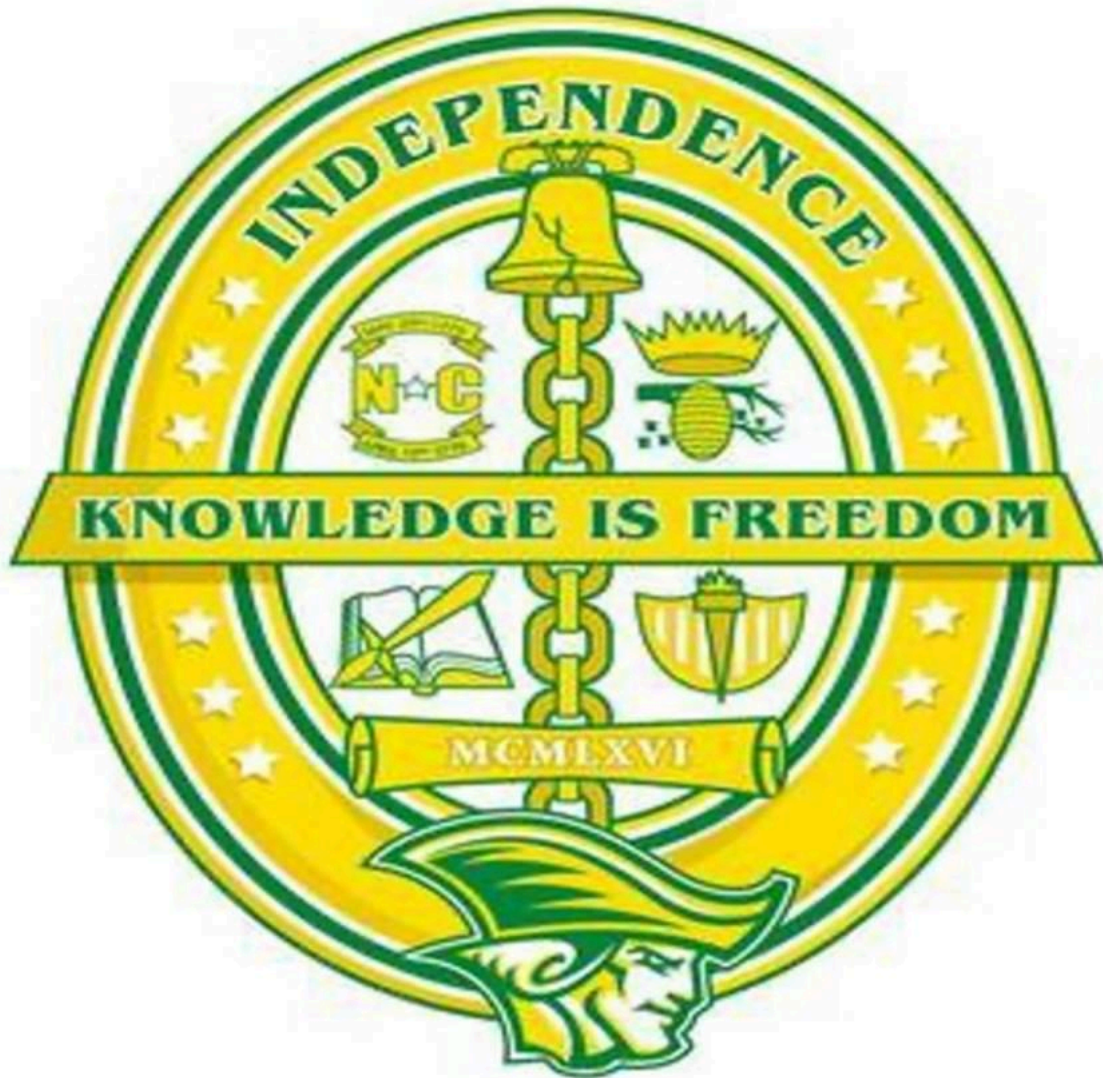


Independence High School

PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK 2026 – 2027



School Address and Contact Information

Principal: Dennis Hobbs
1967 Patriot Drive
Charlotte, NC 28227
Phone: 980-343-6900
Fax: 980-343-6907

General Information

School Hours

Students will be permitted to enter the building beginning at 6:55 AM during morning arrival. School begins at 7:15 AM and students must be in their classrooms when the bell rings. Students who arrive after **7:15 AM** must report directly to their First Block class and will be marked tardy by their classroom teacher. Students who arrive **after 7:25 AM** will be placed in **Lockout in the Mall Area for First Block** and will be required to turn in their cellphone for the entire school day. Cellphones will be secured in the **Main Office**, and students may pick up their cellphone at the end of the school day. Parents will need to walk inside of the school to sign the student into the school to avoid lockout during the First Block.

If a student misses half of any class period (over 45 minutes), then the student will be marked absent for that class period. School ends at 2:15 PM. Students who are not involved in an after-school activity or sport should be picked up from school no later than 2:45 PM. Students are not permitted to leave campus during the school day and come back on campus before 2:30 pm. Seniors who have abbreviated schedules (early dismissal) must leave campus immediately after their last class. Failure to leave campus immediately will result in the student being scheduled for a full schedule of classes.

