



OUR JOURNEY CONTINUES TOGETHER

**Neuse River Middle School  
Student/Parent Handbook  
2025-2026**

# My Class Schedule

<b>Name</b>			
<b>Grade</b>		<b>Student ID #</b>	
<b>Homeroom Teacher</b>			

## 1st Semester

Course	Period	Teacher	Room
Math			
Science			
English Language Arts			
Social Studies			
Elective 1 (A-Day)			
Elective 2 (B-Day)			

## 2nd Semester

Course	Period	Teacher	Room
Math			
Science			
English Language Arts			
Social Studies			
Elective 1 (A-Day)			
Elective 2 (B-Day)			

**Disclaimer:** All students are responsible for complying with and are expected to be familiar with the WCPSS Code of Student Conduct. All Code of Student Conduct policies are in the WCPSS Student/Parent Handbook, which is given to all students at the beginning of each school year or upon enrollment in WCPSS. If there is a conflict between the rules expressed in this agenda and the Code of Student Conduct policies, the WCPSS Code of Student Conduct shall take precedence.

Todas las políticas del Código de Conducta Estudiantil se encuentran en el manual de WCPSS de Estudiantes/Padres, el cual se distribuye a todos los padres y estudiantes al principio de cada año escolar o al matricularse en el WCPSS. Si hay un conflicto entre las reglas expresadas en este manual de Estudiantes/Padres y el manual/agenda/planificador de la escuela de su hijo(a) las reglas expresadas en este manual deben tomar prioridad.

# **Neuse River Middle School 2025-2026**

## **Parent and Student Handbook**

<b>Home of the Ravens</b>	◆	<b>2700 Old Milburnie Road</b>	◆	<b>Raleigh, NC 27604</b>
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### **Motto**

*"THE SKY WAS NEVER THE LIMIT"*

### **Mission Statement**

NEUSE RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL WILL INTENTIONALLY DESIGN A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT THAT CREATES INDEPENDENT, COLLABORATIVE, CRITICAL THINKERS PREPARED TO BE PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS.

### **Vision Statement**

NEUSE RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL CREATES MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS AND PREPARES ALL STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS.

### **Core Beliefs**

BUILD MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS.  
FOCUS ON GROWTH & PROGRESS.  
CENTERED ON COLLABORATIVE INSTRUCTION.  
ENRICH THE WHOLE CHILD.

The Neuse River Middle School Student Handbook is a supplement to the WCPSS Student Handbook.

## Important Phone Numbers and Websites

To contact a person listed below with only an extension number, dial 919-266-8500 and enter the extension when requested.

### Office and Departments

Main Office/Front Desk	919-266-8500
Fax	919-589-6240
Transportation	919-805-3030
Media Center	x21147
Attendance	x21163
Cafeteria	x21141
Student Services	x21164
Athletic Director	x21144

### Administration and Support

Principal	Bonnie Mwanda	<a href="mailto:bmwanda@wcpss.net">bmwanda@wcpss.net</a>	266-8500
Asst.Principal	Neti Hopkins	<a href="mailto:njenkins1@wcpss.net">njenkins1@wcpss.net</a>	266-8500
Asst. Principal	Bridget Rogers	<a href="mailto:brogers@wcpss.net">brogers@wcpss.net</a>	266-8500
Asst. Principal	Marquivius Smith	<a href="mailto:msmith6@wcpss.net">msmith6@wcpss.net</a>	266-8500

Lead Secretary	Tiffany Bartow	<a href="mailto:tbartow@wcpss.net">tbartow@wcpss.net</a>
Bookkeeper	Jamie Foust	<a href="mailto:jfoust@wcpss.net">jfoust@wcpss.net</a>
Receptionist	Anna Bunn	<a href="mailto:abunn4@wcpss.net">abunn4@wcpss.net</a>

### Student Services and Support

6th Grade Counselor	Michael Wray	<a href="mailto:mwray@wcpss.net">mwray@wcpss.net</a>
7th Grade Counselor	Ruth Chapman	<a href="mailto:rchapman@wcpss.net">rchapman@wcpss.net</a>
8th Grade Counselor	Megan Corey	<a href="mailto:mcorey@wcpss.net">mcorey@wcpss.net</a>
Data Manager	Jenny Walker	<a href="mailto:jwalker3@wcpss.net">jwalker3@wcpss.net</a>
School Nurse	Stephanie Andrews	<a href="mailto:saandrews@wcpss.net">saandrews@wcpss.net</a>
Social Worker	Melanie Mangum	<a href="mailto:mmangum@wcpss.net">mmangum@wcpss.net</a>

