



# Nampa School District #131

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[www.nsd131.org](http://www.nsd131.org)

[www.Facebook.com/NampaSchoolDistrict](https://www.facebook.com/NampaSchoolDistrict)

## Middle School Parent & Student Handbook 2019-2020



*Home of the Longhorns!*

Lone Star Middle School  
11055 Lone Star Road  
Nampa, Idaho 83651  
208-468-4745

<https://lonestar.nsd131.org/>

### **Nampa School District Mission Statement**

The Mission of the Nampa School District is to ensure high levels of achievement for every student.

### **Nampa School District Vision Statement**

Every student is fully engaged in extraordinary learning experiences,  
preparing for successful transition to the next stage of life.

### **LONE STAR MIDDLE SCHOOL STAFF**

Principal – Greg Heideman  
Vice Principal – Jason Gallon  
Dean of Students – Jessica Stone  
Athletic Director – Cody Rich

*Revised October 2019*

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Dear Students and Parents:

This is the handbook for Lone Star Middle School. Within these pages is information about our school, what we value and the expectations to make this a successful school year for our school community. Please read through the handbook and be familiar with this information.

During the year information in the handbook may change. We will communicate when information is updated via our website so you are aware and can read the updated information.

Please check the school website regularly for information. There are many resources available on the website for you that will be helpful and may answer questions you have. The website is <https://lonestar.nsd131.org>.

If you have questions, please contact the school office at (208) 468-4745.

Greg Heideman  
Principal

## **School Hours**

School hours are 7:39 AM to 2:39 PM (1:39 PM on Wednesdays). Please allow your child to stay in school throughout this time. We ask that your student be on time in the morning to start his/her day focused. Please do not check out your student within the last 20 minutes of the school day. It is a significant distraction to student learning.

Students that participate in supervised activities are expected to follow the expectations of that activity as communicated by Lone Star staff. Students who walk home are expected to leave through the school front doors and students who are waiting for a bus are expected to wait in the bus loading zone and load onto assigned bus.

## **Drop-Off/Pick-Up Zones**

There are three areas for student drop-off and pick-up:

- Special Transportation—the front of the school
- Buses—the gym parking lot (south of building)
- Personal vehicle—main parking lot/driveway in front of building

Please do not use the back-parking lot as a drop-off/pick-up area. This needs to be kept free from traffic for buses and athletic transportation.

## **The Longhorn Code**

Providing students a quality education while we support them through their developmental growth is our focus. We have identified four characteristics we value and when these are of value for students, they will make our time together as a school community successful. Respect, Responsibility, Readiness and Relationships are the key components to our Longhorn Code.

### **RESPECT**

- Honor your fellow students.
- Be tolerant and respectful of others.
- Be considerate of the feelings and beliefs of others.
- Appreciate and respect our differences.
- Acknowledge the excellence of each person.

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

- Be accountable for your words, actions and attitudes.
- Be disciplined-show self-control.
- Think before you act-consider the consequences.
- Be the good example for others.
- Be trustworthy to others and make yourself accountable

### **READINESS**

- Be prompt and prepared for each class.
- Come prepared to every class.
- Have a growth mindset.
- Follow the rules and be prepared to learn.

### **RELATIONSHIPS**

- Be courteous and kind to others.
- Listen more and speak less.
- Befriend those who are hardworking and caring.
- Communicate with understanding and compassion.
- Evaluate others by what they do, not what they say.

## Grading Information

A grade should give as clear a measure as possible of the best a student can do....Unless teachers throughout a school or district completely agree on the elements and factor them into their grading in consistent ways, the meaning of grades will vary from classroom to classroom, school to school.

*~Tomlinson and McTighe, 2006*

The best thing you can do is make sure your grades convey meaningful, accurate information about student achievement.

*~Brookhart, 2004*

### **Standards-based Grading Policy**

Standards-based grading communicates how students are performing on a set of clearly defined learning targets called standards. Standards-based grading identifies what a student knows, or is able to do, in relation to the pre-established learning targets. Our key focus is on progress towards essential standards in relation to work habits.

### **Why are we moving to standards-based grading?**

There are several reasons to move toward standards-based grading as outlined by the Nampa School District, including:

- Accuracy and consistency of grades
- Clarifying learning for students
- Providing students with more accurate feedback
- Adjusting NSD grading to evidence-based practices that align teaching, assessing and reporting
- Supporting and aligning out district

For additional information, please visit the following website regarding Standards-based Grading and the Nampa School District:

<https://www.nsd131.org/apps/pages/sbg>

## Food and Drink

Students may bring a clear water bottle to school and it should only be for personal use. There are now 5 water bottle filling stations in the building. To protect laptops, water bottles must have a lid that closes. Food or drink items to be eaten at lunch time should not be kept in the same bag as the laptop. Lunch bags may be stored in classrooms or lockers.

## Personal Electronic Devices and Cell Phones

Students will be provided with a laptop by the Nampa School District to support learning. Personal technology devices will be unnecessary during the school day. **Students are expected to put all personal electronics, cell phones, ear buds in lockers during school hours.** They are to remain out of sight. This will encourage a focus on learning and relationships.

Please call the school office (208) 468-4745 to get a message to your child.

## Lockers

Lockers are available to all students and will be assigned at the beginning of the school year by each student's advisory teacher. Lockers remain the property of the school district. Students are not permitted to take their personal backpacks to classes. The only bag a student should carry is the one provided for the safe transportation of school-issued laptop/device. Students in PE and afterschool activities are issued lockers in the locker rooms for sports related items.

## Hallways

Keeping our hallways clear and free from distraction is important for student learning. When necessary for a student to leave a classroom during a class period, students will be required to have a pass or be escorted by Lone Star Middle School staff to the designated location.

## **Lone Star Middle School Dress Code Guidelines**

Purpose of dress code: To ensure safety, to be able to move in all manners in a school environment without breaking a dress code rule and feel comfortable emotionally and physically at school.

These guidelines are in addition to, or act as clarification of, the district policy on page 14-15.

- Tank tops are allowed and must meet the two-finger rule as in both elementary and high school dress codes
- Sheer clothing or clothing details must not reveal undergarments, midriff, or be higher than mid-thigh if on pants
- All clothing must cover midriff when moving about the school environment. Jerseys are allowed as long as they do not break any other rule i.e. are too baggy and revealing, include see through mesh, etc.
- Shorts and skirts, dresses, pants or jeans with rips, holes, sheer or mesh detailing, etc., should not expose skin higher than mid-thigh (half way between hip and knee)
- Leggings are allowed as long as they do not break another dress code rule i.e. are sheer/see through
- Clothing must fit, cover, and allow for normal movement in the learning environment i.e. Sitting on the floor, bending over at a desk or locker, etc. does not break dress code rules
- Hats/head coverings are allowed in the building when requested for religious or medical reasons
- "General moral principles" defined as not offensive to race, religion, national origin, citizenship, gender, sexuality, age, ability.

# Nampa School District

## District Information – Middle Schools

### 2019-2020

#### **Essential Items**

At the start of school, you will be provided your **Associated Student Body** (ASB) ID card and a laptop. Please see the **Electronic Devices and Personalized Learning Section** for information regarding the laptop.

Why your **ASB card** is important:

**It is your library card.** You'll need it to check out materials or use computers.

**It is your ID card.** To help keep our campuses safe, we ask all our students and staff to carry official ID.

**It is your meal ticket.** To use it, you'll need to prepay for lunch in the cafeteria or at [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com).

**It is your ticket to activities.** The card allows you to attend most middle school sporting events for free. Cost for other events, like dances, may be reduced if you have a card.

**Note: We provide your first ASB Card for FREE! If you lose it, you'll need to buy a replacement at the office.**

## Reaching High Standards for Learning

In the Nampa School District, we have set specific standards and objectives in key content areas including:

- English Language Arts (ELA)
- Mathematics
- Social Studies
- Science
- Humanities
- Physical Education
- Computer Applications

#### **Monitoring Student Academic Progress**

Our school provides online access to student grades, assignments, and other information through a web-based program called **PowerSchool**. Please refer to the district website, [nsd131.org](http://nsd131.org) or call the school office to sign up for this FREE service. If you do not have access to the internet, we provide computers at our school for parents to use.

