

Martin L. Nesbitt, Jr. Discovery Academy
2025-2026
Student Handbook



Invent Your Tomorrow



FACULTY AND STAFF

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[Tara Lawther](#)

Assistant Principal/CDC

[Rodney Smith](#)

Support Staff

Marianne Bailey – Information Specialist

Sandy Parris – Bookkeeper

[Claire Shippey](#) – Counselor (A-J)

[Heath Capps](#) – Counselor (K-Z)

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► **PURPOSE** **WHY WE ARE HERE**

To provide safe and engaging learning environments that prepare students for their tomorrow.

WHAT WE AIM TO DO **DIRECTION** ►

Our students will become successful, responsible citizens in an ever-changing global society.

► **BELIEFS** **OUR CORE VALUES**

Teaching the Whole Child
Personalizing Instruction
Empowering World-Class Educators
Encouraging Personal Growth
Embracing Diversity
Investing Purposefully
Collaborating and Communicating

BuncombeSchools.org

NDA PURPOSE STATEMENT

We are committed to providing the resources that ensure all students have the knowledge and skills needed to lead and invent their tomorrow.

NDA DIRECTION STATEMENT

Our students will be empowered to thrive in a global society by being immersed in a cross-curricular, STEM-focused, challenging and engaging academic program.

NDA BELIEF STATEMENTS

Every student will be exposed to a hands-on, project-based learning environment which promotes creativity, analytical thinking, and collaboration.

Every student will graduate technologically literate, as well as college and career ready, to more effectively engage in a globalized society.

Every student will be empowered to take responsibility for their own learning.

Every student will be provided a safe environment that is conducive to learning as well as supportive of their mental and emotional wellbeing.

Every student will participate in the Common Instructional Framework: read, write, listen, think, speak, and move in every class, every day.

Every student will be supported by stakeholders who promote an alliance between home, school, and community.

[Buncombe County Schools Code of Character, Conduct and Support](#)



2025-2026 DAILY SCHEDULE

Regular

1st Period: 8:25-9:40

2nd Period: 9:45-10:55

Lunch: 10:55-11:55

3rd Period: 12:00-1:10

4th Period: 1:15-2:25

2-Hour Delay

1st Period: 10:25-11:10

2nd Period: 11:15-12:00

Lunch: 12:00-12:45

3rd Period: 12:50-1:35

4th Period: 1:40-2:25

2- Hour Early Dismissal

1st Period: 8:25-9:10

2nd Period: 9:15-10:00

3rd Period: 10:05-10:50

Lunch: 10:50-11:35

4th Period: 11:40-12:25

3-Hour Delay

1st Period: 11:25-11:55

2nd Period: 12:00-12:30

Lunch: 12:30-1:15

3rd Period: 1:20-1:50

4th Period: 1:55-2:25



Charger Time

Charger Time Schedule A

(am)

Charger Time: 8:25-9:20

1st Period: 9:25-10:25

2nd Period: 10:30-11:30

Lunch: 11:30-12:15

3rd Period: 12:20-1:20

4th Period: 1:25-2:25

Charger Time Schedule C

(pm)

1st Period: 8:25-9:25

2nd Period: 9:30-10:30

3rd Period: 10:35-11:35

Lunch: 11:35-12:20

4th Period: 12:25-1:25

Charger Time: 1:30-2:25

Charger Time Schedule B

(midday)

1st Period: 8:25-9:25

2nd Period: 9:30-10:30

Charger Time: 10:35-11:35

Lunch: 11:35-12:15

3rd Period: 12:20-1:20

4th Period: 1:25-2:25

Charger Time Schedule D

(afternoon activity)

1st Period: 8:25-9:35

2nd Period: 9:35-10:40

Lunch: 10:40-11:30

3rd Period: 11:35-12:40

4th Period: 12:45-1:50

Charger Time: 1:55-2:25



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ACADEMICS

COUNSELING

Mrs. Claire Shippey (A-J) and Mr. Heath Capps (K-Z) serve as counselors. Both are available to assist students in course planning, decision making, problem solving, and personal development. Students are assured that issues brought to and dealt with in the counselor's office will remain confidential unless it is an immediate safety concern to oneself or others.

PRIVACY RIGHT

MLNDA will release directory information (Name, address, telephone number, age, attendance record) upon request to interested parties unless notified in writing by the student not to do so. Grades, test scores and transcript information will be released to other educational agencies or persons who have legitimate interest in these unless requested not to do so in writing by the student or parent concerned.

NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY

Buncombe County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs or activities and is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 and federal regulations to not discriminate in such a manner. This requirement extends to admission and employment. Inquiries about the application of Title IX and its implementing federal regulations may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator and/or the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education. The Title IX Coordinator's contact information is: Shanon Martin, shanon.martin@bcsemail.org, 828-255-5918, 175 Bingham Road, Asheville, NC 28806.

