

Nathan Hale School

Grades Pre-K - Grade 8

***Parent & Student Handbook
2011-2012***



Nathan Hale School 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 2011-2012 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 prepared 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,
Lucia Paolella

Nathan Hale School

Lucia Paolella- Principal

School Telephone Numbers

Principal: Lucia Paolella	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 1:55p.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 grade 5-8 are dismissed at the 2:00 bell to walk or bus home depending on prior arrangements of parents.

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 published by the principal, each teacher, and the PTO are distributed to students. The newsletter includes a principal's message, information about meetings and events as well as highlights of students' accomplishments.

Student Recognition



Super Stars of the Month

Students who exhibit the characteristics below are recognized by their classroom teachers and commended in the teachers' monthly newsletters.

- ★ Friendship/Citizenship
- ★ Kindness/Integrity
- ★ Self-Control/Self Discipline
- ★ Academic Commitment (hard-working/well-prepared)
- ★ Academic Progress with significant growth

Honor Roll Criteria

- *Distinguished Honors will be earned by students who achieve all A's and achieve goal on all district and state assessments.*
- High honors will be earned by students who receive all A's.
- Honors will be earned by any students who receive all A's and B's and score proficient or above on district assessments.
- Academic Achievement will be earned by students who receive all As and Bs.

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, and promote coordination between home and school.



Health Services

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

- Monday- Full Day
- Tuesday- No Services
- Wednesday- Full Day
- Thursday- Full Day
- Friday- Full Day

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 Doctor's 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.



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.



Tardiness

The school day begins at 7:45am. Students are considered tardy after 7:45 am. A parent or guardian must come into the office and sign in students who are late. Students who arrive to school late distract others and interrupt the classroom routine. **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 limit the number of times they must **(emergency or appointment that can't be scheduled outside the normal school day)** take a child out of school prior to dismissal time. If an early dismissal is unavoidable, 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 student's 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 12:00pm.**

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: at least two major subject assignments, 6 hours per week
- Grade 8: at least two major subject assignments, 6 hours per week

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 Town Meetings, fairs and performances. **ONCE YOU ENTER THE BUILDING, PLEASE REPORT TO THE OFFICE, SIGN IN. 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. This is time that our teachers use to make their final preparations for the school day.**



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, will report to the gym**
- **Grades 5 , 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 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 and pick up only. For the safety of students who are brought to school, double-parking for the purpose of letting students out or picking students up is not allowed. When entering the car

rider line please be ready for your child to exit the car. Students may exit your car at any point in the driveway when the line stops. 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 school. 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

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

1st offense: Verbal Warning

2nd offense: Written Warning

3rd offense: Bus Suspension 3 Days

4th offense: Bus Suspension 5 Days

5th offense: Bus Suspension 10 Days

6th offense: Bus Suspension for the remainder of the school year

Severe problems, such as fighting, will result in immediate suspension from the bus

There will be no exceptions. It is the students' responsibility to act appropriately on the bus.

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, and school personnel will not conduct a search or investigation for lost or stolen items. **Administrators, teachers, security guards, substitutes have the right to confiscate CD players, cameras, ipods, video games, cell phones, laser pointers, sports cards, etc.** Parents will be responsible for picking them up from school.



Cell phones are not allowed in school per district policy. Active 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 and closings.



Cafeteria Schedule

11:35-12:05 Grades K, 2, 4

12:10-12:40 Grades 1, 3, 5

12:45-1:15 Grades 6, 7, 8

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 can purchase beverages and incidental items at school**
- **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**
- **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. 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. Running in the halls is not permitted.
3. Students will not be permitted to chew gum while at school.
4. Rules of behavior established by a teacher to maintain order and control in his/her classroom will be followed
5. Students will not be permitted to bring personal items such as Game Boys, radios, tape recorders, cell phones, toys, etc. to school.
6. Students are not permitted to bring any type of weapon or facsimile (including toy weapons) to school.
7. Students will be severely disciplined for 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) Detention

Loss of extracurricular 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. Parents are asked to sign it and return it to the school. We strongly encourage parents to meet with teachers if necessary.

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 1st 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 and 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
2= Inconsistently Demonstrated

3=Unusually 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 to students in grades 5-12.**

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. No low cut or bare midriffs will be allowed. Sweaters, long sleeve crew neck, V-neck or cardigan sweater vests, or sweatshirts may be worn over an approved shirt.

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. **Flip-flops 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, suspenders undone- are not allowed. No see-through or cut out clothing will be allowed.

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 are not permitted in 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.)

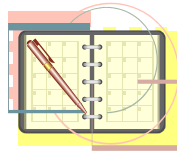
SPECIAL SITUATIONS: If a student cannot comply with the standardized dress code based on religious beliefs, his/her parent or guardian may write a letter explaining the situation to the school principal. Each case will be dealt with on an individual basis.

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



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 therefore, it makes 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. 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 **P**arent **T**eacher **O**rganization 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

Board Approves New Anti Bullying Policy

The NHPS Board of Education approved an anti bullying policy.

The policy is as follows:

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.

Student Information Card



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.

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.

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 more than two discipline referral forms.
- 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: _____



Nathan Hale School

Homework Policy for Grades 7 and 8

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 completed 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 of time to prepare for and take the test. This should not exceed one week after his/her return.

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.

NAILS IN THE FENCE

There once was a little boy who had a bad temper. His Father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the back of the fence. The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence. Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper. The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, "You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there."

A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one.

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*As adults, we have a unique influence on young people and on one another. There are days when relationships go well, and there are days when we get frustrated and discouraged. When we lose our patience, even as teachers and parents, we may make impulsive, hurtful comments that cause wounds that are irreparable. This is a human frailty.*

*Always be kind. You will sleep soundly at night, and refreshed to face the challenges and rewards of the next day.*

*Remember to collaborate to solve problems in a no-fault manner. We must be role models for our children.*

*Let's work together to continue building a strong community based on generosity, sincerity, kindness, professionalism and friendship.*

