

# STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT-2023-2024

## Expectations for Student Behavior

North Shore High School believes it is necessary that students be made aware of the behavior that is expected of them, as outlined in district policies on school conduct and discipline. They shall also be given an opportunity to be heard on complaints and grievances they may have.

### **Leaving Campus**

Every student who has permission to leave campus (10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders) must do so through the main entrance **ONLY**. Students are required to sign in and out with security. This is required for the safety of each student and the security of the entire building.

Open campus is a privilege for students in good academic standing. Students on academic probation or who are ineligible *may* be required to stay on campus. Below are policies pertaining to each grade level. **Failure to comply with these policies may result in: the loss of open campus privileges, detentions, or suspensions.**

### Ninth Grade

Freshmen must remain on campus at all times, including during their lunch period. Students who violate this policy will spend a week of lunch periods in the detention room. On the second offense, two weeks of lunch periods will be forfeited.

### Tenth Grade

**Sophomores may not leave campus during the first two weeks of school in September while building administration collects parental consent forms.** After that, sophomores who have parental permission may leave campus during their lunch period only, which includes periods 4, 5, 6, and 7. No sophomores may leave campus **by car** during their lunch period.

### Eleventh Grade

Juniors will be allowed to leave campus during periods in which they are not enrolled in a class. No juniors may leave campus **by car** during their lunch period.

### Twelfth Grade

Twelfth graders are free to leave campus when they do not have a regularly scheduled class. Seniors may not, under any circumstance, transport a ninth, tenth or eleventh grader off campus in a motor vehicle during the school day.

## **Contracts of Agreement**

Certain events, such as proms and the Fashion Show, require that student participants and their parents sign a “*Contract of Agreement*” similar to that used when students go on overnight field trips. It states that students are expected to follow all rules that apply during the school day, as stated in the Code of Conduct. If students wish to attend the event, then they understand that they have promised to abide by the contract and will accept the consequences should they violate it. These consequences may include up to five (5) days out-of-school suspension with a Superintendent’s Conference Hearing attached, missing games or performances as per the Code of Conduct and Athletic Handbook, and a conduct review by the National Honor Society.

## **Student Dress Code**

Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. A student’s dress, grooming and appearance shall:

- Be safe, appropriate and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process for them or for others.
- Recognize that garments such as tube tops, mesh tops, halter tops, bare midriffs, plunging necklines (front and/or back) and see-through garments are not appropriate.
- Ensure that undergarments are completely covered with outer clothing.
- Include footwear at all times.
- Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, and libelous or denigrate others on account of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.
- Not promote and/or endorse gangs, gambling, the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.
- Not wear sunglasses indoors unless there is a medical condition documented by a doctor that requires that one do so.

Students who violate the student dress code shall be required to cover or to replace it with an acceptable item.

**NOTE: Refusal to comply with directives regarding the Dress Code is considered insubordination and may result in detentions or suspension.**

## **Weapons**

North Shore has a zero tolerance, no weapons policy. No weapons of any kind are to be brought on the campus of North Shore High School or any school within the North Shore Central School District. Weapons include but are NOT limited to any knife (regardless of size or description), any firearms (including a BB or paintball gun or an air pistol), any toy replicas of guns or knives, any martial arts implement, any explosive or any other object whose primary function is to create physical harm (including chemical propellant canisters). Laser pointers are not permitted in school.

**Students who bring any weapon or replica thereof to school, regardless of intent, will be suspended. Criminal offenders will be prosecuted and face possible expulsion.**

## **Insubordination**

Insubordination is the refusal to comply with a directive issued by a member of the school faculty or staff. Even if a student disagrees with a directive from a member of the faculty or staff, he or she still must comply. Afterward, he or she may present their position to an Assistant Principal or the Principal.

## Drugs & Alcohol

Illegal drugs, alcohol or other controlled substances are forbidden in North Shore High School, anywhere on or near the campus at any time, including in vehicles, and at any activity connected with school.