GRADE LEVEL ADMINISTRATOR	
Administrator	Grade Level
Mrs. Mitchell-Chaney	12 th Grade
Mrs. Moore	11 th Grade
Mr. Simmons	10 th Grade
Mr. Stallsworth (A - K) Mr. Dove (L - Z)	9 th Grade

2025 - 2026 COUNSELOR ASSIGNMENTS	
Student Last Name	Counselor
A – Ca	Mr. Hill Christopher1.hill@cms.k12.nc.us
Ce – Gl	Mr. Osborne Thomasm.osborne@cms.k12.nc.us
Go – K	Ms. Ellison Brittanye.ellison@cms.k12.nc.us
L – N	Ms. Howie Elizabetha.howie@cms.k12.nc.us
O – Sh	Ms. Stephens Jennifer.stephens@cms.k12.nc.us
Si – Z	Ms. Harris hayleyj.harris@cms.k12.nc.us

Student Responsibilities

As a student at Independence High School, you are expected to:

- Come to class prepared with the necessary learning materials, ready to work hard in all classes. Learning is the most important thing you do.
- Attend school and classes regularly and arrive for class on time. Failure to do so may result in loss of privileges related to participation including, but not limited to: extracurricular and athletic events, parking on campus, prom and homecoming festivities, and pep rallies.
- Be aware of and abide by system-wide policies, regulations, guidelines, and expectations regarding student behavior during school hours and extracurricular events/programs as outlined in the CMS Code of Conduct.
- Be responsible for your behavior.
- Conduct yourself in a manner that is conducive to learning and does not interfere with the teacher's right to teach or a classmate's right to learn.
- Respect the personal, civil, and property rights of all members of the school community.
- Seek clarification from school personnel if you have questions about any action or behavior.
- Pay school-based fees, fines, and obligations promptly to the appropriate individual. Failure to do so may result in loss of privileges related to participation including, but not limited to: extracurricular and athletic events, parking on campus, prom and homecoming festivities, and pep rallies.
- All sports equipment should be placed in lockers or holding arrangements made with a teacher or coach, including but not limited to lacrosse sticks, baseball bats, large sports bags, etc.
- Balloons given to celebrate a birthday or other event are not allowed in class or common areas. These items will be held in the main office for the student to pick up at the end of the day.
- Students are prohibited from bringing **Portable Bluetooth Speakers**
- Students are prohibited from ordering Door Dash, Uber Eats, or any food delivery service.
- Students must maintain a clean environment throughout the school by cleaning up after themselves after eating in the cafeteria and throwing away trash in the garbage cans during the school day.
- Students are prohibited from taking any food out of the cafeteria
- Students at Independence High School must turn off Cell phones and **at the beginning of each instructional block, students must give their cellphone(s) to the teacher when entering the classroom. Students will get cell phones back at the end of each class** [Cellphone & Electronic Devices Guidelines and Consequences](#)

Attendance Information

Absence Procedures

School attendance sets the foundation for academic success. Every Pre-K through 12 student should feel welcome and want to be in attendance daily. District and school staff, families, students, and the community have roles in daily attendance and prevention of chronic absenteeism. There is strong evidence of a direct relationship between good attendance and student achievement. Parents should stress to their children the importance of attending school regularly and make every effort to get children to school daily. We understand that a multitude of factors may affect your child's school attendance. Some of the most common factors impacting school attendance include health, transportation, and personal stress. Please contact the school to discuss any barriers to attendance as soon as concerns arise. One of the school's roles is to problem-solve with you for the purpose of preventing major attendance problems.

A student must attend school for at least half of the day to be counted present. This means that very late arrivals or early dismissals may result in your student being counted as absent even if they were present for part of the day. Parents of secondary students are encouraged to monitor their students' attendance using Infinite Campus. Please contact school staff if you note any discrepancies in your student's attendance record.

In North Carolina, the attendance law states that children must be enrolled in school between ages 7 and 16. Beginning in kindergarten, if any enrolled student under the age of 17 has 10 or more unexcused absences, and the parent /guardian is not making a good faith effort to address attendance challenges, the parent/guardian may be prosecuted. Your student's school wants to partner with you to address any attendance concerns. See [CMS Board Policy S-ATT](#) for local policy, and state statute [N.C. G. S. – 115C-378](#) for state attendance laws.

A school representative will contact parents/guardians when their child accumulates 3, 6 and 10 unexcused absences. After 10 unexcused absences, the principal's designee or attendance official will issue a 10-day letter stating that the student is in violation of the NC attendance law and parents may be referred for prosecution and the Department of Social Services notified.

A note must be given to Ms. Hope Wright, our Attendance Secretary. When dealing with absences:

- Communication with teachers is the most effective method to keep students current with class assignments and on track academically.
- Students arriving after 10:31 am or leaving before 10:39 am will be considered officially absent for the entire day.
- A student who misses more than 45 minutes of a class period is considered absent from that class.
- All absence notes should be given to the front office to ensure proper coding is entered into Infinite Campus. (excused/not excused)

It is the student's responsibility to contact individual teachers within five days of returning from an absence to make up any work missed. Together with the teacher, a schedule for the completion of that work will be made based on the amount of work missed and the difficulty of the work.

- Excused Absences: Illness or injury, quarantine, death in the immediate family, medical or dental appointments, court or administrative proceedings or principal-approved absences.
- Unexcused Absences: Including but not limited to car trouble, oversleeping, inclement weather, lack of electricity, missing the bus, traffic, or truancy.

