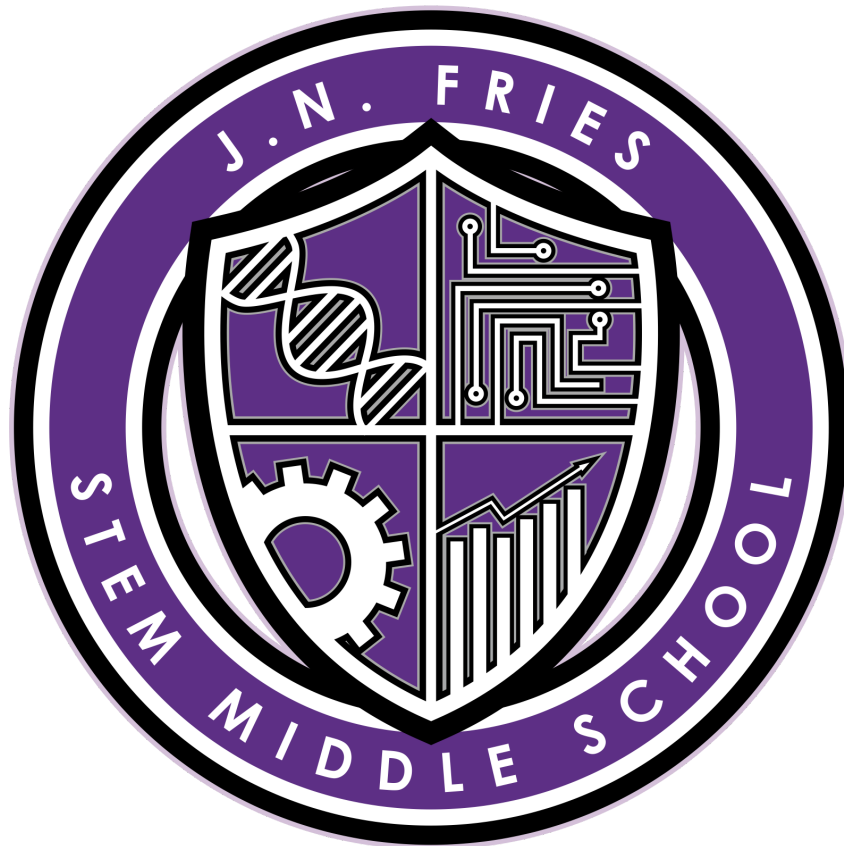


J.N. Fries STEM Middle School

**Student Handbook
2025-2026**



133 Stonecrest Circle SW
Concord, NC 28027
704.260.6510

LEARNING with purpose, LEADING with character.

**Sherry Lee, Principal
Bre Johnson, Assistant Principal
Molly Nealeigh, Assistant Principal**

J.N. Fries STEM Middle School

Administration:

Sherry Lee	Principal (7th Grade Administrator)
Bre Johnson	Assistant Principal (8th Grade Administrator)
Molly Nealeigh	Assistant Principal (6th Grade Administrator)

Front Office Personnel:

Juan Delgado	Registrar/Receptionist
Stephanie Keziah	Data Manager
Sheryl Troutman	Receptionist
Vickie Petrea	Testing Coordinator
Tracie Towery	Treasurer

Student Services:

Latoya Smith	School Counselor (6th Grade)
Tonya Blake	School Counselor (7th Grade)
Stephanie Davis	School Counselor (8th Grade)
Laura Riley	School Psychologist
	School Social Worker
	School Resource Officer

School Nurse: Sarah Wilson

WELCOME

The faculty and staff of J.N. Fries Middle School would like to welcome each student and their families. We believe what students learn here can change the world. We not only teach the core content, but we provide students with opportunities to work cooperatively in applying content to real-world problems. Learning is a team effort between students, parents and school staff. Together we can be successful in helping each student grow emotionally, socially, physically, and intellectually.

Mission

LEARNING with Purpose, LEADING with Character

Vision

At J.N. Fries STEM Middle School, our vision is to build a vibrant learning community where accountability, respect, and integrity form the foundation of every interaction. We are dedicated to fostering collaboration, teamwork, and inclusion in a safe and supportive environment. Driven by curiosity, creativity, and a love of learning, we celebrate diversity and promote growth for all, empowering every student to persevere and achieve their dreams.

Beliefs

We Believe

- Every student can learn and improve when we use what we know about their progress to help them grow.
- Students learn best when they work together in creative ways and explore how their learning connects to real-world jobs.

- Our differences make us stronger—we respect and learn from each other's unique backgrounds and experiences.
- At J.N. Fries, we build a positive school where students and staff are encouraged to lead with kindness and make a difference in our classrooms and beyond.
- When schools, families, and the community work together, students are more successful—and we're all stronger because of it.