### Important Websites

[www.wcpss.net](http://www.wcpss.net)  
<http://neuseriverms.wcpss.net/>

### Instructional Hours:

7:25am - 2:20 pm

### Important Dates

# Daily Bell Schedule



## Neuse River Middle School

### 25-26 Bell Schedule

Soar High, Dream Big - Our Journey Continues Together

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	Electives
7:00-7:25 (25) Homeroom	7:00-7:25 (25) Homeroom	7:00-7:25 Homeroom	7:00-7:25 Duty
7:30 - 8:00 (30) WIN	7:30 - 8:00 (30) WIN	7:30 - 8:00 (30) WIN	7:30 - 8:00 WIN
8:05 - 9:05 (60) Core 1	8:05 - 9:05 (60) Core 1	8:05 - 9:05 (60) Core 1 9:05-9:09 Walk students to electives	8:05 - 9:05 (60) PLANNING/PLC Time
9:07 - 10:07 (60) Core 2	9:07 - 10:07 (60) Core 2	9:09 - 10:37 (86) PLANNING	9:09-10:35 (84) 8th Grade Electives 10:33-10:37 Walk 8th grade back to core
	10:09 - 11:09 (60) Core 3	10:37-11:37 (60) Core 2	10:37 - 11:08 (31) PLANNING
10:09 - 11:39 (90) Core 3/Lunch 3300 Wing Lunch 10:20-10:45 3200 Wing Lunch 10:55 - 11:20	11:09-11:13 Walk students to electives 11:13 - 12:39 (86) PLANNING	11:39-1:09 (60/30) Core 3/Lunch/Break 1200 Wing Lunch - 11:40-12:05 1300 Wing Lunch - 12:10 - 12:35	11:13-12:35 (82) 7th Grade Electives 12:35-12:39 Walk 7th grade back to core using West stairs
11:41 - 12:41 (60) Core 4 12:41-12:45 Walk students to electives using East Stairs	12:39 - 2:10 (91) Core 4/Lunch/Break 2200 Wing Lunch 12:45 - 1:10 2300 Wing Lunch 12:55 - 1:20	1:11-2:10 (59) Core 4	12:45 - 2:10 (85) 6th Grade Electives
12:45 - 2:10 (85) PLANNING			

### Interim and Report Card Dates for 2025-2026

*Interims (Week of)	Grades Due	Report Card	Quarter Ends
Q1 – August 22, 2025	September 29, 2025	October 17, 2025	September 26 2025
Q2 – November 14, 2025	December 19, 2025	January 9, 2026	December 19, 2025
Q3 – February 6, 2026	March 9, 2026	March 27, 2025	March 6, 2026
Q4 – April 24, 2026	May 15, 2026	May 22, 2026	May 22, 2026

### What is WIN?

W	What	WIN is a 30-minute block of time provided during the first 30 minutes of the school day where students are given special opportunities for academic reinforcement. This time can also be used to do student conferences to discuss grades/assessments and more.
I	I	
N	Need	

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## **Attendance, Arrival, & Dismissal**

Students are required to attend school. Parents must provide written notes stating the reason(s) for each student's absence from school on the day the student returns. Notes should be turned in to the student's homeroom teacher. Notes may also be emailed to [jwalker3@wcpss.net](mailto:jwalker3@wcpss.net). Our automated phone notification system will inform parents/guardians of each student's absence.

Reasons absences can be excused include (but are not limited to):

- Student or immediate family sickness
- Medical or dental appointment
- Death in the immediate family
- Isolation ordered by the State Board of Health
- Religious observance
- Participation in valid instructional opportunities as documented on the "Request for Excused Absence for Educational Reasons"
- Court appearance, when a child is under subpoena.

\*\*\*Excessive excused or unexcused absences will result in notification from school personnel.

### **Morning Arrival**

Students are expected to be here at 7:25 to begin the instructional day. Attendance is taken at the beginning of homeroom. When a student reports after 7:25, he/she is tardy. Students should report directly to the cafeteria for breakfast or to their homeroom. **FREE Breakfast is provided for all students.** All car riders should be dropped off at the main entrance. The parking lot beside the cafeteria is used for buses.

### **Late Arrival**

Students arriving late to school must report to the front office to obtain an admission slip to class. This allows the student to be counted as present for the day. Students with excessive tardies and/or early dismissals will be addressed in accordance with the Wake County Public School System's Policy.