The following absences are school initiated and principal approved:

- Field trip (school-initiated activity)
- Verified interview—College Day (high school juniors and seniors)
- Special programs (community program sanctioned by the school district or approved by the principal that is of educational value)
- District or approved by the principal that is of educational value)
- Explorers (secondary schools)
- Internship (includes pages—secondary schools)
- Junior Achievement (secondary schools)

The absences listed below are considered excused once school personnel have received verification from the parent/guardian:

- Illness of student
- Death in the immediate family
- Quarantine
- Approved educational opportunity (Form 5123.21, available at school)
- Doctor appointment
- Court or administrative proceedings
- Religious holiday (approved religious observances; must be approved in advance)

The absences listed below and all other absences not listed below are unexcused:

- Bad weather
- Missing the bus
- Car trouble
- Lack of heat, water or electricity
- Shopping
- Babysitting
- Lack of clothing or shoes
- Oversleeping

It is important that parents/guardians report all student absences to the school, regardless of the reason. You may report any absence by responding to the Parentsquare notification or contacting the school.

Attendance Rules for Sports and Any Extra-Curricular Activities

Students must be in attendance for at least one-half of the instructional day in order to participate in any sport or activity. Students must have an 85% attendance record for the previous semester and have no more than 13 absences to participate in a sport.

Early Dismissal

Students leaving campus during the day must have **written** permission (phone calls will not be accepted) from their parents or guardian. Notes must be submitted to the Attendance office by 7:15 AM on the day of the early dismissal. Notes must include:

- The student's name and ID number,
- A legitimate reason for the early dismissal,
- A telephone number where a parent or guardian can be reached to verify the request,
- A time for dismissal
- Who will be picking up the student or if the student is a driver
- The signature of a parent or guardian.

Ms. Hope Wright will give the student a pass to leave class at the time requested by the parent's note. The attendance office will verify all notes that require the student to drive or be picked up by someone other than the parent. The student shows the pass to the classroom teacher at the time of dismissal. The student must come back to the attendance office, meet their parents, and sign out before leaving campus.

Tardies and Tardy Sweeps

For student safety, buildings are locked after the tardy bell rings. This is to ensure safety of all students and staff. This occurs each period of the day. If a student is not in his/her classroom when the tardy bell rings the student will be marked tardy. Chronically late students will be subject to disciplinary action as well as parents being contacted. ***It is imperative students are in their classroom when the tardy bell rings.*** Independence High School will periodically have a tardy sweep to make sure all students are in class before the tardy bell rings. Students caught in a tardy sweep will turn their cellphones into the administrator and placed in ISS for the entire block. Students will pick up their cellphone in the front office at the end of the school day.

Teachers will follow the following procedure for students who are tardy to class:

- **First Tardy:** The teacher will contact the parent/guardian and document the tardy as a **Minor Incident Referral in Educators Handbook**.
- **Second Tardy:** The teacher will contact the parent/guardian and document the tardy as a **Minor Incident Referral in Educators Handbook**.
- **Third Tardy:** After two Minor Incident Referrals have been documented, the teacher will contact the parent/guardian and submit an **Office Referral in Educators Handbook**. The referral will be reviewed and addressed by the student's **Grade-Level Administrator**.

Teachers should ensure that all parent contacts and referrals are documented appropriately in **Educators Handbook**.

INDEPENDENCE HS

BELL SCHEDULE

2026 - 2027

1st Block

6:55 Bell Staff on Duty Posts or Classroom Doors
7:05 Bell Block 1 Class
7:09 Warning bell
7:10 Final Bell
7:15 Bell Begin Block 1
8:50 Bell End Block 1

2nd Block

8:54 Warning bell
8:55 Bell Begin Block 2
10:25 Bell End Block 2

3rd Block

10:29 Warning bell
10:30 Bell Begin Block 3
10:32 Buzz Begin A Lunch
10:52 Bell End A lunch
10:56 Warning bell
10:57 Tardy Bell A Lunch

10:59 Buzz Begin B Lunch
11:19 Bell End B Lunch
11:23 Warning Bell
11:24 Tardy Bell B Lunch

11:26 Buzz Begin C Lunch
11:46 Bell End C Lunch
11:50 Warning Bell
11:51 Tardy Bell C Lunch

11:53 Buzz Begin D Lunch
12:13 Bell End D Lunch
12:17 Warning Bell
12:18 Tardy Bell D Lunch

12:19 Buzz Begin E Lunch
12:39 Bell End E Lunch

4th Block

12:43 Warning bell
12:44 Bell Begin Block 4
2:12 PM Announcements
2:15 Bell to Dismiss

EARLY RELEASE BELL SCHEDULE

2026 - 2027

1st Block

6:55 Bell Staff on Duty Posts or Classroom Doors
7:10 Bell to report to Block 1
7:14 Warning Bell
7:15 Bell to Begin Block 1
8:11 Bell to End Block 1

2nd Block

8:12 Warning Bell
8:16 Bell to Begin Block 2
9:12 Bell to End Block 2

3rd Block

9:16 Warning Bell
9:17 Bell to Begin Block 3
10:13 Bell to End Block 3

4th Block

10:17 Warning Bell
10:18 Bell to Begin Block 4
11:12 PM Announcements
11:15 Bell to Dismiss

ALL LUNCHES WILL BE A GRAB AND GO FOR STUDENTS

2-Hour Delay Bell Schedule

2026 - 2027

1st Block

8:55 Bell for Staff on Duty Post
9:10 Bell to report to Block 1
9:14 Warning Bell
9:15 Bell to begin Block 1
10:15 Bell to end Block

