



Student Handbook

2023-2024

Northwoods Park Middle School

Vision: Inquire. Lead. Serve

Mission: Northwoods Park Middle School will build communities that create opportunities to inquire about the future, lead in the present, and serve in their community.

904 Sioux Drive • Jacksonville, NC • 28540 • 910-347-1202
<https://www.onslow.k12.nc.us/northwoodsparkms>

STUDENT HANDBOOK OF BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

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Northwoods Park Middle School

904 Sioux Drive Jacksonville, NC 28540

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Shanta' Cooks, Principal
Melissa Bourgeois, Assistant Principal
Tammy Stevens, Secretary/Treasurer

A Message from the Admin Team

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year. We are excited-and we are thankful to be a part of your child's middle school experience. We look forward to working together to make this a great school year for your child.

This Student Handbook is produced to ensure you have ready access to NWPMS procedures, expectations, the school calendar, behavior guidelines, and other useful information. There have been some changes to the handbook, please pay particular attention to the dress code and the updated cellphone policy. Each item within the handbook was thoughtfully created to ensure that all students learn in a safe, nurturing, and motivating environment with clear consistent expectations.

Preparation and communication are keys to success – and learning is a priority every day for everyone. It is the goal of our staff to plan lessons and units of study that not only meet national, state and local standards, but that are also fun and engaging. As the school year progresses, our teachers will continuously prepare themselves by effectively planning, enhancing their professional development, reflecting each day on student successes and challenges, and adjusting their teaching accordingly.

The teamwork and collaboration of the student, parent/guardian, and teacher is critical to the success of all students. Positive feelings about attending school, your
Parents and guardians, you are an integral part of our team, and we need your support to create an optimal learning environment.

To do so, it is important to:

- ensure your child maintains good attendance
- communicate with them daily about school
- monitor their academic progress through Parent Portal
- contact us when you have a concern

Students, there are things you can do, too. Enhance your success by coming to school each day with your materials and assignments. In addition, we ask that you come with an open mind and a positive attitude, knowing that hard work and collaborative learning paves the way to a successful future.

Welcome to a new school year at Northwoods Park Middle School and we are looking forward to the many opportunities to make this a great year for you and your child!

Shanta' Cooks
Principal

Melissa Bourgeois
Assistant Principal

MIDDLE
SCHOOL

Onslow County Schools

2023-2024 School Year Calendar

MIDDLE SCHOOL CALENDAR

MIDDLE
SCHOOL

July 2023				
M	TU	W	TH	F
3	4 H	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

August 2023				
M	TU	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21 W	22 W	23 W	24 W	25 W
28 *	29	30	31	

September 2023				
M	TU	W	TH	F
				1
4 H	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18 I	19	20 PD	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

October 2023				
M	TU	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9 W	10 I	11	12	13
16	17	18 PD	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31 G			

November 2023				
M	TU	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7 R	8	9	10 H
13	14	15 PD	16	17
20	21	22 W	23 H	24 H
27 I	28	29	30	

December 2023				
M	TU	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15 I
18 L	19 L	20 L	21 L	22 L
25 H	26 H	27 H	28 L	29 L

January 2024				
M	TU	W	TH	F
1 H	2 W	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15 H	16	17	18	19 G
22 W	23 W	24	25	26
29	30 R	31		

February 2024				
M	TU	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13 I	14 PD	15	16
19 W	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	

March 2024				
M	TU	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6 I	7	8
11	12	13 PD	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25 L	26 L	27 L	28 L	29 H

April 2024				
M	TU	W	TH	F
1 W	2	3	4 G	5
8	9	10 PD	11 R	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25 I	26
29 W	30			

May 2024				
M	TU	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17 I
20	21	22	23	24
27 H	28	29	30	31

June 2024				
M	TU	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11 G**	12 W	13 W	14 W
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

Holiday (H) - No school for students and all staff.

Teacher Workday (W) - No school for students.

Leave Day (L) - No school for students and 10-month staff.

Professional Development Day [Prof Dev Day] (PD) - 3-hour early release for students with professional development for staff.

Middle School -

Interim Reports - Sept 18, Oct 10, Nov 27, Dec 15, Feb 13, March 6, Apr 25, May 17

Grading Periods - Oct 31, Jan 19, Apr 4, June 11

Report Cards - Nov 7, Jan 30, Apr 11

Legend	
*	First Day for Students
H	Holiday
W	Teacher Workday
L	Leave Day
PD	Prof Dev Day
E	Exams (High School)
**	Last Day for Students
I	Interim Reports
G	End Grading Period
R	Report Cards

Make-up days may be **Teacher Workdays** or **Leave Days**.
Additional make-up days to be determined as needed.

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Northwoods Park Middle School

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We are proud to be a PBIS School!

(Positive Behavior Interventions and Support)

In the past, school-wide discipline has focused mainly on reacting to specific student misbehavior by implementing punishment-based strategies including reprimands, loss of privileges, office referrals, suspensions, and expulsions. Research has shown that the implementation of punishment, especially when used in the absence of other positive strategies, can be ineffective. Introducing, modeling, and reinforcing positive social behavior is an important step of a student's educational experience. Teaching behavioral expectations and rewarding students for following them is a much more positive approach than waiting for misbehavior to occur before responding. The purpose of school wide PBIS is to establish a climate in which appropriate behavior is the norm.

Mascot: Dolphin

School Colors: Blue & White

The Dolphin Affirmation

I am a **DOLPHIN**, and I **AM POWER**

When I act with **PURPOSE**, I practice my **POWER**

When I take **OWNERSHIP** of my education, I create **POWER**

When I never cease to **WONDER** on my impact, I build **POWER**

When I put forth **EFFORT** in my actions, I gain **POWER**

When I **REFLECT** on who I want to be, I refine my **POWER**

I am a **DOLPHIN**, and I **AM POWER**.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY [OCS BOE Policy 4302/4310]

Academic dishonesty includes cheating and plagiarism. Cheating is defined as the giving or receiving of unauthorized aid. Plagiarism is defined as taking and using the ideas or writings of another as one's own. Cheating and plagiarizing are serious offenses. Any student who is guilty of cheating and/or plagiarizing on any school assignment may be referred to the administration for disciplinary action. Students who engage in academic dishonesty may be given an alternative assignment for partial credit. Students found guilty of cheating and/or plagiarizing may be disqualified from being considered for membership or may be subject to immediate dismissal from the BETA Club.

ACCIDENTS

When an accident occurs during the school day, the following procedures will be followed:

1. The accident must immediately be reported to the nearest teacher or staff member.
2. The accident will then be reported to an administrator or school nurse.
3. If medical attention is needed, the student's parents will be notified.
4. Northwoods Park Middle School assumes no responsibility for any medical expenses incurred.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES [OCS BOE Policy 3620]

STUDENTS MUST BE PICKED UP PROMPTLY FROM ALL AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES. Most school-sponsored dances will be held after school and end promptly at the designated time. Sporting event times will be announced. Students must display appropriate behavior and dress while attending all after-school activities, whether on or off campus. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the student losing his/her privilege to attend future events and may result in disciplinary action. Students must be counted present for the day of the event to participate in an extracurricular activity for that day.

AFTER-SCHOOL DETENTION/ASD [OCS BOE Policy 4356]

Teacher Assigned

- Teachers may assign after school detention for violations of rules in their classrooms. Each classroom will have rules posted and the consequences for each violation. The teacher's judgment will determine the length of time and the number of days for the violation.
- Afterschool detention will be on Monday through Thursday from 2:45-3:45 p.m.
- The teacher will notify the parent that detention has been assigned. If the student already has detention for another teacher or office detention, the student is to notify the teacher and a time schedule will be arranged.
- Students will receive a minimum of two days' notice before the assigned day of detention.
- If a student misses a teacher-assigned detention, the teacher will contact the parent/guardian and reassign the detention.
- Missing teacher detention may result in an office referral.

ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL

Students should not arrive at school before 7:10 a.m. All student drop-offs by motor vehicle should take place in the circular parking lot on Decatur Drive by the football field. Students should remain in vehicles until directed by staff to get out. Bus arrival drop off occurs along Sioux Drive.

ASSESSMENTS

Students in all courses will take a variety of formative and summative assessments. Formative assessments may include, but are not limited to, completion of assigned classwork, quizzes, benchmark assessments, as well as involvement in classroom discussion and activities, and participation in other appropriate learning activities. There will be benchmark assessments during the year using a district approved program that will provide specific information about objectives mastered. Summative assessments will occur at the end of units and may be in the form of student-developed projects, tests, written reports, or presentations.

ATHLETICS [OCS BOE Policy 3620]

The athletic program is secondary to the academic program of the school. NWPMS is a member of the Onslow County Middle School Conference. To be eligible to participate in a sport, the student must meet the requirements as set by the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction, Division of School Athletics, and the Onslow County Middle School Conference.

