***Welcome to Northside Middle School***

***2023-2024***

We are very excited to start the 2023-2024 school year at NMS! Our goal at Northside Middle School is to ensure that each child has the opportunity to grow and achieve in the best learning environment possible. To maximize learning potential, a child must come to school with a good attitude toward his/her teachers and peers, a positive self-image, and a willingness to learn. Your encouragement and guidance will provide a foundation for these traits. We look forward to working with each and every one of you! Go RAMS!!

Autumn Franks Trent Isom

Principal Assistant Principal

**Northside Middle School**

**Positive Behavior Support**

**#RAMSnms**

**ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE**

Those students who do not ride a bus to school should not arrive before 7:30 a.m. SCHOOL PERSONNEL WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY STUDENT WHO ARRIVES BEFORE 7:30 AM OR WHO REMAINS AT SCHOOL AFTER 3:15 PM. SCHOOL PERSONNEL CANNOT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR STUDENTS FOR MORE THAN THIRTY MINUTES (30) BEFORE AND THIRTY (30) MINUTES AFTER SPECIAL EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE SCHOOL.

Students who arrive before 7:45 a.m. and who do not plan to eat breakfast must report to their first period classroom.

Morning Arrival

* Students riding the buses will be dropped off at the rear of the school. They may go to the cafeteria for breakfast or report to their first period classroom.
* Students arriving by car are dropped off in the front of the school. No student should be dropped off at school prior to 7:30 am and no later than 7:45 am.
* Students MAY NOT be dropped off or picked up in the back parking lot for any reason.
* Students MAY NOT be dropped off in the parking lot and walk across the car line to school.

\* Medical exemptions can be obtained with prior approval from an administrator.

* Students who are dropped off are to report to their first period class or the cafeteria for breakfast.
* If a student arrives AFTER 7:50 am, the student must report to the main office ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT.
* The parent must sign the student in. The student will be counted as tardy and maybe subject to disciplinary action.
* If a student is frequently tardy, the parent may be required to meet with an administrator prior to the student being given a pass to class.

Afternoon Dismissal

* Trips to lockers and to bathrooms, or other needs must be completed prior to the dismissal bell.
* When the 1st bell rings, students report directly to your bus. Busses are on a tight schedule so students must report directly to their bus.
* Students who are car riders must wait until the 2nd bell rings and then report to the gym and set in their designated area.
* If a parent pulls into the parking lot they will have to wait until the car line is completely finished before they may pick up their child and walk across to the parking lot.
* Students must be picked up each day by 3:15 pm.
* Parents and student are responsible for arranging transportation methods BEFORE leaving home each morning. The office will not take and deliver messages from parents reminding students of or changing their method of transportation.
* Student are not allowed to self-dismiss or walk off campus under their own control. This is in all situations. We do not accept parent permission, notes, calls, emails, or any endorsements for students to walk off of campus. Any need for students to walk to Walker Elementary, Northside High School or any athletic facilities have separate directions and authorizations. Since all are considered TCSS property.

**Cafeteria**

Breakfast and lunch will be served in the cafeteria each day. Students will have a lunch account code that must be entered when obtaining their meal. Students are responsible for having the needed money for breakfast or lunch. Phone calls home for money should not be necessary and the cafeteria will not allow students to charge their meal. Cafeteria procedures are as follows:

* Come into the cafeteria quietly and maintain an orderly line.
* Purses, backpacks, and bags should be left in the student lockers and not brought into the cafeteria. (at lunch)
* Pick up a tray, utensil, and napkin then proceed through the lunch line. Students may receive an additional charge if they do not follow the menu guidelines.
* Additional items may be purchased at the register.
* Hiding food or failure to pay for items will be treated as theft and result in disciplinary consequences.
* Students need to have all items before they are seated.
* Students must remain seated at their assigned table and may talk quietly to the people at their table. Teachers will dismiss their tables at the assigned time. Trash must be picked up around the table and designated students are to wipe down their table and sweep under and around it.
* All food must be consumed or discarded before leaving the lunchroom. Students are not permitted to take any food or drinks out of the lunchroom even if it is unopened.

**In addition to paper free lunch applications**, we are providing an additional service for parents who would feel more comfortable submitting their application online at myschoolapps.com

**Snack**

All foods consumed during school hours must be in adherence with the Tuscaloosa County School System “Wellness Policy”. In following the CNP guidelines, students are not allowed to bring fast food items, canned drinks, and commercial drinks into the building. If a student should bring these items to school, they must adhere to the TCSS Wellness /CNP guidelines. If not, they will be asked to finish the items before reporting to the classroom. Students will receive a “snack break” during 3rd period. Students may purchase items from the snack shack and then enjoy the items in the courtyard or designated area with their class. All items must be consumed or discarded during snack and are not allowed to be taken back into the building even if they are unopened. All trash MUST be placed in trash receptacles prior to leaving the courtyard. Students must come to snack with their class in an orderly fashion and leave quickly in line as to not disturb other classes that are in progress.