2nd Block

10:19 Warning Bell
10:20 Bell to begin Block 2
11:20 Bell to end Block 2

3rd Block

11:24 Warning Bell
11:25 Bell to begin Block 3
11:27 Buzz to begin A Lunch
11:47 Bell to end A Lunch
11:51 Warning Bell
11:52 Tardy Bell A Lunch

11:53 Buzz to begin B Lunch
12:13 Bell to end B Lunch
12:17 Warning Bell
12:18 Tardy Bell B Lunch

12:19 Buzz to begin C and D Lunch
12:39 Bell to end C and D Lunch
12:43 Warning Bell
12:44 Tardy Bell C and D Lunch

12:46 Buzz to begin E Lunch
1:06 Bell to end E Lunch

4th Block

1:10 Warning Bell
1:11 Bell to begin Block 4
2:12 PM Announcements
2:15 Bell for Dismissal

Code of Conduct:

All students deserve a caring and supportive environment to help them grow socially, emotionally, and academically. At Independence High School, we strive to create an environment that is student-centered, celebrates diversity, and prepares students for future endeavors.

CMS Administrative Discipline Resource Guide:

During the first week of school, the **CMS Code of Conduct** and the **Independence High School Parent/Student Handbook** will be reviewed with you by your homeroom teacher. Upon completion of this review, students will sign an acknowledgement indicating they understand both the CMS and Independence High School rules and procedures.

- Teachers will explain the contents of the handbook and answer student questions.
- Grade level student assemblies will be held the first or second week of school to better explain and clarify the handbooks.

Independence High School, in conjunction with the CMS Code of Conduct, prohibits the following items from our campus:

- Illegal drugs and associated paraphernalia
- Alcohol
- Tobacco products, e-cigarettes, vaping products of any kind, and associated paraphernalia
- Weapons of any kind
- Any substance or object that can be harmful to others and has no educational value

In addition, the following guidelines must be followed with respect to the following items:

- Skateboards are prohibited on campus at any time – do not bring them to school. If they are brought to school, they will be stored in the main office until after school.
- Balloons given to celebrate a birthday or other event are not allowed in class or common areas. These items will be held in the main office for the student to pick up at the end of the day.
- Take-out food/orders should not be placed and cannot and should not be delivered to students
- Students are prohibited from selling any items at school including but not limited to snacks, drinks, vapes, drugs, etc

******Students who receive OSS or ISS are prohibited from participating in athletics or any afterschool activities during the suspension or In-school suspension******

Disruptive Behavior

Minor behaviors that result in disruption of class shall be addressed by the classroom teacher with appropriate interventions. If teacher interventions have failed and student removal becomes necessary, the student will be referred to the administrative team. In this instance, along with major and more serious disruptions of the school environment, disciplinary action can be imposed as dictated by Rule 9 of the CMS Administrative Discipline Resource Guide.

Non-Compliance

Non-compliance is defined as the willful failure to comply with the reasonable request by a staff member, the willful failure to complete an assigned consequence, or the willful failure to comply with the rules and procedures as indicated in the CMS Administrative Discipline Resource Guide and Independence High School Parent/Student Handbook

Minor behaviors that are non-compliant within the classroom will be addressed by the classroom teacher with appropriate interventions. If teacher interventions have failed and student removal becomes necessary, the student will be referred to administrative team for more stringent consequences aligned with the CMS Administrative Discipline Resource Guide

Use of Vulgar/Profane/Obscene Language

The use of vulgar/profane/obscene language may result in disciplinary action as dictated by the CMS Administrative Discipline Resource Guide.

Verbal and Physical Confrontations

Verbal and physical confrontations will result in appropriate consequences as outlined by Rule 26 of CMS Administrative Discipline Resource Guide. *Students who incite/encourage a confrontation or refuse to disperse at the request of a staff member, will be subject to the same consequences as the students who engage in confrontational behavior.*

Hazing/Bullying/Cyberbullying

Students may at no time be involved in hazing or bullying of other students; the use of electronic media to threaten, bully, or intimidate another student is prohibited and subject to consequences as outlined below. Threatening messages received by the student should be saved or printed in their entirety and brought to an administrator. **Students should NOT respond to the received message or share it with anyone other than their parents, police (when appropriate), and administrators.** Incidents of hazing, bullying, and/or cyberbullying will result in disciplinary action as outlined by Rule 8 of the CMS Administrative Discipline Resource Guide.

Say Something App [LINK](#)

This program, which fulfills the mandate requirement under 115C-105.51 of NC Law, teaches students, teachers, and administrators how to recognize warning signs and signals, especially within social media, of individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others, and *Say Something* to a trusted adult OR use the anonymous reporting system. Specifically, the program educates participants to:

- Recognize the signs and signals of at-risk behaviors, especially within social media
- Take every sign and signal seriously; act quickly to get help by talking to a trusted adult OR
- Report it anonymously through the SS-ARS 24/7 Crisis Center, mobile app, or website
- Respond to and manage the submitted tip via multi-disciplinary educator and administrator teams
- Sustain the curriculum and awareness via student clubs, in-school activities, and call-to-action weeks

Students often are aware of the problems their peers are facing, so we must empower them to know the danger signs and give them the tools to help each other with the assistance of trained and caring adults. As you know, most conversations take place on social media, therefore it is critical that we teach our students to look out for one another as these digital conversations take place. SS-ARS teaches them what to look for in text, video and photos while empowering them to act quickly to help a fellow student.

Alcohol

Students found to be in possession of, or under the influence of, alcohol will be subject to the following consequences as outlined by Rule 28B of the CMS Administrative Discipline Resource Guide.

