Our Mission Statement

Our mission is to inspire and support our community to grow to be healthy, articulate, well-balanced, ethical citizens who expertly contribute ideas, solve problems and continue to seek knowledge throughout their lives.
Dear Parents & Students,

Welcome to the 2013-2014 school year at Nathan Hale School. Our handbook has been prepared to help you to understand district rules and policies as they relate to Nathan Hale School with additional information that directly affects the unique day to day operations of our school. Each rule, procedure, and policy detailed in this booklet is intended to ensure the safety, health and education for all of our children.

It is important for you and your child/children to read and discuss this year’s handbook; teachers, parents and administrators worked together to prepare this handbook as a guide for students and parents. Refer to this handbook throughout the school year for clarification of school policies.

The staff of Nathan Hale School is eager to work with you to maintain a climate conducive to the highest quality of learning and to cultivate happy and healthy young citizens. We know that our adherence to the Comer School guidelines of collaboration, no fault and consensus and attention to the Six Developmental Pathways are the keys to our students’ success. Thank you for being our partners in your children’s education.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Tara Cass
Principal
Nathan Hale School

Tara Cass - Principal

School Telephone Numbers

Principal: Tara Cass 946-8670
Main Office 946-8669
Nurse’s Office 946-8672

The school may be reached by the telephone numbers listed above or by fax at 946-7331.

School Hours

Regular School Day 7:45am-2:00pm
Early Dismissal 7:45am-12:00pm

Students may enter the building at 7:30 a.m. Students arriving after 7:45 a.m. must report to the main office. They will be marked tardy.

Buses begin loading students at 1:55 p.m. and leave school grounds by 2:10 p.m.

Any students in grades K-4 being picked up at the end of the day will be met by parents in the cafeteria. Students must be signed out by an authorized adult.

Students in grades 5-8 are dismissed at the 2:00 bell to either walk or bus home depending on prior arrangement with parent.

Students are not allowed to remain on school property after dismissal unless they are participating in an after school activity that is supervised by a designated adult.
**Newsletters**

Monthly newsletters are published by the principal and each classroom teacher. The news is sent home with students during the first week of each month. The newsletter includes a principal’s message, information about meetings and events as well as highlights of students’ accomplishments. Newsletters and Calendar of Events are also available on our school website.

**Student Recognition**

Students who exhibit the characteristics below are highlighted by the grade level teaching teams each month and are acknowledged in the classroom newsletters, which are sent home to all parents.

- ★ Respect
- ★ Responsibility
- ★ Citizenship
- ★ Perseverance
- ★ Academic Commitment (hard-working/well-prepared)
- ★ Academic Progress with significant growth

**Honor Roll Criteria**

- **Distinguished Honors** will be earned by students who receive all A’s and achieve goal on all district and state assessments.
- **High Honors** are earned by students who achieve all A’s on the report cards.
- **Honors** will be earned by any students who receive all A’s and B’s and achieve proficient/goal on all district and state assessments.
- **Academic Achievement** will be earned by students who receive all A’s and B’s.
**PEER MEDIATION**

The Goal of our Peer Mediation Program at Nathan Hale School is to assist in promoting a healthy and safe school climate.

Peer Mediation is a structured, orderly, and confidential process in which trained Peer Mediators help other students resolve conflicts constructively.

- By resolving disputes that interfere with the educational process and or the quality of school community relations.
- By educating and improving conflict resolution skills so that our peers can resolve conflicts non-violently and independently.

**Advisory Program Grades 7 & 8**

An advisory program is an arrangement whereby one adult staff member and a small group of students have the opportunity to interact on a scheduled basis. The purpose of advisory is to ensure that each student has at least one adult who knows him/her very well, understands his/her needs, and supports consistent growth. This relationship is intended to guarantee that every student belongs to a peer group, to help every student find ways to be successful.

**Health Services**

Nathan Hale School has nursing services available on the following days:

- Monday - Full Day
- Tuesday - Full Day
- Wednesday - No Services
- Thursday - Full Day
- Friday - No Services
The nurse is responsible for checking all health records to be certain that each student is properly immunized, contacting parents of ill or injured students and checking other health related matters. State Law mandates that all students be properly immunized and receive a physical before entering kindergarten and Grade 6. In addition, ALL new entries, regardless of grade, from Out-of-State must have a physical before entering school. Physicals from Out-of-State Doctors are not acceptable. New Haven Public School Medical forms may be obtained from the School Nurse, New Haven Board of Health, or most doctors’ offices.

