

NANDUA MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT & PARENT HANDBOOK



2024 - 2025

NANDUA MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT & PARENT HANDBOOK

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Our Mission

Nandua Middle School, a proud member of the Accomack County Public Schools District, is committed to providing a positive and safe learning environment that nurtures the academic, social, emotional, physical, and cultural development of each child to his or her fullest potential so that each student can become successful in further education and ultimately become a productive member of society.

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to Nandua Middle School, Home of the Braves. This student handbook contains important information on how Nandua Middle School will operate and what the school can offer each student. Please read it carefully, become familiar with its contents, and refer to it when needed. You can also refer to the Accomack County Public Schools Calendar which contains important dates along with the discipline policies for Accomack County Schools.

My name is Javan Thompson, and I am so excited to start the school year with you as the proud principal of Nandua Middle School. This upcoming school year our theme will be "Ain't No Family Like the One I've Got: A Reunion of Champions" To quote the great Rita Pierson "*Every child deserves a champion, an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be*" And at Nandua Middle our goal is to be those champions.

We will continue to work tirelessly to reach our goal of incorporating instructional activities and family engagement events that promote critical thinking, encourage post-secondary education and employment, social-emotional-physical well-being, and increase teacher/staff morale. To make the environment fun and inclusive we will center our student, staff, and family events around different world cultures, especially those that represent our school family. I am excited for our new school year and the successes that it will bring.

School Counselor's Message

Welcome, Braves Family! My name is Ellie Saunders, and I am your school counselor at Nandua Middle School. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to assist each one of you! Being a native of the Eastern Shore, I understand the importance of our community and its needs. I am committed to helping this community progress and achieve its goals. I have always known that I wanted to serve my community positively, and during my time at Longwood University, I found my calling. This 2024-2025 school year, I will assist you with counseling services, classroom lessons, collaborating with community organizations and resources, and much more. I have developed a comprehensive school counseling program to benefit our student body. I will use this program to facilitate my personal advising philosophy, which includes embracing diversity, showing empathy, developing purpose, encouraging self-acceptance, and fostering student achievement. School counselors cannot do our work alone, and we often work with students, parents, faculty, and staff to achieve students' academic, social, and career goals. When I am not helping students and their families, I enjoy the beautiful Eastern Shore outside. I look forward to assisting you this year!

OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Parental involvement is a critical factor for student achievement. The parent-school connection makes an effective difference in the social, cultural, emotional, and academic growth of our students. Parental involvement yields huge contributions to educators, administrators, and our children while building a bridge between home and school that establishes a strong partnership that can be advantageous for the entire learning community. We asked that you maintain open lines of communication with our staff. It is critical that Nandua Middle School has current emergency contact information for your family.

NOTIFICATION OF TITLE I PARTICIPATION

Nandua Middle School Parental Involvement Policy will be sent home with students during the first week of school, and it will also be available to parents at the fall Title I parent meeting and posted to the school website. Parents of new participating students will receive the policy upon registration. The NMS Parental Involvement Policy will be periodically updated to meet the changing needs of parents and the school through regularly scheduled parent-teacher meetings, general school meetings, spring parental survey results, and a spring Title I parent review session. Nandua Middle School Parental Involvement Policy is updated, yearly. Suggestions for changes should be emailed to the School Principal or Title One Teacher.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT:

Under the Elementary and Secondary Education ACT (ESEA) Title 1, Part A has been restructured to serve as a means for helping ALL students to achieve challenging academic standards. To accomplish this objective, this ACT promotes the formation of new partnerships, particularly home-school partnerships and school-community relationships that will help address more completely the full range of student needs that impact learning. Nandua Middle School will incorporate the school-parent compact as a component of its School Parental Involvement Policy and will provide information to parents of participating students in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon the request of parents with disabilities, and to the most practical extent, as requested in a native language that parents can understand.

Parents, teachers, and administrators all want students to do well. It is recommended that parents check our school website and social media for updates. The website address is <https://nms.accomack.k12.va.us/>. There will be AT MINIMUM four after school activities planned with the hope of engaging families in the achievement of students. Parents are encouraged to take a close interest in their child's progress by monitoring grades on PowerSchool regularly. Parents must contact the Guidance Department in order to secure a PowerSchool Parent Password so that access to Power School can be obtained. Daily team planning periods have been scheduled so that teachers and parents can work together. Parents may schedule appointments for conferences by calling or emailing your child's teacher or the guidance department.

GUIDANCE SERVICES

A comprehensive program of counseling is available to all students attending Nandua Middle School. These services have been established, not only to provide help for students with personal problems and academic concerns, but also to assist students with academic and vocational goal setting. Students who wish to speak to the counselor must have permission from a teacher or administrator. The guidance department also maintains student academic records and standardized tests scores. Parents who wish to speak with the Guidance Department, must make an appointment at 757-787-7037 or email the counselors. Our Guidance Department strives to be highly accessible when student needs arise.

STUDENT WITHDRAWAL

Parents planning to withdraw their student from Nandua Middle School should notify the guidance office several days before the withdrawal date if possible. Textbooks and Chromebooks should be returned to the office if the student will be moving out of the district.. Library books should be returned, and all fines are expected to be paid at the time of withdrawal. Failure to follow these check-out procedures will result in records being held until all obligations have been fulfilled.

