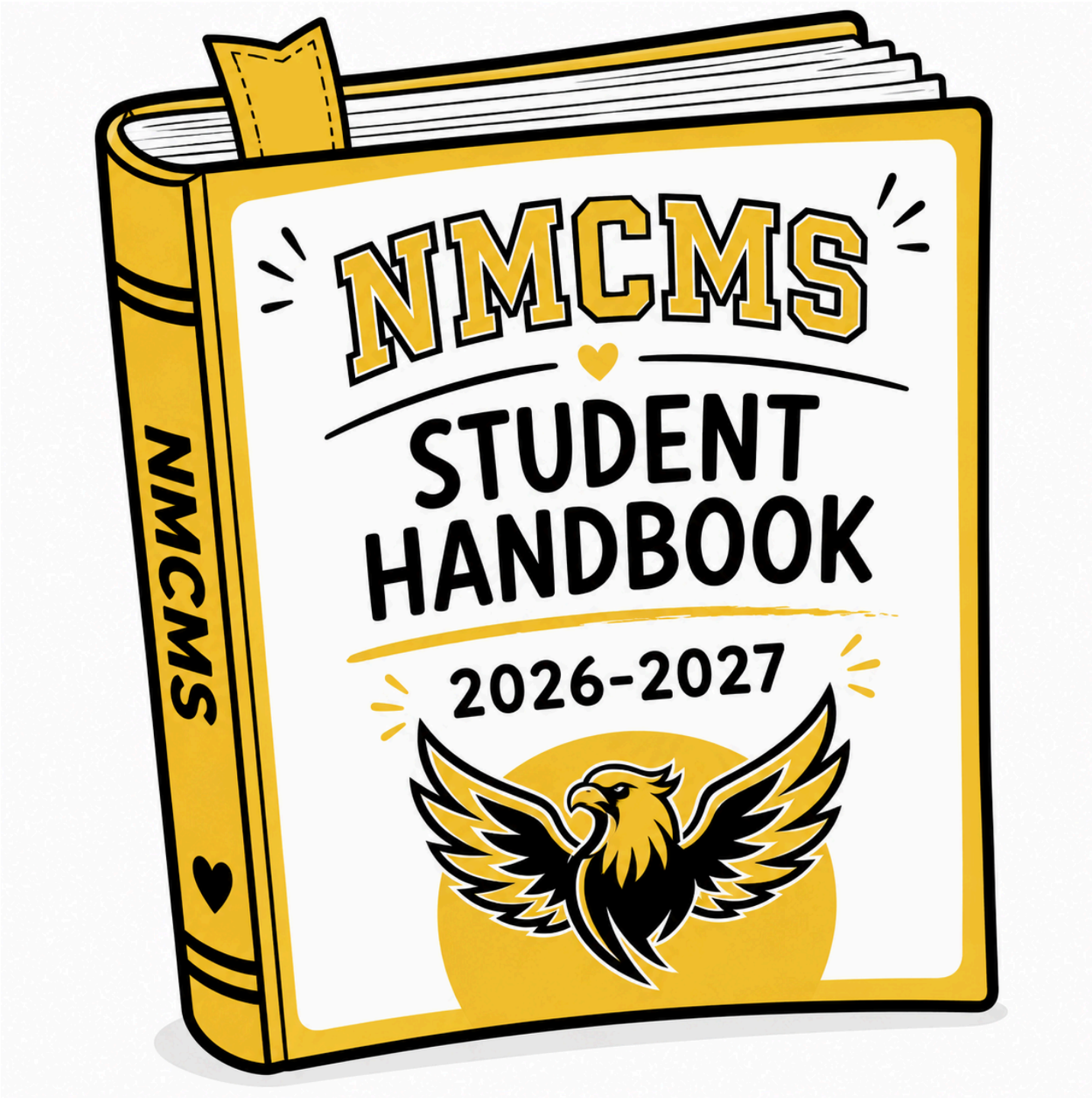

NORTH MONTEREY COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Last Revised June 2026

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SECTION 1: WELCOME TO NMCMS

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Welcome to North Monterey County Middle School, home of the Phoenix!

We are excited to have you as part of our school community. At NMCMS, we are committed to creating a safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment where every student can learn, grow, and succeed. Our staff believes in high expectations, strong relationships, and providing students with the opportunities and support they need to reach their full potential.

At NMCMS, we live by our RISE values:

Respect – We treat ourselves, others, and our school with kindness and consideration.

Integrity – We take responsibility for our actions and make positive choices.

Service & Safety – We contribute to a safe, welcoming, and supportive school community.

Excellence – We give our best effort every day and strive for continuous growth.

This handbook is designed to help students and families understand our expectations, procedures, programs, and opportunities. We encourage you to review it together and refer to it throughout the school year.

Middle school is an important time of growth and discovery. Whether you are joining us as a new student or returning for another year, we are proud to have you as part of the Phoenix family. We look forward to partnering with you to make the 2026–2027 school year a successful and memorable one.

Together, we RISE!

Daniel Rimmer
Principal

Megan Duits
Assistant Principal

1.1 School Mission, Vision & Beliefs

Mission and Vision: Ensuring that all students graduate college, career and life ready Core Values:

1. To have high expectations for all, and to provide the necessary support each student needs to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.
2. To be culturally responsive, human centered and kind; To be inclusive, collaborate across differences and find common ground.
3. To engage in continuous improvement and data based decision making.

BELIEF STATEMENT

We believe in our students, our families, and our community.
What <u>we</u> dream, engage in, and achieve together matters!

Our vision is to create an innovative learning environment that inspires creativity, curiosity, and critical thinking through communication and collaboration to prepare students for adulthood in the 21st century.

North Monterey County Middle School's mission is to provide a safe learning environment where staff, students, parents, and the community accept the responsibilities of preparing, empowering, and inspiring all students to apply knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to become creative problem solvers, to achieve personal success, and to contribute responsibly to our diverse, dynamic world. North Monterey County Middle School's environment of trust and mutual respect for all people reflects our belief that all students can learn.

1.2 School Information

North Monterey County Middle School
Home of the Phoenix

Address:
10301 Seymour Street
Castroville, CA 95012

Main Office:
(831) 633-3391

Website:
nmcms.nmcusd.org

School Administration

Principal
Daniel Rimmer

Assistant Principal
Megan Duits

Office Hours

Monday–Friday
8 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Reporting an Absence

Families may report student absences by:

- Sending a message through TalkingPoints
- Calling the school office at (831) 633-3391

Please report absences as soon as possible and provide the reason for the absence.

School Communication

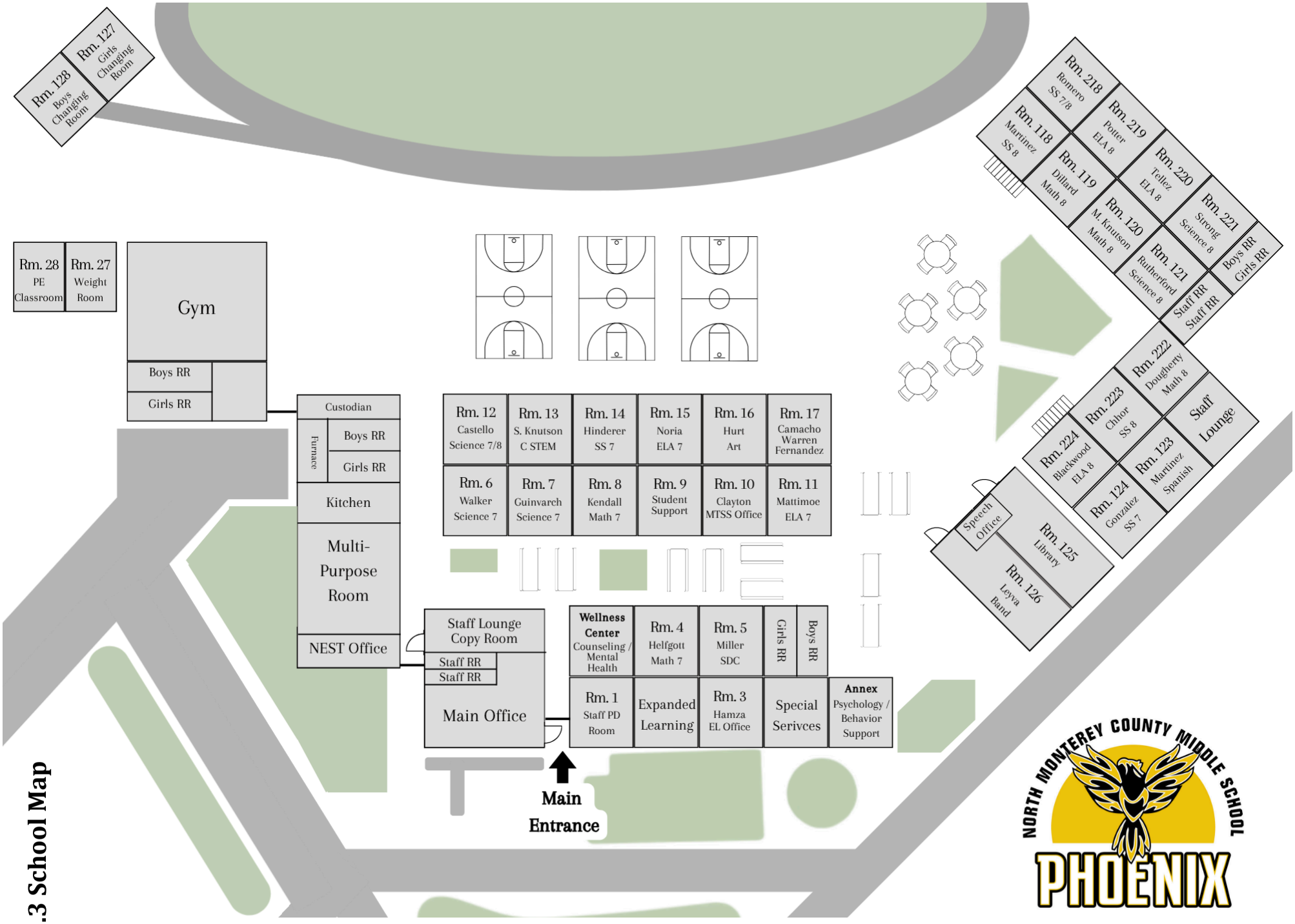
North Monterey County Middle School communicates with families through:

- TalkingPoints
- Email
- Phone Calls
- School Website
- Social Media

Stay Connected

For school news, events, calendars, athletics, and announcements, visit the NMCMS website regularly.
Instagram: nmcms_phoenix
Facebook: North Monterey County Middle School

Together, we RISE!