**Medicine**

All medicine must be brought to school by an adult parent/guardian or childcare provider. No medication will be accepted from a student. All medications brought onto school property must be taken to the school office or nurse’s office. Long-term prescription medication (in excess of two weeks) may be administered at school if both parent/guardian and physician have completed an Administration of Medication Request Form. Medications must arrive in an appropriate container labeled by the pharmacy. All long-term medication must be renewed at the beginning of each year. Any change in medication or dosage during the school year requires new documentation. (Administration of Medication Request Form).

**Contagious Health Conditions**

If your child should have a contagious health condition such as chicken pox, strep infection, pink eye, a cold with fever, head lice, ring worm, impetigo, etc., please treat the condition and keep the child at home until the condition is no longer contagious. If your child is running a fever he/she may return to school after they have been fever free for 24 hours. Any appropriate information to parents regarding incidents of contagious diseases will be communicated by the school nurse or the Health Department.

**Kindergarten Notes**

The kindergarten program is a full-day program. Students must be five years of age by January 1st of the current school year to enter kindergarten. Kindergarten will begin on the day designated by the district. All kindergarten students will enter on this day. No student will be enrolled in kindergarten without a Birth Certificate, Health Certificate, Social Security Card, and Immunization Record (green card). Legal immunizations are those required for a child to attend school.
**Attendance**

Parents have the responsibility to make certain their children attend school each day except in the case of illness or other unavoidable circumstances. *If a student has to be absent from school, parents must notify the school by phone on the day of absence.* Parent must also send a note to school indicating the date(s) the student was absent and the reason for the absence. *New Haven Attendance Policy dictates that notes for excused absences for illness will not be accepted after two weeks.* Your notes provide documentation at our bi monthly attendance committee meetings.

In the case of a long illness, parents must notify the Guidance Counselor immediately so that a program of instruction can be discussed and developed. Students who are absent five (5) consecutive days or more **MUST** return with a medical note with original signature of the medical personnel. A Family with Service Needs will be filed with Juvenile Court when a student has ten (10) unexcused absences or twenty (20) days regardless of excused or unexcused.

*Personal vacations are not considered legitimate reasons for absence from school and will be recorded as unexcused absence. Family vacations should be planned during the scheduled vacations in the school calendar whenever possible.*

*Truancy is defined as staying away from school without permission. Students’ absences are reviewed by the attendance committee, which consists of principal, truancy officer, DCF worker, guidance counselor and school psychologist. Parents will be notified in the case of a student being considered truant.*

![Clock](image)

**Tardiness**

The school day begins at 7:45am. **Students must be in school by 7:40 so they can join their class for the daily opening routines. Students are considered tardy after 7:45 am.** Students who arrive to school late distract others and interrupt the classroom routine. A parent or guardian must come into the office and sign in students who are late. **After five (5) tardies, the student will receive a notification and may be required to make up the time in after school detention.**

**Student Information Cards**

Every student is required to have an emergency information card on file in the main office. It is critical that we have several phone numbers on file in case of an emergency. Please notify the office immediately if you change your phone number. We will check all numbers periodically to be sure we can reach a parent/guardian. Students will not be allowed to participate in any activity (field trip, school social, after school program, etc.) if we do not have emergency numbers on file.
Request for Early Dismissal

Parents should make every attempt to avoid taking a child out of school prior to dismissal time. Routine appointments should be scheduled after school hours. If an early dismissal is unavoidable (sudden illness or family emergency), Nathan Hale requires that a responsible person (Parent/Guardian) must come to the office to sign-out students who leave during the school day. Parents/guardians should send a note into the teacher if an early dismissal is needed. The teacher will submit the note to the main office. To minimize a disruption to the learning, the student will be sent to the main office at the designated time to wait. For our students’ safety, proof of identification may be requested of any person picking up any student and must be shown if requested by school personnel before a student may be released. **In consideration of office staff and in the interest of your child’s safety, please avoid requesting early dismissal by phone after 12:00 p.m.**

Homework Policy for Grades K-6

At Nathan Hale School, homework is considered an integral part of the total school program. **Loss of school privileges (activities, events, trips etc.) may occur if students do not complete homework assignments.** Students in grades 4-8 must record all homework assignments in their student agenda.