Athletic Eligibility [OCS Middle School Athletic Association]

A student/athlete must be in the seventh or eighth grade and meet local and state promotion guidelines. If an athlete is "academically eligible" or "academically ineligible" at the beginning of any semester, that status is retained throughout the full semester. A student/athlete has four semesters of athletic eligibility once he/she first enters the seventh grade. Academic requirements for fall semester sports are based on his/her previous semester grades. Spring semester academic requirements are based on the fall semester grades for the current school year. Specifically, students must earn a passing grade in a minimum of three core classes (ELA, math, science, social studies) and one Encore class based on the previous semester's grades. It is the responsibility of the school principal to check the academic status of each student/athlete enrolled in school at the beginning of a semester.

1. The athlete must be enrolled in grade 7 or 8 and must meet local and state promotion guidelines. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction does not allow interscholastic competition at the 6th grade level.
2. Academic requirements for fall semester sports are based on previous semester grades:
 - a. Spring semester academic requirements are based on the fall semester grades for the current year.
 - b. Students must earn a passing grade in a minimum of three core classes (ELA, math, science, social studies) and one Encore class based on the previous semester's grades.
 - c. The athlete must have been in attendance at least 85% of the previous semester.
3. The athlete must have a physical examination from a certified medical provider prior to any practice session (including tryouts) each year of participation.
4. The athlete must not be 15 years old on or before August 31 of the year of participation.
5. The athlete must have proper accident insurance coverage either through the school insurance program or the parents' accident coverage plan.
6. All forms must be completed and submitted to the coach prior to the first tryout.
7. **Students who participate in athletic activities must meet attendance requirements for the day of the event. Students arriving after 11:05 a.m. or checking out before 11:05 a.m. will be counted absent and will be ineligible to participate.**

ATTENDANCE – A student must have been in attendance for 85% of the school days from the previous semester [daily attendance not period attendance] to be eligible to compete on athletic teams during the current semester**. (A waiver of the 85% policy can only be granted through the OCS Student Services department). A student must be in attendance at least ½ the school day to be eligible to practice with their team, take part in any team activity, or participate in an athletic event on that day. Exceptions should be approved in advance by the Athletic Director or Principal of the school.

** When determining athletic eligibility beginning the second semester of the 2019-2020 school year and all subsequent semesters, any absences from the previous semester verified to be excused/lawful by the student's school will not be considered. Students will forfeit athletic eligibility when unlawful/unexcused absences, out-of-school suspensions, or any combination of unlawful/unexcused absences and out-of-school suspensions during the previous semester exceed ten (10) days. No process will exist to request a waiver of unexcused/unlawful absences or out-of-school suspensions.

The following interscholastic sports are offered at NWPMS:

- baseball
- basketball
- cheerleading
- football
- soccer
- softball
- track
- volleyball
- wrestling

Student athletes must remember that they are representing Northwoods Park Middle School when in uniform or traveling as a group. Athletes must show respect and pride for themselves, our school, and opposing teams at all times. Any athlete who is removed from a team for any reason cannot rejoin that team. Athletes failing to complete the entire season due to disciplinary issues or failure to attend games/events will not be recognized as having completed the season.

Athletes who receive ISS or OSS will not be permitted to participate in practice or an athletic event during the suspension time. Failure to follow Onslow County Schools and NWPMS policies may result in removal from the team.

ATTENDANCE [OCS BOE Policy 4400/G.S. 115C-378 & 380]

1. Students with more than 20 absences (10 within the first ninety days and 10 within the last ninety days) in a school year shall not be promoted to the next grade except by determination of the principal/designee upon careful review of the student's record.
2. When total absences (lawful and unlawful) exceed 10 days per semester, or 20 total absences, further documentation will be required (doctor's statement, court documentation, etc.)
3. Make up work shall be assigned by the student's teacher as deemed appropriate. All make up work shall be completed within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the student's teacher.
4. Students are expected to be in class and fully participating in instruction throughout the school day. Excessive tardiness and/or early checkouts will be referred to the appropriate authorities and will also be considered by the principal when making a promotion determination.
5. Regular attendance by every student is mandatory: The State of North Carolina (G.S. 115C-378) requires every student between the ages of seven and 16 years to attend school. Any parent, guardian, or other person violating the provisions of the Compulsory Attendance Law is guilty of a class 1 misdemeanor (G.S. 115C-3801).

Students arriving after 11:05 a.m. or checking out before 11:05 a.m. will be counted absent.

On the day returning after an absence, a note must be given to the student's homeroom teacher that includes the following information:

1. Number of days absent
2. Dates of absences
3. Reason for absence
4. Parent's signature

Absences will be considered excused for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness or injury
2. Death of an immediate family member
3. Quarantine

4. Educational opportunity (Approval from the principal required at least 5 days in advance; see NWPMS Prior Approval Form)
5. Medical or dental appointments
6. Court or administrative proceedings
7. Religious observances

In addition, a student whose parent or legal guardian (a) is an active duty member of the uniformed services as defined by policy 4050, Children of Military Families, and (b) has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or a combat support posting will be granted additional absences as the discretion of the Superintendent or designee to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian. Five days prior to the absences, the parent or legal guardian must present to the school principal a written statement requesting the absences be lawful. The principal shall use his/her discretion on the reasonable number of days the student may be excused from school.

In the case of absences due to out-of-school suspensions (OSS), the student will be permitted to make up all missed work and tests. It is the student's responsibility to arrange a reasonable schedule with the teacher for turning in missed assignments.

The following school-related activities will not be counted as an absence from either class or school.

1. Field trips sponsored by the school
2. School-initiated and scheduled activities
3. Athletic events requiring early dismissal from school

Perfect Attendance: Students with no absences, no tardies, and no early checkouts will receive a Perfect Attendance Award. Students who receive this honor for all three years at Northwoods Park Middle will receive the Jordan Shepard Perfect Attendance Award.

BICYCLES [to include skateboards, scooters, etc.]

Riding a bicycle to school is a privilege. Students are expected to ride in a safe, responsible manner. Bicyclists and bicycle passengers under the age of 16 must wear approved protective safety helmets that are securely fastened to their heads using straps while riding on public roads, bicycle paths, and other public rights-of-way. Given the proven safety benefits of helmet use, all bicyclists are strongly advised to wear a properly fitted and fastened helmet. [§20-171.7(b)] Upon arriving on campus, students must walk their bikes to the designated bike racks (located between building 1 and building 3) and secure them with a chain and lock. Northwoods Park Middle School will not assume responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged items, to include bicycles.

BOMB, WEAPON, BIOLOGICAL OR CHEMICAL THREATS [OCS BOE Policy 4333]

According to Onslow County School Board Policy 4333, "The board will not tolerate the presence of weapons or destructive devices, bomb, biological, or chemical/biological threats or actions that constitute a clear threat to the safety of students and employees." Additionally, Policy 4333 notes: "Students are prohibited from making, aiding and/or abetting in making a bomb threat or perpetrating a bomb hoax against school district property by making a false report that a device designed to cause damage or destruction by explosion, blasting or burning is located on school property." This includes the presence, use, or threat of any biological or chemical substance, instrument, or artifact. Offenses may result in a 365-day suspension, assignment to Onslow County Learning Center, and legal action.

BOOK BAGS

Book bags, laptop bags, or other carrying cases may be used to bring books and supplies to and from school, and to organize essential items during the day. A book bag, laptop bag, or other carrying cases must be used to protect school-issued technology during the school day. Due to space restrictions, students may only bring one carrying case into classrooms. No backpack or carrying case may have wheels.

BREAKFAST

Breakfast is available in the school cafeteria each morning. The cafeteria will open promptly at 7:10 a.m. Students who wish to eat breakfast are expected to arrive early enough to eat and report to class by 7:30 a.m.

BULLYING/CYBER BULLYING/HARASSMENT [OCS BOE Policy 1710/4021/7230, 1725/4035/7236 & 4331 / NC G.S. 115C-407]

The terms harassment and bullying are defined by Board policy as “any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication that:

- Places a student in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property or;
- Creates or has the potential to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student’s educational performance, opportunities, or benefit.

“Hostile environment” means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as harassment or bullying and that the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is harassment or bullying.

Harassment, bullying or cyberbullying may include, but are not limited to the following – and may be made verbally, in writing, via electronic message (text message, Tweet, post to a social media site or discussion board, etc.):

- Derogatory, demeaning, intimidating, or defaming statements and/or gestures to or about a student
- Intentional emotional harm to a student by exclusion and/or isolation
- Hostile comments about another student’s race, religion, disability, ethnicity, gender, and/or sexual orientation for the purpose of causing them to feel disliked or humiliated
- Unwelcome and uninvited physical contact or threats of physical contact that demean or offend the victim and result in a hostile environment for the victim

Reporting & Complaint Investigation Procedures

Bullying and/harassment reporting forms for teachers, parents, and students are available on the school’s webpage: <https://www.onslow.k12.nc.us/northwoodsparkms>

Students, parents, volunteers, and/or visitors are encouraged to submit any complaints of discrimination or harassment, other than sexual harassment, through the grievance procedure established in policy 1740/4010, Student and Parent Grievance Procedure. Reports may be made anonymously, and all reports shall be investigated in accordance with said policy. All incidents will be investigated, and violations **may** result in suspension or possible police/court involvement. For further clarification, please refer to Onslow County Schools PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, BULLYING AND HARASSMENT OCS Board of Education Policies 1710/4021/7230.