Tobacco/Tobacco Products

Students found with tobacco products, vapes or e-cigarettes will be subject to consequences outlined by Rule 28A of the CMS Code of Conduct.

Marijuana

Students found to be in possession of marijuana, under the influence of marijuana, or possessing associated marijuana paraphernalia will be subject to consequences outlined by 28C of the CMS Administrative Discipline Resource Guide.

Drugs Other than Marijuana

Students found to be in possession of or under the influence of any controlled substance other than marijuana and/or associated paraphernalia, including prescription drugs without a doctor's order filed with the school, will be subject to consequences outlined by Rule 28E1 and 28E2 of the CMS Administrative Discipline Resource Guide. Students who need to take prescription and/or over-the-counter medication while at school must have the appropriate documentation completed and on file with the school nurse and the medications (except for inhalers and epi-pens) must be stored in the nurse's office.

Skipping Class/Leaving Campus without Permission

Students are expected to be in class and in the appropriate location(s) at the appropriate time(s) of the school day and may not leave campus at any time prior to the 2:15 dismissal, including going to the parking lot, without administrative permission. Students who leave campus prior to dismissal and return are subject to search by Campus Security and administration. In this situation, at the discretion of the administrator, the student's vehicle may also be subject to search. Students found to be in violation of this rule will be immediately referred to administration due to the security risks associated with this type of behavior and will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Students found to be skipping class and/or not in the appropriate area(s) at the appropriate time(s), will be subject to disciplinary action as dictated CMS Administrative Discipline Resource Guide. Repetitive instances of skipping class and/or leaving campus without permission and/or refusal to follow a staff member's attempt to gain compliance under this rule may be viewed as a violation of the CMS Administrative Discipline Resource Guide and disciplinary action may be imposed in accordance with the Code. Students are not allowed to enter or exit Independence High School through the woods behind or on the side of school grounds.

It should be strongly noted that a student who is a continuous disruption and has excessive office referrals may result in the loss of the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities including but not limited to prom, parking on campus, attending athletic events, homecoming, participation in athletics/clubs/graduation ceremonies etc.

Cellphone & Electronic Devices Guidelines and Consequences

On July 1, 2025, the state passed Legislation [HB 959](#). The bill states that all Personal Technology Devices are restricted during instructional time. This aligns with the Independence High School Policy, which requires all students to turn in their cell phones when entering the classroom and not use any personal technology devices during the instructional block.

To enhance the learning experience and protect valuable instructional time, students at Independence High School must turn off Cell phones and **at the beginning of each instructional block, students must give their cellphone to the teacher when entering the classroom. Students will get cell phones back at the end of each class.** Students who bring an electronic devices (IPads, personal computers) and Cell phones must understand and follow these guidelines:

- Per CMS policy, Independence High School will not be responsible or liable for the theft, loss, data loss, damage, or destruction of any student's personal electronic device brought onto school property. School personnel **will not** be held responsible for these items if they are confiscated due to rule violation.
- Student use of an electronic device will be permitted from 6:45 a.m. through 7:05 a.m. (breakfast), during the student's assigned lunch ONLY. Headphones and earbuds are NOT permitted during school hours except during breakfast, class change and their assigned lunch.
- Use of personal electronic devices (cell phone, headphones/earbuds, IPads, personal computers, Meta glasses, etc) is prohibited during instructional time in classrooms, hallways, media center, gymnasium, restrooms, locker rooms, or school grounds (other than during designated lunch.) Personal electronic devices(cell phone, headphones/earbuds, IPads, personal computers) must be out of sight (or stored in teacher designated areas). The device must be turned off.
- Cellphones and Earbuds/Headphones will be confiscated if a student is using those devices in the hallway during the instructional block.
- Students are not allowed to use their device to capture notes.
- Personal electronic devices(cell phone, headphones/earbuds, IPads, personal computers, Meta glasses, etc) may not be used to cause any disruption in the educational process or for unethical or illegal purposes. Prohibited uses include, but are *not* limited to: cheating on assignments and/or tests, harassing or bullying others, and taking or distributing unauthorized photographs or recordings of other people. Students are not permitted to record school activities held during school hours without explicit permission from a teacher or staff member. **Students caught filming/recording disruptive or prohibited behavior on campus will be subject to discipline.**
- Students will not be able to make phone calls, answer phone calls, video chat or make TikTok videos during the school day. Students must use the main office phone or teacher office phones. Parents/Guardians are to call the front office if an important message must be relayed to the student.
- Students can listen to music on cellphones during all class changes.
- Students who bring more than 1 cellphone will have both cellphones confiscated if violating the cellphone policy.
- Students with a documented medical condition outlined in a 504 Plan or IEP are permitted to keep their cell phone in their backpack or purse. If a student needs to use their phone due to a medical need, they must notify the teacher in advance.
- Students who are caught using a cellphone during EOC or any statewide testing testing will receive a minimum of 3 days of out-of-school suspension.

Student Consequences

First offense: The device will be confiscated and secured in the office. A written warning will be issued to the student. Students can pick up their cellphones at the end of the school day. If a student refuses to surrender the device, 3 days of OSS (Out of School Suspension) will be issued.

Second offense: The device will be confiscated and secured in the office for a parent pickup. The student will receive a full day of ISS. If a student refuses to surrender their phone, they will be given 3 days OSS (Out of School Suspension). A parent or legal guardian may pick it up during after school hours between 2:15 and 3:15pm or 6:30-7:15 am.