### **Early Pick-up from School**

Students who need to leave school before dismissal time must be checked out by a parent or legal guardian. In accordance with the Safe Schools Act, parents/guardians are to sign students out using the computerized system, and present proper identification, such as a driver's license, when checking students out of school early. Although this procedure may be inconvenient at times, it must be followed to ensure the safety of all students. Students leaving school prior to 11:00 am will be counted absent for the entire day. All students must be checked out before leaving school. **If a student needs to be picked up from school prior to 2:20pm, please arrive at the office before 1:45pm.** Transportation changes must be made in person so we can verify the identity of the person making the change. **Changes cannot be made over the phone for the safety of all students.**

### **Dismissal from School**

Students are dismissed when their form of transportation has arrived on campus. All students involved in after-school activities should report directly to their designated areas.

## **Instruction and Grading**

Like all aspects of the middle school program, instruction must be developmentally appropriate, reflecting the nature and needs of young adolescents. Important components of the instructional process are planning, classroom delivery, student evaluation, appropriate homework, and incorporation of enrichment activities.

**In order to provide the best possible experience for all students, teachers at Neuse River Middle will:**

- Utilize a variety of teaching strategies and instructional materials;
  - Math: Open Up Resources (OUR) or Mathematics Vision Project (MVP)
  - English Language Arts: Expeditionary Learning Education Curriculum (EL Curriculum)

- Incorporate the 4C's: Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking, and Creativity.
- Provide concrete examples, hands-on approaches, active student involvement, and a rationale for learning;
- Plan rigorous activities that emphasize higher-order thinking skills;
- Provide real-life relevant situations with active involvement for students in their own learning;
- Differentiate instruction and evaluation for all students;
- Provide opportunities for students to routinely use current technology.

Recognizing the Common Core State and NC Essential Standards as the state curriculum, all supplemental books, videos, computer programs, and other instructional materials support the identified goals and objectives for middle-grade students.

## Student Work and Grades

All students will be graded with the following 10 point numeric scale:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>A = 90-100<br/>B = 80-89<br/>C = 70-79<br/>D = 60-69<br/>F = 59 - below</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of homework as reinforcement and practice is an important factor for academic success.</li> <li>• Each classroom teacher will communicate with students the expectations for homework assignments. <u>You should expect homework for Math and English Language Arts most nights.</u></li> <li>• Homework will be posted on a common Learning Management System.</li> <li>• Grade recovery information will be provided by the classroom teacher.</li> </ul> |
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## School-wide Grading Practice

### Grade Breakdown: (\*\*At minimum 2 Grades per Week)

45% Major Assignments | Tests, Projects, Presentations

35% Minor Assignment| Quizzes, Projects, Presentations

20% Practice Assignments| Homework, Classwork, Warm Ups/Bellwork, Exit Tickets, Skills Check

## Understanding Performance Scores

Mastery Scale	Level of Mastery	Percentage Range
5	<b>Beyond Mastery</b> (I can show someone how to do it)	90 - 100%
4*	<b>Mastery</b> (I can do it by myself.)	80 - 89%
3	<b>Limited Mastery</b> (I can do it sometimes by myself)	70 - 79%
2	<b>Approaching Mastery</b> (I can do it with support)	60 - 69%
1	<b>Not Yet Mastered</b> (I struggle to do it with support)	59 and below

Parents and students may access assignments through the teacher webpages. Links are available under Our School, then Staff Directory on the Neuse River Middle School webpage <http://neuseriverms.wcpss.net/>.

## Promotion Requirements

The North Carolina State Board of Education (policy NCAC6D.0304) requires that students demonstrate proficiency in reading, math, and 8th-grade science as demonstrated by achieving a 3, 4, or 5 on the NC End of Grade tests and receive a passing grade (D or better) in the following areas:

- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Social Studies
- Science

In addition to academic performance requirements, students must adhere to the WCPSS attendance policy. Failure to adhere to the attendance policy may result in failure of a class and/or grade retention. North Carolina Law (115C-288(a)) mandates that the final decision regarding promotion or retention of the student lies with the principal. Absences that accumulate to 21 or more may result in the student being retained.

## Make-up Work

It is the responsibility of the student to request make-up work in advance of an anticipated absence. In the event that a student is out unexpectedly, a parent may request makeup work. The work can be found on the teacher's website. If the work is not available electronically, please allow teachers 24 hours to collect work for a student and it can be picked up from the office. If the absence is approved in advance and/or if the work is assigned by the teacher in advance, all make-up work, including tests assigned for the day of return, is due upon the student's return to school.

If the make-up work has not been assigned in advance...

- For absences of 1-3 days, the student will have 1 day for each absence.
- For absences exceeding 3 days, the student may have 2 days for each absence.
- Sometimes parents request work on the day of student absence. If the student is only going to be absent for one day, he/she can receive the assignments the next day.