BUSES [OCS BOE Policy 4317]

Because the safety of our children is a top priority, it is imperative that all parents and students review the Onslow County Schools’ Student Discipline Policies and School Bus Safety Regulations Handbook. Of particular importance are School Bus Safety Student Conduct Rules and Misconduct on a School Vehicle. These policies will be enforced with parents and students receiving written notification of consequences based on severity of violations and prior rule infractions. Please help us ensure that the bus ride for all students is a safe one.

The following rules have been established by the transportation department of Onslow County Schools and must be observed for the safety of all bus students.

1. The students must obey the driver’s directions promptly.
2. Noise on the bus shall be kept to a minimum at all times to assure safety.

3. Distracting the driver's attention by participating in disruptive behavior while the vehicle is in operation is prohibited.
4. Passengers should go directly to their seats and remain seated, facing forward until the bus comes to a complete stop at the unloading area and the driver has opened the front door.
5. Eating, drinking, chewing gum, and littering is prohibited on the school bus.
6. The use of electronics is prohibited on the school bus to include: cellphones, school issued laptops, and other electronic devices.
7. Keep the aisles clear at all times.
8. Students are not permitted to wear hoods or hats while riding the bus.
9. Profanity, rude comments, and/or yelling out the window will not be tolerated.
10. Parents are responsible for any damage done to the bus by their children.
11. Students must have written permission approved through the office in order to get off the bus at any stop other than the regular stop.
12. Large objects can obscure the driver's view of the road and the students. Therefore, no large objects such as posters, school projects, large musical instruments, flowers, balloons, or bags may be carried on the bus.
13. Riding the bus is a privilege; however, suspension of privileges may result at the discretion of the administration and may result in suspension for the remainder of the school year depending on the offense.

CALCULATORS

It is recommended that each student purchase his/her own calculator. However, if a student needs the use of a calculator and does not have one, they can be issued one from a teacher. Students are responsible for having a calculator in math class each day. **If a school-issued calculator is lost or broken, the student is expected to pay for the calculator.**

CELL PHONES & ELECTRONICS [OCS BOE Policy 4318 and NC G.S. 115C-36, -390.2]

NWPMS recognizes the prevalence of cell phones and electronics in today's society. Students are permitted to bring their cell phone and electronics to school but must be powered down and kept in bookbags at all times during the academic day. Wireless communication devices include, but are not limited to, cellular phones, smart watches, electronic devices with internet capability, paging devices, two-way radios, and similar devices. The academic day begins at 7:30 a.m. or as soon as a student arrives on campus and ends at 2:40 p.m. when students are dismissed. Cell phones and other electronics are not to be used in the hallways, cafeteria, restrooms, locker rooms, or bus pick up areas upon arrival or dismissal from school.

If a NWPMS staff member sees a student with a cell phone or any other electronic device during the instructional day, they will follow the "see it -take it" rule and the phone/electronics will be confiscated and taken to the front office. Due to the Onslow County Schools opt-out photo policy, students are not permitted to use personal devices to take photos or record videos and post to social media.

Below are the consequences for cell phone violations:

- 1st Offense:** Cell phone/Electronics will be confiscated and turned in to the front office. Student may obtain cell phone upon dismissal.
- 2nd Offense:** Cell phone/Electronics will be confiscated, and parent or guardian must pick up cell phone from the school.
- 3rd Offense:** Loss of Cell phone/Electronics privileges on campus for the remainder of the school year. Parent or guardian must pick up cell phone from the school.
- 4th Offense:** If a student brings Cell Phone/Electronics on campus after loss of privileges, student will receive one day of ISS. *If a student refuses to relinquish their Cell Phone/Electronics, student will receive one day of OSS.

It will be the responsibility of the student to inform their parent that their Cell phone/Electronics has been confiscated.

Items that are not necessary for the educational process (ie: smart watches, ear buds to include Air Pods, radios, CD players, I-Pods, MP-3 players, pagers, laser pointers, cameras, toys, collectable cards, shockers, etc.) are prohibited in classrooms during school hours and on the school bus. The item will be confiscated and placed in the front office labeled with the student's name. Only a parent or guardian may pick up confiscated items.

Any student involved in videotaping a violation of school policy (ie: a fight, another violation of school policy, or), using a video to create a disruption among the student body, and/or circulating the contents to others through TikTok, Kik, ooVoo, WhatsApp, Instagram, Tumblr, Vine, Snap Chat, Twitter, or any other social media or media-sharing outlet will be subject to disciplinary action. Students who fail to disperse during an altercation or after being asked to do so may receive a consequence for failure to comply with a reasonable request. This also includes any videotaping of adults and staff on campus.

CHECKING OUT/CHECKING IN

Students who arrive on campus after 7:30 a.m. must report to the office. Parents/guardians should accompany the student to the office. If a student is not accompanied by a parent/guardian, he/she must have a note from the parent. The note should contain the same information listed above as it relates to checking into school.

Any student who leaves school before the end of the day must be signed out in the office by a parent or guardian. If an alternate adult needs to sign a student out, the office must receive written notification from the parent or guardian. Picture identification will be required for anyone checking out a student.

To check a student out of school for part of the day, parents must provide a reason for the absence so the student remains in compliance with NCGS-37 compulsory attendance statutes. **It is very important for students to check in so they will not be counted absent for the day.** Students will not be called to the office for check out before a parent/guardian arrives to check him/her out.

Students who arrive after 11:05 a.m. or check out before 11:05 a.m. will be counted absent for the entire day.

All check-outs must occur prior to 2:15. After 2:15 parents will not be permitted to check students out. We begin our dismissal announcements at 2:35 and it is very hectic at the end of the school day.

CLUBS, PROGRAMS & STUDENT GROUPS [OCS Board Policy 3620]

Students learn responsibility, teamwork, and other useful traits when they participate in co-curricular activities. Some of these activities are listed below:

- **Academic Derby:** 6th- 8th grade students selected to compete in matches against students from other middle schools from Onslow County.
- **All-County Band:** Students enrolled in band will have the opportunity to try out for this honor of performing with other talented band students across the county. Students selected to the All-County Band will participate and perform in a two-day clinic (usually in February).
- **All-County Chorus:** Students enrolled in chorus will have the opportunity to try out for this honor of performing with other talented choral students across the county. Students selected to the All-County Chorus will participate and perform in a two-day clinic (usually in February).
- **All-County Orchestra:** Students enrolled in orchestra will have the opportunity to try out for this honor of performing with other talented orchestra students across the county. Students selected to the All-County Orchestra will participate and perform in a two-day clinic (usually in February).
- **Battle of the Books:** 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students (who enjoy reading) compete in the spring against other middle school students on their knowledge of selected literature.
- **Chess Club:** 6th, 7th and 8th grade students may audition for a position on the team. The team participates in a chess competition against other middle school teams.

- **Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA):** 6th, 7th and 8th grade students participate in this national organization, which, for more than 45 years, has sought to influence, and serve the athletic community. FCA has chosen this powerful medium as a vehicle to impact others.
- **Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA):** FBLA Middle School is the middle school division of Future Business Leaders of America, Inc. FBLA helps students prepare for careers in business through academic competitions, leadership development, and educational programs.
- **Junior Beta Club:** The Junior Beta Club is an organization that promotes the ideals of academic achievement, character, service, and leadership. Members of the club have maintained A's in all classes for at least two consecutive nine weeks periods as well demonstrated positive character and leadership. The purpose of this organization is to promote the ideals of honesty, service, morality, ethical conduct, and leadership among students; to reward meritorious academic achievement; and to encourage and assist students in continuing their education after high school.
- **Math Counts:** This competition is designed for 6th- 8th grade students in the areas of geometry and algebra. Contests involved with Math Counts emphasize problem-solving skills within traditional middle school mathematics.
- **Robotics Team:** This team consists of students in grades 6th – 8th. Students compete against other middle school students within the state and across the country. Competitions are held within the areas of programming and robotics.
- **Science Olympiad Team:** This teams consists of 6th-8th grade students who have a love for science. Selected students participate in competitions related to science, biology, chemistry, physics, engineering, and STEM.
- **Spanish Club:** As an International Baccalaureate World School, students can take Spanish in grades 6-8. To enrich their language acquisition in the classroom, students may also participate in the NWPMS Spanish Club after school.
- **Student Council:** Student Council is an organization that gives students the opportunity to develop leadership, communication, and problem-solving strategies through organizing and implementing activities and community service projects. In addition to planning events that contribute to school spirit and community welfare, the student council is the voice of the student body. They help share student ideas, interests, and concerns with the school wide community. Any student that is interested in leadership, organizational behavior, event planning, or becoming more involved in the school should campaign. Campaigning activities will begin in October and elections will be held in November.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES [OCS BOE Policy 4230/4230.5]

If a child has a communicable disease (ie: pink eye, head lice, influenza) she/he must remain at home until the disease is no longer contagious. Students with head lice are not allowed to return to school until they have been treated and are free of lice and nits. The school nurse and other school official must clear them of re-entry into school. A student with a fever must be excluded from school and must be fever free for 24 hours in order to return to school.

