



NHSD

NEW HOPE-SOLEBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT

HS Handbook



*Empowering all learners
for a world of possibilities.*

HIGH SCHOOL
182 West Bridge Street
New Hope, PA 18938
215.862.2028

2024
2025

WELCOME TO THE HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Students and Families:

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff, I would like to welcome you to New Hope-Solebury High School where there is a long history of academic scholarship and extra-curricular achievements. I encourage all students to build upon this tradition and passionately pursue your own educational goals.

This handbook has been prepared so you may become familiar with the programs and procedures of New Hope-Solebury High School. It is a "living document" as adjustments and revisions may be necessary at times. Students and parents are requested to review the contents of the handbook as it is our belief that the school year will be more productive and enjoyable when all expectations are clearly explained.

It is our intent to support and assist you in achieving your own personal educational goals and ensure that your high school years are as challenging and rewarding as possible. We wish you a successful and fulfilling 2024-2025 school year!



Patrick Sasse
Principal

HANDBOOK PURPOSE

This comprehensive handbook outlines the various programs and procedures at New Hope-Solebury High School. We kindly request that all students and parents/guardians periodically review this document, as it may be revised when the situation requires. We firmly believe that students who have a clear understanding of school expectations have a more productive and enjoyable educational experience. We appreciate your attention to this important information.

Our Mission The New Hope-Solebury School District inspires and empowers all students to become passionate, confident, and innovative learners with the ability to adapt to a diverse and global society.

Our Vision The New Hope-Solebury School District will support innovation, inclusion, and authentic personalized learning while fostering the development of the whole student.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

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BUILDING CONTACTS

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ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual school attendance is critical to a child’s learning and achievement. New Hope-Solebury School District is required to implement attendance policies that are consistent with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as well as to comply with diverse educational mandates. Reference [Board Policy 204](#)

SCHOOL HOURS

7:50 AM through 2:30 PM

LATE ARRIVAL

Students who arrive after 7:50 AM to school are considered late and must report directly to the High School Office. The student will sign in and present a parent/guardian or medical note explaining the lateness. The staff member will issue an Admit Slip to the student for presentation to their teacher upon arrival. Notes excusing a late arrival must be received **within three days**. This time-frame includes the date the student arrived late. Any student arrival more than an hour beyond the scheduled school start time will count as a ½ day absence.

SCHEDULE

Our High School will continue with a block schedule format in 2024-2025. The block format facilitates extended instructional time throughout the school day, enabling deeper learning experiences for our students. Additionally, we have incorporated a Lunch & Learn period into the school day. Students may use this time to visit teachers during office hours, engage in wellness experiences, and explore career opportunities through various Guidance programs.

Daily Bell Schedule

	Start	End
Block 1	7:50 AM	9:14 AM
Block 2	9:18 AM	10:38 AM
Lunch & Learn 1	10:40 AM	11:10 AM

Lunch & Learn 2	11:12 AM	11:42 AM
Block 3	11:46 AM	1:06 PM
Block 4	1:10 PM	2:30 PM

Two-Hour Delayed Opening

	Start	End
Block 1	9:50 AM	10:36 AM
Block 2	10:40 AM	11:25 AM
Lunch & Learn 1	11:25 AM	11:55 AM
Lunch & Learn 2	11:59 AM	12:29 PM
Block 3	12:29 PM	1:27 PM
Block 4	1:31 PM	2:30 PM

Morning session MBIT students will not report to MBIT due to the shortened day. These students are to report to the high school no later than 12:15 p.m. Once on campus, they are to report immediately to the office to check in with the Attendance Secretary. Afternoon session MBIT students will leave the campus at approximately 10:55 a.m.

Early Dismissal Schedule

	Start	End
Block 1	7:50 AM	8:36 AM
Block 2	8:40 AM	9:24 AM
Block 3	9:28 AM	10:12 AM
Block 4	10:16 AM	11:00 AM

ITEM DROP-OFF

Parents who wish to drop off items for their children should do so at the Main Office of the High School. Upon arriving at the main entrance, parents should press the call button on

the outside of the building. They will be prompted to enter the vestibule and leave items for students to pick up on the table to the left. The attendance assistant will call for the student to come down to retrieve their items. Parents are strongly encouraged to attach a post-it note with their child's name or otherwise clearly label the items with their child's name. Athletics bags and equipment should only be dropped off in an emergency, and the athlete needs to retrieve the bag immediately so as to not cause a safety hazard in the Main Office vestibule.

EARLY PICK-UP/DISMISSAL (FOR INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS)

Appointments with physicians or dentists should be scheduled after school whenever possible. In the event that this is not possible, a parent may request early dismissal from school for his or her student. This request is to be in the form of a note with the parent's signature which states the student's name and the purpose, date and time of the requested dismissal. This note should be submitted by the student at the beginning of the day to receive an early dismissal pass. It is highly recommended that students contact their teachers in person or through email or Canvas before early dismissal to schedule a time for makeup work, assignments, or assessments. The parent or guardian must sign the student out in the High School Office. Any student dismissal more than one hour before the end of the scheduled school day will count as a ½ day absence.

ABSENCES AND LATENESS

The Board of School Directors considers the following conditions to constitute reasonable cause for absence from school:

- Illness
- Recovery from accident
- Required court attendance
- Death in family
- Approved family educational trips
- Approved education tours and trips

These definitions apply for all absences, whether full day, partial day, or early dismissal. Examples of unacceptable excuses for absences or lateness are over-sleeping, baby-sitting, driver examinations, missing the bus, and car problems. Absences for any unacceptable reason will be recorded as unexcused/unlawful.