Third offense: The device will be confiscated and secured in the office. The student will receive 2 days of ISS. If a student refuses to surrender their phone, they will be given 3 days OSS. A parent or legal guardian will be scheduled for a conference. The parent and student will be informed that the student is not allowed to bring a cell phone to school for the rest of the year.

Fourth offense: The device will be confiscated and secured in the office. The student will receive 3 days of OSS. If a student refuses to surrender their phone, they will be given 5 days OSS. A parent or legal guardian will be scheduled for a conference. The parent and student will be informed that the student is not allowed to bring a cell phone to school for the rest of the year.

Administrators may, at their discretion, create a behavior contract giving the students an opportunity to reestablish cell phone privileges.

Future offenses: will be considered insubordination and consequences assigned accordingly.

*****All student consequences are subject to administrative review.** An individual student consequence may be increased or decreased. These changes will be made at the discretion of the student's administrator.

I have read and understand the expectations and consequences concerning personal electronic devices on school grounds. I understand Independence High School will not be responsible, or liable for, the theft, loss, data loss, damage to any personal electronic device brought to school, and this includes confiscated devices.

INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL DRESS CODE

Independence High School expects that all students will dress in a way that is appropriate for the school day or any sponsored event. The primary responsibility for a student's attire resides with the student and their parent(s) or guardian(s).

1. **Basic Principle: Certain body parts must be covered for all students at all times.**

Clothes must be worn in a way that buttocks, breasts, and stomachs are fully covered with opaque fabric. **All items listed in the “must wear” and “may wear” categories below must meet this basic principle.**

2. **Students Must Wear*, while following the basic principle of Section 1 above:**

- A shirt (with fabric in the front, back, and on the sides under the arms, and
- Pant/jeans or the equivalent (for example, a skirt, sweatpants, leggings, a dress or shorts), and Shoes.

3. **Students May Wear, as long as these items do not violate Section 1 above:**

- Ripped jeans, as long as underwear and buttocks are not exposed.
- Fitted pants, including opaque leggings, yoga pants and “skinny jeans”
- Tank tops, including spaghetti straps; halter tops that cover the back.
 - Religious headwear
 - Electronic monitoring devices but cannot be visible (Electronic monitoring devices must be covered at all times while on school grounds)

4. **Students Cannot Wear or Bring on school campus:**

- Violent language or images
- Hats, hoods, doo-rags, bandanas, football helmet ski mask and stocking caps (Items will be confiscated and placed in the main office)
- Images or language depicting drugs or alcohol (or any illegal item or activity)
- Hate speech, profanity, pornography
- Images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class or consistently marginalized groups
- Any clothing that reveals undergarments
- Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon (examples: long pocket chains, spikes, fish hooks, dog collars) ALL ITEMS WILL BE CONFISCATED
- Any item that obscures the face or ears, except as a religious observances (examples: sweatshirt hoods, t-shirt hoods, and jacket hoods)
 - Blankets
 - Bicycle Shorts

5. **Dress Code Enforcement:**

- Students will be asked to put on their own alternative clothing, if already available at school, to be dressed more to code for the remainder of the day
- Students will be provided with temporary school clothing to be dressed more to code for the remainder of the day (All items must be returned to the Main office at the end-of-the-day)
- If necessary, students' parents will be called during the school day to bring alternative clothing for the student to wear for the remainder of the day or be placed in ISS for the remainder of the day.

Evolv Scanners

All students are expected to go through the Evolv Scanners when arriving at Independence High School. Students can only enter the building through the Bus Lot and Main Office entrances. Students must remove computers and/or Chromebooks from bookbags and give them to a staff member before going through the Evolv Scanners.

A student must cooperate with and may not obstruct or interfere with a reasonable and authorized search of the student and/or his/her possessions as part of safety screening or based on reasonable suspicion that the student may be in possession of a weapon, illegal substance or other items prohibited by or used in violation of law or the Code of Student Conduct.

Hall Passes

Students leaving class must have a proper Color Coded Hall Pass. Passes are only to be used for movement to and from the approved location. Failure to produce/display a Color Coded Hall Pass is skipping and will be reported to administration for disciplinary consequences. ***Students may not be out of class the first and last 15 minutes of the block.***

Designated Student Areas

Students are not allowed to go to the **woods** behind or on the side of the school, **Baseball Field**, and/or **Tennis Courts**. All students must enter Independence High School through the Evolv Scanners in the Main Office.

Loss of Parking Privileges

The use of a motor vehicle on campus is a privilege that may be limited or revoked at any time. Any school administrator may revoke or suspend a student's driving/parking privilege as a result of but not limited to the following:

- Tardiness to class or school
- Repeated parking violations
- Moving violations
- Reckless driving
- Leaving school without permission
- Any other disciplinary issues, ISS or OSS (Admin. discretion)

Lunch and Cafeteria Procedures

- During lunch, all students must sit down at a table inside the cafeteria or inside of the mall area after purchasing/receiving lunch or snacks
- Students are prohibited from eating lunch or sitting upstairs in the mall area
- All students must report to the cafeteria during their assigned lunch period
- Students are prohibited from eating inside a classroom or walking around the halls of Independence High School during their assigned lunch period
- Students must place trash in the trash cans
- Students are prohibited from taking any food out of the cafeteria
- Students are prohibited for having food delivered to school and that includes but not limited to DoorDash, Uber Eats, Grub Hub, etc. Any food delivered will be confiscated and not returned. Students should use the restroom before the end of lunch
- Students can use their earbuds to listen to music, but can not make phone calls on cell phones