**Teachers will assign homework in accordance with District Policies:**
The **minimum** homework requirement as designated by the school system is the following:
- Kindergarten: not more than 10 minutes per day assigned at the teachers discretion
- Grade 1: four times per week, no more than 15 minutes per day
- Grade 2: four times per week, not more than 20 minutes per day
- Grade 3: four times per week, not more than 30 minutes per day
- Grade 4: four times per week, not more than 40 minutes per day
- Grade 5: four times per week, not more than 50 minutes per day
- Grade 6: four times per week, not more than 60 minutes per day
- Grade 7: See the homework policy that is included in this handbook
- Grade 8: See the homework policy that is included in this handbook
**504 Notice**

It is the policy of the NHPS System to provide a free and appropriate public education to all handicapped students within its jurisdiction. Students who are handicapped consistent with the definitions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 will be identified, evaluated and provided with appropriate instruction and education service.

**Parent Volunteers and Visitors**

Nathan Hale School welcomes parent volunteers and visitors. Volunteers are encouraged to act as classroom helpers, for special projects and events and as mentors for students. Visitors are welcome to and encouraged to attend celebrations and performances. **ONCE YOU ENTER THE BUILDING, PLEASE REPORT TO THE OFFICE, SIGN IN WHEN YOU ARRIVE, AND WHEN YOU LEAVE PLEASE SIGN OUT.** This is a mandatory procedure consistent throughout the NHPS system that has been implemented for the safety of our children. **Visitors to our school will not be permitted to visit any classroom without the prior consent of the teacher or administrator.** This rule is designed to make sure that classroom interruptions are kept to a minimum. **This rule is especially important at the beginning of the school day.** Teachers are entitled to a 15 minute uninterrupted preparation period, before the school day begins, per teachers’ contract.

**Transportation and Bus Room**

Bus students and walkers report to the following assigned areas upon arrival:

- Kindergarten through Grade 3 will report to the auditorium
- Grades 4, 5 will report to the gym
- Grades 6, 7, & 8 will report to the cafeteria

**ARRIVAL**

Before school supervision begins at 7:30 and ends at 7:45 a.m. when K-8 classroom teachers lead their students to their homerooms. Students who are dropped off before 7:30 am will not be supervised by school personnel. The main hallway is a busy area during arrival and at the start of school. Parents
must not congregate in the main entrance hallway as this diminishes the staffs’ ability to monitor all children. The area must be kept clear so that teachers may lead their students to classrooms in a safe and orderly fashion. Parents must not accompany their child to the classrooms at the start of the school day as this creates a disruption to the teachers’ and students’ routine.

DISMISSAL

K-4 students picked-up at the end of the school day must be picked up by an adult and signed out at 2:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. There are limited parking spaces, so please keep the process safe by moving your vehicle out of the lot so that others may park. Do not park behind other cars. Wait for a space.

If there is a change to the usual method of transportation, a note must be sent to your child’s teacher. Please review these changes with the child before he/she comes to school, and be sure the child’s teacher knows about them. Verbal changes will not be accepted from students without a note. Students may not ride a bus other than their assigned bus.

For car riders, there will be a single line delivery for morning drop offs. For the safety of students who are brought to school, double-parking for the purpose of letting children out or picking children up is not allowed. When entering the car rider line children must be ready to exit the car when you come to a stop at any point in the driveway. This is not the time to write notes to teachers or any other activity that would prevent your child from immediately exiting the car. Pull up to the far end of the line, even if there are no other cars behind you. This keeps the line moving at a steady pace. Parents entering the building to pick up children at the end of the school day must wait in the cafeteria for dismissal. Parents may enter through the cafeteria doors. Please do not pick your child up early unless there is an emergency.
Bus Conduct

Our bus drivers are responsible for getting students to and from school safely and we will do everything possible to support them in their job. Students are to get on the bus, sit down and stay seated until they arrive at their destination. Students are to obey all bus rules. Students are to follow the following guidelines for behavior on the bus:

1. Always follow the directions of the driver.
2. Stay seated at all times.
3. Use reasonable voice levels and appropriate language.
4. Be polite and considerate to the driver and other students.
5. No eating or drinking on the buses.
6. No possession of items that are not allowed in school.

