

2020-2021
Student Handbook

Newcastle Middle School



Newcastle Middle School

(405) 387- 3139

611 E. Fox Ln.

Newcastle, OK

www.newcastle.k12.ok.us

Home of the Racers

School Colors
Royal Blue and White
Mascot
Racers

School Board Members

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Vice President	John Maker
Clerk	Valory Dalton
Member	Tiffany Elczyn
Member	Jeff Dingee

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MS Principal	John Harris
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MS Counselor	Toni Kammerlocher
Athletic Director	Chris McKenzie
MS Secretary	Christi Cribb
MS Registrar	Cathy Robertson

ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY AND REGULATIONS

A student must be maintaining a “passing grade” in all classes in order to participate in an activity. Effective January 1, 1989 scholastic eligibility will be determined by the regulations listed at the end of this section. These regulations conform to Rules of the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association (OSSAA).

A student must be present in all classes the day an activity is scheduled; or if the activity is schedule; or if the activity is scheduled on a weekend or holiday, or is an all-day activity, a student must have been present the preceding school day. Any exceptions to this policy must be approved by the building principal.

The board of education shall appoint, at the beginning of the school year, an Internal Activities Review Committee. This committee shall be responsible for reviewing and recommending any deviation of the activities policy to the local board of education. Any deviation from the ten (10) days absence rule shall not exceed five (5) days.

A student must be maintaining a “passing grade” in classes to be missed while participating in an activity during the school day. A weekly eligibility list of students will be made available at the end of each week through the registrar’s office.

*Regulations of OSSAA Rule 3– Scholastic Eligibility

Section 1 – Semester Grades

- A student must have received a passing grade in any five (5) subjects counted for graduation in which he/she was enrolled during the last semester he/she attended fifteen (15) or more days.
- If a student does not meet the minimum scholastic standard, he/she will not be eligible to participate during the first six (6) weeks of the next semester he/she attends.
- A student who does not meet the above minimum scholastic standard may regain his/her eligibility by achieving passing grades in all subjects in which he/she is enrolled at the end of a six (6) week period.

Section 2 – Student Eligibility

During a Semester

- Scholastic eligibility for students will be checked at the end of the third week (during the fourth week) of a semester and each succeeding week thereafter.
- A student must be passing in all subjects in which he/she is enrolled during a semester. If a student is not passing all subjects in whom he/she is enrolled at the end of the week, he/she will be placed on probation for the next one (1) week period. If a student is still failing one or more classes at the end of his/her probationary one (1) week period, he/she will be ineligible to participate during the next one (1) week period. The ineligibility periods will begin on Monday and end on Sunday.
- A student who has lost eligibility under this provision must regain passing grades in all of his/her classes in order to regain eligibility. A student regains eligibility under Rule 3 with the first class of the new one (1) week period (Monday through Sunday).

Section 3 – Special Provisions

- An ineligible student who changes schools during a semester will not be eligible at the new school for a minimum period of three (3) weeks. A student may regain his/her eligibility by achieving the scholastic standard in Rule 3, Section 2-b at the end of a three (3) week period.
- Incomplete grades will be considered to be the same as failing grades in determining scholastic eligibility. School administrators are authorized to make an exception to this provision (Rule 3, Section 3-c) if the incomplete grade was caused by an unanticipated hardship. (Examples of such hardships would be illness, injury, death in family and natural disaster) OSSAA Board policy allows a maximum of two (2) weeks to apply for this exception.
- One summer school credit earned in an Oklahoma State Department of Education accredited program may be used to meet the requirements of Rule 3, Section 1a for the end of the spring semester.

ACTIVITY TRIPS

Activity trips are an extension of the school program and school day. All rules and standards of Newcastle Public Schools are applicable during activity trips. Behavior must be exemplary on all trips. It is important that you represent your school, your family, and most importantly, yourself, in a positive way! Students should make every effort to collect and complete assignments before leaving for an activity trip. In the event that this does not happen, students should check with their teacher the following day to make arrangements to complete all missing work.

AIDES (TEACHER/OFFICE/LIBRARY)

A student may qualify for being an aide if he/she meets the following criteria:

1. The student must have a minimum 2.50 weighted grade-point average and be approved by the receiving supervisor as well as the building principal.
2. The student must have no serious disciplinary action on his record, i.e. ISR or OSS. (Being placed in ISR or being suspended out of school may be grounds for being removed from the aide position and being placed in an alternate setting.)
3. The student must agree to follow directions and abide by the school tardy and attendance policy.

4. Students will receive a grade for serving as an office aide.
5. A student may serve as an aide only one period during the school day.
6. The grade will be based largely on effort, attitude, attendance, punctuality, and the ability to follow school policies and procedures.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements are over the intercom daily. The Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence shall be included as part of the announcements.

ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

In the past, asbestos was used extensively in building materials because of its insulating, sound absorbing, and fire retarding capabilities. Virtually any building constructed before the late 1970s contained some asbestos. Intact and undisturbed asbestos materials generally do not pose a health risk. Asbestos materials, however, can become hazardous when, due to damage or deterioration over time, they release fibers. If the fibers are inhaled, they can lead to health problems, since as cancer and asbestosis.

In 1986, Congress passed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) which requires schools to be inspected to identify any asbestos containing building materials. Suspected asbestos-containing building materials were located, sampled (or assumed) and rated according to condition and potential hazard. Every three years, Newcastle Public Schools has conducted a re-inspection to determine whether the condition of the known or assumed asbestos containing building materials (ACBM) has changed and to make recommendations on managing or removing the ACBM. At the last inspection conducted on September 12, 2012, ALL BUILDINGS within Newcastle Public School District were inspected and found to contain NO ABESTOS BUILDING MATERIALS; therefore, no operations and maintenance programs or future inspections are required.

ASSAULT OR BATTERY OF SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Any student who commits assault, battery, or assault and battery on any school personnel who is in the performance of assigned duties including extra-curricular activities, shall be removed from the personnel's assigned duty area, classroom and/or extra-curricular activity pending investigation by certified administrative personnel. Any student with a current IEP shall begin the procedure with a placement committee meeting.

1. A student so removed shall not be readmitted until the investigation is concluded.
2. A student so removed shall not be readmitted to the teacher's class and/or extra-curricular activity without a conference between the school personnel, parent or guardian and the administrative personnel doing the investigation.
3. When battery or assault on school personnel has been substantiated the student shall not be readmitted to the area where the incident occurred, and/or the extra-curricular assignment without the consent of the administration and the personnel involved.
4. When the investigative administrative personnel have determined that a student is guilty of a battery or assault and battery on school personnel that student shall be suspended from the school for not less than 10 school days and not more than one calendar year.

ATTENDANCE

According to the Oklahoma School Code, any person having control of a child between five (5) and eighteen (18) years of age is required to compel that child to attend school. Failure to do so may result in fines and/or imprisonment. Attendance is important. Newcastle Public Schools are

required by state law to keep an accurate record of attendance and reasons for absence. Attendance records are updated daily.

Note: Due to the current dynamic circumstances surrounding the COVID -19 Pandemic, attendance enforcement and policies are subject to change. As new information surfaces, the district will notify parents of changes to the current attendance regulations.

