Mrs. Henry-Linder
Principal

NORTHWEST MIDDLE STUDENT HANDBOOK



2026-2027

MORE INFO
www.wsfcs.k12.nc.us/

CALL US
336-703-4161

Northwest Middle School

A Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School

FALCONS FLY STRAIGHT - CHARACTER & PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY
FALCONS FLY RIGHT - INTEGRITY & WORK ETHIC
FALCONS FLY TO GREAT HEIGHTS - PURPOSE-DRIVEN & ACCOUNTABILITY
FALCONS FLY FREE - EMPATHY & GRACE

STUDENT HANDBOOK
2026-2027

Mrs. Henry-Linder
Principal

Ms. McCaskill
Assistant Principal

Dr. Mann
Assistant Principal

Mrs. Martin
ELA MCL

Ms. Whicker
Math MCL

Mrs. Brendle
MTSS Coordinator

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Principal
La Quisha Henry-Linder

Dear Northwest Middle School Students and Families

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year at Northwest Middle School! Whether you are joining our Falcon Family for the first time or returning for another exciting year, we are thrilled to have you with us. Together, we are beginning a new chapter filled with opportunities to learn, lead, and grow.

This year, we proudly embrace our school theme:

It's Time to SOAR and Fly to Greater Heights

Every Falcon. Every Day. Every Opportunity.

Our theme reflects our commitment to challenging every Falcon to reach new heights academically, socially, and emotionally. At Northwest Middle School, we are dedicated to creating a safe, engaging, and inclusive learning environment where every student is empowered to succeed.

Our mission is to provide a safe, engaging, and inclusive learning environment where every student learns, grows, and thrives. Our vision is to empower young learners socially, emotionally, and academically to become well-rounded, disciplined, and responsible citizens prepared for the endless possibilities of tomorrow.
This year, one of our primary instructional priorities is transforming our scholars from passive learners into authentic, active learners. We want every student to think critically, collaborate, solve problems, reflect on their learning, and take ownership of their academic success. Through engaging instruction and the use of Interactive Notebooks in every classroom, students will make their learning visible, deepen their understanding, and build skills that prepare them for success beyond middle school.

Everything we do is grounded in The Falcon Way and our Core Values:

- **Falcons Fly Straight** – Personal Responsibility & Character
- **Falcons Fly Right** – Integrity & Work Ethic
- **Falcons Fly to Greater Heights** – Accountability
- **Falcons Fly Free** – Grace & Empathy

These expectations guide how we learn, lead, and treat one another each day. Together, they help us build a positive school culture where every Falcon feels respected, supported, challenged, and valued.

Learning extends beyond the classroom, and we encourage every student to get involved through athletics, clubs, fine arts, leadership organizations, and service opportunities. Participating in school activities strengthens friendships, builds confidence, develops leadership skills, and creates a stronger sense of belonging.
Parents and guardians, thank you for partnering with us. Your involvement plays a vital role in your child's success. We encourage you to stay connected through our Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Parent & Family Engagement events, school communications, Infinite Campus, Canvas, and volunteer opportunities. Together, we can ensure every Falcon reaches their greatest potential. As we begin this new school year, let us commit to learning with purpose, leading with integrity, showing empathy, and striving for excellence in everything we do.

Thank you for being an important part of our Falcon Family. We look forward to an incredible year of growth, achievement, and success.

Every Falcon. Every Day. Every Opportunity.

With gratitude and excitement,

La Quisha Henry-Linder
Principal, Northwest Middle School
We Fly with Heart. We Lead with Purpose.