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

### Activities, Clubs, and Student Organizations

NRMS offers a variety of academic, athletic, social, and special interest activities. Our goal in having these extra-curricular opportunities is to enrich and engage students in the middle school experience. Many of our clubs are during the school day. Some are an extension of the school day and all rules and policies apply.

**Students attending after-school events must be picked up promptly at the end of the event or activity. Students whose rides are extremely late (more than 20 minutes after the event concludes) may be restricted from future events.**

**Students cannot attend or participate in any student activity on a day that they are out-of-school suspended or assigned to In-School Suspension / ALC (Alternative Learning Center) for disciplinary reasons.**

### Athletic Eligibility

The responsibility of education and guiding student-athletes in the regulations governing interscholastic athletic eligibility shall rest with the administration of each school. Student-athletes and parents of student-athletes share the responsibility to see that the interscholastic athletic regulations are followed. Athletics are open to eligible 7th and 8th-grade students who meet the following requirements:

- Must be a resident of the school administrative unit in which you are assigned;
- Must have been in attendance for at least 85% of the previous semester at an approved school;
- Must receive a passing grade in all core subjects the preceding semester and meet all other WCPSS local promotion standards;
- Must not turn 15 on or before October 16;



- Must have received a medical examination by a licensed physician or a nurse practitioner, or a physician's assistant, subject to the provisions of G.S. 90-9, 90-18-2 within the previous 365 days.

## BETA Club

BETA is an organization that promotes appropriate recognition for students who reflect outstanding accomplishments in the areas of scholarship (grades), character, leadership, citizenship, and service. Membership in this organization is a very high honor that is based on grades and teacher recommendations. The NRMS Club meets once a month, has student officers, and conducts chapter service projects here on campus and in the community.

## House Council Leaders

The Neuse River Middle School House Council is a valuable organization for which all students are invited to apply each spring. This team of leaders plans and facilitates all House related events with student input.

## Parent Chaperones and Volunteers

Parent chaperones or volunteers must be approved WCPSS volunteers. To apply to volunteer or chaperone for NRMS events, parents/guardians will need to visit the school during school hours to complete the application form. All applications must be submitted through the WCPSS Intranet. We recommend that the parent/guardian complete the application at the start of the school year.

## GENERAL SCHOOL PROCEDURES

### Cafeteria

The school cafeteria is maintained as a vital part of the school program and serves breakfast and lunch each day.

**Breakfast and lunch are free for all Neuse River Middle School students for the 2025-2026 school year.**

Students may qualify for free or reduced-priced lunch. Applications for free and reduced-price lunches will be

- **Students are not allowed to bring food from restaurants into the cafeteria for breakfast or lunch.**
- **Carbonated beverages are not allowed.**
- **Food and beverages are not to be taken from the cafeteria.**

## Communication

One of our school goals is to have good communication with our parents. It is essential that families and the school make every effort to communicate openly and frequently. We are committed to responding in an appropriate and timely manner to questions or concerns. Contact will be made within a 24-hour period unless extenuating circumstances are a factor. If no response is received within two business days, please contact the grade level Assistant Principal and then the Principal if no response is received. Teachers will be available to return phone calls, email, or meet with parents during planning periods or after school as scheduled.

We use the following methods to communicate:

- Weekly School Message to parent's phone via voice call or text message.
- School and teacher websites
- Infinite Campus
- Twitter - @NeuseRiverMS
- Facebook - Neuse River Middle School
- Talking Points - text message used by teachers

## Parent Questions or Concerns

As a staff, it is important for us to be responsive to your questions and concerns. If a parent or a student has a question about a school policy, the following procedure should be followed in order to resolve the issue quickly:

1. Contact the person with whom the problem or question lies.
2. If the problem still exists, contact the appropriate school counselor or grade level administrator
3. Always make an appointment. If you make an unscheduled visit, the person with whom you wish to speak may not be available.
4. Never bypass the office when you visit. All visitors are required to register in the office and obtain a visitor's badge.
5. When a question or concern has not been fully addressed using this process, please contact the principal.

## Deliveries

**Deliveries of flowers, balloons, etc. will not be accepted for students at school.** Students will not be permitted to carry balloons, flowers, large stuffed animals, or large items throughout the school day as they cause a distraction from learning.

## Interruptions

In an effort to make the most of instructional time, the Wake County Board of Education has adopted a policy to reduce interruptions during regular classroom time. Students learn best and teachers teach best when instructional time is not interrupted by announcements, unexpected visitors, or messages from the school's main office. **Please make sure you communicate any messages (transportation changes, appointments) to your child prior to coming to school.** We will relay updates to students as it best suits the instructional day.

