

NORTH HUNTERDON HIGH SCHOOL

Dr. Gregory Cottrell
Principal

Ms. Alexa Freguetti
Athletic Director



A NATIONAL SCHOOL
of
EXCELLENCE

Assistant Principals
Mr. John Deutsch
Ms. Stacy Ditze
Mr. Timothy Flynn
Mr. Chris Maslonka
Mr. Robert Pellechio

August 2023

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students:

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! I hope everyone had a great summer, and I look forward to another great school year. The following information highlights significant events, dates, and important information that will make the transition to the new school year successful.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NORTH?

- Enrollment is currently 1,463 students.
- Construction projects completed over the summer include: the renovation of boys' locker room by Gold Gym and expansion of parking lots by baseball field and Singley Field. All student parking will now be in the main parking lot between Regional Road and the main gym as the lower level parking lot will be the location for a new Polytech building, with construction starting soon.
- School breakfast \$3.25, School Lunch \$4.50, Featured Favorites Lunch \$5.00.
We are continuing this year with a cashless cafeteria. To make purchases in the cafeteria, parents must create an account in PaySchools if you have not already done so. Students will enter their student ID number at the register to make a purchase, and it will deduct money from their PaySchools account. Instructions on creating an account are posted on our Food Services website, <https://www.nhvweb.net/foodservices/>. The cafeteria price list and menus will be posted on that website prior to school opening.
- Daily announcements, athletic schedules, and the latest happenings at North Hunterdon are included on our website at <http://www.nhvweb.net/nhhs/home/>. Also, current contact information for all staff is available on our website. We encourage you to visit our website regularly to stay informed.
- The best source of information about what is going on at North is your child; we encourage you to regularly discuss with your child the events of their day at North Hunterdon High School.

SCHOOL OPENING DETAILS

FRESHMEN

Freshmen will report to the theater for an orientation program on **Wednesday, August 23, at 9:45 a.m.** Bus information is located in Aspen under the Transportation tab. Bus pick-up for orientation will be exactly **two hours** later than the normal pick-up time, as posted in your Aspen account. Students should be at the bus stop at least five minutes before pick-up. Dismissal is scheduled for 3:10 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact the Transportation Department at 908-638-5904. (*Note: busing for biomedical sciences academy students who live outside of the district is not provided for freshman orientation.*)

ALL STUDENTS

All students report for a **REGULAR** school day on **Thursday, August 24**, which is an A Day. Our district follows a rolling drop-block schedule. Each student schedule contains eight blocks, with only six meeting each day on a four-day rotating schedule (A, B, C and D Days), [click here to see an example of the blocks across a sample schedule](#). The rotation schedule can be accessed on our [bell schedules webpage](#).

On the first day of school, students will report to their first-period class. Student schedules can be accessed through Aspen; you will receive a notification when final schedules are available. School counselors completed all necessary student schedule revisions during the summer; therefore, all student schedules are final. Specific individual concerns should be directed to your child's school counselor by appointment.

ENTERING SCHOOL

Doors will be opened for students at 7:00 a.m. Students may enter through Route 31 or Regional Road entrance. Students who arrive before 7:30 a.m. must report to the main gym via the Regional Road entrance or the green gym at the Route 31 entrance. **Students should not be dropped off before 7:00 a.m.**

ROUTE 31 AND REGIONAL ROAD TRAFFIC PATTERNS

During the school year, more than 2,000 people attempt to enter the facility between 7:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. This traffic comprises senior drivers, staff members, school buses, and parents/guardians. **It is vitally important that all vehicles yield to pedestrians and school buses while on campus.** The speed limit on campus is 5 miles per hour. Please see the following information on how to enter campus:

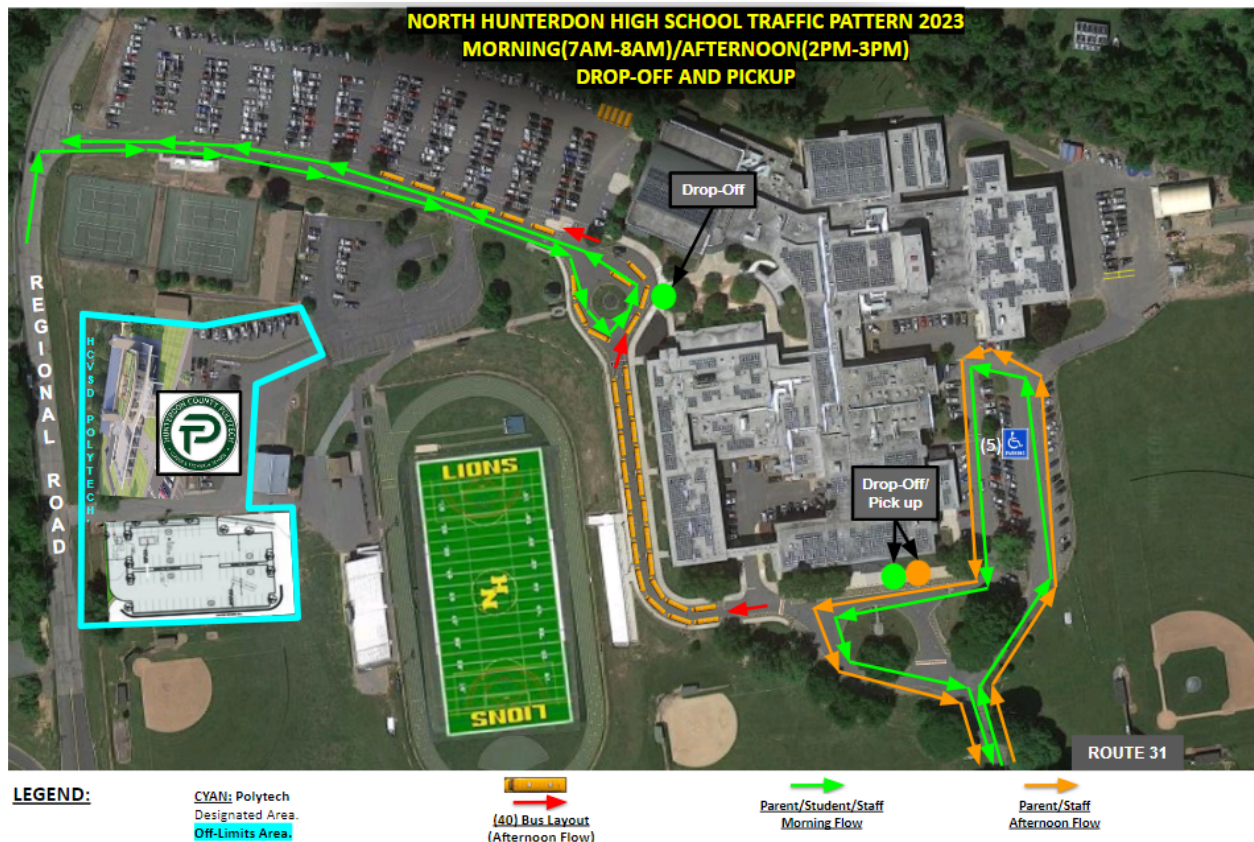
● **Route 31**

If you enter from Route 31, make a right and proceed to the Administrative Lot at the north side of the building, traveling to the end, then turn left toward the front of the building and then make the right toward the Route 31 Entrance. Proceed to the furthest drop-off location. *For safety reasons, students may depart the vehicle only when the passenger door is facing the building.* An employee will be directing traffic in front of the building. Clinton Township Police will be assisting as well. All cars must exit onto Route 31 South.

● **Regional Road (*New traffic pattern for morning drop-offs)**

Cars using the Regional Road entrance must drop off students in the circle by the Theater/Gym entrance (*there are no more drop-offs in district office parking lot*). Please be courteous to the buses dropping off students as well. Drivers will continue around the circle and exit back onto Regional Road. The Regional Road entrance/exit can only be used in the morning for drop-off. Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks as they have the right of way.

Traffic Pattern:



Students should be dropped off by parents/guardians before 7:20 a.m. and picked up after 2:45 p.m. whenever possible. This can eliminate the bottlenecks created on Route 31 and Regional Road and allow for a more uniform and safe environment for students, staff members, school buses, and parents/guardians. Your support of our efforts to maintain a safe environment is appreciated.

LEAVING SCHOOL AT DISMISSAL

To allow for a safe and orderly dismissal, only buses will be allowed to exit through the Regional Road exit from 2:25 to 2:35 pm. Senior drivers will be dismissed after all buses have exited campus. From 2:25 to 2:35 pm, parents may only pick up students at the Route 31 side of the building. No cars should be standing around the circle on the Regional Road side. Parking in any fire lanes is prohibited at all times. Parking in the District Office parking lot is prohibited.