Attendance Reporting Procedure

Parents/legal guardians are asked to call the attendance office whenever their son/daughter is absent to verify the absence. Attendance office phones have 24-hour voice mail. If a call is impossible, a note should be sent with the student upon his/her return to school and given to the attendance secretary upon the student's arrival on campus or the parent/guardian should contact the attendance secretary through email.

If a parent/guardian contact is not received within 48 hours of the absence, the absence will be considered unverified.

Attendance Codes

The following codes may appear on a printout of your student's attendance or when you access your student's information online:

Unverified Absence Codes:

UVA (unverified absent)
TRU (Truant)

Verified Absence Codes:

VA (verified absence); AM (verified absence with medical documentation); AA (activity); FT (field trip); LG (legal); TST (testing); CV (college visit); ISR (in school restriction); OFF (office); HB (homebound); QA (absence due to a state qualifying event); FUN (funeral).

Tardy Codes:

TU (unverified tardy); TE (verified tardy)

Activity Absence

Refer to "Activity Eligibility and Regulation Section" in this handbook.

Early Dismissal/Late Arrival

According to state law, students shall not be excused from school once they have arrived unless parent permission is granted. Contact by parent/guardian to the attendance office is required prior to early dismissal. An electronic message from a parent/guardian to a student does not constitute permission to leave a classroom for early dismissal. Early dismissals will be sent to the classroom except for certain circumstances (example: exam days, assemblies). The dismissal slip will allow the student to leave class at the time requested. Before leaving the building, the student must sign out through the attendance office or main office. If students return to school during the day, they must sign in and have the dismissal slip signed by the attendance secretary. Students arriving to class later than 10 min. are considered absent and are to report to the attendance office, sign in, and receive a pass to class. If a student checks out early from a class period, the student will be counted absent if he or she misses more than half of the class period. Parents are encouraged to contact the attendance office. A student who does not check out (which includes prior parental permission AND signing out in the office) prior to leaving school anytime during the school day will be disciplined for truancy.

Penalty for Excessive Absences

A student will NOT receive credit for a course if he/she is in excess of eight (8) absences coded as UVA, VA. If a student exceeds the eight (8) absences per class, a No Credit (NC) will be posted in place of a letter grade.

A written appeal concerning attendance must be made to the Appeal Committee within four (4) days prior to the end of the current semester. The appeal form is located on the Middle School website. Instructions for the process of submitting the form to the Appeal Committee is located on the form. Doctors' notes should be submitted to the attendance office throughout the semester. Original doctor's notes or other documentation should be kept for your own records. An appeal committee consisting of an administrator, teacher(s), and counselor will review the merits of the appeal and submit a final decision to the site principal. The decision of the committee is final.

Verified Absence with Medical Documentation (AM)

The AM code will be used for the following reasons:

- A doctor's note was provided to the attendance office.
- The absence was related to a student's medical disability as documented on the student's 504 plan or IEP. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to communicate the reason for the absence to the attendance office.

Tardiness

Being late to class is disruptive to the educational process. Students are expected to be in their assigned classroom or location when the tardy bell rings.

Any student who arrives late to school must report to the office for admission. All other tardiness would be classified as an unexcused tardy. Any student who is detained by the office or a teacher should ask for a note to his/her next teacher so he/she will not be counted tardy.

Teachers will inform students each time they are late to class and record the tardy in Infinite Campus. Tardies will be cumulative for each semester.

- 1st Tardy: Warning
- 2nd Tardy: 1 Detention parent contact by teacher
- 3rd Tardy: 2 Detentions parent contact by teacher
- 4th and each successive tardy: student is referred to the appropriate administrator.
- Failure to show for an assigned detention will result in an extra day of detention. Failure to show again for an assigned detention will result in student being sent to the appropriate administrator.

Students missing more than 10 minutes of any class period are recorded absent for that class.

Unverified Absences

Educational programs are built on the foundation of continuity of instruction and participation in the classroom setting. Consistent classroom attendance can lead to the development of strong work habits, responsibility, and self-discipline. Because attendance also has a definite correlation to academic performance, the quality of a student's education suffers when he/she is absent from class. Students are encouraged to maintain regular attendance. A truancy occurs when a student is absent from class and no verified excuse has been provided by a parent or guardian as to the student's whereabouts. An unverified absence (UVA) is considered a truancy. Examples are as follows:

- Leaving campus after having once arrived without properly signing out in the attendance office.
- Failure of parents to notify school official of a student's absence.
- Leaving class without permission.
- Leaving class and not reporting to designated place.
- Erroneous phone calls to have a student dismissed from class.
- Other fraudulent attempts to be absent from school not covered in this definition.

Violators may be referred to the site administrator for disciplinary action that may include detention, suspension or other consequences. Any student or students participating in an unauthorized skip day or walk out will be subject to the regulation covering truancy and/or referred to the district attorney.

If a child is absent without valid excuse four (4) or more days or parts of days within a nine-week period or is absent without valid excuse for eight (8) or more days or parts of days within a semester, the attendance officer shall notify the parent, guardian, or custodian of the child and immediately report such absences to the McLain County District Attorney for juvenile proceedings pursuant to Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

ASSIGNMENTS MISSED DURING ABSENCE

Assignments Missed Due to a VERIFIED Absence(s)

Students are encouraged to make up any work missed due to an absence. In general, students will be granted one school day for each school day missed. Students are responsible for acquiring, completing, and turning in any work missed to the teacher within the determined time period. Any student who chooses not to complete missed assignments within five days of returning to school will receive a score of "0" for those assignments. Projects, reports, and tests which are known prior to an absence are expected to be turned in and/or taken upon the student's return to school. Exceptions may be granted due to the extent and/or nature of the absence or the specific classwork missed. Students are encouraged to talk with their teachers.

Assignments Missed Due to a UNVERIFIED Absence(s)

A student may not be permitted to make up work missed as a result of an unverified absence. The assignments missed will recorded as a zero.

Assignments Missed Due to an Extended Absence

If students anticipate their absence will go beyond **FOUR** school days, they may request missed work through the Main Office. Requests for homework assignments should be made by 8:30 a.m. and will be available for pick up the following day. Any student who chooses not to complete missed assignments within five days of returning to school will receive a score of "0" for those assignments. Exceptions may be granted due to the extent and/or nature of the absence or the specific classwork missed.

Assignments Missed Due to a School Activity Absence

Students should make every effort to complete work in advance; however, time given to make up this work should not exceed the corresponding time the student was gone. Assignments should be completed following the same guidelines as verified absences.

BULLYING, INTIMIDATION, HARASSMENT

According to Oklahoma State Law 70 O.S. 20015, bullying, harassment, and intimidation are specifically prohibited “at school.”

“Harassment, intimidation, and bullying” means any gesture, written or verbal expression, electronic communication, or physical act that a reasonable person should know will harm another student, damage another student’s property, place another student in reasonable fear of harm to the student’s person or damage to the student’s property, or insult or demean any student or group of students in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school’s educational mission or the education of any student. “Harassment, intimidation, and bullying” include, but are not limited to, a gesture or written, verbal, or physical acts, or electronic communications. Harassment is intimidation by threats of or actual physical violence; the creation by whatever means of a climate of hostility or intimidation; or the use of language, conduct, or symbols in such manner as to be commonly understood to convey hatred, contempt, or prejudice or to have the effect of insulting or stigmatizing an individual. Harassment includes but is not limited to harassment on the basis of race, sex, creed, color, national origin, religion, marital status, or disability.