#### **Parent/Student-Led Conferences**

Our school hosts a conference session in the fall for students, parents and teachers to meet face to face and talk about progress.

#### **Promotion Policy**

Progressing to the next grade level is earned through academic achievement. All middle school students must meet the following criteria to advance to the next grade level.

- Must pass 80% of your classes.
- Must not fail the same class four consecutive quarters. Failing is receiving a letter grade of F in a class.

Students who do not meet the above criteria may be promoted through an alternate method under the direction of a school promotion team. Students who struggle will be referred to the promotion team to create a plan using the alternate route criteria that apply to the students' needs. The promotion team will monitor student progress. Parents may be asked to attend planning meetings and the student plan will be shared with parents.



These alternative route criteria may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Meet goals established in Special Education Individualized Education Plan
- Meet goals established in English Language Learner Plan
- Miss no more than four classes per quarter
- Earn grade-level team recommendation
- Finish school year with a 2.0 grade point average or higher
- Pass end-of-course exams
- Demonstrate growth on ISAT
- Progress toward essential standards
- Participate in academic assistance such as:
  - Response to Intervention programs
  - Intervention classes i.e. Math Strategies
  - Online classes such as Plato or Idaho Digital Learning Academy
- Participate in programs beyond the regular school day or school year such as:
  - Before or after school programs
  - Supplemental Educational Service (SES)
  - Summer school

### **Report Cards**

Our school will report grades via PowerSchool.

### **Grade Point Average (GPA)**

The total number of points divided by the number of counted classes equals the GPA. The point system is as follows: A = 4.0 B = 3.0  
C = 2.0 D = 1.0 F = 0

### **Honor Roll**

Honor Roll students achieve a GPA of 3.5 to 3.74. High Honor Roll students achieve a GPA of 3.75 to 4.0.

### **Testing**

Our teachers use a variety of assessments including quizzes, tests, projects, portfolios and homework to ensure students are reaching academic goals. In addition, the state requires all students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades take the ISAT during the spring. More information will follow from the school regarding testing.

## **Reaching High Standards for Behavior**

Our goal is to provide an environment for students and their teachers that is safe and drug-free and fosters learning. Most middle school students are well behaved and respectful of each other and their teachers.

We ask students to behave in a manner that will be a credit to our school. Our students:

- Arrive to school and class on time, prepared and ready to learn.
- Are courteous during passing times and interactions with other students and staff.
- Resolve differences agreeably and with positive intentions.
- Seek help from staff in difficult situations.
- Dress appropriately for a positive and safe learning environment.
- Follow directions from all staff.
- Treat our campus and school property with respect.

**Our students are expected to maintain the same high standards of behavior at school-sponsored activities either on or away from the school premises. Students are expected to obey their school officials, protect property, maintain order and decorum, and conduct themselves in such a manner as to reflect credit upon themselves and their school.**

Because we are dedicated to maintaining this learning environment, we establish specific policies to address consequences when standards are not met, including:

- Attendance
- Disruptive & violent behaviors
- Possession of weapons
- Possession of alcohol, tobacco & other drugs
- Discrimination
- Bullying/Sexual Harassment
- Discipline
- Dress code
- Cheating

**The next sections outline some of what is not allowed and the consequences.**

**Please know that because a specific behavior is not mentioned does not mean it is acceptable.**

### **Attendance Policy**

All children of compulsory attendance age (7 to 16) are required to attend school. Attendance and punctuality are important elements of the educational process for all students. Therefore, all enrolled K-12 students are expected to be in school 100% of the time classes are in session, unless they are participating in school related activities or otherwise excused by school board policy or Idaho state law.

### **Absences**

Students who are absent from school must have their parents contact the school regarding the absence. They should either bring a note signed by the parent/guardian when they return to school or have the parent/guardian call the school with the following:

- The date(s) of the absence(s)
- The reason for the absence(s)

### **Excused absences**

Absences for the following reasons shall be considered excused:

1. Student participation in school sponsored activities, i.e. field trips, athletic contests as members of a school sponsored team, or other school related activities when attendance is required.
2. Absences will be excused based on the following as confirmed by a parent/guardian:
  - a. Personal illness of the student. However, after extended illness, parent contact is necessary, and the student will be authorized for continuing attendance only when a written medical excuse from a physician is submitted. Health problems may interfere with a student's ability to comply with the attendance policy. When excess absences (5 or more) are due to conditions documented by a health professional, the student will have the opportunity to earn credit through cooperation with the instructor or homebound tutor.
  - b. Medical, dental or legal appointments when such appointments cannot be scheduled outside of school hours.
  - c. Death in the family.
  - d. Observation of a religious holiday.
  - e. Emergency conditions in the student's home, which require special help from the student. However, regular use of this excuse or request for absence for an extended period of time (5 or more days) should be referred for evaluation and administrative approval.
  - f. Other approved pre-arranged absences. School administration will use professional judgment in making a determination, based on the written request for the pre-arranged absence. Forty-eight (48) hours' notice is required. Factors such as the educational value of the proposed experience and the impact of the absence on the student's educational progress shall be given consideration in determining whether a pre-arranged absence shall be approved or disapproved. Students should avoid pre-arranged absences during tests or semester examinations (ISAT, etc.)

Work missed during absences is expected to be completed. The student and teacher will work together to review missing instruction and complete missed work within a reasonable timeframe.

The student will be dropped from the rolls if he or she is absent for ten (10) consecutive school days without notification from the guardian or has been identified as habitually truant. If the student returns to school, he or she may be re-enrolled. Students served by homebound tutors will not be included in this procedure.

### **Unexcused Absences**

Absences shall be considered unexcused if they do not meet the excused absence guideline. A student whose absence is not excused may be cited for truancy and shall be subject to the truancy process.

### **Tardies**

Punctuality is a classroom issue. Teachers are responsible for controlling tardiness through the first, second and third tardy. The fourth tardy is referred to administration for action.

### **Truancy Policy**

Truancy is defined as being in any location other than where you are supposed to be. For example, a student who is on campus, but not in the appropriate classroom or location will be considered truant. Appropriate consequences will be at the discretion of administration. Consequences may include detention, suspension and expulsion.

## Attendance Policy Violations and Consequences

Absences by Classes Missed Per Semester	Consequences	Interventions
3 or more	Teacher (Advisory) Contact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other two-way communication methods should be attempted if phone contact is not available</li> <li>If all methods of communication are exhausted, refer to Administration for follow-up</li> </ul> 3-day Autodialer contact made via Parentlink	Opportunity to regain lost time  Before/after school or lunch detention, building determined
5 or more	Personal Contact between Parents/Guardian and School Admin/Designee  1 <sup>st</sup> Attendance Letter sent via regular mail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>States possible future consequences including credit implications associated with Middle School Promotion Plan</li> </ul> Notify School Resource Officer of attendance issues  5-Day Autodialer sent via Parentlink	Attendance Contract/meeting (as determined by Deans & Admin)  School counselor & social worker informed from this point forward  Team/PRTI discussions  Mandatory attendance make-up as determined at building level. Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lunch and/or after-school, etc.</li> <li>Saturday School</li> </ul>
7 or more	SRO/Admin Designee may visit home to issue failure to supervise notice  2 <sup>nd</sup> Attendance Letter delivered by SRO/Admin Designee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal ramifications</li> <li>Potential credit implications/retention (see Middle School Promotion Plan)</li> <li>Potential retention</li> </ul> Notice of intent to suspend driving privileges delivered at same time.	Parent must come in to excuse absences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medical or legal documentation required for absences to be excused</li> </ul>
9 or more	SRO/Admin Designee may visit home. They may choose at this time to issue a failure to supervise citation to the parents, resulting in parents appearing in court (once a citation is issued, this step is covered for a 12-month period).  3 <sup>rd</sup> Attendance Letter delivered by SRO/Admin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential credit loss</li> <li>Potential credit implications/retention (see Middle School Promotion Plan)</li> <li>Notice of suspension of driving privileges</li> </ul>	Parent must come in to excuse absences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medical or legal documentation required for absences to be excused</li> </ul>
12 or more	Nampa Police Department may cite parent/guardian for failure to supervise, per IC 33-206	Designated as habitual truant by board or superintendent designee
Counted absences for days missed are: U (Unverified), P (Parental Excused), E (Excused), C (Truant), A (Absence) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consequences for absences may be determined on a case-by-case basis (i.e., illness, death in family, etc.).</li> <li>Tardies will remain building specific in terms of consequences and policy.</li> <li><b>Continual Violator Clause:</b> If a student has consistently violated the policy for three or more semesters in their middle school career, school administration has the discretion to proceed to the final step of recommendation to the school board as Habitual Truant.</li> </ul>		

## **Behavior Expectations**

Our middle school is an excellent school with great students and staff. We ask students to behave in a manner that will contribute to the community of our school.

