

RESEARCH TRIANGLE CHARTER ACADEMY

2418 Ellis Road
Durham, NC 27703-5543
Phone: (919) 957-7108

Parent and Student Handbook 2020-2021

**A charter school managed by
National Heritage Academies, Inc.**



Parent and Student Handbook

Table of Contents

Board of Directors and Administrative Staff	6
Our Purpose, Vision, and Philosophy.....	7
The Four Pillars of NHA	
Academic Excellence.....	9
Moral Focus	9
Student Responsibility	9
Parental Partnership	9
Academic Excellence	
Curriculum	10
English Language Arts.....	10
Mathematics.....	10
Science	10
Social Studies	10
Art	10
Music.....	11
Physical Education	11
Library and Educational Technology	11
Moral Focus.....	11
Achievement.....	13
Honors Ceremonies.....	13
Student Grade Placement, Acceleration, Promotion, or Retention	13
Student Support Services and Special Education	15
The Multi-Tiered Systems of Support.....	15
Child Find Responsibilities	16
The Individualized Education Program	16
Educational Placement of Students with Disabilities	17
Parent Participation.....	18
Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - Section 504 (General Education)	18
Crisis Management: De-escalation, Isolation and Restraint of Student.	19

Moral Focus

Philosophy..... 20
 Moral Focus Expectations..... 20
 Moral Focus Assemblies 21

Student Responsibility

Homework..... 22
 Philosophy 22
 Guidelines 22
 Make-Up Work..... 22
 Technology Use and Internet Safety Practices and Procedures 23
 General Rules 23
 Internet Use 24
 Search and Seizure Practices and Procedures..... 26
 Lockers are School Property 26
 Legitimate Use of School Lockers 26
 Search of Locker Contents 26
 Seizure 26
 Search and Seizure of Electronic Devices..... 26
 Search and Seizure of Person and/or Personal Property 27
 Student Code of Conduct 28
 Acts of Misconduct 28
 Disciplinary Procedures..... 30
 Due Process Procedures 31
 Definition of Terms..... 34

Parental Partnership

Communication 36
 Secure School Website..... 36
 Parent Satisfaction Survey 36
 Parent-Teacher Conferences 36
 Attendance 37
 Arrival 37
 Dismissal 37

Tardiness and Early Dismissal 37

Absences 37

Truancy 38

Family Vacations..... 39

Family Death or Terminal Illness..... 39

Illness During the School Day 39

Voluntary Withdrawal..... 39

Dress Code 40

 Uniform Preferred Vendor Information 40

 Uniform Requirements..... 40

 General Expectations. 40

Title I Parent Involvement Policy 42

Visitor and Volunteer Guidelines 48

 General..... 48

 Classrooms 48

 Field Trips 48

General School Procedures

Transportation..... 50

Meals 50

Snacks..... 50

Recess 51

Holiday Celebrations 51

Field Trips..... 51

Lost and Found 51

Personal Items..... 51

Emergency School Procedures 52

Tobacco Use and Non-Smoking Policy 52

Payments Made to School..... 52

Medical Information 52

Notifications

Rights Under FERPA 54

Right to Know under Federal Law 55

Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment 55
Boy Scouts of America 56
Title IX..... 56
Unsafe School Choice Option 56
Asbestos Management Plan..... 57
Pesticide Notification 57
Grievance Policy 57

Other

School Calendar 59
Commitment to Excellence Contract 60
School-Wide Volunteer Opportunities 61

Board of Directors

Elizabeth Gnatek-Morey, President
Gwendolyn Wicker, Vice President
Gerald McNair, Treasurer
Richard Ford, Secretary
April Twine, Director
Beatrice Chestnutt, Director
Michael Page, Director
Preston Edwards, Director

Board Contact Information: (919) 225-1200 or email liz@morey.com
Board meetings are open to the public and meeting dates and times are posted at the school.

Administrative Staff

Wayne Muhammad, Principal
Katrina Jones, Dean of K-2
Latasha McCollum, Dean of 3-5
Jamila Bowser, Dean of Middle School
Shannon Tabron, Office Registrar
Tyishia Edwards, Lead Secretary
Jacquetta Williams, Social Worker

Student Creed

We are Research Triangle students.
We strive to achieve academic excellence.
We exemplify high moral character.
We strive to realize our potential.
We work diligently to prepare for the future.

School Mission

To provide children in the Southeastern part of Durham a comprehensive elementary-middle school. To provide working parents in the Research Triangle Park an opportunity for quality education near their workplace. This will provide opportunities for them to visit during the day, reduce time away from their children and to know that they are only a short distance away from their child. The school will also serve as a clarion call to all of North Carolina on the cooperative abilities of industry and education to come together for the benefit of working parents and their children.

National Heritage Academies

National Heritage Academies is a network of public charter schools serving families and students in multiple states. Our early childhood, elementary, and middle school programs are designed to put children on a solid path to success in high school, college, and beyond. As a network, all National Heritage Academies schools share a common vision, while each individual school enjoys the flexibility of tailoring their program to meet the needs of their specific community.

NHA's Parent Relations Department provides guidance to parents and the school in resolving concerns. Once the classroom teacher, dean, and/or principal have been contacted regarding your concern, you may also reach out to the Parent Relations team to discuss any additional needs.

Parent Relations Contact Information:
Phone: (877) 642-7471
(Monday-Friday; 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
Email: info@nhaschools.com

National Heritage Academies
3850 Broadmoor Avenue
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49512
www.nhaschools.com

Our Purpose, Vision, and Philosophy

Purpose and Vision

Working in partnership with parents and the community, the school's purpose is to challenge each child to achieve. We offer a challenging, character-based education through a rigorous curriculum with high academic and social expectations with the vision to better educate more children.

Educational Philosophy

The educational philosophy is based on the principles set forth in *Effective Schools Research* developed by Professor Ronald R. Edmonds. *Effective Schools Research* recommends research-based school attributes that are associated with quantifiably improved student learning.

In his book *What Works in Schools*, Robert J. Marzano translates these principles into the following factors:

School-Level Factors:

- A guaranteed and viable curriculum
- Challenging goals and effective feedback
- Parent and community involvement
- A safe and orderly environment
- Collegiality and professionalism

Teacher-Level Factors:

- Instructional strategies
- Classroom management
- Classroom curriculum design

Student-Level Factors:

- Home environment
- Learned intelligence and background knowledge
- Student motivation

The school employs a continuous improvement model that focuses on principles and practices that are simple and supported by research. The school supports its researched based approach to education by including the following practices in its daily operation of the school:

College Readiness: The school's focus on a liberal arts education provides the academic foundation necessary to succeed in an increasingly global and competitive society. In grade school, the vast majority of time is spent on mastering the core subjects of English, history, mathematics, reading, and science. Furthermore, the school's first priority is to bring students up to grade level in reading and math, so they will be able to master other subjects as well. In all grades, at least twice as much time is spent on language arts and mathematics than on other academic subjects.

Longer School Day: School days are approximately seven hours long, which is longer than most traditional public schools. This includes at least six hours of instructional time.

Structured Discipline: Students are expected to follow a clearly defined and structured discipline program. This program encourages personal responsibility and respect for others.

As a result, students who have had behavior problems at other schools are often drawn back into a positive learning environment.

Moral Focus Program: Part of the school’s purpose is to instill a strong moral identity in each of our students. The Moral Focus curriculum comprehensively identifies the skills, behaviors, and virtues students will need for character growth and development to prepare them for success, both academically and throughout their lives. The curriculum includes explicit and integrated instruction around three key components of character to provide students with a strong foundation for leading an ethical life. The Moral Focus program is an essential part of every student’s education.

Parental Involvement: Research indicates that a leading predictor of student success is parental involvement; therefore, parents are included in many aspects of the education program. The school governance structure relies on significant parental input and cultivates a close working partnership between staff members and parents. In addition, parents are asked to volunteer by participating in playground activities, becoming a member of school committees, or helping in the classroom, library, or office. To encourage involvement, parents sign a “Commitment to Excellence Contract” upon their child’s enrollment, committing to active involvement in the school.

American Heritage: It is appropriate to demonstrate a great deal of both pride in the history of the United States and gratitude for our unique roots and founding by gifted men and women.

The Four Pillars of NHA

Academic Excellence

National Heritage Academies has invested significant financial resources in the development of a strong academic program that provides students with an excellent academic foundation. In partnership with NHA, we have carefully selected the finest curriculum to be used by our teaching staff in order to accomplish our purpose. All of our curriculum meets or exceeds the state educational standards, which includes Common Core.

Moral Focus

We believe that a strong moral identity is foundational to student success. It is our goal to not only support the virtues parents try to instill at home, but to explicitly teach students the skills, behaviors, and virtues necessary for leading an ethical life. NHA's nine monthly virtues are Wisdom, Respect, Gratitude, Self-control, Perseverance, Courage, Encouragement, Compassion, and Integrity. Students will learn to internalize these virtues through the intentional and consistent focus on the application of Moral Focus concepts throughout all aspects of school life. This integration is essential for students to learn the importance of developing and maintaining strong personal character and to create a learning environment built on a foundation of respect and care where everyone works hard to achieve academic goals and improve school culture. The Moral Focus program is an essential part of every student's education.

Student Responsibility

In addition to preparing our students for academic success, we seek to develop a strong sense of responsibility in each child. We want students to take personal ownership of their success or failure, regardless of their background or previous experiences. This includes sound decision-making, an ability that is becoming critical in our ever-changing, complex world. Students must meet high expectations both academically and behaviorally. Our teachers work with students and parents to promote the responsibility necessary for success both in and out of school.

Parental Partnership

A successful learning experience would not be possible without the partnership and dedication of our students' parents. Parental participation in each school's program is solicited and highly encouraged. Our parents are involved on leadership committees, in the classroom, and in the details that make a school function effectively. NHA parents know they are always welcome and that they are a key to the success of every NHA student.

NHA believes that open communication between school and home improves the quality of the educational experience. Every marking period, parents receive detailed written reports of student performance and accomplishments. These reports are coupled with fall and spring parent-teacher conferences. The reports and conferences include interpretation of internal and external measures of assessment. Teachers and parents may also schedule additional meetings.

At all other times throughout the year, parents can use NHA's Secure School Website via the Internet to view their child's grades and progress. This web-based information center provides parents with both classroom information and student academic data. The Secure School Website promotes the increased accountability of all participants in the educational process—teachers, students, and parents.

Academic Excellence: Curriculum

The school uses the National Heritage Academies (NHA) curriculum, a rigorous and challenging curriculum uniquely designed to prepare them for high academic achievement in successive schooling environments. Our goal is to graduate students who have not only had the opportunity to experience academic excellence but have also acquired the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in high school and beyond.

English Language Arts

The NHA English Language Arts curriculum, aligned with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, provides students with the knowledge, skills, and strategies necessary for success in listening, reading, speaking, viewing, and writing. Early reading instruction focuses on the building blocks of reading—phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency. These building blocks lay the foundation for the intellectual processes necessary for students to remember, understand, analyze, evaluate, and apply the ideas they encounter while reading.

Mathematics

To provide students with the mathematical skills they will need in everyday life as well as in the rigors of high school and post-high school mathematics, NHA has developed a strong mathematics curriculum, aligned with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, that emphasizes communicating, computational and procedural skills, making connections, reasoning and proofing, problem solving, and using representations. Students learn to represent and communicate ideas through graphs, mathematical terms, models, signs, symbols, and writing.

Science

NHA has implemented North Carolina Standard Course of Study and North Carolina Essential standards that are engaging science curriculum that encourages students to participate actively in scientific inquiry while developing scientific literacy. When participating in inquiry, students describe objects and events, ask questions, construct explanations, test those explanations against current scientific knowledge, and communicate their ideas to others. Students' scientific knowledge is developed in the areas of The Nature of Science, The Living Environment, Physical Science, and Earth and Space Science.

Social Studies

NHA's Social Studies curriculum includes the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and North Carolina Essential Standards that examination of historical documents, so students can demonstrate their understanding of the major themes, developments, and turning points in our nation. The curriculum is strong in the study of National and World Geography. We build a strong knowledge of economic principles, so students understand the impact of economic forces both internationally and personally in their daily lives. Additionally, the curriculum is comparative in examination of world cultures. This creates a point of reference by which students compare the freedoms of American life with non-democratic societies both historically and currently. Our students are reminded of the rights and liberties they enjoy and the due reason to participate in and protect those liberties.

Art

Art classes allow students to explore the many different aspects of art while acquiring an understanding of the significant role art has played in the expression of ideas throughout

history. Hands-on art projects help develop student creativity and self-expression and are frequently related to current classroom topics.

Music

Students are exposed to a wide variety of music education and many periods of music during their classes. Basic music concepts such as beat, rhythm, fast/slow, high/low, and music notation are taught from kindergarten through 8th grade. Students also spend time developing an appreciation for different genres of music and their great composers. All concepts are introduced in kindergarten and further developed in each subsequent grade level.

Physical Education

Physical Education is a sequence of developmental experiences in which students learn through movement. Students work on individual skill development and learn about teamwork and the importance of sportsmanship. In addition, they are given the opportunity to develop a positive attitude toward life-long physical activity.

