



# Ridge Guide 2023-2024

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Principal

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## **WELCOME**

The teachers and administration of Northridge Middle School (NMS) welcome you to our educational program. We believe the opportunities we offer at NMS will prepare you for success in your future educational career as well as provide you with valuable skills for learning throughout your life. We believe in educating the whole child, and providing learning experiences so each student is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged. Our school is your school. It can be whatever you make it. We trust you will strive to make it outstanding. Our staff and administration will do everything we can to support you along your path to educational success, and we hope your time at NMS will be productive and happy.

## **POINTER PRIDE**

Our educational philosophy at NMS can be exemplified in one simple theme: POINTER PRIDE! You will see this theme repeated over and over throughout our school. Pointer Pride simply is the commitment our teachers, students, and administrators have to educational, personal/professional excellence and the traditions we have here at NMS. Our expectations for our students are high. We will expect you to attempt to do your best in everything you do and will support you as you work to achieve the goals you establish. Your effort is vital to your success.

## **WHAT IS A POINTER?**

A Pointer:

- Values education and strives to reach his/her potential.
- Sets goals and works to accomplish them.
- Participates in activities and enhances them through his/her involvement.
- Has good attendance.
- Exhibits strong character, integrity, and loyalty.
- Has an optimistic outlook on life.
- Interacts with others in a warm, friendly manner.
- Turns setbacks into victories.
- Recognizes his/her teachers, peers, and family as valuable human beings.
- Takes risks and shares new experiences with others.
- Values friendships.
- Takes pride in his/her accomplishments and celebrates the accomplishments of others.
- Represents his/her school well at extra-curricular and community events.

A *Pointer of the Year Award* will be given to one 8th-grade girl and one boy. These students will be selected as the people who best exemplify our spirit and philosophy. *The Pointer of the Year* pictures will be displayed in the office. We hope this tradition will excite and motivate our student body.

## **DISCIPLINE/EXPECTATIONS**

NMS students will be expected to be obedient to all adult staff members and show proper respect for them at all times.

## **STUDENT CONDUCT**

Students at NMS are expected to obey all rules and policies established by the school district, NMS, and individual teachers.

## **CAR DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP**

Students are dropped off and picked up in front of the building only.

## **BUS RIDERS**

All buses will pick up and drop off at the back of NMS.

## **BUS ARRANGEMENTS**

If you need bus information such as times and bus numbers please contact the bus garage at (479) 471-3140.

## **LUNCHTIMES**

6th Grade: 12:30- 1:00

7th Grade: 12:00 - 12:30

8th Grade: 11:10 - 11:40

## **ADDING MONEY TO CAFETERIA ACCOUNTS**

Please visit, [www.vbsd.us](http://www.vbsd.us)

### **Free and Reduced Lunch Application:**

- [www.vbsd.us](http://www.vbsd.us)
- Paper copies are available upon request.

## **BELL SCHEDULE**

First Bell 7:50 a.m.

Tardy Bell 8:00 a.m.

End of Day 3:00 p.m.

## **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

- 6-3 prong folders with pockets
- Colored pencils
- #2 Pencils
- Loose-leaf paper-wide ruled
- Pencil pouch
- Kleenex
- 1 package of 3 x 3 Post-Its
- 5 composition notebooks
- 2 glue sticks
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade- BAND ONLY- 1-inch binder

## **BUILDING APPEARANCE CODE**

*please refer to Board Policy*

### **4.3.4—Appearance Code**

- Shorts and skirts should be mid-thigh
- Straps on shirts should be the width of a dollar bill
- Holes in jeans should not be higher than mid-thigh
- Hats are not allowed inside the building

## **LOST AND FOUND**

Students who find lost articles are requested to take them to the office where they can be claimed by the owner or directed to the lost and found holding area. Lost and found holding will be located on the stage. Items will be discarded every 9 weeks. NMS does not assume any responsibility for any lost or stolen items.

## **AUTOMOBILES/BICYCLES/MOTORCYCLES**

Only students with a legal driver's license may be allowed to park on campus. No students shall be allowed to sit in cars adjacent to the campus at any time during the school day. Bicycles are to be parked as soon as you arrive at school and not move until the end of the school day. All automobiles and motorcycles must be registered in the school office. This includes copies of a current driver's license and valid insurance. Failure to register in the office may result in disciplinary action.

## **TELEPHONE**

A telephone is available for student use in the office. The use will be limited to emergencies or other important messages as determined by the office staff. Students should ask permission before using the phone.

## **DELIVERIES AND MESSAGES**

Students will be notified when they have a delivery or a message from a parent. Students who have messages will not be notified until the end of class unless the message is an emergency. Students who have deliveries will be notified and may pick them up in the office after school.

