

# **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Handbook**

**NL-S High School**



# Welcome to High School!

We welcome both incoming students as well as their parents. This is an exciting time as well as a little scary. Because there are differences between the Middle School and High School, this handbook was created as a guide to help answer some questions and ease the transition. If you have any questions throughout the year please contact one of the following people:

Kevin Acquard, Principal	Ext.2618	<a href="mailto:acquardk@nls.k12.mn.us">acquardk@nls.k12.mn.us</a>
Jenny Marxhausen, Counselor	Ext. 2605	<a href="mailto:marxhausenj@nls.k12.mn.us">marxhausenj@nls.k12.mn.us</a>
Kristy Maher, Counselor	Ext. 2604	<a href="mailto:maherk@nls.k12.mn.us">maherk@nls.k12.mn.us</a>

## Credit Requirements

One of the biggest differences between Middle School and High School is the introduction of the transcript. The transcript is a record of all high school courses taken and the grades received. This is the beginning of accumulating credits toward graduation. If a student fails a required class, it needs to be retaken. The following credits are what your student needs for graduation:

<b>TOTAL 9-12 REQUIRED AREAS</b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>
English	4.0
Mathematics (encompassing at least Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra II, Statistics and Probability)	3.0
Physical Education/Health	1.5
Science (1 credit in Physical Science, 1 credit in Biology, and 1 credit in Chemistry OR Physics)	3.0
Social Studies (1 credit in Geography, 1 credit in U.S. History, 0.5 credit in World History, 0.5 credit in Economics, 0.5 credit in Government/Citizenship)	3.5
Art (Visual Arts, Music, Theatre, Dance or Media Arts)	1.0
Total Required Credits	16.0
Total Elective Credits	<u>8.0</u>
<b>Total Credits Needed for Graduation</b>	<b>24.0</b>

## Graduation Policy

Students must have all 24 credits, including the specific credits listed above, in order to graduate and walk through commencement services.

## Daily Schedule

1st Period	8:15-9:10
2nd Period	9:15-10:05
3rd Period	10:10-11:00
Grades 9-10 LUNCH	11:05-11:30
4th Period (Grades 9-10)	11:35-12:25
4th Period (Grades 11-12)	11:05-11:55
Grades 11-12 Lunch	12:00-12:25
5th Period	12:30-1:20
6th Period	1:25-2:15
7th Period	2:20-3:15

## Attendance

Successful students attend school on a regular basis. Most student learning takes place within the school day. Therefore, when a student misses it is difficult to catch up and is compounded when they miss multiple days. While we know that some absences are inevitable, please take this into consideration before excusing your student for nonmedical reasons.

If your child is going to be absent, parents must call the school.

There is a 24 hour automated attendance line. That number is 354-1417.

**Policy:** a student may not receive credit for any class in which he/she accumulates more than 12 absences for one semester.

## Absences

In the event that your son or daughter is absent, they will be responsible for making up all assignments and/or tests that they missed. It is the student's responsibility to check with the teacher when they return to find out what information and assignments they missed. If a student is absent 2 or more days, parents may request that homework be collected. Parents would need to pick up all collected homework. Students are encouraged to speak with their teacher before any known absences.

## Technology Policy

All technical devices may be used between classes, during lunch and before and after school. It is the expectation that students will not use any device during class time.

## **Dress Code**

Students may not wear anything that has derogatory words, messages or pictures on it. Clothing may not advertise alcohol, tobacco and drugs. Clothing must cover midriff, chest and buttocks when seated or standing. Clothing must cover undergarments.

For more details on the dress code policy, please see the student handbook.

## **Eligibility**

While we advocate for students to participate in extra-curricular activities, their first priority is school and making progress towards graduation. Student grades will be reported every midterm and at the end of every quarter. If a student has one or more “F’s” at mid-term, they will not be able to participate in activities until all grades are at a pass. If a student has one or more “F’s” at the end of a quarter, he/she will be ineligible to participate in competition until the following mid-quarter.