The following plan will be enforced for all students who misbehave on the bus:

1\textsuperscript{st} offense: Verbal Warning
2\textsuperscript{nd} offense: Written Warning
3\textsuperscript{rd} offense: Bus Suspension 3 Days
4\textsuperscript{th} offense: Bus Suspension 5 Days
5\textsuperscript{th} offense: Bus Suspension 10 Days
6\textsuperscript{th} offense: Bus Suspension for the remainder of the school year

It is the students’ responsibility to act appropriately on the bus. Severe problems, such as fighting or other inappropriate means of physical contact, or other more severe violations will result in immediate suspension from the bus. Length of time of suspension or loss of bus riding privileges will be at the discretion of the school administrator and/or NHPS officials. There will be no exceptions.

Valuables

Students should at no time bring valuable personal items to school. In the event of loss, due to theft or damage, etc, the school will not be held responsible. School personnel will not conduct a search or investigation for lost or stolen items that should have not been brought to school. Unless a student had explicit permission from school personnel to bring an item to school.
School personnel have the right to confiscate any items that distract from the learning environment, or pose a potential danger. This may include, but not limited to CD players, toys, cameras, iPods, kindles, ipads, video games, cell phones, laser pointers, lighters, matches, sports cards, game cards etc. In some cases items may not be returned. Otherwise, parents will be responsible for picking up unauthorized items from school.

Cell phones are not allowed in school per district and school policy. Visible or audible cell phones will be confiscated by school staff and must be picked up by a parent/guardian. Repeated non compliance with this rule will result in disciplinary action. This rule is non negotiable per superintendent’s directive.

**Lockers-locks**

All 7/8 graders will be issued a locker and lock. Lockers are to be kept neat and clean and should always be left locked. Lockers are not to be shared by students. Students are responsible for locks issued to them. They will be held financially responsible for them.

**Damage to School Property**

Students who intentionally damage school property are expected to pay for the damage. This includes walls, windows, floors, furniture and educational and personal property.

**Emergency School Closings**

On occasions when school will open late, dismiss early (12:00 p.m.) or canceled due to bad weather, power failure etc. Parents should tune into the following radio stations: WELI, WPLR, WAVZ, WKCI, WEZN, WYBC or watch Channel 8 or Channel 3. NHPS.NET will also post school delays or cancellations.
Cafeteria Schedule

11:15-11:45  Grades K, 2, 1  
11:53-12:23  Grades 6, 7, 8  
12:30-1:00  Grades 3, 4, 5  

Cafeteria Rules

The cafeteria is the school’s dining room. It serves approximately 600 students each day. It is the responsibility of each student to leave his/her place clean and tidy for the next student who will be using it. Since we have large groups of students who must have lunch at the same time, we must have certain rules of conduct and respect the rights of others. These rules are:

Students will be allowed to bring their own lunch from home.

Students and visitors will not be permitted to have lunch brought from outside food service facilities.

Glass drinks are not allowed in the cafeteria at lunch time. Soda is not allowed in school.

Parents and students are not allowed in the food preparation area of the cafeteria.

Students are responsible for keeping their eating area clean. Students must eat while sitting at a table.

No one may walk around and eat or leave their seat during the lunch period.

No food or beverage may be taken out of the cafeteria.

Any loud yelling, talking, fighting or unacceptable behavior will result in disciplinary action.
Money Sent into School

Any money sent into school must be placed in an envelope marked with the following information.

1. Student Name
2. Teacher Name
3. Event (ex. Field trip, lunch)
4. Amount of money enclosed.

General Rules of Behavior

The staff and faculty of Nathan Hale School set high standards for the behavior of students. Our assumption is that parents expect their children to behave in an appropriate and respectful manner in school as well as at home. While in school, students are expected to show the same appropriate and respectful behavior when interacting with faculty, staff, custodial staff, and peers. Every student is expected to behave respectfully toward all school personnel and school property. Students are reminded that any teacher or staff member has the authority and responsibility to correct unruly individuals at any time.

