Northwestern Regional Middle School

100 Battistoni Drive
Winsted, CT 06098
Phone: 860-379-7243
Fax: 860-738-6205
www.NWR7.com

Student/Parent-Guardian Handbook

2026-2027





Northwestern Regional School

District Mission Statement

Northwestern Regional is a comprehensive public Middle School-High School. We serve the total Regional Community with emphasis on middle school and high school students. Our educational program promotes cognitive, personal and social development in a safe learning environment. We seek to empower students to be independent lifelong learners and contributors in a changing society.

Ryan Cornelius, Principal

Grade: _____ Homeroom Teacher's Last Name:_____

Students

"By signing below, I acknowledge that I have accessed/read a copy of the Northwestern Regional Middle School Student/Parent-Guardian Handbook for 2026-2027 (located at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lA6-OFV-_S3QrSj-V3YF4wSiOFwtjGMww43_qcgsypM/edit?usp=sharing) I understand I am responsible for understanding and adhering to its contents."

_____

Printed Student Name

_____ _____

Student's Signature **Date**

Parents/Guardians

The Northwestern Regional Middle School 2026-2027 Student/Parent-Guardian Handbook is the official notification for the standards of conduct at Northwestern Regional Middle School. This handbook provides information about school rules and procedures, as well as an index of Regional School District No. 7 Board of Education Policies that relate to student conduct. It does not provide complete policies or regulations, which are available by visiting www.NWR7.com and clicking on the "Board of Ed" link.

Please take time to read the handbook pages carefully. Please sign below to acknowledge that you understand and consent to the responsibilities outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. I understand that my child _____ will be held responsible for the behavior and consequences outlined in the handbook at school and at school related activities, including school-sponsored travel, and for any school related misconduct, regardless of time or location. I understand that any student who violates the Student Code of Conduct shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension, expulsion, and referral for criminal prosecution for violations of law.

_____

Printed Parent Name

_____ _____

Parent Signature **Date**

This form should be signed, dated, and returned to homeroom teachers by Wednesday, September 2nd. Failure to sign or return this form does not affect the student's responsibility to act in accordance with the policies outlined in this handbook.

Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year. To our 8th grade students and families, welcome back for our second year together. We shared some great memories last year and will make some more this year. To our incoming 7th grade students and families, welcome to the Northwestern community. This is a wonderful school community and we are so excited to have you join us.

That adults who serve your students here believe very strongly in the importance of a strong partnership with the families we serve. We share your goal of providing the best possible educational experience for your student within an environment that is safe and supportive for all of our community members. This handbook contains some of the policies and practices that help us to create this environment.

There are many important pieces of information included within this handbook including the Acceptable Use Policy for all technology within the district and Chromebook insurance policy. It is highly recommended that all families sign up for this insurance program.

There are many procedures within this handbook as well, including what to do if your student is going to be absent, how to get a bus pass, who to contact for various needs and the many other things you will need as your student joins us for the school year. Please take some time to review these procedures prior to the start of the year.

We look forward to parent and guardian participation in guiding your student through the learning process by encouraging good study habits, nurturing curiosity, promoting school connectedness, fostering a sense of personal responsibility, and working with the teachers to keep lines of communication open.

We look forward to working with you all in a collaborative effort for a successful school year. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or need support in any way.

Sincerely,

Ryan Cornelius

Ryan Cornelius
Principal

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
2026-2027
CALENDAR

AUGUST (4)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SEPTEMBER (21)

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OCTOBER (20)

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NOVEMBER (17)

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29	30					

DECEMBER (17)

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JANUARY (19)

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FEBRUARY (18)

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MARCH (22)

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APRIL (17)

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MAY (20)

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JUNE (6)

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JULY

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Approved: 11/12/2025

Date	Event/Holiday
August 24- 25	Teacher In-Service
August 26	First Day of School
September 7	Labor Day
September 8	MS Open House
September 10	HS Open House
October 9	Teacher In-Service
October 12	Columbus Day
November 3	Teacher In-Service
November 9 & 10	Early Release - MS Conferences
November 25 - 27	Thanksgiving Break
December 23	Early Release
December 24 - January 1	Winter Recess
January 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 12	Early Release
February 15 - 16	February Break
March 26	Good Friday
April 12- 16	April Recess
May 28	Early Release
May 31	Memorial Day
June 8	181st Day of School

Scheduled Early Release Dismissal Time: 12:05pm

Weather-Related Make Up Days:
The last day of school is scheduled for June 8, 2027.
Make up days due to school cancellations which cause Regional School District No. 7 schools to be closed will be scheduled as needed beginning with June 9, 2027.

Academic Help Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL
ACADEMIC HELP SCHEDULE 2026-2027

September (3) 14-Monday 21-Monday 28-Monday	**October (3)** 05-Monday 19-Monday 26-Monday	**November (4)** 02-Monday 16-Monday 23-Monday 30-Monday
December (2) 07-Monday 14-Monday	**January (3)** 04-Monday 11-Monday 25-Monday	**February (3)** 01-Monday 08-Monday 22-Monday
March (5) 01-Monday 08-Monday 15-Monday 22-Monday 29-Monday **NOTE: schedule may change**	**April (2)** 05-Monday 26-Monday	**May (4)** 03-Monday 10-Monday 17- Monday 24- Monday **June (0)**

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(Student expectations, PBIS, dress code, reporting challenging behavior)

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Northwestern Regional School District Contact Information

Board of Education

Ms. Molly Sexton Read, Chair, msextonreadBOE@nwr7.org

Mr. Rober Jerram, Vice Chair, rjerramBOE@nwr7.org

Mr. Noel Gauthier, Secretary/ Treasurer, ngauthierBOE@nwr7.org

Ms. Mimi Duran, mduranBOE@nwr7.org

Mrs. Theresa Kenneson, tkennesonBOE@nwr7.org

Mrs. Deb Bell, dbellBOE@nwr7.org

Ms. Lisa Ann Frangale, lfragaleBOE@nwr7.org

Ms. Kim Crone, kcroneBOE@nwr7.org

Central Office

Superintendent of Schools	**Steven K. LePage**	**slepage@nwr7.org**
Direction of Finance and Operations	**James Gaskins**	**jgaskins@nwr7.org**
Director of Special Education	**Quentin Rueckert**	**qrueckert@sharedservicesct.com**
Supervisor of Special Education	**Dr. Steven Carvalho**	**scarvalho@nwr7.org**
IT Director	**Chris Fray**	**cfray@nwr7.org**
Athletic Director	**A.J. Bunel**	**Abunel@nwr7.org**

Administrative Office (860) 379- 8525

Principal	**Ryan Cornelius**	**rcornelius@nwr7.org**	**Ext 2315**
Administrative Assistant	**Barbara Domack**	**bdomack@nwr7.org**	**Ext 2300**
8th Grade School Counselor	**Jessica Searson**	**jsearson@nwr7.org**	**Ext 2313**
7th Grade School Counselor	**Amanda Cormier**	**acormier@nwr7.org**	**Ext 2314**
School Nurse	**Dorothy Mitchell, RN**	**dmitchell@nwr7.org**	**Ext 2618**
School Nurse	**Amanda D'Urso, RN**	**adurso@nwr7.org**	**Ext 2619**

Northwestern Middle School Core Values and Beliefs

Mission Statement

Northwestern Middle School, a partnership of school, family, and community, is committed to providing a quality learning environment dedicated to fostering lifelong intellectual achievement and social and personal growth

We believe a quality learning environment:

- Responds to the specific developmental needs of this age group;
- Promotes growth through exploration, reflection and measurable goals;
- Challenges all students to reach their full potential;
- Encourages all students to be contributing citizens in a changing society
- Is a safe and secure place for all children to grow and learn.