See the diagram above for the Route 31 dismissal traffic pattern, which will be the same as the morning drop-off.

IMPORTANT: ATTENDANCE AND EARLY DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Please review our [Attendance Office website](#) for all policies and procedures regarding attendance.

Early dismissals are discouraged; however, the school will honor medical/dental appointments, other appointments that cannot be scheduled outside of school hours, and extreme emergencies. For your future reference, the following procedures can also be found on our website:

<https://www.nhvweb.net/nhhs/attendance/early-dismissal/>.

- To arrange for a student's early dismissal, a parent/guardian must write a note, or preferably send an email, to the Attendance Office specifying the student's name, date, time of dismissal, and reason for the request. Emails should be sent to northattendance@nhvweb.net.
- Upon notification of a student's early dismissal, an electronic SmartPass will be issued for the time the student is leaving. The student must accept the SmartPass on their device (phone or Chromebook) to activate it. Student acceptance of the pass is a 3-step process (Select Origin to Accept, enter the room number coming from, and then the final acceptance button) and is required for its activation. The student can accept the pass at any time once it appears on the SmartPass app (they do not have to wait until the time of the dismissal). If students cannot see the pass when they log into the SmartPass app, they must click on the bell icon on the top right of the screen to see passes issued for them. Students may not create their own early dismissal SmartPasses to leave school early, and any requests received from students for this purpose will be declined.
- If a student is leaving during a class period, the student must show the SmartPass on their device to their teacher to be able to leave the classroom. For students being picked up by a parent, guardian, or other parent/guardian-designated adult, the student will then come to the Attendance Office/front security window to be signed out.
- **Classes cannot be interrupted to request that a student be dismissed to the Attendance Office except in the case of an emergency. The purpose of the SmartPass system is to minimize disruption to instructional time.**
- When picking up a student, the parent/guardian must come into the school at the front (Rt. 31) entrance to meet the student and sign the student out at the security window. Security personnel at the front security window will request to see the parent/guardian ID before releasing a student.
- Students will be allowed to leave with another family member or parent-designated adult (the pick-up person must be 18 years of age or older and cannot be a current student at North Hunterdon) if a written note or email from the parent/guardian is provided to the Attendance Office granting parental/guardian permission, or if the parent/guardian calls the attendance office to give verbal permission for the alternate pick-up person.
- **For a student to be able to sign him-, her- or themselves out of school, the student must be a senior with a valid school-issued parking permit.** Senior students who will be signing out and driving themselves must have confirmed parental permission provided either via phone call or parent email sent to the Attendance Office – handwritten notes are not accepted for senior students signing themselves out of school prior to dismissal time. **Due to school board policy and state truancy laws, parent/guardian confirmation is still required if the student is 18 years old.**

- Seniors leaving early are required to show their dismissal SmartPass and sign and scan out (with their school-issued ID) at the security desk located at the theater/courtyard entrance. Failure to sign and scan out at the back security desk will result in disciplinary consequences.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

A link to the [2023-2024 district calendar](#) is available on our website. For the daily rotation schedule indicating A, B, C, and D Days, please visit our [bell schedules webpage](#). Please click on the calendar icon in the upper right-hand corner of the school's homepage for school events. The *Lion Pride Community Calendar* is updated throughout the school year, as events are subject to change. Please click [here](#) to view the calendar.

CHROMEBOOKS AND INTERNET ACCESS

Students in grades 10-12 who turned in their district-issued Chromebook at the end of the last school year can pick up their previously issued devices on weekdays between **August 9th thru August 22nd** during the hours of **8:00 am - 3:00 pm in the Media Center**. The student must show a student ID or driver's license to receive the Chromebook.

Freshmen and new students will receive their Chromebooks during orientation on **August 23rd**. If your child opts to bring his/her own personal Chromebook, please [click here](#) for a list of acceptable devices. If your child is bringing their own device, they must be registered on the school network. This can be done by visiting the Technology Resource Center by the cafeteria during the regular school day.