RESOURCES PROVIDED BY THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Our counselor is available to all students attending Nandua Middle to provide social, emotional and behavioral support. Some of the ways that our counselor supports our students in this field include providing restorative conversations, conflict resolution, individual and group counseling, assisting with regulating emotions, providing helpful coping skills and strategies as well as providing insight and resources for post secondary pathways.

HEALTH SERVICES:

A school clinic and nurse are provided for the students at Nandua Middle School. All students must have a yellow Emergency Card on file in the Clinic. This information is used in the event of an emergency at school. Students are permitted to go to the clinic with a hall pass from a teacher or administrator. Students leaving early from the clinic must be signed out according to the policy. If a student is required to take prescription or nonprescription medication during school hours, the following guidelines must be met:

- A written order from the physician/dentist, stating the student's name, medication, time, duration, and dosage to be given by the school is required, along with the parent/guardian's signature.
- Medication must be in a pharmacy-labeled container with the most current prescription date.
- Parents must deliver medication to the school clinic, as students are not permitted to do so.

The Commonwealth of Virginia requires certain immunizations prior to the enrollment of a student in public school. As of school year 2019-2020, an additional booster shot (TDAP) is required prior to entering into the seventh grade.

All parents are encouraged to provide the school nurse with updated and current work and home phone numbers, pagers, and any other means whereby they can be contacted during the day should the need arise. Families are asked to keep information current and updated at all times.

MEDICATION

Students should not bring medication to school at any time. Exceptions are made for students who have doctor's approval to self-administer medications for emergency treatment such as albuterol inhalers and epinephrine. Any prescription or non-prescription medication, including cough drops and over the counter medicine such as tylenol, should be taken to the clinic by the parent or guardian. It will be administered by the school nurse or trained unlicensed assistive personnel with a doctor's order or a signed over the counter medication form. Sharing, borrowing, distributing, manufacturing or selling any medication is prohibited. Permission to self-administer medications may be revoked if the student violates this policy and the student may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct.

NURSE PASSES

Students are permitted to go to the clinic with a designated nurse's hall pass from a teacher or administrator. If a student is feeling ill, it is mandatory that students report to the clinic to be seen by a member of the nursing team, **before** contacting their parents. Nurse passes should be signed by the nursing staff upon leaving the clinic. Students will not be allowed to go to the nurse to get cups for water.

GENERAL INFORMATION

MORNING ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

Students will be dropped off at the side teacher parking lot entrance of the building, no later than 7:30 a.m. No students will be allowed to enter the building prior to 7:05 a.m. **Parents need to drop students off in the car rider line until 7:30 a.m.** A tardy notice will be issued for those arriving at school after 7:30 a.m. A tardy student must come in the office doors and sign-in, before he or she will be released to go to class. All students, staff, and visitors who enter the building will be entering through the standing metal detectors as well as hand wanded.

BREAKFAST-LUNCH PROGRAM

All ACPS students are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at school at no charge to your household during ACPS's participation in the CEP program. Your child(ren) will be able to participate in these meal programs at no charge and without having to submit a meal application. We have ensured that meal patterns, menus, and all products offered meet USDA requirements for all grade levels. In fact, ACPS ensures that each product is 100% whole grain (exceeding the federal regulation which is 50% whole grain). In addition, all snacks served are smart-snack approved items. If you have questions or need help, please contact Brandyn Burkholder, Child Nutrition Supervisor, at 757-854-1519.

OUTSIDE FOOD

In the best interest of all students and in alignment with the district's wellness policy and allergy protocol, outside restaurant food is not permitted. Parents should plan for their students to receive a school lunch or pack lunch from home for themselves. This allows us to work to reduce disruption, promote healthy school lunches, and diligently protect our students with allergies.

MEAL TIME EXPECTATIONS AND RULES

The following rules and regulations are expected to be observed in the cafeteria by all Nandua Middle School students:

- Must have permission to leave their assigned area.
- Remain seated and raise your hand for assistance.
- Wait in line in an orderly manner.
- Be respectful and cooperative at all times.
- All food and drinks are to be consumed during designated meal times only.
- Understand that throwing food or drinks is prohibited and will result in a disciplinary consequence.

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Virginia State Code 22.1-203 states that a moment of silence will be observed in each class each day. The purpose is to provide each individual pupil a moment of quiet reflection before the beginning of school day. During this time period, there will be no talking. Each individual student "...may in the exercise of his or her individual choice, meditate, pray, or engage in any other silent activity which does not interfere with, distract, or impede other pupils in the like exercise of individual choice." This moment will be observed each morning after the Pledge of Allegiance and prior to morning announcements. All students are expected to stand during the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence unless written parental consent to do otherwise has been provided.

AFTERNOON DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

All students will be released by classroom beginning at 2:20 p.m. Typically students who are car riders are dismissed first. Car Riders must be picked up in the side teacher parking lot entrance. **Students and parents should have schedules for pick up arranged prior to the student coming to school.** It will be considered the student's responsibility to understand pick-up arrangements before they depart from home to school. If you must change your child's mode of transportation, please call the office as early in advance as possible. **Dismissal from the front office will cease at 2:10pm. After such time, parents must pick up their student from the car rider line. Please contact the front office so that your student can be notified to use the car rider line instead of the bus.** Once a student has boarded a bus, he/she will not be removed from the bus in order to maintain a safe environment in the bus parking lot.