Our students

- Arrive to school and class on time prepared and ready to learn;
- Are courteous during passing times and in interactions with other students and staff;
- Resolve differences amicably and with positive intentions;
- Seek help from staff in difficult situations;
- Dress appropriately for a positive and safe learning environment;
- Follow directions from all staff; and
- Treat our campus and school property with respect.

In order to ensure our school provides a safe and orderly environment and appropriate learning environment for all, some behaviors are not allowed on our physical campuses, at school events onsite or offsite, and/or in an online environment or with electronic devices. Students who choose to behave inappropriately – including behaviors in an online virtual environment or with electronic devices – face consequences. Behaviors listed below may result in police intervention. Inappropriate behaviors are included below, but are not limited to:

- Possession, distribution, and/or use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, drugs vape products or paraphernalia on school property;
- Expression of gang or hate group affiliation through clothing, signs, graffiti, tattoos, and/or activities;
- Use or possession of a weapon or other object and/or material, which pose a threat or potential threat to students and/or staff;
- Threats of violence which may endanger school safety;
- Theft or possession of stolen property;
- Fighting, posturing, encouraging, and/or instigating fights on school property or during school activities;
- Destruction of or defacing school property including lockers and desks;
- Disrespect to teachers, staff, or students;
- Inappropriate conduct such as a conscious choice to fail to act as instructed by a staff member or administrator (willful defiance or insubordination);
- Loitering in the parking lots, halls or school grounds, during class time;
- Littering in the building or on school property;
- Any dress and/or appearance which is disruptive to the learning process;
- Use of threatening, demeaning, rude, hurtful, or profane language;
- Inappropriate display of affection in the halls, classroom, or on school grounds. No kissing, groping, or fondling;
- Possession and/or distribution of objectionable, pornographic, or obscene literary or pictorial materials and garments. This includes t-shirts or caps, displaying or advertising alcohol, tobacco, drugs, profanity, pornography, or gang affiliation;
- Deceit. The act of lying, forgery, plagiarism, or any other form of deceit by a student;
- Inappropriate use of electronic devices and computers in violation of school policy; and
- Use of skateboards or skates is permissible only in an area other than those designated by administration.

## **Discipline Process & Administration Referral**

When a student misbehaves, the teacher will deal with the student through routine classroom management, posted class rules and fair enforcement. If the student does not comply, the teacher will contact the student's parents to enlist parent/guardian support. If disruptive behavior continues, the student will be referred to the administration. A teacher will refer students to an administrator for continued "mischievous misbehavior" or "severe misbehavior." Misbehaviors are classed as:

- **"Mischievous"** – such as disrupting class, lack of preparedness, nonconformity to dress code, public display of affection, or any behavior that disrupts the learning process;
- **"Severe"** – such as fighting, weapons, vandalism, extreme disruption, distribution, possession and/or use of illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco – any behavior that threatens the safety or welfare of anyone on campus and stops or inhibits the learning process.

The referral may be processed as follows:

#### **Mischiefous Behavior**

- **1st Office Referral:** Conference, parent contact, 1 hour of After School Detention (ASD) or Lunch Detention (LD) or other appropriate consequences.
- **2nd Office Referral:** Conference, parent contact, one day of Out of School Suspension (OSS) or one day of In School Suspension (ISS) or other appropriate consequences.
- **3rd Office Referral:** Referred to Severe Behavior number one.
- **4th Office Referral:** Referred to Severe Behavior number two.
- **5th Office Referral:** Referred to Severe Behavior number three.

#### **Severe Behavior**

- **1st Referral:** Conference, parent contact, one day of OSS or one day of ISS or other appropriate consequences and possible alternative placement or referral to the School Board for expulsion. If fighting, drug related or verbal abuse of another person, immediate OSS in compliance with School District Policy. OSS will be a discretionary, one (1) to five (5) days.
- **2nd Referral:** Conference, parent contact, two days of OSS, ISS or other appropriate consequences and possible alternative placement or referral to the School Board for expulsion. If fighting, drug related or verbal abuse of another person, immediate OSS in compliance of School District Policy. OSS will be discretionary, up to five (5) days. Behavior Contract may be put in place at the discretion of administration.
  - **3rd Referral:** Conference, parent contact, immediate three (3) to five (5) day OSS and possible alternative placement or referral to the School Board for expulsion.

#### **Consequences**

- **ASD and LD:** as determined by the administration.
- Students must be on time, prepared with reading or study materials enough to occupy the detention time.  
Rules include:
  - ✓ No talking
  - ✓ No heads down/sleeping
  - ✓ No personal headphones or electronic devices. District-issued devices are permitted
    - **Suspension:** Students suspended from classes will be assigned either ISS or OSS. Suspended students are not allowed on school grounds for after school activities unless authorized by school administration.
- **Detention Follow-Up:** ASD and LD are to be a silent study period that enhances the educational opportunities for students as well as accentuating the positive influence of discipline. If a student chooses to miss an assigned detention the assigned detention time may be replaced by one day of suspension or other administrative action. Parents will be notified whenever assigned detention time is missed.

### **Possession of weapons**

Weapons are described as any object which can be used to cause either temporary or permanent harm to a person or property. Students are forbidden to knowingly or voluntarily possess, handle, transmit, or use any instrument that can be used as a weapon of any kind. Any object which could be used to injure another person, and which has no school-related purpose for being in school or on school grounds will be considered a weapon for purposes of this section.

Our school and district have a “zero tolerance” policy for students who possess, use or store weapons, or other objects/substances which may be used as weapons or are capable of being used as weapons on school grounds, at school sponsored activities or in any school vehicles. Any violation of this policy rules and/or regulations to administer this policy may result in expulsion from school for up to a period of one (1) calendar year.

Our district will not permit, prior to the end of one (1) expulsion period, any student to enroll who has been expelled from another district for violating the federal Gun Free Schools Act of 1994. Should any student wish to challenge that decision, he/she will be entitled to a hearing before the appropriate administrator with the right to appeal the decision to the Nampa School District Board of Trustees.

Federal and state law define weapons as:

- A firearm of any nature or kind, including but not limited to gun, air-soft gun, pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, machine gun, or any other form of artillery.
- A starter gun, which will or is designed to or may readily, be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive.
- The frame or receiver of any weapon.
- Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer;
- Any destructive device, which includes any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four (4) ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter (1/4) ounce, mine, or device similar to any device herein described;
- Any type of a weapon which will or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of any explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half (1/2) inch in diameter.
- Any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into a destructive device and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled.
- Any instrument used to injure, defeat or destroy persons or property. This includes, but is not limited to, a blackjack, slingshot, billy club, metal knuckles, dagger, knife, ice pick or similar stabbing tool, pistol, revolver, other firearm, razor blade, any metal pipe or bar used or intended to be used as a club.
- Any “taser public defender” or other similar electronic immobilizer which causes, by means of an electrical current, a person to experience muscle spasms and extreme pain, followed by unconsciousness.

In addition, the Nampa School District further defines weapons as any item that can be construed as a weapon, such as: mace or pepper spray or any similar product, water and toy guns that resemble the real thing, Ninja stars, brass knuckles, screw drivers, ball bats, slingshots, bludgeons, knives, or pocket knives. Any student, who violates this section of the policy, may be subject to suspension or expulsion.