Library and Educational Technology

The technology education program at our school equips students with digital literacy skills needed to be productive, safe, and technologically savvy life-long learners. The progressive K - 8 technology curriculum scaffolds student learning of technology from foundational computer skills to coding and innovative design. Our NHA Technology Standards (2017) are derived from the national technology standards for students published by the International Society for Technology in Education. Online safety, digital citizenship and cyberbullying awareness and prevention is taught annually in compliance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act.

Moral Focus

We believe it is imperative to equip students with both the moral and academic foundations necessary to interact successfully in today’s society. Our Moral Focus Program is centered on the study of 9 Virtues: Wisdom, Respect, Gratitude, Self-control, Perseverance, Courage, Encouragement, Compassion, & Integrity. Virtues are fundamental to a great education, and great schools place equal importance on developing the heart and mind of students.

MONTHLY VIRTUES				
WISDOM (September)	RESPECT (October)	GRATITUDE (November)	SELF-CONTROL (December)	PERSEVERANCE (January)
COURAGE (February)	ENCOURAGEMENT (March)	COMPASSION (April)	INTEGRITY (May)	

Character is defined by which virtues our students determine are important to their lives and there are certain necessary steps to acquire or strengthen those virtues. Our Moral Focus Program is structured around a clearly defined process for teaching and learning virtues. That process outlines those steps, allowing teachers to intentionally guide students through the process of teaching virtues. They provide them with the opportunity to learn virtues in a way that will not only affect their mind, but change their heart.

- Step 1: Introduction - Define the virtue
 - Students learn to name the virtue and simply define it in terms they understand as a foundation for their journey. (focus for the 1st week of each month)

- Step 2: Connection - Understand the importance of the virtue to create personal meaning and value
 - Students learn to describe the value & meaning of a virtue. A necessary step that motivates them to put forth the effort to put virtue into action. (focus for the 2nd week of each month)
- Step 3: Reflection - Recognize the positive impact the virtue has and know exactly how to display it
 - Students learn what it looks like and sounds like through intentional modeling and careful study, allowing them to recognize it in others. (focus for the 3rd week of each month)
- Step 4: Application - Find ways to display the virtue and be intentional about practicing it
 - Students are given regular opportunities to practice virtues. Practice is the key to virtues becoming a learned behavior or habit. (focus for the 4th week of each month)

To support the Moral Focus program, time is dedicated each day to the teaching of Moral Focus virtues. The 4 steps of the process described above form the core of Moral Focus instruction. Each month is broken down into 4 weeks of instruction that correspond to the 4 steps for teaching virtues. Each grade bases instruction on a definition of each virtue designed for their grade level. The definitions scaffold in complexity from grade to grade, allowing students to deepen their understanding and extend their ability to display each virtue.

This comprehensive approach provides students with a strong foundation for leading a moral life. Students will learn to internalize these virtues through the intentional and consistent focus on the application of Moral Focus concepts throughout all aspects of school life. This integration is essential for students to learn the importance of developing and maintaining a strong personal character and the qualities necessary for success as both a student and a citizen. Additionally, all students are given the opportunity to participate in service learning projects.

Academic Excellence: Achievement

Honors Ceremonies

At the end of each quarter, special recognition is given to those students in all grades who have achieved excellence in their academic progress as well as in the Moral Focus. An honors ceremony is held as an extension of the opening ceremony. Students are given awards based on their individual accomplishments during the previous quarter.

Summa Cum Laude (A honor Roll)All A's
Magna Cum Laude (A/B Honor Roll)All A's and B's
Cum Laude (B Honor Roll).....All B's

Student Grade Placement, Acceleration, Promotion, or Retention

The principal is authorized to make initial grade placement of a student and to promote, accelerate or retain students after initial grade placement. After initial grade placement, a student is expected to progress through the grades one year in each grade receiving the benefits of academic, social and physical growth usually accompanied with a full year of development. On occasion, it may be in the best interest of the student to have a new grade placement, be accelerated more than one grade, or be retained in the current grade. In this event, supporting documentation with interventions already offered to the student will be provided by the school. If a student's parent or teacher believes one of these grade changes should be considered, a written request for consideration should be provided to the principal, including the reasons for such consideration. The final decision regarding placement, acceleration, promotion, or retention of a student rests solely with the principal.

The principal shall consider the following, when making such decisions:

1. The education record of the student, including but not limited to a student's grades, standardized test scores, reading, speaking and math skills, the curriculum of each grade, the available teacher(s) skill(s) delivering the instruction and available programs
2. Attendance
3. Discipline
4. The physical, social and emotional readiness of the student for the curriculum of each grade
5. The recommendation of the student's parents and teachers
6. The applicable laws governing these decisions.

The goal of placing, accelerating, promoting or retaining a student is to enhance the opportunity for the student to achieve learning goals, meet state and school performance expectations, and to be prepared for high school, college, and career plans.

Special Education Students

The decision to retain a student with a disability is approached with great caution. The Principal, after consultation with the IEP Team, makes the final decision regarding the promotion and retention of students with disabilities. A student with a disability may not be retained based on their disability, but may be retained for other factors. The parent of a student with a disability may appeal the decision to the school board of directors or may choose to have the student leave the school. If a parent appeals the principal's decision to the school board of directors, the school's special education supervisor must be contacted for consultation and guidance.

English Learner Students

The retention of an English Learner (EL) student is a decision that is carefully considered by the building principal. The principal, in collaboration with the EL Coordinator, EL teacher, and Special Populations Team, should consider evidence related to the student's performance in each subject area when making this determination. An English Learner student may not be retained solely based on a lack of language skills, but may be retained for other factors.

Academic Excellence: Student Support Services and Special Education

It is the goal of the school to provide appropriate educational opportunities for all students.

It is the school's obligation to provide appropriate educational opportunity to all students with suspected disabilities or disabilities, as defined under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA") and state special education rules and regulations. For additional specifics regarding a student's special education rights, parents are encouraged to review the *Procedural Safeguards* that are available from a school administrator or special education provider.

The Multi-Tiered Systems of Support

A multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) is a framework which promotes school improvement through engaging, research-based academic and behavioral practices. All students are part of an MTSS and receive Core (Tier I) instructional supports.

As part of an MTSS and upon review of progress monitoring data, problem-solving teams* identify groups of students that need additional support(s) with grade level standards in reading, math, behavior, or social emotional learning. These supports are sometimes organized by tiers and are described as interventions.

**Problem-Solving Team: This term is an umbrella term often used to describe groups of individuals that meet to analyze data and determine solutions to problems. In an MTSS, there can be multiple problem-solving teams. Professional Learning Communities, Intervention Teams, and Student Support Teams are all examples of teams that generally meet to discuss school-wide areas of concern related to the environment, instruction and curriculum for all students or groups of students.*

Specialized teams, such as the IEP Team, are also problem-solving teams; however, its purpose is initiated for individual students who are suspected of a disability or who have already been identified with a disability and is coordinated according to the regulatory requirements of the IDEA.

Procedures for Problem-Solving Teams

The problem-solving team should ask the following questions at each time progress monitoring data is discussed for groups of students (in addition to previously established problem-solving protocol):

- Has our problem-solving shifted from overall instruction, environment, and curriculum for groups of students to individual, student-centered concerns?
- Are there any individual students that are consistently not making progress with interventions?
- Are there any individual students that are unlikely to achieve grade level standards by the end of the school year?
- Does the data indicate that the consistent lack of progress with intervention may be caused by a disability?
- Does the individual student's progress in the general curriculum have characteristics typically associated with a disability?

Depending on the cumulative responses to these questions, the problem-solving team may have a basis of suspecting a disability and if a disability is suspected, should refer to the IEP Team.*

**Individualized Education Program Team (IEP Team): This is the problem-solving team to which a student is referred when a disability is suspected, or a parent requests a formal evaluation. This team will engage in the problem-solving necessary to determine if a formal evaluation for special education and related services will occur and ensures that the appropriate procedures and documentation are completed in compliance with federal regulations and state policies. The implementation of interventions prior to a referral to the IEP Team is not required if a disability has been suspected by the parent or school staff or a parent or teacher has requested a formal evaluation in writing. However, interventions may need to be implemented concurrently with the formal evaluation timeline in order to provide the IEP Team a required component of a comprehensive evaluation at the time eligibility for special education and related services will be determined.*

Procedures for Communication with Parents

Parents will be notified, in writing, that their student requires intervention beyond Core (Tier 1). A parent/guardian notification will be sent each time the intensity of intervention increases from core to supplemental and supplemental to intensive. A parent letter will also be sent each time the student successfully responds to intervention - intensive to supplemental and supplemental to core.

Child Find Responsibilities

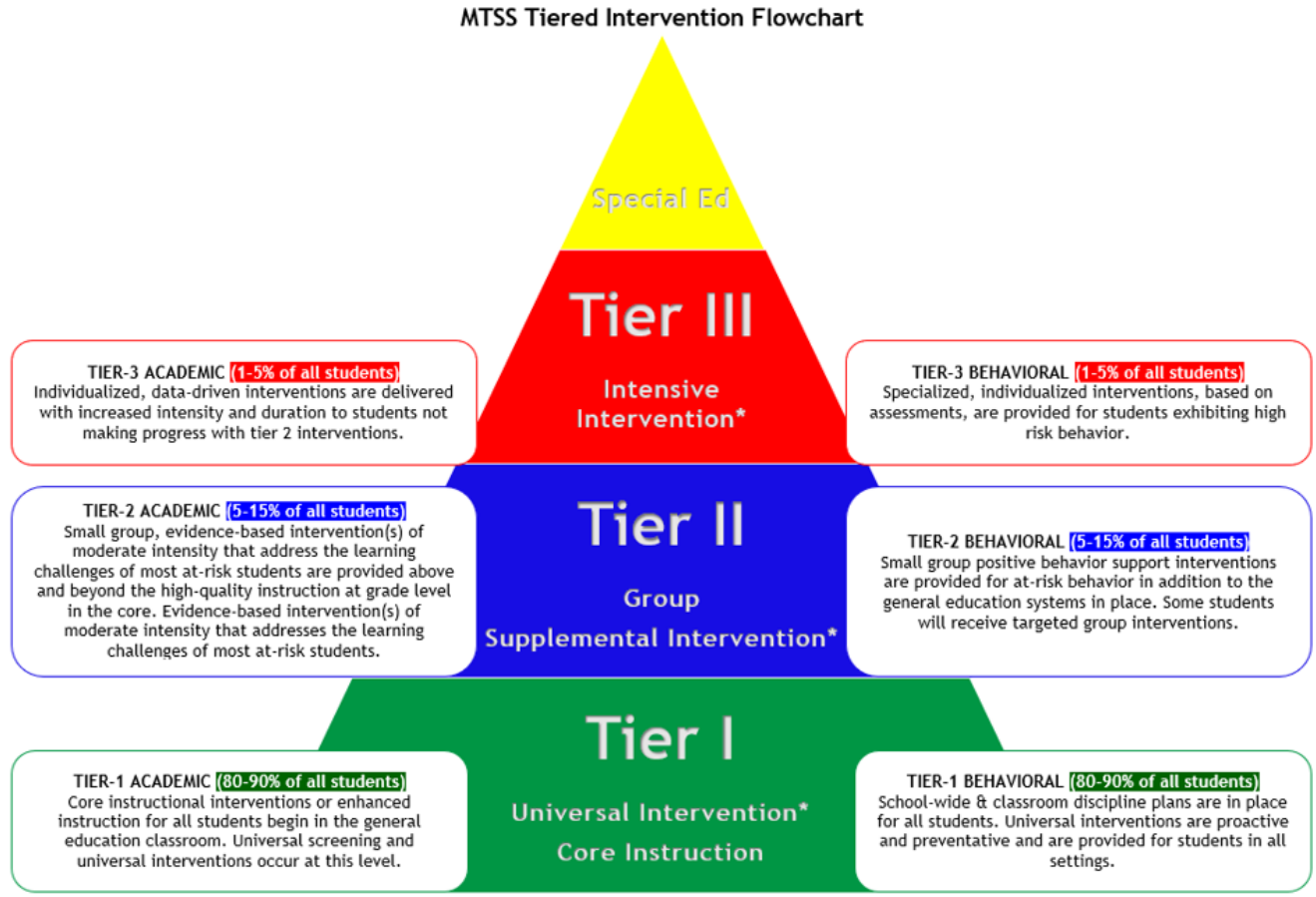
The IDEA includes a Child Find Mandate. Child Find requires all school districts to locate, identify and evaluate all children with disabilities regardless of the severity of their disability. This obligation encompasses all children who are suspected of having a disability, including children receiving passing grades and “advancing from grade to grade...”. If a parent verbally requests an evaluation (also known as a parent referral to special education); staff should advise the parent to make the request in writing and send to the principal. Upon receipt, the principal shall provide the request to EC personnel to schedule the IEP Team meeting to discuss the parent request. This begins the regulatory/procedural timeline associated with initial referrals/evaluations. If the school does not suspect a disability, it may refuse to conduct an evaluation. If the school refuses, it must give the parent written notice explaining the reason(s) why it is declining to initiate an evaluation, what data the decision was based upon, and other factors considered. The parents then have the right, if they choose, to request a due process hearing to seek a ruling to conduct an evaluation.