COMMUNICATION WITH ADMINISTRATION

NWPMS administration values parents and guardians as an integral part of our team. To contact the principal or assistant principal:

- Call the school at 910-347-1202 and ask the receptionist to leave a written message for the administrator. In most cases, your call will be returned within 24 hours.
- Please note that for arrival and dismissal safety, administrators are not available for meetings or phone calls during those times. Also, due to other obligations, administrators may not be immediately available. Parents are strongly advised to schedule meetings.
- E-mail the administrator. E-mail addresses are available on the Northwoods Park website: <https://www.onslow.k12.nc.us/northwoodsparkms>

COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS & CONFERENCES

NWPMS has established effective communication systems for parents and teachers. Parents are encouraged to initiate contact and schedule conferences with teachers if they have any questions, comments, or concerns about their child's progress.

Listed below are several effective ways to contact a teacher:

- Call the school at 910-347-1202 and ask the receptionist to leave a written message in the teacher's mailbox. In most cases, your call will be returned within 48 hours.
- Write a note to the teacher and send it to school with your child; however, you may need to remind your child to show the note to his/her teacher.
- E-mail your child's teacher. E-mail addresses for staff are available on the Northwoods Park website: <https://www.onslow.k12.nc.us/northwoodsparkms>

COMPUTERS, ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, TECHNOLOGY & TEXTBOOKS

[OCS BOE Policy 3225/7320; 3220; 3226/4305; 3230/7330; 6523]

As part of the Onslow County Schools 1:1 technology initiative, NWPMS students may be issued a laptop, Netbook (mini laptop), tablet, or other electronic devices and accessories to be used for academic purposes. Students may sometimes need to take their electronics home to practice, study, or complete assignments. Accordingly, it is essential parents/guardians help ensure students take care of this equipment and use it responsibly. Parent/guardians may be held liable for expenses related to repairing or replacing lost or damaged equipment and accessories. The technology usage assessment fee **does not** cover lost equipment or deliberate misuse of school issued technology (includes laptops or calculators).

A \$25 technology usage assessment fee is included as an annual OCS instructional fee for each student who is issued a 1:1 device (student laptop).

Guidelines & Reminders

- Electronic devices provided to students are the property of Onslow County Schools and Northwoods Park Middle School. Electronic devices provided to students must be returned at the end of the school year (or when a student withdraws, transfers, or otherwise ceases to attend the school). Devices will be assigned to students at the beginning of the year, and each student will continue to use his/her assigned device throughout the school year. NWPMS maintains the authority to suspend or revoke technology privileges and Internet access.
- **Parents/guardians may be held financially responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen equipment, devices, components, or textbooks.** The cost of a lost or damaged device with accessories is roughly \$800.
- Students should only use issued devices for sites and software approved by Onslow County Schools.
- All usage on technological devices is monitored by the school and by the district. Usage is governed by OCS Board Policy 3225/7320.
- Students who do not show responsibility in accessing the Internet or in using and caring for their equipment may lose some or all of their privileges.
- Parents/guardians and students **must** sign school technology and digital media documents before equipment can be issued to students. Documents include the following agreement:

Technology Misuse Consequences

Level	Example Infractions	Level of Consequence	Consequence Examples
I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-Task (e.g. playing games vs. working on assignments) Improper handling of device* Searching for inappropriate content 	Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of AUP Review of proper device care and maintenance procedures Review of Digital Citizenship expectations Documented Parent/Guardian contact
II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeated Level I infractions Negligent/Intentional damage to device** Intentional or attempted bypass of content filter Accessing or possessing inappropriate content 	School Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documented Parent/Guardian contact Charge of repair or replacement cost Digital Citizenship and/or AUP review assignment Short-term loss of privileges (may include loss of ability to take device home) ISS/OSS
III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeated Level II infractions Hacking/Illegal Activity Intentional destruction of device Possession or transmission of inappropriate/illegal content 	School Administration District Administration Law Enforcement (if applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documented Parent/Guardian contact Charge of repair or replacement cost OSS Referral to law enforcement (if applicable) Permanent loss of privileges

*Examples of improper handling: carrying device by the screen; storing the device in a careless manner;

** Examples of negligent/intentional damage to device: spilling liquid in/on device; removing keys from keyboard; breaking earphone plugs off in audio port by jerking them out.

"As a user of the Onslow County Schools computer network, I have read and hereby agree to comply with Board Policy 3225/7320, Internet in the Educational Program. I further acknowledge that I have no expectation of privacy in the use of any school computer or device; that if I engage in incidental personal use, I will use only my assigned email program to communicate; and that I will not use nor will I attempt to use, access, or query any non-school sanctioned internet email service; search, social networking, blog, bulletin board, or chat service; or web or cloud-based electronic service/website. This agreement will remain in effect until terminated in writing. I understand that any violation of OCS Board Policy 3225/7320, Internet in the Educational Program, shall result in loss of access privileges and may result in disciplinary action. I agree to utilize any district-owned equipment issued to me for the purposes it was intended."

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Service, consequently, may only be assigned by the principal or assistant principal. The administrator will notify the parent when community service is assigned. Students who are assigned community service will complete projects around the school. Students may be assigned community service in lieu of or in conjunction with other disciplinary actions.

CURRICULUM

All students at Northwoods Park Middle School will be instructed according to the NC Essential Standards. Information regarding curriculum and standards can be obtained on the NCDPI website: <http://www.dpi.nc.gov> and selecting academic standards.

DANCES/8TH GRADE FANCY DANCE

- Students will have opportunities to attend dances throughout the year. Dates, times, themes, and price will be determined by each sponsoring group/organization and advertised prior to the event.
- The 8th grade Fancy Dance is an event in the spring for 8th graders **ONLY**. No outside guests are permitted. This event celebrates the completion of 8th grade, but it is not considered a prom or formal.
- Expectations for appropriate attire will follow the school's dress code.

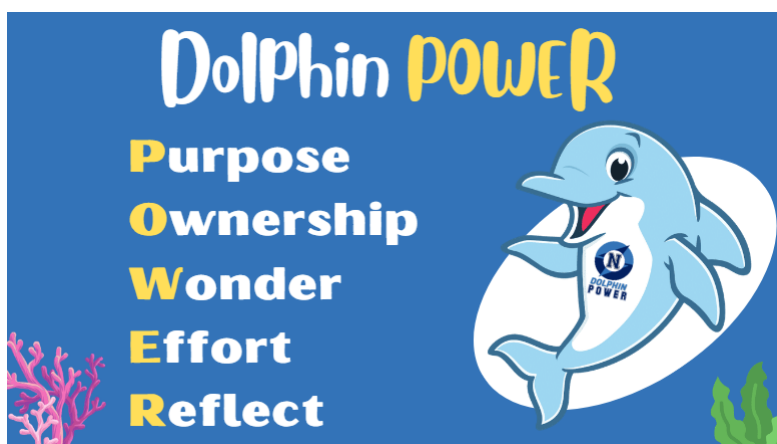
DIRECTORY INFORMATION

OCS Policy 4700 classifies the following as directory information: name, school, photo, grade level, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight, and height of members of athletic teams and degrees and awards received. School officials may release this information to any person without the consent of the parent or student.

Any parent or eligible student who objects to the release of any or all of this information without consent must notify in writing the principal of the school where the records are kept within 30 days. The objection must state what information the parent or student does not want classified as directory information. If no objection is received within 30 days, the information will be classified as directory information until the beginning of the next school year.

DISCIPLINE

Because all students have the right to learn in a safe, orderly environment and teachers have the right to teach without disruptions; Northwoods Park Middle School has adopted the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) research-based initiative. Our students are expected to follow general guidelines for appropriate behavior at all times. The NWPMS motto for all students is **Dolphin POWER**.



No disturbance or distraction that interferes with the teaching and learning process will be tolerated. The principal has the authority to take whatever reasonable and legal action is necessary to establish and maintain appropriate behavior in accordance with *Onslow County Board of Education Policy*.

Examples of prohibited behaviors include but are not limited to:

- public displays of affection
- running or shouting while in the building or breezeway
- disruptive or disrespectful behavior
- littering
- loitering
- failure to follow teacher directives
- possession of weapons
- weapon-like items or facsimiles
- possession or use of pepper spray, mace, or similar chemical or biological substance that can reasonably be considered or used as a weapon or dangerous instrument/substance
- the possession of tobacco/vapes or other smoking related materials
- vaping
- alcohol
- drugs

- prescription/over the counter medicines
- bullying
- cyber-bullying
- harassment or making threats
- cheating
- skipping class or school
- gambling
- gang activity
- Internet/technology misuse
- possession, creation, or use of projectiles
- fighting, horseplay, rough play, or aggressive behavior
- profanity in the presence of/directed at staff members
- vandalism or defacement of property
- theft
- leaving the classroom without permission
- violating bus, classroom, field trip, or event rules and regulations
- other negative behaviors as determined by administration

Northwoods Park Middle School adheres to all discipline policies as set forth by the Onslow County Board of Education in the *Onslow County Students' Discipline Policy and School Bus Safety Regulations Handbook*. Each student is given a copy of this handbook to strengthen the education program. Expectations for appropriate student behavior are clearly outlined on the NWPMS PBIS Behavior Matrix and within the Common Area Expectations.