Daily Schedule

6th Grade		7th Grade	
8:40 - 9:05	Homeroom	8:40 - 9:05	Homeroom
9:05 - 10:05	Block 1 Core	9:05 - 10:05	Block 1 Core
10:07-11:07	Block 2 Core	10:07-11:07	Block 2 Core
11:09-11:39	Block 3 Knight Time	11:09-11:39	Lunch
11:41-12:11	Lunch	11:41-12:11	Block 3 Knight Time
12:13-1:13	Block 4 Core	12:14-12:59	Block 4 Encore
1:15-2:20	Block 5 Core	1:03-1:48	Block 5 Encore
2:25 - 3:10	Block 6 Encore	1:53-2:53	Block 6 Core
3:15 - 4:00	Block 7 Encore	2:55 - 4:00	Block 7 Core
8th Grade		Encore	
8:40 - 9:05	Homeroom	8:40 - 9:05	Morning Supervision
9:05 - 10:05	Block 1 Core	9:05-10:10	Planning
10:10-10:55	Block 2 Encore	10:10-10:55	8th Block 2 Encore
11:00-11:45	Block 3 Encore	11:00-11:45	8th Block 3 Encore
11:50-12:50	Block 4 Core	12:14-12:59	7th Block 4 Encore
12:51-1:21	Lunch	1:03-1:48	7th Block 5 Encore
1:21-1:51	Block 5 Knight Time	1:48-2:25	Planning
1:53-2:53	Block 6 Core	2:25 - 3:10	Block 6 Encore
2:55 - 4:00	Block 7 Core	3:15 - 4:00	Block 7 Encore

To access the CCS Academic Calendars, go to <https://www.cabarrus.k12.nc.us/districtcalendars>

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

The instructional day begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m. Students should not be in the hallways before 8:40 unless accompanied by a staff member. Teachers who are meeting students before 8:40 will set a meeting time to greet students and bring them into the building. For the safety of our students, **parents may not drop a student off early unless a staff member is visible at the door to meet the student.**

Students who arrive after 9:00 a.m. are tardy to school and must check in at the office. Tardies will be determined as excused or unexcused according to the state attendance policy (see attendance policy). Excessive tardiness to school can be subject to administrative disciplinary action.

For students to be counted present for the day, they must arrive before 12:30 p.m. or check out after 12:30 p.m..

Car Riders

Students who are car riders should be dropped-off before school and picked-up after school on parent drive by the gym. Staff members will be on duty to supervise this area. Students can not be dropped off or picked up in any other areas. **Parents may not walk over to the car rider line to pick up a student. Our staff members are focused on monitoring students and safely directing moving vehicles.**

- **Morning Drop Off –**

- Students can only be dropped off via the driveway located by the gym.
- Students may not be dropped off in the bus lot as only buses will be allowed on the front lot between 8:40-9:00
- Students may exit vehicles at the 8:40am bell.
- Students can not be dropped off and left unattended prior to 8:40am. This includes students being dropped off for morning activities (such as clubs) or students being dropped off by ride shares.

- **Afternoon Pickup -**

- Students can only be picked up via the driveway located by the gym.
- All students must be picked up by 4:30 p.m.
- Administration will notify the Department of Human Services regarding any student(s) who are consistently picked up after 4:30 p.m.

Bus Riders

Bus behavior is not only a matter of courtesy; it is also a safety issue. **Riding a bus is a privilege.** The bus driver is responsible for the students on the bus, and we expect all riders to follow the directions of the driver.

- **Morning Drop Off** – Located at the front of the school. All bus riders report directly to homeroom unless they are eating breakfast then they report to the cafeteria.
- **Afternoon Pickup** - Located in the bus parking lot. All students must report directly to the bus lot and board their bus when dismissed. No loitering on bus lot or near car rider pickup.

BUS BEHAVIOR RULES

- Students shall obey school expectations while on a school bus as well as all established CCS safety rules and regulations.
- Students shall follow directions of the bus driver at all times.
- Students are required to use earbuds/headphones when using a cell phone to ensure there is no sound coming from the device.

- Students shall not delay the bus schedule.
- Students shall go directly to the assigned seat when entering the bus.
- Students shall remain seated and keep aisles and exits clear.
- Students shall refrain from throwing or passing objects on buses.
- Students are permitted to carry only objects that can be held on his/her lap.
- Students shall refrain from the use of profane/inappropriate language and obscene/inappropriate gestures on the bus.
- Students shall refrain from eating, drinking, and chewing gum.
- Students shall not damage the bus including leaving trash.
- Students shall respect the rights and safety of others.
- Students are prohibited from extending their heads, arms or objects out of the bus windows.
- Students shall refrain from leaving or boarding buses at locations other than the assigned stops at home or school.
- Students shall refrain from riding other buses to other student stops. COUNTY POLICY STATES STUDENTS CANNOT RIDE OTHER BUSES FOR CONVENIENCE OR TO RIDE TO OTHER STUDENT HOMES. Students will not be permitted to ride home with other students due to the regulations of the North Carolina Torts Claim Act.
- Any student providing false information to the bus driver will result in an automatic bus suspension.

Failure to follow bus guidelines will lead to the loss of riding privileges. Administration has the right to assign consequences as deemed necessary.

Walkers and Bikers

Students who bike or walk to school must notify the front office to receive a biker/walker pass. Students who walk to school must enter the school by walking down the sidewalk by the 8th grade hallway to the doors into the mall area. Students who bike to school should come down by the 8th grade hallway and leave their bike in the bike rack at the front of the school. During dismissal, walkers and bikers should dismiss with the car riders and exit the door by the mall area. Students should walk or bike out the sidewalk by the 8th grade hall as they leave campus.

Checkout Policy-BE PREPARED TO SHOW A PICTURE I.D.