5501 Murray Road
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https://www.wsfcs.k12.nc.us/o/nms/

The Falcon Way

FALCONS FLY STRAIGHT - CHARACTER & PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY
FALCONS FLY RIGHT -INTEGRITY & WORK ETHIC
FALCONS FLY TO GREAT HEIGHTS - PURPOSE-DRIVEN & ACCOUNTABILITY
FALCONS FLY FREE - EMPATHY & GRACE

NWMS Contacts

Administration

Principal	Mrs. Henry-Linder
Assistant Principal of	Ms. McCaskill
Assistant Principal	Dr. Mann
MTSS Coordinator	Mrs. Brendle

Student Services

School Counselor	Mrs. Mills
School Counselor	Mr. Cabiness
School Social Worker	Deron Simmons

School Resource Officer

School Resource Officer	Deputy Allen

Arrival and Dismissal

ARRIVAL / DISMISSAL

Students are not allowed in the building until 7:00 AM. Car riders arriving at 7:00 AM are to report to the designated area for each grade level. Bus riders will also need to report directly to the designated area for each grade level. Students will be allowed to report to their 1st Period class at 7:00 AM. **All students who arrive after 7:25 AM must be escorted to the main office with a parent to obtain a tardy note for admittance to class.**

To protect instructional time, we highly recommend classes not be interrupted to dismiss students **after 1:30 PM**. If a student needs to leave school early due to a medical appointment or family emergency, we highly recommend he or she be picked up before 1:30 PM. **Car riders must be off campus by 2:30 PM.**

PLEASE NOTE: STUDENTS MUST BE PRESENT UNTIL 10:45 AM (1/2 day) OF THE SCHOOL DAY TO BE CODED AS PRESENT; STUDENTS ARRIVING AFTER 10:45 WILL BE CODED AS ABSENT.

District Cell Phone Policy

Wireless Communications & Cell Phone Policy Students are not allowed to use, display, or have visible any wireless communication devices during the instructional day or as directed by school rules or personnel.

1st offense: Student warning/redirection and parent contact by the teacher/administrator.
2nd offense: Student conference and parent contact by the teacher/administrator.
3rd offense: Student office referral and parent contact. Student surrenders device to administration, and a parent must retrieve the device at the end of school day.

Dress Code Policy

Students shall adhere to their school's dress code which includes, but may not be limited to the following:

a. Students are prohibited from wearing clothing that contains advertisements for tobacco, alcohol or drugs, pictures or graphics of nudity, or words that are profane, lewd, vulgar, or indecent;

b. Clothing exposing a student's bare chest, bare back, or bare midriff may not be worn;

c. All shirts and tops must have straps and/or sleeves; No spaghetti straps or tank tops; No hoodies

d. No see-through clothing is allowed;

e. Shoes must be worn;

f. Short shorts or skirts are not allowed. A good rule of thumb is that shorts, dresses, skirts and other short attire should be at least mid-thigh length; fingertip rule

g. Pants, slacks, jeans or other attire that sag below waist are not allowed;

h. Hats, caps, bandanas, or garments which cover the student's face or conceal the student's identity.

i. Undergarments may not be shown or worn as outerwear; and

j. Specialized courses may require specialized attire, such as safety gear; and

k. Any symbols, styles or attire frequently associated with gangs, intimidation, violence or violent groups about which students at a particular school have been notified as described in AR 5131.4 are prohibited.

The Say Something Anonymous Reporting System



The Say Something Anonymous Reporting System is a platform and safe space for students and concerned adults to provide information about individuals threatening or displaying at-risk behaviors for potential violence or self-harm.

WS/FCS Bully Patrol and Tip Line



Using the WS/FCS Bully Patrol and Tip Line is easy and important.
If you see someone being unkind or bullied at school or online, you can be a hero by reporting it. Don't hesitate to speak up - fill out the Bully Patrol form with details about what happened. Remember, your actions can help stop bullying and make our school a safe and happy place for everyone. ***You can also call the anonymous hotline, 336-703-4193, to report instances of bullying or misconduct.***