1.3 School Map

NORTH MONTEREY COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL
PHOENIX

1.4 Bell Schedules

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY

Regular Schedule

Period	Begin	End
Warning Bell	8:26 AM	
Advisory	8:30 AM	8:51 AM
Period 1	8:55 AM	9:45 AM
Period 2	9:49 AM	10:39 AM
Break	10:39 AM	10:54 AM
Period 3	10:58 AM	11:48 AM
Period 4	11:52 AM	12:42 PM
Lunch	12:42 PM	1:27 PM
Period 5	1:31 PM	2:21 PM
Period 6	2:25 PM	3:15 PM

MONDAY

Early Release Schedule

Period	Begin	End
Warning Bell	8:26 AM	
Period 1	8:30 AM	9:04 AM
Period 2	9:08 AM	9:42 AM
Period 3	9:46 AM	10:20 AM
Break	10:20 AM	10:35 AM
Period 4	10:39 AM	11:13 AM
Period 5	11:17 AM	11:51 AM
Period 6	11:55 AM	12:29 AM
Lunch	12:29 PM	1:15 PM

SECTION 2: BEING A PHOENIX

2.1 RISE Expectations
2.2 Classroom Expectations
2.3 Behavior Expectations & Support
2.3.1 Progressive Behavior Support
2.3.2 Lunch Detention
2.3.3 Suspension
2.4 Positive Incentives

2.1 RISE Expectations

At North Monterey County Middle School, we are proud to be Phoenixes. Our school community is built around four core values known as **RISE**. These expectations guide how we learn, interact with others, and contribute to our school community every day.

R — Respect

We treat ourselves, others, and our school with kindness and consideration.

Examples:

- Use appropriate language and tone.
- Listen when others are speaking.
- Respect personal space and property.
- Follow directions the first time.
- Treat school facilities and materials with care.

I — Integrity

We take responsibility for our actions and make positive choices, even when no one is watching.

Examples:

- Be honest.
- Complete your own work.
- Accept responsibility for mistakes.
- Follow school rules and expectations.
- Use technology appropriately.

S — Service & Safety

We help create a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for everyone.

Examples:

- Walk safely through campus.
- Report unsafe situations to an adult.
- Include and support others.
- Help keep our campus clean.
- Use equipment and facilities responsibly.

E — Excellence

We give our best effort and strive to improve every day.

Examples:

- Arrive prepared and on time.
- Participate actively in class.
- Complete assignments to the best of your ability.
- Set goals and work toward them.

- Demonstrate perseverance when learning is challenging.

What RISE Looks Like at NMCMS

Whether in the classroom, hallways, cafeteria, restrooms, athletic events, on the bus, or during school activities, students are expected to demonstrate Respect, Integrity, Service & Safety, and Excellence.

Students who consistently demonstrate RISE expectations may be recognized through schoolwide celebrations, positive referrals, incentives, leadership opportunities, and other forms of acknowledgment.

	Classroom	Outdoors	Bathrooms	Lunch Lines
RESPECT	• Raise your hand before speaking. • Hands & feet to yourself. • Listen attentively when someone is speaking.	• Use appropriate language and volume when speaking. • Assume best intentions.	• Respect others' privacy and property.	• Wait patiently in line and have your ID # ready. • Say please & thank you.
INTEGRITY	• Take ownership of your actions. • Use materials appropriately. • Complete your own work.	• Keep hallways and stairways safe and clean. • Get to where you are supposed to be	• Maintain personal hygiene - wash your hands. • Do not waste time.	• Form lines to be served. • Do not cut in front of your peers.
SERVICE & SAFETY	• Help others. • Keep the classroom clean.	• Clean up after self and others. • Walk through the hallways.	• Keep the area clean for all to use.	• Clean up after self and others.
EXCELLENCE	• Be in your seat when the bell rings. • Give your best effort. • Follow directions.	• Share the space with others.	• Do your business and return to class in a timely manner.	• Share the space with others.

PHOENIX...RISE UP!

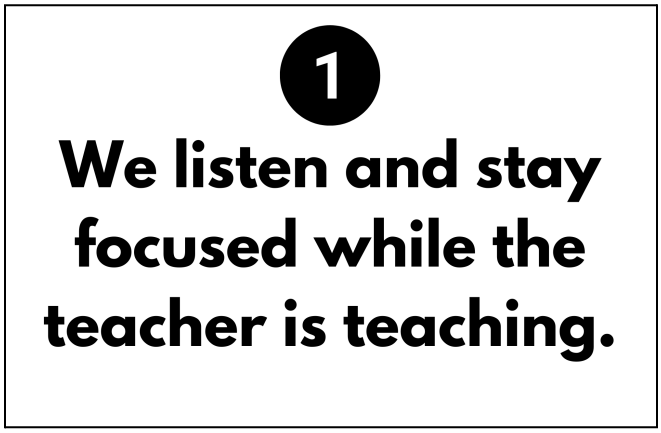
2.2 RISE Expectations

To create a positive learning environment where everyone can be successful, we have a set of classroom expectations. At North Monterey County Middle School, all students are expected to:

1. Listen and Stay Focused While the Teacher Is Teaching

Students are expected to:

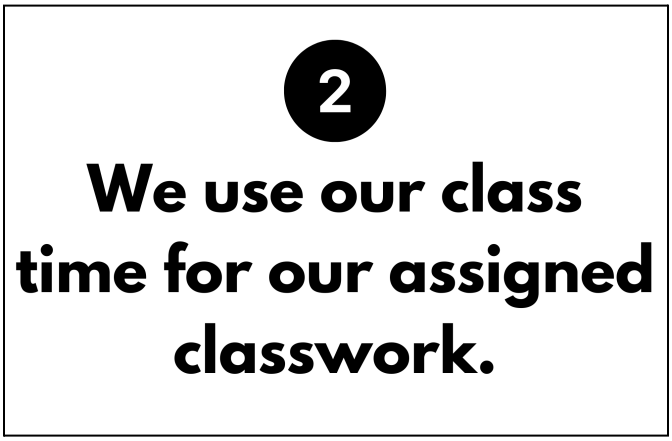
- Follow directions the first time.
- Listen when others are speaking.
- Avoid side conversations and distractions.
- Demonstrate active engagement during instruction.



2. Use Class Time for Assigned Classwork

Students are expected to:

- Participate in learning activities.
- Make a genuine effort to complete assigned tasks.
- Stay on task during independent and collaborative work time.
- Use class time productively.



3. Treat Ourselves, Others, and Our School with Respect

Students are expected to:

- Use appropriate language.
- Respect personal space and property.
- Demonstrate kindness and empathy.
- Help maintain a clean and safe learning environment.

2.3 Behavior Expectations & Support

At North Monterey County Middle School, we believe that behavior, like academics, is something that can be taught, practiced, and improved. Our goal is to help students learn from mistakes, develop positive habits, and contribute to a safe and productive school environment.

Positive Behavior Support

Students who consistently demonstrate RISE expectations may be recognized through positive referrals, incentives, celebrations, leadership opportunities, and other forms of acknowledgment.

When Students Struggle to Meet Expectations

When a student does not meet school or classroom expectations, staff members will work to support the student through strategies such as:

- Verbal reminders and redirection
- Reteaching expectations
- Reflection and problem-solving conversations
- Seat changes or classroom interventions
- Parent or guardian communication
- Lunch detention
- Check-ins with counselors, behavior support staff, or administrators

Our goal is always to help students learn from their choices and make positive changes.

Major Behavior Incidents

Some behaviors are more serious and may require immediate office involvement. Examples may include:

- Fighting or physical aggression
- Bullying, harassment, or intimidation
- Threats toward others
- Theft or vandalism
- Possession of prohibited items
- Repeated refusal to follow school expectations
- Behavior that creates an unsafe learning environment

Consequences for major incidents may include parent conferences, loss of privileges, behavior contracts, suspension, or other disciplinary actions permitted by California Education Code.

2.3.1 Progressive Behavior Support

North Monterey County Middle School uses a progressive approach to behavior support. Whenever possible, staff members will work with students to reteach expectations, provide support, and help students make positive choices.

Depending on the severity and frequency of the behavior, interventions may include:

- Verbal reminders and redirection
- Reteaching expectations
- Reflection activities
- Parent or guardian communication
- Lunch Accountability and Restorative Justice
- Behavior contracts or check-ins
- Counseling or support services
- Loss of privileges
- Administrative conferences
- Suspension when required or appropriate under California Education Code

Repeated violations of school expectations may result in increased interventions and consequences.

Not every behavior incident will follow the same sequence. School administrators will consider the severity of the behavior, safety concerns, prior incidents, and the individual circumstances when determining an appropriate response.

Behavior Concern	Possible Responses
Classroom disruption	Redirection, parent contact, lunch detention
Tardiness	Parent contact, lunch detention, punctuality support
Defiance/disrespect	Parent contact, lunch detention, administrative conference
Fighting	Suspension, parent conference, safety plan
Bullying/harassment	Investigation, parent contact, disciplinary action
Cell phone violations	Progressive cell phone consequences (see Section 4.2)

2.3.2 Lunch Detention (Lunch Accountability and Restorative Consequences)

Lunch detention is one of the primary interventions used at North Monterey County Middle School to help students reflect on their choices and reteach school expectations.

Students assigned lunch detention are expected to:

- Report to the assigned location on time.
- Follow all staff directions.
- Complete any reflection or restorative activities assigned.
- Remain in the assigned location for the duration of lunch detention.

Failure to attend or follow expectations during lunch detention may result in additional consequences.

The purpose of lunch detention is not punishment. It is an opportunity for students to reflect, repair harm when appropriate, and develop the skills necessary for future success.

2.3.3 Suspension

Suspension may be assigned when a student's behavior creates a significant disruption to the learning environment, poses a safety concern, or violates California Education Code.

Parents or guardians will be notified when a suspension is being considered or assigned. Whenever possible, school staff will work with students and families to identify supports that can help prevent future incidents.

Students returning from suspension may be required to participate in a re-entry meeting to review expectations and develop a plan for success.

Partnership with Families

We believe students are most successful when schools and families work together. Parents and guardians will be contacted when significant behavior concerns arise, and we encourage families to partner with us in supporting student growth and success.

Every day is an opportunity for a fresh start. Our goal is to help students learn the skills necessary to be successful in middle school, high school, and beyond.

2.4 Positive Incentives

At North Monterey County Middle School, we believe that positive behavior deserves to be recognized and celebrated. While students are expected to follow the RISE expectations every day, we also believe in acknowledging those who consistently demonstrate **Respect, Integrity, Safety, and Engagement**.

RISE Points

Students can earn **RISE Points** from staff members by demonstrating positive behavior, making responsible choices, showing leadership, helping others, and consistently meeting school expectations.

RISE Points may be redeemed throughout the school year in a variety of ways, including:

- School-branded apparel and merchandise such as T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, water bottles, and other spirit items.
- School supplies, fidget toys, and other student rewards available through the **NMCMS Student Store**, which is open weekly.
- Participation in special school activities, lunchtime games, and incentive events.
- Other rewards and recognition opportunities offered throughout the school year.