## Lost and Found

All lost and found articles should be turned into student services on the second floor. Any student missing personal belongings should check his/her classrooms first. Unclaimed items are stored in a "Lost and Found" area in student services. The school is not responsible for items lost or stolen including: cell phones, money, books, calculators, shoes, clothing, etc.

## Selling Items on Campus

No items are to be sold at school without permission from the principal. This includes items associated with a school-sponsored fundraiser.

## Visitors

NRMS parents are always welcome at school. In addition, we invite you to volunteer (See the note above regarding how to volunteer at NRMS). Visitors to our campus must request access to enter the building by pressing the button at the door. Once inside, you will register and obtain a visitor's badge. Students are not permitted to have friends visit during school hours. Parents wanting to volunteer should contact their grade level administrator for information about registering.

# **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS & PROCEDURES**

## Hall Passes

All students must have a signed hallway pass when moving around the building unsupervised.

## Water Bottles

Students are allowed to bring a water bottle and drink it throughout the day. Food and other beverages are not permitted in classrooms and must be enjoyed in the cafeteria.

## Dress Code

**The WCPSS Student Dress Code, Policy Code 4316, has been updated significantly. Below you will see a list of key highlights of the policy.**

### Key Points:

- Students may not wear or carry items that:
  - Depict profanity, vulgarity, obscenity, or violence;
  - Promote the use or abuse of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs;
  - Are prohibited under Policy 4309 III-2 (Gang and Gang Related Activity) or any other provision of the Code of Student Conduct;
  - Threaten the health or safety of staff or students; or
  - Are reasonably likely to create a substantial disruption of the educational process or operations of the school.
- Students must **wear clothing that covers their body from chest to mid-thigh with non-see-through**

**fabric in the front, back, and sides.**

- Clothing must cover undergarments (waistbands and straps excluded)
- All private body parts must be covered with non-see-through fabric
- **Headwear (hats, hoods, sweatbands, and bandanas) are prohibited.** The exceptions are any head coverings worn as an expression of sincerely held religious belief (e.g., hijabs or yarmulkes) or cultural expression (e.g., gellies) or to reasonably accommodate medical or disability-related issues.

Students are expected to adhere to standards of dress and appearance. Our guiding principles for the student dress code are similar to those experienced and expected in the workplace: attire that furthers health and safety of students and staff, enables the educational process, and facilitates the operations of the school. Parents are asked to partner with the school district to monitor student attire to help adhere to the guiding principles set forth in the policy.

## Electronics

### **CELL PHONE and BLUETOOTH EARBUD USAGE IS PROHIBITED FROM 7:00AM-2:20PM.**

If a student's device is seen/heard throughout the school day, the device will be placed in the front office for the remainder of the day. Students can pick up their device in the office at 2:20. If a student needs to contact home due to an emergency, the student should ask their teacher for permission to use the classroom or office phone. **Students should not text their parents during the instructional day. Likewise, parents should refrain from texting their child during the school day.**

## Physical Education Classes

For safety reasons, students who do not dress out or wear appropriate shoes, will not be allowed to participate in fitness or physical education activities.

## School Bus Transportation

- Be at your bus stop on time; the driver will not blow the horn and wait for you
- Remain seated while on the bus
- Keep feet/hands to yourself and inside the bus
- Talk quietly
- Follow all directions of the bus driver
- Bus Drivers may assign seats, and students must remain in their assigned seats unless permission to change is granted from the Bus Driver
- Students need to be at their bus stop ten minutes prior to the scheduled arrival of the bus
- The Bus Driver is in charge of all of the students on the bus at all times
- All rules that pertain to good conduct and safe behavior at school are applicable at the bus stop and on the school bus
- Students are only permitted to load and unload at their assigned bus stop
- **The school is not able to give permission for students to ride a bus other than their own**

## Where Is The Bus?

Download the **Here Comes the Bus App** for the free bus-tracking system: [herecomesthebus.com](http://herecomesthebus.com)

*If you have questions or concerns related to transportation or buses, contact the Transportation Department at 919.805-3030 or visit the Transportation link under the WCPSS website at [WCPSS.net](http://WCPSS.net).*

## School Bus Discipline

Riding the WCPSS school bus is a privilege. Students are expected to follow the school rules while on the bus. Consequences will be applied to students who are unable to follow the rules/behavior expectations and it may result in suspension off the bus.

## School Telephones

The office phone is for school business only. Students should use the office phone in cases of illness, medicine, dress code, or lunch money only. Students shall not use cell phones during the school day. In order to protect the instructional day, students will not be called to the phone, and messages will be delivered only in the case of an

emergency with administrative approval.

