

# Nipher Middle School



## Nipher Handbook 2026-2027

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

# Nipher Welcome!

August 2026

Dear Nipher Families:

On behalf of our entire Nipher staff, we welcome you to the 2026-2027 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

|                                         |           |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Nipher Contacts</b>                  | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Nipher Daily Schedule</b>            | <b>7</b>  |
| Student Arrival to School               | 7         |
| First Week of School                    | 7         |
| Last Day of School                      | 7         |
| Drop-Off Procedures                     | 7         |
| After School Pick-Up Procedures         | 8         |
| <b>Nipher Bell Schedule</b>             | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>Attendance</b>                       | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Guidance/Counseling</b>              | <b>11</b> |
| <b>Communication</b>                    | <b>12</b> |
| Infinite Campus                         | 12        |
| Schoology                               | 12        |
| eBlast Newsletter (Nipher Knights News) | 12        |
| Conference Schedule                     | 12        |
| <b>Getting Involved (PTO)</b>           | <b>13</b> |
| <b>Academics</b>                        | <b>13</b> |
| Curriculum                              | 13        |
| Report Card/Grading Practices           | 14        |
| High School Credit                      | 15        |
| Gold N Award                            | 15        |
| Homework and Planners                   | 15        |
| Homeroom                                | 16        |
| Climbing Wall                           | 16        |
| Library                                 | 18        |
| Field Trips                             | 18        |
| Turkey Trot                             | 18        |
| Copyright/Plagiarism                    | 18        |
| <b>Student Expectations</b>             | <b>20</b> |
| Discipline Policy                       | 21        |
| Dress Standards                         | 22        |
| Buses                                   | 23        |
| Electronic Devices                      | 23        |
| <b>School-Issued Technology</b>         | <b>25</b> |
| iPads                                   | 25        |
| Conduct Code                            | 25        |
| <b>After-School Activities</b>          | <b>26</b> |
| Power Hour                              | 26        |

|                                 |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Intramurals & Clubs             | 27        |
| <b>School Safety</b>            | <b>30</b> |
| Our SRO                         | 30        |
| Emergency Contacts              | 31        |
| Emergency Situations and Drills | 31        |
| Searches and Weapons            | 31        |
| Staff Boundaries                | 32        |

# Nipher Contacts

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**Assistant Principal, 7th Grade Administrator:** Mrs. Savannah Christian

314-213-6100 x8303

[savannah.christian@kirkwoodschoools.org](mailto:savannah.christian@kirkwoodschoools.org)

**Assistant Principal, 8th Grade Administrator:** Dr. Beth Ruta

314-213-6100 x8303

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**School Secretary (6th):** Aimee Moore

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

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**Counselor Grade 6:** Nelson Taylor

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**Counselor Grade 7:** Lauren Wallace

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**Counselor Grade 8:** Carmon Griffin

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**Registrar and Guidance Secretary:** Olivia Patrick

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**Clinic:** Meaghan Susman

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**Cafeteria:** Tamika Moore

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# KIRKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT

## 2026-2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR

|                       |                                                 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| August 10-14          | New Teacher Orientation                         |
| August 17-24          | Teacher Work Days                               |
| August 18             | District Workshop (Opening Day)                 |
| August 25             | First Day of School for K-12 Students           |
| September 7           | Labor Day Holiday - District Closed             |
| October 22            | End of First Quarter                            |
| October 23            | Records Day - No School for Students            |
| October 26            | Staff Development Day - No School for Students  |
| November 3            | Staff Development Day - No School for Students  |
| November 25           | No School for Students                          |
| November 26-27        | Thanksgiving Recess - District Closed           |
| December 22           | End of First Semester                           |
| December 23-January 4 | Winter Recess - District Closed                 |
| January 5             | Records Day - No School for Students            |
| January 6             | Staff Development Day - No School for Students  |
| January 7             | School Resumes                                  |
| January 18            | Martin Luther King Day - District Closed        |
| February 12           | Staff Development Day - No School for Students  |
| February 15           | Presidents Day - District Closed                |
| March 12              | End of Third Quarter                            |
| March 15-19           | Spring Recess - District Closed                 |
| March 22              | Records Day - No School for Students            |
| March 23              | School Resumes                                  |
| April 6               | Staff Development Day - No School for Students  |
| April 16              | No School for Students                          |
| May 27                | Last Day of School for Students - Early Release |
| May 28                | Teacher Work Day                                |
| May 31                | Memorial Day - District Closed                  |