Schoolwide Incentives

Throughout the year, students may earn opportunities to participate in special events and activities by demonstrating positive behavior, maintaining good attendance, and meeting school expectations. Incentives may include activity days, lunchtime events, assemblies, recognition celebrations, and other school-sponsored experiences.

Our goal is to create a positive school culture where students are recognized not only for academic success, but also for making good choices, demonstrating leadership, showing kindness, and contributing to a safe and welcoming campus. Every student has the opportunity to earn recognition by living the RISE expectations each day.

SECTION 3: ATTENDANCE & ENGAGEMENT

3.1 Attendance Matters
3.2 Reporting an Absence
3.3 Excused and Unexcused Absences
3.4 Short-Term Independent Study
3.5 Lates, Unexcused Tardies & Truancy
3.6 Leaving School Early
3.7 Illness & Health-Related Absences

3.1 Attendance Matters

Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in a student's success at school. Students who attend school consistently are more likely to stay engaged in learning, build positive relationships, participate in school activities, and achieve academic success.

Every school day provides valuable learning opportunities that cannot always be recreated through make-up work. Missing class can make it more difficult for students to keep up with assignments, participate in discussions, and master important skills and concepts.

At North Monterey County Middle School, we encourage families to make school attendance a priority and to schedule vacations, appointments, and other non-emergency activities outside of school hours whenever possible.

We understand that students may occasionally need to miss school due to illness, medical appointments, family emergencies, or other excused reasons. When absences are necessary, families should notify the school as soon as possible and work with teachers to support the student's successful return to class.

Working together, families and schools can help ensure that every student is present, engaged, and prepared for success.

3.2 Reporting an Absence

Parents and guardians are responsible for notifying the school whenever their child will be absent from school.

Absences should be reported as soon as possible on the day of the absence. When reporting an absence, please provide:

- Student's full name
- Grade level
- Date(s) of absence
- Reason for absence
- Name of parent or guardian reporting the absence

Families may report absences through any of the following methods:

- Sending a message through TalkingPoints
- Calling the school office at (831) 633-3391
- Sending an email to front office staff

Medical, dental, and other appointment notes should be submitted to the school office as soon as possible.

If an absence is not reported or cannot be verified, it may be recorded as unexcused.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to keep emergency contact information current in ParentVUE to ensure the school can communicate important attendance-related information when needed.

Attendance Verification

Student safety is a top priority. If a student is absent and the school has not received notification from a parent or guardian, front office staff will make every effort to contact a parent or guardian to verify the absence.

Families may receive a phone call, voicemail, text message, or automated attendance notification requesting verification of an absence.

To help us ensure student safety and maintain accurate attendance records, please:

- Report absences as soon as possible.
- Keep all phone numbers and emergency contact information current in ParentVUE.
- Ensure that the school's phone number is not blocked on your phone.
- Answer or return calls from the school regarding attendance concerns.

If an absence cannot be verified by a parent or guardian, it may be recorded as unexcused until appropriate documentation is received.

Your partnership helps us ensure that every student is safe and accounted for each day.

3.3 Excused and Unexcused Absences

California law identifies specific reasons for which a student may be excused from school. Parents and guardians should notify the school whenever a student is absent and provide the reason for the absence.

Excused Absences

Examples of excused absences include:

- Illness or injury
- Medical, dental, vision, or mental health appointments
- Quarantine or other public health-related reasons
- Attendance at a funeral or bereavement-related absence
- Court appearances
- Religious observances, ceremonies, or retreats
- Approved educational activities as permitted by law
- Other reasons authorized by California Education Code

Documentation may be requested for certain absences.

Unexcused Absences

Absences that do not meet the criteria established by California Education Code are considered unexcused.

Examples may include:

- Family vacations not approved through an Independent Study Agreement
- Missing school to babysit
- Oversleeping
- Missing the bus
- Personal errands
- Absences without parent or guardian verification
- Leaving campus without permission

Truancy

A student is considered truant when they are absent from school without a valid excuse, are absent for more than 30 minutes during the school day without a valid excuse, or are tardy by more than 30 minutes without a valid excuse.

Students with repeated unexcused absences or tardies may be referred to the School Attendance Review process and may be subject to interventions designed to improve attendance.

Making Up Missed Work

Students are responsible for making up assignments and classwork missed during an absence. Families are encouraged to communicate with teachers regarding missed work and support students in completing assignments upon their return to school.

Whenever possible, students should return to school promptly after an illness, appointment, or other excused absence to minimize missed instructional time.

If a parent knows in advance that their student will be absent, the student should make every effort to complete and submit any assignments before leaving for a medical or other excused absence **whenever possible**.

Chronic Absenteeism

A student is considered chronically absent when they miss 10% or more of the school year for any reason, including excused absences.

3.4 Short-Term Independent Study

North Monterey County Unified School District offers Short-Term Independent Study (STIS) as an educational option for students who will be absent from school for circumstances that would otherwise result in unexcused absences.

Short-Term Independent Study allows students to remain connected to school, complete assigned work, and maintain attendance credit while away from campus.

Eligibility

Short-Term Independent Study may be available for students who will be absent for a minimum of one (1) school day and a maximum of fifteen (15) cumulative school days during the school year.

Participation in Short-Term Independent Study is a courtesy and requires mutual agreement between the student, parent/guardian, school staff, and administration. Approval is not guaranteed and may be denied if it is not in the student's best educational interest.

Short-Term Independent Study is generally not available during the first month or last month of the school year.

Requesting Short-Term Independent Study

Families must submit a request at least five (5) school days before the anticipated absence whenever possible. Early notice allows school staff sufficient time to prepare materials and complete required documentation.

Requests should be initiated at the district website: nmcusd.org. Follow up or support with the process is available in the front office.

Student Responsibilities

Students participating in Short-Term Independent Study are expected to:

- Complete all assigned work.
- Follow the requirements outlined in the Independent Study Agreement.
- Engage in the required instructional activities.
- Return all completed work by the established due date.

All assigned work is due on the student's scheduled return date unless otherwise specified by the school. Failure to complete assigned work may result in the loss of attendance credit for the Independent Study period.

Students with IEPs

Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) may participate in Short-Term Independent Study if the IEP team determines that the student's services and supports can be appropriately provided through the program. Additional requirements may apply.

Important Reminder

Regular attendance in school remains the best option for student learning. Families are encouraged to schedule vacations, appointments, and other non-emergency activities outside of school whenever possible.

More Information:

https://www.nmcusd.org/departments/student-supports-and-family-services/short-term-independent-study

3.5 Lates and Unexcused Tardies

Arriving to school on time and remaining in school for the entire school day are important components of student success. Students are expected to be in class, prepared to learn, when the school day begins and to remain at school until their scheduled dismissal time.

Lates

A student is considered **late** when they:

- Arrive to school after the start of the school day but less than 30 minutes late.
- Arrive late to class during the school day.
- Leave school early and miss less than 30 minutes of instructional time.

Students who are late may be subject to school interventions and consequences, including parent contact, lunch detention, Punctuality Academy, or other attendance supports.

Unexcused Tardies

A student is considered **tardy** when they:

- Arrive to school more than 30 minutes late without a valid excuse.
- Leave school more than 30 minutes early without a valid excuse.
- Miss more than 30 minutes of instructional time during the school day without a valid excuse.

Under California Education Code, unexcused tardies of more than 30 minutes are considered truancy and may be included as part of the school's attendance intervention process.

Truancy

A student is considered truant when they:

- Are absent from school without a valid excuse.
- Are more than 30 minutes late to school without a valid excuse.
- Leave school more than 30 minutes early without a valid excuse.
- Miss more than 30 minutes of instructional time without a valid excuse.

Repeated incidents of truancy may result in parent conferences, attendance contracts, referrals to attendance intervention programs, or other actions authorized by California Education Code.

Physical Education (PE) Lates

Because student supervision and safety are critical in Physical Education classes, students are expected to be in their assigned attendance area and ready to participate when the bell rings.

Students who arrive late to PE may receive consequences assigned by the PE teacher, including lunch detention or other classroom-based interventions. Repeated lates may result in parent contact and additional attendance interventions.

Being on time to PE helps ensure student safety and maximizes instructional time for all students.

Working Together for Student Success

Parents and guardians play an important role in helping students develop positive attendance habits. Families are encouraged to schedule appointments outside of school hours whenever possible and ensure students arrive at school on time each day. Consistent attendance and punctuality help students maximize learning opportunities and build habits that support success in middle school, high school, and beyond.

Why Punctuality Matters

Being on time is an important life skill and an essential part of student success. Students who arrive on time are better prepared to learn, experience less stress, and are more likely to be successful academically. When students arrive late to school or class, they miss important instruction, disrupt the learning of others, and often require additional support to catch up on missed learning.

At North Monterey County Middle School, we believe that punctuality is a shared responsibility between students, families, and the school.

Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to:

- Arrive at school before the first bell.
- Report directly to class when the bell rings.
- Travel promptly between classes.
- Bring necessary materials and be prepared to learn.
- Return promptly from breaks, lunch, and restroom visits.

Students should not intentionally delay arriving to class by gathering in hallways, restrooms, or other campus locations.

Family Responsibilities

Families play an important role in helping students develop positive attendance and punctuality habits.

Parents and guardians can support punctuality by:

- Establishing consistent bedtime and morning routines.
- Allowing sufficient travel time to school.
- Scheduling appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.
- Encouraging students to arrive to school and class on time each day.
- Communicating with the school when attendance concerns arise.

Progressive Supports for Repeated Lates

North Monterey County Middle School uses a progressive system of interventions designed to support students in improving attendance and punctuality. Interventions may include:

- Teacher reminders and reteaching
- Parent or guardian contact
- Lunch detention
- Late Minute Recovery
- Attendance or punctuality contracts
- Punctuality Academy
- Attendance conferences
- Additional Tier 2 and Tier 3 attendance interventions

The purpose of these interventions is to identify barriers to punctuality and provide students with the support needed to be successful. Students may participate in lessons, goal setting activities, attendance monitoring, and other supports intended to improve punctuality.

3.6 Leaving School Early

Students are expected to remain at school for the entire school day unless they are signed out by a parent, guardian, or authorized emergency contact. For student safety, all early departures must be processed through the school office.

Checking Out a Student

If a student needs to leave school before the end of the school day, a parent, guardian, or authorized emergency contact must:

- Report to the school office and present identification when requested.
- Sign the student out through the school office.
- Wait for office staff to call the student out of class.

Students should not leave campus without checking out through the office.

Early Pick-Up Procedures

To minimize disruptions to instruction, families are encouraged to schedule appointments outside of school hours whenever possible. Please allow additional time for office staff to locate students and complete the check-out process. Students will not be called out of class until the parent, guardian, or authorized contact has arrived at the office.

Unauthorized Departure from Campus

Students who leave campus without permission, leave campus without checking out through the office, or fail to return to school after being released may be subject to disciplinary action and attendance consequences. Time missed due to an unauthorized departure may be recorded as an unexcused absence or unexcused tardy.