1. Students will be disciplined for: insolence, disrespect, or insubordination, for the use of foul language and/or fighting.
2. Students are to walk safely and appropriately in hallways.
3. Students will not be permitted to chew gum while at school.
4. Students are to follow the rules that the teacher has established to maintain order and control in his/her classroom.
5. Students will not be permitted to bring personal items to school unless they are approved by teachers for educational purposes.
6. Students are not permitted to bring any type of weapon or facsimile (including toy weapons) to school.
7. Matches and cigarette lighters are never allowed in school or on the school bus.
8. Students will be disciplined in accordance with the district’s protocol for creating a danger for themselves and others which includes threatening, bullying and/or sexual harassment.
Range of Disciplinary Action

Student Conferences
Parent Contact
Parent Conference
Detention
In-school suspension (as budget allows)
Out of school suspension
Expulsion
Saturday School (as budget allows)
Loss of extracurricular activities or reward field trips
Note: Please refer to the Code of Conduct for NHPS for complete details of behavior and discipline policies. The Code of Conduct was included in Orientation materials for parents and students. Snow days and holidays occurring within a suspension do not count as suspension days.

Books and Other Instructional Materials

Students are responsible for the care of any and all textbooks, library books and instructional materials which are used by him/her. Students will be charged the full replacement cost for any lost or damaged materials which are assigned to them. All lost or damaged material must be paid for before the end of the school year or before the student officially withdraws from Nathan Hale School. Students who have not fulfilled these obligations will be denied report cards.

Progress Reports

A progress report for grades 1-8 will be sent home during the middle of each marking period. We strongly encourage parents to communicate frequently or request a meeting with teachers to discuss any concerns.

Marking System

The academic year is divided into four marking periods. A student’s grade in each class will be based on the following: daily work, class participation, homework assignments, projects, tests and overall effort.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences will be scheduled for the first two marking periods (November and February). The teacher or the parents may initiate additional conferences. Parents who wish to schedule an appointment should send a note to the teacher or email the teacher to arrange a time that will not interfere with the instructional day. Report cards will be mailed home April and June.
Grading System K-2

3= Applies skills independently and consistently (goal/advanced)  
2= Developing appropriately and progressing well (proficient)  
1= requires support and/ or modifications (basic/below basic)  
N/A = not assessed at this time.

Grading System 3-4

4=Consistently Demonstrated 3=Unusually Demonstrated  
2= Inconsistently Demonstrated 1= Seldom Demonstrated

Grading System 5-8

A= Excellent achievement  D= Poor Achievement  
B= Above Average Achievement  F= Failure  
C= Average Achievement  I= Incomplete

Important Items on the Report Card for your attention:

· Look for the grade in each of the items listed  
· Read teacher comments in the areas of behavior, work habits, social habits and attitudes  
· Check the student’s attendance  
· Discuss the contents of the report card with your child.  
· Praise him/her and discuss ways of improving
**Dress Code**

Nathan Hale students are required to follow the dress code as set forth by the NHPS. The policy is as follows:

The Board recognizes the effect which student dress and grooming have upon student behavior and commitment to learning. It further recognizes the role of parents in assisting their children in making appropriate choices regarding clothing, accessories, and personal appearance. In order to maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning and prepare students for working environments, the Board shall require that all students, grades K-12, exercise good taste with regard to their personal appearance. Attire considered disruptive or a risk to health or safety is not appropriate. **With this in mind, the following rules concerning dress and grooming are mandatory for our students.**

**BOTTOM WEAR:** (waist and below). Bottom wear must be size appropriate (no sagging); and worn securely around the waist. Ripped jeans and pajama pants are not allowed.

**SKIRTS, SHORTS, SKORTS:** Must be no shorter than 3” above the knee.

**TOP WEAR:** All top wear must be size appropriate. Shirts must have sleeves. Tank tops straps need to have a 2 inch width on the shoulders. No low cut tops or bare midriffs will be allowed.