### **Possession of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs**

All school property is designated as a Drug-Free Zone. State law prohibits students from possessing, using, distributing, or being under the influence of illegal or controlled substance including, but not limited to, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, narcotics, tobacco, hallucinogenic drugs, vapor, vapes, e-cigarettes, inhalants, alcohol, or intoxicants of any kind while at school. This includes while attending a school activity or event, and/or while being transported in a contracted or school vehicle of any kind or at any location, public or private, where Nampa students are attending as representatives of the Nampa School District or a school in the Nampa School District.

### **Violations**

Violations of school policy and state law may lead to disciplinary and/or criminal action.

Once a student is reasonably suspected of being in violation of the law and this policy regarding controlled substances, regardless of any previous voluntary disclosure, the administration will immediately notify local law enforcement and seek a law enforcement evaluation of the student. The evaluation may seek transfer of school custodial responsibility to the State Department of Juvenile Corrections.

Any student exhibiting inappropriate behavior that suggests using or being under the influence of controlled substances will be immediately escorted for interviewing and observation. The student will not be left unattended and will not be allowed to leave the school premises.

The administration will refer the student to the Nampa Police Department based on reasonable suspicion according to law that the student is using or is under the influence of a controlled substance. Full cooperation will be given to any law enforcement investigation of a violation of this policy, including but not limited to providing access to lockers, desks, and other school property, and providing oral and/or written statements regarding relevant events.

The administrator and/or any other employee having observed the student’s behavior will document his/her observations of the student. The documentation will be provided to the appropriate law enforcement agency, and a copy will be placed in the student’s discipline record.

## **Reasonable Suspicion**

“Reasonable suspicion” means an act of judgment by a school employee or independent contractor of an educational institution which leads to a reasonable and prudent belief that a student is in violation of school board or charter school governing board policy regarding alcohol or controlled substance use or the “use” or “under the influence” provisions of section 37-2732C, Idaho Code. Said judgment shall be based on training in recognizing signs and symptoms of alcohol and controlled substance use

## **Assistance for Students**

The district recognizes that student involvement with drugs, alcohol or tobacco causes problems in their daily lives. We support prevention, early intervention, disciplinary action and appropriate referral.

**Self-referral** - Students who are concerned about their involvement with tobacco, alcohol or other drugs are encouraged to ask a staff member for assistance. This staff member will help the student contact the appropriate resources, which may include the Student Assistance program in the building. Initial self-referral will be treated without disciplinary action, provided that the student is not under the influence or in the possession of an illegal/controlled substance at the time help is requested. If so, this will be considered a first offense.

**Referral by others** - Individuals (staff, students, parents or community members) who are concerned about a student should contact the building administrator or his/her designee, and appropriate interventions will be developed.

**Intervention** - In the event that a voluntary written assessment recommends treatment, a contract may be developed by the building administrator or his/her designee, the student, and the student’s parents, to address appropriate student support. The contract may specify consequences to be taken if the provisions are violated.

## **Bullying**

Our school is committed to providing a safe learning environment for students. This includes identifying and taking steps to prevent bullying among our students. Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated over time. Bullying behaviors include, but are not limited to:

- **Physical**
- **Verbal**
- **Emotional**
- **Cyber**

Cyberbullying is the use of electronic communication to bully a person, typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature.

**Anyone** who engages in bullying or cyberbullying shall be subject to appropriate discipline. Students who have been bullied or cyberbullied shall promptly report such incidents to any staff member. Complaints of bullying or cyber-bullying shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action shall be taken when a complaint is verified. Neither reprisals nor retaliation shall occur as a result of the submission of a complaint.

The School District shall annually inform students that bullying or cyberbullying of students will not be tolerated.

The term “bullying” and “cyberbullying” shall not be interpreted to infringe upon a student’s right to engage in legally protected speech or conduct.

## **Dress Code**

Our students strive to dress for success in a manner appropriate for the school setting. To ensure we maintain an environment that is safe and conducive to learning, students are expected to wear appropriate clothing. Students will not be allowed to wear clothing that is disruptive to the educational process or a hazard to themselves or others.

Upper Body:

- Shirts, dresses and tops must cover all undergarments and not disrupt the educational environment.
- Brief garments (halter-tops, bare midriffs, tube tops, spaghetti tops, plunging necklines, etc.) are not allowed.
- Garments exposing cleavage are not school appropriate.



#### Lower Body:

- Pants, skirts, shorts, capris, dresses are school appropriate.
- No item may be shorter than 3 inches above the knee.
- All items must be size appropriate (no sagging/bagging pants).
- Belts are to be through the belt loops and not hanging.
- Pajama pants are not school appropriate.
- Bottoms exposing undergarments or skin are not school appropriate.
- No rips or holes higher than 3 inches above the knee that expose skin

#### Other requirements:

- Clothing advertising or promoting drugs, alcohol, tobacco, violent acts, lewd or sexual themes or are demeaning or degrading or offend general moral principles are not allowed.
- No hoods may be worn in school buildings.
- All clothing must fit properly... not too baggy, not too tight.
- Cheerleaders may wear cheer shirts and warm up bottoms on game days only.
- No jewelry containing gang related letters or numbers.
- No attire connected to hate or gang groups such as hats, bandana, rags, colors, shirts, sags, chains, BEING DRESSED IN A SINGLE COLOR, etc. is allowed. No number 13, 14, 18, or any numbers that add to those numbers may be worn. Additional items as identified by police personnel. Clothing or accessories including collars, bracelets, piercings and boots that include but are not limited to spikes, hoops or other dangerous items are not allowed.
- Spikes, nails, chains and safety pins on clothing are unsafe at school.
- Sunglasses, hats, caps, bandanas, visors, beanies or head attire is not to be worn in the building.
- Shoes with wheels and slippers are not school appropriate.
- Body art including writing and drawings with ink on skin are not allowed.
- Any other attire deemed to be a disruption of the educational process or detrimental to the health and safety of students is not to be worn.

## Cheating

Students are expected to act with integrity and submit original work and use their own knowledge and skills when tested. Below is description of that behavior and the consequences:

**Plagiarism** is when a person takes credit for another's work be it from printed material, i.e., Internet, books, newspaper, encyclopedias or periodicals, or from a peer without proper documentation. The following are some examples of instances of plagiarism:

- Copying from another student's test/work
- Obtaining by any means another person's work and submitting it as one's own work.
- Failing to give proper credit to sources used in papers and projects.

**Academic Dishonesty** is when a student fraudulently gains access to knowledge for the purpose of assignments, etc. The following should be used as a guide to help students understand academic dishonesty:

- Seeking aid from another student
- Providing aid to another student
- Preparing any academic work with another student, unless permitted by an educator.
- Possessing or using material or notes not authorized by an educator during a test.

Plagiarism and academic dishonesty can be avoided by the following:

- Proper documentation
- Clear communication between student and teacher
- Integrity through personal and social responsibility

Consequences may include but are not limited to redoing the assignment or one that is similar in content to show mastery.

## **Gangs & Hate Groups**

We have a zero-tolerance policy for gangs, hate groups, and similar organizations or groups, which advocate hatred or discrimination **for any reason**. These groups are inconsistent with the fundamental values and educational environment at our schools. **The activities of such groups and their members are prohibited on school property and at all school functions**. Such prohibited activities include, but are not limited to:

- The congregation of members that block building entrances, hallways, or otherwise disrupts campus;
- The solicitation or recruitment of members;
- The possession of group paraphernalia and materials;
- The intimidation of others;
- The advocacy of discrimination;
- Any other behavior, such as wearing clothing with gang colors or insignia, or the use of language, codes or gestures, that provokes violence or seeks to advocate the purpose and objectives of such groups; and
- Gang identification paraphernalia including, but not limited to shirts, gloves, rags, chains or bandanas.

Disciplinary actions may include suspension, expulsion and police involvement.

## **Racial/Ethnic/Sexual Harassment**

It is the policy of Nampa School District No. 131, to the best of its ability, to ensure that all students be free from harassment. Students have a right to learn in schools that promote equal opportunity and a learning environment that is non-discriminatory and free from any conduct that is harassing, deflative, bullying, coercive, or in any way intimidates students.

Students attending schools of the District are:

- Prohibited from engaging in any conduct that could reasonably be interpreted as harassment on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, age, religious beliefs, ethnicity, or disability; and
- Prohibited from sexually harassing students or other District personnel.