Parent Communication

For safety reasons, students should not use cell phones, smart watches, or other devices to arrange early pick-up without parent and school authorization. Parents and guardians should communicate directly with the school office regarding all early departures.

3.7 Illness and Health-Related Absences

The health and well-being of students and staff are important priorities at North Monterey County Middle School. Students who are ill should remain at home to recover and help prevent the spread of illness to others.

When Should a Student Stay Home?

Students should remain home if they are experiencing symptoms that may interfere with learning or could be contagious to others.

Examples may include:

- Fever
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Severe cough
- Symptoms of a contagious illness
- Other conditions as advised by a healthcare provider

Families should follow guidance from their healthcare provider and district health recommendations regarding when a student may safely return to school.

Medical Appointments

Whenever possible, families are encouraged to schedule medical, dental, and other appointments outside of school hours.

When appointments must occur during the school day:

- Notify the school office of the absence.
- Provide documentation from the healthcare provider when available.
- Ensure students return to school promptly following the appointment whenever possible.

Returning to School After Illness

Students should return to school as soon as they are healthy enough to participate in learning activities.

After extended illnesses, injuries, hospitalizations, or other significant medical events, families are encouraged to communicate with the school so that appropriate support can be provided.

Health Guidance

North Monterey County Unified School District follows current guidance from local and state public health agencies regarding communicable diseases and student health requirements.

Families should refer to the district's "When to Keep Your Child Home" guidance for additional information regarding illness, symptoms, and return-to-school recommendations.

Guide on Keeping Children Home from School When Sick

Sometimes it is difficult, especially early in the morning, to know whether or not to send your child to school. Below are some guidelines on common symptoms to help you make the decision about when to keep your child home from school. The recommendations are based on the guidelines provided by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

Fever	Student **may return** when fever is **less than 100°F** for 24 hours. (WITHOUT use of fever-reducing medicine)
Vomiting/ Diarrhea	May **NOT** return when any unexplained vomiting or diarrhea has occured. (Diarrhea = three or more episodes of watery or loose stools in 24 hours OR sudden onset of loose stools.)
Rash	May **NOT** return when any new rash accompanied by a fever, tenderness, rapidly spreading, or oozing is present. May return after rash goes away or clearance given by a health care provider.

Additional considerations for when a child has symptoms of illness in child care or school can be found by clicking here or scanning the QR Code to the right.

NOTIFY YOUR SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY IF your student has been diagnosed with chickenpox, mumps, measles, impetigo, scarlet fever, fifth disease, ringworm, hand, foot and mouth disease or scabies. These can be highly contagious and may require classroom notification.

North Monterey County Unified School District

www.nmcusd.org
831-633-3343

SECTION 4: TECHNOLOGY & DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

4.1 Chromebooks & Technology Expectations
4.2 Cell Phones, Smart Watches & Personal Electronic Devices
4.3 Digital Citizenship & Artificial Intelligence (AI)
NMCUSD Guidelines for Artificial Intelligence

4.1 Chromebooks and Technology Expectations

North Monterey County Middle School provides each student with a Chromebook to support learning both at school and at home. Chromebooks are valuable educational tools and are the responsibility of the student assigned to them.

Students are expected to use all school technology in a safe, responsible, and educational manner.

Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to:

- Bring their assigned Chromebook to school every day.
- Bring their Chromebook fully charged each day.
- Keep the district-issued protective case on the Chromebook at all times.
- Use the Chromebook for educational purposes only.
- Follow teacher directions regarding Chromebook use.
- Keep food and drinks away from Chromebooks.
- Report any damage or technical issues to a teacher or the school office as soon as possible.
- Return all district-issued technology upon request or at the end of the school year.

Headphones and Audio Devices

Students may use headphones only when directed by a teacher.

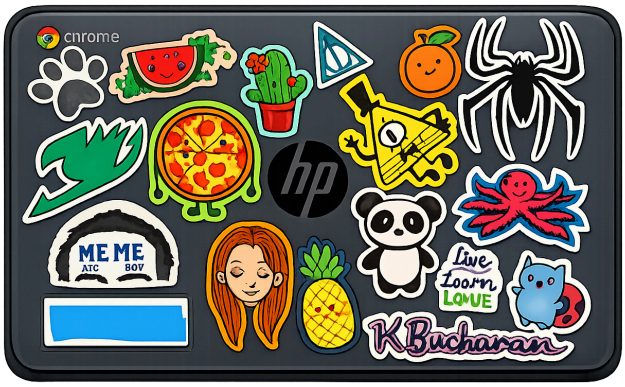
Wireless earbuds, including AirPods and similar devices, should remain stored unless specifically authorized by a staff member for instructional purposes.

Caring for Your Chromebook

Students should take reasonable precautions to protect their Chromebook from damage, loss, or theft.

Examples include:

- Carrying the Chromebook securely.
- Keeping the Chromebook in its protective case.
- Avoiding placing heavy items on top of the device.
- Keeping the Chromebook away from food, liquids, and extreme temperatures.
- Never allowing another student to use a Chromebook assigned to them.
- Customize them - feel free to add stickers and make it your own



Damaged, Lost, or Stolen Devices

Students are responsible for reporting damaged, lost, or stolen devices immediately.

Families may be responsible for repair or replacement costs resulting from intentional damage, negligence, loss, or failure to return district-issued technology in accordance with district policy.

Appropriate Use of Technology

Students are expected to use technology in a manner that supports learning and reflects the school's RISE expectations.

Examples of inappropriate technology use include:

- Accessing inappropriate websites or content.
- Attempting to bypass district internet filters or security settings.
- Using another student's account.
- Recording, photographing, or sharing images of others without permission.
- Cyberbullying, harassment, or inappropriate online communication.
- Using artificial intelligence (AI) tools in a manner not authorized by the teacher.
- Any use that violates district technology policies.

Misuse of school technology may result in loss of technology privileges, disciplinary action, financial responsibility for damages, and/or other consequences consistent with district policy.

Technology Support

Students experiencing Chromebook issues should notify their teacher and submit a technology support request through school procedures. Students are expected to continue participating in classroom learning while technology issues are being addressed.

4.2 Cell Phones, Smart Watches, and Personal Electronic Devices

North Monterey County Middle School recognizes that many students bring cell phones and other electronic devices to school. While these devices can be useful before and after school, they can also create distractions that interfere with learning and student engagement.

To support a focused learning environment, students are expected to keep personal electronic devices stored and out of sight during the school day unless specifically authorized by a staff member.

Devices Covered by This Policy

This policy applies to:

- Cell phones
- Smart watches
- Wireless earbuds and AirPods
- Headphones not being used for instructional purposes
- Video recording devices (including glasses)
- Tablets / gaming devices
- Any other personal electronic device

During the School Day

Students must keep electronic devices:

- Powered off or silenced.
- Stored in their backpack, locker, or other teacher-approved location.

Students may not use electronic devices to:

- Text, call, or message during class.
- Access social media or play games during instructional time.
- Record, photograph, or video other students or staff without permission.
- Cheat or access unauthorized information during assignments or assessments.

Parent Communication

Parents and guardians who need to communicate with their child during the school day should contact the school office.

Students should not use cell phones, smart watches, or other electronic devices to arrange transportation changes, early pick-ups, or other school-related matters without school and parent authorization.

Progressive Consequences

Failure to follow the school's electronic device expectations may result in progressive consequences, including:

Violation	Possible Response
First Violation	Warning and redirection
Repeated Violations	Device confiscation and parent contact
Continued Violations	Lunch detention and parent conference
Chronic Violations	Administrative intervention and additional consequences

School administrators may adjust consequences based on the nature of the violation and the student's disciplinary history.

Recording and Social Media

Students may not photograph, video record, or audio record students or staff without permission.

Posting, sharing, or distributing images, videos, or recordings of students, staff, or school activities without permission may result in disciplinary action.

Cyberbullying, harassment, threats, impersonation, or other misuse of technology may result in school consequences, even when the behavior occurs off campus if it substantially impacts the school environment.

Personal Responsibility

Students bring personal electronic devices to school at their own risk. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal electronic devices.

Families are encouraged to carefully consider whether students need to bring expensive electronic devices to school.

4.3 Digital Citizenship and Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Technology provides students with powerful opportunities to learn, create, communicate, and collaborate. As members of the NMCMS community, students are expected to use technology responsibly, ethically, and safely. All online behavior should reflect the school's RISE expectations, whether students are using school-issued technology or personal devices.

Digital Citizenship

Students are expected to:

- Use technology for educational purposes.
- Communicate respectfully and appropriately online.
- Protect personal information and passwords.
- Respect the privacy of others.
- Follow all district technology policies and expectations.
- Report unsafe or inappropriate online behavior to a trusted adult.

Students should think carefully before posting, sharing, commenting, or sending messages online. Digital actions can have lasting consequences.

Cyberbullying and Online Misconduct

Cyberbullying is prohibited and may result in school discipline. This includes:

- Harassing, threatening, or intimidating others online.
- Posting harmful, embarrassing, or inappropriate content about others.
- Creating fake accounts or impersonating another person.
- Using/altering images/videos of others without permission.
- Sharing rumors, gossip, or private information electronically.
- Excluding others through online platforms in a harmful manner.

Students may be subject to school consequences when off-campus online behavior substantially disrupts the educational environment or impacts the safety and well-being of students or staff.

School Accounts and Network Use

Students are responsible for all activity that occurs under their school-issued accounts and devices..

Students may not:

- Share passwords.
- Access another person's account.
- Attempt to bypass district internet filters or security systems.
- Download or install unauthorized software or applications.

- Use district technology for illegal, unsafe, or inappropriate purposes.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Artificial intelligence tools, including ChatGPT and similar programs, are becoming increasingly common in education and the workplace. These tools can support learning when used appropriately and with teacher permission.

Students may use AI tools only when specifically authorized by their teacher.

Students may not:

- Submit AI-generated work as their own.
- Use AI to complete assignments without teacher permission.
- Use AI to cheat on quizzes, tests, projects, or other academic work.
- Use AI to create harmful, inappropriate, misleading, or offensive content.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to complete their own work and demonstrate their own learning.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying another student's work.
- Allowing another student to copy your work.
- Plagiarism.
- Unauthorized use of AI tools.
- Using unauthorized resources during assessments.
- Submitting work created by another person as your own.

Violations of academic integrity may result in disciplinary consequences, loss of credit, reassessment opportunities, parent contact, or other school interventions.

Building Responsible Digital Citizens

Technology is an important part of learning and daily life. By using technology responsibly and ethically, students develop skills that will help them succeed in high school, college, careers, and beyond.

NMCUSD Guidelines for Artificial Intelligence

Introduction, Purpose, and Scope

Introduction: Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Generative AI (GenAI) offer opportunities to enhance classroom interaction, personalize learning experiences, and foster an innovative learning environment. As AI becomes increasingly commonplace, education systems must prepare students to live and thrive in a world with AI partners.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to computer systems designed to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence. These tasks include understanding language, recognizing patterns, making decisions, generating new content like images or video, and learning from experience.