Per the Cabarrus County Parent Information and Student Code of Conduct, "All visitors to school facilities are required to sign in and out through a computer using the program LobbyGuard. This is an added layer of security helping to keep Cabarrus County Schools safe. Visitors must present a valid driver's license or other acceptable form of ID [passport, military/government issued ID, or matricula consular]". Please note all forms of ID must be current.

It is extremely important that we maximize use of instructional time and minimize classroom interruptions. Please avoid checking your child out of school early if possible. **Students are not permitted to be checked out of school after 3:30 PM or receive messages regarding transportation changes.** Students are not permitted to leave school with anyone other than a parent unless prior parental consent has been given via the parental consent form. This parental consent form is sent to parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year. The authorized adult must sign the student out in the office via Lobbyguard for the student to leave. Students checking out must report to the main office for proper checkout. Leaving school without proper checkout from the main office is classified as cutting class.

PARENT PHONE CALLS – STUDENT MESSAGES

Please refrain from calling the school to leave messages for students unless it is absolutely necessary.

Messages involving transportation arrangements, after school activities, etc. need to be taken care of prior to coming to school. This practice will help free our phone lines for regular business, emergencies, and help decrease the number of non-emergency personal messages we must deliver during the academic day. Repeated interruptions & messages are not permitted in school. Parents can make calls to the main office in case of a true emergency; however, due to the student electronic device policy, do not contact your child on his/her personal device as this may result in disciplinary action. Also, students may not use a cell phone/electronic device at any time during the school day without prior staff approval.

Attendance Policy

Cabarrus County Schools' attendance policy states regular attendance, including arriving on time and remaining for a full day of instruction, is essential to achieve success and educational excellence.

The following shall constitute valid/lawful excuses for the temporary non-attendance of a student at school provided satisfactory evidence of the excuse is provided to the appropriate school officials:

Illness or injury	Death in the immediate family	Quarantine
Medical or dental appointments	Court (if student is a party of the action or under subpoena as a witness)	Religious observance
Educational opportunity (CCS K-8 Educational Opportunity Application submitted with prior Principal approval and attendance review, up to 5 days)		

Parents will be notified by mail when students accumulate six and ten unexcused absences during the school year. Absences due to extended illness or after accumulating more than ten absences require a statement from the physician.

When a child is absent for one of the reasons listed above, the attendance form found on our website under the *resources* tab under attendance should be completed. All absences will be coded unexcused until communication is received from a parent or guardian.

The principal may withhold credit for students who accumulate 20 or more absences in a class during the course of the school year. Parents will be notified when students accumulate six, ten and fifteen absences during the school year. **Student attendance will be a factor when considering student promotion or retention.**

Students who are absent for any reason, are responsible for completing missed work. Students who are absent should check their teachers' CANVAS pages or contact the teacher to receive their work. **It is the responsibility of the student to complete the work within 5 school days of their return.**

Extended Leave of Absence

(EXCLUDING MEDICAL LEAVE WITH APPROVED DOCUMENTATION)

Student attendance is crucial to a student's academic success. If a student will be traveling out of the country and/or will be missing school for 11 or more consecutive days outside of medical leave with approved documentation, the following procedures will occur.

- Extended absences are not eligible and may not be considered as an educational opportunity.

- The student will be withdrawn from school on their 11th consecutive day of absence. This will require the parent/guardian to re enroll the student online via Scribbles when they return. This may delay the student's start date.
- Students are responsible for learning the concepts taught during the absence to ensure they are prepared for benchmarks and End of Grade assessments.
- Students will not be able to make up a missed benchmark and/or End of Grade assessment if they are absent during the testing window. Lack of student assessment scores may impact student class placement next school year.
- Students may not be placed into the same classes/team when they return to school as schedules are created based on current class sizes.
- Attendance may impact the ability to continue and/or participate in school clubs, sports, and/or field trips based on those individual policies.
- School social worker will become involved in addressing any circumstances relating to student attendance.

Procedures to Follow When You Have Been Absent

Students who have been absent from school, even for part of a day, must bring a written, dated excuse signed by a parent/guardian. The student will give the excuse to the homeroom teacher within two school days of their return. Parents can submit an online excuse by going to our school website and clicking on the "Absence Excuse Form" under the PARENTS tab. This can be submitted in lieu of sending a note with the student. Doctor's documentation for absences is required for all medical appointments. Students must be at school until 12:30 pm in order to be counted present for the day.

Students who are absent are responsible for making up missed work. The student should make arrangements with the teacher on the day he/she returns to school to complete this work within a three-day period. Students with extended illnesses will be granted additional make up time as determined by the teacher.

- Students who are absent for a period of three days or less should ask their teachers for makeup work upon their return.
- Students absent for a longer period of time should contact their homeroom teacher for makeup work to be collected and picked up by a parent/guardian. Please give teachers a minimum of 24 hours to collect makeup work.

A grade of zero will be given for all assigned make-up work that is not completed and returned to the teacher.

Tardy Policy

At J.N. Fries we understand instructional time is valuable. We work to keep instructional time free of interruptions. Students arriving late to class interrupt instruction, so we have adopted the following tardy policy.

Students who arrive late to school must check in at the office first. Tardies will be determined as excused or unexcused according to the state attendance policy (see attendance policy above). Tardies will be

given for unexcused late arrivals to school and late arrivals to classes during the school day. Tardies will be tracked for each semester. Tardy count will reset at the beginning of the second semester.