## Search Provision

Administrators and school officials have the authority to search individual book bags, lockers, or other personal items when they feel that there is a reasonable suspicion that an individual is in possession of illegal or unauthorized items. A search might be necessary to protect the safety and welfare of students and/or school personnel. School grounds and facilities will receive periodic searches by police dogs under the supervision of local law enforcement and WCPSS Security.

## Social Media Use

The use of social media outside of school is not monitored by teachers or staff at Neuse River Middle School. We do; however, recognize some students choose to use these platforms for communication outside normal school hours. Although social media is a common form of communication, ***if students do not use it appropriately, such as to bully, intimidate, or instigate, students will be subject to consequences.*** We strongly ask all parents and guardians to closely monitor your child's online interactions to protect them from dangers such as bullying, drug use, violence, predators, and suicide. Parents and students are welcomed and encouraged to print, screenshot, save, email, etc. any harmful information and communicate with school officials if they feel the information may impact the safety of our students or the normal activities of our school day.

## Technology Use

The use of electronic resources is a privilege. Students are not to access inappropriate websites including, but not limited to: Facebook, TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, or any sites containing vulgar and/or obscene content. Students are to maintain the confidentiality of their individual login name and password and shall not install any personal software or download software for installation on any school computer. Violation of the computer and online policy may result in the suspension of computer access and/or suspension from school. **Signed Technology Usage Forms are required for students to use technology at school.**

## Technology Damages & Fees

Damaged and or lost school-owned devices or materials may incur a repair and/or a replacement fee. If a device has to be replaced, it will cost the parent/guardian \$328.50. Other damages will be priced accordingly (ex. Damaged keyboard - \$68.50). Please make sure your student understands the importance of properly caring for school devices.

## Code of Student Conduct

All students are responsible for complying with and are expected to be familiar with the WCPSS Code of Student Conduct. All Code of Student Conduct policies are in the WCPSS Student/Parent Handbook, which is given to all students at the beginning of each school year or upon enrollment in WCPSS. If there is a conflict between the rules expressed in this agenda and the Code of Student Conduct policies, the WCPSS Code of Student Conduct shall take precedence.

Neuse River Middle School staff are committed to helping each student become an effective and successful member of our community. This goal requires a cooperative effort from the staff, students, parents, and community. Reasonable classroom procedures and rules that students and teachers create together will be posted and followed in each classroom. When a student behaves in a manner that is dangerous, disrespectful, or against WCPSS Student Code of Conduct Policy, he or she may be subject to disciplinary action. The principal has the authority and responsibility to take whatever reasonable and legal action is necessary to establish and maintain appropriate student behavior in accordance with Board policy.

## Student Responsibilities & Expectations

- Attend school regularly prepared to learn with all materials.
- Follow the rules and expectations of the teachers, school, and school system.
- Be where you are supposed to be and be on time.
- Ask questions if you do not know what to do.
- Know the consequences for violating the Student Code of Conduct.

## Parent Responsibilities and Expectations

- Ensure that your child understands and follows the Student Code of Conduct.
- Emphasize self-discipline and respect for themselves and others.
- Communicate with your child's teachers through email, the agenda, phone messages, etc.
- Work closely with the school staff to help your child learn to be successful.

## Teacher and Administrator Responsibilities and Expectations

- Inform students and parents of teacher, school, and school system rules and expectations.
  - Provide an opportunity for all students to learn and to be successful.
  - Provide a safe, purposeful learning climate.
  - Communicate regularly with parents and students regarding academics and behavior.
  - Discuss issues regarding students' progress and needs with the school counselor and other appropriate staff.
  - Apply the rules in a fair, timely, and consistent manner.
- 

## Student Discipline

Neuse River Middle School is committed to ensuring a safe learning and teaching environment for all students and staff. To that end, the Wake County Public School System has identified the following infractions as serious in nature and will be dealt with according to the appropriate board policy. **Please refer to the 2025-2026 WCPSS Student/Parent Handbook for further explanations.**

### Aggressive Behavior/Fighting

Wake County School Board Policy states that fighting and assaults on students and other people are prohibited. Any physical contact with another student may violate this policy even when it is the result of horseplay. A student who is attacked may use reasonable force in self-defense, but only to the extent necessary to get free from the attack and immediately notify an adult. A student who exceeds reasonable force will face disciplinary action.

**Please note: A student who is attacked may use reasonable force in self-defense only when there is absolutely no other possible alternative and they can't get away by any means.** A student who retaliates or exceeds reasonable force may be disciplined even though someone else provoked the fight. Repeated violations may result in long-term suspension.

### Class/Activity Disruption

All students are expected to contribute to building a positive learning environment. When a student commits physical or verbal actions which interferes with the learning and/or interrupts teaching, class or school activities, or acts in such a way that interferes with an individual's ability to learn or be safe, disciplinary consequences including suspension are appropriate.