SIGNING OUT STUDENTS:

Anyone authorized to pick up a Nandua Middle School student must **present a valid identification card with photo**, each time in order for the school to release students. Only those listed on the Student Authorization Sheet that you will fill out the first day of school, will be permitted to pick your child up. Also, whoever is listed has to be **18 years old** in order for us to release your child. In addition, **students will not be permitted to walk on any public roadway to the YMCA, Nandua High School, and any other facilities.**

TRANSPORTATION

Bus transportation to school will be provided for students. Students are expected to be at their stop five minutes before pick up time. Proper conduct must be maintained by students. Failure to adhere to behavior standards will cause the student to lose his/her privilege to ride the bus for a designated period of time. All requests to ride a bus, other than a regularly assigned bus, will not be honored at this time.

HALL PASSES

Students are not permitted to leave class during the school day without a hall pass. Students are required to sign the Nandua Destination Log whenever leaving a class or assigned area. Hall passes must be returned to the teacher upon the student's return to class. Students are to sign the Destination Log once they return to their final destination.

LOCKER POLICY

Each student is encouraged to rent a hall locker at Nandua Middle School with the rental fee of \$3.00. Students are not permitted to "double up" or share lockers. Students are charged a rental fee of \$2.00 for the PE locker or students may bring in their own lock. A total of \$5.00 can be paid for these fees. Lockers will be assigned at the time of payment. Locker combinations will be kept on file to be used in case of emergency. Students may go to their lockers before homeroom and at other times designated by the schedule below.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

On occasion, it may be necessary to close schools due to inclement weather, loss of electrical power or threatening weather conditions. School closings, delayed starting times or early dismissals will be announced over the local radio station WESR and using our automated phone system. Please make sure to keep your phone number up to date in the office, so you can receive automated calls.

SCHOOL INSURANCE

Several school insurance plans are available. Please read the insurance brochure carefully before ordering insurance. Please note that students participating in school sports must have some form of insurance, although it does not have to be the school plans.

FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

Cash or money orders payable to Nandua Middle School will be accepted for all fees, lockers, dues, fundraising, etc. **A RECEIPT IS THE ONLY EVIDENCE OF MONEY SUBMITTED.** Therefore, when money is submitted, get a receipt. Students should **NOT** bring large sums of money or valuables to school. Parents are encouraged to personally bring money collected during fundraising events directly to Ms. Callaway, checks or money orders must be made payable to Nandua Middle School.

MEDIA RELEASE FORMS

Here at Nandua Middle School we thoroughly enjoy sharing the amazing things that our students accomplish. A media release form agreeing or declining permission for your child's picture to be publicized through school newsletters, websites or newspapers (may be electronic) will be sent out during the first week of school. Please sign, date, and return to your child's homeroom teacher if you **DO NOT** wish to have your child's picture to be publicized.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students **MUST** have a Virginia Athletic Physical Form on file with the athletic director in order to play. Nandua Middle School offers interscholastic competition in sports. Emphasis is placed on team work, healthy competition, physical development, and above all, good sportsmanship. The team members are under the direction and guidance of competent coaches who keep the student's health and safety foremost in their minds. The Nandua Middle School Athletic Director may be reached by calling 757-787-7037. A signed athletic contract must be on file.

HIGH SCHOOL JV SPORTS

Eighth grade students who participate in JV athletics at Nandua High School will be transported to the high school on designated buses in the afternoon. Students will be made aware of the designated bus numbers during morning and afternoon announcements if changes are made.

BELL SCHEDULES

REGULAR BELL SCHEDULE		TWO HOUR DELAY BELL SCHEDULE	
Teachers Arrive:	6:55am	Teachers Arrive:	8:55am
Bus Arrival/Car Rider	7:05am	Bus Arrival/Car Rider	9:05am
Block 1	7:30 am - 9:05 am	Block 1	9:30 am - 10:33 am
Block 2	9:08 am - 10:43 am	Block 2	10:35 am - 11:38 am
Block 3	10:46 am - 12:45 pm	Block 3	11:40 am - 1:15 pm
7th Grade Lunch	10:46 am - 11:11 am	7th Grade Lunch	11:40 am - 12:07 pm
6th Grade Lunch	11:30 am - 11:55 am	6th Grade Lunch	12:17 pm - 12:44 pm
8th Grade Lunch	12:20 pm - 12:45 pm	8th Grade Lunch	12:49 pm - 1:15 pm
Block 4	12:47 pm - 2:25 pm	Block 4	1:17 pm - 2:25 pm
Bus Dismissal	2:25pm	Bus Dismissal	2:25pm

THREE HOUR DELAY BELL SCHEDULE

Teachers Arrive:	9:55am
Bus Arrival/Car Rider	10:05am
Block 1	10:30 am - 11:02 am
Block 2	11:05 am - 11:37 am
Block 3	11:40 am - 1:13 pm
7th Grade Lunch	11:40 am - 12:07 pm
6th Grade Lunch	12:15 pm - 12:43 pm
8th Grade Lunch	12:44 pm - 1:13 pm
Block 4	1:16 pm - 2:25 pm
Bus Dismissal	2:25pm