Academic Expectations

Northwestern Middle School students will be able to:

- Demonstrate effective literacy and communication skills through reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing;
- Appreciate, create, and participate in visual and performing art forms and demonstrate the importance of the arts in expressing the human experience;
- Use a variety of technology and informational resources to gather and synthesize data;
- Utilize problem solving skills;
- Demonstrate an understanding of democratic values in our society;
- Acquire a foundation of personal health and physical activity skills important for promoting a healthy lifestyle.

Social and Civic Expectations

Northwestern Middle School Students will:

- Demonstrate respect for all members of the Northwestern community;
- Demonstrate the rights and responsibilities of a democratic society;
- Apply practices of citizenship to the students' community, nation, and world;
- Develop attitudes of respect and sensitivity towards human and cultural differences
- Contribute to the community in a positive manner, forming a partnership in education.

2026-2027 Faculty and Staff Directory

Faculty members who can help		
To report absences/tardies/dismissal changes	2300	msattendance@nwr7.org
Ryan Cornelius, Principal	2315	rcornelius@nwr7.org
Marie McManus, Special Education Administrator	2505	scarvalho@nwr7.org
Amanda Cormier, Counselor	2313	acormier@nwr7.org
Jessica Searson, Counselor	2314	jsearson@nwr7.org
Barbara Domack, Secretary to the Principal	2300	bdomack@nwr7.org
Dorthy Mitchell, School Nurse	2618	dmitchell@nwr7.org
Amanda D'Urso, School Nurse	2619	adurso@nwr7.org
Megan Ricci, School Psychologist	2106	mricci@nwr7.org
Steve Michaud, School Psychologist	2623	smichaud@nwr7.org
Lindsey Blanchard, Social Worker	2104	lblanchard@nwr7.org
Kristin Belter, Social Worker	2105	kbelter@nwr7.org
A.J. Bunel, Athletic Director	3138	abunel@nwr7.org
Sara Gildea, Special Education	3325	sgildea@nwr7.org
Amy Bardino, Special Education/ MTSS	3337	abardino@nwr7.org
Andrea Ashe, Reading MTSS Coordinator	3333	aashe@nwr7.org
Liz Wilcox, Math MTSS Coordinator	3304	ewilcox@nwr7.org

Grade 7

Room	Teacher	Subject	Ext	Email
339	Hayes, James	Special Education	3339	jhayes@nwr7.org
324	Hurley-Coughlin, Jennifer	ELA	3324	jhurley@nwr7.org
328	Knox, Galen	ELA	332	gknox@nwr7.org
323	Liskin, Jeffrey	Educational Assistant	3323	jliskin@nwr7.org
331	Moley, Eve	ELA	3331	emoley@nwr7.org
307	Pratt, Erica	Math	3307	epratt@nwr7.org
317	Roes, Steven	Science	3317	sroes@nwr7.org
323	Scarangelo, Tom	Special Education	3323	tscarangelo@nwr7.org
306	Scoville, Kat	Science	3306	kscoville@nwr7.org
321	Stapleton, Michael	Social Students	3321	mstapleton@nwr7.org
339	Sunquist, Darren	Educational Assistant	3339	dsunquist@nwr7.org
309	Yanosky, Jen	Math	3307	jyanosky@nwr7.org

Grade 8

Room	Teacher	Subject	Ext	Email
308	Beauchene, Alison	Science	3308	abeauchene@nwr7.org
335	Corradi, Isabelle	ELA	3335	icorradi@nwr7.org
326	Fullerton, Robert	Educational Assistant	3326	rfullerton@nwr7. org
327	Kycia, Elyse	ELA	3327	ekycia@nwr7.org
326	Mello, Katie	Special Education	3326	kmello@nwr7.org
317	Roes, Steven	Science	3317	sroes@nwr7.org
311	Samantha Pine	Special Education	3311	spine@nwr7.org
305	Rossi, Jen	Math	3305	jrossi@nwr7.org
311	Stenson, Darci	Educational Assistant	3311	dstenson@nwr7.org
330	Stross, Emily	Social Studies	3330	estross@nwr.org
329	Wilbur, Daniel	Social Students	3329	dwilbur@nwr7.org
309	Yanosky, Jen	Math	3307	jyanosky@nwr7.org

Additional Middle School Faculty

Room	Teacher	Subject	Ext	Email
412	Goulet, Teryn	Agriculture Education	4412	tgoulet@nw7.org
004	Myers, Hadley	Art	3004	hmeyers@nwr7.org
011	Winegar, Keith	College and Career Exploration	3011	kwinegar@nwr7.org
LMC	Waring, Robin	Library Media Specialist	2601	waring@nwr7.org
033	Ficke, Megan	LINKS teacher	3033	mficke@nwr7.org
Chorus	Pederson, Dylan	Music Education-Chorus	2625	dpederson@nwr7.org
Band	Porri, Dan	Music Education-Band	2627	dporri@nwr7.org
Band	D'Aleo, Charlotte	Music Education	2626	cdaleo@nwr7.org
Gym	Stotler, Jared	PE and Wellness	2703	jstotler@nwr7.org
Gym	Zematis, Stacey	PE and Wellness	2705	szematis@nwr7.org
	Vacilla, Heather	Registrar	2506	hvacilla@nwr7.org
105	Belter, Kristin	Social Worker	2105	kbelter@nwr7.org
104	Blanchard, Linsey	Social Worker	2104	lblanchard@nwr7.org

	McBaine, Laura	Technology and PowerSchool	2605	powerschoolsupport@nwr7.org
019	Solitaire-Hull, Jamie	VOG	3019	jsultairehull@nwr7.org
014	Calabrese, Jennifer	World Language	3014	jcalabrese@nwr7.org
018	Core, Laura	World Language	3018	lcore@nwr7.org
014	Ettanjui, Jeanne	World Language	3014	jettanji@nwr7.org
017	Hull, Simone	World Language	3017	shull@nwr7.org
019	Truting,Rachelle	World Language	3019	rtruting@nwr7.org
021	Viets, Sarah	World Language	3021	sviets@nwr7.org

What Can you Do to Stay Informed:

- ➔ Familiarize yourself with the district and school websites. Bookmark them for easy access and visit them regularly.
- ➔ Set up your account on the PowerSchool Portal to view grades and attendance information.
- ➔ Read district and school newsletters.
- ➔ Attend open houses, school orientations, and parent/teacher conferences.
- ➔ Never hesitate to reach out with concerns.