Parents of freshmen and new students must complete the Technology Agreement Form in Aspen in order for their child to receive a Chromebook and gain access to the Internet and school network. Parents of students bringing their own Chromebook must also fill out the agreement form. Technology forms are available in Aspen, under Page Directory, then Technology Forms. Please fill out the form prior to August 23rd so there is no delay in providing your child with their Chromebook and/or internet access.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

This year, we will have **one scheduled Back to School Night**. Parents of **9th - 12th graders** are invited to attend on Tuesday, **August 29th**. The evening program will begin in the main gymnasium at **6:30 p.m.** Parents are reminded to bring a copy of their student's schedules to this popular year-opening event. Another letter will be sent with details prior to the Back to School nights. Teachers will also share videos with information about their classes for anyone who chooses not to attend in-person.

AFTER SCHOOL HELP

Students can obtain after-school help from their teachers on Mondays and Wednesdays, and Thursdays between 2:30 and 3:10 p.m. A 3:15 pm activity bus is available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. These bus routes differ from the regular AM/PM bus routes. 3:15 pm routes are posted in Aspen; click on Page Directory, then Transp. Routes. Professional staff will be involved in curriculum work Tuesdays and Fridays between 2:30 p.m. and 3:10 p.m.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

North Hunterdon High School is dedicated to offering its students a variety of extracurricular activities that appeal to students' varying needs and wants. You can review the student clubs offered on our website under the Students tab, then click [Student Clubs/Activities](#). While NHHS believes that extracurricular activities are an essential part of education, academics take precedence. Students are expected to maintain good academic standing, including attendance and discipline, to be eligible to participate in extracurricular programs, including senior parking and dances, per North Hunterdon-Voorhees Board of Education Policy 2430. In addition, all students participating in extracurricular activities, including athletics, must be enrolled in North Hunterdon's Random Drug Testing program. Please click [here](#) for the Random Drug Testing Policy.

When a student becomes ineligible for participation in extracurricular activities by reason of poor attendance or poor academic performance, the advisors of the extracurricular activity in which the student participates will be informed. The advisor will suspend the student's participation.

A student is ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities if:

- The student is failing two or more courses at the midpoint marking period. This student will become eligible when the student is no longer failing two or more courses in that marking period.
- The student receives two or more failing marking period grades. This student will become eligible if the student is no longer failing two or more courses at the midpoint of the following marking period.

PARENT-STUDENT HANDBOOK

The Parent-Student Handbook was developed as an information resource. It explains procedures, opportunities for student involvement, and a student's rights and obligations. The handbook is available online at our website at <http://www.nhvweb.net/nhhs/home/> under the Parents or Students tab. Parents will need to log into Aspen to acknowledge that they have reviewed and agreed to the content in the Parent-Student handbook. Go under Page Directory, then North Other Forms to complete the form.

ID CARD POLICY

Students are to carry ID cards at all times while in school and at all school activities and functions. Students must present IDs when asked to do so by staff members. Failure to do so may result in a disciplinary referral. Students must present IDs when signing into school late and when entering the Counseling Office, the Reading/Writing Lab, departmental resource centers, the Health Office, and the Media Center.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICIES

North Hunterdon High School is an alcohol and drug-free zone. Any student found to be in possession of any illegal substances or alcohol will be disciplined, and charges will be filed through Clinton Township Police Department. Any student believed to be under the influence of illegal substances or alcohol will be required to submit to a drug/alcohol screening before returning to school. In order to ensure a safe and drug-free school environment, North Hunterdon High School will work with Clinton Township Police and the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office on preventative measures, including but not limited to the use of canines to detect drugs in school. If drug-sniffing dogs are used, parents will be notified after the event so they are aware of these preventative measures.

SAFE HOMES

North Hunterdon High School will once again partner with Safe Communities Coalition and participate in the **SAFE HOMES PROGRAM**. This potentially life-saving program is a national initiative that seeks pledges from local families who agree to host only supervised, drug and alcohol-free gatherings for teens in their homes. Please [click here](#) to sign the pledge directly from the Safe Home Webpage.

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT

Information regarding [RVCC concurrent enrollment](#) will be emailed in mid-August. Information regarding participating in [Project Acceleration](#), our concurrent enrollment program with Seton Hall University, will be available to students in the applicable classes around mid-September.

REQUIRED SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

All students are required to hand in the Quote Selection Guide(s) during their English class, which is due on August 24, and it will count as a homework assignment. Summer reading assignments are posted on our website, <http://libguides.nhvweb.net/summerreading>.