Tardy Consequences

1st Tardy - Warning

2nd Tardy - Warning

3rd Tardy - Call Home from Admin (Minor)

4th Tardy – Lunch Detention (Minor)

5th Tardy – Before School Detention (Thursday School) Office Referral

6th Tardy – Before School Detention (Thursday School) Office Referral

7th Tardy – Before School Detention (Thursday School) Office Referral

Each subsequent tardy – admin referral to determine consequences

PARENT INFORMATION

Visitors

Visitors, including all volunteers and parents/guardians, are not permitted during the school day unless they are on school-related business by appointment. All visitors must check in at the main office, show current, valid picture ID as noted above, and secure a badge that must be worn if they are planning to go to other parts of the campus. Persons present on school property without permission are subject to prosecution for trespassing.

Due to school logistics and student/staff safety, the following rules must be followed:

- Any visitor requesting to meet with administration and/or staff must have a scheduled appointment in order to be accommodated.
- Outside food/drink is not permitted on campus. Items cannot be delivered (via parent or outside vendor, such as DoorDash) for the student (ie. cupcakes for birthdays, fast food being drop-off for lunch, etc.).
- Eating lunch with students is not permitted.

Medication Policy

- All medicines brought to school must be in their original container
- All prescription medicines must have a pharmacy label
- No medicine can be accepted by school staff without a doctor's order and parent permission.
- Any medicines (prescription or over the counter) to be given by the school nurse and/or staff must have a written order from the doctor and parent/guardian permission
- All medicines to be given by the school nurse or staff must be brought to school by parent/guardian and picked up when medicine expires, is discontinued, or at the end of the school year.
- Students can self-administer/carry 1 or 2 doses of over-the-counter medicines in the original container with a note from parent/guardian specifying when and why they need to take it.
- Students may self-administer/carry prescription, life-saving medications such as asthma inhalers, epi-pens, or insulin with a written order from the doctor and parent/guardian permission and will need to sign a self-administration contract with the school nurse.
- All medication orders expire on the last day of school unless otherwise specified

School personnel will not administer any medication to students unless they have received a medication form properly completed and signed by the doctor, and the medication has been received in a matching labeled container. To read the entire board policy on student medication click [here](#).

Conferences

Parents may request a conference with any teacher by calling or emailing the teacher directly. Conferences may also be set up through the student's counselor. Because our teachers work in teams, it is often best practice to plan conferences when the entire team can be available in order to fully address any concerns; however, this is not a requirement for a conference. Conferences may be held in person or via Microsoft Teams.

Grading Scale

Grades on report cards are assigned by numerical equivalents rather than letter grades. The following scale can be used in comparing numerical grades to letter equivalents:

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
59 and below	F

Progress Reports and Report Cards

The purpose of progress reports and report cards are to inform you of your child's academic progress. Parents/Guardians will be reminded of progress reports and report card dates. Parents/Guardians are responsible for logging into Infinite Campus to review and keep track of their child's progress. Should a parent/guardian not have internet access at home or want/need a hard copy of their child's progress report or report card, the parent/guardian will need to indicate that preference with their child's homeroom teacher and the request will be accommodated. If at any time a parent/guardian has questions or concerns regarding grades, please communicate with your child's teacher(s).

To access the CCS 2025 - 2026 Progress Report and Report Dates, go to <https://www.cabarrus.k12.nc.us/districtcalendars>

Counseling Program

Counseling: Counselors are available for each grade level to see students individually, in small groups, and in classroom guidance. Parents, teachers, administrators, and students can make referrals for individual appointments. Please call or email your child's counselor if you have a question or concerns regarding your child. A student may email the counselor directly to set up a time to talk. Students will need parent consent for the delivery of non-emergency mental health services and interventions delivered by school counselors, school social workers and school psychologists. In classroom guidance, we follow the NC Standard Course of study for Guidance Curriculum.

Consulting: Counselors meet regularly with the students' team of teachers to discuss any concerns the teachers may have about their students. Counselors also attend conferences with parents and teachers to help support students in their academic, emotional, and social progress.

Coordinating: The J.N. Fries Counseling Department offers a variety of activities for students and parents throughout the year. Please check our website and newsletter regularly for updates.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Deliveries

Students are not allowed to accept deliveries of flowers, balloons, or similar gifts at school. Students are not allowed to order from food delivery services such as DoorDash, Uber Eats, etc. The school will not accept deliveries from food delivery services. Orders such as these will be refused at the door. The school is not responsible for any money paid to these delivery services.

Money and Personal Property

Students are discouraged from bringing large sums of money to school or any valuable possessions. Please do not leave valuables in a locker. **The school is not responsible for a student's personal property that is lost or stolen.**

Lost and Found

There is a lost and found bin on each hall for misplaced school materials. At the end of each quarter, unclaimed items are donated to a charitable organization. Students are asked to please leave valuables at home. This includes valuable jewelry, watches, large amounts of money, electronics, etc.

Care of School Property

J.N. Fries Middle School is a tidy and well-kept school. Students should treat the school property with care and consideration. Take pride in keeping the halls and grounds clean. Throw waste materials into trash receptacles. Do not mark on desks, lockers, or other items in the building. Refrain from bringing glass items into the building. Students who do not adhere to this policy may receive school consequences.