Contacting Teachers

- Email is typically the best way to reach teachers, especially during the school day. This allows them to get back to you as quickly as possible without interrupting the learning process. Staff emails are listed above.
- You may also contact teachers via phone by calling the main number, (860) 379-7243 and entering the extension listed above.

School Home Notification

Notification Type	**Explanation**
Attendance Notifications	For absences that have not been called into the middle school, parents will be notified of their students' absence via phone. A meeting may be requested by school administration if there is a pattern of excessive tardiness and or absences.
Discipline Notifications	Lunch detentions can be assigned by teachers and the decision whether or not to contact a parent/guardian in these instances is up to the teacher. These are minor infractions and learning opportunities. For all other consequences, detentions, suspensions, or consequences involving restorative practices, the parent/guardian will be contacted by the school administrator.

School Counseling	The school counseling department will be in contact with families regularly regarding programming, scheduling, as well as any other support they deem appropriate.
Northwestern Updates	You will receive an emailed newsletter from the middle school principal on roughly a biweekly basis. This newsletter will provide important dates, information on upcoming events, showcase some of the great things happening in the middle school, and highlight some of our students. These updates are important in order to stay up to date with what is happening at school. Please ensure your contact information is correct. If you are not receiving these updates, please contact the middle school office so we can ensure everything is correct.
PPT/504	If applicable, you will receive notice regarding the date and time in which a PPT/504 is to be held.
Report Cards	Report cards will be given to students at the end of the first, second, and third marking period. Report cards will be mailed at the end of the fourth marking period. Parents can call the registrar to receive a hard copy at any time.

Parent Phone Calls

Classroom instruction will not be interrupted for phone messages. Students should pre-arrange plans with parents prior to the start of the school day. Messages from parents will be forwarded to students at the end of a class period.
Students are required to leave their cell phones in their locker during the day. Please communicate any messages for your student through the main office to ensure we are able to effectively enforce our cell phone policy and limit distractions to the learning environment.

School Closings, Delays and Early Dismissals

School closings, delayed openings, and early dismissals are announced in the following ways.

- Automated voice message sent to registered phone numbers notifying parents/ guardians of the changes.
- Email notification sent out to all registered email addresses.
- Local news stations will be provided with the change as well.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent teacher conferences will take place on November 9th and 10th. Other parent conferences may be set up throughout the year as needed. Please call your child's school counselor. Conferences are scheduled on a first come, first serve basis. Information regarding how to sign up will be sent to all parents in the weeks leading up to conferences.

Parent Communication

Educational success is most common when there is a strong partnership between home and school with ongoing communication and meaningful collaboration. Parents/Guardians are asked to help students understand that their education must be a high priority within their lives and to encourage their students to make the most of the educational opportunities available. If there is a question about your child's school experience, please contact the person who is closest to the situation. In most cases this is the teacher. The proper channeling of questions regarding instruction, learning materials, or classroom behavior is (1) the teacher, (2) the school counselor, (3) the principal, (4) the superintendent and (5) the Board of Education.

Primary Contact

The following individuals will be most able to assist if you have questions or concerns in the following areas:

An academic issue	Teacher or Counselor
Athletics	Athletic Director
Personal issues	Nurse, School Counselor, Social Worker
Mental Health Concerns	School Counselor, Social Worker
Absences	Middle School Office, Nurses
School Policies	Principal
Tutoring	School Counselors
School Records	Director of School Counseling
Cafeteria	Cafeteria Director
Transportation	Debra Sugerak, Business Office
Lost/ Found	Main office, Custodial Office

The school is not responsible for lost or stolen property. Please encourage your students to keep any valuables at home or well secured while in school.

Schedules and Calendars

Middle School Regular Day Schedule				
Time	**Day A**	**Day B**	**Day C**	**Day D**
7:34-7:44	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom
7:48-8:43	1	7	5	3
8:47-9:42	2	8	6	4
9:46-10:41	3	1	7	5
10:45-11:10	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
11:14-12:08	4	2	8	6
12;12-1:07	5	3	1	7
1:11-2:07	6	4	2	8

Our school's **2 hour delay** start time is 9:34.
Our school's **3 hour delay** start time is 10:34.
Our school's **early release** schedule means school ends at 12:05

Please note that snow days do impact the rotation of days. If we have a snow day, the letter day will shift with that day. For example, if the day of school that was cancelled was an A day, the day that students return to school will be an A day. This moves each subsequent day to the next letter day in the rotation. Red and grey days will also shift with the cancellation of school.

School Cancellations/ Delays and Early Closings

In the event school is postponed or cancelled for weather or emergencies, television and radio stations will be notified and the School Messenger system will be used to notify you of the change to the regularly scheduled school day. School Messenger will use the phone numbers and email addresses provided to the school during student registration so it is imperative these numbers are correct and updated if there are any changes.

School Offices, Services, Resource Areas

Office Hours

The Middle School Office is open from 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

The Main Office is open from 7:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Main Office

The main office is located on the left just inside the main doors to the school. The office houses the high school principal, administrative assistant, and receptionist, as well as Pupil Services personnel. All teacher and staff mailboxes are in the main office.

Visitors

All visitors must first report to the main entry office where they will be asked to show a picture I.D and sign in. Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time is rarely granted and shall be permitted only with the approval of a school administrator. Such visits shall not be permitted if their duration or frequency interferes with the delivery of instruction, disrupts the normal school environment, or violates the confidentiality of other students.

All doors that open to the outside of any school must remain locked in order to preserve the safety and security of students and staff. Unauthorized persons shall not be permitted in school buildings or on school grounds. School principals are authorized to take appropriate action to prevent such persons from entering the building or from loitering on the grounds. Such persons will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Please note the Board of Education policies are updated regularly online. As Board of Education policies are updated, they are added to the list of Board policies which can be assessed by going to NWR7.com under the district page of the website.

Student Visitors

Students who wish to invite visitors to school are to obtain written permission from the Principal and all their teachers at least two days prior to the visit. Only visitors of middle school age will be allowed to visit the Middle School and there must be an educational purpose for the visit. Visitors must supply emergency contact information to the middle school office upon arrival to school.

Student Support Services

Northwestern has two school psychologists and two school social workers in the building. Students are able to access the support staff through their school counselor.

School Counseling

Each student is assigned a school counselor. The Middle School counselors are Mrs. Amanda Cormier and Mrs. Jessica Searson. Our school counselors administer: (1) academic counseling, (2) personal counseling, (3) post-secondary and career planning, (4) the monitoring of student academic progress, (5) standardized testing, (6) consultations with staff and parents, (7) crisis intervention, (8) record keeping, and (9) in-school communications.