TWO HOUR EARLY OUT BELL SCHEDULE

Teachers Arrive:	6:55am
Bus Arrival/Car Rider	7:05am
Block 1	7:30 am - 8:35 am
Block 2	8:38 am - 9:43 am
Block 3	9:46 am - 11:22 am
7th Grade Lunch	9:46 am - 10:11 am
6th Grade Lunch	10:20 am - 10:45 am
8th Grade Lunch	10:55 am - 11:22 am
Block 4	11:25 pm - 12:25 pm
Bus Dismissal	12:25pm

ATTENDANCE POLICY AND MAKE-UP WORK

The Accomack County School Board has an attendance policy which applies to all public school students in Accomack County. The county attendance policy is **JED-R**. In grades 6-8 credit will be denied if a student is absent more than ten (10) days during the school year, and retention shall be considered.

It is expected that parents/guardians will cooperate with the school administration, Coordinator of Student Services, and other school officials to remedy the student's attendance problem. Where direct contact with parents/guardians cannot be made, despite reasonable efforts, or where parents/guardians otherwise fail to cooperate in remedying the student's attendance policy problem, the superintendent or designee may seek immediate compliance with the compulsory school attendance laws.

If a student in K-8 has missed eleven (11) or more absences the school-wide truancy team may determine that the child will fail due to attendance. If this occurs, the parents/guardians will be requested to attend a meeting to discuss the attendance failure. Based on the number of absences, the child may have to repeat the current grade, attend credit recovery classes, or attend summer school. If a student is absent

1. A zero (0) will be recorded in PowerSchool until make up work is completed.
2. School sponsored trips and activities are not counted as absences, and the student will be marked present for the day or the classes missed if participating in a school sponsored trip or activity.
3. Arrangements for make-up work and tests are the responsibility of the students and their parent/guardian when absent. The full cooperation of a student's teacher(s) shall be expected in this task. All work missed shall be made up by the student.
4. Please call or send any notes to the school office about your child's attendance.
 - a) Make-up work is to be completed according to the following timetable:

Numbers of Days Absent

1-3

4-6

7 and above

Number of Days to Make-up

2

4

6

Note: Once students return from an extended absence, daily assignments are expected to be completed and turned in as scheduled by the teacher.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

GRADING POLICY

On June 20th 2023, ACPS school board revised the grading policy IKC-R. This policy can be located on board docs or can be requested from the guidance department. Listed below is the updated grading scale for grades 6-12. It is important to note that students will **no longer be given a 50%** for attempting assignments.

Grade	100 Point Scale	Grade	100 Point Scale	Grade	100 Point Scale
A	95-100	A-	90-94		
B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82
C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D+	67-69	D	63-66	D-	60-62
F	0-59	F	0 - no work completed or attempted		

A minimum of two (2) grades per category per semester quarter are required and will be inputted weekly. Grading categories include tests/projects, classwork, homework, and quizzes. Grades will document student achievement and accurately reflect student mastery or content-based standards.

COURSE SYLLABUS

All Nandua Middle School teachers are required to provide to parents a course syllabus at the beginning of the school year stating the objectives and course expectations. The main focus of a syllabus is to show what content will be included in the instructional delivery for that class. The syllabus will include a brief description of the class, objectives as they relate to the Standards of Learning, materials, grading policies, procedures, and the individual teacher's late work policy. The syllabus sets the expectations of the teacher and becomes a record of what it taught in a particular class.

STANDARDIZED TESTS

There are several important assessments scheduled throughout the year. The Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) Assessment for Math and Reading will be given to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in the fall and spring of each year. 8th Grade students will take SOL Assessments before the end of the first and second semester. For specific SOL dates, please contact your child's teacher or the Guidance Department.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Students are assigned to classes and programs to maximize their opportunity to learn and their opportunity to succeed. Accomack County adheres to a combination of homogeneous and heterogeneous grouping. At the middle school level, students are assigned to classes based on standardized test scores, achievement in school, and teacher recommendations.

POWERSCHOOL

Students and parents may monitor academic progress by checking PowerSchool, the online grading program that is used by Accomack County Public Schools, on a daily basis. Parents and students are encouraged to sign up to be notified when grades have been updated. If you have any questions about logging into PowerSchool please contact the school counselor.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE

In order to maintain a strong working relationship between school and home, we encourage parents to direct questions and concerns regarding student progress, assignments, tests, projects etc to the appropriate teacher. Teacher email addresses and planning periods can be found on our school website. Teachers can be contacted via email, by calling the office and leaving a message, or using the teacher's remind app. Teachers are expected to respond in a reasonably timely manner, most likely during their planning period but no more than 24 hours after receiving a message. Teachers CAN NOT use instructional time to have parent teacher conferences. Conferences should be scheduled in advance and will be planned during the teacher's planning period or after school.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS/VIRTUAL LEARNING DAYS

On occasion, it may be necessary to close schools due to inclement weather, loss of electrical power or threatening weather conditions. School closings, delayed starting times or early dismissals will be announced over the local radio station WESR and using our automated phone system. Please make sure to keep your phone number up to date in the office, so you can receive automated calls. Students will be informed by each teacher what the expectations are for virtual instruction will be.