Any student assigned In School Suspension (ISS) or Out of School Suspension (OSS) will be ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activities (dances, sports activities, etc.) on the day when the suspension is being served. Students receiving these consequences may also be ineligible for school wide or grade level field trips or incentives.

General Statute 14-288.4 (a) (6) notes that inappropriate student discipline may be considered disorderly conduct because of the disruption to the operation of public schools: if a person “disrupts, disturbs, or interferes with the teaching of students at any public or private educational institution or engages in conduct which disturbs the peace, order, or discipline at any public or private educational institution or on the grounds adjacent thereto.” As a result of repeated violations or in cases where the health and/or safety of other students might be affected, expulsion or referral to the Onslow County Learning Center (OCLC) may occur. Incidents which are in violation of law will be reported to law enforcement agencies and charges/petitions may be filed.

DISOBEDIENCE/INSUBORDINATION/FAILURE TO COMPLY [OCS BOE Policy 4300, 4310, 4315]

All students will follow the reasonable instructions or directions of any NWPMS/OCS staff member. The refusal to follow the reasonable instructions or directions of any NWPMS/OCS staff member will be considered disobedient behavior and may result in immediate suspension. Students must also correctly identify themselves when asked to do so by any NWPMS/OCS staff member. The failure of any student to comply and state his/her full name when asked by a NWPMS/OCS staff member may result in immediate suspension. If a student questions a directive of a teacher, it must be in private.

DISRESPECT [OCS BOE Policy 4300, 4310, 4315]

No student shall behave in a manner which is considered to be disrespectful to a staff member. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, talking back to a staff member, use of profane or vulgar language to or in the presence of staff members, or disrespectful gestures or body gestures directed toward staff members. Violations will result in disciplinary action based on the extent of the student's misbehavior and prior discipline referrals. Profane or vulgar language directed toward a staff member will result in OSS.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT [OCS BOE Policy 4300, 4310, 4315]

NC G.S. 14-288.4 (a)(6) – Disorderly conduct relates directly to the operation of public schools. One violation of this statute occurs if any person “disrupts, disturbs or interferes with the teaching of students at any public or private educational institution or engages in conduct which disturbs the peace, order or discipline at any public or private educational institution or on the grounds adjacent thereto.” Incidents which are in violation of laws will be reported to law enforcement agencies and charges may be filed.

DISMISSAL

Students will be dismissed in waves as follows:

Bus Riders	2:40 p.m.
Car Riders	2:42 p.m.
Walkers/Athletes	2:45 p.m.

Parents must notify the school receptionist if there are changes to afternoon transportation. Bus change requests must be written and turned in to the receptionist before the end of the day.

DRESS CODE [OCS Board Policy 4316]

The dress code and appearance of students has a significant effect upon conduct and behavior while at school. The purpose of the Northwoods Park Middle School dress code is not to censure individual expression, but to help maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning and free of distractions. All students are **REQUIRED** to wear a lanyard each day with their school ID card and lunch card.

If dress is inappropriate, the student will change into appropriate attire for the remainder of the school day, or a parent will be called to bring appropriate attire to the student. When available, a change of clothing may be borrowed from Student Services. Continual violations may result in ISS. High standards for dress code and personal appearance must also be followed at all school-sponsored events.

Below are the consequences for dress code violations:

- 1st Offense: Borrow clothing from student services/call home
- 2nd offense: Parent phone call/bring a change of clothes (Student Services)
- 3rd offense: One day of ISS

After the 3rd dress code offense, students will have subsequent disciplinary notes in their permanent record in PowerSchool.

Administration has the authority to determine the appropriateness of attire or accessories worn to school. Administration may elect to invoke other consequences based on the conduct of the student.

Tops and Dresses:

1. Clothing must have fabric in the front, back, and on the sides.
2. Clothing must cover undergarments; includes underwear waistbands and bra straps.
3. Tube tops, strapless tops, midriffs, and strapless dresses are prohibited. Off-the-shoulder, tank, halter, spaghetti strap, or racer-back tops – or any other top that exposes undergarments or shoulder blades may only be worn with an appropriate “cover” that meets dress code.
4. Shirts must be worn at all times (this includes during physical education class).
5. The length of dresses must adhere to the fingertip rule.

Bottoms & Footwear:

1. Shorts or skirts are acceptable if the length of the garment adheres to the fingertip rule.
2. Pants, shorts, skirts, or other garments with a slit, split, or laces must meet dress code requirements at the point in the garment where the slit, split, or laces begin.

3. Jeans or pants with holes/rips must adhere to the fingertip rule. Socks or other materials cannot be used to stuff holes in pants.
4. Baggy pants, shorts, or skinny pants that establish a belt line below the hipbone or show underwear while the student is walking or sitting are not allowed. If needed, students will be provided a makeshift belt to secure their pants at the appropriate waistline.
5. Shirts, sweaters, or cover-ups that are worn over leggings, yoga pants, spandex shorts, and tights must be long enough to **completely** cover the posterior and hang at least mid-thigh. All clothing choices are subject to administrative review for appropriateness.
6. Excessively tight or form fitting clothing is not permitted (body-con dresses, etc.)
7. Footwear must be worn at all times. Slippers with soft bottoms and plastic/rubber flip-flops (shower shoes) are not permitted.

Pajamas/Sleepwear:

1. Pajamas (including pajama pants), house shoes, or other nightwear/sleepwear may not be worn to school.
2. Slippers and house-shoes are not permitted.

Headwear:

1. Hats may only be worn on designated “hat days”. Students are not to wear hats attached to their pants/belt.
2. Bandanas, “dew rags”, bonnets, and head scarves are prohibited.
3. Sunglasses cannot be worn in the building.
4. Any clothing, including hoodies, that partially or totally covers the face is not appropriate school attire.
5. The hoods on hoodies may not be worn (or draped on the back of a student’s head/neck) while at school.

Accessories, Outer Garments, and Design:

1. Clothing/jewelry that is representative of gang affiliation, promotes alcohol, tobacco, illegal substances, contains sexually inappropriate language, and profanity is not permitted at school or any school sponsored event. This includes any article of clothing, badge, sign, lettering, hairstyle, pant roll-up or personal adornment, which is intended by the student or is recognized or acknowledged by students/staff/parents/ and community to designate a gang symbol or to signify affiliation with, participation in, or approval of a gang.
2. Blankets may not be worn or used as a substitute for sweaters or coats.
3. Chains hanging from clothes are not appropriate accessories for school.

Scan the code below to see Dress Code Do’s and Don’ts



DRILLS

As part of our Safe School Plan and in accordance with state regulations, we will conduct safety drills on a regular basis. Safety drills include fire, tornado and lock-down. Parent notification via School Messenger will be made prior to lock-down drills. To ensure students understand the proper procedures in the event of an emergency, it is important that they exhibit good behavior, listen well, and participate seriously in the drills. Drill violations may result in disciplinary action.

DRUGS & ACHOHOL [OCS BOE Policy 4320, 4325]

Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are prohibited on campus. Students who have been charged with felonious possession or selling of narcotics or any other serious violation of the criminal law while on or off the school grounds may be expelled from school by the principal upon the approval of the superintendent.

END OF GRADE/END OF COURSE TESTING (EOG/EOC) [OCS BOE Policy 3400, 3410, 3420]

All students will be required to take state End of Grade Tests in each core subject which will count for 20% of their final grade.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS & PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

Pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, the Onslow County Board of Education publishes the following Board of Education policy statement regarding student records:

TO ALL PARENTS OF STUDENTS CURRENTLY ATTENDING THE ONSLOW COUNTY SCHOOLS AND ALL STUDENTS CURRENTLY ATTENDING THE UNIT WHO HAVE REACHED THE AGE OF 18: The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that governs the maintenance of student records. Under the law, parents of students or eligible students have both the right to inspect records kept by the school about the student and the right to correct inaccuracies in the records. Access to the records by persons other than the parents or the student is limited and generally requires prior consent by the parents of the student. The Onslow County Board of Education has adopted a written policy governing all the rights of parents and students under FERPA. Copies of this policy may be found in the Superintendent's office and in the principal's office and counselor's office of each school in this unit.

The Onslow County Board of Education classifies the following as directory information: student's name, school, and grade level. School officials may release this information to any person without consent of the parents or student. Any parent or eligible student who objects to the release of any or all of this information without consent must notify, in writing, the principal of the school where the records are kept by the fourteenth calendar day of each school year. The objection must state what information the parent of the student does not want to be classified as directory information. If no objection is received by the fourteenth calendar day of each school year, the information will be classified as directory information until the beginning of the next school year. Complaints about failures of the Onslow County Board of Education to comply with the Family Education Right and Privacy Act may be made in writing to the FERPA Office, Department of Education, 330 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20201.