COLLEGE DAYS

When students reach their Junior and Senior years, they will have the opportunity to take a "College Day" to visit an institution that they might be interested in attending. College days are intended to give students an opportunity to visit colleges that are not in the immediate area. College days will be considered a school related absence if the following guidelines are followed:

Juniors are allowed **one** day. The student must be classified as a junior to take advantage of this opportunity.
Seniors are allowed **two** days. The student must be classified as a senior to take advantage of this opportunity.

1. The college visited must be located OUTSIDE of Buncombe County.
2. All requests must be turned in by 8 a.m. on the school day before the visit to the grade level counselor. (If a student is taking it on a Monday then the form is due on Friday at 8 a.m.).
3. Students are responsible for contacting the admissions office and setting up a time for their visit.
4. Students must bring a signed note from the admissions office documenting their visit. This note is due in to their counselor on the day they return to school.



5. **No college days will be approved for visits scheduled within a week of Christmas Break, Easter break or exams.**
6. **College orientations are not waived days or school related.**
7. Students must not be over their allowed days (5) in any class to take a college day.
8. Students must be passing all classes to take a college day. Documentation will be required on the College Day Request Form.
9. If documentation is not turned in to the counselor in a timely manner, the college day will be treated as an absence.
10. Senior students may take one day to interview for a college scholarship. A letter from the college or an appointment letter must be submitted prior to attending the scholarship interview. During Spring Semester, a senior may request one day for college scholarship interviews/audition. Official documentation must be submitted to the senior counselor prior to the interview.

GRADING SYSTEM

MLNDA follows a nine-week grading period. Parents may monitor student progress by accessing the Parent Portal in PowerSchool. Teachers will provide students and parents with progress reports midway in each nine-week grading period. Report cards will be printed and distributed to students within a week of the end of each grading period. Final grades are determined based on calculations from two nine-week grading periods and a final exam.

10pt Grading Scale

90 - 100 = A

80 - 89 = B

70 - 79 = C

60 - 69 = D

0 - 59 = F

PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

Promotion to Grade 10 = 6 credits

Promotion to Grade 11 = 13 credits

Promotion to Grade 12 = 20 credits

MLNDA will hold a graduation ceremony for students at the conclusion of their senior year. If a student has earned the required credits and desires to be a mid-year graduate, a county-wide graduation ceremony will be held each year at the conclusion of the fall semester.



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All students must earn 28 credits to earn their high school diploma.

All students must pass the following courses to graduate:

- English I, II, III, IV
- Math I, Math II, Math III, and a fourth math beyond Math III
- Earth Science, Biology, and a Physical Science
- World History, American History I, American History II, & Civics
- Health & PE

Students must complete the Future Ready Core Courses to receive a high school diploma. In addition to completing the Future Ready Core Courses, each student is required to successfully complete the PLTW Engineering pathway of courses to include EDD. EOC exams are required for Math I, English II, Math III, and Biology.

NDA offers additional elective opportunities in PLTW courses which focus on engineering, biomedical science, and computer science. Students will be able to pursue additional elective courses through post-secondary organizations, such as A-B Tech and UNCA, North Carolina Virtual Public School, and North Carolina School of Science and Math. Other elective courses offered at NDA are CTE, Spanish, and Strings.

***Two years of the same world language are REQUIRED by most 4-year colleges. Students going to a 4-year college must take these courses in high school. They will count as two required electives. Students will have the opportunity to enroll in world language courses through NCVPS or A-B Tech.**

CLASS RANKING POLICY

Grade Point Averages will be calculated at the end of each semester and will be computer generated by PowerSchool. All courses, except those earned prior to the 9th grade and courses receiving marks of Pass/Fail are used to calculate GPA. Points are earned by the final grade earned in each class: A = 4 points, B = 3 points, C = 2 points, D = 1 points, F = 0 points

WEIGHTED POINTS

Students earn .5 of an extra point for courses that are classified as Honors and 1 extra point for Advanced Placement and college level courses. These extra points do not change the actual grade earned but do impact the student's weighted GPA and ranking in the class.

Seniors, who have a weighted grade point average of 3.5 or higher, at the end of the first semester of their senior year, will graduate with honors and be recognized at a special ceremony and at graduation.

3.5-3.99- graduate with Honors (Silver cord)

4.0-4.24- graduate with High Honors (Gold cord)

4.25 or higher- graduate with Highest Honors (Gold cord and Gold tassel)



COLLEGE COURSE GRADES

Students must earn a C or higher in order to earn college credit for a course. A grade of D in a college course will earn high school elective credit only. Please also refer to [A-B Tech's Grading System](#).

COLLEGE COURSE WITHDRAWALS

Students will not be allowed to drop any college courses until they have met with the school counselor. Unless the withdrawal occurs within the first 10 days of school, students who withdraw from a college course will receive an "F" for that course on their high school transcript. The failing grade will be removed from the high school transcript when the student retakes the course and makes a passing mark.