The Individualized Education Program

The school will comply with the IDEA and state regulations and every student identified as having a disability will be provided an Individualized Education Program (IEP) designed to address their unique needs. All required components of the IEP will be addressed including but not limited to: a description of the student’s present level of academic achievement and functional performance including disability related needs, goals and objectives, supplementary aides and services, program services, ancillary services, extended school year, etc. All students with disabilities are considered general education students first. Each IEP is designed to assure that eligible students receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE) and specialized instruction delivered by highly qualified special education staff within the least restrictive environment (LRE). Prior to the opening of school, registration forms are reviewed to identify students with current IEPs from previous schools attended. The parents are informed of their rights, procedures, and responsibilities under special education law. Decisions regarding an IEP are made by the IEP Team. This team has required participant’s which minimally includes general and special education providers, administrators, and the parent(s).

The IDEA includes specific rights for parents of children with disabilities. This information is

contained in the document commonly referred to as the Procedural Safeguards. We encourage parents to review this document carefully, so they are fully informed of their rights. Copies of this document are provided at a minimum of at least once per school year and otherwise as required by law.



*Regardless of the tier of support a student is receiving, the following apply:

- The problem-solving team must consider whether the student’s lack of progress is the result of a suspected disability. If a disability is suspected, the student must be referred to the IEP Team and interventions must continue concurrently while the issue of a suspected disability is resolved.
- A parent has the right to request, in writing, an evaluation for special education at any time. If the parent makes this request, the student must be referred to the IEP Team while interventions continue.
- Parents must be notified, in writing, regarding the student’s response to intervention at each level (tier). The “Parent Notification of Intervention” must be used, and a copy retained in the student’s cumulative file.

Educational Placement of Students with Disabilities

The school is committed to educating students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment (LRE) in order to meet their educational needs as determined by the student’s IEP Team. This means that to the maximum extent appropriate, children who are disabled are educated with children who are nondisabled and special classes, separate schooling or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only if the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

In an effort to meet with the LRE requirements, the school must ensure that a continuum of placement options is available to students with disabilities, including: services provided within the general education classroom; pull-out services; special classes; home instruction; instruction

in hospitals and institutions; and in unique circumstances, access to programs and services located in settings outside the school. Placement decisions are the determination of the Individualized Education Program Team (IEPT).

Transfer Students:

In-State transfer: If a child with a disability (who had an IEP in effect in a previous public agency) transfers to a new school in the same state and enrolls in the new school within the same academic year, the public agency (in consultation with the child's parents) shall provide the child with a free appropriate public education, including services comparable to those described in the prior IEP, until the public agency adopts the prior IEP or develops, adopts, and implements a new IEP that is consistent with federal and state laws.

Out of State Transfer: If a child with a disability (who had an IEP in effect in a previous public agency) transfers to a new school in a different state and enrolls in the new school within the same academic year, the public agency (in consultation with the child's parents) shall provide such a child with a free appropriate public education, including services comparable to those described in the prior IEP's until the public agency conducts an evaluation, if determined to be necessary by the agency, and develops a new IEP, if appropriate, that is consistent with federal and state laws. The evaluation conducted is considered an initial evaluation as special education eligibility within the new state must be determined.

In order to comply with these transfer requirements, under certain circumstances the school may need to contract with another school/entity for the provision of educational services.

Parent Participation

Parents are an important member of the school community and have the right to participate in all meetings involving the evaluation, identification, and educational placement of their student. Parents will be invited to participate and share information about their student prior to and during the IEPT meeting. Parents are encouraged to review the *Procedural Safeguards* so that they are fully informed of their rights.

Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - Section 504 (General Education)

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 USC 794, (sometimes referred to as "Section 504") prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities solely on the basis of their disability. If you have Section 504 questions, please contact the school's principal who has been designated as the Section 504 Coordinator. The Section 504 Coordinator is responsible for investigating and resolving complaints. In addition, any individual who desires information related to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the Americans with Disabilities Act, may contact the school's principal or the NHA Special Education Department at (616) 222-1700. The school does not discriminate against individuals seeking to access a program or service of the school based on disability. Where an individual desires to participate in a program or service and needs a reasonable accommodation in order to do so, they should contact the school's principal to request an accommodation. In addition, if you suspect that your child has a disability which may qualify him/her for support under Section 504, you should contact the school's principal to begin the referral process. Upon initiation of the Section 504 referral process, parents will be provided with a copy of the Section 504 Procedural Safeguards and Parent/Student Rights which contains complaint and due process procedures.

Crisis Management: De-escalation, Isolation and Restraint of Student

The school is committed to maintaining a safe learning environment for all students, staff, and visitors. It is the policy of our school to only utilize approved physical restraint in response to emergency or crisis situations and consistent with state law. Use of restraint procedures should: (a) not be viewed as a behavior change or intervention strategy, (b) be implemented only under extreme situations and as a matter of last resort, (c) be implemented only by trained personnel, and (d) be accompanied by school wide pro-active positive behavior supports to prevent the need for their use. When such activities are utilized, documentation procedures are required in addition to timely communication with parents and other key members of the educational system. This documentation must remain on file at the school and is considered part of the student's educational record.

Moral Focus

Philosophy

At NHA, we believe it is our job to ensure our students leave us not only with a quality education, but with strong moral character to guide them. They will inevitably be faced with challenges throughout their lives that we cannot anticipate, but must prepare them for. One of our primary academic goals is college readiness for all students, and we cannot achieve that goal by focusing on our rigorous academic program alone.

Through an intentional focus on the development of character, our students will acquire all of the skills they will need to prepare them for college and the challenges they will face in life. Moral Focus provides students with a moral foundation to stand on and the strength to withstand whatever comes their way. Parents are the first and most important influence on the development of a child’s character, but it is our job to partner with you by reinforcing those positive values in the classroom. Guiding the growth and development of character can often be more impactful in the lives of our students than anything else we teach them. It is during this critical period of their lives that they will learn how to be the adults they will one day become.

It is an essential component of the education of our students that simply cannot be left out. The role teachers play in shaping the character of their students is one of profound importance. It is a responsibility that NHA takes very seriously through our work to maintain an intentional and consistent focus on the character development of our students and the character being modeled for them.

Moral Focus Expectations

Our Moral Focus program greatly impacts the development of a positive school culture. Each classroom works diligently to uphold the following expectations related to the implementation of Moral Focus.

- Moral Focus monthly virtues are posted in all classrooms and around the school.
 - Students will be able to identify the Moral Focus virtue of the month.
- Monthly virtues are explicitly taught through lessons, activities, or assemblies.
 - Students will be able to define each Moral Focus virtue.
- Moral Focus virtues are incorporated throughout day-to-day interactions.
 - Students will be able to provide examples of behavior that exemplify each Moral Focus virtue.
 - Teachers will be able to capitalize on teachable moments using the Moral Focus virtues.
 - Teachers will redirect student behavior referencing the Moral Focus virtues.

MONTHLY VIRTUES				
WISDOM (September)	RESPECT (October)	GRATITUDE (November)	SELF-CONTROL (December)	PERSEVERANCE (January)
COURAGE (February)	ENCOURAGEMENT (March)	COMPASSION (April)	INTEGRITY (May)	

By intentionally teaching the Moral Focus virtues and weaving them into the fabric of the classroom, teachers are better able to support their efforts in creating systems that support students in taking responsibility for what they need to do and how they need to do it with a sense of urgency that increases the time spent learning. Teachers intentionally guide students

as they acquire or strengthen virtues in their lives. Through this process, they provide students with the opportunity to learn virtues in a way that will not only affect their mind, but change their heart. To support teachers as they work to develop the character of the students they serve, time is dedicated each week to the teaching of Moral Focus virtues.

Moral Focus Assemblies

To support the Moral Focus program and philosophy, regular Moral Focus assemblies are held. During assemblies, students recite the Pledge of Allegiance and the Student Creed. The staff and/or students lead a brief discussion of the month's virtue and perform a skit or lead another activity to exemplify the virtue. At times, students are recognized for outstanding citizenship and academic achievement. Parents and friends are encouraged to attend the assemblies.

Student Responsibility: Homework

Philosophy

The school staff believes that homework is an important component of the educational process. It is expected that the following objectives will be accomplished through regular and well-planned homework:

- Students will develop more self-direction and individual responsibility.
- Students will develop independent study skills.
- Students will become organized.
- Students will learn to budget their time.
- The learning process will be expanded through extensions not accomplished in the school setting.

Guidelines

1. Parents and students should expect homework each weekday evening. Students may also be assigned homework to complete during the weekend.
2. Assigned homework that requires completion is part of each student's evaluation. Any homework assignment that is not turned in on time will receive no or only partial credit depending on the student's grade level.
3. Homework will be planned and assigned for specific instructional purposes related to classroom objectives.
4. The quantity of homework will be within reason. As the school year progresses, the amount of homework and the number of days homework is assigned may increase depending on the maturity and ability of the students.

Make-Up Work

Students have an obligation to complete assignments missed during illness, suspension, or unexpected absence from school. In keeping with our belief that students should develop a sense of responsibility, we expect them, with their parents' help, to contact their teachers to secure missed assignments. Students are guaranteed one school day for each day absent from school to make up their work. Additional time may be given at the teachers' discretion.

In cases of prolonged absence due to illness, the student's teachers should be called, so necessary arrangements can be made to have assignments picked up.

Student Responsibility: Technology Use and Internet Safety Practices and Procedures

Students are offered access to the National Heritage Academies (NHA) computer network for creativity, communication, research, and other tasks related to the NHA academic program. All use of computers, furnished or created data, software, and other technology resources as granted by NHA are the property of NHA and are intended for school business and educational use. Students are to use the computer network responsibly. The use of the network is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused. The user is personally responsible for his/her actions in accessing and using the NHA computer network and the school's technological resources.

The school educates students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyber bullying awareness and response.

General Rules

1. **Privacy:** The school and NHA reserve the right to monitor Internet traffic and to retrieve and review any data composed, sent, received, or stored using the NHA network or Internet connections, including e-mail. Users do not enjoy any expectation of privacy when using any NHA technology or transmissions originating within or around school property.
2. **Bullying:** The school prohibits cyber-bullying, an act involving the use of information and communication technologies, including but not limited to e-mail, text messages, blogs, instant messages, personal Web sites, on-line social directories and communities, video-posting sites, and online personal polling Web sites, to support deliberate or repeated hostile behavior, by an individual or group, that is intended to defame, harm, threaten, intimidate, or harass students, staff members, or the school during or outside school hours and on or off school premises.
3. **Materials and Language:** Use of or accessing profane, abusive, pornographic, obscene, and/or impolite materials or language is not permitted. Accidental access should be reported to the instructor immediately. Intentional circumvention of web-filtering is prohibited.
4. **Installing/Copying:** Students are not to install or download any hardware, software, shareware, or freeware onto any media or network drives. Software installed by anyone other than the network administrator will be removed. Downloading of non-work related files is permitted only with an instructor's permission. Students may not copy other people's work or intrude into other people's files. All copyright laws must be respected. Use of any other organization's network or technology resources via the NHA network requires the instructor's permission and must comply with the rules appropriate for that network.
5. **Access:** Users may not access the computer network without proper authorization. Users are to use their own username and password when using a computer. Users must log off the computer when they are finished with their work and are not to log on to a computer for someone else or tell others their password. Students are to notify the instructor if someone else is thought to know his/her password.

6. **Data Protection:** Users must not attempt to damage or destroy equipment or files. Though efforts are made by NHA to ensure the safety and integrity of data, NHA makes no warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied, for the service it provides. NHA will not be responsible for any damage to data.
7. **Storage:** Users are to delete their files and materials they no longer need.
8. **Printing Resources:** Paper and toner are costly, and excessive use is wasteful. Documents must be proofread before printing. Users are to print only the needed part(s) of documents. Students must obtain permission from an instructor before printing documents.

Internet Use

The World Wide Web is a vast collection of resources readily available to any user on any computer connected to the Internet. NHA integrates the use of these resources into student instruction. Student Internet usage is permitted only in the presence and supervision of a teacher, the child's parent, or other designated adult school personnel. NHA is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the Internet or the NHA computer network.

Some material accessible via the Internet contains illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive language or images. While the school uses Internet resources to achieve educational goals, there is always a risk of students accessing other materials. However, we believe that the benefits of using technology outweigh the disadvantages. Teachers are trained in the appropriate use of technology with students, but ultimately, parents of students are responsible for setting and conveying the expectations regarding the use of media and information sources at home and at school.

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) is a federal law enacted by Congress to address concerns about access to the Internet and other information. Under CIPA, schools must certify that they have certain Internet safety measures in place. These include measures to block or filter pictures that (a) are obscene, (b) contain child pornography, or (c) when computers with Internet access are used by minors, are harmful to minors. Schools subject to CIPA must adopt a policy such as this to monitor online activities of minors and to address (a) access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web, (b) the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications, (c) unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful activities by minors online, (d) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors, and (e) restricting minors' access to harmful materials.