Beginning in grade 7, counselors develop a personal educational plan with each student based upon individual abilities, needs, achievements, and interests. Parents are encouraged to contact our school counselors for assistance in daily school modifications, dealing with social or emotional concerns, and planning schedules.

Health Services

NWR 7 Health Office

Hours: 7:30 AM until 2:45 PM
Phone: 860-379-8525 extensions 2618 and 2619
Fax: 860- 379-8940
The health office is located in the hallway nearest to the middle school, adjacent to the auditorium.

Illness or Injury

If a student becomes injured or ill in school, he/she should report to the Health Office. The nurse will evaluate the child and the parent will be contacted if necessary. Students must not leave the building because of illness/injury without authorization from the school nurse. The following guidelines should be helpful to you in determining if your child should be in school:

1. Fever free (less than 100.0) for twenty-four hours before returning to school.
2. No episodes of vomiting for 24 hours.
3. No active communicable and/ or contagious infections
4. On antibiotics for 24 hours before returning from a communicable infection

Administration of Medication in School

Nurses must follow State law and Board of Education policy regarding the administration of medicine to your child. Only FDA medications will be administered during school hours if the desired effect cannot be achieved outside school hours.

1. All medications, including emergency self-carry medications, will be administered only with:
   a. The completion of a NWR Medication Administration Form signed by an authorized prescriber. This form may be found on the district website
   b. Signed authorization of a parent on the form
2. Medication orders are good for one year
3. Verbal authorization/request by parents is **not** permitted by law
4. All medications must be brought to the health office by an adult with the exception of emergency medications which may be transported by the student:
   a. Epi pens
   b. Inhalers
   c. Insulin supplies
5. Students who self-carry these emergency medications must have them <u>on their person</u> at all times in case of an emergency (i.e.: a lock down, fire drill etc…).
6. Parents are encouraged to provide backup medication to the health office.
7. All medication will be dispensed in the Health Office only.
8. Parents must pick up all unused medication within one week of the end of the school year, otherwise the school nurse is legally obligated to destroy it.
9. By law, parents MUST pick up all controlled substances at the end of the academic year.

Field Trips

All students who self-carry inhalers, epi pens or insulin pump supplies are expected to bring their medications from home for field trips. If these medications are not available, your child will be excluded from field trips for their own safety.

Immunizations

All students must present proof of immunizations from a physician or local health agency upon enrollment in Region 7. If the student is not immunized due to medical or religious reasons, a notarized statement from a physician and signed by the physician and the parent must be provided. Forms are available on the web site.

Physical Examinations

All students must present evidence of a physical examination (C.G.S. 10-2045a):

1. upon enrollment to the district
2. 6th grade (submitted in elementary school)
3. 10th grade

Region 7 will use the 6th grade physical exam submitted to the elementary school for documentation of mandatory 7th grade immunizations in accordance with CT State law.

NWR7 Board Policy mandates that all 10th grade students must have a complete CT Health Assessment Record Form on file in the Health Office *before the end* of the 10th grade academic year. In accordance with CT State law, your child ***will be excluded*** from 11th grade until this requirement is met.

Sports Physicals

- The State of CT Health Assessment Record now includes a sports physical portion.
- For those who participate in sports, physicals must be updated every 12 months and on file in the Health Office.
- You must present the completed form to the nurse at least 2 weeks PRIOR to tryouts!! Do not give forms to coaches.
- Registration for sports participation is handled electronically through Family ID.

Physician Notes

All physician notes must be brought/faxed directly to the health office. The nurses will communicate any restrictions to the teachers.

Student Health Emergency Information Forms

These forms (which replace the old blue cards) must be completed upon entry to NWR7 and be on file in the Health Office. The form must be updated by the parent/guardian every year. This confidential medical information, held in the health office, helps us provide for the health and safety of your child**.** If you indicate that your student has asthma that requires a rescue inhaler or that your student has a life-threatening allergy that requires an Epi-Pen, you MUST provide both the medication and a physician-signed Medication Administration form that is also signed by a parent. Without these medications and forms, your child will be excluded from all field trips.
Students with Asthma should have an Asthma Action Plan filled out by a doctor.
Students with life threatening allergies should have an Allergy Action Plan filled out by a doctor.

Requirements for Return to School after Surgery or Serious Illness/Injury

Students who have had surgery or a serious illness, concussion, or hospitalization must have:

1. A note from a physician indicating that the student is cleared to return to classes and if there are any restrictions due to the surgery/illness (i.e.: Physical Education restriction)
2. An indication from MD re: how long the restriction will be in place. Continued restrictions must be updated by a physician.

Defibrillators in School AEDs

The middle school has Automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in the building and school personnel trained in AED operation and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The AEDs and trained personnel will be available during the school's normal operational hours, at school sponsored athletic events and practices on school grounds and school sponsored events not taking place during normal school operations. The school also has an emergency action response plan addressing the use of trained school personnel to respond to individuals experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or similar life threatening emergencies.

Attendance

Student Attendance

WHAT PROCEDURES SHOULD I FOLLOW IF MY CHILD IS ABSENT OR TARDY TO SCHOOL?

Please email msattendance@nwr7.org or call the middle school office prior to 9:00 a.m. at 860-379-7243 when your child is ill or unable to attend school.

All Absences from school require a parent or guardian's phone call followed up by a written note/email within 10 school days. Any absence not verified appropriately will be considered an unexcused absence.

Daily class attendance and punctuality are essential to the academic achievement of students attending Northwestern Regional Middle School. The following attendance policies are based upon legal requirements and legal authority pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 10-199 through 10-202 and 10-221. They are also founded on four educational principles:

- Absence from school or from a specific class has a direct and negative effect on student learning.
- Excessive absences, habitual tardiness, and class cutting reflect apathy, lack of dedication or responsibility, and have no place in a school dedicated to excellence.
- The student has an obligation to be an active participant in the educational process that occurs in the classroom.
- Excessive absences are a drain on the resources of the school, resources that can and should be diverted to educational services or activities that benefit all students. Connecticut state law requires parents to ensure that their children attend school regularly during the hours and terms the public school is in session. It has been well demonstrated that regular attendance is a key factor in the success a student achieves in school. Thus, absence from school represents an educational loss to the student. Therefore, this policy is designed to minimize the student absenteeism while providing students an opportunity to make up school work missed due to absences that reasonably can be considered to be unavoidable.

All students, regardless of age, including those eighteen or older and not living with a parent or guardian, are obligated to comply with the school's attendance policy.

School Absence

State Board of Education policy states:

A student is considered to be "in attendance" if present at his/her assigned school, or an activity sponsored by the school (e.g., field trip), for at least half of the regular school day. A student who is serving an out-of-school suspension or expulsion should always be considered absent.