If withdrawing from a course will leave a student with fewer than three courses, he or she will be assigned to a mandatory Success Lab each day for the remainder of the semester.

HIGH SCHOOL END-OF-COURSE TESTING [BCS Board Policy 3410](#)

High school students must take all end-of-course (EOC) tests and Career and Technical Education (CTE) State Assessments required by the State Board of Education. For all students, the results of the EOC tests and CTE Post-Assessments will count as 20 percent of a student's final grade in each high school course for which there is an EOC test, CTE Post-Assessment excepting the situations noted below. However, the results of such assessments will not factor into a student's final grade in a course during the initial implementation year of a new assessment for that course where scores are not immediately available due to standard setting. This requirement does not apply to EOC tests or CTE State Assessments in the following situations:

- English Learner Students in their first year in a U.S. School will not have the EOC tests, or CTE State Assessments count as part of the final grade.
- Occupational Course of Study (OCS) students will have the EOC tests, and CTE State Assessments count as ten (10) percent of the final grade.
- Effective with the 2018-2019 school year and beyond, all students enrolled in a course during the initial implementation year of the new assessment for that course where scores are not immediately available due to standard setting, a local grading scale shall be developed and used as 20 percent of a student's final grade.

Where state end-of-course tests or CTE post assessments are available, they shall be the final examination. North Carolina EOC tests or CTE post assessments will be the final exam and the test results shall count as twenty percent (20%) of the student's final grade. There are no exemptions from state end-of-course tests or CTE post assessments. For classes with non-state end-of-course exams only, students in grades 9-12 may be exempt from the final exam in a semester course if one of the following criteria is met:

- a grade of "A" and no more than four (4) absences, OR
- a grade of "B" and not more than three (3) absences, OR
- a grade of "C" and not more than two (2) absences.



For classes with non-state end-of-course exam classes only, students in grades 9-12 may be exempt from the final exam in a year-long course if one of the following criteria is met:

- a grade of “A” and not more than eighth (8) absences, OR
- a grade of “B” and not more than six (6) absences, OR
- a grade of “C” and not more than four (4) absences.

All students shall be permitted to take examinations, even if they are eligible for examination exemptions. If a student qualifies for an exemption, the student shall have the option to take the examination. If the student chooses to take the exam, the grade will be 20% of the student’s course grade.

All absences, whether excused or unexcused, will be counted when determining eligibility for exam exemptions. The determination for exemption will be based on attendance prior to the day of the first exam. Students will be marked absent on the day of the exam from which they are exempt, but that absence will not count towards eligibility for exam exemptions. Principals may waive absences beyond the above limits for documented absences that are outside of the student's control (for example, absences due to medical reasons or transportation issues) properly documented college visits. The principal (consistent with GS 115C-288) has final authority to determine a student's exemption status.

DRIVERS LICENSE

Students are subject to revocation of driver’s license or permit under two NC laws. Under the Dropout Prevention Law, students must remain enrolled in school and make adequate progress (pass 3 out of 4 courses per semester) to maintain a license or permit. Under the Lose Control Law, students who are involved in serious discipline issues at school (including drugs, alcohol, weapons, or assault on school personnel) will forfeit driving privileges for one year.

TARDIES TO SCHOOL, TARDIES TO CLASS, AND LEAVING SCHOOL EARLY

Tardies to School: When students arrive on campus after the normal school day has begun, they must report to the main office and officially sign in to school before reporting to their assigned class. Students who bring in a doctor’s note supporting a morning appointment will receive an excused tardy to school. Students who arrive at school after 8:25 am must sign in at the front office. Excessive unexcused tardies to school will result in disciplinary action.

Tardies to Class: Teachers will assign consequences (lunch detention and/or after school detention) for excessive tardiness up to the 4th tardy. For every tardy after the 4th, teachers will notify administration. Administrative discipline will be applied beyond the 4th tardy and after the teacher has contacted the student’s parent. Administration will document excessive tardiness for each tardy (5 or more) on an office referral form and assign discipline.



Once on campus a student may not leave without administrative permission. If it is necessary to leave school during the school day, the student must bring a note signed by the parents or legal guardian stating the reason, time to leave, and **parent/guardian's phone number**. The note should be given to the front office as soon as the students arrive in the morning. If the student forgets the note from home, the parent must come to school to sign the student out or send a fax to verify permission. **Call in permission from the parent is not allowed.** The student should report to the Main Office and sign out at the time specified on the note and immediately leave campus. If a student becomes ill at school and needs to go home, they should request permission from their teacher to call home from the main office.

ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL

Students are only allowed **7** (excused or unexcused) absences per course. To be counted present in a class, the student must be in class **2/3** of the class period. Students are responsible for making up any days past the allotted 7 absences per course. Excused and unexcused absences carry equivalent weight regarding the maximum absences allowed per semester. An "excused" absence does not mean the absence has been "waived."