**Harassment** includes, but is not limited to, verbal, written, graphic, or any physical contact by any student(s), which disrupts, interferes with, or limits a student's ability to participate as a student. Language that demeans, degrades, embarrasses, or humiliates a student or staff member is not permitted. Harassment also includes acts of aggression, damage to property, intimidation or physical conduct of any kind relating to a student's sex, race, color, national origin, age, religious belief, ethnicity, or disability. Harassment also includes demeaning jokes, taunting, racial slurs, derogatory nicknames, or other derogatory sentiments.

**Sexual harassment** is a form of sex discrimination and is prohibited in the District. A student, employee or district agent engages in sexual harassment whenever he or she makes unwelcome sexual advances, requests sexual favors or engages in other verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual or sex-based nature which interferes with the relationship of students with employees or other students.

Sexual harassment is misconduct when submission is made as a condition of education or participation in school activities, used as a basis for academic decisions, or creates a hostile work or learning environment.

Any student's sexual harassment by employees of the District is "unwelcome" regardless if it was "consensual."

### ***Examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:***

- Unwanted sexual touching, verbal comments, gestures, and jokes;
- Students in a class which is predominantly of one sex subjecting a student of the opposite sex to sexual remarks, teasing, or being questioned about their ability to do the work;
- Touching oneself sexually or talking about one's sexual activity in front of others;
- Displaying, wearing or distributing sexually explicit or sexually suggestive drawings, pictures or written materials;
- Unwelcome solicitation or pressure for sexual favors;
- Unnecessary touching of an individual, e.g., patting, pinching, repeated brushing against another person's body;

**Examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to cont.:**

- Requests for sexual favors accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning an individual's employment, education or business with the District; and
- Cornering or blocking of normal movements.

**Examples of conduct which typically would not constitute sexual harassment:**

- A single instance of a kiss on the cheek of a student by another student;
- Hugging the winning athlete;
- A teacher putting his/her arms around students during photographic session.

**Reporting** of student harassment may be made by a student, a student's parent/guardian, or a District employee. Harassment witnessed by an employee requires immediate appropriate action to intervene and stop the harassment. A student who becomes aware that another student is being harassed should immediately report the incident.

Reporting should be made to a building administrator. If the complaint includes the building administrator, the report should be made to the Superintendent or designee. This is not to say that reports cannot be made to teachers and counselors and, in such instances, those persons should report the incidents with immediacy to the building administrator.

There is no requirement that reports be made in writing or that any specific timeline within which to report an incident of harassment is required.

When a report of harassment is received by the building administrator, the following procedures shall promptly occur:

- Obtain a written statement from the complainant;
- Obtain a written statement from the accused;
- Obtain written statement from witnesses;
- Prepare a written report to be submitted to the Superintendent or designee.

If a complaint involves a principal or the Superintendent, the Board of Trustees will appoint an independent investigator to complete the required report.

**Appropriate Disciplinary Action**, upon sufficient evidence to support the allegation, will be taken in the event the offender is an employee.

If the harassment is caused by a student, and sufficient evidence exists to support the allegation, appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with Nampa School District's discipline policy, rules and regulations, will be taken, up to and including suspension and expulsion. When appropriate, a complaint of harassment will be referred to appropriate law enforcement.

**No retaliation** shall be taken against any student who reports harassment in good faith. One who retaliates will be subject to the same discipline as though the one retaliating was charged with harassment.

A reasonable effort will be made to maintain confidentiality, but complete confidentiality may not be attainable, and students and employees must accept the fact that complete confidentiality may not be possible. If there is suspected child abuse, such abuse will be reported to the appropriate authorities as required by law.

## Parent Information, Directory Information, Student Records & Media

### Sharing Information

We want to keep you updated about your child's progress and of school events. We will keep you informed in the following ways:

- Please check your email for information.
- We'll share events and news about our school on our website, <http://eastvalley.nsd131.org>.  
We are also on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NampaSchoolDistrict](http://www.facebook.com/NampaSchoolDistrict).

- Class newsletters, informational notes and calendar are available.
- We use Blackboard – an automated telephone message system – to share information during the year.
- We use Peachjar, an electronic flyer delivery service.

**Delivering messages** – Our goal is to provide uninterrupted learning time for your child. We know that occasionally a non-emergency message is necessary; we ask that you contact us no later than 30 minutes prior to the end of school. **Messages are delivered at the end of the school day.** If you have an emergency situation, please call to discuss with the office staff to determine the best way to proceed.

### **Student Records/Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

Federal and state laws require school districts to maintain certain academic and behavioral records on students. The records allow the school staff to share progress information with parents and other educational institutions. They also document the eligibility of students for various federal and state mandated programs. Students frequently request copies of their records many years after they have left school to assist them in documenting school attendance and eligibility for certain programs.

The following information details parent and student rights with respect to student records.

Any student 18 years or older, parent or legal guardian may have access to records which pertain to them personally.

A student’s transcript (record of grades) is kept by the registrar. It also contains some test scores. An official transcript must be obtained from the school or the district office.

#### **Confidentiality of Student Records**

All student records are confidential and may be opened for inspection only in accordance with applicable federal and state law and school board policy.

#### **Rights of Parent(s) or Student(s) to review records - Annual Notice**

The district shall annually notify parents and eligible students through this handbook of their rights. The parent(s) or eligible student has a right to:

1. Inspect and review the student’s education records;
2. Request the amendment of the student’s education records to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy or other rights;
3. Consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that the applicable state or federal law authorizes disclosure without consent;
4. Pursuant to law, file with the United States Department of Education a complaint under 34 CFR §99.64 concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of federal law; and
5. Obtain a copy of the district policy with regard to student education records.

#### **Directory Information – Annual Notice**

Directory information is defined as information contained in the education records of a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. This includes the student’s name, parent or guardian name, district-issued email address and student identification number, age, grade level, dates of attendance, most recent school attended, GPA, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, honors and awards, weight and height of athletic team members, and photographs/video used by the district for student recognition and community relations. Sample uses of this released information could include:

- A playbill or concert program showing your student’s role
- The annual yearbook
- Honor roll, or other recognition lists
- Scholastic competition winners
- Graduation or “stepping up” programs
- Sports activity sheets
- Course/Class Rosters

The District may release directory information as permitted by law, but parents shall have the right to object to the release of information regarding their child. Military recruiters and institutions of higher education may request and receive the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all high school students, unless the parent(s) notifies the school not to release this information.

Parents who do not want the Nampa School District to disclose any of the above-listed directory information about their child will have an opportunity to indicate that during annual enrollment. If you do not opt out, the district will assume you are giving permission.

### **Media & district, school & other print, video, & electronic publications – Annual Notice**

Often local media (newspapers, radio, and television outlets) and school and district staff are in our schools or at school-sanctioned events to gather information, take photographs, record video of our staff and students for print, video, or electronic publications.

If you object to having your student participate in media coverage, you will be given the opportunity to limit media access through the annual update during registration. Excluding students from media, district, or school coverage of public events with large groups of people such as assemblies, dance, games, or activities such as field trips outside of school, etc. is not possible. Please talk with your student about your preferences should they be approached by the news media to be interviewed, photographed, or videotaped.

### **Contact and Address Information**

During the school year please notify your child's school if there are any changes to your student's home address or phone number. If your child moves out of the current school's attendance zone, please follow the withdrawal procedures below.

### **Withdrawal from School**

A parent/guardian must notify the school office as early as possible regarding the student's withdrawal. Notification must be scheduled with the school registrar (preferred) or via phone call.

- The student will complete a check out form on their last day of attendance.
- Student/parent will be issued a completed check out form as well as birth certificate and immunization record (as needed) to take to the new school.
- ***All school books, DEVICES and other equipment must be returned on the student's last day of attendance.***
- Parent/guardians will be charged for all books, DEVICES or other equipment that is not returned.

### **Messages**

We are anxious to maximize students' uninterrupted learning time. Please contact us prior to the last 30 minutes of the school day to have a message delivered to a student. We deliver emergency messages at the time of the call. **Parents, please do not contact your student on their cell phones at any time during the day.**

Balloons, flowers and other special deliveries are kept in the office until the end of the day. The recipients will be notified during their final class period.