Generative AI (GenAI) is a type of Artificial Intelligence that is trained on massive amounts of data to create new and original content such as text, images, audio, video, or computer code.

Purpose: The purpose of the NMCUSD AI guidelines is to ensure the legal, ethical, and instructionally appropriate use of AI technology. This document aims to empower staff to responsibly explore this new technology to enhance educational outcomes, improve the daily student experience, and ensure our students graduate prepared for success.

Scope: This guidance governs the use of AI applications, software, and models by employees, students, contractors, volunteers, and third-party vendors. It applies to AI models developed internally, obtained from public sources, or procured via third-party vendors, as well as the handling of District information within these applications.

1. NMCUSD Mission, Vision, and Core Values for AI Use

AI Mission: To fulfill our mission of ensuring all students are college, career, and life ready in an increasingly technology-driven world, Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be utilized as a tool for deep learning and innovation in instructional design.

AI Vision & Core Values: Our guidelines for AI aims to enrich learning environments by remaining deeply rooted in our core values. We believe AI must be leveraged to uplift our human potential. Our core values guiding AI integration are:

- To have **high expectations** for all, and to provide the necessary **support** each student needs to **thrive academically, socially, and emotionally**.
- To be **culturally responsive**, **human centered**, and **kind**;
- To be **inclusive**, **collaborate** across differences, and find **common ground**.
- To engage in **continuous improvement** and **data-based decision-making**.

2. The Five California Department of Education (CDE) Principles & Our Commitments

Guideline 1: Human-Centered AI

Description: AI is an augmentative tool, not a replacement for human educators or students. AI is not intended to take the place of human interactions or provide emotional support. We use AI to give teachers more time to build strong, trusting, and supportive human relationships with their students.

Recommendations & Framework:

- **We are committed to augmentation, not replacement:** We use AI to give teachers more time to build strong, trusting, and supportive human relationships with their students.
- **We are committed to human oversight:** Professional judgment remains the final authority. It is important that educators review, evaluate, and critically assess all AI outputs for quality, accuracy, and ethical alignment before implemented.
- **We are committed to emotional boundaries:** We strictly prohibit the use of AI to mimic human relationships or provide unsupervised emotional and mental health support. Human empathy is a uniquely human capacity that cannot be outsourced.

Guideline 2: AI Literacy

Description: AI Literacy involves fostering the knowledge and skills to critically understand, evaluate, and use AI. For students, this means preparing them to be *college, career, and life ready* by evaluating AI outputs and learning to *collaborate* with AI as a partner. For staff this involves a commitment to learning to use AI to support student learning, differentiation to meet the needs of all learners, and professional development about potential uses and opportunities with AI.

Recommendations & Framework:

- **We are committed to continuous learning:** We will provide structured professional development pathways (e.g., AI Badging) for staff to learn about AI, teaching shifts, and practical tool integration.
- **We are committed to empowering critical thinking:** We will teach students to critically evaluate AI-generated content.
- **We are committed to ongoing collaboration:** We will engage in on-going open dialogue with staff, students, and families to share knowledge, address concerns, and continuously learn about the ethical implications of AI together.

Guideline 3: Equitable Access

Description: Ensuring developmentally appropriate AI tools and the implementation of those tools are inclusively designed and readily accessible to all students on school-provided devices. AI must function effectively for all individuals universally, and act in a *culturally responsive* way that acknowledges and respects diverse traditions and languages.

Recommendations & Framework:

- **We are committed to bridging the digital divide:** When AI tools are permitted for an assignment, we are committed to providing the necessary technology and tools to all students equally, specifically addressing limitations in digital resources outside of school.
- **We are committed to inclusivity and culturally responsive fairness:** We will actively strive to mitigate societal and algorithmic bias in AI systems that could reinforce stereotypes or lead to discriminatory evaluations.
- **We are committed to accessible design:** We will rigorously check new AI tools for compliance with accessibility standards, multilingual support, and features that accommodate diverse learning needs (including Special Education and English Learner students).

Guideline 4: Academic Integrity

Description: While maintaining *high expectations* for academic honesty, AI offers an opportunity to reinforce values of trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. We focus on teaching students to use AI to *thrive academically* as a brainstorming or tutoring tool, while teachers and students collaborate to find *common ground* on clear expectations for proper citation and ethical use.

Recommendations & Framework:

- **We are committed to transparent expectations:** Teachers will explicitly state when and how AI tools are permitted on assignments using defined boundaries.
- **We are committed to proper attribution:** We will teach students how to properly cite, disclose, and acknowledge the use of AI-generated content in their academic work to avoid plagiarism.
- **We are committed to evaluating the process, not just the product:** We will *not* rely on AI detection software to penalize students, as these tools are inaccurate and biased against multilingual learners. Instead, we will restructure assignments to evaluate the learning process (e.g., version histories, original arguments).

Guideline 5: Data Privacy

Description: We use *data-based decision making* to thoroughly vet AI vendors for strict adherence to privacy laws like FERPA, COPPA, CIPA, and HIPAA. We *support* a safe digital environment by prohibiting the sharing of sensitive information with public AI systems, keeping the safety of the human user at the center.

Recommendations & Framework:

- **We are committed to protecting sensitive data:** Users are strictly prohibited from inputting personally identifiable information (PII), confidential student education records, or protected health information into AI systems.
- **We are committed to rigorous vetting:** We will only approve GenAI tools that have been vetted for privacy, security, and confidentiality in compliance with federal and state laws (such as COPPA and FERPA).
- **We are committed to age-appropriate usage:** We will adhere to vendor age restrictions for AI tools (e.g., obtaining parental consent for students aged 13-17 on certain platforms) and ensure clear opt-out procedures are provided to families.

3. Digital Citizenship Scope and Sequence (TK-12)

Using Common Sense Media lessons and our AI Literacy principles, the district will roll out a continuous digital citizenship sequence:

- **TK - Grade 5:** Foundational digital safety. Teaching the difference between human thinking and AI. Safe search practices and keeping PII protected from chatbots.
- **Grades 6 - 8:** Introduction to ethical use. Identifying algorithmic bias, recognizing "hallucinations" (false information), and understanding the impacts of cyberbullying and manipulated media.
- **Grades 9 - 12:** Advanced academic integrity. Proper citation of Large Language Models (LLMs) in research. Evaluating the societal impact of AI and preparing for the future workforce.

4. Guidance for Student Use by Grade Level

Students must maintain academic integrity and use AI to *thrive academically* in an age-appropriate manner.

- **Elementary School (Grades TK-6):** Focus on foundational understanding. Ensure students understand that AI is a tool, not a sentient being. Students should use interactive, teacher-guided AI tools to build digital literacy safely while keeping personal data private.
- **Middle School (Grades 7-8):** Students use AI under teacher supervision to brainstorm, explore different points of view, and engage with GenAI tutors to target and strengthen developing skills.
- **High School (Grades 9-12):** Students independently use approved generative tools to conduct in-depth research or get immediate feedback on drafts.

5. Guidance for Staff

- **Administrators:** Oversee the governance of AI tools, ensuring compliance with privacy laws and managing incidents of misuse. Ongoing professional development will be offered and clear channels for reporting concerns will be utilized. Administrators should refer to board policy and the student handbook guidance on discipline for academic honesty. Staff must maintain strict confidentiality and never input student records or sensitive personnel data into GenAI tools. Staff must only use AI tools that have been vetted and approved by the District.
- **Certificated Staff:** Drive AI integration based on pedagogy. Teachers evaluate the artifact development *process* rather than just the final product to mitigate plagiarism. Teachers will clearly define when students work strictly without AI versus when they collaborate with it using District-approved AI applications. Staff must maintain strict confidentiality and never input student records or sensitive personnel data into GenAI tools. Staff must only use AI tools that have been vetted and approved by the District.
- **Classified Staff:** May utilize district-approved AI tools to streamline administrative work. Staff must maintain strict confidentiality and never input student records or sensitive personnel data into GenAI tools. Staff must only use AI tools that have been vetted and approved by the District.
- **Information Technology (IT):** The IT department bears primary responsibility for the rigorous, data-based vetting of all educational and administrative software. This vetting process is crucial for ensuring comprehensive compliance with key federal regulations, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), and the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

6. Guidance for Parents & Guardians

AI tools are rapidly evolving, and family partnership is vital to safely navigate this landscape. Our district will help students learn safe AI practices and will look to parents and guardians to reinforce these principles at home as well.

- **Protecting Privacy at Home:** Parents are encouraged to review what data AI tools collect (including smart toys and virtual assistants) and ensure their children's personally identifying information is protected.
- **Academic Integrity:** Discuss the difference between using AI as a brainstorming buddy versus cheating. Emphasize that misrepresenting AI-generated work as their own violates high expectations for academic honesty.
- **Age-Appropriate Use:** The District evaluates all educational technology tools for strict data privacy compliance (FERPA/COPPA). All applications that are approved for student use have received a data privacy agreement. We adhere to age restrictions (e.g., ChatGPT requires parental consent for ages 13-17).

7. Resources

To support AI literacy and academic integrity, refer to the following resources:

- **State & Federal:** *AI Resources from the California Department of Education*, *Washington OSPI Comprehensive AI Guidance*, *Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights* (US Dept. of Education). https://ospi.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/2024-06/comprehensive-ai-guidance.pdf
- **Universities:** *Combating Academic Dishonesty* (University of Chicago), *Promoting Academic Integrity in your Course* (Cornell University), *Strategies for Teaching Well* (George Mason University). https://academictech.uchicago.edu/2022/02/16/combating-academic-dishonesty-part-1-understanding-the-problem/
- **College Board:** *AI Policy for AP Capstone*. https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/exam-administration-ordering-scores/administering-exams/exam-policies/artificial-intelligence-tools
- **Citation Guides:** *MLA Style - Generative AI*, *APA Style - ChatGPT*, *Chicago Style - Generative AI*. https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai/

8. Link to Board Policies

The Superintendent shall ensure that the use of AI in the district is consistent with existing policies. Please refer to:

- **Board Policy 0440:** District Technology Plan
- **Board Policy 0441:** Artificial Intelligence
- **Board Policy 4040:** Employee Use of Technology
- **Board Policy 5131.9:** Academic Honesty
- **Board Policy 6154:** Homework/Makeup Work
- **Board Policy 6162.5:** Student Assessment
- **Board Policy 6163.4:** Student Use of Technology

SECTION 5: DRESS CODE

5.1 Dress Code Purpose
5.2 2026-2027 Dress Code Document
5.3 Examples of Prohibited Items

5.1 Dress Code Purpose

North Monterey County Middle School's dress code is designed to promote student safety, support a professional learning environment, and maintain a hygienic campus. Students are expected to follow all dress code requirements while on campus and at school-sponsored activities.

The purpose of dress code enforcement is to help students meet school expectations, not to punish students. Whenever possible, students will be provided an opportunity to correct a dress code concern before additional interventions are considered.