Harassment, intimidation and bullying set forth above may include, but is not limited to the following:

1. Verbal, physical, or written harassment or abuse;
2. Repeated remarks of a demeaning nature;
3. Implied or explicit threats concerning one’s grades, achievements, etc.;
4. Demeaning jokes, stories, or activities directed at the student;
5. Unwelcome physical contact.
6. The communication of any written, verbal, or pictorial information by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, cellular telephone or other wireless telecommunication device, or a computer.

This policy is in effect while the students are on school grounds, in school transportation, or attending school-sponsored activities or school-sanctioned events, and while away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management, and welfare of the school district. Parents and students are encouraged to use the Safe Schools hotline (1-877-SAFECALL) as appropriate, as well as report incidents of bullying to the school counselor and/or the building principals. Parents and students are also encouraged to make copies and keep records of any written or electronic incidents of bullying to support the school and our efforts to effectively address and prevent bullying in Newcastle Public Schools. Students may also pick up a form to document bullying, whether as a witness or as a victim, in both the counseling office and the library. When completed, this form may then be turned into the counseling office.

The following is a basic bullying step-by-step plan:

1. Stop all contact with the student who you feel threatened by.
2. Move away from situation if another situation arises.
3. Immediately report danger to nearest school official or law enforcement agency if necessary.
4. Contact your parents to let them know about the situation
5. Provide evidence and statements to the Middle School principal as soon as possible.
6. Do not retaliate physically or through social media, but allow due process to take its course.

BUS PROCEDURES

School bus transportation is a privilege that may be withdrawn for inappropriate behavior. A student is to ride the bus to which he/she is assigned. Students will be allowed off the bus only at school, home, and locations requested in writing by parents. **The bus driver is in complete charge of the bus and its occupants at all times.** Students riding the bus **MUST** comply with the request of the driver. Please review the bus procedures listed below:

I. Prior to Loading (on the road and at school)

1. Be on time at the designated school bus stops – keep the bus on schedule.
2. Stay off the road at all times while waiting for the bus.
3. Bus riders conduct themselves in a safe manner while waiting.
4. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before attempting to enter.
5. Be careful in approaching bus stops.
6. Bus riders are not permitted to move toward the bus at the school loading zone until the bus has been brought to a complete stop.

II While on the Bus

1. Keep hands and head inside the bus at all times after entering and until leaving the bus.
2. Assist in keeping the bus safe and sanitary at all times.
3. Avoid loud talking and laughing or unnecessary confusion diverts the driver's attention and may result in a serious accident.
4. Treat bus equipment as you would valuable furniture in your own home. Damage to seats, etc., must be paid for by the offender.
5. Bus riders should never tamper with the bus or any of its equipment.
6. Leave no books, lunches, or other articles on bus.
7. Keep books, packages, coats, and all other objects out of the aisles.
8. Help look after the safety and comfort of small children.
9. Do not throw anything out of the bus window.
10. Bus riders are not permitted to leave their seats while the bus is in motion.
11. Horse-play is not permitted around or on the school bus.
12. Bus riders are expected to be courteous to fellow pupils, the bus driver, and the patrol officers or driver's assistants.
13. Keep quiet when approaching a railroad-crossing stop.
14. In case of a road emergency, children are to remain in the bus, unless instructed by the driver to exit the bus.
15. All rules of the regular school day apply to the bus.

III After Leaving the Bus

1. When crossing the road, go at least ten feet in front of the bus, stop, check traffic, and watch for bus driver's signal, then cross the road.
2. Students living on right side of the road, should immediately leave bus and stay clear of traffic
3. Help look after the safety of small children
4. The driver will not discharge riders at places other than the regular bus stop, except, by proper authorization from the parent or school official.

IV Extra-Curricular Trips

1. The above rules and regulations will apply to any trip under school sponsorship.
2. Pupils *will* respect a *chaperone* appointed by the school officials.

V Consequences for Misbehavior on the Bus

1. 1st Bus referral - School based punishment, parent contact, and assigned seat at the driver's discretion.

2. 2nd Bus referral - 5 Days of bus suspension.
3. 3rd Bus referral - 10 Days of bus suspension
4. 4th Bus referral - Suspension for the remainder of the semester or longer as deemed necessary by administration.

Severe Violations: Students who severely misbehave, directly jeopardize the safe operation of the school bus, or directly challenge the authority of the driver or other school official will lose their riding privileges without receiving warnings. Vandalism, fighting, failure to cooperate with the driver, abusive language or gestures directed toward school personnel, possession or use of drugs, alcohol or weapons, or any other violations that affect safety will be dealt as severe violations.

CELL PHONES/WIRELESS DEVICES

Newcastle Middle School promotes an environment for instructional learning that is safe and secure. Students are urged to practice mature and responsible cell phone usage. Students causing a disruption by using their cell phones and/or other wireless device inappropriately may be subject to a referral to the appropriate administrator.

CHEATING/ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

In an academic institution, dishonesty serves to undermine the academic and intellectual integrity of the school and everything education stands for. Cheating will be considered the act or intent of gaining or giving knowledge or information for an assignment or test answer by fraudulent means. Examples of cheating and academic dishonesty may include, but are certainly not limited to, the following:

- Presenting the work of another person as your own
- Copying information from another student's test, examination, theme, book report, homework, notebook, etc., unless specifically given permission by the teacher to do so. Teachers should provide clear guidance in regards to their expectations for group work and group projects.
- Plagiarism- using another person's ideas, expressions, or words as your own without giving the original author credit
- Preparing to cheat- Examples of this may include: having in your possession a copy of a test or assignment to be given or having been given by a teacher, using a textbook notes or other materials without permission during a test or examination, and talking during a quiz, test, or examination.
- Not following test procedures or instructions given by your teacher or test administrator
- Providing another student with information that allows them to cheat, or otherwise provides an unfair advantage over other students (Example: Picture taking with cell phones)

The penalty for cheating on an assignment or test will be as follows:

- The teacher will inform the student of the incident, and the student may earn zeros for all work related to the cheating incident. Alternative assignments may be given replace any zeros received. Parent will be contacted by the teacher.
- All instances of Academic Dishonesty/Cheating will result in a discipline referral to the appropriate administrator.

It is important to also note that some school organizations may have additional consequences for cheating, depending on their constitution or bylaws.

CHECK OUT PROCEDURES

No student may leave school except at regular dismissal time without checking out through the office. A student who does not check out (which includes a parent signing out the student in the office) prior to leaving school anytime during the school day will be disciplined for truancy. A valid government issued ID is required for student check out. All parties checking out students must be listed on the student check out list unless expressed written permission has been given by the parent or guardian.

CHILD NUTRITION

1. Breakfast is served beginning at 7:20 in the school cafeteria. There is a grab-and-go breakfast served between 1st and 2nd hours for students that were unable to eat breakfast before school.
2. There are 3 lunch times and students will generally eat lunch with their grade level.
3. The prices for meals are as follows:
Student Breakfast: \$1.50
Student Lunch: \$2.75
Adult Breakfast: \$1.75
Adult Lunch: \$3.75
4. Money may be added to a student's account by check/cash in the cafeteria or online through the gradebook portal.
5. Students that do not have adequate funds for a meal that day will be provided a substitute meal.
6. If a student was on free or reduced lunches last year, a new application must be filled out and submitted to maintain free and reduced status. Applications may be submitted at any time during the school year.