Use or possession of any amount of alcohol or illegal drugs is AGAINST THE LAW and students in violation will be suspended. Students will also be subject to the Code of Conduct and the Guidelines for Eligibility for Sports and Activities, and possibly a conduct review by the National Honor Society. Police contact may be required. The North Shore School District is concerned for the welfare and safety of all students. The school must remain a drug and alcohol-free environment.

## Vaping/Smoking/Tobacco Use

Vaping/smoking/tobacco use on public school property is against the law. Vaping, smoking and tobacco use is a known hazard to the health of students and adults. If a student is found using vaping/tobacco products on school grounds, a suspension may be assigned. Subsequent violations can result in additional school suspensions.

## Classroom Behavior

- Students are expected to come to class prepared.
- When in class, students must abide by the rules established by the school and the teacher(s) of the class.
- It is expected that students will take care of personal matters between classes or during free periods. Requests for leaving class will **not** be honored unless an emergency situation occurs.
- Students are responsible for leaving classrooms neat.
- Students and parents will be held responsible for damaged or defaced school property including, but not limited to, textbooks and iPads/Chrome Books.

## Loitering

All students should be in class and out of the halls during class time. Loitering in the halls, the main lobby, the top and bottom of the ramp, the locker rooms, and lavatories is not permitted at any time.

In addition, students may not remain in the school building after school hours unless they are involved in a supervised activity.

During the day, students are to enter and exit only through the main doors to the building. For building security, all other exterior doors are locked.

## Fire Drills, Sheltering Drills and Lockdowns

During all drills, students must quickly and quietly follow staff directions. Failure to do so may be considered insubordination and will result in detention or suspension.

## Cell Phones

The use of cell phones and other related electronic devices is not permitted during class time. Cell phones should be turned off and out of sight during classes. Violators may receive detention. Repeat offenders will face in-school suspension.

**Cell phone use is only permitted in the cafeteria or courtyard during school hours.** Students should practice etiquette when using their phones in designated areas by keeping their voices low and not infringing on the rights of others.

When necessary, school staff may confiscate a cell phone and store it securely in the main office. For any repeated offenses, parents may be asked to retrieve the device. Appropriate cell phone use is a privilege.

## Electronic Devices

The unauthorized use of any electronic device to film and/or record on school grounds is strictly forbidden. Anyone who chooses to do so will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension and a Superintendent's Conference Hearing.

## Posters, Banners and Signs

Posters and other materials on bulletin boards or walls must be approved by the Principal or an Assistant Principal and may not violate school rules, contain offensive language or messages or advertise private, profit-making services.

## Student Publications

Publications such as school newspapers should reflect the policy and judgment of the student editors and advisors. Within these bounds, student newspapers have the right to report the news and to editorialize. However, as stated in the Supreme Court decision of *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*, administrators have the right to review the style and content of student speech in school publications, so long as their actions are reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical concerns.

## Student Parking/Driving

- Due to space limitations, **only seniors** may park on the school campus. Any senior wishing to park a car on campus must register his or her vehicle with the Head of Security and display a parking permit. Parking permits are available in the main office once the student and a parent or guardian has signed a contract agreement to uphold his or her responsibilities.
- A student parking illegally or violating traffic rules and regulations may forfeit the privilege of bringing a car on school grounds, may receive detention, and may be ticketed by the Nassau County Police.
- Student parking is available only in the East and Front Parking Lots. (The North Parking Lot is for staff use ONLY.) Students may not park in other areas designated for visitors or faculty.
- A student who refuses to move his or her car when asked is insubordinate and may receive detentions or suspensions as a consequence.
- The speed limit on campus is 10 MPH. There is a zero-tolerance policy for speeding on campus. This is a major safety concern and students who exceed the 10 MPH speeding limit may forfeit their privilege of parking on campus for 2 months for the first offense. Repeat offenders will permanently lose their parking privileges.
- The district does not assume responsibility for damage to cars or loss of personal items while vehicles are on school premises.