Dress Code Response

If a student's clothing, accessories, or appearance do not meet school dress code expectations, school staff may:

- Speak with the student privately regarding the concern.
- Request that the student correct the issue.
- Ask the student to remove or store a prohibited item.
- Provide alternative clothing options when available.
- Contact a parent or guardian.
- Refer the matter to administration for support.

Repeated or Significant Violations

Repeated dress code violations or refusal to comply with staff directions may result in progressive interventions, including:

- Parent or guardian contact
- Lunch detention
- Administrative conference
- Loss of privileges
- Other disciplinary action consistent with school policy

Administrative Authority

Administration reserves the right to determine whether an item, article of clothing, accessory, hairstyle, symbol, logo, or appearance violates the dress code or creates a disruption to the educational environment.

Not every possible dress code violation can be listed in this handbook. Administration may make final determinations regarding dress code compliance and may adjust dress code expectations during the school year based on student safety and school needs.

Students and families are encouraged to contact the school with any questions regarding dress code expectations.

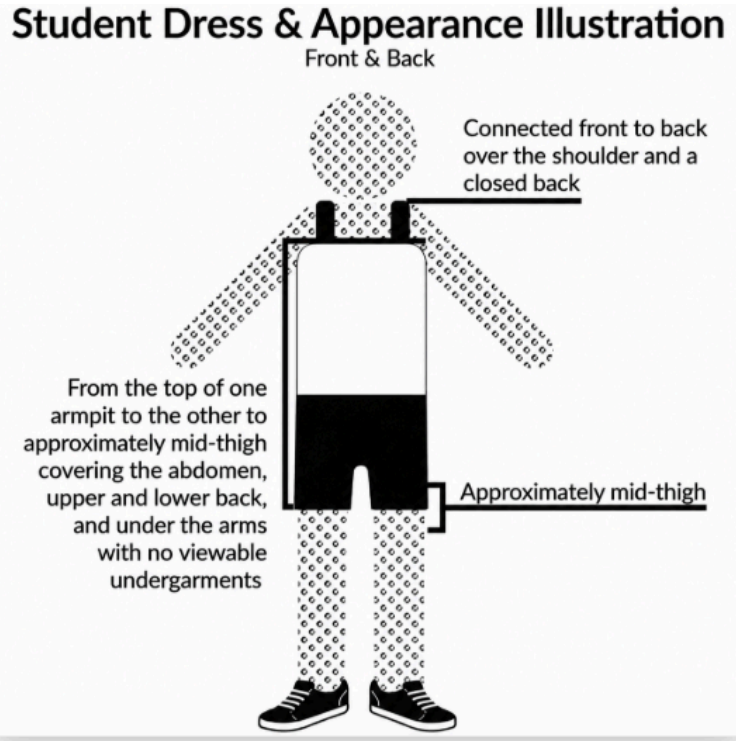
5.2 North Monterey County Middle School Dress Code 2026-2027

1. General Policy & Administration Authority

- Administration reserves the right to make adjustments to the school dress code during the school year based on the needs of the school.
- The dress code serves to preserve student safety, a professional learning environment, and a hygienic campus.

2. General Body Coverage & Undergarments (SEE DIAGRAM)

- Clothing must cover from the shoulder to mid-thigh.
- No exposed midriffs (crop tops), and all tops must have straps wide enough to cover all undergarments.
- No visible undergarments at any time, including shorts worn under pants.
- No sleeping attire including blankets, pajamas, or slippers.



3. Headwear & Eyewear

- Hoods are to remain off at all times while on campus, including outdoors and during PE class.
- No hats, caps, head wraps, beanies, or other head apparel during the school day unless that head apparel is part of a student's customary religious attire. The only exception to this is official NMCMS hats and beanies purchased from the student store.
- No sunglasses unless prescribed by a physician.

4. Footwear

- No open-toe shoes, sandals, or slippers. All shoes must have heel straps.
- All students must bring appropriate athletic shoes daily for use in Physical Education classes.

5. Prohibited Graphics, Slogans, & Logos

- No obscene, vulgar, discriminatory (including race, gender, class, or orientation), sexualized, or otherwise inappropriate words, graphics, or images on clothing, buttons, backpacks, binders, and/or other items.
- No drug, alcohol, or tobacco-related logos, slogans, brand names, or references.
- No sports team logos or jerseys, including local teams.

6. Gang-Related Dress & Color Restrictions

- Garments that are predominantly (50% or more) red or blue are not permitted (except denim). Clothing accessories (shoes, shoelaces, jewelry, belts, etc.) may not be red or blue.
- No gang-related dress including items (bandanas, belts, suspenders, jewelry, hats, or other clothing/items that by its color, arrangement, trademark, or symbol denotes membership in a gang) or grooming that denotes gang activities (items that identify area codes or items with following logos: SOCAL, NORCAL, THE VILLE, etc.). No chains or belt buckles with letters.

5.3 Examples of Prohibited Items

Dress code expectations will be enforced consistently across campus by all staff members. Administration will support staff in addressing dress code concerns and will make final determinations regarding compliance when questions arise.

SECTION 6: ACTIVITIES, ATHLETICS & STUDENT LIFE

6.1 Student Activities & School Events
6.2 Activity Eligibility
6.3 Athletics
6.4 Clubs & Student Leadership Opportunities
6.5 Student Recognition & Awards

6.1 Student Activities and School Events

North Monterey County Middle School offers a variety of activities designed to help students build connections, develop leadership skills, explore interests, and create positive school experiences.

Examples of school activities may include:

- School dances
- Assemblies
- Spirit Weeks
- Lunch activities
- Field trips
- Leadership-sponsored events
- Athletic events
- Academic competitions
- Recognition ceremonies
- Activity Days

Participation in school activities is considered a privilege. Students are expected to demonstrate positive behavior, maintain appropriate attendance, and follow all school expectations in order to participate.

Students attending school activities are expected to represent North Monterey County Middle School positively by demonstrating the RISE expectations of Respect, Integrity, Safety, and Engagement.

School rules remain in effect during all school-sponsored activities, whether they occur during or outside of the regular school day.

6.2 Activity and Event Eligibility

Participation in school activities, events, field trips, dances, assemblies, athletic competitions, and other extracurricular opportunities is a privilege.

Students are expected to demonstrate positive behavior, appropriate attendance, and adherence to school expectations in order to participate in special activities and events.

Eligibility Expectations

Students may be excluded from participation in certain activities or events due to:

- Excessive behavior referrals
- Suspension from school
- Repeated dress code violations
- Excessive lunch detentions
- Excessive lates, truancies, or attendance concerns
- Failure to meet specific event eligibility requirements
- Behavior that creates safety concerns for students or staff

Activity Day Eligibility

Throughout the school year, North Monterey County Middle School may host special activities, celebrations, incentives, or Activity Days.

Specific eligibility requirements for these events may vary and will be communicated to students and families in advance. Eligibility may be based on factors such as attendance, punctuality, behavior, academic effort and/or completion of assigned interventions or consequences.

Students who do not meet eligibility requirements may be assigned an alternative educational activity during the event.

Understanding Eligibility Decisions

Eligibility requirements are intended to encourage positive behavior, regular attendance, punctuality, and engagement in school.

Examples of circumstances that may impact eligibility for a school activity or event include:

- Receiving a suspension during the eligibility period.
- Exceeding published limits for lunch detentions, lates, or truancies.
- Repeated violations of school expectations.
- Significant safety concerns or disciplinary incidents.

Specific eligibility criteria may vary by event and will be communicated to students and families in advance. Meeting minimum eligibility requirements does not automatically guarantee participation. Administration reserves the right to make final eligibility determinations based on student safety, behavior, and the overall educational interests of the school community.

School Dances and Extracurricular Events

Students attending dances or other extracurricular events are expected to follow all school rules and demonstrate appropriate behavior.

Students may be denied admission to an event or removed from an event for:

- Unsafe behavior
- Defiance of staff directions
- Fighting or physical aggression
- Possession of prohibited items
- Violations of school rules

Parents or guardians may be contacted to pick up students who are removed from an event.

Administrative Authority

Administration reserves the right to determine student eligibility for school-sponsored activities and events based on attendance, behavior, safety considerations, and school expectations.

The decision to restrict participation in an activity or event will be made with consideration for the student's overall school record, the nature of the concern, and the safety and well-being of the school community.

6.3 Athletics

North Monterey County Middle School offers students the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics as part of our commitment to student engagement, teamwork, leadership, and school pride.

NMCMS athletics operates in partnership with the N.E.S.T. (Nurturing, Enrichment, Support, and Teamwork) after-school program. Athletics is considered a component of the N.E.S.T. program, and student-athletes are expected to follow all N.E.S.T., athletic, school, and district expectations.

Athletic programs provide students with opportunities to develop physical fitness, sportsmanship, responsibility, perseverance, and positive relationships with peers and coaches.

Sports offerings may vary from year to year based on league participation, staffing, and student interest.

Athletic Director	Renan Romero renan_gonzalez_romero@nmcusd.org

N.E.S.T. Participation Requirement

All student-athletes are required to:

- Complete a N.E.S.T. registration application.
- Remain enrolled in N.E.S.T. for the duration of their athletic season.
- Follow all N.E.S.T. program expectations and procedures.
- Check into N.E.S.T. after school prior to practices and home competitions as directed.

Athletes are supervised through the N.E.S.T. program before practices and competitions to ensure student safety and accountability. Coaches and N.E.S.T. staff work together to support student-athletes throughout the season.

Athletic Eligibility

Participation in NEST Athletics is a privilege earned through academic effort, positive behavior, and responsible citizenship. Student-athletes represent North Monterey County Middle School both on and off the field and are expected to model the RISE expectations at all times.

To remain eligible for participation, student-athletes are expected to:

- Maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average (GPA).
- Have no failing grades (F).
- Demonstrate positive citizenship and appropriate school behavior.
- Attend school regularly and arrive on time.
- Follow all team, school, and district expectations.

Eligibility is reviewed regularly throughout each athletic season. Students who do not meet academic or behavioral expectations may be placed on academic probation, suspended from participation, or removed from the team until eligibility is restored.

Students who are absent from school, leave school early due to illness, or are medically excused from Physical Education are generally not eligible to participate in practices or games that day unless approved by administration.

Athletic eligibility decisions are made collaboratively by school administration and the athletic program, with the goal of supporting student success while maintaining high expectations for academics, behavior, and sportsmanship.

Attendance and Participation

Students must attend school in order to participate in athletic practices, competitions, and other extracurricular activities on that day.

Students who are absent from school, leave school due to illness, or are excused from school activities/ PE class for health-related reasons may not participate in practices, games, or other extracurricular activities that same day unless approved by administration.

Students who are excused from Physical Education due to illness or injury may not participate in athletic practices, competitions, dances, or other physically demanding extracurricular activities that same day unless approved by administration.

Practice and Game Attendance

Student-athletes are expected to attend all scheduled practices, competitions, meetings, and team events unless excused by the coach.