Grading

We Believe the Purpose of Grading is to:

- Communicate mastery of grade-level standards to students, parents/guardians, and other stakeholders
- Provide feedback that students can use for self-evaluation and reflection
- Evaluate the effectiveness of instructional programs
- Use for instructional purposes – clarify learning goals, indicate student strengths & weaknesses, and for student remediation or enrichment

At J.N. Fries Middle School, we believe grades should reflect a student's level of mastery of content standards. Grades will be noted as practice or mastery. Mastery grades will count for the majority of a student's overall grade in a class.

- Students will be assessed using high quality assessments that provide clear descriptions of achievement expectations.
- Extra credit will not be given.
- Attendance is not considered in grade determination.
- Students must do all assigned work.
- Teachers will input a '0' in PowerSchool when an assignment is missing or not turned-in as a placeholder and to make clear to students and parents that no assignment has been submitted.
- **Students will have until the end of the unit to submit missing work.**

Cafeteria

The school cafeteria is maintained as a vital part of the health program at our school. To encourage good nutrition, a well-balanced lunch is offered at affordable prices. Breakfast is also served each morning. A complete list of cafeteria prices can be found on the Cabarrus County main website, [child nutrition department](#).

Breakfast begins at 8:40 AM. Students who wish to eat breakfast should report directly to the cafeteria when they arrive at school. Breakfast will be purchased and taken to the student's homeroom to eat.

Outside food and drinks can not be brought to campus for breakfast such as fast food beverages and/or coffee. All outside food and drinks must be consumed prior to exiting the vehicle.

All students are expected to eat lunch in the cafeteria, whether they bring lunch from home or buy it here. (Please refer to the "VISITORS" section.) Students have an account in which money may be credited. Money may be added to a student's account on-line. Failure to pay cafeteria charges may result in loss of participation in after school activities/events such as school dances and field trips.

[Free and Reduced meal applications](#) MUST BE completed yearly. If you have used this program in the past and want to continue it this year, you must fill out another form and submit it. Please call JNFMS Cafeteria manager, Candace Tallent, if you have any questions (704) 260-6510.

To protect instructional time and keep students safe, students will be expected to remain seated once they sit down for the first time. Trips back to the serving line, changing seats, and returning for forgotten items will not be permitted.

During lunch students are not permitted in the halls. Students should request permission to use restrooms during lunch. When students finish eating, they are to remain seated until they are directed by their teacher to empty their tray and then return to the classroom. Students are not permitted to go to the media center during lunch. **Students are not permitted to share/trade food or bring energy drinks, coffee drinks, etc. to school. Students are not permitted to leave lunch with cafeteria food or drink.**

Emergency Drills and Procedures

Fire drills at regular intervals are required by North Carolina state law and are an important safety precaution. It is essential that when the first signal is given, everyone obeys promptly and exits the building by the prescribed route as quickly as possible. Students are not permitted to talk during a fire drill, and they are to remain outside the building until the signal is given to return inside.

Safety checks, tornado, lockdown/blackout, and evacuation drills will also be held periodically to acquaint students with the process regarding procedures during those situations. All orders from teachers should be obeyed immediately.

Hall Behavior

Students are not permitted in the halls during class periods unless they are accompanied by a teacher or have a hall pass from an authorized staff member. Excessive noise, horseplay, or any physical contact disrupts the learning environment will result in a consequence. Students may not wear headphones during class change.

Cell Phone Policy

Students are not allowed to utilize electronic devices from arrival on campus through afternoon dismissal. Students are required to power off and securely store their cell phones away from their person throughout the school day. Students engaged in after-school activities will have access to their electronic devices for communicating with parents/guardians.

School employees may immediately confiscate any electronic device that is on, used, displayed, or visible in violation of this policy. Confiscated electronic devices will be returned only to the student's parent or guardian.

Smart watches and similar devices should be used primarily for their intended functions. However, the use of these devices for other purposes that lead to classroom distractions are subject to school-based consequences and possible confiscation.

Leaving the classroom during instructional time to use electronic device in another setting including but not limited to hallways, bathrooms, or stairwells, is subject to school-based consequences and confiscation.

Use of electronic device for any action that is disruptive to the educational process, including but not limited to cyberbullying, any form of harassment, threats against persons or property, and/or display of nudity, lewd or other sexually inappropriate images will be subject to school based consequences, up to and including suspension, confiscation of device, and/or legal action. **Videotaping/photographing and/or sharing images of students or staff without permission is prohibited. Students who record an incident at school and/or distribute video/audio recordings, including fights, bullying, etc, will be given disciplinary action.**

Should emergencies arise and students need to contact parents, we have a student phone in the front office. Should parents need to contact students about an urgent matter, parents may call the front office and leave a message for the student which we will deliver.

Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their electronic devices. The school system is not responsible for the theft, loss or damage of any personal electronic device.

Headphones/Earbuds and Air Pods

Students are provided a Chromebook from the school. **Students may only use wired headphones** to connect to the Chromebook. Wireless headphones, earbuds and air pods should be stored in lockers throughout the day and not used during instructional hours. Violation of this rule may result in a consequence.