**DRESSES:** Girls may wear dresses that are no shorter than three inches above the top of the knee. Dresses must have sleeves or be worn with a top with appropriate sleeves.

**SHOES:** Shoes must be worn at all times. Closed shoes are preferred for safety. **Flip-flops and slides are not permitted.**

**COATS:** Coats are not to be worn in the school or classroom during the day. School administrators will announce exceptions to the guideline if facilities indicate the need.

**ALL APPAREL:** Any other type of clothing or personal item bearing reference to alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, drugs, drug-related slogans, and/or any other work, drawing, pictures, etc., which in any way can be interpreted as being suggestive, obscene, or offensive, such as reference to death, the occult, etc., are not permitted in school or at any school related activity. Students are to wear clothing in the manner it was designed to be worn- i.e. clothing worn backward or inside-out, are not allowed. No see-through or cut out clothing will be allowed. **Ripped or torn jeans are not permitted.**

**HEADWEAR:** No hats, bandanas, hoods, sweatbands, or sunglasses will be worn in the building except for medical reasons.
JEWELRY/ACCESSORIES: Students are not to wear jewelry, ornaments or accessories, which distract from the educational process, such as excessive noisy jewelry and/or belts. No heavy metal chains (such as those made out of steel, chrome, alloy, etc.) and look-a-likes that are not formal jewelry are allowed around the neck, around the waist, or hanging from the waist into the pocket. Students may not wear metal-spiked apparel or similar accessories. Hoop earrings must be no larger than one inch in diameter for grades 5-8. Dangling earrings must not be longer than one inch in drop. **Dangling earrings are not permitted for students in Grades k-4.**

OTHER: Students are not to wear extreme facial makeup that is disruptive to the educational environment. All students are required to wear their hair in such a manner that is not considered unkempt, unclean, impairing vision, a distraction for other learners.

SPECIAL DRESS: Schools may develop special dress day/special dress occasions for students at the discretion of the school administration (examples: Hat Day, Twin Day, etc.)

SPECIAL SITUATIONS: If a student cannot comply with the standardized dress code based on religious beliefs, his/her parent or guardian may write a letter explaining the situation to the school principal. Each case will be dealt with on an individual basis.

**Students who persist in wearing inappropriate attire will be subject to disciplinary consequences per board policy.**

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**Physical Education**

All students will wear clothing appropriate to be able to participate in physical education class on their assigned day for PE. This policy shall include appropriate shoes for PE class.
**Student Agendas**

We urge parents to communicate with teachers and administrative staff to help ensure a positive learning climate. It is recommended that notes be written in the student agenda to teachers. The agenda is required for all students in grades 4-8 and it provides a uniform place for teachers to look for notes on all students. Agendas will be on sale during orientation and the beginning of the school year.

**Social Events**

Policy of Nathan Hale School indicates that social events should not interfere with scholastic work. Students who are absent on the day of an event, or who are serving a suspension may not participate in after school social events. All school social events will take place outside of instructional time. Cookies, cakes, candy, cupcakes etc. should not be shared during school hours.

**Nathan Hale School P.T.O.**

The Parent Teacher Organization is active and vital to the success of Nathan Hale School. Please support our activities as generously as possible. The PTO plans many informational events for families; please make every effort to attend events. There is a suggestion box in the main office and ideas for the agenda are welcome. Your time is a very valuable resource and is greatly appreciated.

**Bullying Policy**

**Bullying**

The New Haven Board of Education will not tolerate any form of bullying or harassment of members of the New Haven Public School Community by students or employees of the New Haven Public Schools. Bullying and/or harassment, includes but is not limited to, acts based on: gender, ethnicity, national origin, race, sexual orientation, physical characteristics or mental capacity. The New Haven Public Schools requires students, staff, and/or parents to report all cases of bullying and harassment immediately, to the school's administrator, administrator's designee, or director. Teachers and other school staff that receive reports of bullying from students are required to report this information to the appropriate administrator immediately.

Bullying is defined as physical, verbal or psychological attacks or acts of intimidation or the intentional isolation that is intended to cause fear, distress, or harm to the victim while on school grounds or at a school sponsored activity.
Parents and students will be required to sign the student information card stating that your child will abide by the rules and regulations of Nathan Hale School and the New Haven Public Schools.