NWMS VISION STATEMENT

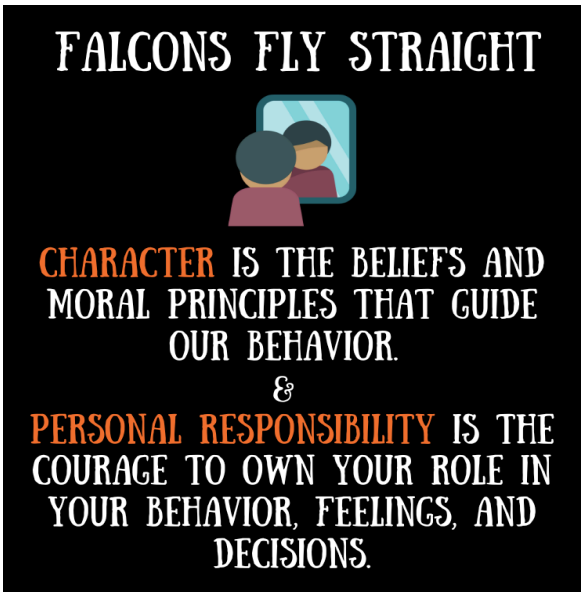
Northwest Middle School will provide a safe, engaging, and inclusive learning environment for all students to learn and grow.

NWMS MISSION STATEMENT

We will empower young learners socially, emotionally and academically for the endless possibilities of tomorrow, focusing on our students becoming well-rounded, disciplined, and responsible citizens.

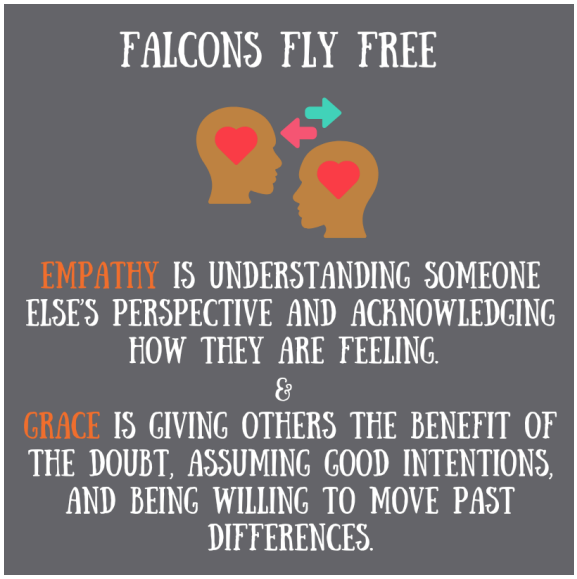
What is The Falcon Way?

The Falcon Way are the core values that guide Northwest Middle School scholars and staff on how to interact with each other and create a positive and productive learning environment. The core values of the Falcon Way are *FALCONS FLY STRAIGHT: CHARACTER and PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, FALCONS FLY RIGHT: INTEGRITY and WORK ETHIC, FALCONS FLY TO GREAT HEIGHTS: PURPOSE-DRIVEN and ACCOUNTABILITY, and FALCONS FLY FREE: EMPATHY and GRACE.*









What does The Falcon Way look like in the classroom?

FALCONS FLY STRAIGHT: CHARACTER & PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY - Falcons are honest in their work and own their actions by admitting mistakes.

FALCONS FLY RIGHT: INTEGRITY & WORK ETHIC - Falcons are focused and engaged while treating teachers and peers with respect.

FALCONS FLY TO GREAT HEIGHTS: PURPOSE DRIVEN & ACCOUNTABILITY - Falcons arrive to class with all of their necessary materials.

FALCONS FLY FREE: GRACE & EMPATHY - Falcons are understanding of others perspectives and keep an open mind.

Grading Scale		
Letter Grade	**Descriptor**	**100 Point Scale**
A	Superior Performance	90-100
B	Good Performance	80-89
C	Satisfactory Performance	70-79
D	Poor Performance	60-69
F	Failing	Below 60
I	Incomplete	

Honor Roll	
Principal's Honor Roll	A's in all four core subjects and other courses.
A/B Honor Roll	A's and B's in core subjects and other courses.

