

North Newton Elementary School

Student/Parent Handbook



**221 West 26th St
Newton, NC 28658**

Telephone 828-464-2631

Mrs. Leah Hayes
Principal

NAME _____

TEACHER _____ GRADE _____



Principal's Message



Welcome back to the 2025-2026 school year! We are excited to begin another year here at North Newton Elementary School. Our number one priority is to ensure every child's needs are met each day. As a staff, it is our desire to serve our students and our community with the necessary skills to be problem solvers, innovators, and respectful citizens. We value the time you spend on your child's education and understand how vital our partnership is to the success of your child's education. Please know that our doors are always open for you to come visit and be involved in helping your child learn and be successful in society!

The North Newton staff is excited to continue our global focus in each grade level with the study of a different continent. These lessons are integrated into the curriculum through reading, writing, math, social studies, and science. Throughout the year, we will highlight what the students have learned through special events such as musical performances and Global Showcases. We offer a dual immersion program to first through fifth-grade students based on a referral process that involves both teachers and parents. We look forward to watching this program continue to grow in the future!

Communication this year will be given through multiple avenues. We will be using ClassDojo as our primary communication tool between school and home. We encourage every parent to sign up in order to receive daily notifications from their child's teacher. Our teachers will also communicate through weekly messages on ClassDojo. Please remember you can access us through our North Newton Facebook page for upcoming events, and we will continue to send out our weekly phone messages.

It is my honor and privilege to serve this school and community as North Newton's principal. Please do not hesitate to contact me or visit me at the school with any praises, issues, or concerns you may have throughout the school year. I believe that when we work together, anything is possible when it comes to your child's education! I hope each of you has a wonderful 2025- 2026 school year!

Sincerely,
Leah Hayes
Principal



SCHOOL HOURS

Following are the listed hours of school operation.

Cafeteria Opens for Breakfast	7:40 AM
Tardy Bell	8:10AM
Car Riders/Walkers Dismissal	3:20 PM
First Bus	3:20 PM
Afterschool/ Dismissal	3:25PM

No Sign-outs after 2:50 unless you provide a doctor's note!

HERE TO SERVE YOU!!!

Please feel free to contact us on any problem or concern. Listed below are telephone numbers that may be helpful to you.

North Newton	464-2631
Superintendent	464-3191

NORTH NEWTON'S MISSION STATEMENT

**North Newton Elementary School will ensure
that each student succeeds.**

VISION STATEMENT

Shaping the World – one student at a time!



North Newton Elementary School

Title I Parent Engagement Policy

North Newton Elementary School staff in collaboration with our Title I Parent Advisory Board (PAC) has developed and agreed upon this Title I Parent Engagement Policy. The main focal point of this policy is to encourage, foster, and increase parent participation in the development and implementation of our school programs. Our staff and parents are instrumental in creating a positive and nurturing climate for all students. This will have a direct correlation to our Title I students meeting school, district, and state's academic standards.

North Newton Elementary School Title I Advisory Council (PAC) is composed of Title I staff, parents of Title I students, and the administration. Our council will annually update the Parent Engagement Policy by utilizing the information given by our Title I parents. This is a working document that is available for parents and community members to review online and a hard copy is available through a written request.

This Title I Parent Engagement Policy was devised by adhering to all Title I requirements and is a working document. Title I funds are utilized, if needed, to provide parents with services and opportunities to attend our meetings and workshops. The Title I funds will help provide our parents with children's transportation and materials.

- I. **Parent Engagement Meetings**
 - a. Informational Meetings during the year to keep parents informed
 - b. Review the Parent Engagement Policy annually
 - c. Home and School Compact
 - d. Needs Assessment Survey
- II. **Parent Annual Meetings for Discussions and Information Dissemination**
 - a. State School Report Card Information
 - b. Explanation of Parent's Rights
 - c. Explanation of Title I requirements and guidelines
 - d. North Carolina Assessments and Standards
 - e. Parent Engagement Policy
 - f. Current Curriculum
 - g. Needs Assessment Survey
- III. **Ongoing Communication Process for Parent's Knowledge**
 - a. School Website
 - b. District Website
 - c. Phone Calls
 - d. Parent Conferences
 - e. NC DPI Website
 - f. Letters home in weekly folders

- g. Powerschool Parent Portal
 - h. Class Dojo
 - i. Social Media via Facebook and Twitter
- IV. Providing Materials and Training to Parents
 - a. Open House
 - b. Curriculum Night
 - c. Family Math Night
 - d. Family Reading Night
 - e. Global Showcase
 - f. ESL Night
 - g. PAC Quarterly Meetings
- V. Solicit/Integrate Parent Engagement Strategies with Local Agencies, Schools, and Programs
 - a. Internet Safety
 - b. School Improvement/Testing Data
- VI. Foster Strong and Productive Parental Engagement Through:
 - a. Various meeting times throughout the year
 - b. Parent workshop on various Parenting topics
 - c. Provide take home materials and supplies to support learning
 - d. Parenting Tips Monthly through Class Dojo

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

After school care will be provided through the Community Schools Program. The supervision is provided from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and 3:20 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. each day. Inquiries should be directed to Community Schools at 828-850-7558 from 2:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.