CITIZENSHIP

It is each student's responsibility to display qualities of good citizenship. Your best conduct is expected everywhere you go. Newcastle Public Schools promote the application of the concepts of honesty, morality, and courtesy. The values, history and traditions, and the applications of the United States and the Oklahoma Constitutions will be taught and practiced.

CITATIONS/TICKETS

When school officials and/or law enforcement authorities deem necessary, a student may be issued a municipal or county citation. Citations could be issued for trespassing, truancy, tobacco, vape possession/use, alcohol, drugs, profanity, assault, fighting, harassment and creating a disturbance among other rule(s) violations. It is important to know that this is an option, should it be deemed necessary.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Newcastle Public Schools offer a variety of clubs, both curricular and extracurricular. According to HB 1826, it is the responsibility of the parent to notify the school in writing if he or she wishes for their child to NOT participate in any of the clubs associated with our schools.

Current Clubs and Organizations at Newcastle Middle School:
Academic Team, Archery, Honor Society, Pit Crew, and STUCO

CONDUCT AND COURTESY

Courtesy and good manners should be the key to a student's conduct at school. A good attitude toward teachers and fellow students will make school enjoyable for all.

Students are expected to have respect for school property and to take good care of books, desks, and other furniture and equipment. Students/parents will reimburse the School for any damages caused by a student.

DISCIPLINE AND STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Implied Authority, as defined by state law, allows a school district to exercise those powers necessarily implied, or delegated by law to any other agency or official. The teacher or administrator shall operate under the legal responsibility of In Loco Parentis.

All students enrolled in Newcastle Public Schools will be expected to abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the administration, teachers and the board of education while in attendance at school-sponsored activities, or while being transported to or from school or school-sponsored activities in district-owned transportation equipment. Any student who disobeys the rules or shows disrespect for any teacher and/or school property will be subject to disciplinary action. The disciplinary action taken will depend on the severity of the violation and the number of violations.

The school district, in order to provide quality education for all of its students, will not tolerate disruptive acts that would interfere with the learning environment of the school or the safety of its students. Furthermore, damaging of school property will not be tolerated. Students, while enrolled in this district, shall be under the supervision of and accountable to school personnel. The supervision shall include:

- going directly to and from school
- attendance of a school sponsored activity in the district or involving the district's schools (away from the district)
- going to and from district activity
- in-transit time to activities on school transportation

Consideration will be given to alternative methods of punishment or consequences to insure the most effective discipline is administered in each case. In all disciplinary action, the administration shall be mindful of the fact that we are dealing with individual personalities. The administration shall consider consultation with parents on discipline measures that might prove the most effective in particular circumstances.

DISRUPTIVE OR INTERFERING BEHAVIOR

A disruptive or interfering act shall be defined as, but not limited to, inciting, encouraging, promoting, or participating in activities, which interfere with the due process of the educational program of the school. The following are examples of behavior that may constitute disruptive activities:

1. demonstrations
2. sit-ins
3. walk-outs
4. blockages
5. group violence
6. disrespect or disobedience to school personnel
7. harassing, hazing, threatening, intimidating, bullying, or verbally abusing another person, including any gesture, written or verbal expression, or physical act that a reasonable person

- should know will harm another person, damage another's property, or insult or demean another in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the District's educational mission
8. the use of obscene, lewd or profane language (visual and/or auditory)
 9. fighting
 10. disruptive publications and/or social media posts
 11. theft or inappropriate use of personal or school property
 12. possession or use of drugs, alcohol or weapons
 13. possession or use of tobacco, vapes, and vape products by minors
 14. failure to make reasonable attempt at course work
 15. assault and battery.

Administrative response to student misconduct is a matter directly influencing the morale of the entire student body. As such, all student discipline will be based on a careful assessment of the circumstances surrounding each infraction (i.e. the student's attitude, the seriousness of the offense, and its potential effect on other students).

DETENTION AND IN-SCHOOL RESTRICTION (ISR)

Principals use detention as a disciplinary action. This is a mandatory STUDY TIME; therefore, all students must bring homework or study materials to detention. Students will be asked to do additional assignments as well. **Failure to attend detention at the appointed time may result in ISR. The student will also be required to fulfill their original detention obligation after the completion of the ISR.**

Detention and/or ISR may be assigned for, but not limited to, the following reasons:

1. Tardiness to school or class.
2. Failure to report to assigned class.
3. Truancy.
4. Behavior which interrupts the education process of other students.
5. Miscellaneous offenses handled by the principal.
6. Incomplete work.
7. Lack of motivation or effort shown in the classroom.
8. Talking in cafeteria line.
9. Failure to have needed materials for class (books, notebook, paper, pencils, etc.)

Students assigned to ISR will not be allowed to participate in any extra-curricular activities or attend school related functions on any day in which they are in ISR. This includes the weekend, should a student be in ISD on a consecutive Thursday and Monday.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION UNDER FERPA

See Newcastle Board of Education policies for details concerning directory information.

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS ON CAMPUS

Distribution of materials of any kind (other than those being distributed by the school) are not to disrupt the educational process in any way and must meet the guidelines as established by the state and federal court system. All posted items must be approved in advance by the building administration.

DRESS CODE

Standards of Dress: The following standards of dress are required of all students while attending school or participating in school activities. It is hoped that a minimum amount of time and effort is spent on enforcement; however, it is the responsibility of the student and the parent to adhere to these guidelines. Exceptions to this policy are at the discretion of the building principal. There may be clothing, hairstyles, and/or accessories not specifically addressed herein that might be so disruptive to the education process that the building principal may need to take immediate corrective action. In those case requiring such action, the building principal may act immediately.

General Guidelines:

- A. Modesty will be the dominant feature in all clothing.
- B. Clothing must be clean and safe.
- C. Clothing, hairstyles and/or accessories must not be revealing, disruptive or distract from the educational process in any way.
- D. Clothing must not be derogatory to any individual, group, or institution, including hate-group messages.
- E. All students are required to wear clothing including shoes which are safe and appropriate for school activities.
- F. Hair is to be well-groomed and clean.
- G. Shorts, dresses or skirts no shorter than the middle of the thigh (no tears, cuts or holes in garments above this area are acceptable).

Unacceptable Clothing and Accessories:

- A. Spaghetti straps and shirts that do not cover the tops of the shoulders
- B. Low-cut shirts or blouses; shirts which expose the midriff, partial or full back; and pants, skirts or other clothing which expose the midriff.
- C. Any clothing that reveals undergarments.
- D. Slacks, pants or shorts worn below the hip.
- E. Caps, hats, hoods or other head covering in the building.
- F. Clothing, tattoos, and or accessories which carry messages either written or suggesting the promotion of illegal substances including but not limited to, drugs, alcohol, tobacco products; vulgar language, sex, violence, gang-related affiliation or other symbols that detract from the learning environment.
- G. Gang-related attire.
- H. Bedroom attire (pajamas, lounge pants, slippers, blankets, etc.)
- I. Cleated shoes.
- J. Sunglasses

Any student deemed in violation of the dress code will be required to find clothing that meets the code or will be sent home to correct the situation and will be considered absent. Failure to comply will be grounds for disciplinary action.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Students are prohibited from engaging in the following conduct or activities:

- Smoking, using, and/or possessing tobacco, including vapes and vaping liquid;

- Using, consuming, possessing, or being under the influence of, selling, transferring, distributing, or bartering any alcoholic beverage or low-point beer as defined by state law;
- Using, consuming, possessing or being under the influence of, selling, transferring, distributing, or bartering any narcotic drug, stimulant, barbiturate, depressant, hallucinogenic, opiate, inhalant, counterfeit drug, or any other controlled dangerous substance which is capable of being ingested, inhaled, or absorbed into the body and affecting the central nervous system, vision, hearing, or other sensory or motor function;
- Using, possessing, selling, transferring, distributing, or bartering any drug paraphernalia.