Specific Local Academic Standards for Promotion in Middle Schools

For promotion from sixth, seventh and eighth grade, students must pass three (3) of the following four (4) core subjects each year: mathematics, science, social studies, and English Language Arts, and must pass seventy-five percent (75%) of all other courses. A student may substitute a passing grade in the fourth core subject for an elective course(s) that equates to a year of instruction. The principal may consider other factors, such as language proficiency, in conjunction with the listed academic factors.

Report Cards and Progress Reports

A report card will be sent to the parents of each student in grades K-12 at the end of each nine-week reporting period. Progress reports will be sent to parents every three weeks.

Make-up Work Policy

Students will be given a minimum of three (3) days to make-up work; however, the total number of days absent should be taken into consideration when determining the deadline for completing make-up work. Teachers should provide flexibility due to assignment requirements and extenuating circumstances. Grades assigned to make-up work shall be considered in computing the student's overall grade for the particular grading period. ***Failure of a student to satisfy make-up requirements can be the basis for denying credit for a specific course.***

Excused Absences			
Illness or Injury	Quarantine Related Absence	Death in the Immediate Family	Medical or Dental Appointments
Court or Administrative Proceedings	Religious Observance	Educational Opportunity	Local School Board Policy
Absence related to Deployment Activities	Child Care	Natural Disaster	Technology Failure

Unlawful (Unexcused Absences)	
A student's willful absence from school with or without the knowledge of the parent;	A student's absence from school for any reason other than those listed above for Lawful (Excused) Absences;
When students are not permitted to attend school because they lack proper immunization; and/or	When students are not permitted to attend due to lack of health assessment.

Unlawful (Unexcused) Tardies and Early Departures

Tardiness is defined as arriving at class or school after the scheduled time for class or school to begin. A tardy is considered "unexcused" unless there is a valid reason for being late. Valid reasons for being late include, but are not limited to, the reasons for a Lawful (Excused) Absence, as defined above, as well as circumstances beyond the control of the student such as when a teacher or staff member detains a student or when district bus transportation is delayed. The School Based Team shall review excessive tardies and determine appropriate consequences and interventions based on the Student Code of Conduct, Character and Support and the North Carolina Student Attendance and Student Accounting Manual.

Early departure is defined as the removal of a student from school prior to the end of the instructional day. without a valid reason for a Lawful (Excused) Absence, as defined above. The School Based Team shall review excessive early departures and determine appropriate consequences and interventions based on the Student Code of Character, Conduct and Support and the North Carolina Student Attendance and Student Accounting Manual.

When tardiness or early departure is considered an absence.

- If a student misses more than fifty percent (50%) of a class period at the secondary level, the student will be considered absent from class.
- If a student misses more than fifty percent (50%) of a school day, then the student will be considered absent from school.

What does The Falcon Way look like in the hallway?

FALCONS FLY STRAIGHT: CHARACTER & PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY - Falcons move directly to their destinations, efficiently using transition time and respecting personal space.

FALCONS FLY RIGHT: INTEGRITY & WORK ETHIC - Falcons transitions in a line using the right side of the hallway without reminders from adults.

FALCONS FLY TO GREAT HEIGHTS: PURPOSE DRIVEN & ACCOUNTABILITY - Falcons transition with intention arriving at their destinations on time.

FALCONS FLY FREE: GRACE & EMPATHY - Falcons show respect to others during transitions by using kind words and keeping hands to themselves.

Class Schedule

	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	Encore
1	7:00 – 8:35	7:00 – 8:35	7:00 – 8:35	AM Duty Planning
WIN	8:37 - 9:07	8:37 - 9:07	8:37 - 9:07	8:37 - 9:07
2	9:10 - 10:35	9:10 - 10:35	9:10 - 10:10	9:10 - 9:51 9:54 - 10:35
3 (Lunch)	10:37 -12:03	10:37 - 12:30	10:12 – 11:37	10:37 - 11:18 11:20 - 12:02
4	12:05 – 2:00	12:33 – 2:00	11:39 – 12:36	12:00 - 12:30 *Push In Support to ELA/Math Class*
5			12:38 - 2:00	12:38 - 1:18 1:20 - 2:00

What does The Falcon Way look like in the restroom?