Student Dress [Policy Code: 4316 Student Dress Code](#)

The board believes that the dress and personal appearance of students greatly affect their academic performance and their interaction with other students. The board requests that parents outfit their children in clothing that is conducive to learning. Generally, dress and grooming standards as determined by the student and his or her parents will be deemed acceptable. However, the board prohibits appearance or clothing that does the following:

- violates a reasonable dress code adopted and publicized by the school;

- no sleepwear except as part of a school publicized spirit week or school promoted dress up day
- is substantially disruptive;
- is provocative or obscene;
- depicts or promotes gang affiliation; or
- endangers the health or safety of the student or others.
 - no hoods or hats

With the approval of the superintendent or designee, schools may implement a reasonable dress code in which students are required to wear uniforms during the regular school day. The purpose of such programs is to allow students to focus on instructional objectives of the school, favorably impacting student attitude, promote harmony among students, increase safety, and enhance the image of the schools. Uniform plans adopted by schools shall not prohibit students from wearing particular attire that is part of their religious practice or from wearing or displaying items that do not contribute to disruption or interfere with discipline or rights of others. The superintendent/designee is directed to develop administrative guidelines for uniform approval.

Before receiving disciplinary consequences, a student who is not in compliance with this policy or a school dress code shall be given a reasonable period of time to make adjustments so that he or she will be in compliance. Disciplinary consequences for a student who fails to comply after being offered this opportunity shall be consistent with Section D of Policy [4300](#), Student Behavior Policies. The superintendent or designee shall list in the *Code of Student Conduct* the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violation of the dress code.

Lockers

At J.N. Fries, hallway lockers will be used for storing student belongings. Students are required to store their backpacks, phones, and extra materials in their designated locker. Each locker will be secured using a combination lock. Students have the option to either rent a combination lock from J.N. Fries for \$5 or purchase their own lock. The combination for school-issued locks will be provided to students. In the event that a student forgets the combination to their school-issued lock, their teacher will have access to the combination.

If a student forgets the combination to a lock they have purchased, they may need to have the lock cut off if the combination cannot be recalled. J.N. Fries will not reimburse students for personal locks that need to be cut off. Lockers will initially remain unlocked until students either pay the \$5 rental fee for a school lock or provide their own lock.

Student Searches

Student lockers are school property, and they are subject to random searches as needed. Individual students and their personal belongings may be searched if reasonable suspicion warrants that the individual is concealing tobacco, drugs, weapons, or any other items in violation of school board policy ([Policy 4342 Student Searches](#)). Only the administration or specifically designated staff members will conduct searches.

Bring Your Own Technology

CCS will provide each student with a Chromebook for instructional use. Students are responsible for damages as a result of negligence, mishandling of the device or loss of the device. **Students should arrive to school each day with a charged Chromebook.**

See [Policy 3225/4312/7320 Technology Responsible Use](#) for more information. CCS allows students and staff to bring their own technology to school. A student's use of a personal device to access the internet at school subjects the student's internet activity and email communications to monitoring by school personnel as stated in Policy 4318, Use of Electronic Devices, and Policy 4342 Student Searches. Students are prohibited from using their personal devices as private Wi-Fi hotspots during instructional hours. Students must receive permission from their teacher(s) and administrator(s) prior to bringing devices to school. CCS is not responsible for any device(s) that are broken, stolen, or lost on CCS property.

PE (Physical Education)

All students taking Physical Education classes are expected to wear PE appropriate clothes and shoes. Students must wear tennis shoes. Students are not allowed to wear hoodies or jackets during PE. Students will not dress out for PE, therefore the clothing worn to school must be appropriate to participate in PE class. Students who do not comply with the PE dress code are subject to a deduction of points in PE class or discipline referral.

Students are not allowed to apply lotion and/or body sprays during PE and/or in the gym. Lotion/sprays leave residue on the floor which creates an unsafe environment.

If a student injury results in the need for a child to not participate in PE, a parent/guardian can write a note or email the PE teacher directly. The parent/guardian note may excuse a student for up to three school days. If a student's injury results in them not being able to participate in PE for four school days or more, a doctor's note is required.

Student Discipline/Student Behavior Code

The administration, teachers, and other staff members at J.N. Fries Middle School are committed to ensuring each student has the opportunity to learn in an undisturbed and safe environment. The discipline plan, therefore, is non-invasive and promotes collaboration, responsibility, and respect. It fosters independence and self-esteem, sets limits, and offers students a chance to learn from their mistakes.

All staff members at J.N. Fries Middle School have responsibilities to the school. In order to carry out these responsibilities, they have the authority to correct students when the need arises. If any employee, corrects a student, the student is expected to abide by such correction.

All staff members will be respectful of students and students are to treat all staff members with respect.

- All students will be subject to the regulations and disciplinary procedures outlined in the [CCS Parent Information and student Code of Conduct Handbook](#) and J.N. Fries Middle School Behavior System.
- No student behavior will be tolerated which infringes upon the rights of other students to receive an education.
- No student behavior will be tolerated which threatens the safety and welfare of students and staff.