Graduation Requirements:

Course of Study	Future Ready Core	Occupational 9th grade entry year between 2017-18 and 2020-21	Occupational 9th grade entry during the 2021-2022 and beyond
Content Area	Courses	Credits	Credits
English	4 Credits English I, II, III, IV (taken in sequence); or Early College English Course sequence	4 Credits English I, II, III, IV	4 Credits English I, II, III, IV
Mathematics	4 Credits (See Notes 1, 2 & 3) !"NC Math 1, and Alternate Math Sequence (requires principal approval): !"NC Math 2, and (OR) !"NC Math 1, and NC Math 3, and NC Math 2, and !"A 4th math aligned with the student's post high school plans two other alternative math courses	3 Credits !"Introduction to Mathematics !"NC Math 1 !"Financial Management	4 Credits !"Introduction to Mathematics !"NC Math 1 (See Note 3) !"Financial Management !"Employment Preparation IV: Math (to include 150 work hours)
Science	3 Credits !"An earth/environmental science !"Biology !"A physical science	2 Credits !"Applied Science !"Biology	3 Credits !"Applied Science !"Biology !"Employment Preparation I: Science (to include 150 work hours)
Social Studies	4 Credits - Please note the varying requirements for students based on their 9th grade entry year into high school. 9th grade entry between 2014-15 and 2019-20: !"World History, and !"A founding principles course, and !"One American History course and one additional course (one of these options): o American History I and American History II o American	2 Credits - Please note the varying requirements for students based on their 9th grade entry year into high school. 9th grade entry year between 2017-18 and 2019-20 Two Social Studies credits that shall be: •American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics or Founding Principles of the United	4 credits !"Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy, and !"Economics and Personal Finance, and " Employment Preparation II: Citizenship 1A (to include 75. work hours), and !" Employment Preparation II: Citizenship IB (to include 75. work hours)

	History I, or American History II, and another Social Studies course (see note 5) or American History and another Social Studies course (see note 5) 9th grade entry during the 2020-21 school year: ! "World History, and ! "A founding principles course, and ! "Economics and Personal Finance, and ! "An American History course 9th grade entry during the 2021-22 school year and beyond: ! "World History, and ! "Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy, and ! "Economics and Personal Finance, and ! "An American History course	States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy • American History I or American History II or American History 9th grade entry during 2020-21 school year: Two Social Studies credits that shall be: • Founding Principles, Civics and Economics or Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy, and • Economics and Personal Finance	
Health & Physical Education	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit
Electives	8 Credits A concentration of four courses in one subject area or a cross disciplinary area, focused on student interests and postsecondary goals, 4 Credits Career/Technical Education 4 Credits Career/Technical Education providing an opportunity for the student to participate in a rigorous, in-depth and linked study, is recommended. The concentration may include but is not limited to courses in: CTE, ROTC, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or Arts Education; students may also take courses through Career and College Promise or university dual enrollment. Two of the four remaining		

	electives must be any combination of courses in Career & Technical Education, and World Languages. Students shall have at least one arts education course in grades 6-12		
Employment Preparation	0 Credits	8 Credits !"Prep I or Employment Preparation I: Science !"Lab I or Employment Preparation I: Science Lab !"Prep II or Employment Preparation II: Citizenship 1A !"Lab II or Employment Preparation II: Citizenship 1B !"Prep III or Employment Preparation III: Citizenship IIA !"Lab III or Employment Preparation III: Citizenship II B !"Prep IV or Employment Preparation IV: Math !"Lab IV or Employment Preparation IV: Math Lab	4 Credits !"Employment Preparation III: Citizenship II A (to include 75 work hours) !"Employment Preparation III: Citizenship II B (to include 75 work hours) !"Employment Preparation I: Science Lab !"Employment Preparation IV: Math Lab
Totals	24 credits	24 credits	24 credits

Notes

1. To meet minimum admission requirements for the UNC University System, a student must: a) complete a specific math sequence; and b) have a minimum of two years of credit in the same World Language.
 2. A student participating in the Alternate Math Sequence is not eligible to graduate ahead of his/her class. Exceptions to this rule must be approved by the learning community superintendent.
 3. Course titles of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II have changed to NC Math 1, NC Math 2 and NC Math 3.
 4. The course title of Civics and Economics has changed to "American History, The Founding Principles, Civics and Economics."
 5. The additional social studies credit must be in a social studies course approved under the NC Essential Standards for Social Studies.
 6. Students must earn four elective credits constituting a concentration in CTE, JROTC, World Languages or any other subject area in order to be named a North Carolina Academic Scholar.
 7. Beginning in fall 2022, students entering Grade 6 and subsequently entering Grade 9 for the first time in 2025-26 shall have at least one arts
 - e8. Additional graduation requirements: CPR certification is required beginning with students entering the 9th grade in 2011.
 9. Students entering 9th grade in the 2014-2015 or later school years must complete 150 hours of School Based-Training hours work with activities and experiences that align with student's post school goals, and 225 hours of Community-Based Training and 225 hours of Paid Employment or 225 hours of unpaid vocational training, unpaid internship, paid employment at community rehabilitation facilities, **and** volunteer and/or community service hours (total work hours: 600), as well as a career portfolio.
- education course in grades 6-12.