### Gang Related Activity

WCPSS prohibits students from committing any act that has any association with gangs including having clothing, jewelry, visible tattoos, signs, or literature. Also prohibited are verbal and non-verbal communications such as gestures, handshakes, slogans, drawings, pictures, etc. Soliciting other students for gang membership is prohibited. Students violating this policy may be suspended for the remainder of the school year. When necessary, WCPSS Security Office and the Wake County Sheriff's department will be involved in possible violations of this policy.

### Instigating

Students who take actions that could reasonably lead to fighting or physical aggression will also receive appropriate disciplinary consequences. This includes students engaged in horseplay or other off-task behaviors including "playing" and inappropriate comments.

### Non-Compliance

Students are expected to follow the directions of all staff and adults including substitute teachers, student interns, proctors, etc. If the assistance of an administrator becomes necessary, the student will be assigned an appropriate consequence at the discretion of the administrator.

## Prohibited Items

Students may not possess the following items while at school, on school grounds, or riding a school bus:

- Gang paraphernalia/signs/letters/flags/bandanas
- Weapons or anything that may be used as a weapon including, but not limited to: knives, razors, guns, fake weapons, or any item which could cause bodily harm;
- Unauthorized medication, including over-the-counter drugs, or pills;
- Any other item as listed in the WCPSS *Code of Conduct*

## Reporting

Students should feel free to verbally report an incident or concern to a teacher, counselor, or administrator. If the student or another person may be in danger, this should be reported to an adult immediately. Students may also report threats or incidents to an anonymous tip line by calling: 919-856-1911.

## Threats

All threats, including those made jokingly, will be taken seriously and investigated by an administrator. Possible consequences for making a threat include assignment to the Alternative Learning Center (ALC), short term or long-term out-of-school suspension. Communicating threats is a serious offense and, depending on the nature of the threat, may also be reported to law enforcement.

## Disciplinary Actions

***Possible disciplinary actions include but are not limited to:***

- **Loss of Privileges** - Revocation of participation in all student activities or denial of expanded privileges for students for a specific period of time. Restorative justice practices will also be used.
- **Lunch Detention** - Students assigned lunch detention will report to the designated area during lunch period.
- **Alternative Learning Center (ALC)** - ALC is an academic or behavioral intervention. A certified teacher operates this program. While in ALC, students will not attend any class or activity. The student is required to complete work provided by the teacher for credit. ALC has very strict rules and failure to follow the rules or cooperate with the ALC teacher will result in immediate out-of-school-suspension. ALC placement can be up to 45 days.
- **In School Suspension (Raven Reset)** - Daily and period in-school-suspension placements will be assigned by administrators only. Length of stay will be based on the infraction and the student's disciplinary history. Students assigned to ISS will not participate in extracurricular activities or practices during the assigned ISS time or on the day(s) that ISS was completed except by principal approval. Eligibility may be restored on the day following the completion of ISS.
- **Raven Reset Policy & Procedures** - Once a student has been assigned to ISS, the time and the work assigned must be completed before returning to the classroom; Absences from school on assigned ISS days will be made up when the student returns to school; While in ISS, students are not allowed to attend or participate in any school-related activity; Inappropriate behavior while in ISS will result in additional days being assigned or may result in out of school suspension; Students assigned to ISS will be marked present and will earn credit for work completed. Assigned work must be completed before exiting ISS. Students in ISS may participate in service work such as campus cleanup.
- **Out of School Suspension** - Students are suspended from school for serious violations such as: assault, theft, fighting, or anything that interrupts the operation of the school and/or threatens the safety of others in the school. Students with repeated referrals may also be suspended from school. Students under suspension are allowed to make up work while on suspension. Please check the teacher's webpage or contact the student services office about picking up students' assignments. Students who are suspended may not attend any school functions or participate in extracurricular activities on the day(s) of OSS. Parents will be notified when students are suspended from school. Students suspended out-of-school are not allowed on any school property during the suspension period. Students who come on campus during an out-of-school suspension may be charged with trespassing.

- **Long-Term Suspension** - In certain situations, a recommendation for long-term suspension (more than 10 days) can be made on the first occurrence of a policy violation. Students who have repeated and/or serious violations of school or board policies are also subject to a recommendation for long-term suspension.

## **School Resource Officer (SRO)**

The SRO will help make students aware of the actions at school that may be prosecuted as violations of the laws of the State of North Carolina. The primary task of the SRO is to build relationships with students and to provide increased school security.