J.N. Fries STEM Middle School

What It Means to be a Knight



Expectation	Classroom	Hallway	Cafeteria	Gym, Fields, Locker Room	Technology	Restroom
I am SAFE	Maintain personal space Remain in your area Use the right tool, for the right job, in the right way Move safely around the room	Maintain personal space Stay to the right Technology is put away	Maintain personal space Walk at all times Talk only with students close by Once you sit down, stay seated.	Maintain personal space Remain in your designated area No food, gum or beverage in gym No Crocs	Personal information should be kept private Use appropriate, teacher provided apps	Get in, take care of business and get out Wash hands with soap Maintain personal space
I am RESPECTFUL	Be polite to teachers and peers Follow directions Be trustworthy and honest	Be kind Use academic language Travel quietly to avoid disrupting the learning environment	Be polite to the cafeteria staff and peers Follow directions of all staff Use good table manners	Listen silently, follow directions, remain on task Demonstrate sportsmanship Use equipment with respect	Respect the privacy of others School technology is not for personal use	Honor the privacy of others Keep your body and other objects to yourself Care for school property
I am RESPONSIBLE	Arrive with Chromebook charged Have materials for class Complete assigned tasks Take care of school property	Be in the right place at the right time Get to class on time Report any problems to an adult	Sit in your assigned area Read the menu so you are prepared to select food Take only what you intend to purchase Clean up after yourself	Exit the locker room quickly Be committed to my own personal fitness	Arrive with Chromebook charged Use only technology assigned to you Damage caused to the technology of others may result in a fee assigned to the one who does the damage	Clean up after myself and dispose of trash properly Report problems to an adult Return to class promptly

Disciplinary Consequences

Students who exhibit inappropriate behavior are assigned any of the following in-school consequences for their conduct:

Stop and Think is an opportunity for students to remain in the classroom but think through their choices. Students reflect on what happened, how it interrupted the learning environment, and how to resolve the situation. The student and the teacher then discuss the issue to restore and improve the teacher student relationship.

Walk and Talk is a chance for a student to take a short break from the classroom and walk with an adult in the building. The student and adult can discuss what happened in the classroom, how it interrupted the learning environment, allow the student to calm down, and create a plan for how to re-enter the learning environment.

Restorative Practice is a chance for a student to resolve conflict, repair harm and take steps to heal the relationship.

Redirect is up to one class period of isolation for students. Teachers can send students who are interfering with the learning process because of inappropriate conduct to Choices for the remainder of the class period.

Lunch Detention is held outside of the cafeteria in a location as designated by the referring staff member. Students lose the opportunity for socialization during their lunch time when assigned to lunch detention.

Before School Detention is held each Thursday from 7:30 a.m. until 8:40 a.m. Students are always given written notification of this detention. Failure to attend Thursday School may result in a day of in-school suspension.

In-School Suspension (ISS) is for students who exhibit inappropriate behavior. Parents receive a phone call and written notification from an administrator each time the student is referred to ISS. In ISS, we will help students focus on making positive behavior changes and completing academic assignments. Students are allowed to work with adult tutors, meet with case managers, counselors, or administrators while in ISS.

Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) will occur when a student's behavior threatens the welfare and safety of others, when a student repeatedly disregards the rules and regulations of the school, and/or when a student violates mandated school board policy. By law the principal or his designee has the right to suspend a student for up to 10 school days. Students who repeatedly and willfully violate school/school board policy may be recommended for The Opportunity School at the Glenn Center.

Students will be allowed to make up work after returning to school from suspensions. Students cannot make up work missed during regular class time. Missed work must be made up after school and/or at home.

Buying, Selling, Gambling or Trading

Students are not permitted to buy, sell, gamble, or trade anything with other students. Engaging in such activities will result in disciplinary action.

Bullying/Cyberbullying

Cabarrus County Schools is committed to providing every student with a safe welcoming school environment. J.N. Fries Middle School does not tolerate any harassment on the school premises, buses, or at school functions. If a student feels that he/she is being harassed by another student or school employee, school officials should be notified immediately and descriptions of said offenses should be specific. Some examples of harassment include and are not limited to any:

"unwelcome" contact with one's body; suggestive comments, propositions, or gestures; sexually provocative commentaries about the body; "unwelcome" suggestive writings, artworks, or notes; "unwelcome" slurs or innuendos.

Bullying Includes specific characteristics and criteria defined in NC BULLYING LAW § 115C 407.15

A pattern **(REPEATED)** of one or more of the following:

- Gestures
- Communications (includes online/social media/etc.)
- Physical act
- Threatening communication

AND

ONE or more of the following:

- Damage to property
- Places student in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his/her person

- Creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits
 - Hostile environment meets BOTH criteria below
 - Student subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior
 - Behavior is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree it is bullying and harassing behavior

MOTIVATED by characteristics such as: race, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, ancestry, gender, physical appearance, socioeconomic status, color, gender identity, academic status, mental, physical, or sensory disability

When such harassment is reported, Northwest Cabarrus Middle School will make a good faith effort to investigate all such reports in close consultation with the Cabarrus County Board of Education. Disciplinary action in such cases depends upon the said offense, findings of the investigation, and recommendation of the school administration and/or appropriate central office personnel.

Weapons Policy

The following policy pertains to weapons on school grounds. Students who violate this policy will be suspended from school, with a possible long-term suspension, and reported to the sheriff's department. Summary of Law:

It is a Class I felony for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any gun, rifle, pistol or other firearm or any explosive on educational property. It is also a Class I felony for any person to cause, encourage, or aid a minor (less than 18 years old) to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, these firearms or any explosive on educational property.

It is a misdemeanor for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any BB gun, air rifle, air pistol, bowie knife, dirk, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, switchblade knife, pocketknife, blackjack, metallic knuckles, razor and razor blades, and any sharp-pointed instrument except instructional supplies, unaltered nail files, and clips and tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction, and maintenance on educational property. This also makes it a misdemeanor for any person to cause, encourage, or aid a minor to possess or carry these weapons.