ATTENDANCE MAKE-UP

1. It is the student's responsibility to frequently check with each of his/her teachers to determine how many absences have accrued for each class. This information can also be accessed in student PowerSchool accounts.
2. On the 8th absence and for every absence after the 8th in any class, including A-B Tech and NCVPS, the student will have to make up attendance time to earn credit for the course on their high school transcript.
3. Attendance can be made up by after school makeup or designated tutoring sessions, from 2:30-3:30pm. Cost is \$5.00 per session. One after school session equals one period of recovery.

ATTENDANCE WAIVERS

There are medical and other special circumstances that allow the administration to waive absences for students. Circumstances include: chronic illness, acute illness, hospitalization, court, or death in the family. A waived absence does not require attendance make-up but students are still responsible for all work missed. There are certain procedural requirements that must be fulfilled before an absence can be considered for a waiver. Students must pick up the attendance waiver form from the front office and have it filled out and signed by a parent or guardian. The signed form should be turned into the counselor who will submit the form to the attendance committee.



ATTENDANCE POLICY CODE: 4400

Students in grades 9-13 in semester-long courses may only have a maximum combined total of seven (7) excused and unexcused absences per semester per class. Absences are considered for each class and students must be present two thirds (2/3) of the class to be counted as present. Absences over seven (7) days may be made up in accordance with the school's Attendance Make-up Program (see [4400-R](#)) in order to receive credit.

LAWFUL (EXCUSED) ABSENCES

1. Personal illness or injury that makes the student physically unable to attend school.
2. Isolation ordered by the local health officer or the State Board of Health.
4. Death in the immediate family.
5. Medical or dental appointment.
6. Attendance at the proceedings of a court or administrative tribunal if the student is party to the action under subpoena as a witness in a court proceeding.
7. At least two (2) days of excused absences must be allowed each academic year for religious observances required by the faith of a student or a student's parents.
8. Participation in a valid educational opportunity, such as travel or service as a legislative or Governor's page, with prior approval from the principal.
9. Pregnancy and related conditions or parenting, when medically necessary.
10. A student whose parent or legal guardian (a) is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined by policy 4050, Children of Military Families; and (b) has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting will be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of the superintendent or designee to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian.

UNLAWFUL (UNEXCUSED) ABSENCES

1. A student's willful absence from school with or without the knowledge of the parent;
2. A student's absence from school for any reason other than those listed in Section B under "Lawful Absences"; or
3. When students are not permitted to attend school because they lack proper immunization.



SCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITIES

All classroom activities are important and difficult, if not impossible, to replace if missed. Principals shall ensure that classes missed by students due to school-related activities are kept to an absolute minimum. The following school-related activities will not be counted as absences from either class or school:

1. field trips sponsored by the school or Buncombe County Schools
 2. school approved job shadows and other work-based learning opportunities which are not to exceed two (2) days without prior principal approval
 3. school-initiated and -scheduled activities
 4. athletic events that require early dismissal from school
 5. Career and Technical Education student organization activities approved in advance by the principal
- In the case of any absences and short-term out-of-school suspensions, the student will be permitted to make up any tests or other work missed. The teacher will determine when work is to be made up. The student is responsible for finding out what assignments are due and completing them within the specified time.*

Note: Occasionally unique or unusual situations arise which are not specifically addressed by this policy. The superintendent, upon written recommendation from the school principal, may authorize alternatives to the policy in order to achieve fairness to the student without weakening the effect of the policy.

NON-PROMOTION Pursuant to this policy, students failing to meet attendance requirements in any required course for promotion shall neither be promoted nor allowed to participate in promotion exercises.

DRESS CODE

Buncombe County Schools Policy 4316 states that, when developing a dress code policy, “attention should be given to developing reasonable guidelines that balance the needs for individuality to the needs of maintaining safety, orderliness and good taste for the school community.” At NDA, we believe that appropriate dress is necessary to foster a positive and professional learning environment for all our students. Both students and faculty collaborated to establish guidelines which are conducive to promoting the learning environment desired by both staff and students at NDA.

1. Pants should be worn at the waist. Pants may not have holes, cuts, or slits above the mid-thigh.
2. Skirts, dresses, and shorts must be mid-thigh length or longer.
3. Shirts and dresses may be sleeveless only if straps are at least 2” wide. Cleavage and/or under-garments must be covered.
4. Tank-tops, halter tops, crop tops and muscle shirts are not permitted.
5. Leggings and tights are permitted; however, any leggings, tights, or other form fitting pants should be worn with tops or dresses that are an appropriate length.
6. Students may not wear any garment or accessory displaying language or images (profanity, sexual suggestions/insinuations, alcohol, tobacco, drugs, ethnic slurs, slogans, symbols) that are inappropriate for a school setting.