**2022-2023 DAILY CLASS SCHEDULE**

7:45 Bell rings to report to 1st period

7:50 – 8:44 1st period

8:48 – 9:42 2nd period

9:46 – 10:51 3rd period (Break)

10:55 – 11:47 4th period

11:51 – 1:08 5th period (Lunch)

1: 12 – 2:04 6th period

2:08 – 3:00 7th period

3:00 Bell rings to dismiss bus riders.

3:03 Bell rings to dismiss car riders.

**THERE WILL BE NO SCHEDULE CHANGES!**

**LOCKER**

Students are not allowed to take backpacks, purses and other bags to class with the exception of 7th period.

* **7:42 Athletes and band members will be dismissed to deliver sports bags and equipment to designated area before school.**

Lockers are located on each hallway and in the locker rooms. They are to be used for books or other items students need to store throughout the day. Due to the size of our building, classrooms and cafeteria and for student safety, all backpacks, bags, and purses must be kept in the locker. Backpacks, bags and purses are not to be taken to the classroom or lunchroom. A general fee is collected at the beginning of the year that will cover the locker rental. STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SHARE LOCKERS AT ANYTIME. When a locker is rented the student will be registered to that locker and they will receive a unique combination. Students are not to share this combination with anyone. Students are not to trade lockers with anyone else. Students are not to rig the locker for easy entry. Students are responsible for all items in the locker they are assigned.

\*\*\*\*\* The lockers remain the property of Tuscaloosa County Board of Education and may be opened at any time by school officials should the need exist.

**INTERVENTION**

At Northside Middle School, we operate on a 7 period day which allows classroom teachers an additional period of the day to pull students for intervention purposes. This may include make-up work, re-teaching of a standard, re-taking of a test or any other additional support they feel the student may need to be successful. Intervention is not optional. Students refusing to attend invention when asked by the teacher, could result in progressive discipline resulting in an initial parent contact.

**GUIDANCE PROGRAM**

The guidance program at Northside Middle School has been organized to help students help themselves solve educational, vocational and personal problems. Individual guidance is available to all students. Mrs. Rachael Skelton is our Guidance Counselor.

**VISITORS**

The school policy is to accept only those visitors who have legitimate business reasons for being on school grounds. Guests and visitors are required to report to the school office to sign in and obtain a pass. This pass must be returned to the office upon leaving campus. Visitors must leave the school building as soon as their business is completed.

**CLOSED CAMPUS**

We operate on a “closed campus” policy. This means that STUDENTS must stay on the school campus from the time they arrive, even if the daily schedule has not begun, until dismissed. Students violating this policy will be subject to suspension from school.

**DO NOT BRING NUISANCE ITEMS TO SCHOOL**

Items not directly associated with the educational program, spinners, cubes, slime, bouncy balls, etc. are not to be brought to school. Students found with any such items will have them confiscated and turned in to the office. Containers must be closed with a secure lid to eliminate spills in the building. No glass containers allowed. **Students are not allowed to chew gum, food or drinks in the designated areas of the science lab, gymnasium, library or computer lab.**

**Electronic Devices**

Cell phones, headphones, iPads, Air Pods, gaming devices and any other electronic devices should not be visible at school. Students are not to use their Smart Watches/Apple Watches for communication during the school day. If a student is caught with a cell phone or one of the other designated devices, it will be confiscated and a parent must come to the school and pick it up. If a student’s phone is seen or heard it will be confiscated. In addition, the following consequences will be administered. Parents, we ask that you not call or text your students while at school due to a disruption of instructional time. Please call the school office if you have an emergency and need to get a message to your student.

* 1st Offenses- Phone will be given back to the student at the end of the day. Phone call to parent.
* 2nd Offenses- Phone confiscated. Student will receive In-School Intervention. May only be returned to parent or guardian.
* 3rd Offenses- Phone confiscated. Student receives an Out-Of-School Suspension and phone will be returned to the parent during reinstatement conference.
* Every offense thereafter, an additional day of Out-Of-School Suspension will be added from the previous number of days.
* These offenses will start over each semester.

\*\*\*\*\* Tuscaloosa County Board of Education and Northside Middle School are NOT responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged cell-phones or electronic devices. School personnel will not look for devices that are lost or stolen. The student assumes all responsibility for these devices.