### **Closure Procedures for Weather Emergencies**

The decision to close school or to delay the start of school due to severe weather will be made as early as possible, preferably the night before. The district's website will be updated by 6:00 a.m. or you can tune into your local TV station (channels 2, 6, or 7) for closure information between 5:45 and 6:00 a.m. Please do not call the school.

### **Telephone Use**

An office phone is available in case of emergencies only before and after school. Please see the electronic device policy for rules regarding cell phone use at school.

### **Accessing Campus**

Attending school every day is essential to student success. Our district provides free bus transportation to eligible students. Once they arrive, students may not leave campus prior to the end of the school day without parent permission. Parents may give permission via a note or phone call. To ensure we know where the child is during school hours, students are asked to check in and out through the office.

Students must follow this procedure to avoid being listed as truant.

## **Visiting Campus**

As part of our effort to keep students safe, we require visitors to check in at the office and obtain a visitor's pass. Visitors may also be required to show ID.

- We welcome parent visitors but ask that you schedule appointments with teachers or staff, so classroom teaching won't be disrupted.
- Visitors who are not authorized on campus are considered to be loitering and may be charged with trespassing.
- To protect students and school property, our schools have a "No Loitering/No Trespassing" policy.
- Children who are not students enrolled in our school are not allowed on campus. Unauthorized visitors are trespassing.

## **Leaving Campus / Closed Campus**

Campus is closed during all hours of school. Students are not allowed to leave the grounds during the school day without following the proper checkout procedure through the attendance office.

Before leaving campus for any reason, students must have a verified parent approval via a note or phone call prior to checking out from school. The student must check out and back in through the attendance office. Students who do not follow this procedure will be considered unexcused (truant) in all classes missed and will be subject to disciplinary action.

Students are expected to leave campus at the end of the school day unless participating in an after-school program. The school will not be responsible for students who stay after school unsupervised or have not made prior arrangements.

## **Birth Certificates**

Idaho State Law (IC 18-4511) requires parents/guardians to provide a certified copy of a student's birth certificate upon enrollment or within 30 days.

To obtain a birth certificate for a child born in Idaho, contact the Bureau of Vital Records & Health Statistics, 208-334-5988, [ivr@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:ivr@dhw.idaho.gov). Please contact your school's registrar if you need more help.

## **Counseling Services**

Every student is assigned a counselor. Counselors are available for student advocacy and assistance. Consult your counselor to secure information and guidance in the areas of education, career interest or planning and social development. Do not hesitate to speak to your counselor if you experience difficulties or problems in any area of your life. Request forms to see a counselor are available at the front desk. A request must be filled out and submitted to the office in advance. The counselor will send for the student when the schedule allows.

Some campuses provide additional mental health counseling. Please see your school counselor for information.

## **Course Changes/Transfers**

Schedule and class changes are disruptive for both students and teachers. In addition, our increasing enrollment has limited our flexibility to make schedule changes. Schedule changes will only be made as a last resort, when all other options to address the issue have failed. Parents must submit a written request to administration stating the reasons for requesting a transfer. The request must include documentation of conferences between the parent and teacher and/or team. The request must be received at least two weeks prior to the end of the grading period. Students will only be transferred at the end of the grading periods.

## **PE Uniforms**

Students will be required to wear appropriate PE attire during all physical education classes. Uniforms will be available for purchase at the school during registration, or you may purchase them elsewhere. More detailed information will be given to students when they begin PE class.

## **Nutrition Services**

The Nutrition Services Department is committed to preparing and serving nutritious, well balanced meals to our students. Breakfast, lunch, and ala carte items are available at our school. Students may qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Applications are available on-line.

Meals including drinks are consumed in the cafeteria. Students using the lunchroom speak in conversational tones and are courteous to each other and staff. Students are expected to clean their area after eating.

To ensure students can quickly receive their food without standing in long lines, we ask that meals are prepaid. Money may be prepaid to a student's meal account by check or cash at the school or online through [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com). Please be aware that money may not post for 24-48 hours in a student's account. We recommend that at least a weekly or monthly amount be prepaid.

The nutrition staff members welcome questions and will provide assistance with the free/reduced meal application. Please do not hesitate to visit our cafeteria. You may get meal pricing from the cafeteria manager or cashier at our school.

After eating, students may visit, relax and socialize in designated areas until their next class.

### **Eating with your child**

Parents are welcome to join their child for lunch. We ask you to check in at the office to receive a visitor's badge. Please check with the school about meal prices for visitors.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **Family-Provided Transportation**

Parents are welcome to transport their children to school. We ask that the entrance and exiting paths be followed to ensure a smooth flow of traffic during peak times.

Students are welcome to walk, bike, skate or scooter to school. Once they arrive at school, bikes should be locked in designated racks. Skates, skateboards, and scooters need to be carried into the school and locked into the student's locker. To ensure the safety of all students, these transportation devices cannot be used in the school or during school hours. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

### **District-Provided Transportation**

Students residing in Nampa School District #131 who live more than 1-½ miles from school are eligible to ride an assigned school bus without charge. Out-of-district students, including open enrollment students from other Nampa Middle Schools attendance areas, are responsible for their own transportation.

Nampa School District provides bus transportation for all qualifying students through Brown Bus Company. Contact Brown Bus at 208-466-4181 for individual bus stop locations and bus numbers.

### **Bus Rules**

Students are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly manner when waiting for or riding the bus. It is important not to distract the bus driver. Misbehavior on the bus or at the bus stops can deprive a student of the privilege to ride the bus and may result in additional school consequences.

- Students being transported are under the authority of the bus driver.
- Fighting, wrestling, or boisterous activity is prohibited on the bus.
- Students will use the emergency door only in case of an emergency.
- Students will remain seated while the bus is in motion.
- Students will not bring animals, firearms, weapons, skateboards, or potentially hazardous material on the bus.
- The bus driver may assign students seats.
- When necessary to cross the road, students will cross in front of the bus or as instructed by the bus driver.
- Students will not extend their hands, arms, or heads through the bus windows.
- Students will converse in normal tones: loud or vulgar language is prohibited.
- Students who refuse to obey promptly the direction of the driver or refuse to obey regulations may forfeit their privilege to ride on the buses.
- **Students will be financially responsible for any damage to the bus.**

## **Requirements for Student Activities Transportation**

The following rules apply to extra-curricular trips:

- Nampa Middle Schools administration must approve all school-related trips.
- All out-of-state or overnight trips must also be approved by the Superintendent or designee.
- Travel is by bus or other administrative approved transportation.
- Each bus must have at least one (1) school employee.
- Students must ride on school transportation both ways. The only exception is if the parent/legal guardian signs a release form at the activity to transport the student home.

# **FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS, RULES AND PROCEDURES**

## **Equal Education, Nondiscrimination and Sex Equity**

Equal educational opportunities shall be available for all students without regard to race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, ethnicity, language barrier, religious beliefs, physical and mental handicap or disability, economic or social conditions, or actual or potential marital or parental status or status as a homeless child. Any student may file a discrimination grievance using the procedure that follows this policy.

No student shall, on the basis of sex, be denied equal access to programs, activities, services, or benefits or be limited in the exercise of any right, privilege, advantage, or denied equal access to educational and extracurricular programs and activities.

No student shall, on the basis of sex, be treated differently during disciplinary actions of a common incident.

Inquiries regarding discrimination or intimidation should be directed to the District Title IX Coordinator. The District Title IX Coordinator can be reached by phone (208) 468-4631, email; Shelley Bonds, Executive Director for Elementary Education [sbonds@nsd131.org](mailto:sbonds@nsd131.org), Matt Crist, Interim Executive Director for Secondary Education [mcrist@nsd131.org](mailto:mcrist@nsd131.org). An individual with a complaint alleging a violation of this policy shall follow the Uniform Grievance Procedure.

In compliance with federal regulations, the District will notify annually all students, parents, staff, and community members of this policy and the designated coordinator to receive inquiries. Notification should include the name, location and contact information of the Title IX coordinator and will be carried in all handbooks.

The District will not tolerate hostile or abusive treatment, derogatory remarks, or acts of violence because of disability against students, staff or volunteers with disabilities. The District considers this behavior to constitute discrimination on the basis of disability in violation of state and federal law.