NHA complies with CIPA by deploying a Web content filtering product called OpenDNS, which categorizes Internet sites and sends updates to NHA site-based hardware. A process is in place for changing the categorization of Web sites. The following categorizations are currently in place:

- **Obscenity and Pornography Filtering:** OpenDNS allows schools and libraries to manage Internet access to over 90 URL categories pertinent to CIPA.
- **Accurate Web Filtering:** OpenDNS offers the best-of-breed filtering database.
- **Filtering of Search Engine Images:** OpenDNS filters inappropriate images that can be found in search engine query results.
- **Monitoring:** OpenDNS reporting tools Explorer, Reporter and Real-Time Analyzer offer many different ways to monitor and report online activities of minors.

- Policy Management: OpenDNS allows customization of Internet policies, based on a user or group, with the ability to set appropriate policies based on age or need.

Student Responsibility: Search and Seizure Practices and Procedures

Lockers are School Property

All lockers assigned to students are the property of the school. At no time does the school relinquish its exclusive control of its lockers. The school principal or his/her designee shall have custody of all combinations to all lockers or locks. Students are prohibited from placing locks on any locker without the advanced approval of the school principal or his/her designee.

Legitimate Use of School Lockers

The school assigns lockers to its students for their convenience and temporary use. Students are to use lockers exclusively to store school-related materials and authorized personal items such as footwear, grooming aids, lunches, or outer garments. Students shall not use lockers for any other purpose, unless specifically authorized by school board policy, the school principal, or his/her designee prior to students bringing the items to school. Students solely are responsible for the contents of their lockers.

Search of Locker Contents

Searches of school lockers and their contents deter violations of school rules and regulations, ensure proper maintenance of school property, and provide greater safety and security for students and personnel. Accordingly, the Board of Directors authorizes the principal or his/her designee, upon reasonable suspicion under the circumstances, to search lockers and locker contents at any time, without notice, and without parental or student consent.

The principal or his/her designee shall not be obligated, but may request the assistance of a law enforcement officer in conducting a locker search. The principal or his/her designee shall supervise the search. In the course of a locker search, the school principal or his/her designee shall respect the privacy rights of the student regarding any items discovered that are not illegal or in violation of school policies and rules.

Seizure

When conducting locker searches, the principal or his/her designee may seize any illegal or unauthorized items, items in violation of board policy and/or school policies or rules, or any other items reasonably determined by the principal or his/her designee to be a potential threat to the safety or security of others and report the finding of such items to law enforcement officials to the extent required by law. Such items include but are not limited to the following: contraband, controlled substance analogues or other intoxicants, dangerous weapons, explosives, firearms, flammable materials, illegal controlled substances, poisons, and stolen property. Any items seized by the school principal or his/her designee shall be removed from the locker and held by school officials for evidence in disciplinary proceedings and/or turned over to law enforcement officials. The parent of a student shall be notified by the principal or his/her designee of items removed from the locker.

Search and Seizure of Electronic Devices

Cell phones, PDAs, iPods, MP3 players, video equipment, cameras, gaming devices, and any other electronic devices are not permitted on school grounds or at school-related events, unless approved by the principal. If approved, an electronic device shall not be used in a manner that disrupts the educational process or purpose, including but not limited to posing a threat to

academic integrity, violating confidentiality or privacy rights of another individual, or violating the Student Code of Conduct. If the principal or his/her designee has a reasonable suspicion that a violation has occurred, he/she shall have the right to search for and confiscate and the electronic device.

Search and Seizure of Person and/or Personal Property

The school will conduct a search if the principal (or principal designee) has a reasonable suspicion that a violation of the Student Code of Conduct has occurred. When determining the nature and scope of the search, the principal (or the principal designee) will consider the age and sex of the student as well as the nature of the act of misconduct. The search may include the student's person, backpack, purse, pockets, shoes, and/or other personal property. A physical search of a student's person will only be conducted when there is a reasonable suspicion that the student has an illegal weapon, drug and/or alcohol on his/her person. A physical search may only be conducted by a staff member of the same sex as the pupil. School personnel shall not conduct strip searches or body cavity searches of any pupils under any circumstances.

Student Responsibility: Student Code of Conduct

Our goal is to offer a quality education program. To fulfill this goal, students need a positive, safe, and orderly school environment in which learning can take place without disruption. Students who do not observe the rules of good conduct in the classroom or on the playground decrease both the learning and safety of others and their own opportunities to learn. Therefore, our staff takes a very proactive role in enforcing the Student Code of Conduct outlined below.

Students are expected to demonstrate respect and courtesy by obeying staff members, being kind to others, and being considerate of others' and the school's property.

Acts of Misconduct

The acts of misconduct listed in this Student Code of Conduct are not to be construed as an all-inclusive list or as a limitation upon the authority of school officials to deal appropriately with other types of conduct which interfere with the good order of the school, the proper functioning of the educational process, or the health and safety of students.

A student violating any of the acts of misconduct listed in this Student Code of Conduct may be disciplined under this Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, a student who engages in an act of misconduct that violates the law may be referred to the appropriate police authority. A student who engages in an act of misconduct when the student was enrolled in another school for which the disciplinary action has not been fully served may be required to serve out the length of the suspension or expulsion.

Students are expected to follow the Code of Conduct when

- on school property;
- in a motor vehicle being used for a school related purpose;
- at a school-related activity, function or event;
- at any time or place (including en route to or from school) when the student's behavior has a direct or immediate effect on maintaining order, safety, health and discipline in the school

Acts of misconduct include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Failure to cooperate or comply with directions of school personnel and volunteers
- False allegations against staff, volunteers, or students
- Falsification of records or scholastic dishonesty (including cheating and plagiarism)
- Misuse of copyrighted materials
- Improper or disrespectful communications to staff, volunteers, or students
- Use of profane and/or inappropriate language
- Disruption of school
- Bullying and harassment
- Cyber-bullying pursuant to state law
- Criminal Sexual Conduct as defined by state law
- Improper dress in violation of the Dress Code
- Indecency (either with clothing/exposure, pictures or public display of affection)
- Any public display of affection having sexual connotations
- Violations of building rules and regulations

- Violations of rules or policies as set forth in the Parent and Student Handbook
- Any and all forms of smoking, tobacco possession or use including e-cigarettes/vaporizers and paraphernalia
- Trespassing, loitering
- Suspended or expelled student on school property or attending school activities
- False alarms
- Possession of electronic device(s) defined by school policy
- Defacement/Damage of property or theft/possession of stolen property
- Coercion, extortion or blackmail
- Arson
- Possession of firework(s), explosive(s) and/or chemical substance(s)
- Possession and/or sale of alcohol and/or drugs (narcotic drugs, look-a-like substances and illegal chemical substances)
- Possession of look-a-like weapons
- Possession of dangerous weapons as defined by state law and dangerous weapons or instruments not otherwise enumerated herein
- Possession of personal protection devices (such as tasers, mace, pepper-spray, etc.)
- Fighting, assault and/or battery on another person
- Gangs and gang related activity
- Violation of Technology Use and Internet Safety Practices and Procedures
- Persistent disobedience
- Verbal assault
- Malicious or willful types of behavior that endanger the safety of others
- Extreme acts of defiance and/or threats toward teachers/other adults/fellow students
- Criminal acts other than as enumerated herein
- Excessive tardiness or absences as defined in the Attendance Policy

Parents or students who are unsure of what conduct is prohibited by each act should consult with the principal.

Bullying or Harassing Behavior

The school prohibits any type of bullying or harassing behavior by students. Bullying or harassing behavior is defined as any pattern of gestures or written, electronic, or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function on a school bus, or that causes a substantial disruption to school operations and/or interferes with the rights of other students and that:

- Places a student in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property; or
- Creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits. "Hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior.

Bullying or harassing behavior includes, but is not limited to, acts reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, socioeconomic status, academic status, gender identity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, or mental, physical, developmental, or

sensory disability, or by association with a person who has or is perceived to have one or more of these characteristics.

Procedures:

1. Any school employee who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior shall report the incident to the principal. A student, volunteer, or visitor who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior should, and are strongly encouraged to, report the incident to a teacher, other staff member or the principal.
2. A report of bullying or harassing behavior should be done in written form, providing as much information as possible. The report may be done anonymously.
3. Any staff member who receives a report of bullying or harassing behavior shall immediately forward the report to the principal who will ensure that a prompt investigation is completed. The investigation is to be complete within three (3) school days after a report or complaint is made.
4. Within two (2) school days of receiving a report of a prohibited act of bullying, the principal or his/her designee shall notify the parent of the alleged victim of bullying and the parent of the alleged perpetrator of bullying. Upon completion of the investigation report, the principal or his/her designee shall notify the parent of both the victim and perpetrator of the result of the investigation.
5. There will be no reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying or harassment. Such reprisal or retaliation by a student is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and will result in disciplinary action pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct.
6. Any student who is found to have falsely accused another of bullying or harassment is subject to remedial action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Bullying or harassing behavior is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and will result in disciplinary action pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct.

Disciplinary Procedures

A student may be disciplined at any level depending upon the frequency and/or severity of the act of misconduct. A Behavior Referral Report will be completed for each violation of the Code of Conduct and copies are made for the parent and kept in the student's file. Discipline records will be included in any student file properly requested by the parent to be transferred to a subsequent school. Corporal punishment is prohibited as a means of discipline.

Level 1 EARLY INTERVENTION: The behavior may be a violation of the code of conduct or a disruption of the orderly operation of the classroom or a school activity. The inappropriate behavior with the student is addressed.

Level 2 PARENT NOTIFICATION: The parent is notified by mail or a note home of the misbehavior.

Level 3 PARENT CONTACT: A conference with the parent is held in order to discuss the incident and appropriate disciplinary action.

Level 4 BEHAVIOR SUPPORT PLAN (BSP): When Level 2 and 3 behaviors become chronic or a student accumulates more than ten (10) suspension days in a semester, the dean and/or principal shall schedule a meeting with the parents in order to implement a Behavior Support

Plan or BSP. A BSP will take into consideration the motivation for the inappropriate behavior, positive interventions that might be utilized to diminish the inappropriate behavior and disciplinary consequences that will take place if the behavior continues. The BSP is an intervention tool and does not require parent consent to implement. Copies are made for the parent and kept in the student's file. Violation(s) of the BSP will result in disciplinary action and a revised BSP. In the event of multiple (3-5) violations and revisions of the BSP, the School Principal, or the Principal's designee in the Principal's absence, has the discretion to impose additional disciplinary measures or recommend the student to the Board for additional disciplinary measures up to and including expulsion.

Level 5 SUSPENSION OF TEN (10) SCHOOL DAYS OR LESS OR OTHER DISCIPLINARY INTERVENTIONS:

When the act of misconduct disrupts the school environment, the resulting consequence issued by the school administration may include suspension of up to 10 school days, or other disciplinary interventions such as restitution, counseling and exclusion from school activities. The school administration may convene a meeting with the student, parents and others to develop or update an existing Behavior Contract that outlines the expected behavior and disciplinary action. The Behavior Contract will be signed by school administration and offered to the student and parent(s) for signature. Copies are made for the parent and kept in the student's file. The student will be granted a right to due process as described in the Due Process Procedures of this Code of Conduct.

Level 6 LONG TERM SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION: When the act of misconduct is considered a crime under state law, constitutes extreme non-compliance with school rules resulting in aggravating circumstances, or is so extreme that it threatens the safety of others, the student may serve a long term suspension or, if age fourteen (14) or older, be expelled from the school. The student will be granted a right to a due process hearing. A 365 day suspension is a denial to a student of the right to attend school and to take part in any school function for a full 365 days. The Board must suspend a student for 365 days for possession of a firearm or destructive device on school property or a school sponsored event. If a teacher is assaulted or injured by a student and as a result the student is long-term suspended or reassigned to alternative education services, the student shall not be returned to that teacher's classroom unless the teacher consents. No student shall be long-term suspended or expelled from school solely for truancy or tardiness offenses.

Students who are served under IDEA (Special Education) or under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are entitled to certain additional rights in the area of discipline based upon their qualification for services under these federal laws.

Due Process Procedures

The following due process procedures only govern the suspension or the expulsion of a student from the school's regular educational program. If a student charged with violation of this Student Code of Conduct has been returned to the regular school program pending a decision, then such action of reinstatement shall not limit or prejudice the school's right to suspend or expel the student following that decision.

A. Suspension of Ten (10) School Days or Less

As a general rule, prior to any suspension of the student, the principal or the principal's designee (in the event the principal is unavailable) shall provide the student with the following due process:

1. The student will be informed of the charges against him/her, and, if the student denies the charges, the principal or the principal's designee shall provide the student with an explanation of the evidence.
2. The student shall be provided an opportunity to explain his/her version of the facts.

If a student's presence in school poses an immediate danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disruption to the educational process, the principal or the principal's designee may immediately suspend the student, and as soon thereafter as reasonable, provide the student with his/her due process rights as set forth in this section.