TRAFFIC PATTERN

KISS AND GO

1. **All car riders will line up on North Ashe Ave and follow through to West 26th St to the driveway on the right side of the building. We ask that you Kiss and Go. Kiss your child in the car and let them go into the building. (Safety Concerns)**
2. Children must leave and enter cars from the passenger side of the car only. (This will keep them out of the traffic and prevent accidents. Parents should not pass other vehicles in the line unless directed to by staff).
3. Bus loading is in the front entrance of the North Newton Elementary School.
4. **No student is to be dropped off in the staff parking lot.**
5. **NO WALK-UPS ALLOWED! All students must be picked up in a car!**
6. **All children MUST be picked up by 3:30 pm!**

DELAYED OPENINGS OR CLOSINGS

In the event of inclement weather or mechanical breakdown, school may be closed or starting time delayed. The same conditions may also necessitate early dismissal. School closing, delayed starting time or early dismissal will be announced by the district phone system, Class Dojo, and Facebook as well as radio stations, TV stations, and the Newton-Conover City Schools website www.newton-conover.org. Reports in the morning will be broadcast as early as possible. Please do not call the school. Telephone lines must be kept open for emergencies.

ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is imperative for student achievement. Students are expected to be in attendance each day school is in session except for personal illness or exempt holidays. North Carolina has compulsory attendance laws that we must follow. Work missed through absence from school is difficult to make up and

there is no substitute for actual participation in the daily classes. Each day and each class makes a small contribution to one's education. It is very important for your child to develop good attendance habits; however, if it is necessary to be absent, the following procedure should be followed:

1. If possible, notify the teacher before your child is absent for such things as funerals, etc.
2. Parents are asked to call the school or dojo message the teacher to report the reason for a student's absence.
3. When children are absent, upon their return to school, they must bring a note from their parent or guardian as to the exact reason for their absences, including the kind of sickness. This is required by the State. This written record enables the school and the parents to work together for the best interest of the child. If the child does not bring in this excuse by the second day, a phone call to the parent may be made to determine the child's excuse for the absence. Sometimes we have found that children were absent and the parent was not aware of it. *The note must be sent in on the day your child returns to school.*
4. **We will accept 9 handwritten letters for an excused absence. After the 9th one, the 10th one will become unexcused.**
5. A student is expected to make up for missed work when absent. By doing this, the student will not fall behind in classwork.
6. **Excessive absences may constitute a meeting for an attendance contract (6 absences) or if it continues a referral to Judges in School (10 or more).**

In accordance with the North Carolina State attendance policy all absences will be considered "lawful" or "unlawful". ***The ONLY absences that will be considered lawful are:***

1. personal illness or injury which makes the student physically unable to attend;
2. death in the immediate family;
3. medical or dental appointment;
4. participation under subpoena as a witness in a court proceeding;
5. observance of a religious event with prior approval by the principal,

Excessive absences without a reasonable excuse may constitute truancy. **Ten or more tardies and/or early dismissals make children ineligible for perfect attendance recognition.**

TARDIES

We ask that students arrive at school promptly, before 8:10 a.m., to avoid interruptions in the instructional day. If you would like your child to eat breakfast, please have them at school by 8:00 a.m. The first ten minutes of school are a vital part of the school schedule when students make preparations for the entire day. Parents must be responsible for getting students out of bed and to school on time. **Parents of late students MUST come in to sign their child in for that day.**

BUS EXPECTATIONS

1. Talk in a normal conversational voice with no excessive noise.
2. Cooperate with and obey the driver at all times.
3. Remain seated, facing forward with feet on the floor.
4. Keep heads, arms, and feet inside the bus at all times.
5. Never use profane and indecent language while riding on the school bus.
6. Never mar or deface the bus in any way.
7. Never attempt to ride on a school bus unless assigned to it by the principal.
8. **No cell phones or electronics.**

It is unlawful for a person to ride on a school bus without proper assignment. Remember that riding a school bus is a **privilege**, not a **right**. Violations of these rules may result in loss of bus riding privileges. The bus driver has the right to turn in a bus referral to the administration for any misbehavior on the bus.