NMS AT HOME/SCHOOL READING PROGRAM

This program encourages academic reading for students and engagement with families. Students who complete the reading program assignments will be eligible for rewards provided by organizations in our local community. The Title One Department coordinates this program and more information will be forthcoming. For the 2024 - 2025 school year, our school will be reading the book entitled *County by 7s*. **“A graceful, meaningful tale featuring a cast of charming, well-rounded characters who learn sweet—but never cloying—lessons about resourcefulness, community, and true resilience in the face of loss.”** –Booklist starred review

Emergency Evacuation/Drill Procedures

FIRE DRILL EVACUATION PROCEDURES

Fire drills are required by law and are held periodically so orderly evacuation of the building may be accomplished without panic. Students are to walk quickly and quietly out of the building after the alarm sounds. Students are expected to remain together in class groups with their teachers at all times so that teachers can account for each student. Fire drills will be conducted twice in the first twenty (20) days of school and once a month thereafter.

TORNADO DRILL EVACUATION PROCEDURES

Every school in the Commonwealth is now required to adopt tornado readiness procedures. The tornado drill will be called on the intercom with the words, “This is a tornado drill.” The announcement will be followed by a signal of thirty (30) seconds. When the drill is started, windows should be closed and the blinds pulled down. Teachers will bring students into the main hall. Students should be seated on the floor at the sides of the hallway. Upon signal, students should move into a posturing position with legs crossed, head down, sitting on heels with hands covering face. This signal will be yelled or announced over the intercom: “Protective Position Now.” The drill will be called off by an announcement: “The drill is over.” Followed by a signal.

EARTHQUAKE DRILL PROCEDURES

Teachers and students should know exactly what to do when the ground shakes: **Drop, Cover, and Hold On**. Teachers and students should look around to see what might fall on them in a real earthquake situation, so as to avoid that danger. The earthquake drill will be called on the intercom with the words, “This is an earthquake drill.” The announcement will be followed by a signal of thirty (30) seconds. **Drop, Cover, and Hold On** includes: dropping to the floor (to prevent falling), making yourself as small a target as possible, and protecting your head, neck, and chest by taking cover under a sturdy desk or table or near an interior wall, covering your head with your hands and arms. During some real earthquakes aftershocks may occur. If an aftershock occurs, while you are exiting, **Drop, Cover, and Hold On**. The drill will be called off by an announcement: “The drill is over.” Followed by a signal.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

CODE OF CONDUCT AND RULES

The rules for discipline, attendance, and the student conduct for Accomack County Public School students are included in the *Code of Student Conduct* section entirely, sign it, and return a statement that they have read the policies and agree to abide by them. We encourage parents to work with the school to ensure that students behave in a manner that will enable learning to take place. The rules of discipline and conduct will be reviewed with students during the first week of school. Parents having any questions should contact the administration. **A detailed code of conduct can be found in the student handbook as well as on our school website to include infractions and the suggested consequences.** Administrative interventions and responses are designed to prevent further behavior issues. Administrators have the discretion to exercise a variety of interventions and responses to misbehavior, including but not limited to those listed in the student code of conduct.

DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

If a student receives a disciplinary referral, administration will evaluate circumstances, severity, frequency, and impact to determine the appropriate response from among options available within the level assigned to the behavior. Parents will be notified that the student has received a disciplinary referral as well as the consequence that has been given. Parents and legal guardians may be asked to meet with administration to discuss policy, the School Board's Standards of Student Conduct, and to discuss improvement of the child's behavior, school attendance and educational progress.

OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS

Students will not be permitted to attend any after-school or school sponsored activities i.e. sporting events (home or away), dances, practices/rehearsals, etc. during the time served for out of school suspensions (OSS).

IN SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS

When a student is assigned in-school suspension (ISS), he/she will be assigned work that is designed to be reflective of what is being taught in the class he/she is missing. Teachers are expected to send work to the ISS Monitor for any student who is assigned ISS during their block. Absences from school do not excuse students from assigned days to ISS. Days assigned to ISS must be completed before the student can be readmitted to regularly scheduled classes. If ISS is served during the lunch block students **will not be permitted to purchase snacks, socialize, or utilize technology.**

SCHOOL CONSEQUENCES FOR SOCIAL MEDIA CONCERNS

Based on state law (22.1-78), opinion of the Virginia attorney general, and decision of the Virginia State Supreme Court, students can be disciplined for conduct going to and returning from school and for acts committed away from school property and outside of school hours which are detrimental to the interests of the school and adversely affect school discipline or the school environment. This includes "social media drama". When concerns regarding social media are brought to the attention of the administration, we will provide parents with the information. Students who use Social Media messaging or posts to attempt to incite issues at the school, may be subject to disciplinary action.

STUDENT SEARCHES

While students are entitled to the guarantees of the United States Constitution's Fourth Amendment, they still are subject to reasonable searches and seizures. School officials are empowered to conduct reasonable searches of particular students and student property when there is reasonable suspicion that a student may be in possession of drugs, weapons, alcohol, or other contraband in violation of school rule or policy or law. School-related property includes but is not limited to computers, lockers, cabinets, desks, bookcases, buses and other vehicles and items controlled or directed by school officials in the support of educational-related programs or activities. For the safety of students and staff, random book bag searches will occur throughout the school year.