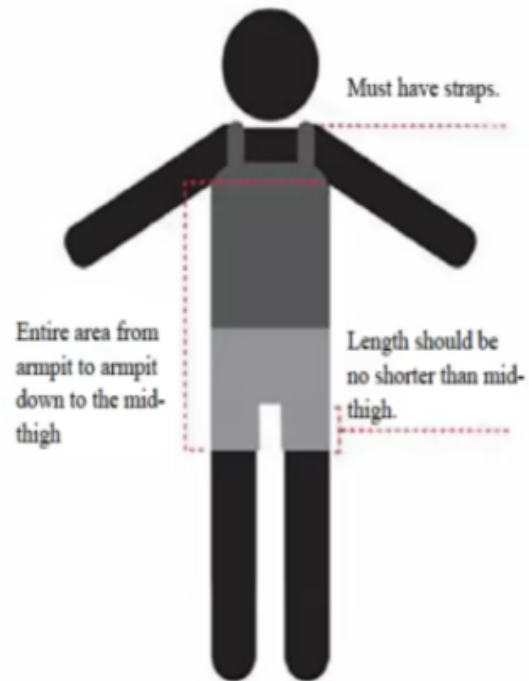
7. Headgear not permitted: hoods, scarves, nylons, headbands, sunglasses.
8. Pajamas, slippers and bedroom shoes are not permitted.

DRESS CODE VIOLATION

Offense #1: Students are warned and required to correct the issue.

Offense #2: Students are required to correct the issue. Parents are contacted.

Offense #3: Students are required to correct the issue, assigned a consequence, and a parent conference is required.



COMPUTER USE & SCHOOL EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS

Students are required to sign an acceptable use agreement to use school computers. Violations will result in discipline and the loss of computer/internet use. In addition, legal charges may be filed. Any student who violates the school communication/security system will receive immediate and severe action. The administration and staff encourage students to take advantage of the BYOD policy; however, it is up to the individual student to safeguard their personal property. NDA or its employees are not responsible for loss, theft, or damage of students' electronic devices. Refer to Buncombe County Board Policy 3225/4312/7320.

CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES (including headphones, air pods, earbuds, and smart watches)

Refer to [Buncombe County Board Policy 4318](#)

NDA is not responsible for any damaged, lost, or stolen electronic device. Cell phones and electronic devices may be used before and after school and during lunch. Cell phones should be put away during instructional class time. Teachers and administrators may permit specific use of cell phones for academic work while in the classroom. Use of cell phones and other electronic devices without teacher/admin approval may result in disciplinary consequences.

Cell phones and smart watches are strictly prohibited during end of course exams. Cell phones must not interfere with normal school operation nor compromise safety. This includes but is not limited to, filming/recording others, creating inappropriate content, promoting conflict, etc. Inappropriate use can also include texting or calling friends and/or parents during class, phone rings during class, playing games, photos, or any use that affects the learning environment adversely.

If the use of these devices interferes with teaching and learning in any manner, the device will be confiscated until a parent is able to pick it up after school. In addition, individual teachers will establish classroom guidelines and expectations for using cellphone and electronic devices.

Parents, please do not call or text students except during their lunch period or before/after school. Parents may leave messages at the front office at 828-271-4521 and students will receive those messages at the next class break.

CELL PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICE VIOLATION

1. Offense #1: Confiscation of device and parent is required to pick up the device after 2:25 pm
2. Offense #2: 1 hr. detention, confiscate/parent pick up after 2:25 pm
3. Offense #3: 2 hr. detention, confiscate/parent pick up after 2:25 pm



DISCIPLINE

NDA is committed to providing every student and faculty member with an environment that is safe, equitable, and conducive for learning. In an effort to provide this environment, we feel it is important to establish high expectations for our students, not only in the area of academics, but in regard to positive behavior as well. Several behaviors which are not conducive to learning are listed in the tables below, along with consequences. Any act committed by a student that is not specifically addressed in this handbook will be handled by the administration on an individual basis.

Code of Conduct—Minor Offenses

Incident	Offense #1	Offense #2	Offense #3
Arguments	30 minute silent lunch	1 hr. after-school detention	2 hr. after-school detention
Computer Violation (Minor)	30 minute silent lunch	1 hr. after-school detention	Loss of Privilege
Cutting Class	1 hr. after-school detention	2 hr. after-school detention	1 day OSS (major offense)
Defiance	30 minute silent lunch	1 hr. after-school detention	2 hr. after-school detention
Disruptive Behavior	30 minute silent lunch	1 hr. after-school detention	2 hr. after-school detention
Failure to serve silent lunch	1 hr. after-school detention	2 hr. after-school detention	Loss of SMART lunch
Failure to serve after-school detention	2 hr. after-school detention	Loss of SMART lunch	1 day OSS (major offense)
Forgery	30 minute silent lunch	1 hr. after-school detention	2 hr. after-school detention
Horseplay	30 minute silent lunch	1 hr. after-school detention	2 hr. after-school detention
Leaving Class w/o Permission	2 hr. after-school detention	1 day OSS (major offense)	3 days OSS (major offense)
Leaving School w/o Permission	2 hr. after-school detention	1 day OSS (major offense)	3 days OSS (major offense)
Profanity	30 minute silent lunch	1 hr. after-school detention	2 hr. after-school detention
Public Display of Affection	30 minute silent lunch	1 hr. after-school detention	2 hr. after-school detention
Undesignated Area	30 minute silent lunch	1 hr. after-school detention	2 hr. after-school detention