If, after providing the student with his/her due process rights, the principal or the principal's designee determine that the student has engaged in a prohibited act under this Student Code of Conduct, then he/she may impose a disciplinary penalty of a suspension not to exceed ten (10) school days. The principal or the principal's designee, shall inform (in person or by phone) the student's parent (in English and in the parent's primary language when readily available) of the suspension and of the reasons and conditions of the suspension. The student shall be provided the right to take home textbooks, complete homework assignments and an opportunity to make-up exams. A decision to suspend a student for ten (10) or fewer school days is final and not subject to further review or appeal.

B. Suspension for Eleven (11) or More School Days and Expulsion

The Board of Directors will hear all long-term suspensions and expulsions.

1. The principal and/or dean may recommend to the Board of Directors the long-term suspension of any student who willfully engages in conduct that violates a provision of the Student Code of Conduct that authorizes long-term suspension or expulsion.
2. The Board of Directors shall provide the student an opportunity for a hearing before imposing a long-term suspension. If the student declines a hearing or if no hearing is timely requested, the Board of Directors shall review the circumstances of the recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion and may:
 - a. Impose and/or decline to impose the recommended suspension or expulsion; or
 - b. Modify and impose the recommended suspension or expulsion.
3. A parent shall be notified by the principal in writing (in English and in the parent's primary language when readily available) of the principal's recommendation to suspend or expel. The written notice shall:
 - a. State the nature of the violation with reference to the provision of the Code of Conduct the student is alleged to have violated and the proposed consequence.

- b. If a hearing is desired, the student or parent must notify the principal in writing within four (4) days of receiving the notice. If a hearing is timely requested, it will be held and a decision issued before a long-term suspension is imposed. If the student or parent requests a postponement of the hearing or if the hearing is requested beyond the time set for such request, the hearing shall be scheduled, but the student shall not have the right to return to school pending the hearing. If neither the student nor the parent appears for the hearing, the parent and student are deemed to have waived the right to a hearing and the Board of Directors shall conduct the review set out in Section B2 above.

Should a hearing be timely requested, the hearing will be conducted by the Board of Directors. For the hearing, the student will be provided procedural due process pursuant to state law including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. The right to be represented at the hearing by counsel or, in the discretion of the local board, a non-attorney advocate.
- b. The right to be present at the hearing, accompanied by his or her parents.
- c. The right of the student, parent, and the student's representative to review before the hearing any audio or video recordings of the incident and, consistent with federal and State student records laws and regulations, the information supporting the suspension that may be presented as evidence at the hearing, including statements made by witnesses related to the charges.
- d. The right of the student, parent, or the student's representative to question witnesses appearing at the hearing.
- e. The right to present evidence on his or her own behalf, which may include written statements or oral testimony, relating to the incident leading to the suspension.
- f. The right to have a record made of the hearing.
- g. The right to make his or her own audio recording of the hearing.
- h. The right to a written decision, based on substantial evidence presented at the hearing, either upholding, modifying, or rejecting the principal's recommendation of suspension and containing at least the following information:
 - i. The basis for the decision, including a reference to any policy or rule that the student is determined to have violated.
 - ii. Notice of what information will be included in the student's official record.
 - iii. The student's right to appeal the decision and notice of the procedures for such appeal.
- c. Advise of the right to retain an attorney or an advocate of their choice and at their expense to represent the student in the

hearing, right to review and obtain copies of the student's educational records prior to the hearing.

- d. Include what information will be included in the student's official record and the procedure for expungement of this information. Students who receive a long-term suspension may be offered alternative education services during the long-term suspension period. All discipline decisions made by the Board of Directors are final.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

A. Request for Readmission

All students suspended for 365 days or expelled may, after 180 calendar days from the date of the beginning of the student's suspension or expulsion, request in writing readmission to the school.

B. Voluntary Agreements

At any time, the principal or his/her designee may enter into a written contract with the student and his/her parent(s) setting forth the parties' agreement in settlement of disciplinary charges or restitution related to damage to or loss of school property. In such cases, the written agreement shall be final and binding and may not be later challenged by the principal or his/her designee or the student or his/her parent(s).

C. Suspended/Expelled Students on School Property or Attending School Activities

A suspended or expelled student who enters onto school property or appears at a school activity, event or function without the permission of a building administrator shall be deemed to be trespassing.

D. Maintaining Class Progress

When practical in the judgment of the principal, a student may be permitted to maintain progress during the disciplinary period.

Definition of Terms

Behavior Referral Report is a specific written record of the student's act of misconduct. It documents the date, nature of the offense, and the disciplinary action taken by the teacher, principal and/or dean.

Attendance Corrective Action Plan (A-CAP) is a written document that identifies the causes for excessive tardies and/or absences and what steps will be taken to minimize the number of occurrences. It is signed by the parents, student, and staff member.

Behavior Support Plan (BSP) is a written document that identifies the cause of repeated misconduct and what steps will be taken in order to help a student overcome inappropriate behavior. It is signed by the parents, student, and staff member.

Behavior Contract is a written document that outlines the expected behavior and disciplinary action for a student. It is signed by the parents, student, and staff member.

In-School Suspension refers to a decision to temporarily remove a student from the mainstream classroom and to place the student in a segregated environment within the school building that allows the student to continue to progress in their coursework but denies them access to regular classroom instruction and social interaction with their peers. The In-School Suspension room must be supervised by an adult employee of the building at all times.

Out-Of-School Suspension refers to a decision to temporarily remove a student's right to attend school or any school-related activity not to exceed ten (10) school days. A meeting with the parents may be convened to discuss the incident that led to the suspension and to develop a Behavior Contract for the future.

Long-Term Suspension refers to a decision to temporarily remove a student's right to attend school or any school-related activity for a specified period of time, which exceeds ten (10) school days. Once a student accumulates more than ten (10) school days of suspension in a semester, the next act of misconduct may result in a long-term suspension. If the act of misconduct leading to the long-term suspension occurs before the final quarter of the school year, the suspension shall be no longer than the remainder of the school year in which the offense was committed. If the act of misconduct leading to the long-term suspension occurs during the final quarter of the school year, the suspension may include a period up to the remainder of the school year in which the offense was committed and the first semester of the following school year. A meeting with the parents is convened to discuss the incident that led to the suspension and to implement or modify a BSP for the future.

Expulsion is defined as a decision to remove a student fourteen (14) years of age or older from school whose continued presence in school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or school staff.

Parental Partnership: Communication

Effective communication between the school and home is vital to the successful academic, emotional, and social well-being of students. To keep parents informed of school events and student growth, the school communicates often with parents through email newsletters, telephone calls, and individual and group meetings.

Secure School Website

National Heritage Academies is committed to student achievement and parental involvement. NHA maintains a secure website containing student information to link these two core values. This secure online tool can be accessed by visiting the school website and logging in through the Parent Portal link in the upper right corner of the homepage. Administrators and teachers daily update student records, analyze data, and communicate important information on this site.

NHA recognizes the value of informed and involved parents in the learning process. The website provides another way for parents to stay connected to the school. The online connection begins as soon as a student applies to attend an NHA school. The parent(s) of the applicant are sent a letter with detailed instructions for accessing their own *free* online account. After following these instructions, parents can log on to the system from any computer or mobile device with Internet access and review their child's admissions information, attendance, and grades. Using the website, parents can also email staff members, review important information, check calendars, and subscribe to automated email updates about their child. Questions related to the website should be directed to info@nhaschools.com.

Parent Satisfaction Survey

Measuring and understanding parent satisfaction is an important part of our culture. In an effort to understand school-wide parent satisfaction, our students' parents are surveyed once per year. Parents are expected to complete one survey per household.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are conducted face-to-face twice each school year. In addition, parents are encouraged to inquire about their child's performance any time during the school year. We believe that by continually monitoring students' progress, the parent-teacher conferences will serve as a review with very few surprises.

During each conference, teachers review the student's progress and discuss his/her strengths and opportunities. Parents are encouraged to ask questions in order to learn as much as possible about their child's performance. We aim to make parent-teacher conferences a positive experience for everyone involved.

Parental Partnership: Attendance

Regular attendance establishes good work habits and self-discipline. Our school records attendance every morning and afternoon for grades K-2, and in each class period for grades 3-8.

Arrival

Students in grades K-4 should arrive at school between 7:40 a.m. and 7:59 a.m. Grade 5 and Middle school students should arrive between 8:00 a.m. and 8:29 a.m. After exiting their vehicle, students should proceed directly into the building or wait at the designated location. They may not run, shout, or otherwise act in a disorderly manner. All students wearing hats should remove them immediately upon entering the building. Prompt arrival is essential for a strong beginning to an instructional day.

Dismissal

Grades K-4 dismiss at 3:00 p.m. In the interest of students' safety and teachers' preparation time, parents are asked to pick up their children immediately after dismissal and no later than 3:30 p.m.

Grades 5-8 dismiss at 3:30 p.m. Parents are asked to pick up their children no later than 4:00 p.m. If there is a regular need to pick up your child after 4:00 p.m., we partner with several on-site and off-site afterschool care programs that can accommodate parent's needs. These programs may or may not include a fee for their services.

Tardiness and Early Dismissal

Students are considered tardy if they arrive to their homerooms after the start of either class or morning ceremony, if held prior to class. Parents must walk tardy students into the school office and sign them in on the sign-in sheet. Early dismissals from school will be marked accordingly in the student's record. Parents who dismiss their child early from school, for any reason, must sign the child out.

If a tardy is due to a doctor or dental appointment, a note from a physician may be requested. Tardies are excused for only the following reasons:

- Personal illness or injury
- Funerals
- Doctor or dental appointments (which could not be arranged outside school hours)
- Religious observances
- Late arrivals due to weather conditions (which do not require a parent note)
- Authorized tardy (approved by the principal)

We consider abuse of tardies and/or early dismissals as lost instructional time, which may be addressed by the principal.

Please Note: When a student accumulates 10-20 tardies and/or early dismissals, a parent meeting may be held and an Attendance Corrective Action Plan may be initiated.

Absences

All absences are to be verified by communication from the parent to the school office. This communication should be documented for record-keeping purposes. Voicemail is available before and after school hours.

If an absence is not verified by communication from the parent, the absence is considered unexcused. An absence may be excused if communication is provided by the parent within five days following the absence and meets the guidelines below for an excused absence. The communication should contain the following information:

- Student’s name
- Teacher’s name
- Date of absence
- Reason for absence
- Phone number
- Signature of parent

If an absence is due to illness and lasts five days or more, a note from a physician may be requested. Absences are excused only for the following reasons:

- Personal illness or injury
- Funerals
- Doctor or dental appointments (which could not be arranged outside school hours)
- Religious observances
- Authorized absence (approved by the principal)

Abuse of excused absences may be investigated by the principal and could result in a referral to the District Attorney, Director of Social Services, and/or the County Juvenile Court or other disciplinary action.

Absences (Excused and Unexcused)	Procedures & Notifications
0	Notification of Attendance Expectations to all parents/guardians
10% of total school days	Parent Meeting and Completion of Attendance Corrective Action Plan (ACAP)*
18 days	Appropriate Consequence*

*Potential referral to District Attorney, Director of Social Services, and/or the County Juvenile Court with certified return receipt to parent. Such referral shall be issued pursuant to the Truancy section of the Parent and Student Handbook. Factor considered in grade promotion. No student shall be long-term suspended or expelled from school solely for truancy or tardiness offenses.

Note: Any student who accumulates 15 consecutive school days of unexcused absences will be subject to potential withdrawal from the school.

Truancy

A student is truant if unexcused absences total ten (10) or more school days in a school year. If truant, the student is referred to the District Attorney, Director of Social Services, and/or the County Juvenile Court.

The principal may act as the school's attendance officer or delegate that duty. The school's attendance officer investigates possible school attendance violations and takes other necessary actions to enforce the compulsory education laws.

Family Vacations

Parents planning to take their child on a trip must notify the principal or secretary at least two weeks before departure. The student's absence will be an excused absence if approved by the principal. Lengthy trips are discouraged and may be cause for withdrawal. It becomes the student's responsibility, with the help of the parents, to make arrangements with each teacher for missed assignments and to complete assigned work upon his/her return to school. The student is to complete all assignments within the same number of days as the length of the vacation. Incomplete assignments will not receive credit. Students who miss an announced test during their absence will take the test when all missed work is completed and within the same number of days missed due to the vacation.

Family Death or Terminal Illness

If there is a death, terminal illness, or similar traumatic situation in a student's family that may affect his/her attendance, emotional well-being, and/or level of concentration, the office staff members should be notified.

Illness During the School Day

If a student becomes ill during the school day, appropriate arrangements will be made for the student's care while waiting for parent pick-up. Students with vomiting or fever must be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to school.

Voluntary Withdrawal

To withdraw a student, a parent must complete a Student Withdrawal form available in the office.

Parental Partnership: Dress Code

To enable students to reach high academic standards, the school has put in place a dress code designed to reduce distractions. Implementing a dress code promotes student learning and increased academic instruction time. Interpretation of the Dress Code is at the principal and staff's discretion and their decision is final.

Dress code guidelines prohibit student dress or grooming practices which present a health or safety risk to the student or others, disrupt the educational program, or limit a student from achieving educational goals because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

Uniform Preferred Vendor Information

The School's preferred uniform vendor is Image Builders. To purchase shirts and ties, you may contact Image Builders' toll-free customer service hotline at (855) 654-6243. For additional information, please visit the School's web site.