In accordance with Public Act 11-36, every effort should be made to confine necessary appointments to after school hours, weekends and school vacation periods. When a parent determines that an absence is necessary, parents are requested to contact the school between 7:30 A.M. and 9:00 A.M. on the day of the absence by telephoning the Middle School Secretary. If a phone call is not received from the parent, the Middle School Office will attempt to contact the parent or guardian.

A child whose total number of absences at any time during a school year is equal to or greater than 10% of the total number of days that the student has been enrolled at the school during the school year is considered to be a "Chronically Absent Child". This child's absences will be subject to review by the school attendance team.

In accordance with Public Act 11-156 for absences **one through nine, parents are required to provide documentation as to the reason the student is absent in writing**. This note must be received by the school within **10 school days**.

For the first nine absences in a school year a student can be excused for any reason the parent or guardian provides. In accordance with Public Act 11-156 after **the ninth absence and each subsequent absence, there are more stringent and specific set of reasons for the absence to qualify as excused. These reasons are included in the table below.**

In keeping in accordance with State Board of Education policy, a student is considered to be "in attendance" if present at school, or an activity sponsored by the school, such as a field trip, for at least half of the regular school day (11:07). **Students must be in attendance for at least 4 hours during the school day in order to attend or participate in any school activity that day. This includes but is not limited to, sporting events and practices, dances, and theatre events and rehearsals**. Students arriving to school late must be in school no later than 10:00am to count for a half of a day of school and not to be considered to be absent from school.

Level	Total # of Days Absent	Acceptable Reasons for a Student Absence to be Considered Excused	Documentation Required within 10 Days
1	One through nine	Any reason that the student's parent or guardian approves.	Parent or guardian note only
2	10 and above	• Student illness (Note: to be deemed excused, an appropriately licensed medical professional must verify all student illness absences, regardless of the absence's length).	Parent or guardian note and in some cases additional documentation (see

		• Student's observance of a religious holiday. • Death in the student's family or other emergency beyond the control of the student's family. • Mandated court appearances (additional documentation required). • The lack of transportation that is normally provided by a district other than the one the student attends (parent documentation is not required for this reason). • Extraordinary educational opportunity pre-approved by district administrators.	details for specific reason).

Please note that for any absence the above criteria is not met, the student will be marked as unexcused.

Absence due to vacations

Parents are discouraged from scheduling vacations while school is in session. **Public Act 11-36 does not allow schools to recognize family vacations or missing school to attend a concert etc. as excused absences if the vacation causes the student's absence to exceed nine absences in a school year.** Public Act 11-36 makes accommodations for certain educational experiences which would result in a student's absence from school to qualify as an extraordinary educational opportunity (see the criteria below).

Family vacations that are taken during the school year are disruptive of the educational process and may impact student learning. In all cases, it is very important for parents/guardians to notify in writing the school counselor, the student's teachers and the Middle School Office as soon as possible prior to the vacation when school is in session. Please note that it is normally not possible to provide students all the work they are going to miss due to a vacation prior to the student leaving on the vacation.

Extraordinary Educational Opportunities

From time to time, students encounter an exceptional opportunity for an experience of an educational nature. While these events may not be part of their schoolwork, they provide an excellent chance to further their education. **Under certain circumstances, the days devoted to these opportunities can count as excused absences for students in which the educational opportunity would cause the student to exceed nine absences**.

To qualify as an extraordinary educational opportunity the experience must meet the following criteria as defined by the Connecticut State Department of Education:

1. The opportunity must be educational in nature. It must have a learning objective related to the student's course work or plan of study. Not all memorable and/or life experiences would be considered educational and, therefore, are not available for this exemption.
2. It must be an opportunity not ordinarily available to the student.
3. It must be grade and developmentally appropriate.
4. The content of the experience must be highly relevant to the student. While some opportunities will be relevant to all students, others will contain very specific content that would limit their relevance to smaller groups of students.

All requests for approval of exceptional educational opportunities should be submitted in writing, bear the signature of the student and his or her parent or guardian, outline the learning objective of the opportunity, and detail how the objective is linked to the student's coursework or plan of study.

All approvals for extraordinary educational opportunities will be in written form, detail any requirements placed upon the student as a condition of approval, include specific days approved for the opportunity and include the caveat that the administration may withdraw its approval if the opportunity is canceled or the student fails to meet the mutually agreed on requirements of the approval.

Students may be expected to share their experience with other students/staff when they return. This will benefit the larger school community. Approvals for extraordinary educational experiences are awarded on a case-by-case basis, are based on a number of factors, and that opportunities approved for one student may not be approved for another.

Make-up Work

Make-up work should be completed as soon as possible after the return to school. For each day's absence a minimum of two days may be allowed for make-up work. In the case of pre-announced tests or assignments, it is at the teacher's discretion to determine an acceptable make-up day.

Homework Requests

The middle school will honor homework requests for students who are absent from school for two or more consecutive days due to illness. Requests should be made to the middle school secretary by the second day of the absence.

Tardy

Students who arrive at school anytime after 7:34 must sign into the Middle School Office and will be recorded as tary. Students who are tardy to school and do not present a note with an acceptable reason for their tardiness will be marked with an unexcused tardy.

Tardy to Class

It is important that students learn how to manage their time and arrive at their designated class on time. Being late to class interferes with the learning process and does not help students develop positive habits.

Students are provided 4 minutes of passing time in between classes. This is plenty of time to gather needed materials and make it to class on time. There may be exceptions if students are traveling from their Agricultural classes or Art as these classes are on the opposite side of the building. Students in the building but late to class will be marked as tardy.

The consequences for class tardiness are:

1-3: Teacher discretion/ warning

4-6: Lunch detention and parent contact

7+: Office referral and administrative consequences

Truancy

Truancy is defined as being absent from school without knowledge or permission from the parent or guardian. Truancy occurs when a student aged 5-18 acquires four (4) unexcused absences in one month, or 10 unexcused absences in one year. A student who is truant will be charged with an unexcused absence in every class and is subject to disciplinary action. Parents have the responsibility to assist school officials in remedying and preventing truancy. Repeated absences will prompt a school review that might include a home visit or increased support on behalf of school personnel or the School Resource Officer.

Early Dismissal by Parent

If your child needs to leave school early we ask that you inform us by emailing msattendnace@nwr7.org or calling the middle school office stating when and where you plan to pick up your child. The secretary will issue your child an early dismissal pass which they must give to the teacher of the class they have at the time they need to leave. The student must sign out of the Middle School Office prior to leaving. If a child returns to school after being dismissed, they must sign back into the Middle School Office.

Picking Up Students After School

For safety reasons, the school driveway is closed from 1:45-2:15 each school day and 11:45-12:15 on early release days. Please plan accordingly in order to pick up your student.