Students participating in athletics must attend school on the day of a practice, game, or event in order to participate that day unless otherwise approved by administration.

Failure to attend required practices, games, N.E.S.T. sessions, or team activities may impact playing time, participation status, or team membership.

Sportsmanship and Conduct

Student-athletes are expected to demonstrate sportsmanship, respect, and integrity during practices, competitions, transportation, and all school-sponsored events.

Student-athletes are expected to:

- Treat teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, and spectators with respect.
- Follow directions from coaches and staff members.
- Demonstrate positive behavior whether winning or losing.

- Refrain from inappropriate language, taunting, or unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Demonstrate the RISE expectations at all times.

Poor sportsmanship, misconduct, or violations of school expectations may result in disciplinary action, suspension from athletic participation, or removal from a team.

Transportation and Supervision

School rules remain in effect during transportation, practices, competitions, and all athletic activities. Students are expected to follow all directions provided by coaches, drivers, N.E.S.T. staff, and school personnel.

Failure to follow expectations may result in disciplinary consequences and/or loss of athletic privileges.

Team Selection

Some sports may require tryouts due to roster limitations. Participation on a team is not guaranteed and may depend on skill level, team needs, attendance, behavior, and coach recommendations.

Administrative Authority

School administration and coaching staff reserve the right to determine athletic eligibility, participation status, playing eligibility, and team membership based on academic performance, attendance, behavior, safety concerns, and adherence to school and team expectations.

Participation in athletics is a privilege. Student-athletes are expected to uphold the values of Respect, Integrity, Safety, and Excellence both on and off the field of play.

6.4 Student Leadership and Clubs

North Monterey County Middle School encourages students to become active participants in their school community. Leadership opportunities and student clubs help students develop responsibility, teamwork, communication skills, and school pride.

Student Leadership

NMCMS offers opportunities for students to serve as leaders both inside and outside of the classroom. Student leaders help create a positive school culture by organizing activities, supporting school events, welcoming new students, and serving as positive role models for their peers.

Leadership opportunities may include:

- Student Leadership Class
- Student Government
- School event planning
- Student ambassadors
- Peer leadership opportunities
- Campus service projects
- School and community volunteer activities

Leadership opportunities may vary from year to year based on student interest and school needs.

Clubs and Student Organizations

Students are encouraged to participate in school clubs and organizations that support their interests, talents, and personal growth.

Clubs may focus on:

- Academic enrichment
- Arts and creativity
- Community service
- Culture and identity
- Technology
- Leadership
- Recreation and special interests

Available clubs may change from year to year based on student interest and staff sponsorship.

Participation Expectations

Students participating in leadership activities and clubs are expected to:

- Demonstrate RISE expectations.
- Follow school and district rules.
- Attend meetings and activities regularly.
- Treat others with respect.
- Represent North Monterey County Middle School positively.

Participation in leadership activities and clubs is a privilege and may be restricted if a student's behavior, attendance, or safety concerns interfere with their ability to participate successfully.

Creating New Clubs

Students who are interested in starting a new club are encouraged to speak with a teacher, counselor, or administrator. New clubs must have a staff advisor and receive school approval before beginning operations.

Building School Community

Student leadership programs and clubs help create a welcoming, inclusive, and engaging school environment. We encourage all students to get involved, try new activities, and contribute positively to the NMCMS community.

6.5 Student Recognition and Awards

North Monterey County Middle School believes in recognizing students for their hard work, growth, achievement, leadership, attendance, and positive contributions to the school community.

Throughout the school year, students may be recognized through a variety of awards, celebrations, incentives, and special events.

Academic Recognition

Students may be recognized for academic achievement, growth, effort, and excellence in the classroom.

Academic recognition opportunities may include:

- Honor Roll
- High Honor Roll
- Principal's Honor Roll
- Subject Area Awards
- Academic Growth Awards
- Outstanding Achievement Awards

Attendance Recognition

Students who demonstrate strong attendance and punctuality may be recognized throughout the school year. Attendance recognition may include:

- Perfect Attendance Awards
- Improved Attendance Recognition
- Punctuality Recognition
- Special attendance incentives and celebrations

Character and Citizenship Recognition

Students who consistently demonstrate the NMCMS RISE expectations may be recognized for their positive contributions to the school community.

Examples may include:

Phenomenal Phoenix Award: Recognizes students who consistently demonstrate Respect, Integrity, Safety, and Excellence while maintaining strong academic performance, positive behavior, and an outstanding work ethic.

Phoenix Rising Award: Recognizes students who have demonstrated significant growth and positive change academically, behaviorally, socially, or emotionally throughout the school year.

RISE Recognition: Recognizes students who consistently demonstrate the values of Respect, Integrity, Safety, and Excellence in their daily actions and interactions.

Athletics and Activities Recognition

Student-athletes and participants in extracurricular activities may be recognized for:

- Athletic achievement
- Sportsmanship
- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Commitment and dedication
- Participation and service

End-of-Year Recognition

At the conclusion of the school year, students may be recognized through awards ceremonies, grade-level celebrations, promotion activities, and other recognition events.

Awards and recognition opportunities may vary from year to year based on school programs and student accomplishments.

Valedictorian Nominees

Students who maintain a cumulative **4.0 GPA throughout both 7th and 8th grade** and demonstrate positive citizenship and behavior are eligible to apply as **Valedictorian Nominees**.

Valedictorian Nominees represent the highest levels of academic achievement, character, and commitment to the NMCMS RISE expectations. Eligible students may participate in a selection process to determine who will serve as Valedictorian and represent the graduating class at the Promotion Ceremony.

Celebrating Student Success

At NMCMS, we believe that every student has strengths worth celebrating. Whether through academic achievement, personal growth, leadership, attendance, athletics, service, or character, we are proud to recognize students who contribute positively to our school community and strive to become the best versions of themselves.

SECTION 7: STUDENT SERVICES & CAMPUS EXPECTATIONS

7.1 Counseling Services
7.2 Wellness Center
7.3 Health Office Services
7.4 Food, Drinks & Gum Expectations

7.1 Counseling Services

The North Monterey County Middle School Counseling Department is committed to supporting the academic, social-emotional, behavioral, and college and career readiness needs of all students.

School counselors work collaboratively with students, families, teachers, administrators, and community partners to help students achieve success both in and out of the classroom.

Counseling services may include:

- Academic planning and support
- Goal setting and progress monitoring
- Social-emotional support
- Conflict resolution and problem-solving
- Peer relationship support
- School transition support
- College and career exploration
- Referrals to community resources and services

Counselor Assignments

7th Grade Counselor
Denise Garcia
denise_garcia@nmcusd.org

8th Grade Counselor
Jasmin Torres
jasmin_garnica@nmcusd.org

Requesting Support

Students who would like to meet with their counselor may:

- Speak with their counselor directly.
- Request a meeting through a teacher or staff member.
- Visit the counseling office.
- Ask a parent or guardian to contact the school.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to contact their student's counselor whenever they have concerns regarding academic progress, social-emotional well-being, attendance, or school success.

Confidentiality

Counselors respect student privacy and maintain confidentiality whenever possible. However, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed when there are concerns involving student safety, abuse, neglect, threats of harm, or situations requiring mandatory reporting.

Our counselors are committed to helping every student feel supported, connected, and successful during their middle school experience.

7.2 Wellness Center

The NMCMS Wellness Center provides students with access to social-emotional, behavioral, and mental health support in a safe and supportive environment. The Wellness Center is available to help students manage challenges that may impact their well-being, relationships, behavior, or ability to learn.

Services may include:

- Individual student support
- Social-emotional skill development
- Conflict resolution and problem-solving
- Mental health support
- Check-ins with support staff
- Referrals to school and community resources

Accessing the Wellness Center

Students may access the Wellness Center through:

- Referral from counselor, teacher/staff, administrator or parent
- Self-referral when appropriate

Students are expected to follow all school procedures when accessing the Wellness Center and may not leave class without permission. Students who need immediate support should notify a teacher, counselor, administrator, or other trusted adult. Students will not be denied access to support when there is a safety or mental health concern.

Wellness Center Expectations

The Wellness Center is intended to provide short-term support that helps students successfully return to learning.

Students using the Wellness Center are expected to:

- Follow staff directions.
- Participate respectfully.
- Use the time productively.
- Return to class when directed.

The Wellness Center is not intended to be a place for students to avoid class, assignments, assessments, or school responsibilities.

Partnering with Families

Parents and guardians may contact the school if they have concerns regarding their student's social-emotional well-being, behavior, or mental health needs. NMCMS is committed to working collaboratively with families to ensure students receive the support necessary to be successful both academically and personally.

7.3 Health Office Services

The Health Office provides basic health services and support to students during the school day. The goal of the Health Office is to promote student health, safety, and readiness to learn. Students who become ill or injured during the school day should notify their teacher and obtain permission before reporting to the Health Office.

Illness During the School Day

Students who become ill during the school day may be evaluated by Health Office staff.

If a student is too ill to remain in class, a parent, guardian, or authorized emergency contact may be contacted to pick up the student.

Students may not contact parents directly to arrange early pick-up due to illness. All health-related dismissals must be coordinated through the Health Office or school office.

Medication at School

Students may not possess or distribute medication at school unless specifically authorized by district policy and supported by the appropriate medical documentation.

All medication must be:

- Registered with the Health Office.
- Stored according to district procedures.
- Accompanied by required authorization forms when applicable.

Families should contact the Health Office regarding medication requirements and procedures.

Updated Information

Parents and guardians are responsible for maintaining current emergency contact and health information with the school. These items should be updated annually with your online registration.

Accurate contact information helps ensure that students receive timely care and that families can be reached quickly in the event of illness, injury, or emergency.

Student Health and Safety

Students should immediately report injuries, illness, or health concerns to a teacher, counselor, administrator, or Health Office staff member.

The health and safety of students is a shared responsibility, and NMCMS is committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for all students.

7.4 Food Services and Cafeteria Expectations

North Monterey County Middle School participates in school meal programs that provide students with access to nutritious breakfast and lunch options each day.

Students are encouraged to make healthy choices and contribute to a positive cafeteria environment.

School Meals

Breakfast and lunch are available to eligible students through the district's food services program.

Meal program information, menus, and eligibility requirements are available through the school office and district website.

Cafeteria Expectations

Students are expected to demonstrate the NMCMS RISE expectations while in the cafeteria.

Students are expected to:

- Follow directions from staff members.
- Remain in approved areas.
- Use appropriate language and behavior.
- Clean up after themselves.
- Respect school property and the property of others.
- Wait their turn and demonstrate good manners.

Food and Beverage Expectations

To maintain a safe and healthy learning environment:

- Energy drinks are not permitted on campus.
- Students may not sell food, drinks, candy, or other items on campus without prior school approval.
- Food and beverages should be consumed in designated areas.
- Glass containers are prohibited on campus.
- Gum is not permitted on campus.