FEES OWED

The Onslow County Board of Education requires students to pay the following fees:

2023-2024

Middle School Fees	Semester	Yearlong
Art	\$3.50	\$7.00
Instrumental Music	\$5.00	\$10.00
Vocal Music	\$2.50	\$5.00
Locker		\$2.00
Technology*		\$25.00

Additionally, band, chorus, and orchestra students at NWPMS will be required to purchase a polo shirt for performances. More information regarding the purchase of these shirts will be sent by the teacher.

FIELD TRIPS [OCS BOE Policy 3320]

Curriculum and incentive related field trips are an integral part of Northwoods Park Middle School's program. These experiences will expand classroom instruction and will be appropriate to the curriculum. Teachers will inform parents of the trip, its instructional purpose, and any cost involved. Parents must have a signed permission slip prior to leaving campus for any event. Deadlines for submission of fees and/or permission slips will be strictly adhered to. Depending on expenses owed to field trip vendors, money paid for field trips may not be refunded. It is the intent of the school for every student to participate in field trips; however, students may be restricted from field trips for disciplinary reasons. Students are accountable for all school regulations and rules while on a field trip.

FIGHTING/VIDEOTAPING A FIGHT/HORSEPLAY [OCS BOE Policy 3435, 4315]

Any student who engages in a fight, is determined to have provoked a fight, or does not take reasonable steps to prevent a fight may be suspended for a minimum of five days, depending on the seriousness of the fight. Name calling, threats, or using technology to harass, intimidate, embarrass, or provoke may also result in suspension. The student who physically attacks another individual may be charged with assault and suspended for a minimum of 10 days. The second violation of this policy may result in recommendation for long-term suspension.

Acts such as "play fighting", kick or slap boxing, hitting, "pants-ing", pushing or "joking on" another student in a physical manner often lead to accelerated aggression and fighting. Students should refrain from such acts. Acts that lead to fighting, disruption, or other disturbance may be subject to the same consequences as fighting.

Any student involved in videotaping a violation of school policy (i.e.: a fight, pranking, horseplay, etc.), using a video to create a disruption among the student body, and/or circulating the contents to others through TikTok, Kik, ooVoo, WhatsApp, Instagram, Tumblr, Vine, Snap Chat, Twitter, or any other social media or media-sharing platform will be subject to disciplinary action. Students who fail to disperse during an altercation or after being asked to do so may receive ISS/OSS for failure to comply with a reasonable request. This also includes any videotaping of adults and staff on campus.

FOOD, CANDY, SODAS, & DRINKS

At no time will glass-bottled drinks be allowed on campus. Food will not be allowed in the classrooms at any time. Non-glass bottled clear water will be the only drink allowed in the classroom except during lunch. All food and beverage items purchased from the cafeteria must be consumed at any of the designated eating locations. Students may not have outside food delivered by anyone to include parents, guardians, or delivery services; and may not bring food from restaurants in their original container. No students should be selling or buying food/snacks for/from other students. This behavior will not be tolerated and will be given a consequence.

FLOWER & BALLOON DELIVERY

There will be no flower or balloon deliveries made during the school day. Students may not have flowers or balloons in class or on the buses.

GAMBLING

Gambling in any form is prohibited. Offenders may be suspended.

GANG-RELATED ACTIVITY [OCS BOE Policy 3435, 4331, 4335, 4315]

Gang-related activity will not be tolerated on any OCS campus or at any OCS activity/event. Students who participate, emulate, mimic, or display this type of behavior will be subject to counseling and/or disciplinary

actions. The consequence for such activity may include, but not be limited to, up to 10 days OSS. (See also Student Discipline Policies and School Bus Safety Regulations printed and distributed by the Onslow County School System.)

GRADING [OCS BOE Policy 3400]

All grades on report cards will be numerical and based on a 10-point scale. The minimum grade given on the report card will be 40; the highest grade will be 100. Refer to the Onslow County Schools 2023-24 Nine Weeks Calendar (on page 4) for interim report and report card dates. Parents are encouraged to monitor grades on a regular basis through Parent Portal between progress reports and report cards. Teachers are required to update their gradebooks weekly, therefore parents may not see daily changes that reflect submitted assignments.

Assignments turned in:

- Assignments turned in on time are eligible for full credit.
- Assignments not turned in on time will be subject to a late deduction.
- Late assignments are accepted until the end of the current grading period and will receive a 10% deduction from the final grade earned.

When can I expect to see my child's grade updated in PowerSchool?

- Daily homework, classwork, and short quizzes (less than 20 questions) will be posted in the gradebook within five (5) school days.
- Tests and quizzes (more than 20 questions) will be posted in the gradebook within seven (7) school days.
- Projects, essays, and research responses will be posted in the gradebook within ten (10) school days.

90 – 100 = A	80 – 89 = B	70 – 79 = C	60 – 69 = D	59 and below = F
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GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Students are encouraged to visit the school guidance counselor for personal guidance in NWPMS Student Services and for information on grades, study help, and testing programs. The counselor is available to discuss any home, school, or social concerns. Students can schedule an appointment utilizing the online form found on the NWPMS website.

GYMNASIUM & LOCKER ROOMS

The gymnasium is a classroom just like any other classroom and all rules apply in addition to those rules established for physical education classes. NWPMS is not responsible for items left in lockers and/or locker rooms.

HALL PASSES

When it is necessary for a student to be out of class for any reason, she/he must have an appropriate hall pass. Failure to have an appropriate pass may be considered skipping class.

HARRASSMENT/BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING [OCS BOE Policy 1710/4020/7230/1726/4036/7237 and 4331 / NC G.S. 115C-407]

All members of this school – faculty, staff, and students – are expected to treat each other with dignity and respect and are entitled to freedom from any kind of personal harassment. All students will be expected to sign and follow the guidelines outlined in the NWPMS Anti-Bullying Contract. No form of harassment will be tolerated whether related to race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, language, religion, physical appearance, physical or mental capacity.

Harassment is defined as unwelcome, harmful behavior toward another person because the behavior is annoying, bothersome, or physically and/or emotionally injurious. Forms of harassment can include verbal and/or written remarks on any medium or forum, symbols, caricatures, physical contact, gestures, innuendoes, gossip, phone calls, text or instant messages, Internet posts or comments, etc. If an individual feels uncomfortable, intimidated, or physically or emotionally hurt as a result of someone else's behavior, regardless of intent, it can be considered harassment or bullying. The penalties associated with harassment or bullying may include suspension and possible police/court involvement.

Student Responsibilities in reference to harassment, bullying, or cyberbullying:

- Students are responsible not to inflict unwelcome or harmful behaviors on others.
- Students are responsible to report all incidents to school officials.
- Students have the responsibility to be truthful in reporting any form of harassment or bullying.
- Remember to ask yourself: Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary?

Anyone who feels that he/she is a victim of harassment or bullying should bring the matter to the **immediate** attention of an appropriate school official. Bullying and harassment reporting forms for teachers, parents, and students are available in the front office and on the NWPMS website.

HEALTH SERVICES

A registered nurse is assigned to our school on a part time basis. When a student is injured, the parent will be contacted immediately.

HOMEWORK

Homework is an integral and relevant part of every student's instructional program. It is intended to reinforce/extend classroom instruction. It should be used consistently throughout grading periods. The Onslow County Board of Education encourages the assignment of homework to extend knowledge, aid in the mastery of skills, develop independence in learning, and create and stimulate interest.

Meaningful homework assignments should be established by the teacher so that students and parents may plan accordingly. The purposes of all homework assignments must be clearly understood by both the teacher and the students. Appropriate follow up activities, grading, and review of homework assignments should always occur. Homework should be completed and submitted in a timely manner as assigned by the teacher.

IMMUNIZATIONS [OCS BOE Policy 4110]

Within 30 calendar days of his or her first enrollment date, each student must show evidence of immunization against tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough, red measles, German measles (rubella), mumps, Hepatitis B haemophilus influenza (Hib), poliomyelitis, varicella, and any other disease as required by law or regulation. For students entering the sixth grade, a booster dose of Tdap vaccine is required if five years or more have passed since the student's last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine. Evidence of immunizations must be shown in the form of a certificate furnished by a licensed physician or by the health department. A student who received immunizations in a state other than North Carolina must present an official certificate that meets the immunizations requirements of G.S. 130A-154(b).

INCLEMENT WEATHER [OCS BOE Policy 5050]

The Onslow County Schools website can be accessed at <http://www.onslow.k12.nc.us> for delays and closings due to inclement weather. Parents may also receive a Blackboard message by phone regarding delays and closings due to inclement weather. As such, it is very important that the school has correct and up-to-date contact information on file with the Data Manager. Local news stations also broadcast announcements for delays and closings.

In the event of a 2-hour delay, buses will also run late. Students should arrive at their designated bus stops exactly two hours later than normal. No student should arrive on campus prior to the designated start time of 9:30 a.m. when there is a 2-hour delay. If bad weather or potentially hazardous conditions result in the early

release of students, parents will be able to find information about school closings on local radio and television stations.