For a full schedule of district events and important dates, visit [kirkwoodschoools.org/calendar](http://kirkwoodschoools.org/calendar)

11/17/25

| AUGUST 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 |    |    |    |    |    |
| SEPTEMBER 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 |    |    |    |
| OCTOBER 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 |
| NOVEMBER 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 |    |    |    |    |    |
| DECEMBER 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 |    |    |
| JANUARY 2027   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 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 |
| FEBRUARY 2027  |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 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 |
| MARCH 2027     |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 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 2027     |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 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 2027       |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 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 25th will observe a Friday Schedule

Wednesday, August 26th will observe a Wednesday Schedule

Thursday, August 27th will observe a Thursday Schedule

Friday, August 28th will observe a Friday Schedule

## Last Day of School

The last day of school is Thursday, May 27th. 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, cars should enter the Nipher drive on the north side of the building via Kirkwood Road. Once you turn into the drive, continue around the back of the building. Staff members will be outside to help direct students and vehicles. Students will walk down the sidewalk or across the lawn to enter the building through the east/science wing or south doors beginning at 7:45 AM. Students should not be dropped off on side streets, the or in the middle of the drive, as this can pose a serious safety hazard and cause traffic to back up behind you.

Our staff members are out there every morning for your students' safety as well as to keep traffic efficiently flowing and off of Kirkwood Road as much as possible. Please pay attention to staff members' signals and have your student remain in your vehicle until they are in the drop off zone Behind the school. If you have an exception (student on crutches, large instrument, etc.) we just ask that you please exit the main traffic line so that normal car flow is not blocked.

**\*\*When arrival traffic is particularly heavy, we do ask teachers to hold off on attendance and to excuse tardies until everyone has had a chance to arrive and make their way to class.\*\***

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



## 7th Grade

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

## 8th Grade

|             | Monday                                          | Tuesday                        | Wednesday                            | Thursday                       | Friday                            |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 8:00-9:33   | 1 Explo/WL<br>or Core or<br>Wellness            | 2 Core or<br>Wellness or<br>WL | 1 Explo/WL<br>or Core or<br>Wellness | 2 Core or<br>Wellness or<br>WL | 1 8:00-8:45<br><br>2 8:48-9:33    |
| 9:36-10:24  | 3 Homeroom                                      |                                |                                      |                                | 3 9:36-10:22 (HR)                 |
| 10:27-10:57 | Lunch                                           |                                |                                      |                                | <b>Lunch 10:25-10:55</b>          |
| 11:00-11:45 | 4 <u>Explo</u> : Instrumental Music or Wellness |                                |                                      |                                | 4 10:57-11:42 (Explo)             |
| 11:48-1:22  | 5 Core or<br>Wellness or<br>WL                  | 6 Core or<br>Wellness or<br>WL | 5 Core or<br>Wellness or<br>WL       | 6 Core or<br>Wellness or<br>WL | 5 11:45-12:32<br><br>6 12:35-1:22 |
| 1:25-3:00   | 7 Core or<br>Wellness or<br>WL                  | 8 Core or<br>Wellness or<br>WL | 7 Core or<br>Wellness or<br>WL       | 8 Core or<br>Wellness or<br>WL | 7 1:25-2:12<br><br>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. 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 x8125 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 Class**

Students are expected to be in all their classes on time. Being on time helps you stay caught up in class and ready to learn. Teachers will keep track of tardies for each class period. Any unexcused tardy will be recorded in Infinite Campus.

Administrators review tardy reports each week and will meet with students when they reach these levels:

- **5 tardies in a quarter:** Meeting with an administrator and parent/guardian contact
- **7 tardies in a quarter:** Meeting with an administrator, lunch detention, and parent/guardian contact
- **10 tardies in a quarter:** Office referral, meeting with an administrator, parent/guardian contact, and additional consequences

**For every 5 tardies after the 10th tardy**, students may receive additional consequences, including:

- After-school detention
- Parent/guardian meeting
- An alternate passing period
- Other appropriate consequences

Important: Tardies are counted together from all classes during the quarter.

