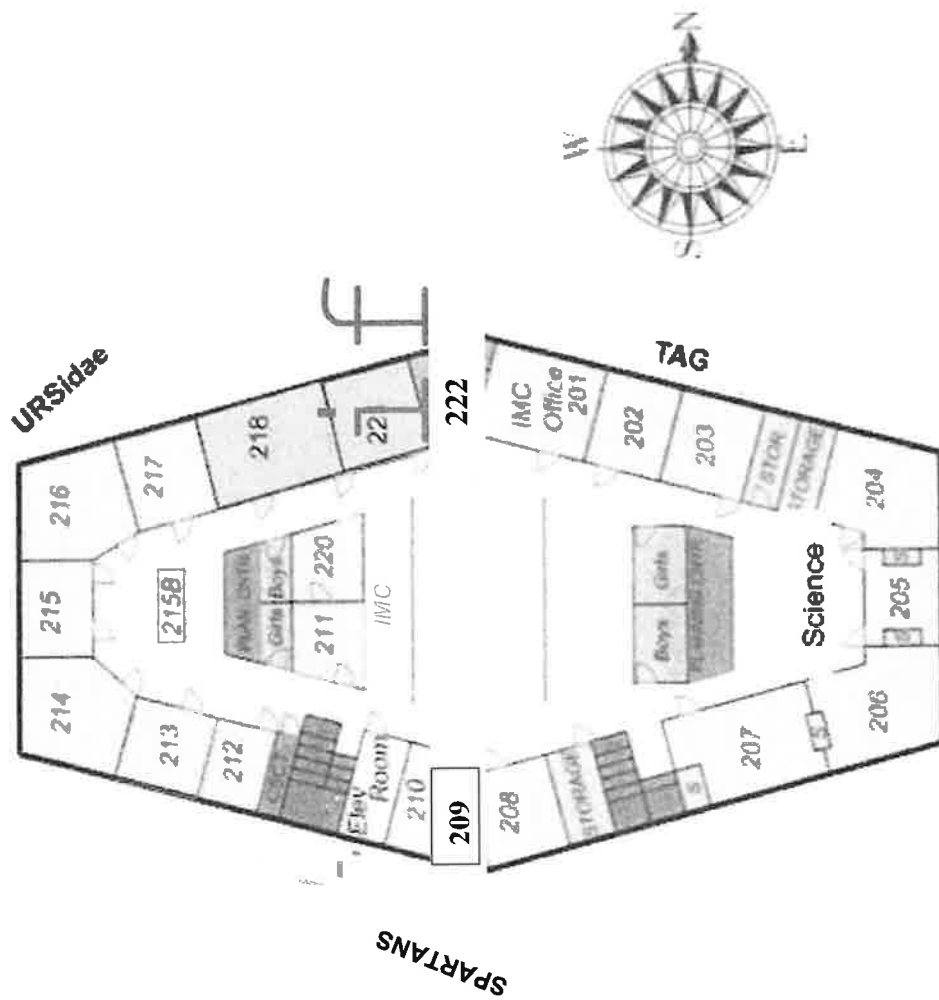
YEARBOOK

A yearbook with individual photos of each student and staff member is produced each school year. Yearbooks are distributed near the end of the school year. Limited quantity for purchase, it is best to order early. Ask your student to notify you when they go on sale.

GO GRIZZLIES!



NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL



NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL SUPPLIES LIST

1. 3-ring zippered binder (minimum 2 inches)
2. Backpack or cinch sack
3. Plastic pouch to hold pencils, etc. (must be able to clip into binder)
4. Pencils and erasers
5. Pens- blue/black
6. Composition notebook and spiral notebook
7. Colored pencils
8. Ruler
9. 3-Hole loose-leaf paper (wide or college)
10. Calculator preferred TI 30 scientific calculator
11. Dry Erase Markers (4+ thin)
12. Highlighters (green, yellow, pink)
13. Glue sticks
14. Corded earbuds for computers
15. P.E. supplies: Tennis shoes, socks; gym shorts or sweats, towel, T-shirt, and combination padlock.
16. Music supplies: black dress pants or black jeans for concerts, instruments for band or orchestra, and a single notebook for choral and general music.

North Middle School

2601 8th Street N.E.
Great Falls, MT 59404

Main Office	268-6525
Attendance	268-6526
Clerk and Records	268-6533
FAX	268-6575
Principal Mr. Miller	268-6530
Associate Principal Mrs. Ranieri	268-6565
Administrative Intern Ms. Erdman	268-6594
7th Grade Counselor Mrs. Grady	268-6535
8th Grade Counselor Mrs. Smith-Boggs	268-6536
School Resource Officer Det. Kinsey	268-6544
Big Sky Bus Lines	454-1283
School District Bus Information	268-6015

Visit our website at <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/NMS> This offers information about the school, a digital copy of our **student handbook**, the school supply list, and other helpful information. Check teacher lesson plans at <https://www.planbook.com/> Join us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/GFPSnms/

PARKING LOT PROCEDURES

Dear Parents:

A primary concern for us is to keep your children safe and sound while they are at school. We have various plans in place, and we will practice different safety drills numerous times this year. We believe we have an excellent safety plan in place, with one exception.

We have had difficulties keeping an organized traffic flow in the mornings and afternoons when students are dropped off at school or being picked up to go home. Some drivers are driving too fast for the conditions, and some are not stopping at designated crosswalks. Many drivers want to drop off or pick up students only in front of the Main Entrance. They are not moving to the left diagonal parking spaces before letting passengers out of the car. Often vehicles stop in the fire lane by the curb blocking traffic and emergency vehicle access. Please proceed to the very end of the parking lot, as close to the exit as possible, and pull into a diagonal parking space on the left before stopping to drop off passengers. This allows for many more vehicles to enter the parking lot. It also provides for greater safety for students walking to school who have to cross the busy parking lot to access school grounds. Students tend to dodge through backed-up vehicles, not giving drivers time to react. Please become familiar with the traffic flow process. A diagram can be found on the next page.

Congestion can be reduced if you would consider dropping off or picking up your students a block away from school. This would reduce traffic in the school's parking lot and provide a much safer situation for all the students who are outside the building in the morning and the afternoon.

We appreciate your help and cooperation with this. Our students' safety is a paramount concern to us all.

Brian T. Miller
Principal, North Middle School

Anita Ranieri
Associate Principal, North Middle School

PARKING LOT PROCEDURES

The student drop-off is in front of the building only. **Parents pull into the diagonal parking in the first lane to drop off students. Then pull forward and exit through the second lane.**

This helps with congestion. To ensure the safety of all students at North, students are not to be dropped off in the bus loop, teachers' parking lot on the south of the school, or the southwest driveway by the loading dock. **Do not drop off or park in the fire lane.**