“Presenting” a substance as an illegal or prohibited substance will also be considered a violation of this policy. Violation of the above policy is likely to result in disciplinary action, to include, but not limited to, out of school suspension and the involvement of law enforcement personnel.

FERPA RIGHTS NOTIFICATION

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. These rights are:

- (1) The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day Newcastle Schools receives a request for access. The Parents or eligible students should submit to the School Principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The Principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parents or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- (2) The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask Newcastle Schools to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the School Principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, Newcastle Schools will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
- (3) 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. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by Newcastle Schools as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel; a person serving on the Newcastle School Board; or a person or company with whom Newcastle Schools has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist). A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, Newcastle School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
- (4) The right to file a complaint with the U. S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Newcastle Schools to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U. S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

GRADE REPORTING

Report cards can be viewed electronically through Infinite Campus at the end of each semester. Print copies can be requested through the office.

Parents are strongly encouraged to keep up with their child's academic progress through our online grading program. Application forms for access rights are available in the office, on our district web-site at www.newcastle.k12.ok.us, and by contacting the school registrar.

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Guidance services are available for every student in the school. These services include assistance with educational planning, interpretation of test scores, career information, study tips, help with home, school and/or social concerns, or any question the student may feel he would like to discuss with the counselor. Appointments can be made by contacting the counseling office.

Please visit the following site for continually updated graduation requirements:
<http://ok.gov/sde/oklahoma-high-school-graduation-requirements>

GYMNASIUM CARE

NO food or drinks are allowed on the gym floor and only gym shoes may be worn on the floor.

HONOR ROLL

Students with all A's will qualify for the Superintendent's Honor Roll. Students with all A's and B's will qualify for the principal's honor roll. This honor is based on semester grades only.

HONORS CLASSES

All students are encouraged to challenge themselves by participating in honors level courses. While we encourage all students to participate in "honors", it is important that both parents and students realize these classes may require a substantial amount of time outside of class, including studying, homework, projects, readings, etc.

IMMUNIZATIONS, ILLNESS AND ACCIDENTS

Oklahoma law requires students meet certain immunization requirements to be eligible to attend school. If these requirements are not met, the student will not be allowed to attend school. If the student develops an illness after reaching school, an attempt will be made to notify the parent. The school does not diagnose diseases and gives no internal medicine, including aspirin. In case of severe injury or broken bones, parents or a doctor will be notified immediately. The school will administer only emergency first aid in case of injury. Based on the severity of the injury, 911 will be called without parent approval.

Title 70, Section 1210.191, Oklahoma Statutes, 1970 requires that parents or guardians of all minor children in grades kindergarten through the twelfth grade for all public, parochial, or private schools in the State of Oklahoma, present a certified copy of required immunizations upon school entry. To be in compliance with this law, students must present proof of (5) doses DPT/DTaP/Td/Tdap, (4) doses Polio, (2) doses of MMR, a (2 or 3) dose series of Hepatitis B vaccine, (2) dose series of Hepatitis A, and (1) dose of Varicella. No minor child shall be admitted to any

public, private, or parochial school operating in Oklahoma unless the parent or guardian can present to the appropriate school authorities certification from a licensed physician or the appropriate public health authorities that such child has received or is in the process of receiving immunizations required for school entry. For more information, visit <http://imm.health.ok.gov>.

INFORMATION CHANGES

If any information on your child's enrollment card changes during the school year, let us know immediately. It is imperative that we be able to reach you in case of emergency. Parents, please make sure that the contact information that we have on file is current and correct. Having the correct information also improves our ability to communicate with you through mailings, phone calls, and emails.

INTERNET ACCESS AND ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

General: The Internet is an electronic highway connecting a multitude of computers throughout the world. Through the Internet, students and employees have access to electronic mail (e-mail), news, databases, library resources, and a wide variety of other information sources. The District provides a wide variety of opportunities for students and employees to use the District's computers to access the Internet. Through the Internet, it is possible to access material which may contain illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, pornographic, and/or offensive content. Due to the nature of the Internet, the District cannot guarantee that students and employees will not access such material. However, the District is committed to enforcing a policy of Internet safety and monitoring the Internet activities of its students.

The District makes no warranties of any kind, either express or implied, regarding the Internet access being provided. The District shall not be responsible for any damages users suffer, including but not limited to loss of data resulting from delays or interruptions in service. Nor shall the District be liable for the accuracy, nature, or quality of information stored on District's computer equipment or of information gathered through Internet access provided by the District. However, the Administration shall develop, implement, and maintain regulations and forms to restrict the use of the District's computers and Internet access to legitimate and acceptable purposes and to regulate students' and employees' privilege of access and use. The District shall install and operate computer software programs which restrict access to certain materials, such as material which depicts nudity, sex, sexual acts, excretion, and exhibition of genitals and which, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific values. Students who are granted access to the Internet shall receive instruction regarding safety and security when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications and the disclosure, use, or dissemination of personally identifiable information.

Acceptable Uses: The District's computers, equipment, and software are intended for administrative, educational, and research purposes only and shall be used only in accordance with Administrative Regulations. Acceptable uses of the District's computers and the Internet are activities which support learning and teaching or which promote the District's mission and goals.

Prohibited Uses: According to Administrative Regulations, the District's computers and the Internet access (including e-mail) provided by the District shall not be used:

- a. To violate an individual's right to privacy;
- b. To access materials, information, or files of another person or organization without permission;
- c. To violate the copyright laws or software licensing agreements;
- d. To spread computer viruses;

- e. To deliberately attempt to vandalize, damage, disable, or disrupt the District's property or the property of any other individual or organization
- f. To locate, receive, transmit, store, or print files or messages which are profane, obscene, or sexually explicit, or which use language that is offensive or degrading to others;
- g. To distribute religious materials;
- h. To campaign for or against any political candidate or ballot proposition or for political lobbying, except as authorized by law;
- i. For any commercial purpose unless authorized by the Administration or Board; or
- j. To engage in any illegal activity.

Consequences for Misuse: The use of the District's computers and the Internet access provided by the District is a privilege, not a right. Any student or employee who inappropriately uses the District's computers or the Internet may have the privilege of using the computers or the Internet denied, revoked, or suspended and may be subject to other disciplinary sanctions.

No Expectation of Privacy: No student or employee shall have any expectation of privacy in any electronic mail being sent or received by the District's computers or District-provided Internet access. The District's system operators may access any electronic mail and may delete any inappropriate material from any electronic mail sent or received using the District's computers or District-provided Internet access.