## **What do I do if my student is struggling or failing a class?**

1. Call your child’s teacher. They can tell you why your child is failing and how they can improve. One option would be to schedule time before or after school for your student to get individual help.
2. Parent Portal
3. Lunch Study Hall
4. Homework Club
5. Make school a priority with your child
6. Talk with your child about school
  - Ask how their day went
  - Ask if they have homework (9<sup>th</sup> grade students typically have homework every night)
  - Check their planner/encourage planner use
  - If they have missing assignments according to Parent Portal, ask them about it
  - Help them prioritize their assignments/projects
  - Quiz them on an upcoming test
  - Help them organize
  - Help them learn study skills

## **Parent Portal**

Parent Portal is a tool that parents can utilize to view their child's grades, assignment completion, attendance, and lunch information. The high school does not use the ICU program that the Middle School uses. Parents will not be notified each time their student does not complete an assignment. As a result, Parent Portal can be an essential tool to help

Contact Anita Hagen at 354-2252 ext. 2100, if you would like more information on Parent Portal.

## **Homework Club**

Homework Club is available to all students on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:20-4:15. Miss Kummrow, Student Success Coordinator, oversees this program. National Honor Society students also attend to help tutor students. Students can receive help in all subject areas.

## **Lunch Study Hall**

Students will be assigned and required to attend a lunch study hall if they are failing core classes. The purpose of this study hall is to give students a time to check in and prioritize the work they need to complete. This study hall gives students 30 minutes of work time during the day to focus on missing work and to set goals towards passing each class. Please note that lunch study hall does not provide enough time for a student to complete all required work.

## **Study Skills for Students**

Stay organized

- Use a planner to keep track of assignments and due dates
- Come to class prepared- bring a pencil, notebook and book
- Use a separate folder and notebook in each class (color coding is one option, for example, Science is green, English is blue, etc.)

Studying for tests

- Tests are usually announced several days prior to the test date. Students should study a little bit each day building up to the test day.
- Create flash cards
- Ask a family member to quiz student
- Attend test day study sessions if available
- Fill out review sheets if available
- Ask teachers to clarify anything not understood throughout the unit

### Working on projects or assignments

- Follow timeline if given
- Break large projects into smaller pieces
- Follow the directions carefully and meet specifics of an assignment

### In general

- Hand in everything on time (some teachers do not accept late assignments or only give partial credit)
- Focus on teacher and class discussion
- Have a designated spot for homework
- Limit distractions when doing homework
- Manage time

## Extra-Curricular Activities

These activities are run through the Community Education/Activities Office 320-354-1406

Athletic Director for Grades 9-12 – John Vraa [vraaj@nls.k12.mn.us](mailto:vraaj@nls.k12.mn.us)

Athletic Director for Grades 7-8 – Peg Peterson [petersop@nls.k12.mn.us](mailto:petersop@nls.k12.mn.us)

Activities Secretary- Carla Vagle [vaglec@nls.k12.mn.us](mailto:vaglec@nls.k12.mn.us)

### The following list includes all the activities of which students can be a part of at NL-S.

Research shows that students who are involved in activities outside of the school day do better in school and are less likely to engage in risk taking behavior.

Activity	Season	Head Coach Director
Band	All Year	Mr. Pearson
Baseball	Spring	Mr. Mike Thompson
Basketball	Winter	Mr. Dreier (girls) Mr. Schmiesing (boys)
*Cateye Productions	All Year	Mr. Harrier
Cheerleading	Fall	Mrs. Bontjes
Choir	All Year	Mrs. Baker
Cross Country	Fall	Mr. Mark Thompson
Dance Team	Fall/Winter	Mrs. Paffrath/Mrs. Eckerman
Fall Play	Fall	Mr. Braaten
*FFA	All Year	Mr. Tebben/Mr. Gabrielson
Football	Fall	Mr. Essler
Golf	Spring	Mr. Harrier (boys) Mr. Richards (girls)
Gymnastics	Winter	Mrs. Jacobson

Hockey	Winter	Mr. Pulsifer (boys) Mr. Freeman (girls)
*Jazz Band	All Year	Mr. Pearson
Knowledge Bowl	Winter	Mr. Raatz
*Letter Men	All Year	Mr. Essler
*Letter Women	All Year	Mrs. Schmiesing
Math League		Mr. Mark Thompson
*National Honor Society	All Year (Grades 11 & 12)	Mrs. Schmiesing
One Act Play	Winter	Ms. Prill
*Peer Helpers	All Year	Mrs. Holmquist
Robotics	All Year	Mr. Harrier
Softball	Spring	Mrs. Bergeson/Mrs. Coahran
Speech	Winter/Spring	Mr. Braaten
Spring Play	Spring	Ms. Prill
*Student Council	All Year	Mrs. Schultz
*SWAT	All Year	Mrs. Korzendorfer
Tennis	Fall (girls) Spring (boys)	Mrs. Pederson Mr. Schmiesing
Track	Spring	Mr. Essler
Trap Shooting	Spring	Mr. Haverly/Mr. Braaten
Volleyball	Fall	Mrs. Macik
Wrestling	Winter	Mr. Toedter

\*Activities are school based and carry no activity fee. Contact the coach listed for more information.