Promotion Requirements:

- In order to promote to a Sophomore, you must earn 6 credits
- In order to promote to a Junior, you must earn at least a total of 12 credits
 - Your 12 credits must include: English I, English II, and Math I
- In order to promote from a Junior to a Senior, you need 18 credits including: English I, English II, and Math I

Independence High School Honor Code

At Independence, we recognize that enduring excellence is attained only through honor and strong character traits. Honesty, respect, and responsibility are essential traits of good character and are important to the learning process. The purpose of the Independence High School Honor Code is to establish and uphold high expectations for student success both in academic work and in character development.

Independence High School requires that students adhere to standards of academic integrity and honesty. To that end, the following behaviors are unacceptable and violate the IHS Honor Code and the traits of positive character development:

Cheating: Cheating is defined as the act of misleading others through deception, lies, or trickery (Merriam- Webster Dictionary).

Cheating includes giving, receiving, or attempting to give or receive unauthorized help that results in an unfair academic advantage. Unless a teacher explicitly permits collaboration or support, students should assume all work is to be completed independently. This also applies to content generated by artificial intelligence (AI). While Independence High School embraces the thoughtful use of AI as a tool to support and extend learning, using AI to complete assignments in place of a student's thinking, analysis, or effort without teacher permission is considered academic dishonesty.

Examples of cheating may include, but are not limited to:

1. Using unauthorized aids such as notes, cheat sheets, translation tools, books, formulas, calculators, or digital devices during an assessment without explicit permission. This includes but is not limited to phones, earbuds, smartwatches, smart glasses, and computers. This also includes accessing any internet or AI-based source (e.g., ChatGPT, Google Translate, PhotoMath, etc.) when not authorized by the teacher.
2. Having any unauthorized materials or devices out during a quiz or test is considered a violation regardless of intent.
3. Copying information or answers from another student's assignments, such as homework, projects, reports, essays, quizzes, or test papers.
4. Allowing others to copy your work or completing work on someone else's behalf, such as sending a peer your assignment to copy.
5. Giving or receiving help in any form during a quiz or test, including talking, whispering, or gesturing.
6. Sharing information about a quiz or test with someone who has not yet taken it, including providing hints, questions, or answers.
7. Copying phrases, sentences, or ideas from another source, including AI-generated content, without proper citation, even if the wording is slightly altered.
8. Using another person's thoughts, ideas, or arguments without giving credit, whether from a published source, the internet, a classmate, or an AI tool.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as "uncredited use (both intentional and unintentional) of somebody else's words or ideas." from Purdue OWL (Online Writing Lab). <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Cutting and pasting information from a website or online source into a paper, presentation, project, etc. without proper citation.
- Intentionally or unintentionally leaving out quotation marks, citations, works cited page, etc., thus misrepresenting the work as the original work of the student.

Academic Consequences:

Students at Independence recognize that any kind of academic dishonesty compromises their self-respect and their honor.

Independence HS students are expected to take responsibility for any action which might violate school standards and compromise his/her own integrity. It is the student's responsibility to clarify with the instructor any ambiguities about violations of the Honor Code. Students who cheat, plagiarize, or are involved in academic dishonesty will experience the following consequences (cumulative for the duration of enrollment at Independence HS):

1st Offense: Grade of zero on the assignment without opportunity to make up the assignment. Extra credit opportunities are no longer available to the student for the remainder of the quarter. Teacher should contact the parent and inform them of the offense. Offenses will be documented in the student's record by the teacher submitting a referral to an administrator. There will be no additional administrative consequence just recording of the incident. **EOC Testing: Students who are caught using a cellphone during EOC testing will receive 3 days of OSS.**

2nd Offense: Grade of zero on the assignment without opportunity to make up the assignment. Referral submitted to the Honor Council. Teacher should contact the parent and inform them of the offense. The Honor Council will consist of teachers, an administrator, and a counselor. Offenses will be documented in the student's record by the teacher submitting a referral to an administrator.

Consequences imposed by the Honor Council may include detention, In-School Suspension, and/or up to 10 days of Out of School Suspension (in accordance with the CMS Rights and Responsibilities Handbook).

Other Violations of the Honor Code:

Violations of the Honor Code are not limited to academic dishonesty. Vandalism, stealing, lying, bullying, or otherwise unacceptable, undesirable behavior is not permitted. Independence strictly follows the CMS Rights and Responsibilities Handbook in determining consequences for such violations.

National Association for College Admission Counseling: Independence is a member of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) and adheres to the "Statements of Principles and Good Practice." The policy on reporting discipline incidents and consequences (academic or behavioral) is that if a college asks on its application, the student must answer honestly, reporting any incidents beginning with 9th grade. The counselor also provides a statement confirming the student's answer is an honest one. In accordance with NACAC principles, Independence counselors will notify all colleges that inquired on their applications, of discipline incidents and consequences incurred by seniors after acceptance.

Works Cited

"Cheating" Merriam-Webster Dictionary. National Association for College Admission Counseling
<http://www.nacacnet.org/AboutNACAC/Pages/default.aspx>.

Expectations:

In the event of Inclement Weather, students should check their current Canvas courses for required activities. There will be places to submit assignments in Canvas for each class on each day that the Inclement Weather Plan is enacted. It is the expectation that any student who is able will be active in their courses on inclement weather days. If for any reason it is not possible to be active, communicate with your teacher and counselor regarding the reason. Below is the district guidance on inclement weather.

CMS Inclement Weather Plan

- Assignments
 - Will not reflect new learning
 - Will be standards aligned
 - Will be meaningful
 - Submissions must be a student's original work and follow the honor code

- Attendance
 - Once submitted, the student will be counted present (1R).