Gum-Free Campus

North Monterey County Middle School is a gum-free campus. Gum creates sanitation concerns, damages school property, and increases campus litter.

Students found with gum will be asked to dispose of it immediately. Repeated violations may result in lunch detention, parent contact, or other school interventions. Students may also be asked to participate in restorative actions that support campus cleanliness and pride.

Lunch Procedures

Students are expected to remain in designated supervision areas during lunch and follow all school rules and expectations.

Students who fail to follow cafeteria expectations may be subject to school consequences, including lunch detention, loss of privileges, parent contact, or other interventions consistent with school policy.

Creating a Positive Environment

The cafeteria is an important part of the school community. Students are encouraged to demonstrate Respect, Integrity, Safety, and Excellence by helping maintain a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for everyone.

By cleaning up after themselves and respecting shared spaces, students help create a campus environment that all Phoenixes can be proud of.

SECTION 8: CAMPUS PROCEDURES & SAFETY

8.1 Campus Supervision & Student Safety
8.2 GoGuardian Hall Passes
8.3 Transportation, Bicycles, Scooters & Personal Property
8.4 Visitors, Volunteers & Campus Access
8.5 Emergency Procedures & School Safety Notifications

8.1 Campus Supervision and Student Safety

Student safety is a shared responsibility between students, families, and school staff. To ensure a safe and orderly campus, students are expected to follow all supervision expectations before, during, and after school.

Before School

Campus opens at 8 a.m. each day and students should arrive no earlier unless participating in a supervised school activity or program. Upon arrival, students should report directly to designated supervision areas and follow staff directions.

During the School Day

North Monterey County Middle School operates as a closed campus. Students are expected to remain on campus throughout the school day unless properly signed out through the school office.

Students may not leave campus without permission from school staff and parent/guardian authorization when required.

After School

Students are expected to leave campus promptly after dismissal unless they are participating in:

- Athletics
- N.E.S.T.
- Tutoring
- School-sponsored activities
- Other supervised programs

Students who remain on campus after dismissal must be under the supervision of a school employee.

Closed Campus Expectations

For safety reasons, students may not:

- Leave campus during school hours without authorization.
- Meet non-students at campus boundaries or fences.
- Accept deliveries through campus fences or gates.
- Enter parking lots or other restricted areas without permission.

Safety First

Students are encouraged to immediately report safety concerns, suspicious activity, bullying, threats, vandalism, or other concerns to a teacher, counselor, administrator, campus supervisor, or other trusted adult.

Maintaining a safe campus requires cooperation from all members of the NMCMS community. By following school expectations and looking out for one another, students help create a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

8.2 Hall Passes and Leaving Class

Students are expected to remain in class during instructional time. Leaving class should only occur when necessary and with permission from the teacher. North Monterey County Middle School utilizes GoGuardian Hall Pass to help ensure student safety and accountability when students leave class during instructional time.

Leaving Class

Students may leave class only with teacher permission and for approved reasons such as:

- Restroom use
- Health Office visits
- Counseling appointments
- Wellness Center visits
- Administrative requests
- Other school-approved purposes

Students should report directly to their destination and return promptly to class.

GoGuardian Hall Pass

Students leaving class must have an active digital pass through GoGuardian Hall Pass unless accompanied by a staff member. GoGuardian Hall Pass records student movement throughout the school day and helps school staff ensure students are safe, supervised, and where they are expected to be.

Students are expected to:

- Obtain teacher permission before leaving class.
- Have an active GoGuardian Hall Pass when outside of class.
- Travel directly to their destination.
- Return to class promptly.
- Follow directions from all staff members.

Staff members may verify a student's hall pass status at any time.

Hallway Expectations

While outside of class, students are expected to:

- Walk at all times.
- Use appropriate language and behavior.
- Respect the learning environment by keeping noise levels low.
- Travel directly to and from their destination.
- Follow staff directions immediately.

Students may not loiter in hallways, restrooms, or other campus areas during class time.

Restroom Use

Restroom visits should occur during passing periods, breaks, and lunch whenever possible.

Students may be permitted to use the restroom during class when necessary and with teacher approval.

Only one student may be out of a classroom on a restroom pass at a time unless otherwise approved by a staff member.

Students are expected to use restrooms appropriately, maintain cleanliness, and return to class promptly.

Unauthorized Areas

Students may not enter classrooms, offices, storage areas, staff workspaces, parking lots, or other restricted areas without permission from a staff member.

Failure to Follow Hall Pass Procedures

Students who leave class without permission, misuse hall passes, remain out of class for extended periods of time, or are found in unauthorized areas may be subject to school consequences, including parent contact, lunch detention, loss of hall pass privileges, or other interventions consistent with school policy.

The purpose of the hall pass system is to maintain student safety, minimize disruptions to learning, and ensure accountability during the school day.

8.3 Transportation, Bicycles, Scooters, and Personal Property

North Monterey County Middle School is committed to providing a safe arrival and dismissal process for all students. Students are expected to follow all school rules and safety expectations while traveling to and from school.

School Bus Expectations

Students riding school buses are expected to:

- Follow directions from the bus driver at all times.
- Remain seated while the bus is in motion.
- Keep hands, feet, and objects to themselves.
- Use appropriate language and behavior.
- Help maintain a safe and respectful environment for all passengers.

School rules apply while students are riding district transportation. Misconduct on the bus may result in disciplinary action and/or loss of transportation privileges.

Walking to and from School

Students who walk to and from school are expected to:

- Use designated crosswalks.
- Obey traffic signals and crossing guards.
- Respect private property.
- Travel safely and responsibly.

Students should proceed directly home unless participating in a supervised school activity.

Bicycles, Scooters, and Skateboards

Students who ride bicycles, scooters, or skateboards to school must:

- Follow all applicable traffic laws.
- Wear a helmet as required by California law.
- Walk bicycles, scooters, and skateboards once on campus.
- Store bicycles in designated bike racks.
- Follow all staff directions regarding safety and storage.

Students may not ride bicycles, scooters, skateboards, or similar devices on campus during the school day.

Student Storage Area

Students may store personal items such as skateboards, helmets, athletic equipment, backpacks, clothing, and other approved items in the student storage area located in the school office.

Students who choose to store items in the office do so at their own risk. While the area is located within the office, items are not continuously supervised or secured throughout the school day.

Students are encouraged not to bring valuable items to school and are responsible for properly labeling and securing their belongings whenever possible.

Personal Property

Students are responsible for all personal property brought to school.

North Monterey County Middle School is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal property, including but not limited to:

- Cell phones
- Electronic devices
- Headphones or earbuds
- Bicycles
- Scooters
- Skateboards
- Clothing
- Backpacks
- Athletic equipment

Arrival and Dismissal Safety

Students should follow all directions from staff members during arrival and dismissal.

For everyone's safety, students should remain alert, use designated pathways, and avoid horseplay near buses, vehicles, parking lots, and drop-off areas.

Working together helps ensure that all students arrive safely and return home safely each day.

8.4 Visitors and Campus Access

North Monterey County Middle School is committed to maintaining a safe and secure campus for all students and staff.

To support campus safety, all visitors must check in through the school office upon arrival.

Visitor Check-In

All visitors, including parents, guardians, volunteers, contractors, and community members, must:

- Enter through the main office.
- Present a valid government-issued photo identification.
- Complete the visitor check-in process through the school's Raptor Visitor Management System.
- Wear a visitor badge while on campus.

The Raptor system helps the school verify visitor information and maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff.

Visitors who do not check in through the office may be asked to leave campus.

Parent and Guardian Visits

Parents and guardians are valued partners in their child's education and are welcome to visit campus.

Parents wishing to observe a classroom should schedule the visit at least 24 hours in advance whenever possible. Advance notice allows the school to coordinate with staff and minimize disruptions to instruction.

Parents who arrive without a scheduled appointment and request to observe a classroom may be asked to return at a later date.

Classroom observations should be conducted in a manner that minimizes disruption to teaching and learning.

Student Visitors

For the safety of students and staff, student guests from other schools and non-enrolled visitors are not permitted on campus during the school day unless specifically approved by administration.

Deliveries and Lunches

Students may not receive food deliveries from restaurants, delivery services, or other third-party vendors during the school day.

Parents and guardians may bring lunch to their student through the school office, provided the meal complies with the district's Blue Zones School Policy.

Examples of food that may not be delivered to students include:

- Fast food meals
- Restaurant delivery orders
- Food delivery services

The school reserves the right to deny delivery of items that do not comply with district wellness expectations.

Parents and guardians who need to drop off lunches, school supplies, medications, or other essential items should do so through the school office.

Closed Campus

North Monterey County Middle School is a closed campus. Individuals who are not students or authorized visitors may not enter or remain on campus without permission.

Students should immediately notify a staff member if they observe unauthorized individuals on campus.

Safety First

Campus safety is a shared responsibility. By following visitor procedures and reporting concerns to staff, students, families, and visitors help maintain a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

8.5 Emergency Procedures and School Safety

The safety of students and staff is a top priority at North Monterey County Middle School. Throughout the school year, students participate in safety drills and emergency preparedness activities designed to help everyone respond appropriately during emergencies.

Emergency Drills

Students participate in a variety of safety drills throughout the school year, including:

- Fire Drills
- Earthquake Drills
- Secure Campus Drills
- Lockdown Drills
- Other emergency preparedness exercises as needed

These drills help students and staff practice procedures and prepare for emergencies.

Student Responsibilities During Drills

During any drill or emergency situation, students are expected to:

- Follow all staff directions immediately.
- Remain calm and respectful.
- Move quickly and safely when directed.
- Remain with their assigned class or supervising staff member.
- Refrain from using cell phones or electronic devices unless directed by staff.
- Help maintain a safe environment for themselves and others.

Failure to follow directions during a safety drill or emergency may result in disciplinary action.

Reporting Safety Concerns

Students are encouraged to immediately report any safety concern to a trusted adult, including:

- Threats or acts of violence
- Bullying or harassment
- Weapons or dangerous items
- Suspicious behavior
- Vandalism
- Unsafe conditions on campus

Students should never assume someone else has already reported a concern.

School Safety Procedures

For security reasons, specific emergency response procedures are not published in detail within the student handbook. Students will receive instruction and guidance from staff regarding emergency procedures throughout the school year.

Emergency Communication

North Monterey County Middle School uses TalkingPoints as its primary communication platform for school and emergency notifications.

In the event of an emergency, school closure, safety concern, or other urgent situation, information will be shared with families through TalkingPoints and other district communication systems as appropriate.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to:

- Ensure their contact information is current in ParentVUE.
- Review TalkingPoints messages regularly.
- Keep phone numbers and email addresses updated with the school.
- Contact the school office if they are not receiving communications.

Accurate contact information helps ensure families receive timely and important information during emergencies and other school events.

Working Together for Safety

A safe school requires cooperation from everyone. By following directions, treating others with respect, and reporting concerns when they arise, students help create a safe and supportive learning environment for all members of the NMCMS community.