Remember: Your first source of information or answers to important questions or concerns is the Nathan Hale School personnel. We are at your service to listen to your ideas and address your concerns.

Thank you
Have a wonderful year of learning with your children.
Dear Parents,

The following story has a good message for children and parents. Please find the time to read the story with your child and discuss it together.

Struggle is Good! I Want to Fly!

Once a little boy was playing outdoors and found a fascinating caterpillar. He carefully picked it up and took it home to show his mother. He asked his mother if he could keep it, and she said he could if he would take good care of it.
The little boy got a large jar from his mother and put plants to eat, and a stick to climb on, in the jar. Every day he watched the caterpillar and brought it new plants to eat.
One day the caterpillar climbed up the stick and started acting strangely. The boy worriedly called his mother who came and understood that the caterpillar was creating a cocoon. The mother explained to the boy how the caterpillar was going to go through a metamorphosis and become a butterfly.
The little boy was thrilled to hear about the changes his caterpillar would go through. He watched every day, waiting for the butterfly to emerge. One day it happened, a small hole appeared in the cocoon and the butterfly started to struggle to come out.
At first the boy was excited, but soon he became concerned. The butterfly was struggling so hard to get out! It looked like it couldn’t break free! It looked desperate! It looked like it was making no progress!
The boy was so concerned he decided to help. He ran to get scissors, and then walked back (because he had learned not to run with scissors…). He snipped the cocoon to make the hole bigger and the butterfly quickly emerged!
As the butterfly came out the boy was surprised. It had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings. He continued to watch the butterfly expecting that, at any moment, the wings would dry out, enlarge and expand to support the swollen body. He knew that in time the body would shrink and the butterfly’s wings would expand.

But neither happened!
The butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings.

It never was able to fly…
As the boy tried to figure out what had gone wrong his mother took him to talk to a scientist from a local college. He learned that the butterfly was SUPPOSED to struggle. In fact, the butterfly’s struggle to push its way through the tiny opening of the cocoon pushes the fluid out of its body and into its wings. Without the struggle, the butterfly would never, ever fly.
The boy’s good intentions hurt the butterfly.
As you go through school, and life, keep in mind that struggling is an important part of any growth experience. In fact, it is the struggle that causes you to develop your ability to fly. As teachers, our gift to you is stronger wings…
Nathan Hale School Student Council Guidelines

This guideline lists all of the academic and behavior standards which must be maintained by every student council officer and classroom representative. All members need to be both leaders and role models at Nathan Hale. The protocol was presented to the School Planning and Management Team (SPMT) by the School Leadership team; a team comprised of teachers from across the grade levels. These guidelines were generated and approved by the SPMT.

**Academic Standards:**

- I understand I must maintain an average of “C” or higher in all subjects.
- I understand I cannot miss more than two homework assignments per subject, per quarter.
- I understand all work given to my teachers is in my own words and not plagiarized.

**Behavior Standards:**

- I understand that I must conduct myself appropriately during all parts of the Nathan Hale school day.
- I will not be tardy more than three times per quarter.
- I understand that the bus is an extension of Nathan Hale School and my behavior must be appropriate.
- I understand I must conduct myself properly and respect others during cafeteria hours.
- I understand Nathan Hale School has a student dress code that I must follow.
- I understand that Nathan Hale School has a cell phone policy set forth by the New Haven Public School Board of Education.
- I understand that I cannot receive a discipline referral.
- I understand that I cannot receive any suspensions.

I willingly accept the position to which I was elected. I will take my position seriously and do my best to meet all expectations. I understand all of the rules in the Nathan Hale Student Council Code of Conduct. If I violate any of the above rules, I will be removed from the student council.

Student signature: __________________________________________

Print name: ______________________________ Date: _______________
I. Philosophy/Purpose:

Homework contributes toward building responsibility, self-discipline and lifelong learning habits. It is the intention of the Nathan Hale School staff to assign relevant challenging and meaningful homework assignments that reinforce classroom learning objectives. As appropriate, homework grades are modified based on students’ individual needs (i.e. IEP, 504 Plans). The main purposes generally associated with homework are as follows:

- To give students a chance to review and practice what they have learned.
- To prepare students for the next day’s lesson.
- To provide opportunities to identify and learn to use resources such as the library, the Internet, reference books, and other community resources.
- To allow for more in-depth exploration of topics than is possible during class time.
- To help students develop time management, study, and organizational skills.
- To provide parents with insights into what is being taught in the classroom and progress of their children.