Uniform Requirements

Uniform Tops

- Grades K-2: All shirts must be a short- or long-sleeve bright green or white polo or collared shirt.
- Grades 3-5: All shirts must be short- or long-sleeve white polo
- Grades 6-8: All shirts must be a long- or short-sleeve white dress shirt with a navy blue/bright green tie.
- Students may also wear solid navy blue, white or black sweaters and vests.
- Shirts must be tucked neatly into bottoms.

Uniform Bottoms

- Dress bottoms must be solid navy blue.
- Athletic, spandex and denim materials, yoga-style pants, carpenter loops, and decorative embroidery are not permitted.

Uniform Shoes

- Shoe colors must be black or brown.
- Shoes must be loafer style, dress shoes, tennis shoes, or closed toed sandals.

Uniform Headwear & Accessories

- Socks must be solid navy or white.
- Tights and leggings worn underneath uniform bottoms must be solid white or navy.

General Expectations

Tops

- Shirts and tops must cover the back, shoulders, chest, and midriff. Undergarments must not be visible.
- Spaghetti strap shirts, halter tops, tank tops, undershirts, muscle shirts, sheer, or any other clothing items that show bare midriff are not permitted.

Bottoms

- Pants, capris, and shorts must be fitted or belted at the waist to prevent sagging and undergarments must not be visible.

- Shorts must extend past the mid-thigh (mid-thigh is determined as halfway between inseam and knee).
- Skirts, skorts, dresses, and jumpers must be no more than two (2) inches above the knee in length.
- Pajama pants are not permitted without administrative permission.

Shoes

- For safety reasons, students are required to wear shoes appropriate for indoor and outdoor activity.
- Shoes that are unsafe (for example flip-flops or shoes with wheels) are not permitted.
- Slippers are not permitted without administrative permission.
- Athletic shoes with non-marking soles are to be worn for P.E. class.

Headwear & Accessories

- Hats and hoods, except for religious or medical purposes, must not be worn inside the school building.
- Any jewelry, chain, or other apparel posing a safety risk is not permitted.
- Ear piercings are permitted.
- Hair must not obstruct vision or distract from the learning environment.
- Sunglasses are not permitted inside unless for medical purposes.

Miscellaneous

- Revealing clothing is prohibited. All clothing must fit appropriately and must not be excessively tight or loose. Such clothing includes all sheer, low-cut, or otherwise revealing garments.
- Areas typically covered by undergarments must not be visible.
- Clothing, accessories, or grooming may not depict or advertise weapons, alcohol, tobacco, drugs, drug paraphernalia, sexual or obscene language or images, threats, or racial or ethnic slurs/symbols, or promote conduct expressly prohibited by the Student Code of Conduct.
- Wearing, carrying, and displaying gang paraphernalia, names, signs, or symbols is prohibited.
- School spirit-wear may be worn only with administrative permission.

Parental Partnership: Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The school has adopted a policy addressing the importance of parent and family engagement. The Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy, included below, was jointly developed with, and agreed on, by parents and family members of Title I participating children. In addition to existing policies and guidelines, the school also recognizes the need for a policy that meets the requirements under Section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds (ESSA) Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-95).

Parents and family members of students are vital contributors in the education of their children. Accordingly, they are encouraged to participate in the development and structure of Title I activities and to be kept informed about programs in which their children belong. Moreover, they are to be kept informed of the academic progress their children make as a result of participation in these programs, for it is through mutual understanding and close cooperation between the school and home that a student’s academic success improves. Two-way communication between the school and home, both verbal and written, provides a sound base for a good partnership to provide an effective educational program for all students. Full realization of the partnership will be achieved through the on-going commitment and active participation by both home and school. The policy describes how federal and applicable state requirements for parental engagement will be met and sets the school’s expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement and engagement.

1116(a)(2)(A) The school will involve parents and family members in the joint development of the Title I program, the School Improvement Plan, and the process of school review and improvement by including parents on the School Improvement Team and other committees that review the Title I program.

ESSA Section	Ways in Which School Staff Accomplish these Activities
<p>1116 (c) (1) The school shall convene an Annual Title I Parent and Family Meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under Title I, to explain requirements of Title I, and their right to be involved.</p>	<p>Early in the school year, parents and family members are invited to an annual Title I Parent and Family Meeting to meet the staff, learn more about Title I programs, ask questions, and give suggestions. The following information is part of the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Title I requirements <input type="checkbox"/> The right for parents and family members to be involved and to provide input on the Title I program, the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy, the School-Parent Compact/Commitment to Excellence Contract, and the Homeless Dispute Resolution process <input type="checkbox"/> How progress is measured and how they receive feedback about their child’s progress. <p>Parents and family members who are unable to make this meeting are invited to schedule a meeting with school staff to go over the information at a time that is convenient for them.</p>
<p>1116 (c) (2) The school shall offer flexible number of meetings at times convenient to parents and provide transportation, childcare, or home visits as it relates to parental involvement.</p>	<p>Meetings are offered at times convenient for parents and family members and if needed, transportation, childcare, and home visits can be arranged. Teachers, deans and principal also available by email, voicemail, and appointment.</p>

<p>1116(a)(2)(D), 1116(a)(2)(E) and 1116 (c) (3) The school shall involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school’s parent and family engagement policy and joint development of the schoolwide program plan.</p>	<p>Parents and family members are involved in the planning, review, and improvement of the school’s parent and family engagement policy, and in the joint development of the School Improvement Plan, Parent and Family Engagement Plan, and Title I Program. At least annually the school, parents, and family members convene to evaluate the School Improvement Plan, Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Title I Program. This assessment includes metrics so the school can evaluate the effectiveness of parent and family engagement policy initiatives and the level of responsiveness to parent and family concerns. This assessment initiative helps the school identify the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. barriers to greater parent and family participation; b. the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers, and; c. strategies to support successful school and family interactions. <p>The school uses the findings of this assessment initiative to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement and to revise, if necessary, this Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Further, these metrics may be used as a measure in the performance evaluations of the school, principals, and staff. Examples of metrics include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Responses to, and the results of, the annual Parent Satisfaction Survey <input type="checkbox"/> Increase or decrease in the number of parents and family members involved in school activities <input type="checkbox"/> Percent of signed School-Parent Compacts/Commitment to Excellence Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Attendance at parent-teacher conferences <input type="checkbox"/> Workshops and learning experiences offered for parents and family members
<p>1116 (c) (4) (A) The school shall provide parents of Title I children timely information on Title I programs.</p>	<p>In order to build meaningful, consistent, and effective communication between the home and the school, parents and family members of Title I children are provided timely information regarding the school programs in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Fall Title I Parent and Family Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Spring Parent and Family SIP Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> The Parent and Student Handbook <input type="checkbox"/> Regular school and classroom newsletters <input type="checkbox"/> The annual school calendar <input type="checkbox"/> Special event and reminder notices <input type="checkbox"/> Report cards <input type="checkbox"/> Parent-teacher conferences <input type="checkbox"/> Parent and Family Nights <input type="checkbox"/> School assemblies/ceremonies (parents invited) <input type="checkbox"/> The School-Parent Compact/Commitment to Excellence Contract

<p>1116 (c) (4) (B) The school shall provide parents of Title I children a description and explanation of the curriculum used at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure progress, and the achievement levels of challenging State academic standards students are expected to meet.</p>	<p>Parents of Title I children are provided a description and explanation about the school’s curriculum, assessments, and proficiency level expectations. Efforts are made to assist parents of Title I children in understanding challenging State academic standards and the achievement levels established for students, the school curriculum, and school expectations and assessment results. This is accomplished by scheduling regular parent and family meetings throughout the school year.</p>
<p>1116 (c) (4) (C) The school shall provide parents of participating Title I students opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions, and to participate as appropriate, in decisions relating to their child’s education, and to respond to any suggestions as soon as practicably possible.</p>	<p>Parents and family members have opportunities to share suggestions, participate in decision making on issues relating to their child’s education, and respond to any suggestions as soon as possible in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Fall Title I Parent and Family Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Spring Parent and Family SIP Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Parent and Family Learning Events <input type="checkbox"/> Meetings with the principal as needed and or upon request
<p>1116 (c) (5) The school shall ensure that if the schoolwide program plan is not satisfactory to parents of participating students, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local education agency.</p>	<p>At least one parent representative participates on the School Improvement Planning Committee and is included in the school’s comprehensive needs assessment process. Parents and family members have the opportunity to attend the annual Spring Parent and Family SIP Meeting and submit comments about the school improvement plan and goals via a survey or directly to school administration. Any comments from parents on the plan are submitted to the local education agency by the school in conjunction with submission of the school’s improvement plan.</p>
<p>1116 (d) (1) The school shall jointly develop, with parents, a school parent compact that outlines how the entire school staff, parents, and students will share the responsibility for improved student achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State’s high standards. This compact must describe the school’s responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment and the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children’s learning, volunteering in their child’s classroom, and participating in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extra-curricular time.</p>	<p>The School-Parent Compact/Commitment to Excellence Contract was developed with input from parents and family members and is reviewed and evaluated annually for needed revisions to meet the needs of the families served. This contract describes how the parents, school staff, and students share the responsibility for improving student achievement. It is given to all parents prior to school opening and is presented to parents and family members annually for further development. Parent and family-member input is collected through parent and family meetings and surveys.</p>

<p>1116 (d) (2) (A) The school-parent compact must address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through elementary parent/teacher conferences, at least annually, during which the compact will be discussed with parents as it relates to the individual child’s achievement.</p>	<p>The School-Parent Compact/Commitment to Excellence Contract is shared annually at parent-teacher conferences each fall. This is an opportunity for the parents and the teacher to share ways in which they can jointly support the child’s learning at home and school.</p>
<p>1116 (d) (2) (B) The school-parent compact must provide for frequent reports to parents on their child’s progress.</p>	<p>Student progress is reported to parents in several different ways at a variety of times throughout the school year including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Unit assessment results sent home with students <input type="checkbox"/> NWEA results given to parents during Parent-Teacher Conferences <input type="checkbox"/> State test results given to parents annually <input type="checkbox"/> Report cards <input type="checkbox"/> myNHA is a tool parents can use at home to access student progress
<p>1116 (d) (2) (C) The school-parent compact must afford parents of children receiving Title I services, reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer, and participate in their child’s class, and observation of classroom activities.</p>	<p>Parents of all children including those receiving Title I services are encouraged to visit the school for volunteer training and information, participate in and/or observe their child’s classes, actively volunteer in the life of the school, and attend other meetings and events. In addition, the school encourages parents and family members to offer their ideas and suggestions to the school staff.</p>
<p>1116 (d) (2) (D) The school-parent compact must ensure regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language family members can understand.</p>	<p>Private meetings with parents are held to explain information as needed. Information is shared with parents in a language and format they can understand. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Bilingual staff for interpretation <input type="checkbox"/> Offering translators during parent meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Translation of documents
<p>1116(a)(2)(B) and 1116 (e)(1) The school shall provide assistance to parents of children served by the school or LEA, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child’s progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.</p>	<p>The school provides assistance to parents of children served by the school or LEA, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of 1116 (e)(1), and how to monitor a child’s progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.</p>

<p>1116(a)(2)(B) and 1116 (e) (2) The school shall provide materials and training to help parents work with their children at home to improve their children’s achievement.</p>	<p>The school provides materials and training to help parents and family members develop and use at-home skills that support their children’s academic achievement and social development. Parents and family members are given techniques and strategies that they may use to improve their children’s academic success and to assist their children in learning at home. A Parent Needs Assessment survey is conducted during a Parent and Family Night. Some of these activities may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Math games <input type="checkbox"/> Reading skills games <input type="checkbox"/> Kindergarten orientation <input type="checkbox"/> Writing skills <input type="checkbox"/> District standards and assessments <input type="checkbox"/> Community resources <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with homework
<p>1116 (e) (3) The school shall educate staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of parents’ contributions. Staff shall receive guidance in ways to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and to build relationships between the parents and the school.</p>	<p>The school educates principals, teachers, student services personnel, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, regarding the value and utility of parental contribution, ways to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, ways to implement and coordinate parent and family programs, and ways to build ties between parents and family members and the school.</p>
<p>1116(a)(2)(C) and 1116 (e) (4) The school shall coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children. Further the school must coordinate and integrate Title I parent and family engagement strategies with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs.</p>	<p>The school coordinates and integrates, to a feasible and appropriate extent, parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs to encourage parents and family members to fully participate in the education of their children.</p>
<p>1116 (e) (5) The school shall ensure information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is shared with parents in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand.</p>	<p>Information is shared with parents in a language and format they can understand. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Bilingual staff for interpretation <input type="checkbox"/> Offering translators during parent meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Translation of documents <input type="checkbox"/> Private meetings with parents to explain information as needed
<p>1116 (e) (14) The school shall provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.</p>	<p>Parents are provided with other reasonable support such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Parent Room with community resources listed and computer access <input type="checkbox"/> Parent and Family Learning Events based on parent survey results <input type="checkbox"/> Voice of Parent results used for decision making regarding school safety and student behaviors <input type="checkbox"/> Translation of documents

1116 (f) The school shall provide full opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.