## Activities Registration

All students participating in these activities are required to register online to fill out the appropriate paperwork and pay the activity fee associated with that activity. Those participating in a sport are also required to have a sports physical on file. Sports physicals are good for three (3) years and are required for 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> athletes. To register go to the school website at [www.NLS.k12.mn.us](http://www.NLS.k12.mn.us) and click on the Activity Hub Button. You will then be linked to the registration site and can follow the instructions on registering and setting up your family account. Then each season you can go into your family account and register for the next activity of your choice.

## NL-S Scholarship Request Form

New London-Spicer Schools believe that all students should have the opportunity to participate in activities outside of the school day. Through the Spirit Clothing Fund Raising Projects, NL-S has established an activity scholarship fund for NL-S students grades K-12. Requested scholarships may provide up to 50% of an activity fee while funding is available and must be requested prior to a season.

or start of a class. Eligible activities\* are those that are NL-S School and/or Community Education organized. Requests can be made through the Activity Hub before you complete your registration.

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher Contact Information

### New London-Spicer High School 354-2252

Mrs. Baker-Powers	Choir	<a href="mailto:powers-bakern@nls.k12.mn.us">powers-bakern@nls.k12.mn.us</a>	Ext. 2443
Mr. Beuning	Health	<a href="mailto:beuningp@nls.k12.mn.us">beuningp@nls.k12.mn.us</a>	Ext. 2470
Mr. Boonstra	Geography	<a href="mailto:boonstra@nls.k12.mn.us">boonstra@nls.k12.mn.us</a>	Ext. 2682
Mrs. Buffington	Spanish	<a href="mailto:buffingtons@nls.k12.mn.us">buffingtons@nls.k12.mn.us</a>	Ext. 2634
Mr. Essler	PE	<a href="mailto:esslerd@nls.k12.mn.us">esslerd@nls.k12.mn.us</a>	Ext. 2616
Mrs. Essler	Health	<a href="mailto:esslerm@nls.k12.mn.us">esslerm@nls.k12.mn.us</a>	Ext. 2415
Mr. Gabrielson	Agriculture	<a href="mailto:gabrielsonj@nls.k12.mn.us">gabrielsonj@nls.k12.mn.us</a>	Ext. 2697
Mr. Harrier	Industrial Tech.	<a href="mailto:harrier@nls.k12.mn.us">harrier@nls.k12.mn.us</a>	Ext. 2706
Mrs. Haug	English	<a href="mailto:haugm@nls.k12.mn.us">haugm@nls.k12.mn.us</a>	Ext. 2659
Mrs. Holmquist	Business	<a href="mailto:holmquistc@nls.k12.mn.us">holmquistc@nls.k12.mn.us</a>	Ext. 2622
Mrs. Illies	German	<a href="mailto:illiesk@nls.k12.mn.us">illiesk@nls.k12.mn.us</a>	Ext. 2680
Mr. Kelly	Science	<a href="mailto:kellys@nls.k12.mn.us">kellys@nls.k12.mn.us</a>	Ext. 2699
Mr. Krupke	PE	<a href="mailto:krupkeg@nls.k12.mn.us">krupkeg@nls.k12.mn.us</a>	Ext. 2434
Ms. Kummrow	SSC*	<a href="mailto:kummrowa@nls.k12.mn.us">kummrowa@nls.k12.mn.us</a>	Ext. 2671
Mrs. Lindquist-Weber	Art	<a href="mailto:lindquist-WeberK@nls.k12.mn.us">lindquist-WeberK@nls.k12.mn.us</a>	Ext. 2702
Mr. Pearson	Band	<a href="mailto:pearsonb@nls.k12.mn.us">pearsonb@nls.k12.mn.us</a>	Ext. 2441
Mr. Thompson	Math	<a href="mailto:thompsonm@nls.k12.mn.us">thompsonm@nls.k12.mn.us</a>	Ext. 2626
Mr. Vagle	Math	<a href="mailto:vaglet@nls.k12.mn.us">vaglet@nls.k12.mn.us</a>	Ext. 2629
Mr. Westby	SSC*	<a href="mailto:westbyp@nls.k12.mn.us">westbyp@nls.k12.mn.us</a>	Ext. 2669

\*School Success Coordinator