Bus Passes

If a student needs to take a different bus, or leave the bus at any point other than their usual stop, it is necessary for the student to obtain a bus pass from the Middle School Office administrative assistant. A bus pass will be issued upon receipt of a note dated and signed by the parent or guardian of both the visiting student and the receiving student. This note must indicate where the student wishes to get off the bus and must be turned into the Middle School Office in the morning in order to provide time to coordinate with our various bus companies. **Bus passes may be subject to space availability.**

Health related Dismissals from School

Students cannot dismiss themselves from school or make dismissal plans via cell phones or school phones due to illness. Students must go to the Health Office and meet with a school nurse who will contact a parent or guardian if needed.

At that time the parent or guardian will make the decision as to who will pick up their child if they are unable to do so. It is extremely important that the health office has a current and working phone number in case a child becomes ill or injured over the course of a school day. Emergency contacts are only contacted in case of a true emergency. If you need to make other dismissal arrangements in case of illness, please call the health office at (860) 379-8525 ext. 2618.

Student Messages

If a message needs to be communicated to your child during school hours, please email msattendnace@nwr7.org or call the Middle School Office at (860) 379-7243. School personnel will get your message to your student. Please do not text or call a student's personal device during the school day.

Middle School Academic Policies

Academic Honesty

Integrity is one of the most important character traits an individual can embody. A person with integrity lives their life with honesty and independence.

Students at Northwestern Regional Middle School are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. As such, cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism can take many forms but most commonly takes place when work is presented as their own for which they did not do, or with more than an appropriate level of help from someone else. Plagiarism is a form of cheating and entails copying another individual's work or ideas. Please note that the use of AI in any way that is beyond what has been explicitly outlined as permissible by the teacher.

Academic Cheating

Students are guilty of cheating whenever they present as their own work something they did not do or if they help someone else cheat. Cheating may include situations other than plagiarism as described below:

- Copying answers from another students test
- Copying answers from someone else's paper or homework
- Borrowing all or part of another student's paper, or using someone else's outline.
- Utilizing AI in any way that was not explicitly outlined as permissible by the teacher

Consequences for Academic Cheating

Students will receive an automatic grade of zero (F) on the assignment. They will not be allowed to redo the work. Parents will be notified.

First Offense

The student will receive an automatic zero for the assignment. Parents are notified. Disciplinary action may be taken by school administration.

Second Offense

The student will receive an automatic zero for the assignment. Parents will be invited to the school for a conference with the teacher and/or team. Disciplinary action will be taken by school administration up to and including suspension.

Third Offense

The student will receive an automatic zero for the assignment. Parents will be notified and invited to the school for a conference with the Principal. Disciplinary action will be taken by school administration up to and including suspension.

Honor Roll

Honor roll for the middle school will be based on the following criteria.

Quarterly average for Academic Excellence = 96-100% (All grades except one must be A- or better and the one other must be B+ or better)

Quarterly average for High Honors = 90-95% (All earned grades must be at least a B-)

Quarterly average for Honors = 84-89% (All earned grades must be at least a C)

Grading Policy/ PowerSchool

In order to ensure fair, consistent, and transparent grading practices, the grading policy linked below has been implemented and began for the 25-26 school year. The grading policy outlines late work expectations, how grades are assigned, absence policies, and other elements that may shape how a student earns their grades.

Northwestern Middle School Grading Policy 25-26

Northwestern Middle School uses the online gradebook platform called PowerSchool. Parent access can be set up for real time updates regarding your student's grades and progress. It is expected that teachers update their gradebook at minimum every two weeks.

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

Northwestern Middle School is committed to supporting the whole student. The Connecticut Department of Education requires school districts to use a framework to address student needs. At Northwestern, our framework is now known as Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS). MTSS helps to ensure that all students receive the appropriate level of support for academic, behavioral, and social emotional needs.

MTSS Components Include:

- High-quality curriculum and instruction in the general education setting (Tier 1)
- Universal common assessments used to assess students' grade level readiness
- Research-based interventions for students who require additional academic or behavioral support or enrichment to make educational progress (Tier 2 and/or Tier 3)
- Data is used to determine student progress

MTSS is designed to meet the unique needs of students in a flexible and customizable way. The approach is collaborative and team driven, based on data, and can assist with special education decisions. Through careful examination of our Tier 1 strategies and available academic data, we can identify which students may need additional support in order to be successful.

Students in need of Tier 2 or Tier 3 programming will require a slight schedule change. Parents will be notified in writing prior to a student being placed within these supports.

MTSS Program Manual

Electronic Devices and Acceptable Use Policies

Personal Devices

In accordance with recommendations from the state of Connecticut and BOE policy, the use of all personal electronic devices is prohibited for middle school students while on school grounds until the dismissal bell at the end of each school day. Students may bring their devices to school but they should be locked in their lockers during the course of the school day.

These items include, but are not limited to:

- Cell Phones
- Airpods/ Wireless Headphones
- Wearable smart devices that are not medically necessary

Students who are not able to follow this policy may have to store their device in the Principal's office during normal school hours. While we recognize the value of such devices, it is of the utmost importance that they not interfere with the learning environment.

Use of Technology for Instructional Purposes

Use of technology in school is a privilege that comes with great responsibility. Students may only use their laptops or chromebooks for educational purposes at school. Non-academic use of personal email, social media, gaming or other personal pursuits is prohibited during the instructional day.

Internet Access on School Grounds

Only the internet gateway provided by the school may be accessed while on campus. Personal technology, including cell phones and cellular network adapters are not permitted to be used to access outside internet sources at any time.

Acceptable Use Policy

In order for students to have access to a school provided Chromebook students and parents must sign the district acceptable use policy.

Access to school technology allows the use of instructional software, internet access and hardware that can enhance their learning. These tools can enhance opportunities for collaboration and provide learning opportunities not available using other means. Ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying standards that their children should follow when using any form of technology. To that end, Northwestern Regional Middle School supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to allow access for their student.

Students who use school technology must abide by the established policies regarding acceptable use of technology, including the internet, in respect to bullying, harassment, cheating, threats, student confidentiality and other misconduct that violates school rules or causes a disruption to the learning environment. Misuse of technology will result in disciplinary action, up to and including losing access to such devices at school, suspension, and expulsion. If possible criminal activity is discovered the proper law enforcement authorities will be notified.

Examples of misuse may include but are not limited to:

- Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures
- Anonymous or pseudonymous electronic communications
- Using obscene language
- Harassing, insulting or attacking others that includes but is not limited to any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, or threatening statements directed toward another person or group, or illegal materials. Cyber-bullying is specifically prohibited pursuant to Board of Education Policy 5131.913
- Using the computer to access sexually oriented, offensive, or illegal material
- Damaging computers, computer software, infrastructure, or computer networks and their components. Such damage will require restitution to the district
- Changing computer or software settings or installation of software without the express permission of the IT department
- Introducing any device, code or software which is intended to alter, damage or circumvent the network. No attempts will be made to bypass the network restrictions set forth by the district.
- Violation of copyright laws
- Using another's password and/or network account
- Posting or transmitting student's own or other's personal information such as home addresses, telephone numbers, last names, photos or other personal identifying information.
- Intentionally wasting limited resources
- Employing the network for commercial purposes.
- Recording or photographing others.

Administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity. Users should have no expectation of privacy when using district resources.

Personal technology may be searched by administration if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting the search will turn up evidence that a student has violated or is violating either the

law or school rules. The school district has the right to examine any device that is suspected of causing problems or was the source of an attack or virus infection.

Beyond the clarification of such standards and installation of filtering software, the district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring, or controlling the communications of individuals utilizing the network.

Regional School District No. 7 shall not be responsible for any damages suffered by the student, including those arising from non-deliveries, miss-deliveries, service interruptions, unauthorized use, loss of data, and exposure to potentially harmful or inappropriate material or people. Regional School District No. 7 specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the internet. Responsibility to keep a student's personal technology secure rests with the individual owner. Regional School District No. 7, including its staff or employees, is not liable for any device stolen or damaged on campus. If a device is stolen or damaged, it will be handled through the administrative office in a manner similar to other personal property. It is recommended that students personalize their devices for easy identification and use protective cases.

The Regional School District No. 7 Technology Department will not service any non-district owned technology which includes troubleshooting software or hardware issues. Students are responsible for securing their devices and making sure they have up to date antivirus software installed if applicable.

Please note that the school is not responsible for the loss of any personal belongings.

Regional School District No. 7 Acceptable Use Policy

Chromebook Insurance

It is strongly recommended that families participate in the optional Chromebook insurance program available starting with the 2025-2026 school year. Full details of the policy are included in the link below. The cost for the 26-27 school year is $30 per student with coverage including accidental damage, the charger, and device loss. Two incidents are allowed per policy each year. Enrollment is open until September 30th, 2026.

Chromebook Insurance Policy Notification

Transportation and Parent Drop Off/Pick Up

School Transportation

Regional School District No. 7 utilizes three different, and privately owned, transportation companies to service our students. Contact information for each company is provided below.

Dattco: Dennis Baker (860) 489-4386	New Hartford, Barkhamsted, Colebrook, Hartland
LeGeyt: Bruce and Jean Seymour (860) 379-2035	Barkhamsted, Hartland
All-Star: Michelle Marquis (860) 379-0020	Colebrook, Norfolk

Student Drop Off and Pick Up

Students brought to school by their parents should be dropped off in the rear of the building near the athletic fields. Doors open at 6:55 am. All middle school students will immediately report to the auditorium if they arrive prior to 7:24 am unless they are eating breakfast in which case they may go to the cafeteria. Students may not be dropped off in the front of the building as this allows a smooth disembarking process for our school buses.

Please note that all school rules, including the electronic device policy, are in effect once students are on campus for the day regardless of whether they are in the auditorium or cafeteria prior to 7:24 am.

Please be reminded that all drivers are required by state law to stop whenever school buses have their lights flashing and stop arms extended.

Bus Safety

All complaints related to student transportation that are not student disciplinary issues shall be referred to the Director of Finance and Operations, James Gaskins. He can be reached at (860) 379-8525 or Jgaskins@nwr7.org. Complaints will be investigated properly and thoroughly according to BOE policy. If there is disagreement about the outcome of the investigation or action steps taken, an appeal may be made to the superintendent and the Board of Education.

School transportation privileges are extended to students conditioned upon their satisfactory behavior on the bus. Unsatisfactory student behavior on the bus may result in suspension of the transportation services or such other disciplinary action that is appropriate given the misconduct.

The following rules apply while on school provided transportation:

- Passengers will follow the driver's directions at all times
- Passengers will board and leave the bus at their designated stop
- Passengers will not deface the bus and/or its equipment
- Passengers will not extend their head, hands, arms, or legs out of the window nor hold any object out of the window, nor throw objects within or out of the bus.
- Passengers shall not use any form of tobacco or nicotine product including vaping devices.
- Expected school and classroom conduct shall be observed on the bus. All school rules apply to the bus other than the electronic device policy. Students may use their personal electronic devices on the bus but under no circumstances may they record themselves or other students on the bus.
- Upon leaving the bus, students will wait for the driver's signal before crossing in front of the bus.

The following consequences may apply when a discipline concern arises on school provided transportation.

- A student may receive an after school detention or be suspended.
- A conference involving some or all of the following people: the principal, student, driver, parent/guardian.
- The principal may suspend a student's bus riding privileges. If such a suspension occurs, the parent/guardian will be notified and will be responsible for ensuring the student has transportation to and from school during the course of the suspension.
- In cases of serious misconduct that endangers the safety of other passengers or the driver, the driver shall have the authority to call law enforcement. The principal and the parents shall be notified of the situation as soon as possible. The student will not be provided bus service again until a conference involving all persons listed above has been held.

Any parent or student with a concern about bus safety should immediately report this concern to any school administrator.

Student Conduct

PBIS

Northwestern Middle School utilizes a program known as Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports in order to help our students meet expectations during the school day. This is a framework that helps us create a positive, predictable, fair, and safe learning environment for our students. It is a proactive system which clearly states and reinforces expectations in the various settings of the school. This program relies on reinforcing positive actions by students, allows for redirection when students don't meet expectations, and is a compliment to traditional school based consequences.

The expectation matrix for various settings within our school is linked below. The guidelines provided within this matrix are not inclusive of all school rules, but rather serve as a quick reference for students.

PBIS Matrix

PBIS Definitions

Dress Code

Student dress may be regulated, and students are encouraged to dress in clothing appropriate to the school situation. Restrictions on freedom of expression may be applied whenever the mode of dress is unsafe, disruptive, or contrary to law.

Any school dress which impairs safety or increases the risk of injury to self or others, causes discomfort to others (e.g., uncleanliness, malodorous, inappropriate language), causes distraction or disruption of the learning environment, advertises or advocates for the use of alcohol or drugs, pornography, or is libelous or inherently contains unreasonable potential to upset and hurt others is prohibited. Revealing and distracting clothing that is disruptive to the educational environment is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to clothing that reveals the midriff, chest, or undergarments.

Hats, hoods, and bandanas are to be removed when entering the building and should be stored in the students locker until the end of the school day. Ultimately, the final determination of what is considered appropriate dress will rest with the administration.

If a student is found to be in violation of the dress code:

- The student will be asked to change into more appropriate clothing
- If a student does not have suitable clothing to change into, they have the option of wearing clothing provided by the school as a temporary solution.
- If a student refuses to wear these garments, a call will be made to the student's parents so that appropriate clothing can be brought into school for the student. If a parent is unable to bring appropriate attire and the student refuses to wear the clothing provided by the school, the student will be referred to ISS for the remainder of the day. Students will be responsible for completing all missed classwork.
- If further infractions occur additional sanctions will be imposed.

Student Lockers

Each student is assigned a locker and lock combination at the beginning of each school year. The lockers are the property of the school and the school reserves the right to open and inspect them. Each student is responsible for the contents of their locker. The school cannot be responsible for lost or stolen property. Students should always lock their lockers and avoid

storing valuable items in their lockers. Students should not share their locker combination with anyone else.