## **Student Services, Support & Safety**

Student Support Services are provided for the benefit of every student at NRMS. Counselors assist students and parents with educational planning and navigating student/parent concerns. To see your counselor, complete and return an appointment form located in student services. Most parent-teacher conferences are scheduled by contacting a teacher or grade level counselor by email or phone.

## **Accidents & Emergencies**

Students are responsible for reporting all injuries that happen while in school, on the school grounds, or at school-sponsored events at the time the injury occurs. Report the injury to a faculty member in charge and to the office. Emergency telephone numbers must be current. **It is necessary that students know how to get in touch with their parent or guardian. Families must notify the school when there is a change in contact information.**

## **Emergency Drills**

**Fire drills** are conducted to assure student safety in the event that a building must be evacuated in an emergency. At regular intervals, the entire school will practice fire drills. The signal for the fire drill is a continuous sounding of the fire horns. When students hear the sound, they will immediately stop whatever they are doing, follow their teacher's instructions, and leave the building according to the plan posted in the classroom. **Students are to quickly and quietly evacuate the building without talking or playing.** They should continue outside to silently line up in the designated area so that their teacher can take attendance.

**Lockdown Drills** are conducted twice during the school year. Students will participate in a lockdown drill to be prepared in the event of a campus crisis. Teachers will instruct students on the process. Students should promptly follow teacher directions at all times.

**Tornado Drills** are conducted in the spring. Students should exit the rooms and report to designated areas inside hallways. Students should sit quietly on the floor with their legs pulled into their chest to keep the hallway clear.

## **Health Room & Sickness**

Students who do not feel well enough to remain in class should call their parent/guardian to pick them up. The student may remain in the health room until picked up.

## **Medication**

It is the policy of Wake County Schools that medication should not be administered to a student during school hours or by school personnel unless the health of the student will be adversely affected. Completion of the Physician Order for Medication Form (1702) is required for a student to be allowed to take medication. All medications are to be stored in the office in the original container. At the designated time, students must report to the front office to take medication under the supervision of authorized personnel.

## **Infinite Campus**

Parents and students will have access to student grades through an online option known as Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Parents are strongly encouraged to contact the Data Manager to complete the request form and use this tool to stay informed about your child's grades and attendance.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR STUDENTS

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:	HOW TO STUDY:	TIPS FOR TAKING A TEST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring your binder, paper, pen or pencil, and all materials to class;</li> <li>• Be an active participant in the classroom;</li> <li>• Listen well;</li> <li>• Take part in discussions;</li> <li>• Ask questions if you don't understand the discussion or have a problem;</li> <li>• Schedule time for homework each day;</li> <li>• Make sure you understand the assignment before leaving class;</li> <li>• Use what you learn;</li> <li>• Look for ways subjects apply to each other;</li> <li>• Strive to do your best.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attitude is everything – think positively, work independently. Seek help when you need it.</li> <li>• Learning requires concentration; stay focused on what you are doing.</li> <li>• Have a definite, well-lit place to study at home;</li> <li>• Plan to spend time at home each day preparing assigned work or reviewing class work;</li> <li>• Scan the entire assignment rapidly to grasp the basic idea; re-read carefully to understand content, details, explanations, and directions. If the assignment is not written, make a note of your own; outline what you've learned;</li> <li>• For long-term assignments do a little each day. To improve the quality of your work, avoid waiting until the last minute.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relax and forget other people around you;</li> <li>• Read the directions carefully and follow them;</li> <li>• Read each question twice before answering;</li> <li>• Think before you write;</li> <li>• Answer questions fully,</li> <li>• Check your paper for spelling and grammar errors and remain quiet until given further instruction by the teacher.</li> </ul>

## SUGGESTIONS FOR PARENTS

The parent is the child's first teacher and should encourage the child to develop good behavior and a positive attitude towards school.

Parents can help by:

- Maintaining regular school attendance and compliance with attendance rules and procedures;
  - Working with the school in carrying out recommendations made in the best interest of the child, including discipline;
  - Talking with the child about school activities & showing an active interest in academic progress.
  - Adhering to family agreements regarding the use of the telephone or the TV during study time;
  - Suggesting an alternative when told there is no homework, such as: reading magazines, newspapers, or books; reviewing language arts and math processes; or researching science and other long-term projects;
  - Establishing a set bedtime to assure adequate rest;
  - Maintaining frequent communication with the child's teachers and administrators;
  - Contacting teachers, counselors, or administrators **immediately** when you have a concern about your child's safety or academic progress;
  - Knowing the school's expectations of students. Teachers/teams may publish specific guidelines and supply lists for students. The *Wake County Public Schools Code of Conduct* handbook provides additional information on system-wide expectations and consequences for specific behaviors. A copy of this handbook is provided to your child the first week of school.
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