Use of Software: Students are prohibited from installing, copying, or downloading any copyrighted material or software on District's computer hardware. Employees are prohibited from installing, copying, or downloading any copyrighted material or software on District's computer hardware without the express written consent of the copyright holder and the approval of the appropriate administrator or system operator.

Internet-based Instruction: The District may allow students to complete required course work through Internet-based courses in accordance with Oklahoma law, the rules, regulations, and/or guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education, and this policy. Students enrolled in Internet-based courses must participate in the Oklahoma School Testing Program. Test results for students enrolled in Internet-based courses must be disaggregated and reported.

The District authorizes any full-time student of the District to enroll in an approved Internet-based course offered by the District provided the course is determined to be appropriate for the student. The following criteria will be used to determine the appropriateness of Internet-based course work for a particular student:

- 1. Recommendation by the student's teacher(s) that the student possesses the ability to work on his/her own;
- 2. The student has completed all prerequisites for the course as if it were offered through the District's traditional class offerings;
- 3. The course will provide a means for the student to advance but is not a means for acceleration of a student's graduation date; and
- 4. The student is either suspended out-of-school or is in need of remediation.

All Internet-based courses must be approved by the Board prior to enrollment by students. The District shall use the following criteria to determine whether an Internet-based courses is approved for enrollment of students:

- 1. Teacher is certified to teach the course and trained in methodology and technical aspects of Internet-based instruction;

2. The course is aligned with Priority Academic Student Skills/ Common Core requirements;
3. A plan for monitoring and reporting student progress by the course instructor to the principal or principal's designee at least monthly with the final grade reported in time for inclusion on report cards/transcripts;
4. A course grading system that is compatible with the District's grading system and criteria;
5. Completion of the course must be within the school semester; and
6. The proposed Internet-based course is not duplicative of a course offered by the District.

Internet-based courses are not a means for students educated or enrolled elsewhere to enroll part-time in the District in order to take an Internet-based course. However, the District is authorized to enroll on a part-time basis for the purpose of utilizing Internet-base instruction students who have dropped out of school or who are or have been suspended. To be eligible, the student must have been enrolled in a public school in the state any time during the previous three (3) years.

Internet-based courses offered by a technology center and taught by a certified teacher and aligned with the appropriate Priority Academic Student Skills may be counted toward meeting the state graduation requirements with prior approval of the State Department of Education and the Board. Internet-based courses which contain integrated or embedded skills for which no Priority Academic Student Skills have been adopted may be approved by the Board if such courses incorporate national standards and are taught by certified teachers.

Remote Internet-based Courses: The District may allow for students to complete required course work through remote Internet-based courses in accordance with the rules, regulations, and/or guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education and this policy. However, students participating in remote Internet-based instruction will be required to provide their own equipment and Internet access and pay any associated fees, tuition, and/or expenses.

Note: Due to the current dynamic circumstances surrounding the COVID -19 Pandemic, distance learning policies and plans are subject to change. As new information surfaces, the district will notify parents of changes to the current distance learning plan.

ITEMS PROHIBITED AT SCHOOL

The following items are considered dangerous and strictly prohibited from school. Possession, sale, transmission, and/or use of these items may result in discipline, to include out of school suspension, depending on the severity and nature of the offense. Examples of these items include, but are not limited to:

- Firecrackers
- Stink, smoke, or snap bombs
- Matches or lighters
- Weapons of any type
- Firearms (including replicas, ammunition, paint balls or guns, projectiles, etc.)
- Incendiary or explosive devices
- Any objects used or portrayed in a violent manner
- Mace or Pepper Spray
- Vapes, vaping liquids, or e-cigarettes

Other prohibited items include:

- Toys
- Skateboards / Roller Skates
- Toy Guns or weapons
- Water Guns
- Sling Shot
- Laser pens or Laser Lights of any kind
- Miscellaneous items, such as, but not limited to: Liquid Paper, Slime, Whoopie cushions, Prank items, Inappropriate Magazines, Noisemakers of any type, Water Balloons, Invisible ink

*No student may sell any item (candy or etc.) unless it is from an approved school fund-raising project for the middle school. No other school fund-raising projects are allowed. Disciplinary actions may result from sales which are not approved. If brought to school, such items will be impounded.

LIBRARY PROCEDURES

The library will be opened at 7:45 am and remain open throughout the day, as well as after school for a short amount of time. Students are encouraged to use the library as much as possible. The library also has a webpage that can be accessed from our district website. Should a student need to visit the library during class time, the student should be given a hall pass from their current teacher. Upon arriving in the library, the student should check in immediately with the librarian to inform her of his or her particular needs. At no time is a student allowed to miss class and go to the library without permission and a pass from his or her current teacher. Students are responsible for all materials they check out from the library, and will be required to pay for materials that have been damaged or lost.

LOCKERS

Students are to use only the locker assigned to them. All students are responsible for the condition, as well as the contents, of their lockers. The lockers will be issued to you when you enroll. Please keep your lockers closed. If you have any locker trouble, report it to the principal's office. ***No sharing lockers.*** Students are strongly encouraged to purchase a combination lock for their own security. **The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Also, student lockers are subject to search at any time.**

MEDICAL TREATMENT

Medication may be administered to students as prescribed by law. For purpose of this policy, medication or medicine includes prescription medication as well as over-the-counter medicines. Students may not retain possession of or self-administer any medication unless written permission is granted by the District as set forth below.

A student who has a legitimate health need for a medicine shall deliver the medicine to the school principal, or his designee, in its original container with written authorization of the student's parent of guardian for the administration of the medicine. The parent's authorization must identify the student, the medicine, and include or refer to the label for instructions on administration of the medicine. The medicine will be administered to the student only by the school principal or designee pursuant to the parent's instruction and the directions for use on the label or in the physician's prescription. **Forms for parental authorization of administration of medicines are available in the office of the building principal and on the school webpage.**

The school shall keep a record of the students to whom medicine is administered, the date of administration, the person who administered the medicine, and the name or type of medicine administered.

Minor cuts and abrasions will be cleaned and covered with a band-aid. **We are not allowed to use any type of spray or ointment. In case of serious injury or illness, we will make every effort to contact the parent or guardian.** We may also make the determination to call 911, should the situation warrant. The District is not responsible for any transportation and/or medical costs associated with emergency care.

ALL MEDICATIONS, BOTH PRESCRIPTION AND OVER THE COUNTER, MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE OFFICE. We will keep it on file for your student.