**ABSENCES**

Students who bring a note explaining the absences upon returning to school are to turn in their excuse to the office after reporting to 1st period. Office personnel will issue an absence slip. The student will show absence slip to each teacher during the day. After a total of ten absences in a school year, the parent/guardian will be required to provide medical or legal documentation for absences to be excused. **For the complete attendance policy, including the new “attendance exemption” policy, see the Parent Student Information Guide.**

**CHECK-INS AND CHECK-OUTS**

 **Parents must accompany students to check-in after 7:50 am**

Unexcused check-ins will be considered tardy and will be dealt with the same as tardies.

Only those that are listed on student’s record as assigned by the parent/guardian can check a student out.

4th Unexcused check-out After school detention, Sat detention, or ISI

6th Unexcused check-out After school detention, Sat detention, or ISI

8th Unexcused check-out After school detention, Sat detention, or ISI

10th Unexcused check-out and each additional ISI

**TARDY PROCEDURES (per term)**

1st Tardy Teacher Warning

2nd Tardy Teacher Warning Conference

3rd Tardy Parent Contact – Teacher

4th Tardy After school detention– Administrative Contact

6th Tardy After school detention– Administrative Contact

8th Tardy After school detention– Administrative Contact

10th Tardy ISI

Each additional tardy per term ISI

**TELEPHONE**

School telephones are for school use only. **Students are not to use these telephones except in emergency situations. Also, please limit messages to students to emergency situations only.**

**DRESS CODE**

A standardized dress code of Tuscaloosa County Schools has been adopted to ensure that all students are provided safe andappropriate educational opportunities which are free from unnecessary disruptions or outside influences and to instill in students the need to

dress appropriately and have respect for each other and authority. Students who have questionable or inappropriate dress will not be allowed to attend class. The following items will serve as a

minimum guide to acceptable dress for Tuscaloosa County Schools students. Each school reserves the right to establish dress code guidelines in addition to this guide.

Dress Code Guidelines

* All students must wear shirts, blouses, or dresses with a collar or with a non-revealing neckline such as, crew neck, jewel neck, or boat neck. Low cut, open back, bare midriff or clothing that allows the midriff to be exposed, are not permitted.
* Students may wear sleeveless garments which adequately cover undergarments. Spaghetti and/or thin-strapped shirts may be worn only if over another T-shirt or if covered by a blouse with sleeves.
* No obscene language and/or illegal substance advertisements (to include alcoholic and tobacco advertisements) may be worn on clothing or accessories.
* Pants, shorts, and skirts must be worn at the waist and fit properly. Pajama-style pants are prohibited. Skirts, shorts, and dresses must be mid-thigh or longer in front and back. No slits, holes, or leg openings may be allowed about mid-thigh. Leggings should be worn with the appropriate outer garments.
* Shirts should fit properly and not be too large, too tight, too short, or too long.
* Blankets may not be brought or worn to school.
* No hats, caps, head coverings, hair curlers, picks, bandanas, bonnets, head dressings, or sun glasses will be worn in school.
* Students are required to wear appropriate shoes at all times. Shoes with wheels are not appropriate for the school environment. Tennis shoes will be required for a physical education class.
* Student’s clothing should be neat and clean and not in noticeable disrepair.
* Appropriate undergarments must be worn and not visible.
* Ear piercings are allowed. Earrings, hairstyles, and other adornments that draw attention to oneself in a manner that may be disruptive to the educational process or pose a safety risk are prohibited.
* Students are prohibited from wearing any metal chains, metal spiked apparel, or accessories that may pose a safety risk.
* Students are to wear clothing in the manner it is designed to be worn (i.e., Clothing worn backwards or inside out is not allowed.) No excessively tight or revealing clothing, or see-through garments, may be worn.
* Students are prohibited from wearing any sign, symbol, logo, or garment which has become synonymous with any gang or unauthorized club or organizational activity. This also included any avenue for the promotion of products or activities prohibited by school policy or that are inflammatory and may generate negative feelings among the student body.
* The above items serve as a minimum guide. The principal shall have the discretion to outline other appropriate guidelines for their campus for special occasions.

Enforcement of Dress Code

Parents, teachers, and principals will strictly enforce the dress code. A student may be sent home to make any necessary alterations. Since this normally works a greater hardship on the parents and guardians than the students, parents are urged to supervise their child’s dress daily. We expect parents to take an active role in supporting this dress code. WHEN IN QUESTION, THE PRINCIPAL

OR DESIGNEE SHALL BE THE FINAL AUTHORITY IN DECIDING WHAT IS APPROPRIATE DRESS FOR SCHOOL.