FALCONS FLY STRAIGHT: CHARACTER & PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY - Falcons check behind themselves to keep the restroom clean.

FALCONS FLY RIGHT: INTEGRITY & WORK ETHIC - Falcons use SmartPass correctly and return to class in a timely manner.

FALCONS FLY TO GREAT HEIGHTS: PURPOSE DRIVEN & ACCOUNTABILITY - Falcons use the restroom for its intended purpose and report messes, damage, or inappropriate behavior.

FALCONS FLY FREE: GRACE & EMPATHY - Falcons view others' right to privacy as important and non-negotiable.

What does The Falcon Way look like in the cafeteria?

FALCONS FLY STRAIGHT: CHARACTER & PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY - Falcons stay in one line, get their lunch, and take it to their class's table without making extra stops.

FALCONS FLY RIGHT: INTEGRITY & WORK ETHIC - Falcons follow lunch rules and procedures and use their time in the cafeteria wisely.

FALCONS FLY TO GREAT HEIGHTS: PURPOSE DRIVEN & ACCOUNTABILITY - Falcons clean up after themselves and encourage their fellow falcons to do the same.

FALCONS FLY FREE: GRACE & EMPATHY - Falcons treat cafeteria staff, peers, and teachers with patience and kindness.

Lunch Schedule

Time	6th Grade	Time	7th Grade	Time	8th Grade
12:10 - 12:35	Stevenson/Marsh	11:20 - 11:45	Gayta/Cooke	10:50 - 11:15	Oglesby/Lovell
12:15 - 12:40	Thompson	11:25 - 11:50	Villalon/Simon	10:55 - 11:20	Woods/Lacanilao
12:20 - 12:45	P409/Zigbuo	11:30 - 11:55	Flagg/Hicks	11:00 - 11:25	Bayliss/Rosario
12:25 - 12:55	P412	11:35 - 12:00	Gould	11:05 - 11:30	Bretz

Lunch Expectations:

- Students are to line up in your classroom in a single file line.
- Students are to be on Level 0 before exiting the classroom.
- Students are then to line up in the hallway at the second stopping point (end of hallway)
- Students are to be on Level 0
- Teachers are to monitor students as they leave the classroom to go to the stopping point
- When all students are at Level 0 and at the stopping point teacher is to go to the front of the line and monitor students as they go to the third stopping point (at the entrance of the cafeteria) Students are to remain in single file line

During Lunch Expectations:

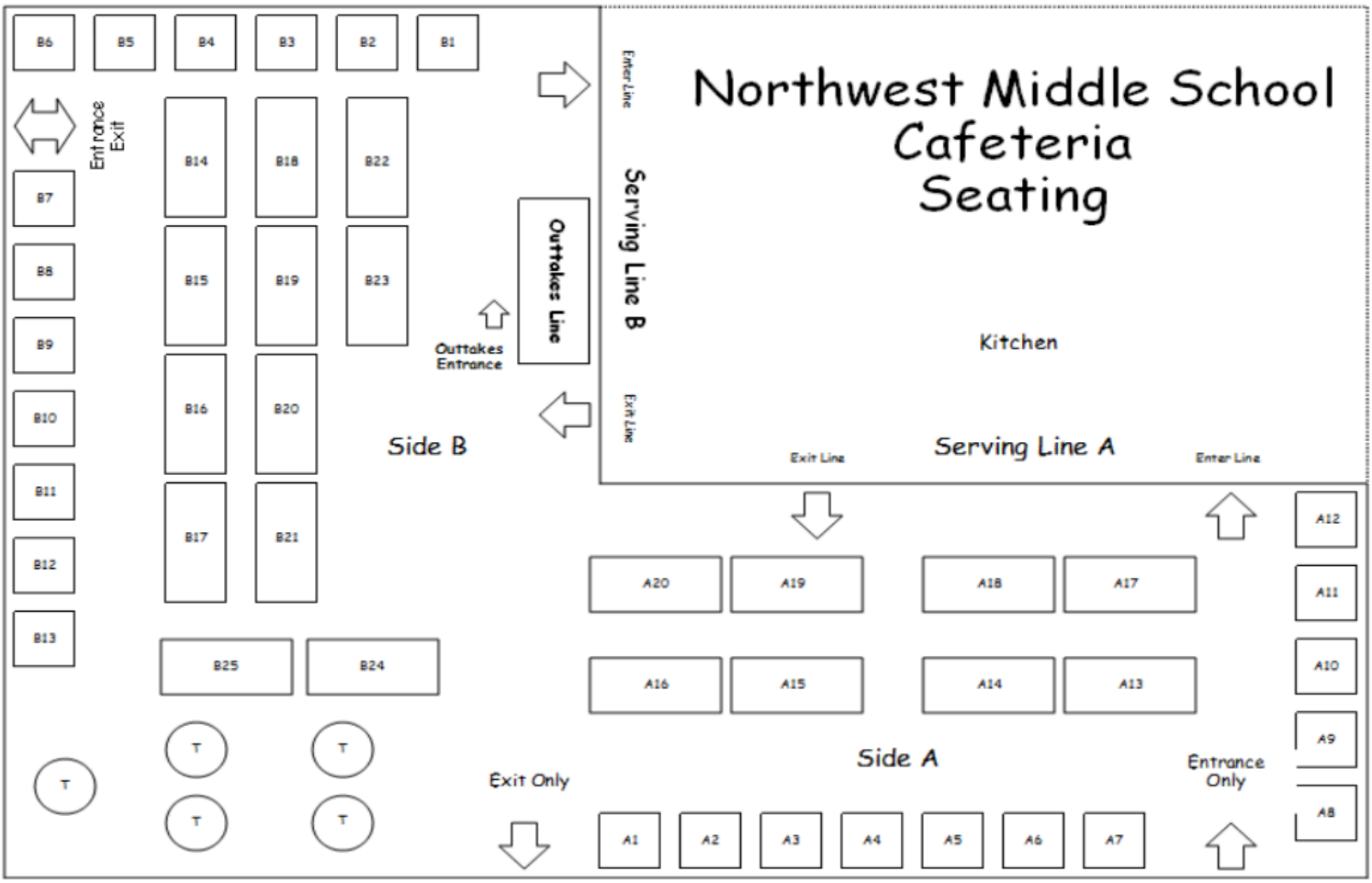
- Teachers are to go to the front of the line, and walk students to their correct serving line, (see narrative below, and image below)
  - Serving Line A
    - 6th Grade - P412, P404, P402, P405, P403
    - 7th Grade - 233, 227, 228, 236
    - 8th Grade - 333, 327, 324, 336, 209
  - Serving Line B
    - 6th Grade - P409, P410, P406, P407
    - 7th Grade - 226, 234, 231, 237
    - 8th Grade - 331, 330, 334, 335, 337
- Teachers will direct their students to sit at the tables on the same side of their Serving Line, example classroom P412 students will sit at the same table in front of Serving Line A. Teachers will select their table, August 1st
- Teachers are to leave students in their line, monitor them, and stand at the front of their tables to support and direct their students to their correct table (see image below)
- Teachers are to sit/stand with their students, redirect students, support students, address

misbehavior, and praise good behavior.

- No teacher should leave the cafeteria while students are in the cafeteria. This is a NON-Negotiable
- Teachers are to give students a 5-minute warning, let students know they have 5 minutes left in lunch, start throwing away their trays, and clean their area.
- At the 5-minute left mark, teachers should be up walking their table letting students know the expectations.
- At the end of the 5-minute mark, the teacher should be directing students to line up at the wall (near the window) in a single file line, with a voice at level 1, and ensuring students have not left trash/trays on their tables.
- Teachers are not to leave the cafeteria until they have checked to ensure their table is clean.