PHYSICAL CONTACT/FIGHTING

This includes any physical confrontation that may result in no injury, minor injury, or serious injury that includes, but may not be limited to, kicking, shoving, pushing, punching, slapping, hitting, and fighting.

Physical Contact Against Another Student without retaliation: (3) days Out-of-School suspension (OSS)

Confronting/Posturing to Fight: Three (3) days Out-of-School suspension (OSS)

Fighting Another Student (School, Bus, or School Sponsored Event); Five (5) days Out of School Suspension (OSS)

Physical Contact against Staff: Ten (10) Days Out of School Suspension (OSS) with the recommendation of long term suspension
**subsequent violations of physical contact and/or fighting will result in more severe disciplinary actions and possibly recommendation for long term suspension*

USE OF PROFANE/VULGAR LANGUAGE

Vulgar or profane language is not acceptable in the school setting and will not be tolerated from any student. Any student caught using vulgar, inappropriate, or profane language will be disciplined.

Staff Directed: Profane/Vulgar language directed toward a faculty member, or staff member will result in that student receiving OSS for a **minimum** of three (3) days.

General Use: Profane/Vulgar language directed toward a student, or generally used in a learning environment will result in that student receiving ISS, all day for multiple days, or that student will be suspended out of school for multiple days depending on the nature of the offense.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT/INDECENT EXPOSURE/SEXTING

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, other physical or verbal conduct, or communication of a sexual nature, including gender-based harassment, which creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational or work environment. *Sexting* is the use of technology to send or receive sexual messages including full and or partial nudity.

Use of devices to record and share illicit materials such as but not limited to threats, air drops, private adult content, will be subject to the following consequences:

- *Long-term suspension of 45 days.

- *Possible Accomack County Sheriff involvement (threats/sharing of illicit pictures/videos of themselves and/or others)

- *Possible Expulsion for repeated offenses.

CHEATING

Cheating/Academic Dishonesty will be defined as any student who willingly copies answers from another students work without permission, makes use of a "cheat sheet" on any assessment/assignment, plagiarizes information from any website or book without giving due credit to the source, uses internet search engine without permission, or any other form of cheating/plagiarism not specified here are subject to the following consequences.

- *Contact will be made with student's parent/guardian by the teacher on the day of the incident

- *On the first instance of academic dishonesty, assuming that the assignment is not a major project, final exam or SOL test, the student will be given a grade of Zero along with an opportunity to complete an alternate assignment outside of the regular instructional day.

- *Any subsequent instances of cheating/academic dishonesty will result in a zero without the opportunity redo

- *Any instance of academic dishonesty/cheating on a major project, final exam, or SOL test will result in an immediate and final grade of zero on said assignment.

PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

Consensual public display of affection include but are not limited to holding hands, kissing, inappropriate touching

First Offense: Verbal Warning

Second Offense: Silent Lunch and parent contact

Third Offense: One day of In-School- Suspension (ISS) and parent conference required

***Subsequent Violations for public displays of affection shall result in more severe disciplinary action which can include upwards of 3 days Out-of-School Suspension*

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Students are advised not to bring large sums of money, expensive clothes/jewelry, and/or other items of value such as smart watches or other electronics to school. Nandua Middle School is not responsible for lost or stolen personal property.

BULLYING

Virginia Code 22.1-276.01 Bullying" means any aggressive and unwanted behavior that is intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate the victim; involves a real or **perceived power imbalance** between the aggressor or aggressors and victim; and is repeated over time or causes severe emotional trauma. "Bullying" includes cyber bullying. "Bullying" **does not** include ordinary teasing, horseplay, bickering, or typical peer conflict.

Reports of bullying and harassment are taken very seriously and the confidentiality of the students involved is always maintained. Administrators will work as a team with students, parents, teachers, and counselors to address incidents of bullying as they arise. Disciplinary consequences will be progressive and will be determined based on the frequency and severity of the incident, including but not limited to a **conference, in-school suspension, or out-of-school suspension. Appropriate interventions will be implemented for both the bullies and the victim(s).**

INSUBORDINATION

A student will obey the directions of any staff member. Examples of insubordination are failure to comply with direction or instruction of a teacher/staff member/administrator, refusal to work in class, refusal of detention, refusal to participate during in-school alternatives, and refusal to report to in-school suspension.

Consequences: may include a warning, parent contact by administrator, ISS/OSS, removal from athletic program, loss of privileges depending on the context, nature and location of the offense.