ILLNESS/SICKNESS

If a student becomes ill at school, she/he should advise his/her teacher for the purpose of going to the office, where a parent or guardian will be contacted. If the illness is abrupt, the nearest faculty member should be notified. Checking out of school should be done only when it is absolutely necessary. Checking out must always be done through the office and with appropriate permission from a parent.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS)

Students who disregard county and school policies may be assigned In-School-Suspension (ISS) by an administrator. Parents will be notified if their child is assigned to ISS. Students will complete class assignments while assigned to ISS and are not considered absent. Lunch will be eaten in the ISS classroom. Upon entering ISS, students will complete the ISS contract. Students are not eligible to participate in afterschool sports, clubs, and dances on the day that they are in ISS.

INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

One important way that a school can have a positive and direct impact on student achievement is through the protection of instructional time. For this reason, **no visitors will be allowed to visit classrooms during the school day** unless they are a guest speaker and part of a planned instructional activity.

INSURANCE (MEDICAL) [OCS BOE Policy 4220]

Students are given the opportunity to purchase school accident insurance at the beginning of the school year. Students participating in any sport must have insurance coverage through the school or be carried on a family policy. If a student does not purchase a school policy, the parent must sign the “Waiver of Optional Student Accident Insurance” form provided by the school.

INTERIM REPORTS/PROGRESS REPORTS

Students are given interim reports in the 3rd and 6th weeks of the reporting period. Dates are located on the Onslow County Schools Calendar.

INTERNET [OCS BOE Policy 3226/4205, 3225/7320]

Use of the Internet as an information source is a privilege that can only occur if students and parents have signed an Internet Agreement Form. Students who do not honor the agreement may lose their privileges and may be subject to disciplinary or legal action.

LOST & FOUND

Lost and found is located in the cafeteria and the gym. Students can check the lost and found during non-instructional time. Students should not leave money or other valuables in classrooms, desks, or lockers. NWPMS is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

MEALS [OCS Policy 6200, 6225, 6230]

Onslow County Schools provides nutritious breakfast and lunch meals designed to meet the USDA federal guidelines and nutrition standards for school meals. These guidelines limit the amount of fat, sodium, and sugar in meal selections and encourage increased consumption of fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, and calcium rich foods. Well-balanced breakfasts and lunches contribute to the success in the classroom and students' academic performance. Menus are available on the Onslow County Schools website at www.onslow.k12.nc.us and in local media.

Meal prices are \$1.25 for breakfast and are \$2.50 for lunch. Reduced price breakfast is provided at no cost and reduced lunch cost is \$.40. Supplemental a la carte items that meet the Smart Snack guidelines are available for additional purchase. Parents/Guardians may request restrictions for students with a written note sent to

the cafeteria. Students in grades K-8 with no money will be fed and charged for a meal only. No a la carte items will be charged. **Families are responsible for all meal costs for food eaten by the student until the new meal application has been approved and any charges accrued until that approval.** A parent/guardian may request a copy of their student's account. For any information, contact the school cafeteria manager at (910) 347-1202.

Payment for purchases in the cafeteria may be made by cash or check to the school cafeteria. Please do not send money to the school office. Other methods of payment are debit/credit card online at www.k12paymentcenter.com.

Meal applications for free or reduced meals can be found online at www.lunchapplication.com. This is the quickest method. **Only one application per household** should be completed. Return meal applications to the school cafeteria or the school nutrition central office. If you do not receive notification for **all (each individual child)** students in the household, please notify the school nutrition central office immediately.

Students will be escorted to lunch by their teacher and are expected to remain with their class during the entire lunch period.

Visiting parents may eat lunch with their child in the courtyard (located near the breezeway) or in Student Services; visitors may not sit in the cafeteria at tables with other students. Additionally, outside food and beverages may only be provided by visiting parents for their own child(ren) when they are eating lunch with their child(ren). Otherwise, outside food and beverage deliveries are prohibited.

MEDIA CENTER

The media center is open from 7:10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Students may check out a maximum of two books and must have the appropriate pass to be in the media center to check out books. If a student loses or damages books that are checked out in his/her name, the student is expected to pay for the book(s). Students should use time during Enrichment to check in or check out books.

MEDICATION [OCS BOE Policy 6125]

Onslow County Schools has a policy for the administration of medications to students during the school day. If your child must take medicine while at school, prescription or over the counter (non-prescription), the parent and the child's doctor must complete and sign the "Permission for Prescribed Medication" form **prior** to medications being administered. Medications must be brought to the school by a parent or guardian; students are not allowed to transport medication. They will be kept in a secure area and dispensed according to prescription.

Students are strictly prohibited from taking (self-medicating), bringing, sharing, distributing, or accepting over the counter (OTC) drugs or medications. OTC drugs include – but are not limited to – aspirin, Tylenol, Midol, cough drops, eye drops, or cold medications.

Students who bring medication to school and do not comply with these guidelines will be disciplined, to include possible suspension from school and referral to legal authorities.

MOMENT OF SILENCE [OCS BOE Policy 3330]

The Onslow County Board of Education authorizes the observance of a moment of silence each day in all grade levels in the school system. A moment of silence may not exceed one minute in length, must be completely unstructured, and free of any influence from any source and no other activity will be allowed during that time. We observe the moment of silence at the start of the school day.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION/OSS [OCS BOE Policies 4351 & 4353]

Students who disregard county and school policies may be assigned Out-of-School-Suspension (OSS) by an administrator. Parents will be notified if their child is assigned OSS.

Students who are suspended out of school are forbidden to be on any school campus in Onslow County during the suspension and may not participate in any school activity. Parents may come to the school to get assignments and homework so that students will be able to work toward academic goals while suspended. Students are responsible for making up all work missed while they are suspended.

When space is available, suspended students may – with parent permission – be assigned by school administration to the Onslow County School Treatment Program, an alternative for students who receive 3 – 10 days of OSS. The School Treatment Program supports schools by providing educational and supplemental services from certified teaching and professional services staff. Students attending the Program are considered “present” for purposes of school recordkeeping.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students are required to take Physical Education (PE). The physical education program is intended to provide each student with an opportunity to participate in a variety of physical activities that will provide a feeling of achievement and success. Any student who is, for any reason, unable to participate in PE must have a note signed by a parent or guardian. If a student is unable to participate in PE for an extended period of time, she/he must bring in a note from a medical provider.

In order to promote good hygiene, students will be required to change clothes for physical activities. Any clothing worn for PE must adhere to the school dress code. Aerosols and spray products are strictly prohibited. Students may bring deodorant in solid or cream (roll-on) form only.

PICTURES

School pictures will be scheduled in both the fall and spring. All students will be photographed for ID Cards and the yearbook in the fall. Prior to picture day, details regarding the purchase of pictures will be sent home.

PRINCIPAL’S LIST/HONOR ROLL

The purpose of the Principal’s List and Honor Roll is to recognize students who have demonstrated academic achievement and to encourage others to strive for excellence.

Principal’s List: All grades 90 or above
Honor Roll: All grades 80 or above

PROFANITY/DISRESPECT [OCS BOE Policy 4315]

Profanity is prohibited at school. No student shall behave in a manner that is considered to be disrespectful to a staff member. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, talking back to a staff member, use of profane or vulgar language to or in the presence of staff members, or disrespectful gestures or body gestures directed toward staff members. Violations will result in disciplinary action based on the extent of the student’s misbehavior and prior discipline referrals. Profane or vulgar language directed toward a staff member will result in OSS.

PROMOTION/RETENTION STANDARDS [OCS BOE Policy 3420]

In order to be considered for promotion, students in grades 3 through 8 shall perform at least at grade level as identified by the state end-of-grade (EOG) tests, observations, grades, teacher-generated, locally generated, and state-generated assessments; work samples, portfolios and/or other factors in all areas of the curriculum. Students in grades 6 through 8 must earn a passing grade in a minimum of five (5) yearlong or equivalent yearlong combination curricular classes, two of which must be Language Arts and mathematics.

A student in grades 6 through 8 who enrolls in a high school credit-bearing course will be held to the High School Diploma Standards. **Do not let failing grades go unaddressed.** Please set up a conference with your child's teachers at the first sign of inadequate performance.

PTO & VOLUNTEERS [OCS BOE Policy 5000, 5010, & 5015]

Parents are encouraged to participate in and attend school activities. Parent attendance and participation shows support for the child and the school and helps the parent gain insight into the child's progress. In accordance with Onslow County School Policy, all classroom and athletic volunteers must be fingerprinted.

Northwoods Park Middle School has a very active and supportive Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO). PTO general meetings are held throughout the school year. Additional information will be provided via e-mail or posted on the school's web page.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are issued at the end of every nine weeks. In order to receive the final report card, students must have paid all outstanding fees (including damage fees, cafeteria charges, or any other school related debt). If a student does not receive a report card, parents or guardians should contact the school to determine if there are unpaid fees or other reasons as to why the report card was not issued.