In an effort to provide a safe, orderly learning environment for every student and faculty member, the following behaviors will not be tolerated by the teachers or administration of NDA. In addition, students could face criminal charges for any of the incidents listed below.



Code of Conduct—Major Offenses

Incident	1 st Offense	2 nd Offense	3 rd Offense
Aggressive Behavior	3 days OSS	5 days OSS	10 days OSS
Bullying/hazing/verbal harassment	3 days OSS	5 days OSS	10 days OSS
Communicating Threats	3 days OSS	5 days OSS	10 days OSS
Computer/Internet Violation (Major)	3 days OSS	5 days OSS	10 days OSS
Disorderly Conduct	3 days OSS	5 days OSS	10 days OSS
Disrespect to Staff	3 days OSS	5 days OSS	10 days OSS
Drugs/Alcohol—Possession or Under the Influence	5 days OSS	10 days OSS	
Drugs/Alcohol—Distribution	10 days OSS		
Fighting/Assault	3 days OSS	5 days OSS	10 days OSS
Gang Activity	3 days OSS	5 days OSS	10 days OSS
Possession of a Weapon	5 days OSS	10 days OSS	
Sexual Harassment	5 days OSS	10 days OSS	
Sexual Offense/Exposure	5 days OSS	10 days OSS	
Theft	3 days OSS	5 days OSS	10 days OSS
Possession/Use of Tobacco/E-Cig including CBD products and vape juices	2 days OSS	3 days OSS	5 days OSS
	3 days OSS	5 days OSS	10 days OSS
Vandalism			

BCATS may be assigned as an alternative to suspension and is determined to be used by the discretion of administration. *Consequences are at the discretion of school administration as determined appropriate.*

CHEATING

NDA students are expected to complete class and home assignments to the best of his or her own abilities. Students who cheat on class requirements will be held accountable through the teacher's classroom rules and regulations. In the event of cheating, students will be assigned a zero for the assignment and parents will be contacted by the teacher or administration.



TEACHER ASSIGNED DETENTION

Teacher assigned detention will be served with the teacher within 3 school days. Failure to stay in teacher detention will result in an administrative detention after school. Students must leave campus immediately after detention is served.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

North Carolina General Statutes state that: "The principal of a school, or his delegate, shall have authority to suspend any student who willfully violates policies of conduct established by the local Board of Education for a period of ten days or less; provided, that a student suspended pursuant to this subsection shall be provided an opportunity to take any quarterly, semester or grading period examinations missed during the suspension period." The principal of a school, with the prior approval of the superintendent, shall have the authority to suspend any pupil who willfully violates the policies of conduct established by the local Board of Education for periods of times in excess of ten school days, but not exceeding the time remaining in the school year. The pupil or his parents may appeal the decision of the principal to the local Board of Education."

"FIVE AND DONE" Extracurricular Policy

Suspensions totaling five days including time spent at Buncombe County Alternative to Suspension (BCATS), will result in forfeiture of the right to participate in any extra-curricular, school sponsored activities (i.e. dances, club activities, field trips, etc.) or other activities that will not directly impact a student's grade.

Students can make an appeal to have some, or all privileges reinstated prior to the end of the school year. To make an appeal student should:

2. Announce their intent to appeal in writing to the administrator in charge of appeals
3. Write a letter of apology and lesson learned.
4. Provide letters of recommendation from teachers, pastors, administrators, employers, community leaders, etc.
5. Parents should provide the committee with a record of punishments and measures taken at home to ensure the school is being supported in efforts to enforce all policies set forth in the student handbook. Records may include but are not limited to the student's cell phone being taken away, driving privileges revoked, grounding, community service, etc.

GRIEVANCE POLICY

The Buncombe County Board of Education strives to resolve concerns and complaints whenever possible. To this end, the board has provided opportunities for students and parents to express their concerns through processes established in board policies. Any parent or student who is unclear of the options for proceeding with a concern may contact the principal's office or the superintendent's office for further information and copies of all applicable board policies.



BULLYING

It is the policy of the Buncombe County Board of Education that students should not be subjected to forms of bullying, hazing, or discrimination while attending school or school-sponsored activities. The responsibility for effective prevention and response to acts of bullying, hazing, and discrimination lies within a collaborative effort of administrators, teachers, school staff, students, parents, school communities, and appropriate community support agencies.