*****any student who refuses to follow an administrative directive will receive three (3) days of out-of-school suspension (OSS)***

DISRESPECT/DISRUPTION

A student will behave in a respectful manner toward teachers/staff/administrators and other students that does not interrupt or interfere with teaching or orderly conduct of school activities. Some examples of disrespectful behavior are walking away, talking back, refusing to identify yourself properly, mocking teachers, challenging authority, rude behavior, etc **Any student removed from class for being disrespectful or disruptive will not return to class on the same day as the written referral.** Consequences for these behaviors will be:

First Offense: teacher/student conference with parent contact made by the teacher

Second Offense: 1 day In School Suspension (ISS) and parent contact made by teacher and an administrator

Third Offense: 2 days In School Suspension (ISS) and mandatory parent teacher conference

Fourth Offense: 1 day of Out of School Suspension (OSS)

*****Subsequent Violations for disrespect/disruption shall result in more severe disciplinary action which can include upwards of 3 days Out-of-School Suspension***

CELL PHONE POLICY

Cell phones, smart watches, personal laptops, iPads, tablets, headphones, earbuds, and other viewing/listening devices **are prohibited** during school hours. Students may contact their parents from the main office phone if an emergency arises. Middle school students with cell phones must keep their phones off and stored away in book bags for the entire school day. Middle School students can use their devices while on the bus to and from school, however, they should not be seen or heard by the bus driver. Students are not allowed to make or accept calls at any time.

Consequences for electronic device violations:

1. First Infraction - Students will receive an OSS for 1 day
2. Second Infraction - 3 days Out of School Suspension
3. Third Infraction - 5 days OSS
4. All subsequent violations will result in 5+ days OSS

If students use their phones to record events including fights, teachers, etc. on school campuses or school sponsored events, they will be subject to an immediate 3-day OSS. Use of a device to record and share illicit materials such as but not limited to threats, air drops, private adult content, will be subject to the following consequences:

1. Long-term suspension of 45 days.
2. Possible Accomack County Sheriff involvement (threats/sharing of illicit pictures/videos of themselves and/or other students)
3. Possible Expulsion for repeated offenses.

*****Accomack County Public Schools personnel assume no responsibility in any circumstance for bills for cell phones or other electronic devices, or any damage/theft of student device(s). Students assume all risks should they choose to bring cell phone/wearable technology to school.***

DRESS CODE

The Accomack County School Board recognizes the rights of students and their parents to exercise personal judgment in the selection of school clothing. The School Board also recognizes its duty to provide a safe school environment which is free of distractions and

disruptions and is conducive to learning. The School Board believes that neatly attired students who have pride in their appearance are more likely to display a positive attitude and demeanor; are more likely to practice self-control and therefore, are more likely to be productive members of our society. Nandua Middle School is a climate controlled building, and students should dress accordingly. **Every effort** will be made to contact the parent or guardian to bring appropriate clothing.

The following articles are **prohibited** and considered a violation of the dress code policy.

- Shorts or pants with holes/rips that exist above mid-thigh
- Dresses, skirts, and shorts that are above mid-thigh from either direction
- Clothing, pins, jewelry, accessories or items that display messages relating to, or promoting the use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco products or anything else considered inappropriate by administration.
- Attire relating to illegal activities, obscene, profane, derogatory, violent or sexually suggestive themes, designs or pictures; membership and/or affiliation in any gang or group of people (Policy file: JFCE)
- Accessories that could pose a danger or be used as a weapon.
- Muscle shirts, halter tops, camisole tops with straps less than three fingers wide, fishnet tops, strapless tops/dresses, or other clothing that is not appropriate because of slits, rips, or holes in the garment or that reveals the midriff, or cleavage
- Pajamas are **not** permitted unless specific spirit days are assigned
- Inappropriate footwear including shower shoes, bedroom slippers, and unfastened shoes
- Head coverings and accessories that are not related to or required by the student's religious practices. Examples include do-rags and wave caps.
- Items that are intended for outdoor use cannot be worn inside. Examples include but are not limited to sunglasses, hats, and caps.

First Offense: Students will be allowed to obtain a change of clothing either from the FACS class or by calling their parent. Students who are unable to secure acceptable alternative attire may be placed in the in-school suspension room. Repeated dress code violations and refusals to comply with the dress code will result in further disciplinary action.

Second Offense: 3 Days In-School Suspension (ISS)

Third Offense: 3 Days Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

VAPING

Smoking, Vaping and Alcohol are NOT ALLOWED on Accomack County Public School grounds during the instructional day or during school related events or off school grounds. This includes the parking lot or in cars on the school grounds. Cigarettes, vapes, e-cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana or any tobacco products may not be brought to school by students. In an effort to establish an "alcohol and smoke-free" environment on school property at all times, drinking and smoking are NOT PERMITTED on school grounds. Students found in violation of this policy will be subject to the following disciplinary actions:

Possession/Use

First Offense - 3-days Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

Second Offense - 5-days Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

Third Offense – 10-days Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

***Subsequent Violations for possession shall result in more severe disciplinary action reached by consultation between the school principal and central office administration including recommendation for long-term suspension.*

Distribution or sale of nicotine, vapes and tobacco products in school or on school grounds will result in a 10-days Out-of-School Suspension (OSS).

DRUG/THC VAPES/MARIJUANA USE OR POSSESSION

Suspicion of being under the influence OR being in possession of alcohol/marijuana or other illegal substances may result in disciplinary actions as follows:

First Offense – 10-days Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) with five days removed for counseling

Second Offense - 10-days Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) with recommendation for long-term suspension.

***Subsequent Violations for possession shall result in more severe disciplinary action reached by consultation between the school principal and central office administration.*

Distribution or sale of alcohol, drugs, THC vapes, marijuana products in school or on school grounds will result in a 10-days Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) with recommendation for long-term suspension.