## Harassment Policy

North Shore High School is committed to safeguarding the right of all employees and students to work and learn in an environment that is free of harassment of a sexual, racial, religious, ethnic, disability-related, ageist, or other unlawful nature. Harassment means any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, when the intentional written, verbal, or physical act:

- Physically harms a student or damages the student's property; or
- Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education; or
- Is severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
- Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

"**Harassment**" shall mean the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being; or conduct, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety; such conduct, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse includes but is not limited to conduct, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, general physical appearance, national origins, ethnic groups, religions, religious practices, mental or physical ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex.

"**Discrimination**" shall mean treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction in favor of or against, a person based on their actual or perceived race, color, weight, general physical appearance, national origins, ethnic groups, religion, religious practices, mental or physical ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex.

Such harassment is prohibited on school grounds, school buses and at all school-sponsored activities, programs and events including those that take place at locations outside the district.

It makes no difference if the harassment is intended as "just joking" or "teasing" or "playful". Jokes can be just as offensive as any other type of harassment. All employees and students are responsible for successfully maintaining this policy.

Students are expected to immediately report instances of harassment, discrimination, and/or bullying or intimidation to an Assistant Principal.

### **Sexual Harassment**

- Sexual harassment can be verbal or physical and includes (but is not limited to) offensive talk or gestures about sex or sexuality, the display of pornographic or other highly offensive material, or any activity that creates an unpleasant or offensive working or learning environment, or that interferes with work performance, because of a person's sex, gender identification, or sexual orientation.
- Contact the District's Title IX representatives who will provide information relevant to the rights of individuals under TITLE IX, including procedures to be followed if you feel such rights have been violated.
- Sexual harassment may result in suspension from school and a Superintendent's Conference Hearing.
- As required by New York State law, instances of harassment and discrimination must be reported to an Assistant Principal or the Principal.

### **Theft or Property Damage**

Serious incidents of theft or vandalism of school or private property will result in suspension and a Superintendent's Conference Hearing. Depending on the nature of the incident and the extent of damage, the police will also be notified.

### **Personal Possessions**

Students are discouraged from bringing electronic devices/games, cash, expensive jewelry and other valuables to school. If students do bring such items, they do so at their own risk.

It is the student's responsibility to make sure their possessions are safe and secure in lockers. Possessions left unattended are at risk and school officials are not responsible for finding or replacing lost or misplaced property.

### **Cafeteria and Courtyard**

Students must demonstrate proper decorum in the cafeteria and courtyard, especially during lunch periods. Students are responsible to clean up after themselves. Wrappers, cans, bottles and food waste must be placed in trash cans or recycle bins in the cafeteria, halls or classrooms. Students who refuse to attend to their own litter are insubordinate and may forfeit cafeteria privileges.

Unauthorized activities are prohibited in school courtyards. Students must keep the noise level low as there are classes being taught along the north central courtyard wall.

No gambling is permitted in the cafeteria, courtyard, or anywhere else on school grounds.

### **Detention**

Detention is served after school from 3:00PM until 4:00PM. If a student is legally absent from school, the detention will be rescheduled. Students who refuse to attend detentions face multiple detentions, suspension, and/or loss of open-campus privileges.

### **Academic Misconduct**

Academic misconduct refers to any form of plagiarism or cheating on examinations or assignments. Plagiarism is the use of the words or ideas of another without giving credit to the author. In the process of research, students should be aware that they must credit the authors of information whether from written, audio, video, or computer sources. Students MUST NOT duplicate the original source in any way to present the text or ideas as their own. Plagiarism has serious academic and possibly disciplinary consequences as outlined in the NSHS Academic Integrity Code and Policy.