## **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, and work collaboratively with students, teachers, and families to support students' academic success, social-emotional growth, and overall well-being. 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.

Mr. Nelson Taylor: Grade 6 Counselor (x8043)  
Mrs. Lauren Wallace: Grade 7 Counselor (x8041)  
Mrs. Carmon Griffin: Grade 8 Counselor (x8040)  
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@kirkwoodschoools.org](mailto:icportal@kirkwoodschoools.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 guardians 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 14  | Nipher Conferences 3:30-7:30pm |
| Thursday, October 15   | Nipher Conferences 3:30-6:30pm |
| Thursday, February 11  | Nipher Conferences 3:30-7:30pm |
| Wednesday, February 17 | 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 four times a year to oversee all of the amazing work being done by the various teams. Those four dates are:

September 2, 2026 – 6:00-7:00pm

November 4, 2026 – 6:00-7:00pm

February 17, 2027 – 6:00-7:00pm

April 7, 2027 – 6:00-7:00pm

Here are some of the many 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 18-20, 2026
- 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 in 7th and 8th grade.

**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.

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 27 | 1st Quarter Report Cards on Infinite Campus |
| Thursday, January 7 | 2nd Quarter Report Cards on Infinite Campus |
| Wednesday, March 24 | 3rd Quarter Report Cards on Infinite Campus |
| Tuesday, June 1     | 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:

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.

## **Homeroom**

Homeroom is a class that is held during the first period for grade 6, second period for grade 7 and 3rd period for grade 8. It serves as an advisory period for 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 Google forms. This form can be found [here](#). 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 the parent agreement form 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. For more information specific to audio and eBooks through Sora please visit the [district website](#).

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 24. 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

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 -AP](#)) 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. 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**

Senate Bill 68 was put in place at the start of the 25/26 school year that requires all schools in Missouri to follow the same rule when it comes to cell phones and similar devices for students. SB 68 states the policy must "Prohibit a student from displaying or using an electronic personal communications device from the beginning of the school day until the end of the school day,

including, but not limited to, instructional time, meal times, breaks, time between classes, and during study halls.”

Electronic personal communications devices include: cell phones, smart phones, smart watches, and other “smart” devices. From 8:00am to 3:00pm all electronic personal communications devices need to be put inside a student’s backpack and not in use. 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:

1st referral - meeting with administrator, warning, & contact home

2nd referral - meeting with administrator, lunch detention, & contact home

3rd referral - meeting with administrator, after school detention, confiscation of phone for the remainder of the day, & contact home

4th+ referral - meeting with administrator, confiscation of phone for remainder of the day, & meeting with student, guardian, & administrator

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 and returned at the end of the year in good condition. Students will be charged fines for lost or damaged iPads, cases, cords, and chargers. (Note: Insurance only covers accidental damage, not lost devices nor damage that is seen as intentional.)

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 and cases with respect and care
2. Keep volume off unless instructed otherwise by teacher
3. iPad should have the screen down unless instructed otherwise by teacher
4. Only take photos or videos when instructed by a teacher and with consent of that individual. Recording or taking photos of a staff member without permission will result in an immediate office referral

### **We Work As a Team**

1. Arrive at school and come to class with fully charged iPad
2. Do not use electronic media to harm or offend people in any way

## **We Persevere**

1. AI is not used without teacher permission
2. Online posting is only permitted when instructed by teacher
3. Email is used for educational purposes only, and no personal accounts will be used

## **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](http://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 fourth year at Nipher as the School Resource Officer, but I have been with the district for 9 years working with the Elementary Schools. I have 23 years of Law Enforcement experience and 12 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@kirkwoodschools.org](mailto:tj.stemmler@kirkwoodschools.org) or [stemmlaj@kirkwoodmo.org](mailto: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.kirkwoodschools.org](http://www.kirkwoodschools.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. Maintaining these boundaries is an essential requirement for employment in the district.

Although this policy applies to the relationships between staff members and district students, staff members who inappropriately interact with any child will be disciplined or terminated when the district determines such action is necessary to protect students.

## **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.