## **PASSES AND PROCEDURES FOR LEAVING SCHOOL**

Students are advised to use the proper procedure for arriving at school and leaving school. Students are not allowed to leave school at any time during the school day without a permit from the school office or a parent/guardian signing them out. A student may sign himself/herself out only if his/her parent or guardian has spoken with an authorized staff member. Students who are late to the first period must check in at the office to be admitted to class.

### **Advisory Committee:**

Mark Titsworth  
Michael McKnight  
Austin McKown  
Stephanie Richesin  
Stacey Little  
Kristin Baxter  
Alyssa Cockrell

## **CELL PHONE AND ELECTRONICS USAGE RULES**

Cell Phones should remain in backpacks throughout the day.

Students may use cell phones during their lunchtime once they have gone outside the building.

## **VIDEO SURVEILLANCE AND OTHER STUDENT MONITORING**

Video/recording devices may be in use in school buildings, on school grounds, and in school vehicles, as determined by the VBSD. Refer to policy 4.48.

## **MISCELLANEOUS RULES**

1. Public display of affection (hand-holding, inappropriate hugging, kissing, etc.) will not be permitted.
2. Food is **not** permitted outside of the lunchroom area unless students are given permission by a faculty member. Only water is permitted out of the lunchroom area.

## **DETENTION**

Lunch detentions may be assigned by classroom teachers. The teacher may email or call the parent. The student will report to lunch detention in the designated area of the cafeteria with school work. Students will be allowed to get lunch from the cafeteria or bring a sack lunch from home. If a student is absent on an assigned lunch detention day, he/she will make up the detention on the next school day he/she is present.

## **IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS)**

The following guidelines will apply to the ISS Detention program:

1. Students may be assigned ISS for various discipline problems and may be assigned to ISS for various lengths of time, ranging from one period to several days.
2. Students are not counted absent while serving an ISS penalty. Daily assignments, tests, or other work completed according to ISS guidelines will be graded as though the student were present in class.
3. Full-day ISS students will follow the following guidelines.
  - Absolutely no talking will be permitted in ISS or during breaks or lunch.
  - Students will be expected to be in ISS on time with all necessary class materials (paper, pencil, books, etc.).
  - Students who cannot complete their assignments in ISS may complete them as homework if the supervisor determines the need to do so. The supervisor may make additional assignments.

- ISS students will remain in ISS until 3:00 p.m.
- Students who disrupt the ISS detention center will receive longer detention, or be suspended from school.
- Students who repeatedly are assigned to ISS will be suspended from school.

**Information contained in this guide does not supersede the Van Buren School District Policy.**

## **BULLYING PREVENTION**

*Please refer to Board Policy*

### **4.3.6—STUDENT CONDUCT -BULLYING**

## **NORTHRIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL Parent Involvement Plan Summary 2023-2024**

We believe that a partnership must exist between our parents and our school. We promote positive communication between the school and our students' homes. The school provides a variety of opportunities for parents to be involved in activities supporting our school. We believe teachers have a responsibility to provide the needed framework for parents to nurture their child's formal instruction at home. We will provide materials that can be successfully used at home to reinforce the academic success of our children. The district will reserve a minimum of 1% of the Title I, Part A allocation for parental involvement (\$20,000). It is our goal to provide an atmosphere where parents are able to express their views and assist in problem-solving. We want parents to understand that we view them as joint policy and decision-makers and plan to emphasize their roles as advocates.

The goals of Northridge Middle School for this school year are as follows:

1. School and staff will use a variety of communication strategies to provide additional
  - a. information to parents and to increase parental involvement in supporting classroom instructions.
  - b. Annual Report to the Public
  - c. Informational Packets
  - d. Survey for Parents
  - e. Ridge Guide
  - f. Parent Workshops
  - g. Newsletters
  - h. Positive Phone Calls
  - i. School Status
  - j. Social Media
  - k. Report Cards
  - l. Athletic Nights
  - m. Home Access Center
2. The school will hold parent meetings, conferences, and activities regularly throughout the year to increase parental involvement and build staff and parent capacity to engage in these types of efforts.
  - a. Parent Teacher Conferences
  - b. Parent Involvement Meetings
  - c. Literacy and Math Nights
3. The school will provide information about volunteer opportunities by
  - a. Providing a list of volunteer opportunities and soliciting ideas for other types of volunteer efforts for parents/guardians.
  - b. Providing parents and community members with information to make the experience pleasant and successful.
4. The school will provide an opportunity for parents to engage in decision-making processes regarding the school's program.
5. The school will provide a parent resource center.
6. The school will engage parents in an evaluation of parental involvement efforts.