The safety of students riding our school buses is a great concern. One of the leading causes of bus accidents is driver distraction. If students are disruptive, they will be given a bus referral. The discipline notice will come home with the child, along with a phone call home. Please sign and return the form to school with your child. To ensure the safety of our bus riders, the following consequences will be given to those receiving bus referrals:

- 1st slip—warning/parent note home
- 2nd slip—Parent Notification
- 3rd slip— 1 Day Bus Suspension
- 4th slip— 3 Day Bus Suspension
- 5th slip— 1 week bus suspension/note home

6th and above—Principal's discretion

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are important events to elementary school children. If you wish to provide a small snack for the students in your child's classroom, please discuss it with the teacher ahead of time. He or she will let you know what is appropriate to send and what time of day is best. Please remember that students may not receive deliveries of balloons, flowers, etc. at school. ***NO homemade baked goods are permitted in accordance with the state child nutrition laws. All food for student parties, socials, etc. must be purchased from a grocery/department store.***

CAFETERIA

Child Nutrition offers a range of services for students while striving to prepare and provide healthy, well balanced meals that meet your child's needs. Breakfast and Lunch Meals are offered daily in all cafeterias. Students may receive one complete breakfast and one complete lunch per day. Breakfast consists of two breads or one bread and one meat, fruit and milk. Lunch consists of one meat, one bread, two fruits or vegetables and milk. Students may also purchase additional items at a la carte prices.

Child Nutrition encourages all parents to pay for their children's meals in advance. Payments are accepted daily, weekly, monthly or any other frequency the parent desires. Online payment for meal accounts is also available at K12PaymentCenter.com

DRESS AND APPEARANCE

Students are to dress for school and school activities in an appropriate manner. Clothing should never be a distraction to instruction or disruption to the order of the day.

The Student Dress Code includes, but may not be limited to, the following conditions:

1. Shoes must be worn at all times. ***Flip-flops will not be permitted.***
2. Head coverings (hats, bandannas, toboggans, and other headwear) and sunglasses may **not** be worn inside the building unless designated as a Spirit Day, PBIS reward etc.
3. Pajamas may not be worn unless designated as a Spirit Day, PBIS reward etc.
4. Clothing with questionable or inappropriate language or pictures on it will not be permitted.
5. Clothing that displays alcoholic beverages, drugs, smoking, or tobacco products will not be permitted.
6. Students may not wear tank tops, strapless tops, spaghetti strap tops, midriff tops, halter-tops, or

muscle shirts. Stomachs are to be covered at all times. (A good test is to raise the arms and make sure no stomach shows.)

7. Shorts and skirts must be long enough to reach the fingertips when the student is standing.
8. Articles of clothing that are offensive to race, color, creed, or sex will not be permitted.
9. No chains will be allowed on articles of clothing.
10. Pants must be worn at the waist and will not be permitted to expose undergarments.



FIELD TRIPS

Teachers may schedule field trips to reinforce and enrich the basic curriculum plan. **Parents will receive field trip plans for the entire school year sometime in early September from your child's teacher. You will receive information for each trip, the date it is scheduled, and the cost involved. Please turn in these forms and field trip money to your child's teacher.** We know that many of you gladly volunteer. If you will please contact the teachers to inform them of your wishes to help they will gladly share information with you. One policy that we need your help with is the attendance of children who are not in the class attending the field trip. We are asking that parents not bring children from another grade level with them on the field trip. If you wish to sign-out your child from the field trip at the end of the day, you must sign-out from the teacher. The teacher has to turn in all sign-outs to the office.

Also, a student can be held back from going on a field trip due to his/her behavior and the number of office referrals he/she has received prior to the field trip. The decision must be approved by administration and communicated in writing to the parent/guardian a week in advance of the scheduled field trip. Arrangements will be made for that student to stay back on the day of the field trip.

PBIS at North Newton

At North Newton we are a Positive Behavior Intervention Support School. This means that we drive our discipline around a positive approach rather than a negative one. We want to reward students for doing well, rather than just having consequences for inappropriate behavior in school.



Class Dojo and PBIS Rewards

Teachers use Class Dojo in the classroom daily to document behavior. Parents can also sign up to be notified of their child's progress through Class Dojo and receive a daily report from the teacher. **At the end of 1st quarter, students who have an average of 80% or higher in Dojo points and have not had any office referrals will be rewarded. At the end of 2nd quarter students must have 85% and at the end of 3rd quarter students must have 90% to participate in the PBIS reward.** Rewards include bowling, movies, inflatables, popcorn, extra recess, and many other special activities. At the end of the year, we will have an End of the Year Bash.

SCHOOL-WIDE DISCIPLINE

The expectation is that students come to school to learn. To learn, good behavior is needed. We believe all students can behave appropriately while at school. We will allow no student to stop the teacher from teaching or prevent other students from learning. Positive Behavior Intervention System is our way of monitoring behaviors. We believe all students should:

North Newton Bulldog Rules

Be Prepared.

Act Responsibly.

Respect Others.

Keep Safe.