MEDICATION, SELF-ADMINISTRATION

Pursuant to Oklahoma law, students may be allowed to carry and self-administer prescribed inhaled asthma medications and prescribed anaphylaxis medications according to the provisions of this policy. The District shall not incur any liability as a result of any injury arising from the self-administration of asthma or anaphylaxis medication by the student. If the requirements of this policy are fulfilled, a student diagnosed with asthma or anaphylaxis may possess and use his or her labeled asthma or anaphylaxis medication at all times. The student's parent or guardian shall:

- Provide the school with a written statement on the form prescribed by the Board of Education authorizing the self-administration of inhaled asthma or anaphylaxis medication.
- Provide the school with a written statement from the student's treating physician containing the following information:
 - That the student has asthma or anaphylaxis;
 - That the student is capable of and has been instructed in the proper method of self-administration of the student's asthma or anaphylaxis medication;
 - The name and purpose of the asthma or anaphylaxis medication;
 - The prescribed dosage;
 - The time or times at which and special circumstances, if any, under which the asthma or anaphylaxis medication is to be administered.
- Provide the school with an emergency supply of the student's asthma or anaphylaxis medication(s) to be administered pursuant to Oklahoma law by a school nurse or other authorized personnel.
- Provide the asthma or anaphylaxis medication to be carried by the student which is appropriately labeled, with a prescription label reflecting the following:
 - Student's name;
 - Prescription number;
 - Asthma or anaphylaxis medication name and dosage;
 - Method of administration and dosage;
 - Date of prescription and refill;
 - Licensed prescriber's name;
 - Pharmacy name, address and telephone number;
 - Name of pharmacist.

The authorization for self-administration of asthma and anaphylaxis medications from the parent or guardian and from the physician shall be kept on file in the office at the school site where the student is enrolled. The authorization for self-administration of asthma and anaphylaxis

medication shall be effective only for the school year in which the authorization is submitted by the parent or guardian.

For the purpose of this policy, “asthma medication” and “anaphylaxis medication” shall mean a metered dose inhaler or a dry powder inhaler to alleviate asthmatic symptoms, prescribed by a physician and having an individual label, or an anaphylaxis medication used to treat anaphylaxis, including but not limited to Epinephrine injectors, prescribed by a physician and having an individual label. “Self-administration” shall mean a student’s use of asthma or anaphylaxis medication pursuant to a prescription or written direction from a physician.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Applicants for admission or employment, students, parents, employees, sources of referral of applicants for admission and employment, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the Newcastle School District are hereby notified that this District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. Any person having inquiries concerning Newcastle School’s District compliance with the regulations is directed to contact.

**Mrs. Stacey Gray
101 North Main
Newcastle, OK 73065
(405) 387-6304**

This person has been designated as the Section 504 and Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator.

Screening

Screening activities may include vision, hearing, and health. Other screening activities may include: review of records and educational history; interviews; observations’ and specially developed readiness or educational screening instruments. The Regional Education Service Centers provide assistance and consultation to local schools in these efforts

(1) Educational Screening

Educational screening includes procedures for the identification of children who may have special learning needs and may be eligible for special educational and related services. Each school district in the State provides educational screening. No child shall be educationally screened whose parent or legal guardian has filed written objection with the local school district.

- Educational screening is implemented for all first grade students each school year.
- Second through twelfth grade students shall be screened as needed or upon request of the parent, legal guardian, or teacher.
- Students entering the public school system from another state or from within the state without previous educational screening, shall be educationally screened within 6 months from the date of such entry.

Evaluation

Evaluation means procedures used in accordance with Federal laws and regulations to determine whether a child has a disability and the nature and extent of the special education and related services that the child needs. The term means procedures used selectively with an individual child and does not include basic tests administered or procedures used with all children in a school,

grade, or class. Written consent of the parent or legal guardian for such evaluation must be on file with the local school district prior to any child receiving an initial evaluation for special education and related services purposes.

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA)

Newcastle Public Schools has developed and adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. Newcastle Public Schools will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. Newcastle Public Schools will also directly notify, such as through U.S. Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. Newcastle Public Schools will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

*Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution.

*Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.

*Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

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

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Every parent is encouraged to know about their child's classroom performance and to become acquainted with his or her teachers. We urge you to contact your child's teacher and schedule a conference at a mutually convenient time. Teachers will **NOT** be pulled away from their teaching responsibilities for an unscheduled conference.

Parent-Teacher conference days are listed on the school calendar. Please try to take advantage of this opportunity.

PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

No inappropriate displays are permitted. School is not the time or place to engage in activity that might otherwise distract the students involved, or student witnesses, from our mission of excellence in education. Greetings and interactions should be respectful and professional in nature.

SAFE SCHOOLS HOTLINE

It is the desire of Newcastle Middle School and the State of Oklahoma that each school be a safe place for all students. We need your help. You can help by notifying an adult in the building or by calling the Safe Call Hotline at 1-877-723-3225, extension 651, when you have knowledge of drugs, weapons or violent acts in our schools, or other schools. **The call is completely anonymous.** We simply receive a fax in our central office and we are required to take action on the information we are given.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Schedule changes will only be considered for legitimate reasons, such as a schedule conflict, meeting graduation requirements, or inappropriate placement as determined and recommended by a teacher or counselor with administrative approval. Students will not be moved to a class considered to be 'below' the intellectual capability of that student. Also, schedule changes will not be permitted after the tenth day of school each year, unless determined by the principal that it is in the best interest of **all** parties involved.

Schedules may be adjusted if any of the following criteria exist and space is available:

1. Incomplete schedules or computer errors.
2. Duplication of courses.
3. The student does not meet prerequisites or does not have teacher approval.
4. Acceptance to a special program (co-op work experience, Mid-America Career Tech Program, etc.).
5. Enrolled in a course with a teacher with whom the student previously failed.
6. Dropping PE for band or team sports.
7. Dropping a course taken during previous summer or night school
8. Taking a more challenging course (no reversal at a later date).

SCHOOL SAFETY

Students and faculty will participate in fire drills, tornado drills, and lockdown/ intruder drills throughout the year. Each classroom is equipped with written procedures to follow during these situations. Teachers are responsible for conveying this information to students. Students are responsible for knowing this information and following the procedures in a very disciplined manner, whether it be a drill or a true emergency.

SEARCHES INVOLVING STUDENTS

The School Board and Administration reserve the right to search student's personal belongings, lockers, vehicles and person as allowed by federal and state law. Students and parents need to be aware that students themselves, their personal belongings, lockers, and vehicles will be searched in the event the Administration suspects the unauthorized use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, weapons, etc. We also cooperate with the Newcastle Police Department as they occasionally help us with random searches. The following paragraphs are excerpts from statute that further outline student privacy and student searches:

"The superintendent, principal, teacher, or security personnel of any public school in the State of Oklahoma, upon reasonable suspicion, shall have the authority to detain and search or authorize the search, of any pupil or property in the possession of the pupil when said pupil is on any school premise or while in transit under the authority of the school, or while attending any function sponsored or authorized by the school. The principal, teacher, or security personnel searching or

authorizing the search shall have authority to detain the pupil to be searched and to preserve any dangerous weapons or controlled dangerous substances, intoxicating beverages, non-intoxicating beverages, or missing or stolen property that might be in their possession including the authority to authorize any other persons they deem necessary to restrain such pupil or to preserve any dangerous weapons or controlled dangerous substances, intoxicating beverages, non-intoxicating beverages, or missing or stolen property.”

“Any pupil found to be in possession of dangerous weapons, or controlled dangerous substances, intoxicating beverages, non-intoxicating beverages, or missing or stolen property may be suspended by the superintendent or principal for a period not to exceed the current school semester and the succeeding semester. Any such suspension may be appealed to the board of education of the school district by the pupil suspended under this section.”