## **Homeless Families**

Your family is considered homeless if your family lives in any of the following situations:

- In a shelter, motel, vehicle or campground
- On the street
- Unaccompanied youth
- Foster family
- In an abandoned building, trailer or other inadequate accommodations, or
- Doubled up with friends/relatives or moving place to place because you cannot afford housing

Your preschool-aged and school-aged children also have certain rights or protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act. Your children have the right to:

- Attend school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there. They must be given access to the same public education, including preschool education, provided to other children.
- Continue in the school they attended before you became homeless or the school they last attended, if that is your choice and is feasible. If a school sends your child to a school other than the one you request, the school must provide you with a written explanation and offer you the right to appeal the decision.
- Receive transportation to the school they attended before your family became homeless or the school they last attended, if you or a guardian requests such transportation.



- Attend a school and participate in school programs with children who are not homeless. Children cannot be separated from the regular school program because they are homeless.
- Enroll in school without giving a permanent address. Schools cannot require proof of residency that might prevent or delay school enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of school and immunization records or any other documents required for enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes in the school of your choice even while the school and you seek to resolve a dispute over enrolling your children.
- Receive the same special programs and services, if needed, as provided to all other children served in these programs.
- Receive transportation to school and to school programs.
- Receive a free breakfast and lunch.
- Receive the basic school supplies needed for successful learning in our sites.

When you move, you should do the following:

- Contact the school district at 208-468-4600, ext. 1161, and speak with the district's liaison for homeless education for help in enrolling your child in a new school or arranging for your child to continue in his or her former school. Someone at a shelter, social services office or the school can direct you to the person you need to contact.
- Contact the school and provide any information you think will assist the teachers in helping your child adjust to new circumstances.
- Ask the district liaison for homeless education, the shelter provider or a social worker for assistance with clothing and supplies, if needed.

## **Teacher & Paraprofessional Qualifications, Right to Know**

Parents are welcome to ask about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher(s) and/or paraprofessionals working with the child. Federal law requires that each school district receiving Title I funds notify parents of each student attending any school receiving these funds that information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher(s) may be requested.

As a parent of a student attending a school receiving federal program funds, you have the right to know:

- Is my child's teacher licensed to teach the grade(s) and subject(s) assigned?
- Is my child's teacher teaching with a provisional license, meaning the State has waived requirements for my child's teacher?
- What is the college major of my child's teacher?
- What degree or degrees does my child's teacher hold?

To request the state qualifications for your child's teacher or instructional aide, please contact your school principal.

If you would like more information about this, please feel free to call the District's Federal Program Administrator at 208-468-4600.

## **Parental Involvement**

Parent involvement is an essential component for your child's success in school. We welcome and encourage your involvement in your child's education and our school. Because we receive federal Title I funds, our school we must meet specific requirements in this area. Below is what we must do in planning, holding an annual meeting, and providing you information. If you have any questions, please contact the school administration or the district's Title I administrator.

### **Planning**

Schools served under Title I, Part A must involve parents, in an organized, ongoing and timely way, in the planning, review and improvement of Title I, Part A programs, including:

- The planning, review, and improvement of the school parental involvement policy; and
- The joint development of any schoolwide program plan under section 1114(b)(2). *[Section 1118(c)(3), ESEA.]*

If a school already has in place a process for involving parents in the joint planning and design of the school's programs, the school may use that process so long as it includes an adequate representation of parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs. *[Section 1118(c)(3), ESEA.]*

### **Annual meeting**

Each school served under Title I, Part A must convene an annual meeting, at a time convenient for parents to inform them of their school's participation in Title I, Part A programs, and to explain the Title I, Part A requirements and the right of parents to be involved in those programs. In order to keep parents informed, schools must invite to this meeting all parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs and encourage them to attend. Schools must offer a flexible number of additional parental involvement meetings, such as in the morning or evening so that as many parents as possible are able to attend. *[Section 1118(c)(1) and (2), ESEA.]*

### **Information**

Schools served under Title I, Part A must provide to parents of participating children, in a timely manner, information about the programs funded by Title I, Part A. That information must include:

- A description and explanation of the school's curriculum;
- Information on the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress; and
- Information on the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.

Upon the request of parents, schools must provide opportunities for regular meetings for parents to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions about the education of their children.

The school must respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible. *[Section 1118(c)(4), ESEA.]*

### **Section 504 Notice**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination against students and staff members with disabilities. The Nampa School District has developed policies and procedures that ensure compliance with Section 504 and ADA.

Included in the regulations is the requirement that students with disabilities be provided a free, appropriate public education. These regulations encompass identification, evaluation, the provision of appropriate services, and procedural safeguards.

Parents are entitled to have the opportunity to review relevant educational records under the Family Education rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The superintendent designates a 504 and ADA Compliance Officer for the Nampa School District. Anyone wishing to review the District's 504 policies, including grievance procedures, may contact the Nampa School District Office at 619 S. Canyon in Nampa, or call 208-468-4600.

## **Electronic Devices and Personalized Learning**

### **Nampa Personalized Learning – Student 1:1 Devices**

Nampa Personalized Learning, otherwise known as NPL, is a multi-year plan to make every classroom an innovative learning environment where students can prepare for a future in a digital society. This is accomplished through the relentless effort of educators who inspire learning, tenacious students who use digital tools to create their own path of excellence, and a supportive community that partners with schools to ensure student success.

Personalized Learning is education that is tailored to the student's needs. This is achieved through four core areas of classroom instruction that include integrated digital content in the classroom, targeted classroom instruction, data driven decisions and student reflection and ownership. Using these four core areas, classroom teachers can customize their instruction to meet the needs of every student.

Teachers and schools have used information available on the internet for years. To protect students, the Nampa School District uses content filtering that complies with the requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and it monitors students' use. With this expansion of access to the internet, all students also will learn good digital citizenship. Parents also play an essential role in setting rules for acceptable use of digital tools and content and monitoring their children outside of school.

Go to [www.nsd131.org](http://www.nsd131.org), Parents and Students section, to learn more. Please contact your school for specific school-based policies and procedures.

## **Computer Use**

The purpose of Nampa School District internet and local network access is to facilitate communications in support of research and education. To remain eligible as a user, access must be in support of and consistent with the educational objectives of the Nampa School District. Access is a privilege and not a right. Users should not expect that the files stored in the district's systems would always be private. Electronic messages and files on school-based computers may be treated like school lockers. Administrators and faculty may review files and/or messages to maintain system integrity and ensure users are utilizing the system responsibly.

## **Nampa School District Appropriate Use Policy for Computer and Computer Systems**

The following uses of school provided computers and computer system activity are not permitted:

- Accessing, uploading, downloading or distributing pornographic, obscene, sexually explicit, or any unauthorized material.
- Transmitting obscene or sexually explicit language.
- Violating any local or federal statute. \*
- Vandalizing, damaging, or disabling the property of another person or organization.
- Accessing another person's material, information or files without the implied or direct permission of the person. For example, using someone else's user name and/or password.
- Violating copyright or otherwise use another person's intellectual property without their prior approval or proper citation.
- Revealing the address or personal phone number of you or another student.
- Communicating a credit card, bankcard or any other financial number.
- Using school provided computer system access for commercial activities by for-profit organizations, product promotion, political lobbying, or illegal activities.

Any violation of school procedures and rules may result in loss of school provided access to Electronic Information Services. Additional disciplinary action may be determined in keeping with existing policies and procedures. When and where applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved.

Internet access and/or computer access will not be allowed unless the appropriate form is completed at enrollment.

### **Idaho Code States:**

Section 18-2202. Computer Crime

- (1) Any person who knowingly accesses, attempts to access or uses, or attempts to use any computer, computer system, computer network, or any part thereof for the purpose of: devising or executing a scheme or artifice to defraud; obtaining money, property, or services by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises; or committing theft; commits computer crime.
- (2) Any person who knowingly and without authorization alters, damages or destroys any computer, computer system, or computer network commits computer crime.
- (3) Any person who knowingly and without authorization uses, accesses, or attempts to access any computer, computer system, or computer network described in section 18-02201, Idaho Code, or any computer network, commits computer crime.