Staff provide opportunities for full parent and family participation:

- Bilingual staff or translators are available for interpretation and translation of important documents for limited English proficient parents and families of migratory children
- School administration will meet with families who have limited English proficiency, families with members who have disabilities, families experiencing homelessness, and migratory families to provide information regarding support available to them
- Hearing Assistance
- Wheelchair accessible campus

Parental Partnership: Visitor and Volunteer Guidelines

Visitors and volunteers are expected to review and honor the following guidelines while visiting or volunteering for the school. Violation of these guidelines endangers the safety of students and their right to an education. Those not abiding by these guidelines may be barred from the building and/or prevented from participating in future volunteer opportunities. Please contact the school's office for information on becoming a volunteer.

General

1. Potential volunteers must complete the appropriate level of background check before a volunteer assignment begins. Parents and guardians may complete the online Volunteer Authorization and Release form on the parents' form site to begin the background check process. Individuals who do not have access to the parents' form site must obtain a Volunteer Authorization and Release form in the school office.
2. All visitors and volunteers must be processed through the electronic visitor management system, using their driver's license and must wear a form of identification provided by the school. They may also be required to submit to a criminal background check.
3. All visitors and volunteers must sign both in and out in the school office. They may not walk directly to any classroom unless given permission by the office staff.
4. All visitors and volunteers must reinforce and demonstrate the school's Moral Focus Philosophy.
5. The distribution of literature, without prior approval from a dean or the principal, is prohibited.
6. Visitors and volunteers must abide by staff instructions, asking for clarification if necessary.
7. Corporal punishment is prohibited.
8. The school is a public school with a Board policy of neutrality regarding religion. Visitors and volunteers may neither show preference for any one religion over any other religion nor share their personal religious views with students.
9. Appropriate dress is required.
10. The use of any of the following is strictly prohibited: tobacco, marijuana, e-cigarettes/vaporizers and paraphernalia, and alcohol.

Classrooms

1. The teacher is ultimately responsible for the students and activities in his/her classroom.
2. Volunteers should enter classrooms quietly and wait for a break in the activity before communicating with the teacher and students.
3. Student infractions must be addressed by the classroom teacher.
4. Classroom issues regarding students are confidential. Visitors and volunteers may not talk with others about the learning or disciplinary needs of any child other than their own.
5. Classroom visitors are allowed for a limited time and must have the principal's permission.

Field Trips

1. Volunteer drivers must provide a valid driver's license, proof of insurance, and a sufficient number of seat belts to transport their assigned students. Volunteer drivers, overnight chaperones, and anyone in attendance of a field trip may be required to submit to a criminal background check.
2. Volunteers must follow all instructions provided by the teacher or school.
3. Smoking is prohibited in the presence of students.

4. Volunteer drivers must drive directly to the event and return directly to school (or pre-approved location) immediately after the event. "Side trips" are prohibited.
5. Volunteer drivers should leave radios off and avoid playing music.
6. Volunteers must behave appropriately when participating on field trips.

Field trips are a privilege, not a right, and participation is determined at the teachers' and administrators' discretion.

General School Procedures

Transportation

Although transportation is not required to be provided by the school, the school will assist families in facilitating transportation needs through providing information to parents regarding carpooling, private carriers, and public transportation possibilities.

Drivers

Traffic congestion can occur on a daily basis during the arrival and dismissal process. To ensure the seamless and safe flow of traffic, parents are asked to comply with all traffic directives during arrival and dismissal. Parents are also asked to be patient and to plan on some delays, particularly during inclement weather. Please contact the front office should you have questions about the arrival and dismissal process.

Bicycles

Riding bicycles to and from school is strongly discouraged due to safety reasons. If it is necessary for a student to ride a bicycle to school, he/she must park and lock the bicycle in the school's bike rack before school begins and leave it untouched until school is dismissed. The school does not assume responsibility for damage or theft of bicycles. The student should register his/her bike with the police department and must wear a bicycle helmet.

Walkers

Parents or guardians who wish their students to walk home from school must complete the Student Walk Home Release form. Students who walk to and from school should go directly home or to their other regular after-school care location following dismissal for their own safety and security. Failing to do so may cause undue worry for parents and staff members.

Meals

For grades K-5, the school schedule allows for a 20-minute lunch period and a 15-minute outside recess period. Students in grades 6-8 have a 25-minute lunch period. A nutritious lunch, including milk, may be purchased at school, or students may bring bagged lunches from home. Lunches brought from home will need to be nutritious, without a soda. *Thus, parents are not allowed to drop off food from fast food establishments.* In addition, students are not allowed to use microwaves to heat up their food.

Parents should complete a Free/Reduced Application available from the school office. Students not qualifying for subsidized meals must prepay. Lack of prepayment will result in discontinued meal service. Parents are encouraged to pay for meals using the free online secure service at www.mypaymentsplus.com. The account can be set up using the student's ID number, and payments can be made with either a credit card or check. At www.mypaymentsplus.com, parents can make payments, view their balance, and monitor purchased meals. Any remaining balance upon a student withdrawing from school will be refunded upon request.

Snacks

A snack period may be offered at the discretion of the teacher. Students must bring their own snacks from home as they are not provided by the school. During the snack time, students must be in their seats. They may talk quietly with those sitting near them. Snacks should be nutritional (e.g., fruit, vegetables, cheese and crackers). Candy, pop/soda, and sweets are not acceptable.

Recess

As in the classroom, the supervising adult is the authority during recess. When playing games, students are encouraged to include anyone interested in participating. Games that are abusive or demeaning are not permitted. All students are to remain in the designated recess area.

Holiday Celebrations

Birthdays

Because birthday celebrations tend to disrupt the normal progress of the day, students are encouraged to donate a book to the library rather than bring treats for their classmates. A special ceremony takes place when the student presents his/her book to the library. To protect instructional time, we encourage all birthday celebrations be scheduled in advance with the classroom teacher and be conducted within the last 30 minutes of the school day.

Halloween

Halloween is not celebrated at the school. Consequently, costumes are not worn to school (except for approved events).

Christmas/Winter Holiday

Classes may have a small party at the end of the last day before the Christmas/winter holiday.

St. Valentine's Day

Students in grades K-5 are encouraged to celebrate St. Valentine's Day by making homemade valentines for their classmates. A class list will be supplied by the teacher for parents' convenience. Students who bring valentines must give one to each of their classmates.

Field Trips

When students travel away from school, they are subject to the same rules, regulations, and appropriate politeness observed at the school. As in the classroom, the teacher will judge behavior as acceptable or unacceptable. Misbehavior or disregard of school policies can result in denial of field trip privileges. Signed permission slips must be on file with the teacher for each student on each field trip.

Lost and Found

The lost and found is located in the parent and staff lounge within the main office area. Unclaimed items are donated to charity at the end of each quarter.

Personal Items

The school will not accept responsibility for the personal items of students. We expect students to leave belongings that are not necessary for their education at home. Any personal items that staff members judge to be unsafe, inappropriate for school, or interfering with students' educational focus will be confiscated and held in the office or remain in the possession of a staff member until the parents retrieve them. The school shall not be responsible for any items lost or damaged while in its possession.

Students shall not use cell phones, PDAs, iPods, MP3 players, video equipment, cameras, gaming devices, and electronic devices during the instructional day at school or school-related events. Subject to the Search and Seizure Practices and Procedures, the possession of such electronic devices during those restricted times constitutes the consent to search for and confiscate the device(s) by school personnel. Confiscated devices may be returned at the end of the school day.

Coaches and personnel in charge of extracurricular activities may make exceptions to this rule upon obtaining the principal's or dean's permission.

Any exceptions to this general rule sought by parents for specific health or safety concerns should be brought to the attention of the principal or dean. The principal's or dean's determination is final.

Emergency School Procedures

In the case of severe weather (e.g., major snowstorm, ice storm, dangerous wind chills, heavy fog), the principal will notify local radio and TV stations regarding the decision to close school or delay its opening. A phone, email and/or text message will also be sent out to each family through our SchoolMessenger calling system.

Severe Thunderstorm Watch or Warning

If school is already in session when the watch or warning is issued, the school stays open. The staff takes safety precautions.

Tornado Watch

Students remain in school, and the staff takes safety precautions. Students are released to parents or other designated adults upon request.

Tornado Warning

All students and staff members remain in the building and take shelter in designated areas. Students may be detained beyond the usual dismissal time. Students are released to parents or other designated adults upon request.

Emergency Drills

Emergency drills are held throughout the year. In some instances, parents may be informed following a drill.

Tobacco Use and Non-Smoking Policy

The school is a non-smoking facility. Any form of smoking, including but not limited to e-cigarettes/vaporizers and paraphernalia, and tobacco use are prohibited anywhere on school property, in all indoor facilities, and in the presence of students.

Payments Made to School

Checks written to the school that are returned for insufficient funds are processed through a service called Payliance. If a check is returned, Payliance contacts the person who wrote the check to collect the check's face value plus a collection fee. If he/she cannot be contacted or fails to respond properly, the check may be resubmitted to the bank with applicable collection fees.

Medical Information

To maintain a healthy learning environment, students are offered certain health services and are required to provide evidence of required immunizations.

Health Screenings

Our students in grades K, 1, 3, and 5 receive vision screening through the Health Department. Every child entering a North Carolina school for the first time is required to obtain a health

assessment that includes a medical history and physical examination that includes vision and hearing screenings and, if appropriate, testing for anemia and tuberculosis.

Immunization Requirements

A certificate of immunization must be presented for each student on their first day of attendance showing evidence of age-appropriate vaccination in accordance with state law and regulation. If a certificate of immunization is not provided on the first day of attendance, it must be presented within thirty calendar days. Your healthcare provider and/or local health department are available to assist you in your child's vaccination requirements.

Medical exemptions can only be requested by a **physician licensed to practice medicine in North Carolina**. Parents may request in writing a religious exemption from immunization.

Please refer to the North Carolina Immunization Branch (NCIB) website (see link) for the most current information regarding minimum required immunizations and additional important details regarding the vaccines: <http://www.immunize.nc.gov/schools/schools.htm>

Garrett's Law

Garrett's law, enacted in 2004, mandates NC schools provide parents and guardians with information about [meningococcal meningitis](#) and [influenza](#) and the vaccines that protect against these diseases. The law was expanded in 2007 to mandate information also be provided about [human papillomavirus \(HPV\)](#) and the vaccines available to protect against HPV.

Medication Administration

Only necessary medications that must be given during regular school hours will be administered.

All medications, whether prescribed or over the counter, require written permission from the custodial parent. They must complete the Medication Administration Permission form (one form per medication). The form must be renewed each school year or upon any change in medication or dosage.

Though we encourage a physician's written permission in all cases, a physician signature is required under the following conditions:

- Any possession or use of an inhaler or epinephrine injector
- Any self-possession or self-administration of any medication

Parents must include any prescribed treatment or care plan. An emergency care plan from the physician is required for asthma and epinephrine medications.

Prescribed medication must be delivered to the school in the original container prepared and labeled by a pharmacy. The label must include the dosage and frequency of administration. Over-the-counter medication must be in the original package with the student's name affixed to the package.

The medication supplied to the school must be in the exact dosage prescribed, so the individual administering medications is not responsible for dividing or splitting pills. All medication must be picked up by the parent at the end of the school year or upon a student's withdrawal. Any medication not picked up will be discarded.

If a parent is accompanying his/her child on a field trip, the parent will be required to administer the child's medication.