If students are not following the BARK rules, teachers will take away Dojo points if needed. If the misbehavior continues, teachers have the right to bump students to another classroom. While in the other teacher's classroom, students will be expected to complete a reflection on the BARK rule that was broken. Once a student receives 3 bumps it will be an office referral.

Office referrals are determined by the extent of the misbehavior. Once the office referral is made, the administration will look at the referral and determine the consequences. The parent/guardian will be notified as soon as possible of the incident and the consequences. The office referral form will be sent home with the

student for the parent to sign and return to school on the next day.

VIOLENT BEHAVIOR AND WEAPONS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!

Beginning December 1, 1993, the following laws regarding violent behavior and weapons on school property became effective: Committing any of the following acts constitutes a FELONY punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment.

1. Possessing or carrying any gun, rifle, pistol, or other firearm (other than a BB gun) onto school property.
2. Possessing or carrying any dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine, or powerful explosive onto school property.

BRINGING THINGS TO SCHOOL

Students are not to bring recording devices, toy guns, cell phones, electronic games, or collection cards to school. Please understand that we have a no-weapons policy, so a toy gun or knife that is brought to school will be considered a weapon. Oftentimes, these items are dropped and/or broken by students or friends, either on the bus or at school, and then liability becomes an issue. **Any items brought to school will be collected by the child's teacher and returned only when the parent of that child comes to school to meet with the teacher and pick up the item.**

Students may bring a snack and a water bottle to school. The water bottle must be plastic. **No metal water or glass bottles are allowed for students.**

HEAD LICE

Students found to have live lice are to remain home from school until treated and live lice have been removed from the hair. The absences accrued from exclusion due to lice infestation shall be excused for the day the lice were discovered and the following day ONLY. If lice are found on Friday or the day before a holiday, students are expected to return to school on the next instructional day. Designated personnel in each school will be trained in the identification of head lice and the appropriate execution of school policy and procedures. Chronic cases are subject to be reported to the County Health Department and the Department of Social Services.

STUDENT ILLNESS

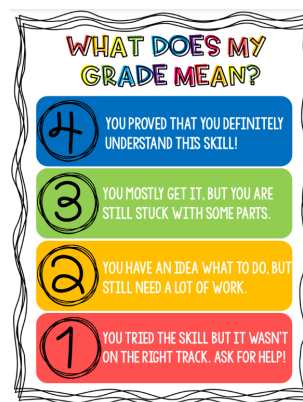
Should a student become ill during the school day, parents will be notified and asked to come to take the student home. Emergency numbers will be kept on file in the school office. **It is crucial that the school be given a telephone number where the parents or other designated adults may be reached in case of an emergency or illness. If we do not have an updated phone number, the principal has to make all medical decisions for your child.** If your child has a chronic illness (asthma, diabetes, allergies, bladder infections, etc.), please notify his/her classroom teacher. This will assist us in helping, treating, and understanding your child.

USE OF MEDICATION

The Newton-Conover City School District recognizes that it is more desirable for medication to be administered in the home. However, any student who is required to take prescription medication or over-the-counter medication during school hours must have written permission from a licensed healthcare provider. No medicine will be given unless it is sent from home. Please refer to NCCS School Board Policy #6125 (Administering Medicines to Students) for more information about this.

GRADING SCALE FOR K-5 STUDENTS

As a school district, all three elementary schools use a standards-based report card. This scale will be used for all academic areas: English Language Arts, Math, Writing, Science, and Social Studies.



Progress reports will be sent home every four weeks (except for the first quarter). Report cards will be sent home at the end of each quarter for this school year.

IMMUNIZATIONS AND KINDERGARTEN HEALTH ASSESSMENT

North Carolina state law requires all students enrolling in public school for the first time or coming from outside our school system to present their birth certificate and immunization record when registering. A physical examination must also be completed for students entering school for the first time. Each child in North Carolina must be immunized against the following diseases by receiving the specified doses of vaccine by certain ages:

- 5 DTaP, DTP or DT doses (If 4th dose is after 4th birthday, 5th dose is not required; DT requires medical exemption.)
- POLIO VACCINE-booster dose is required on or after 4th birthday and before entering school
- 1-4 Hib doses (Series complete if at least 1 dose given on/after 15 months and before 5 years of age; not required after age 5.)
- 3 Hep B doses (Children born on or after July 1, 1994 are required to have 3 doses.)
- 2 Measles doses (at least 30 days apart; 1st dose on/after 12 months of age)
- 1 Mumps dose (on/after 12 months of age)
- 1 Rubella dose (on/after 12 months of age)
- 2 Varicella doses are required (Children born on or after April 1, 2001 without documented history of disease)

A parent/guardian has thirty (30) calendar days in which to furnish the school with the child's immunization records and Kindergarten health assessment. Failure to do so will result in the child not being permitted to attend school until such records are produced.