Educational property includes any public or private school building or bus, public or private school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field or other property owned, used or operated by any Board of Education or school. The definition of "student" includes a person enrolled in public or private school or a person who has been suspended or expelled within the last year from a public or private school.

It is a misdemeanor for any person who resides with a minor to leave a firearm in a condition that the firearm can be discharged and in a manner that the person knew or should have known that an unsupervised minor would be able to gain access to the firearm. If a minor gains access to the firearm without permission and the minor does any of the following: (1) possesses it on educational property; (2) exhibits it in a public place in a careless or threatening manner; (3) causes personal injury or death with it not in self-defense or (4) uses it in the commission of a crime, the owner of the firearm can be charged with a misdemeanor.

CCS Student Code of Conduct

The Student Code of Conduct is guided by the board's educational objectives to teach responsibility and respect for cultural and ideological differences and by the district's commitment to create safe, orderly and inviting schools.

We believe that all students have the right to learn in a safe, warm, nurturing environment. We also believe in providing a climate that is conducive to learning and free of disruptive behavior. The faculty and staff work hard to create a positive atmosphere in which students can learn. Yet, we believe that students are responsible for their own behavior and academic success. It is the duty of teachers (school staff) and parents/guardians to help students become more responsible for their own behavior. Through a close partnership, parents/guardians and educators will lead by example and ensure that all students benefit from a safe, inviting environment that is conducive to learning.

The following are behaviors (Student Code of Conduct) demonstrated by model students in Cabarrus County Schools:

Display self-control

- Use appropriate language
- Problem solve conflict in a peaceful manner
- Be appropriately dressed
- Act responsibly on campus, on buses, on field trips, and at all school-sponsored events
- Follow class and school rules
- Follow instructions the first time they are given
- Use appropriate voice levels

Support the learning process

- Attend all classes regularly and on time
- Be prepared for class (i.e., bring assignments, books, and supplies)
- Participate in class activities
- Complete all class work and homework assignments and turn them in on time
- Use class time properly
- Practice good study habits
- Ask for help when it is needed

Demonstrate a positive attitude

- Be a positive role model and leader
- Be polite and kind to others
- Be cooperative with adults and peers

Respect the rights and feelings of others

- Behave in a manner that does not disrupt others or the learning process
- Treat others with courtesy and respect
- Show empathy and concern for the feelings of others
- Display tolerance of other students' beliefs and opinions

Take responsibility

- Be trustworthy and honest
- Respect the building, grounds, and property
- Admit mistakes and accept the consequences for those mistakes

All students shall comply with the Student Code of Conduct while on educational property, which includes any school building or bus, school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property under the control of the board of education. Students may also be disciplined for conduct that occurs off

educational property that violates this Student Code of Conduct if the conduct has or is reasonably expected to have a direct and immediate impact on the orderly and efficient operation of the schools or the safety of individuals in the school environment.

Self-Defense

Self-defense is defined as the act by a non-aggressor victim using reasonable force to avoid being hit or injured and/or to remove oneself from the attacker to notify school personnel. It is not self defense to participate in the fight. Students who exceed reasonable force in protecting themselves will be disciplined for violating this rule even though another person provoked the fight. Administrators will have the discretion to recognize the need for self-defense on an incident-by-incident basis.

Consequences

The Student Code of Conduct does not restrict the authority of teachers, school-based teams, or administrators to make individual school or class rules. Administrators have the responsibility of considering each incident separately and have the right to assign different consequences consistent with Board Policy.

Athletics

Athletic opportunities are available for 7th and 8th grade students. The teams are basketball, cheerleading, volleyball, football, softball, track, wrestling, soccer, and baseball.

The following rules apply to all students participating in sports or cheerleading at J.N. Fries Middle School:

- Athletes are representatives of their school; therefore, it is mandatory that they always behave in a sportsmanlike manner.
- A student may not be a member of two school teams during the same season, at the same time.
- Each player must receive a medical examination by a licensed physician each calendar year in order to be eligible for practice or participation in interscholastic athletic contests.
- All athletes must purchase school insurance or be covered by personal insurance in order to participate in any interscholastic sport.
- A student must pass five out of six classes per semester to remain eligible and meet attendance guidelines.
- A student must not be fifteen years old on or before August 31st for 7th/8th grade teams.
- All 7th grade students are eligible to participate at the beginning of their 7th grade year.
- Sixth graders may not participate on school teams.

J.N. Fries Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

- Athletes must meet all Cabarrus County School and North Carolina Department of Public Instruction eligibility requirements.
- Athletes must always adhere to school rules during practices, home and away games, and while traveling to and from away games. Any time a student-athlete is in uniform or on a team trip, they are representing J.N. Fries Middle school and will always behave with responsibility and good character. Conduct detrimental to the team, school, or community will not be tolerated and serves as ground for removal from the team.
- An athlete assigned to a full day of ISS (In-School suspension) or OSS (Out-of-School Suspension) within a sports season will receive a one game suspension. Multiple ISS/OSS assignments will result in dismissal from the team.

- An athlete must also adhere to any additional team rules and policies as set forth by the head coach for that sport.

J.N. Fries STEM Middle School

2025-2026 Handbook Verification Form

My student and I have read and understand the policies and expectations written in the
J.N. Fries STEM Middle School student handbook.

Student Name_____

Student Signature_____

Parent Name_____

Parent Signature_____

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