SCHOOL DANCES

Student attendance at school dances is a privilege, not a right. Students earn the opportunity to attend school dances by demonstrating good behavior and satisfactory academic performance. Any student with ISS or OSS on the day of a dance will not be allowed to attend the event. Students must be picked up promptly. Students who are picked up late will NOT be permitted to attend the next school dance.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Students will be issued laptops as part of the Onslow County School 1:1 Initiative. With that in mind, the following items are standard school supplies needed for grades 6-8:

- Laptop bag or backpack with a computer section (no wheels)
- Set of inexpensive earbuds (with audio jack; no USB connection); no headphones such as Beats
- Lanyard for PBIS card, lunch card, and school ID card

****Please see the school supply list for a more detailed list.***

STUDENT E-MAIL/OFFICE 365

To give our students hands-on experience with email, Onslow County Schools has contracted with Microsoft Office to provide a suite of products to students. Powerful message monitoring and filtering ensure compliance with the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) requirements.

Office 365 is a computer-based service hosted by Microsoft that brings together familiar Microsoft Office desktop software applications with email and file sharing (for collaboration on projects and other class activities). Office 365 is accessible from school and from home and can be installed on up to five computers and other mobile devices, including Android, iPad and Windows tablets. Because Office 365 includes free cloud storage (up to one terabyte) and syncs files on each device used by the student, it eliminates the need for storage discs and thumb drives.

All usage of school Internet and equipment is subject to monitoring by the school and the district. The school maintains the authority to suspend or revoke technology privileges and internet access.

SKIPPING CLASS

Any student who is not in school and does not have parental consent (illness, doctor's appointment, etc.) to be out of school is considered to be skipping. Failure to sign in or out of school when arriving late or leaving early may also be considered a skipping violation. Students are not allowed to visit the media center, bathroom, or other classrooms without proper permission. Students who do not report to their assigned class will be considered skipping. Students who skip school or classes may receive In-School Suspension (ISS).

SOCIAL CONDUCT

It is the belief of the administration that social development for boys and girls is a very important part of the education process. However, students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate for young ladies and gentlemen. Loud, disruptive behavior, profanity, and intimate contact such as kissing and close body contact while on campus are not considered appropriate. Inappropriate behavior may result in disciplinary action as determined by a school administrator.

SURVEYS

No student or organization may conduct surveys without prior approval of school administration.

TARDIES

The instructional day at NWPMS begins at 7:30 a.m. Students who arrive to school or to class late will be considered tardy. Tardiness is a disruption to the entire class and causes students to miss valuable instructional time. Initially, tardiness will be dealt with by the teacher; however, if it becomes a continued problem, the concern will be referred to administration. Parents can help by making sure students arrive to school on time each day.

TELEPHONES

Telephones in the office are for emergency use only. Students must have a pass from a teacher and permission from the school receptionist to use the telephone.

Leaving materials, book bags, PE uniforms, homework, etc., at home is not considered an emergency. Travel arrangements should be made prior to coming to school. Therefore, students will not be permitted to use the phone to make travel arrangements or request materials during the school day.

Arrangements for pick-up, staying after school, etc., should be made before the student leaves home each morning. Students who feel sick or ill – or who have a true emergency – should notify their teacher. The teacher will follow school procedures to contact the parent.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are instructional materials and one of many resources utilized for teaching concepts in each subject. However, in a 21st century school with 1:1 devices, textbooks are no longer a standard issued item for students. All textbooks used in the classroom are property of NWPMS/or Onslow County Schools.

TITLE IX

Onslow County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability in its programs or activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding Title IX: Title IX Coordinator, Onslow County Schools, 200 Broadhurst Road, Jacksonville, N.C. 28540, 910-455-2211.

TOBACCO POLICY [OCS BOE Policies 4320 & 7250]

All Onslow County Schools campuses are smoke free. Possession, selling, distribution, sharing or use of tobacco products including – but not limited to – chewing tobacco, snuff, cigarettes, pipes or electronic cigarettes is prohibited in all areas of the campus (including athletic fields) and at all school-sponsored events (ie: sporting events, field trips, meetings, concerts, dances, etc.).

VANDALISM, THEFT & LOITERING [OCS BOE Policy 4330]

Any student found guilty of stealing, vandalism, and/or destruction of public property will be disciplined by the school, pay restitution, and may be referred to law enforcement.

All students are required to leave the school grounds promptly upon completion of the school day. Only those students involved in supervised school activities are permitted to remain on school grounds. If a person is on

campus for a school event (concert, athletic contest, or dance), she/he is to enter the event or leave the campus.

No loitering is permitted on campus. Students who are waiting for rides should be at the circle parking lot located off of Decatur Drive.

VISITORS ON CAMPUS [OCS BOE Policy 5020]

One important way that a school can have a positive and direct impact on student achievement is through the protection of instructional time. For this reason, no visitors will be allowed to enter classrooms unless they are a guest speaker, are part of a planned instructional activity, or have a scheduled/meeting.

All visitors are to report to the office when they arrive on campus during the school day to sign in and obtain a visitor's pass which must be worn for the duration of the visit at NWPMS. Students are not to associate with any visitor on campus unless the visitor has been approved by the office.

VALUABLES

Students should not bring large amounts of money or valuable personal property to school. The school will not assume responsibility for the personal property of students and is not staffed to complete investigations into such matters. Only items that will be used in academic instruction should be brought to school. Cell phones are not considered a required item for academic instruction.

WEAPONS [OCS BOE Policies 4333, 4315 & 4331]

Weapons are defined in the Onslow County Discipline Policies handbook. Any student who possesses or uses a weapon, chemical or biological solution, or reasonable facsimile on school property, at a bus stop, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored event will receive ISS or OSS, depending on the item. Additionally, law enforcement may be notified, and legal action may be taken.

WEBSITE

Information about NWPMS programming, activities, events, and teacher webpages may be accessed online at the school web address: <https://www.onslow.k12.nc.us/northwoodsparkms>



NORTHWOODS PARK MIDDLE

2023-2024

BELL SCHEDULE

TIME	6 TH GRADE	7 TH GRADE	8 TH GRADE
7:30-7:35	HR	HR	HR
7:35-8:20	ENRICHMENT	ENRICHMENT	ENRICHMENT
8:24-9:14	PLANNING (ENCORE)	1 ST BLOCK	1 ST BLOCK
9:18-10:08	PLANNING ENCORE	2 ND BLOCK	2 ND BLOCK
10:12-11:02	1 ST BLOCK	LUNCH PA TIME	3 RD BLOCK
11:06-11:56	2 ND BLOCK	PLANNING ENCORE	LUNCH PA TIME
12:00-12:50	LUNCH PA TIME	PLANNING ENCORE	4 TH BLOCK
12:54-1:44	3 RD BLOCK	3 RD BLOCK	PLANNING (ENCORE)
1:48-2:40	4 TH BLOCK	4 TH BLOCK	PLANNING (ENCORE)

Lunches

- 6th grade will report to lunch with 3rd block
- 7th grade will report to lunch with 2nd block
- 8th grade will report to lunch with 4th block



NORTHWOODS PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

904 Sioux Drive | Jacksonville, NC 28540
Phone: 910/347-1202 | Fax: 910/347-0713

Shanta' Cooks, Principal
Melissa Bourgeois, Assistant Principal
Tammy Stevens, Secretary/Treasurer

2023-2024 School Supply List

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Binder (2 inch/3 ring)	Binder (2 inch/3 ring)	Binder (2 inch/3 ring)
Pencil Pouch for Binder	Pencil Pouch for Binder	Pencil Pouch for Binder
Blue or Black Ink Pens	Blue or Black Ink Pens	Blue or Black Ink Pens
Pencils	Pencils	Pencils
6 Pocket Folders	6 Pocket Folders	6 Pocket Folders
Highlighters	Highlighters	Highlighters
Colored Pencils	Colored Pencils	Colored Pencils
**Set of Earbuds	**Set of Earbuds	**Set of Earbuds
Backpack with padded laptop section	Backpack with padded laptop section	Backpack with padded laptop section
2 Boxes of Tissues	2 Boxes of Tissues	2 Boxes of Tissues
Lanyard with Plastic Pocket	Lanyard with Plastic Pocket	Lanyard with Plastic Pocket
Glue Sticks	Glue Sticks	Glue Sticks
Personal Size Hand Sanitizer	Personal Size Hand Sanitizer	Personal Size Hand Sanitizer
**Ear Buds <u>must</u> have audio jack; no USB connection		

ENCORE CLASSES

ART
Sketch Book

BAND
Binder (2 inch/3 ring)

GENERAL MUSIC
1 Spiral Notebook

CTE
1 Spiral Notebook
1 Pocket Folder

PE
Deodorant (non-aerosol)
1 Single Subject Notebook
Tennis Shoes

SPANISH
Expo Markers
1 Two Pocket Folder
1 Single Subject Notebook

Students will be issued laptops as part of the Onslow County School 1:1 Initiative.

Additional supplies may be requested by individual teachers as indicated in the class syllabus.



P.O. BOX 99, JACKSONVILLE, NC 28541-0099
Superintendent Barry Collins