Notifications

Rights Under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents certain rights with respect to their child's education records. These rights are:

- The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents should submit a written request to the school principal clearly identifying the record(s) they wish to inspect. A school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parents of the time and place the records may be inspected.
- The right to seek an amendment of the student's education records that the parent believes are inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the student's rights of privacy. Parents should submit a written request to the school principal, clearly identifying the part of the record they want amended and specifying its inaccuracy. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested, it will notify the parents of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing to challenge the content of the student's education records. Hearing procedures will be provided to the parents when a hearing is requested.
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. The school does not need written consent to disclose a student's education records if the disclosure meets one or more of the following conditions and the disclosure is to or for: (see 20 U.S.C. §1232g; 34 CFR Part 99.31):
 1. School administrators, teachers, support staff, NHA personnel and other school officials which have a legitimate educational interest
 2. Persons or organizations with whom the school or NHA has outsourced services or functions and which have a legitimate educational interest (e.g., attorneys, auditors, medical consultants, special and supplemental education providers, therapists)
 3. Officials of another school where the student seeks or intends to enroll or where the student is already enrolled so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment, and as long as a proper records release request is received by the sending school
 4. Certain federal and state officials and educational authorities (for audit, evaluation, reporting, or compliance purposes) or state and local authorities concerning the juvenile justice system in accordance with state statute
 5. Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student
 6. Organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school or NHA to develop, validate, or administer predictive tests, administer student aid programs, or improve instruction
 7. Accrediting organizations to carry out accrediting functions
 8. Compliance with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena after the school makes a reasonable effort to notify the parent of the order or subpoena
 9. Appropriate parties in a health or safety emergency
- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school to comply with the requirements of FERPA:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

Right to Know under Federal Law

Parents of students have the right to know the professional qualifications of the school's classroom teachers and the school must give this information to parents in a timely manner if they ask for it. Specifically, parents have the right to ask for the following information about each of their child's classroom teachers:

- Whether the State Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he/she teaches
- Whether the State Department of Education has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances
- The teacher's college major
- Whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees
- Whether any teachers' aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to their child and, if they do, their qualifications

Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) affords parents certain rights concerning student privacy, parental access to information, and administration of physical examinations to minors. These include the right to:

- Consent before students are required to submit to a survey, which is funded in part or in whole by a program of the U.S. Department of Education, that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey"):
 1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent
 2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family
 3. Sexual behavior or attitudes
 4. Anti-social, demeaning, illegal, or self-incriminating behavior
 5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close familial relationships
 6. Legally-recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers
 7. Religious affiliations, beliefs, or practices of the student or parent
 8. Income, other than as required by law, to determine program eligibility
- Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of the following:
 1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding
 2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student (except for hearing, vision, scoliosis, or any other physical exam or screening permitted or required under state law)
 3. Any activity involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information or the marketing, selling, or distributing of such information to others
- Inspect the following, upon request and before administration or use:

1. Surveys created by a third party before their distribution by a school to its students
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum

The school protects student privacy in the administration of protected surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The school will also both directly notify parents through U.S. Mail, e-mail, parent meetings, or the Parent and Student Handbook of the specific or approximate dates (if such events are planned and/or scheduled) of the above activities and provide an opportunity to opt a student out of participating in them. *Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:*

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

Boy Scouts of America

The school does not discriminate against any group officially affiliated with either the Boy Scouts of America or any other youth group listed in Title 36 of the United States Code (as a patriotic society) that wishes to conduct a meeting within an open forum. The school does not deny such access or opportunity or discriminate for reasons based on the membership or leadership criteria or the oath of allegiance to God and country of the Boy Scouts of America or the youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code (as a patriotic society).

Title IX

The school certifies compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, 20 U.S.C 1681 et seq. (Title IX), and its implementing regulation, at 34 C.F.R. Part 106, which prohibits discrimination based on sex. The school, as a recipient of federal financial assistance from the United States Department of Education, is subject to Title IX and does not discriminate based on sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and expression, or pregnancy in employment or any educational program or activity it operates.

If students, their parents/guardians, or anyone else on their behalf believe they have been subjected to discriminatory harassment, including but not limited to harassment related to the students' sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and expression, or pregnancy by school board members, staff, students, vendors, contractors, or other persons doing business with the School, it should be immediately reported to the school principal (Title IX Coordinator) of the school and should provide specific details regarding the event, the date of the event, and the parties involved. The complaint will be considered confidential and will be expeditiously investigated by the Title IX Coordinator with the assistance of NHA legal counsel as necessary and appropriate.

Unsafe School Choice Option

A student attending a persistently dangerous school or a student who is a victim of a violent criminal offense on school property, as defined by law, has the right to transfer to another safe school in the district, if his/her parent requests a transfer. If there is not another safe school in the district providing instruction at the student's grade level, the school shall contact neighboring districts to request that the student be permitted to transfer to a school in one of

those districts.

Asbestos Management Plan

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requires us to annually notify parents, students, staff members, and others who regularly occupy the school building of compliance with AHERA. An Asbestos Management Plan (AMP) has been developed for the school and is on file in the school office. Parents may schedule an appointment with the principal if they wish to review the AMP.

Pesticide Notification

The school aims to control pest populations and to reduce the use of active pesticides throughout the school by implementing an integrated pest management program. The health and safety of all persons within the school's facilities are of primary concern. In addition to providing parents with this annual notification, the school will notify parents in advance of individual pesticide applications of non-emergency applications of pesticides such as an insecticide, fungicide, or herbicide, other than a bait or gel formation, that is made to the school ground or building. Please note that notification is not given for the use of sanitizers, germicides, disinfectants, or antimicrobial cleaners. In certain emergencies, such as an infestation of stinging insects, pesticides may be applied without prior notice to prevent injury to students, but parents will be notified following any such application. Advance notice will be posted on the front door and posted in a public, common area of the school other than the entrance. A parent can also request to be notified by letter postmarked at least 72 hours before the application is to take place. Please contact the school office if you wish to be notified by letter or wish to review the school's integrated pest management program or records. Your school will provide additional information regarding this.

Grievance Policy

It is the policy of the Board that its educational service provider maintain practices and procedures surrounding the registration of a grievance from students enrolled at RTCA and/or parents/guardians of students enrolled at RTCA which comply with all applicable federal and state laws. Failure of an individual to comply with timelines listed below will result in denial of the grievance or appeal. The Board prohibits retaliation against a student, parent or guardian who files a grievance under this policy. Failure of the school administration to comply with these timelines will result in automatic right of appeal to the next level.

If a student, parent or guardian has a concern, they should discuss the matter with the classroom teacher. Should they be dissatisfied with the teacher's meeting, they should, within 5 working days of the meeting, contact a dean or the principal and request a meeting. The administration will arrange a meeting within 5 days of receiving the request. If the student, parent or guardian is dissatisfied with the resolution proposed by the administration, they must, within 5 working days of the meeting, make a written request for a hearing before the Board of Directors as outlined below.

In addition to the procedure above, individuals may bring concerns directly to the board, in writing, if the concern directly relates to the performance of the management company, the school's operation, a governing Board policy or decision, or an alleged violation of a North Carolina statute, the school's charter, or other applicable laws and regulations.

The written request should include a brief description of the concern and the action proposed to resolve the concern. The request must be hand-delivered or mailed to the principal, who will, in turn, notify the Board Chairman of the request. If the next Board meeting occurs within 10 days

of the receipt of the request, the Chairman will place the matter on the agenda. If the next meeting occurs more than 10 calendar days from the receipt of the request, the Chairman shall call a special meeting of the Board to hear the concern. The Chairman will ensure the individual is notified of the time, place and location of the meeting. The Board will deal with the concern in an open session, unless the concern involves the performance or behavior of an employee or the actions of a student. The individual may make a personal presentation or stand on the information contained in the request. The Board may address the concern at that meeting, or following the meeting, but in no case later than the end of the next regularly scheduled meeting. If the individual student, parent or guardian determines that the Board did not adequately address the concern, they may bring the concern to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Research Triangle Charter Academy 2020-21 School Year

July/August						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

July 13-16 - NHA Leadership Summit
 July 17 - New Principal Training
 July 27-31 - New Teacher Summit
 6th-7th Staff PD
 10th-14th Staff PD; 13th Open House
 17th First Day of School (State Law Required)

September						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

7th Labor Day
 16th Staff PD

October						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

14th Staff PD
 19th-26th Q1 Exams; 23rd Q1 Ends
 29th Early Release @1/1:30pm
 30th Regional PD; **Remote Learning**

November						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

2nd-3rd Teacher Workday/PT Conf; **Remote Learning**
 11th Veterans Day
 23rd-27th Thanksgiving Break
 30th School Resumes

December						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

21st-Jan 1 Winter Break

January						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

1st New Year's Day
 4th School Resumes
 15th End of Q2
 18th MLK Day; 19th Staff PD
 20th Teacher Workday; **Remote Learning**
 25th-29th Q2 Exams

- Early Release Day
- Students Do Not Report/ Staff Report All Day
- Students Report Half Day/ Staff Report All Day
- Students/ Staff Do Not Report

Board Approved: 6/16/2020

February						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

12th Early Release @ 1/1:30pm
 15th President's Day

March						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

10th Staff PD
 16th-17th Principals Mtg
 26th End of Q3
 29th-April 2nd Spring Break

April						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

5th Teacher Workday; PT Conf; 6th-12th Q3 Exams
 15th Early Release @1/1:30pm
 16th Regional PD; **Remote Learning**

May						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

12th Staff PD
 31st Memorial Day

June						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

8th Last Day of School; End of Q4
 9th-10th Teacher Workdays

July						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Last Update: 6/1/2020

180 In School Day; 5 Remote Learning Days

K-4 8:00am-3:00pm, 5-8 8:30am-3:30pm School Hours

K-4 8:00am-12:00pm, 5-8 8:30am-12:30pm (half)

1108 Instructional Hours

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE CONTRACT

To successfully challenge each child to achieve, parents, students, and teachers must work together, committed to the school’s high expectations and standards. Each parent, student, and teacher is asked to pledge his/her commitment by signing below:

Parent/Guardian Commitment: *I fully commit to my child’s education in the following ways:*

- I understand that my child is enrolled in this school so he/she has opportunities to achieve.
- I realize that the expectations and standards at this school are high and agree to support them.
- I understand and agree to be bound by all provisions outlined in the Parent and Student Handbook and acknowledge receipt of the Parent and Student Handbook by signing below.
- I will monitor my child’s attendance, homework completion, and read school correspondence.
- I will participate in parent-teacher conferences and volunteer for school activities when possible.
- I understand that my child must behave respectfully and responsibly to protect the safety, interest, and rights of others in the school. I will model appropriate behavior while in the school.

Please add any other commitment statements you would like to note:

Parent/Guardian Signature	Date	Parent/Guardian Signature	Date

Student’s Commitment: *I fully commit to this school in the following ways:*

- I am enrolling in this school, because I want to achieve. I will put forth my best effort every single day.
- I agree with my school’s expectations, standards, and requirements, because I have high expectations for myself.
- I understand and agree to follow the Student Code of Conduct and Dress Code in the Parent and Student Handbook.
- I will attend school all day, every day, unless I have an excused absence.
- I will complete my homework, submit it on time, and contact my teacher about any questions.
- I will behave respectfully and responsibly to protect the safety, interests, and rights of others in the school. I will accept responsibility for my actions.

Student Signature	Student Printed Name	Date

Student Signature	Student Printed Name	Date

Student Signature	Student Printed Name	Date

Student Signature	Student Printed Name	Date

Teacher’s Commitment: *I fully commit to this school in the following ways:*

- I will provide each student opportunities to achieve.
- I will communicate with parents on a regular basis via personal contact, weekly newsletters, or progress reports and will make myself available to students and parents for any concerns they may have.
- I will display integrity and respect to students, parents, and staff members through my words and actions.
- I will protect the safety, interests, and rights of all individuals in the classroom.

Teacher Signature	Teacher Printed Name	Date

School-Wide Volunteer Opportunities



The school Board and staff members support the school’s commitment to parental involvement, believing strongly that it is a main ingredient for student success. On the back of this page is a listing of the volunteer opportunities available to parents at the school. The committees are listed first, followed by committee support and other opportunities. Please check all opportunities in which you are interested. As you participate in these opportunities, you will be fulfilling the Commitment to Excellence Contract by helping to provide an exemplary educational experience for our students. Thank you in advance for helping make our school exemplary for our children.

Volunteer opportunities specific to your child’s classroom are on a separate form.

Volunteers will be required to submit to a criminal background check.

Parent name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Best time to be reached: _____

Children’s names and grades:

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Please check all opportunities in which you are interested.

Committee Membership

Members must be available to meet the last Tuesday evening of each month. Please number committees in order of your preference. You will be assigned to one.

- _____ **Grounds and Facilities**
Plan projects such as spring clean-up, playground equipment installation, etc.
- _____ **Boosters**
Organize several fundraising projects throughout the year
- _____ **Family Fun**
Plan one special event for the school's families
- _____ **Hospitality**
Coordinate refreshments for specials events
- _____ **Moral Focus**
Plan ongoing activities and projects related to the monthly virtues
- _____ **Staff Appreciation**
Plan and coordinate Teacher Appreciation Day and other events to recognize the staff
- _____ **Technology Advisory Group**
Support the NHA Master Technology Plan by increasing computer literacy
- _____ **Ambassadors**
Assist with events to attract families to the school
- _____ **Library**
Coordinate efforts for volunteers to help with library administrative duties

Committee Support Opportunities

These include a wide variety of tasks and time commitments. Many are one-time opportunities.

- _____ **Grounds and Facilities** - Assist by raking, planting, building, and cleaning
- _____ **Boosters** - Assist with fundraisers (e.g., distribution of goods and bag rolling)*
- _____ **Family Fun Day** - Assist with set-up, clean-up, or other tasks*
- _____ **Hospitality** - Bring cookies or other refreshments for one or more special events*
- _____ **Library** - Cover, repair, or shelve books; read and review books; or assist at Book Fair*
- _____ **Moral Focus** - Assist with projects as needed at one or more activities
- _____ **Staff Appreciation** - Bring food or other items for events*
- _____ **Technology Advisory Group** - Support the NHA Master Technology Plan by increasing computer literacy
- _____ **Ambassadors** - Assist with events to attract families to the school

Other Opportunities

- _____ **Lunch/Playground Supervision**
Supervise classes during lunch or recess on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis
- _____ **Music**
Assist with music programs (e.g., decorating, organizing)*
- _____ **Office Help**
Assist office staff as needed
- _____ **Physical Education**
Assist with Field Day, Mileage Club, or intramurals

* Denotes areas which include some tasks that may be completed at home.