**A violation of the provisions of subsection (1) or (2) of this section shall be a felony.**

**A violation of the provision of subsection (3) of this section shall be a misdemeanor.**

## **Personal Electronic Devices Policy**

Students will use personal, student-owned electronic communication or data devices only in a manner consistent with school-established expectations. These devices include, but are not limited to, handheld calculators, PDAs, cell phones, music playing devices, cameras, and laptop computers. Use of these devices must not violate any district policy or cause classroom disruption nor may they be used in the access, creation, or possession of inappropriate materials (i.e. pornography). Electronic devices may only be used in the classroom for educational purposes and at the discretion of the teacher. Students who bring any electronic device do so at their own risk – Nampa School District and its schools assume no liability for damage, theft, etc. Videotaping or taking pictures is prohibited on campus unless approved by building administration or classroom teacher. If the policies are violated, administrators will determine consequences based on the severity of the incident. Additionally, on the first offense the device may be confiscated until a parent picks it up.

Exceptions to this policy may be made only with administrative approval.

Students may also face other disciplinary actions for inappropriate behaviors done with electronic devices while on school grounds, such as cheating, bullying, gang activities, sexting, etc.

## **Lost, Stolen or Confiscated Items**

### **Personal property**

The best method for students to protect their personal property is to **leave valuables at home**. Items brought to school should be secured. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

### **Confiscated materials**

Items that may disrupt classroom instruction or our safe environment will be taken away. Confiscated electronic devices from a student will be returned to student or parent/guardian at administrative discretion. Any weapons, drugs, alcohol or inappropriate material confiscated from a student will not be returned.

**The school is not responsible for confiscated items that are lost or stolen.**

# Participation in Athletics and Activities

## **Getting Involved in Athletics & Activities**

The extra-curricular program at all middle schools consists of a variety of challenging activities designed to appeal to diverse interests and talents. To make the most of your school experience, get involved in one of the following:

Football	Basketball	Natural Helpers *	Cross Country *	Volleyball
Wrestling *	Cheerleading	Student Council *	Leo Club *	Yearbook
	Tennis *	Track *	Intramurals *	Snow Team *

\* 6<sup>th</sup> grade may participate.

Club meetings may be held during school, after school or in the evenings. The club sponsor must be present at all club activities and club meetings.

See school specific section for clubs offered at your school.

## **Nampa School District 6-8 Eligibility Policy**

Students participating in athletics should always consider their performance and behavior in class as their HIGHEST PRIORITY.

**Participation in athletics is contingent upon passing performance and good citizenship in the classroom.** The coaching staff will implement the following eligibility policy for all student athletes.

- Each teacher will be provided a list of all student athletes at the beginning of each season.
- Student progress will be monitored weekly, throughout the season.
- Students with failing grades (D, F or I) will be placed on PROBATIONARY STATUS by the Athletic Director. Probation will mean that the student will be able to practice but not participate in games. Poor behavior in a class or on any campus may result in immediate removal from athletic teams.

**Purposes:** The Intervalley League is vitally interested in the welfare and development of every youngster. A properly administered athletic program can enhance their overall education. Middle school programs need to take into consideration the substantial range in individual differences among 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, i.e., age, body build, interests, ability, experience, health, and stages of physiological, emotional and social maturity. Each local school has the final responsibility for enforcement of all objectives, guidelines, and codes for middle school competition. **Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege not a right.**

- Students must adhere to each individual school's academic and eligibility policy.
- A student who turns 16 during a sport season will be allowed to complete that activity but will not be allowed to compete in any other sports for the remainder of the school year.

- One grade level, one-year participation. Students may only compete at each sport one season, one grade level, one time for maximum three years. i.e., a student may not play 7<sup>th</sup> grade basketball two years.
- Ineligible students, due to retention, may not practice or work out with the school teams.
- Students may not compete if they have changed schools for athletic purposes.

Parents may file a hardship case at least two weeks prior to the start of the specific sport season with the school Athletic Director and the Intervalley League President.

### **Expectations for Athletic and Extra-curricular Participation**

Participants in any extra-curricular activity including but not limited to sports, dances, clubs, music, drama, and leadership will be expected to follow the standards listed below:

- Be courteous to opponents, fans, and cheerleaders.
- Be positive and cooperative.
- Respect and abide by the officials' or coaches' decisions.
- Exercise self-control at all times. Never boo an official, coach, cheerleader, player or advisor.

Violation of the expected conduct of students may result in further disciplinary action from the coach, advisor or administrator.

- Learn to win with character and lose with dignity.
- Follow the appropriate dress standards established by the school, school district, coaches and advisors.
- If suspended, the student may not participate in any activity during the time of the suspension.
- Follow the attendance policy. On days of an extra-curricular event, the participating student must be present at least 4 of the class periods to be eligible to participate in that days event. On the school day following any activity, event or contest participants are expected to be in attendance at school.
- Display appreciation for a good performance or play regardless of the team.

Any of the above issues may result in athletic probation and ineligibility or denial of participation from club or other said events.

### **Athletic Insurance**

Every student participating in athletics must be covered by insurance or sign a waiver stating the school is not liable for any injuries occurring during participation. Insurance is the parents' responsibility and is not provided by the school district.

### **Physicals**

All students wishing to participate in athletics must have a physical examination. Forms are available at the front office. All physicals must be done before the student can participate in sports. Physicals are valid through their middle school athletic career. In the case of a severe injury, administration may require additional medical releases.

### **Fund-raising Activities**

Most of the activities, clubs, organizations, and classes conduct fund-raising activities during the school year. These must be approved in advance by the administration, and all funds collected are dispersed to the student body fund according to established guidelines. Students collecting money for school organizations must turn in the money to the faculty sponsor on a daily basis. No personal fundraising will be allowed unless prior approval from administration has been obtained.

### **Student Behavior at School Activities**

Students in school or involved in school sponsored activities either on or away from the school premise are expected to obey their school officials, protect property, maintain order and decorum, and conduct themselves in such a manner as to reflect credit upon themselves and their school. Any student who does not meet these standards is in violation of the discipline regulation of the Nampa School District and will be subject to disciplinary consequences.

## **Student Health**

### **Illness Guidelines**

The following are guidelines for keeping your child home from school to ensure his/her wellbeing and prevent the spread of illness:

- A 100-degree temperature or more.
- Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea.
- Nasal discharge with a yellow/green color.
- Student with more lethargy than usual.
- Cough in combination with other symptoms.
- Contagious process- rash, pink eye, head lice, etc.

If your child is sick and feels the need to go home, our nurse or designee are the only personnel that can medically excuse the student. Please do not have your student call home directly using their cell phone as this is a violation of our electronic device policy.

### **Health and Emergency Policy**

If a student is injured or becomes ill at school, efforts will be made to notify the parent/guardian. If a parent/guardian cannot be reached, then the person designated to be called in an emergency will be notified. **Please advise the school of any changes in telephone numbers, places of work or emergency contacts as they occur.**

In the event of serious illness or injury, the Canyon County paramedics will be notified to assess the student's condition and transport to the emergency room if they determine it is necessary. Every effort will be made to contact the parent, who may then meet the student at the emergency room or at school. **It is the parent's responsibility to pay for medical services – including transportation to the emergency room.**

The school has personnel trained in performing CPR and first aid; these personnel along with the school nurse and/or administrators will be responsible for determining the need to call for further medical assistance. If your student has a chronic or acute health condition that may affect them at school, please contact the school nurse.

### **Immunizations**

In 2012, state immunization requirements increased. Your child may need additional immunizations. Here is what is required in addition to past immunizations:

All students entering the 7th grade must have the following immunizations:

- 1 Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis)
- 1 Meningococcal

Any student not meeting this requirement will be denied entry to school until the requirement is met. If your student is not immunized due to medical, religious or philosophical reasons a signed exemption form must be on file.

### **Medications**

Most medications should be administered at home. If a student must take medication (non-prescription or prescription) at school, the medication is to be administered through the nurse's office. The medication must be in the original container, with one week's supply or less. The medication must be accompanied by a written release on file with the school nurse. Forms are available from the nurse and require:

- Name of medication and reason for taking it.
- Doctor's name.
- Dosage and length of time to be administered.
- Parent/guardian signature.