II. Expectations

Homework is most beneficial when teacher expectations are well communicated, students take responsibility for their homework, and parents support these efforts. As such, the responsibilities of teachers, students and parents with regard to homework are listed below:

**Teachers can help by:**

- Informing students and their parents of the purpose and benefits of homework.
- Informing students and parents of the school’s homework policy.
- Assigning relevant, meaningful homework activities that reinforce classroom learning.
- Ensuring that students are aware of what is expected of them,
and how their work will be assessed.
- Giving students sufficient time to complete their homework, taking into account homework set by other teachers
- Maintaining homework records and providing feedback to students and parents.

**Students can help by:**
- Being aware of the school’s homework policy.
- Asking questions when necessary to clarify the assignment.
- Thoroughly recording homework directions and expectations in Planner.
- Completing homework within the given time frame.
- Informing parents of homework expectations.
- Seeking assistance from teachers and parents if difficulties arise.
- Ensuring homework is of high quality.
- Asking for and completing homework assigned during an absence.
- Working on homework independently so that it reflects students Ability.
- Managing demands and activities to allow sufficient time for homework completion.

**Parents can help by:**
- Setting a regular, uninterrupted study time each day.
- Providing a suitable place for study.
- Monitoring student’s organization and daily list of assignments in their planner.
- Being aware of long term assignments and assisting students in learning to budget their time accordingly.
- Assisting and correcting, but not doing the actual work
- Contacting the teacher if he/she observes an absence of Homework.
- Communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework and their child’s approach to the homework.
- Alerting the teacher, in advance, when extenuating circumstances arise that may prevent homework from being completed on time.

**III. Time**

Actual time required to complete assignments will vary with each student’s study habits, academic skills, and selected course load. If your child is spending an inordinate amount of time on homework, you should contact your child’s teachers. Generally, students in grade 7/8 will average approximately 1.5 – 2 hours per night.
IV. Weighting

20% homework
30% summative assessments
  chapter tests, unit tests, mini-assessments,
  major projects
50% formative assessments
  class work, quizzes, small projects, daily/
  weekly assignments, class participation

V. Homework will be graded 10, 5, or 0.

- Students will receive a 10 if the entire assignment is complete.
- Students will receive a 5 if the assignment is incomplete.
- Students will receive a 0 if the assignment is not done.

Students who do not hand in assignments on time, or who fail to complete an assignment may hand it in the next day but will only be given a 5 as a score.

VI. Full Credit Passes

- Each student will receive one FULL CREDIT PASS for each subject at the start of each marking period.
- The pass may be used to turn in a competed homework assignment, no more than 1 day late for full credit.
- Lost or stolen passes will not be reissued.
- Passes may not be transferred from one marking period to another.
- Passes may not be given, traded or sold to another student.

VII. Red Slips

The consequences for not doing homework are as follows:

1st infraction – a parent will be called if the student is missing 2 homework assignments for the marking period.
2nd infraction – after school detention for the 3rd missing homework assignment for the marking period.
Any further infraction and the student will serve an after school homework makeup detentions with the principal and be placed on social probation by the administration in collaboration with the grades 7/8 staff.

VIII. Test/Assessment Make-ups

If the first day of the absence occurs on the day of the test, the student should be ready to take the test upon his/her return to school. If the absence(s) is prior to and inclusive of the actual test date, the student will have an equivalent amount to time to prepare for and take the test. This should not exceed one week after his/her return.

Cheating On Homework

Students who are caught copying the homework of another student will get a zero on the assignment, get a behavioral referral and have an after school detention where they will have to make-up the work for no credit. Students who are caught allowing another student to copy their homework will get a zero on the assignment, get a behavioral referral and have an after school detention where they will have to re-do the work for no credit.

*The intention of this strict punishment is to show students that it is not worth the consequences when they make the mistake of cheating or helping someone to cheat