**Bus Conduct**

Transportation to and from school by the Tuscaloosa County School System buses is a privilege. Students must adhere to all rules and policies at the bus stop and while on the bus. In addition, students must follow all directions and rules provided to them by the bus driver. Students who violate the rules and policies on the bus or at the bus stop may have their bus riding privileges suspended or revoked and receive further disciplinary actions.

* 1st Bus Referral- Warning, student conference, phone call to parent.
* 2nd Bus Referral- 3 Day Bus Suspension
* 3rd Bus Referral- 5 Day Bus Suspension
* 4th Bus Referral- 10 Day Bus Suspension
* 5th Bus Referral- Student will be suspended off the bus for the remainder of the semester.

**PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Parents or legal guardians who wish to confer with a teacher or teachers must make an appointment through the school office for a conference with the teacher or teachers during their planning period. The parent or legal guardians or teacher may request the presence of the principal or assistant principal in the conference. Please give 24 hour notice.

**ATTENDANCE AT ATHLETIC EVENTS**

Parent and student attendance is encouraged at all athletic events. The Northside Middle School athletic program is designed to promote sportsmanship and school spirit within participating athletes and spectators. Good sportsmanship includes:

1. cheering for your team, not against the opponent
2. recognizing outstanding plays by either team
3. accepting without comment game officials’ decision
4. being gracious in both victory and in defeat
5. refraining from any action or word that might be offensive to opponents

Attendance at athletic events is a privilege which may be denied. Students paying to see an event in the stadium, gymnasium, or other athletic facility will remain in that facility until the completion of the event. If the student leaves the facility, he or she will not be admitted again to that event.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Any change of name, address or telephone number must be reported immediately to the school office. The Tuscaloosa County School System has a definitive school zone established by the federal courts. Students must live with a parent/legal guardian within the zone to be eligible to attend Northside Middle School.

Students who move out of the zone but fail to notify the principal are subject to immediate removal from the school. Students who give false information about their residence are not only subject to immediate removal but also lose credit for school work and possible legal repercussion from the federal agencies involved in the court order.

**STUDENT/PARENT INFORMATION GUIDE**

“The Student/Parent Information Guide” has been published to assist students and parents by providing information regarding our school system. Within this guide, general school information, certain system policies, and curriculum requirements are provided. Please take time to review the Table of Contents and become familiar with specific policies and procedures of the Tuscaloosa County School System. You are encouraged to read this publication and Northside Middle School communications to understand the requirements and opportunities for students at our school. A copy of the 2021-2022 “Parent/Student Information Guide” has been given to each student.

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| **GRADE REPORTING PERIODS**  |

1st Nine Weeks: Progress Reports: September 9th Report Cards: October 13th

2nd Nine Weeks: Progress Reports: November 9th Report Cards: January 5th

3rd Nine Weeks: Progress Reports: February 9th Report Cards: March 22nd

4th Nine Weeks: Progress Reports: April 19th Reports Cards: May 23rd

**TUSCALOOSA COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM**

**2023 – 2024**

**SCHOOL CALENDAR**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT……………......AUGUST 2, 2023

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT........................AUGUST 3, 2023

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT....................... AUGUST 4, 2023

INSTITUTE/TEACHER WORK DAY………………AUGUST 7, 2023

TEACHER WORK DAY…………….………………..AUGUST 8, 2023

FIRST DAY STUDENTS ....................................... AUGUST 9, 2023

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY ..........................................SEPTEMBER 4, 2023

FALL BREAK………….………………………………OCOTBER 9, 2023

TEACHER WORK DAY…………...…………………OCTOBER 10, 2023

VETERANS’ DAY HOLIDAY ................................. NOVEMBER 10, 2023

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS .................................NOVEMBER 20-24, 2023

END OF SEMESTER………………...………………DECEMBER 15, 2023

WINTER HOLIDAYS………………………………... DECEMBER 18-31, 2023

TEACHER WORK DAY……………………………..JANUARY 2, 2024

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT………….. ......JANUARY 3, 2024

STUDENTS RETURN........................................... JANUARY 4, 2024

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BDAY HOLIDAY….. JANUARY 15, 2024

PRESIDENTS DAY…………………………………..FEBRUARY 19, 2024

SPRING BREAK ................................................... MARCH 11-15, 2024

TEACHER WORK DAY (WEATHER DAY)………..MARCH 29, 2024

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT………………...APRIL 1, 2024

LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS………………………..MAY 23, 2024

TEACHER WORK DAY……………………..……….MAY 24, 2024

MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY…………………………MAY 27, 2024

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