## REMOTE LEARNING

Should we have to go from face-to-face learning to remote learning at home, teachers will continue to teach their curriculum via learning management systems (Google Classroom, etc.) according to their pacing guide using technology resources designed to help students learn from home. Students will have access to individual devices provided by Northridge. Northridge will maintain our Park-to-Learn long-range WIFI service in the school parking lot.

## Non-Nutritional Days

The Arkansas Department of Education has passed rules governing nutrition standards in Arkansas Public Schools. These rules have an effect on what food items parents are allowed to send to school.

Please note the following rules, sign, and return the bottom portion indicating you have read and understand.

- Elementary students will not have access to vended (sold or given away) food and beverage items anytime, anywhere on school premises during the declared school day.
- This does not apply to students with special needs indicated in the student IEP or to school nurses providing health care to individual students.
- Students may be given any food and/or beverage items for up to nine (9) different school events each school year to be determined and approved by school officials.
- Nutritional foods may be used for instructional purposes. The school, as part of the planned instructional program, may also distribute nutritional snacks (kindergarten snacks for example).
- This does not restrict what parents may provide for their own child's lunch or snack.
- To meet state regulations (law), we must ask parents not to provide food/beverage items to other children at school for events such as birthday parties. Parents may provide food/beverage items upon request to support one of up to nine (9) allowable events such as Valentine's Day.

## HEALTH SCREENINGS (state-mandated)

### Vision: (A.C.A. 6-18-1501)

Act 1438 of 2005 requires students in grades PreK, KF, 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, and transfer students to have an eye and vision screen. Only failure notifications are sent home. A child who does not pass the screening shall be required to have an exam conducted by an optometrist or ophthalmologist within 60 days of receipt of the screening report and show proof of the exam. Parents needing financial assistance should contact the school nurse.

**Hearing:** Hearing screens are mandated for students in grades PreK, K, 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, and transfer students. Only failure notices are sent home. Parents have 60 days to show proof that a doctor or audiologist examined their child.

**- Insurance is billed for students covered under Medicaid/Arkansas Kids 1<sup>st</sup> will be billed, where applicable, for hearing and vision screenings conducted at school unless notified in writing, by parents to decline within 60 days of receipt of the handbook.**

### BMI: (ARK Code 20-7-133 and 3.04)

Act 1220 requires students in grades KF, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 to have their height and weight assessed. A parent who refuses to have their child assessed must provide a written request of the refusal to the school. Screening results will be sent home only upon request of the parent/legal guardian.

### Scoliosis: Act 95 of 1989 and Act 41 of 1987

The acts require girls in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and all students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade to be screened for scoliosis. Parents of a child who fails the screening will be sent an information letter stating the need to see a licensed physician. A parent, who refuses to have their child screened, must provide a written request of refusal to the school.

**Release of Information:** I hereby authorize emergency medical services for my child. I give VBSD staff permission to give my child first aid treatment with OTC ointments and pain-relieving sprays, cough drops, band-aids, and bandages. I hereby authorize the Van Buren School District Health Services to share or discuss my child's health issues with any pertinent person.

*In compliance with federal nondiscrimination laws, the Van Buren Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, gender identity, or disability in its employment and educational practices.*

After reading the Northridge Middle School student handbook with your child, this page must be signed, dated, and returned to school.

Mark Titsworth, Principal

I have read and discussed the material in this handbook with my child. I understand and agree that my child will abide by the rules and regulations set by the Van Buren School District and Northridge Middle School

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Release of Information**

*I hereby authorize emergency medical services for this student. I give VBSD staff permission to give my child first aid treatment with OTC ointments and pain-relieving sprays, cough drops, band-aids, and bandages. I hereby authorize the Van Buren School District Health Services to share or discuss my child's health issues with any **pertinent** person.*

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Van Buren School District Field Trip Permission Slip**

This signature of permission will allow your child to attend any field trip sponsored by the school district. You will receive information regarding specific field trips. If you do not want your child to attend a specific field trip, you will need to notify the school.

I give my child \_\_\_\_\_ permission to attend field trips with their school

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Student Media Release**

The Van Buren School District Requests signature permission to use your child's name, recognizable picture, or video image in any district-approved media releases. Throughout the year, student pictures may be used in different media formats (social media posts, etc..) in an effort to make the public aware of positive things occurring in the schools.

I **GIVE** permission to use my child's name, recognizable picture, or image in any VBSD media release.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I **DO NOT** give permission to use my child's name, recognizable picture, or image in any VBSD media release.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_