"Bullying," taunting, personal or sexual harassment, racial slurs or intimidation will result in immediate disciplinary action.

GANG AND GANG RELATED ACTIVITY

Buncombe County Schools defines a "gang" as any ongoing alliance or association of three or more individuals, formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of criminal acts or purposeful violation of school policy. Inherent to the gang's structure is a common set of identifying traits including names, signs, colors, and symbols. The following conduct or activity is prohibited and subject to consequences ranging from an initial warning accompanied by parent contact to assigned periods of short-term suspension to administrative recommendation for long-term suspension:

1. Displaying, possessing or distributing any clothing, jewelry, emblem, visible body marking, or literature that communicates or symbolizes affiliation with a gang.
2. Communicating gang affiliation through either verbal or nonverbal methods including, but not limited to, hand gestures, drawing, and electronic texting.
3. Tagging school or personal property with gang related symbols.
4. Harassment, intimidation, or solicitation directed toward a student or staff member relative to gang activity.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

The use or possession of controlled substances or possession of paraphernalia as defined by North Carolina Law, including alcohol is always prohibited on school property, which includes school sponsored activities or events. Possession of substances that simulate controlled substances is also prohibited. Disciplinary action will be taken in instances of violation of this policy as well as possible legal action. Sale or distribution of drugs, narcotics, or alcohol on campus or within 1000 yards of campus is a violation of federal and state law and will result in 10 days out of school suspension, legal action, and long-term suspension.



WEAPONS

Weapons are prohibited on school campus by state law. Students in possession of weapons/firearms will be removed from the school campus and suspended with a recommended long-term suspension up to 365 days and prosecuted.

1. Possession of a firearm on school property by a student is a FELONY. Even if the weapon is unloaded and locked in a vehicle or container and on school property, it is a misdemeanor for adults.
2. Possession of BB guns, air pistols, knives and other weapons on school property is a misdemeanor.
3. It is unlawful to cause, aid, or encourage anyone to bring a firearm or other weapon on school property.
4. It is unlawful for anyone under age eighteen to possess a handgun, except under special circumstances and conditions.
5. It is unlawful for anyone to sell or give a handgun to a minor.

MEDIATION, ARGUMENTS, AND CONFRONTATIONS

When potential conflict arises, students are strongly encouraged to seek mediation through the Counseling Department or Administration. A chance to mediate a problem is over if any physical contact takes place. Such contact will be considered fighting and will result in a three-day suspension. Subsequent fights may result in longer suspensions. Students involved in fighting will be charged by the School Resource Officer.

STUDENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT

It is the policy of the Buncombe County Board of Education that students should not be subjected to sexual harassment while attending school or school-sponsored activities. Sexual harassment of students is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of admission, enrollment, participation in programs, and services, or academic or disciplinary status.
2. Submission or rejection of the harassment is used as a basis for academic or disciplinary decisions affecting an individual.
3. The harassment has a purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning environment.

Buncombe County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs or activities and is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 and federal regulations to not discriminate in such a manner. This requirement extends to admission and employment. Inquiries about the application of Title IX and its implementing federal regulations may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator and/or the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education. The Title IX Coordinator's contact information is: Shanon Martin, shanon.martin@bcsemail.org, 828-255-5918, 175 Bingham Road, Asheville, NC 28806.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Martin L. Nesbitt, Jr. Discovery Academy is dedicated to offering students an opportunity to become involved in school clubs and organizations. Faculty at Nesbitt Discovery Academy will be working collaboratively with the students to develop these opportunities. A request to form a new club/organization must be submitted in writing to administration for approval.

CAFETERIA

The cafeteria operates for the convenience and good health of its students. All items other than the regular lunch meal are an added charge. Student charges will be limited to no more than \$15.00, and then an alternate lunch will be provided (sandwich, milk, and fruit). Students should show the staff respect by behaving and keeping the cafeteria neat and clean. All plates, silver, napkins, empty milk cartons, and so forth must be taken to the proper disposal area when lunch is completed. Students will need their student ID number when purchasing meals.

Breakfast: Universal Free Breakfast for all students

Lunch: Universal Free Lunch for all students

Students are not to leave campus for the purpose of eating. *Outside delivery of food is not permitted, including delivery by parents, family members, or friends.* Adults may purchase lunch for \$4.75.

TEXTBOOKS

Students are responsible for maintaining the “new” condition of the textbooks while in their use. Damages to textbooks, such as torn pages or writing/drawing in text, will be assessed based upon estimated replacement or repair cost.

LOCKERS

Students may request to be issued a locker from the administration. Students are responsible for the neatness, cleanliness, and damages to their locker. In addition, all lockers are subject to search by the administration.