Food and Drink

Students are allowed to carry water bottles with them throughout the day. No other beverages, including energy drinks, are permitted.

Discipline

A student who violates the district code of conduct shall be subject to disciplinary action. Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to, the following: morning restriction, lunch or after school detention, assigned seating on the bus or in class, removal from class, in school suspension, out of school suspension and expulsion. Disciplinary measures will be appropriate for the offense. In addition, when a student is violating the law it will be referred to the legal authorities. Students are subject to discipline up to and including suspension and expulsion for misconduct which is seriously detrimental to the educational process and violates publicized Board of Education policy, even if such conduct occurs off school property and during non-school time.

School Climate/ Bullying/ Challenging Behaviors

In accordance with Connecticut Public Act 23-167, An Act Concerning Transparency in Education, Northwestern Regional School District No. 7 has adopted BOE policy 5131.911, more commonly known as the Connecticut School Climate Policy. This policy sets the framework for improving the school climate for the students we serve

It includes requirements for a written school climate plan to create and sustain a positive school climate and includes updated processes for times when student behaviors do not meet stated expectations.

Part of this policy includes updated terminology for student behavior that “negatively impacts school climate or interferes, or is at the risk of interfering, with the learning or safety of a student or of a school employee”. This behavior is now referred to as “challenging behavior” and should be reported utilizing the form below. The form will be sent to the principal who will begin a challenging behavior investigation. If a complaint is made in a way that is not anonymous, the complainant will be notified of the outcome of the investigation, however will not be notified of specific student consequences.

Please note that the challenging behavior reporting form is utilized to report not only challenging behavior, but also incidents that may rise to the level of bullying or require a Title IX investigation for sexual harassment.

Challenging Behavior Reporting Form

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, whether verbal or physical, including, but not limited to, insulting or degrading sexual remarks or conduct; threats or suggestions that a student’s submission to or rejection of unwelcome conduct will in any way influence a decision regarding the student, or conduct of a sexual nature which substantially interferes with the student’s learning, or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning environment, such as the display in the educational setting of sexually suggestive objects of pictures.

Sexual harassment will not be tolerated among students of the school district. It is the policy of the Board of Educatin that any form of sexual harassment is forbidden. Students are expected to adhere to a standard of conduct that is respectful and courteous to employees, to fellow students, and to the public.

It is strongly encouraged that any claims of sexual harassment be reported to any employee of the district, who will in turn notify the district Title IX coordinator, Gary Franklin, or the Superintendent, Steven LePage. These complaints can also be submitted as part of the challenging behavior reporting form provided above. BOE Policy 4145.5

Equal Opportunities

Each student is encouraged to develop and achieve individual educational goals. The district will provide every student with equal educational opportunities regardless of race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, economic status, marital status, or disability. No student will be excluded on such a basis from participating in or having access to any course offerings, student athletics, counseling services, employment assistance, extracurricular activities, or other school resources. Programs and activities shall be accessible and usable by individuals with disabilities as prescribed by law. Mr. Gary Franklin is the designated district compliance officer who will coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of Title IX of the education amendments of 1972 and the section 504 of the rehabilitation act of 1973.

Any person who believes they have suffered a violation of their equal opportunities is strongly encouraged to contact a compliance officer.

- Sexual Harassment: Steven LePage, (860) 379-1084 ext. 2400
- Section 504: Quentin Rueckert, (860) 379-8583
- Title IX: Gary Franklin, (860) 379-8525 ext. 2103
- Title IV: Steven LePage, (860) 379-1084 ext. 2400

Athletics Philosophy

The Regional School District No. 7 Board of Education believes that athletic programs play an important part in the overall development of students. These athletics programs provide a variety of positive experiences to aid in the development of favorable habits and attitudes in students, including teamwork, competition, and how to win and lose gracefully. Our athletic programs constantly strive for the development of well-rounded individuals.

The opportunity to participate in athletics is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, the activity, the student body, the community, and to the participants themselves. While all involved take great pride in our success, the Northwestern Regional Community does not condone a “win at all costs” attitude. Athletic programs must be conducted in such a way as to justify them as educational activities benefiting all that participate. Everyone involved in school athletics, including student athletes, coaching, and spectators, are asked to support our school community’s belief in sportsmanship and integrity.

Board of Education Student Policies

Below are links to all BOE policies related to students for Northwestern Regional School District No. 7. Paper copies can also be provided upon request. For the full list of BOE policies, please visit https://www.nwr7.com/board-of-ed/policies.

Index to Policy 5000 Series.PDF

5113.13 Work Study Employment Work Release
5113.2 Truancy
5114 Suspension and Expulsion - Due Process
5114.1 Exclusion from Co-Curricular Activities.PDF
5118 Nonresident Attendance
5118.1 Homeless Students

5118.2 Educational Opportunities for Military Children
5123 Promotion, Acceleration, Retention.PDF
5125 Student Records; Confidentiality
5125.11 Health/ Medical Records
5126 Board of Education Student Achievement Awards
5131 Conduct at School and Activities.PDF
5131.1 Bus Conduct.PDF
5131.6 Alcohol Use, Drugs, and Tobacco (Including Performance Enhancing Substances)
5131.7 Weapons and Dangerous Instruments
5131.8 Out of School Misconduct.PDF
5131.9 Gang Activity or Association.PDF
5131.21 Student Code of Conduct - Threats.PDF
5131.81 Personal Technology Use, Cellular Phones, Electronic Communication Devices
5131.91 Hazing
5131.111 Video Surveillance.PDF
5131.911 CT School Climate Policy
5131.913 Cyberbullying.PDF
5136 Foreign Exchange Students.PDF
5141.3 School Entrance, Immunization and Screening Requirements.PDF
5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse or Neglect.PDF
5141.5 Suicide Prevention.PDF
5141.6 Crisis Response.PDF
5141.7 Student Sports - Concussion and Head Injuries.PDF
5141.21 Administering Medications
5141.22 Communicable and Infectious Diseases.PDF
5141.24 Students, Staff with HIV, ARC, or AIDS.PDF
5141.25 Students with Special Health Care Needs.PDF
5144.1 Use of Physical Force.PDF
5144.2 Use of Exclusionary Time Out Settings
5144.12 Challenging Behavior Prevention -Restorative Practices Response
5114.4 Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students
5145.4(A) Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504.PDF
5145.4(B) Nondiscrimination.PDF
5145.5 Exploitation, Sexual Harassment
5145.6 Student Grievance Procedures.PDF
5145.11 Law Enforcement Officials.PDF
5145.12 Search and Seizure.PDF
5145.14 On-Campus Recruitment.PDF

5145.53 Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth.PDF
5145.121 Vehicle Searches on School Grounds.PDF
5145.122 Use of Dogs to Search School Property.PDF
5145.124 Use of Alcohol Detection Devices .PDF
5145.511 Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program.PDF