REQUIRED SUMMER MATH PACKETS

All students entering Algebra 1 Advanced, Algebra 1 CP, Algebra 1A CP, Algebra 1B CP, Algebra 2 CP & Advanced, Algebra 2 Honors, Calculus Advanced, Calculus AP (AB), Calculus AP (BC), Geometry Advanced, Geometry CP, Geometry Honors, PreCalculus Advanced, and PreCalculus Honors, are required to complete a summer math packet. Students were instructed to access them through the school website. This packet will count as a minimal-impact grade for the 1st marking period of the school year. Teachers recommend that students attempt the packet in order to establish an understanding of what concepts students may need further instruction on this fall. The packets are due on the first day of school. The math packets may be downloaded from the Math Department site <http://www.nhvweb.net/nhhs/math/>

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We encourage parent involvement at North Hunterdon High School. Listed below are examples of committees and organizations that are available for parental participation:

- Principal's Parent Advisory Committee
- [Parent Teacher Student Association](#) (PTSA)
- [Music Association](#)
- [Athletic Booster Club](#)
- [Special Education Advisory Group](#)
- School Safety Team
- [North Hunterdon Education Foundation](#)

The first **Principal's Parent Advisory Committee** is scheduled for Thursday, October 26, 2023, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the North Hunterdon-Voorhees District Office. If you are interested in being involved in the Principal's Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), please call the Principal's secretary, Mrs. Melissa Shannon, at (908) 713-4122 or email mshannon@nhvweb.net.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Below are the official social media accounts for North Hunterdon High School:

North Hunterdon's Facebook page - www.facebook.com/northhunterdonhs

Dr. Greg Cottrell on X (formerly Twitter) - [@NHPrincipal](https://twitter.com/NHPrincipal)

North Hunterdon Athletics on X (formerly Twitter) - [@NHHS_Lions](https://twitter.com/NHHS_Lions)

North Hunterdon-Voorhees Counseling on X (formerly Twitter) - [@NHVCounseling](https://twitter.com/NHVCounseling)

VISITING NORTH HUNTERDON HIGH SCHOOL

During school hours, all visitors will enter the building through the Route 31 entrance. All exterior doors are locked, and you will need to use the intercom button to state your reason for visiting to the security personnel, who will then unlock the door. Visitors must then stop at the security desk to sign in and present an ID. The security personnel will provide a visitor's pass, which must be visible at all times while on campus. Visitors who are not wearing a pass will be escorted to the main office. At the end of the visit, visitors will sign out at the same security desk where they signed in.

DRESS CODE

In order to create a positive school atmosphere, attire and grooming should be school appropriate, reasonably modest and neat. A student's appearance must not disrupt the teaching or learning process; therefore, the below guidelines must be followed:

- Appropriate and safe footwear must be worn at all times.
- Skirts, shorts, and dresses must be no shorter than the level where the student's closed fist strikes the thigh when standing, with arms straight down and shoulders relaxed.
- All clothing must cover undergarments, cleavage, and midriff.
- Underwear, including bralettes and sports bras, cannot be worn as outerwear. Bare midriff, crop tops that expose the abdominal area, halter tops and tube tops are not permitted.
- Clothing with inappropriate pictures, alcohol advertisements, sexually suggestive messages, tobacco, weapons, or gang affiliations; slogans that contain offensive or obscene words, symbols, or signs; or slogans depicting violence or degrading any race, color, creed, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, social or economic status, sexual orientation or drug-related messages are not allowed.
- Any articles of clothing or accessories with studs, chains, spikes, or cleats that could cause damage to other students or to property are not permitted.
- Non-prescription sunglasses and glazed and tinted glasses are not permitted except as prescribed by the pupil's doctor.
- Any articles of clothing which are considered distracting or disruptive to the educational process are subject to administrative review.

Any articles that the administration deems as distracting or disruptive to the education of the students will not be permitted.

Students who violate the policy may receive one after-school detention, with increasing penalties for subsequent offenses. Students will be sent to the Main Office and asked to change into more appropriate dress. Parents

should understand that they might be asked to bring a change of clothing to school for students who are in violation of this school policy. The school administration reserves the right to make a final decision regarding appropriate dress in school and at school-sponsored events. If parents cannot be reached to bring appropriate clothing to the school, the student will be placed in the In-school Suspension Room until such time as appropriate attire can be provided.

Please feel free to contact the administration with any questions regarding the dress code.