Updated Board Policy: JFCH-E**Discipline Quick Reference Sheet****2024-25**

Out-of-School Suspensions (OSS): Any Out-of-School Suspension for **four** or more days requires approval from Coordinator of Student Services and/or Superintendent. **All out of school suspensions will require parent conferences upon return to school.**

Students will not be permitted to attend any after-school activities i.e. sporting events, dances, during the time served for OSS.

Infraction	Consequence
Alcohol Use, Possession	1st Offense - 10 Days OSS w/ counseling 2 nd Offense- 10 Days OSS w/recommendation for long term suspension
Drug Use and/or Possession (Includes THC Vapes/Products)	1st Offense - 10 Days OSS w/ recommendation for long- term suspension
Alcohol/Drug Sale or Distribution (Includes THC Vapes/Products)	10 Days OSS w/ recommendation for long- term suspension
Weapons and Look-a-Like Weapons	10 Days OSS w/ recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion
Confronting and/or Posturing to Fight or Instigating/Inciting a Fight	3 Days OSS
Bullying	Conference, ISS, or OSS
Fighting another student (School, Bus, or School Sponsored Event)	1 st Offense – 5 – 10 Days OSS 2 nd Offense – 10 Days OSS
Hitting or Attacking a Staff/Faculty Member	10 Days OSS w/ recommendation for long term suspension/expulsion
Using Profanity towards a Staff/Faculty Member	3 Days OSS
Failure to surrender a Cell Phone	3 Days OSS
Repetitive Disrespectful Behavior	3 Days OSS
Repetitive Disruptive Behavior	3 Days OSS
Threatening a Staff/Faculty Member	10 Days OSS w/recommendation for long- term suspension/expulsion
Repetitive Tardiness	1st Offense- ISS remainder of the day 2nd Offense- 3 days ISS 3rd Offense- 5 days ISS/conference with parents
Theft/Robbery	10 Days OSS
Gambling on school grounds/property	1st Offense- 3 Days OSS 2nd Offense-5 Days OSS 3rd Offense- 10 Days OSS
Leaving School Grounds w/out Permission	1st Offense – 3 Days OSS 2nd Offense- 5 days OSS 3 rd Offense – 10 Days OSS
Sexting with mandatory counseling	10 Days OSS w/ recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion
Sexual Behavior (Indecent Exposure, Intercourse, Inappropriate Touch, etc.)	10 Days OSS w/ Recommendation for Long-Term Suspension/Expulsion

Threats (Low)	5 Days OSS
Threats (Medium/High)	10 Days OSS w/ recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion
Tobacco Use/Vaping	1 st Offense- 3 Days OSS *1 Days removed w/ Counseling. 2 nd Offense- 5 Days OSS 3 rd Offense- 10 Days OSS
Tobacco/Vape Distribution or Sale	10 Days OSS with recommendation
Dress Code Violation	1st Offense- call home for a change of clothes or ISS for the remainder of the day 2nd Offense- 3 Days ISS 3 rd Offense – 3 Days OSS
Failure to Follow Administrative Directives	3 Days OSS
Racist or Sexist Comments	3 Days OSS

SB170 prohibits students in preschool through grade three from being suspended for more than three school days or expelled from attendance at school, unless the offense involves physical harm or credible threat of physical harm to others or the local school board or the division superintendent or his designee finds that aggravating circumstances exist, as defined by the Department of Education.

Legislation enacted July 1, 2018, directed the Virginia Department of Education to define “aggravating circumstances” concerning suspension of students. The Virginia Department of Education staff and multiple stakeholder groups collaborated to create the following definition:

For the purposes of [§22.1-277](#) and [§22.1-277.05](#) of the *Code of Virginia*, “aggravating circumstances” shall mean:

- i. That a student engaged in misconduct which caused serious harm (including but not limited to physical, emotional, and psychological harm) to another person(s) or posed a credible threat of serious harm to another person(s), as determined by a threat assessment; or
- ii. That a student’s presence in the school poses an ongoing and unreasonable risk to the safety of the school, its students, staff, or others in the school; or
- iii. That a student engaged in a serious offense that is:
 - a) persistent (repeated similar behaviors are documented on the student’s disciplinary record), and
 - b) unresponsive to targeted interventions as documented through an established intervention process.

When considering suspension of a student for more than the number of days allowed by the new legislation, a division superintendent or a school board should apply this definition.

Acknowledgement of Receipt: Student Handbook and Code of Conduct

The NMS Student Handbook and Code of Conduct contains important information about the school and I understand that I should consult with the Principal/Assistant Principals regarding any questions not answered in this handbook.

Since the information, policies, and guidelines described are subject to change at any time, I acknowledge that revisions to the handbook may occur - at which time I will be notified and provided with an update.

I also understand that it is my responsibility to comply with the policies contained in this handbook and any revision made to it.

I have received a copy of the Student Handbook. I understand that I am expected to read the entire handbook.

Student Name

Student Signature

Date

Parent Name

Parent Signature

Date

Parents must sign and return the student Code of Conduct discussed with their child as an acknowledgement of receipt of this Code of Conduct.