Leaving Lunch Expectations:

- Students are to line up at the wall near the windows in a single file line.
- Students are to be on Level 1 before exiting the lunchroom
- Students are then to line up in the hallway at the second stopping point
- Students are to be on Level 0
- Teachers are to monitor students as they leave the lunchroom to go to the stopping point
- When all students are at Level 0 and at the stopping point, the teacher is to go to the front of the line and monitor students as they go to the third stopping point. Students are to remain in a single file line with voice at level 0.
- The teacher is to go to the front of the line to monitor students
- When the teacher is at the front of the line, they walk with them to their classroom, escorting them in the room, reminding them of the classroom expectations, their assigned task that needs to be completed, and any other items before transition.



What does The Falcon Way look like in the media center?

FALCONS FLY STRAIGHT: CHARACTER & PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY - Falcons handle books and electronic devices with care and return materials by their due dates.

FALCONS FLY RIGHT: INTEGRITY & WORK ETHIC - Falcons remain productive by following directions, maintaining focus, and using resources responsibly.

FALCONS FLY TO GREAT HEIGHTS: PURPOSE DRIVEN & ACCOUNTABILITY - Falcons encourage their classmates to follow expectations and stay focused on the purpose of their visit.

FALCONS FLY FREE: GRACE & EMPATHY - Falcons share sources with each other, are patient when waiting for assistance, and avoid disrupting others.

What does The Falcon Way look like in the auditorium?

FALCONS FLY STRAIGHT: CHARACTER & PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY - Falcons enter and leave the auditorium quickly, quietly, and with intention.

FALCONS FLY RIGHT: INTEGRITY & WORK ETHIC - Falcons represent the school positively by maintaining focus and listening to speakers, performers, and peers.

FALCONS FLY TO GREAT HEIGHTS: PURPOSE DRIVEN & ACCOUNTABILITY - Falcons encourage their classmates to follow all expectations.

FALCONS FLY FREE: GRACE & EMPATHY - Falcons welcome visitors with open minds and arms.

What does The Falcon Way look like on field trips?

FALCONS FLY STRAIGHT: CHARACTER & PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY - Falcons will represent northwest by following the falcon way at the field trip state.

FALCONS FLY RIGHT: INTEGRITY & WORK ETHIC -Falcons follow instructions without reminders for adults and bring all needed materials on the field trip.

FALCONS FLY TO GREAT HEIGHTS: PURPOSE DRIVEN & ACCOUNTABILITY - Falcons stay with their assigned group and pay attention to the field trip focus.

FALCONS FLY FREE: GRACE & EMPATHY - Falcons interact positively, are flexible with change, and use a polite tone and language.

What does The Falcon Way look like at assemblies?

FALCONS FLY STRAIGHT: CHARACTER & PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY - Falcons follow the falcon way to positively represent Northwest.

FALCONS FLY RIGHT: INTEGRITY & WORK ETHIC - Falcons stay in their designated seating area and actively participate by listening and responding when asked.

FALCONS FLY TO GREAT HEIGHTS: PURPOSE DRIVEN & ACCOUNTABILITY - Falcons are seated, silent, and attentive to the presenter and encourage their fellow falcons to do the same.

FALCONS FLY FREE: GRACE & EMPATHY - Falcons welcome visitors with open minds and arms.

What does The Falcon Way look like at extracurriculars?

FALCONS FLY STRAIGHT: CHARACTER & PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY - Falcons treat equipment, materials, and facilities with care.

FALCONS FLY RIGHT: INTEGRITY & WORK ETHIC - Falcons support their team or club by committing time and effort.

FALCONS FLY TO GREAT HEIGHTS: PURPOSE DRIVEN & ACCOUNTABILITY - Falcons actively engage and show good sportsmanship while encouraging others to do the same.

FALCONS FLY FREE: GRACE & EMPATHY - Falcons welcome visitors to Northwest and provide support and motivation for their team or club.

NOTES