“Pupils shall not have any reasonable expectation of privacy towards school administrators or teachers in the contents of a school locker, desk, or other school property. School personnel shall have access to school lockers, desks, and other school property in order to properly supervise the welfare of pupils. School lockers, desks, and other areas of school facilities may be opened and examined by school officials at any time and no reason shall be necessary for such search. **Schools shall inform pupils in the student discipline code that they have no reasonable expectation of privacy rights towards school officials in school lockers, desks, or other school property.**”

(70-24-102)

SEMESTER TEST POLICY

In recognition of the importance of preparing our students for the next level of their education, semester testing provides a tool to assist teachers in working with students to prepare for and be successful on cumulative exams and proficiency tests. Developing semester tests also challenges our teachers to begin with the end in mind when planning for the semester and to also provide multiple and ongoing exposure to the most critical concepts throughout the semester. Semester exams account for 10% of the semester grade.

STOPIT APP

STOPit! is an online reporting tool designed to deter and mitigate bullying and cyber abuse, consisting of an app and a back-end incident management system for school administrators. Students and Parents can download the StopIt App for Apple and Android phones. Please see the district website for links and additional information.

SUSPENSIONS

Suspensions will vary in length due to the seriousness of the offense and the number of previous suspensions. A suspended student is suspended to the custody of the student’s parents **and is not allowed to be on or near school premises or attend any school activity while the student is suspended.** To do so will result in further disciplinary action and/or suspension.

Any student who is guilty of the following acts while in attendance at school or in transit by school transportation or under school supervision to or from school or at any school function when present on any facility under the control of the school district may face possible suspension. A more detailed description of suspendable offenses is outlined in Board Policy E1.

1. Conduct which jeopardizes the safety of others
2. Possession, threat or use of a dangerous weapon
3. Using, selling, passing, being under the influence of, buying or in any way possessing any narcotic drug, stimulant, barbiturate or alcohol

4. Fighting, assault and battery
5. Immorality or profanity
6. Theft or possession of stolen property
7. Destroying or defacing school property
8. Truancy
9. Showing disrespect to faculty, staff or other school employees
10. Conduct which disrupts the normal educational process
11. Violation of school rules, regulations or policies

A student who is suspended for five days or less may not be allowed to make up his or her work for credit. Students suspended for six days or more will be provided with an educational plan that will address academic credit in the core areas. Students suspended for possession of a weapon or a firearm or possession of a controlled dangerous substance shall not be provided an educational plan and shall not receive credit during the suspension. A student on long term suspension may be referred to alternative school, if appropriate.

TELEPHONE

It is impossible to permit unlimited use of the school telephone. Students are allowed to use the phone **only** when it is absolutely necessary. Students will not be allowed to use the phone to make arrangements to go home with another student. **Please communicate with your child before he/she leaves for school so that both of you will know what he/she is to do when school is dismissed for the day.** Also, please limit the number of calls you make to the school to give your child a message regarding after-school instructions. Getting messages to students late in the day can be difficult and also disrupts the entire classroom.

If parents call for a teacher during the school day, please understand that we will not transfer a call to a teacher or a teacher's classroom during a teaching period. We will take a message and get it to that teacher so they can return your call within 24 hours.

TRESPASSING

The superintendent or principal of any secondary, middle or elementary school shall have the authority to order any person out of the school buildings and off the school property when it appears that the presence of such person is a threat to the peaceful conduct of school business and school classes. Any person who refuses to leave the school building or grounds after being ordered to do so by the superintendent or principal, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than Five Hundred (\$500.00) or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than ninety (90) days, or by both such fine and imprisonment. (70-24-131). Any student who knowingly invites or facilitates the presence of a visitor on campus without permission will be subject to disciplinary consequences.

TRUANCY

An Unverified Absence (AA) is considered a truancy. Truancy is a very serious matter. A student is truant from school when he or she is absent from school without permission from either the parent/guardian and/or the school. Truancy may also be further defined as any time a student is not where he or she is supposed to be. Excessive absences may result in serious consequences for the student. **The McClain County District Attorney will be notified in cases of excessive unverified absences (truancy).**

VISITATION

It is the policy for all visitors to report to the office, state the nature of their business and obtain a visitor's pass before proceeding to any other section of the building. This lets us know that a visitor

has checked in through the office. This policy is for the safety and protection of our students, as well as instructional time. Visitors with school related business are always welcome. A visitor's pass is also needed for cafeteria visitation.

We do not allow student visitation, except under very special circumstances (e.g. an older sibling on leave from the military). Former students wishing to visit teachers should call in advance to make an appointment with the particular teacher.

Racers Fight Song (Ohio State Fight Song Tune)

Fight the team across the field
Show them Racers are here.
Send the earth rejuvenating,
With a mighty cheer.
Go! Fight! Win!

Hit 'em hard and see how they fall,
Never let that team get the ball.
Hail, Hail the Racers are here.
So let's beat the,
GO!

Faculty/Staff Contact List

Teacher Name	Position	Email
Kathy Black	Science – 6 th	kblack@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Brett Brooks	PE/Health	bbrooks@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Kathy Cannon	Art	kcannon@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Stephanie Cox	ELA	scox@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Samantha Crissup	Special Education Math	scrissup@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Vickie Crossley	Tech/Yearbook/Keyboarding	vcrossley@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Ashley Gibson	English – 7 th	agibson@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Britney Hefner	English – 8 th	bhefner@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Jessica Howsley	Math – 7 th	jhowsley@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Becky Johnson	Social Studies – 7 th	bjohnson@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Angela Madden	Reading – 8 th	amadden@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Kevin Prewitt	Social Studies – 6 th	kprewitt@newcastle.k12.ok.us

Jen Prince	SS 6 th , 7 th , and 8 th Leadership	jprince@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Karla Redbird	Special Education English	kredbird@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Heather Ridenour	English – 6 th STUCO	hridenour@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Debbie Robinson	Math – 6 th	drobinson@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Jennifer Sanders	History – 8 th Racers for Christ	jsanders@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Sandy Sheaffer	Reading – 7 th Honor Society	ssheaffer@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Wes Southwell	Science – 6 th and 7 th	wsouthwell@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Glenn Stallings	Science – 7 th and 8 th	gstallings@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Glen Stanley	Library/Media	gstanley@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Joyce Wall	Special Education Reading	jwall@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Robert Ward	Math – 8 th	rward@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Judd Wilson	Outdoor Ed/Archery/Athletics	jwilson@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Sesily Wooten	Reading – 6 th	swooten@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Admin and Office Staff		
John Harris	Principal	jharris@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Jeremy Reynolds	Assistant Principal	jreynolds@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Toni Kammerlocher	Counselor	tkammerlocher@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Cathy Robertson	Registrar	crobertson@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Christi Cribb	Financial Secretary	ccribb@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Paula Bowden	Cafeteria Manager	pbowden@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Sarah Wilson	ISR Instructor	swilson@newcastle.k12.ok.us
Brenda Foster	Title I Coordinator	bfoster@newcastle.k12.ok.us

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Newcastle Public Schools is to provide through shared responsibility, a safe and secure environment that assures educational opportunities for the intellectual, social, physical, and character development appropriate for contributing members of tomorrow's society.

DISTRICT VISION STATEMENT

Newcastle Schools envisions a team of educators and community partners working together to establish excellence in our student learning through a system of traditional core values, inspired teaching, purposeful learning, rigorous academics, and relevant life experiences. The attainment of excellence requires a shared and collaborative commitment, all individuals and groups within the Newcastle School District, to set and achieve high expectations