BUSES

MLNDA strives to provide safe, efficient, and reliable transportation for students. Safety is a matter of teamwork and requires the cooperation of students, drivers, parents, and the school system. **(Violation of any of the listed rules may result in a suspension from the bus and/or school).**

Property damages to buses will be paid for by those responsible. The school bus is an extension of the school campus and all Buncombe County and NDA rules and policies apply:

1. Passengers must be ready and on time for the bus.
2. Passengers must wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before making any movement toward the bus.
3. When a passenger enters the bus, he should take a seat quickly and remain seated.



4. Throwing objects in or about the bus will not be tolerated.
5. Passengers must never use profane and indecent language, tobacco, or alcoholic beverages while riding the bus or waiting to board the bus.
6. Passengers shall not be loud, boisterous, or distract the driver's attention in any other way.
7. Passengers must never tamper with the emergency door or any other part of the bus.
8. A passenger must never mar or deface the bus in any way.
9. Passengers shall never attempt to ride on a school bus unless assigned to it by the principal. (G.S. 115-184 (A). Students who ride on an unauthorized bus are not covered by insurance.
10. Passengers shall not be standing or walking on a bus while it is in motion.
11. Passengers shall not loiter or play near a stopped bus but shall walk quickly to their residences or to the school.
12. Students must obey the bus driver.
13. Students may be assigned seats on the bus.
14. Drinking, eating, or selling items on the bus is prohibited.
15. Failure to follow bus rules will result in the loss of the privilege to ride the bus.

During the first few days of school, there will be changes in our bus routes and time schedules. From year-to-year student enrollments shift to different areas. If parents or students are aware of a bus problem, they should contact the administrator in charge of transportation.

ATHLETICS

Students at NDA will be allowed to participate in athletics at their district base high school. Students must meet the eligibility requirements listed below to participate. In addition, if an athletic team is required to leave prior to 3pm from the base high school, it is the parent or guardian's responsibility to sign their child out and have them at the base school just prior to the departure of the team. To play on an athletic team for Buncombe County Schools, a student must pass three (3) subjects the preceding term. He/she must also be in attendance 85% of the preceding term and reside in or be assigned to the school district in which they will be playing as required by the Buncombe County Board of Education.

Any student athlete who, during the school year, consumes alcoholic beverages or uses a controlled substance (illicit drug), as defined in North Carolina General Statute 90-87 without a medical prescription, shall lose his/her eligibility in all interscholastic athletic programs of this school system for a period of time. Buncombe County Board Policy 4354 will be followed.

To participate in practice and play at a NCAA Division I or Division II College after high school a student must:

1. Graduate from high school by meeting the graduation requirements set forth by the Buncombe County Board of Education. (See Graduation Requirements)
2. Meet admission requirements of the college which may include specified core courses including two years of a foreign language.
3. Have a minimum GPA of 2.0 in specified academic core courses.



4. Meet the SAT or ACT requirements according to the GPA of core courses. Check with counselors and coaches for NCAA requirements.
5. Students wishing to be eligible for athletic scholarships must register with and be certified by the NCAA Clearinghouse. (This requires an \$18.00 registration fee).

STUDENT PARKING

Designated Parking for NDA Students: Parking for NDA students will occur ONLY in parking spaces painted YELLOW. Primary parking lots are located at the front entrance, the east side of NDA and the lower tier parking lot in front of Central Office entrance A (this lot is designated with signage for NDA Student Parking). No students are allowed to park in any numbered spaces or those designated as specific parking such as Visitor Parking, Staff/Faculty, Office Staff, etc., anywhere on Nesbitt or BCS campus.

Driving/parking privileges may be revoked for the following reasons: Failing to display parking permit. Parking in undesignated areas or fire zones. Failure to adhere to 15mph speed limit, traffic signs, and established traffic patterns. Any behavior the administration believes creates an unsafe environment for other students.

Agreement: I agree to park only in the designated areas mentioned above and to utilize the correct overflow parking lot when primary parking is unavailable. I understand driving and parking a vehicle on campus is a privilege and agree to abide by all school rules regarding operation of a motor vehicle on Buncombe County School grounds. NDA Administration reserves the right to withdraw parking privileges at any time upon VERBAL notification to the student and/or parent/guardian. Any vehicle parked on the NDA Campus is subject to search by Administration when there is reasonable suspicion.

VISITORS

Individuals wishing to visit NDA must have prior approval from the administration. All visitors must check into the office immediately upon arriving on campus to sign-in.

TELEPHONES

Office telephones are for official school use. If a student has an emergency, he/she should request to use the office phone. Classroom phones are for teacher use only. Students must use the office telephones as needed.

MEDICATIONS

The school will dispense medications. If a student has medication of any type (prescription or over the counter), s/he must file it with the office. Medications must be in the bottle with proper prescription and taken only as prescribed under the supervision of trained school staff. It is the responsibility of the parent to pick up medications after field trips. Medications cannot be released to students.