## Field Trip Policy

Students may not attend school-sponsored field trips unless their permission slips and payment are returned PRIOR to the trip. The school's Code of Conduct is fully in effect during any trip and during the bus rides to and from the trip location.

Students who are ineligible based on the Guidelines for Eligibility for Sports and Activities, have been suspended on the day of the trip or have missed many classes in other subjects, may forfeit the opportunity to attend scheduled field trips. In all cases, it is the student's responsibility to "make up" any assignments that are covered on the day or days of the field trip.

If a student is late to school and misses the school transportation to a field trip, they will be required to attend their regularly scheduled classes or other designated area determined by administration.

## Visitors to the Schools

Students who wish to bring a visitor to school must obtain **prior written permission** from building administration and provide contact information from a parent or guardian at least two (2) school days prior to the desired date of visitation.

All visitors to the school must report to the security desk upon arrival, sign the visitor's register and receive a visitor's identification badge, which must be worn at all times while in the school or on school grounds. The visitor must return the identification badge to the security guard before leaving the building. The visitor is subject to the school's Code of Conduct while on campus.

Former students who wish to visit the school during the day must get written permission from the staff member they wish to visit and provide this to building administration prior to their visit. Administration reserves the right to deny visitor requests.

## Student Searches and Interrogations

The Principal or an Assistant Principal may question a student about an alleged violation of law or the district Code of Conduct. Students are not entitled to any sort of "Miranda"-type warning before being questioned by school officials, nor are school officials required to contact a student's parent before questioning the student. However, students will be informed as to why they are being questioned.

Also, an authorized school official may conduct a minimally intrusive search of a student, his or her belongings, lockers and vehicle, if parked on school property, provided there is *reasonable suspicion*. Such contraband as drugs, weapons, or stolen property will be confiscated. This policy extends to school-issued iPads and Chrome Books.

## Lockers

All students are assigned an individual locker number. Lockers are the property of the school and may be opened by building administration. Students are responsible for the contents of their lockers. It is extremely important to lock lockers properly and to keep combinations private and secure.

## Fighting

Physical force or violence is never acceptable as a means to settle a dispute or argument. If students resort to fighting, all participants will be punished by suspension.

## Use of Obscene or Vulgar Speech or Gestures, and Hate Language

Free speech does not cover language that interferes with the learning process. Vulgar and obscene speech, whether spoken or written, is unacceptable in an academic environment. It is irrelevant if the words are whispered and overheard, or shouted across the room.

Hate speech is threatening and illegal. Whether spoken, written, in notebooks, or on walls, or on a computer or mobile device, all incidents of this type are unacceptable.

## Skateboards/Bicycles/Scooters/Segways/Hoverboards

Riding skateboards, bicycles, scooters, segways, and hoverboards are prohibited on school grounds. Skateboards and hoverboards must be carried once the student is on campus and put away during school hours. Bicycles, scooters, and segways should be dismounted once you have arrived on campus.

## These Rules and Regulations Apply...

- while in the school building
- on school grounds and fields
- on school buses
- on school-sponsored field trips
- at extracurricular activities after school, evenings and weekends
- at all sporting events

## Disciplinary Penalties

Students that are found to have violated the Code of Conduct may be subject to the following penalties, consistent with the student's right to due process. This is not intended to be a progressive list. Certain offenses will warrant action that is appropriate and consistent with the severity of the offense.

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| -Oral warning   | -Suspension of other privileges (such as open campus or free periods) |
| -Written warning  | -Removal from classroom by teacher                                    |
| -Written or verbal notification to parent                                       | -Short-term suspension from school                                    |
| -Suspension from transportation   | -Long-term suspension from school                                     |
| -Suspension from athletic participation or social or extracurricular activities | -Permanent suspension from school                                     |
| -In-school suspension   | -Any other appropriate disciplinary action                            |

The entire and most current district student Code of Conduct can be accessed online at <https://northshoreschools.org/highschool/policies-forms.htm>