



## The Cardinal Way

### *Northside Middle School*

Cardinal Families,

We are very excited to welcome all of our students, families, faculty, and staff back into our buildings! As we make this transition (into a new school year/from online virtual instruction) we would like to make sure all members of our community, students and their support systems at home, alike, are aware of an important district and school initiative here at Northside Middle School.

At Northside, “The Cardinal Way” is the foundation of our school’s strong community. We expect that all members of our community follow these three simple schoolwide “expectations”:

Be Respectful  
Be Responsible  
Be Ready & Safe

These three expectations will be explicitly taught to all students from the first day of school and will be what we use to teach and recognize and reward productive behaviors throughout the year.

We define specifically what it looks like to be “respectful, responsible, ready and safe” in each zone of the school in our “Cardinal Way Common Area Matrix,” attached to this letter and in the Student and Staff Handbook, as well. When you visit our building, you will also notice these positive expectations posted in common areas throughout the building and in every classroom. You are encouraged to speak positively to your students about the “Cardinal Way” and ask your student if they can explain what the “Cardinal Way” is after their first week back to school.

The “Cardinal Way” is part of our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), a framework that focuses on proactive behavior interventions through encouraging continuous student growth, explicit definition of appropriate behaviors and social competencies we believe are needed for success both in school and outside of school. PBIS is an example of a type of multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS), which you will hear us mention, as well. All MTSS focuses on creating strong evidence-based instructional practices, whether it is for behavior, reading and writing, or mathematics, to prevent a student from failure in any domain. These systems use data collected on progress through curriculum or, for behavior, referrals or classroom observations, to identify student needs, and to match those student needs with instructional, emotional, or behavioral supports. These multi-tiered systems allow us to determine what our students need in order to be successful and partner with our community and specialists in our building before student failure has already occurred.

Again, we welcome you to our community and, as always, if you have any questions regarding MTSS, PBIS or any other procedures or problems you experience at Northside, feel free to contact us.

*You may contact the front office or your student’s homeroom teacher we refer to as their “Cardinal Champion.”*

*(Add administrator/faculty and staff contact information here)\*\**