CONTACTING AN ADMINISTRATOR

Periodically, parents ask, "Who do I talk to if an issue exists that affects my child?" My best advice is to begin with the teacher, coach, or advisor who is closest to the issue and can offer real-time advice. This can best be accomplished by calling the school (908) 713-4199 and leaving a message or perhaps contacting your child's counselor. This step should always be taken prior to using other options. If however, you believe that a satisfactory response has not been rendered, the following is a list of administrators and the areas that they supervise:

NAME	RESPONSIBILITY	TELEPHONE EXTENSION	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Anthony Petraglia	Director of Student Activities	6357	apetraglia@nhvweb.net
Martha Hickson	Librarian	6414	mhickson@nhvweb.net
Kristine Vitelli or Cynthia Peck	Nurses	6391 6391	kvitelli@nhvweb.net or cpeck@nhvweb.net
Tyler Roseberry or Kristen Mandicz	Athletic Trainers	6142 4531	troseberry@nhvweb.net or kmandicz@nhvweb.net
Stacy Ditze	Assistant Principal Class of 2024 (12) Science Mathematics Biomed/Polytech	6433	sditze@nhvweb.net
Chris Maslonka	Assistant Principal Class of 2025 (11) English Business Family and Consumer Science	6354	emaslonka@nhvweb.net
John Deutsch	Assistant Principal Class of 2026 (10) Physical Education and Health Tech Ed Music Fine Arts	6355	jdeutsch@nhvweb.net
Timothy Flynn	Assistant Principal Class of 2027 (9) Social Studies World Language Student Activities	6351	tflynn@nhvweb.net
Robert Pellechio	Assistant Principal Special Education Child Study Team	6430	rpellechio@nhvweb.net
Michael Squarcia	Director of Counseling Services	5182	msquarcia@nhvweb.net
Alexa Freguetti	Assistant Principal/Athletic Director	6401	afreguetti@nhvweb.net
Greg Cottrell, Ed. D.	Principal	6350	gcottrell@nhvweb.net

If you have exhausted these steps without satisfaction, please feel free to call me at (908) 713-4121 or e-mail me: gcottrell@nhvweb.net

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- Students may have a “silenced” cell phone on their person.
- The use of these devices during instructional time without the teacher's permission or in a disruptive manner is prohibited.
- Unless specifically allowed by the teacher, the use of a cell phone in any classroom or instructional area is prohibited.
- Cell phones that ring, vibrate excessively, or in any other way disrupt the educational process are grounds for confiscation of the device by school staff.
- Students are only permitted to use their cell phones in the cafeteria during lunch periods and in hallways between classes.
 - Voice calls from cell phones are prohibited. Students needing to make calls can do so in the Main Office & Guidance Office.
 - The use of cell phones during study hall is at the discretion of the study hall teacher.
 - Using a cell phone while walking can be considered a safety hazard and is prohibited.
 - The use of headphones or earbuds in the hall or cafeteria is prohibited.
 - Using a cell phone in the hall during instructional time is prohibited.
- No student shall use a cell phone to violate any student code of conduct, including computer usage agreements and/or bullying policies.
- The use of cell phones in restrooms and locker rooms is prohibited.
- Recording of sound or visual images is prohibited unless approved by a teacher/administrator.
- Recording of any incidents on campus is prohibited.
- Contents of cell phones may be reviewed and searched if there exists a reasonable suspicion that they may have been used in an activity prohibited by the code of conduct.
- The use of cell phones during any security drill/procedure is strictly prohibited.

Consequences for Violations

- 1st offense: device is confiscated for one week/one extended detention
- 2nd offense: device is confiscated for two weeks/three extended detentions
- 3rd offense: device is confiscated for one month/five extended detentions
- 4th offense: device is confiscated until the end of the school year/seven extended detentions

Parents may come to school to retrieve the device before the confiscation period is over by calling the Director of Student Activities to **make an appointment for device pick-up between the hours of 7:30 AM and 3:30 PM.*

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

Per Board [Policies 3283](#) and [4283](#), staff members and students are prohibited from corresponding with each other through personal email addresses, cell phone numbers or social media sites. The only approved means of communication between staff members and students is through the district-issued email and Google accounts. Students should not give out their personal contact information to staff members. You can read more in the policies linked above.

Again, welcome to the 2023-2024 school year. We extend our best wishes to everyone for a successful school year.

Sincerely,



Greg Cottrell, Ed.D.
Principal