In the instance of ongoing or recurrent absences, the school will coordinate a school/family conference to discuss the cause of the student's excessive absences and develop a

mutually agreed upon School Attendance Improvement Plan (SAIP). This plan will be required when the student has accumulated three (3) unlawful absences.

Absences are unexcused if a note is not provided by the parent/guardian. After ten absences have been accumulated, a doctor's note must be provided to the school for any future absence. Failure to provide a doctor's note will result in an unexcused absence. The purpose of the SAIP is to resolve the attendance issue.

REPORTING ABSENCES AND LATENESS

A written note, email, or [Google form](#) from a parent or guardian explaining the absence or lateness is required within three calendar days of the absence. Students who are legally emancipated must substantiate their absence/tardiness in writing. Absences will be treated as unlawful without timely written documentation.

Notes must be signed ([or emailed](#)) by the parent (or the child's doctor) and include the following information:

- Date of note
- Student's name
- Date of absence or lateness
- Reason for absence or lateness

NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCES

Benchmarks have been established to notify parents/guardians of accumulated absences of their child. Notifications are issued when a child reaches each of the following benchmarks:

- 3 days unlawful during the school year
- 5 days cumulative during the school year
- 6 days unlawful during the school year
- 10 days cumulative during the school year

Ten (10) days of cumulative lawful absences verified by parental notification will be permitted during a school year. Absences beyond ten (10) days will require an excuse from a physician. In cases when a physician's note is required, absences not documented by a physician's note will be considered unexcused/unlawful. Reference [Board Policy 204](#)

EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

Classroom instruction and interaction is an important component of the instructional program. Absences from class limit the educational impact of the classroom experience. If a student misses 20 days for a full-year course, or 10 days for a semester course, a referral will be made to the Academic Support Team or Student Assistance Program. In addition, that student will forfeit his/her privilege to participate in sports, all school activities, and attend all dances (including the Prom) for the remainder of the school year.

The district may report to appropriate authorities of the law regarding the attendance of students below the age of 18. The district shall issue notice to those parents/guardians who fail to comply with the statutory requirements of compulsory attendance that such infractions will be prosecuted according to law.

TRUANCY

Truancy is an unlawful absence. A student is truant if they:

- Fail to report to school without prior parent/guardian approval and/or knowledge.
- Leave school without signing out or leave school without parent/guardian and school permission.
- Fail to report to an assigned class or area.

For any act of truancy a student will receive a grade of zero for missed work and will be assigned to a Saturday detention. Repeat offenses will necessitate progressive discipline, including suspension from school. In some cases, students will be issued a citation to appear before the local magistrate to remedy repeat truancy offenses.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL TRIPS AND COLLEGE VISITS

While the Board of School Directors discourages unnecessary absences from school, it recognizes that, depending upon circumstances, it may be necessary to approve family trips of educational value but only within the context of school purposes and school law, [Board Policy 204.1](#). All requests for family educational leave should normally be submitted in writing to the High School Main Office at least fifteen (15) school days prior to the affected date. 15 days advance notice provides students an opportunity to collaborate with their teachers and schedule times to complete or submit missed work so that students are fully prepared to complete assessments upon their return to class. All such leave must be approved in advance; otherwise the absence will be recorded as unexcused. Family educational leave will be limited to five (5) days in any given academic year. Once a student exceeds the five (5) days, all future absences of this kind will be unexcused/unlawful. The student is expected to complete all school work that is assigned during the absence. Such assignments will be given to the student immediately prior to the absence.

The following types of absences are included in the five days:

- Family Educational Trips
- College visits
- Education Trips
- Non-school sponsored athletic trips

All requests for college/university visitation are to be processed through the Assistant Principal. In order to be excused, each visit must be approved by the Assistant Principal in advance of the effected date(s).

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

All absences occasioned by observance of the student's religion on a day approved by the district as a religious holiday shall be excused. Students are to return from all such absences with a parent/guardian note. As always, students are encouraged to meet with teachers prior to a scheduled absence to discuss and schedule any missed work.

PARENT/GUARDIAN NOTES

Generally speaking, parents should provide notes to document the following occurrences:

- Student absences
- Family, educational, or college visits/trips
- Vacations
- Doctor visits during the school day
- Lateness to school and/or early dismissal

Parents should submit notes in advance whenever possible. Specific deadlines for when notes must be submitted are stipulated under individual policies (e.g. attendance). The note should be signed and dated. An email is acceptable so long as the email correspondence matches the address on file in Sapphire.

MAKE UP WORK

In the event of an extended absence due to illness or injury, it is the responsibility of the student to check Canvas and email their teachers for instructions if needed. Students and parents are also encouraged to contact their guidance counselor to seek support.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

To process a change of address, the following items are required to be submitted to the district office:

1. Completed and signed [Change of Address](#) form
2. New deed or signed notarized lease. If the lease is not notarized, it must be accompanied by a signed and notarized Lessee Notary Form
3. Updated Child Custody documents, if applicable
4. Updated guardian government issued Photo ID (current driver's/non-driver's license/license change of address card) showing in-district address
5. A copy of a current gas, electric, or water bill showing resident name, in-district address, and date.
6. One additional current proof of residency showing name, date, and address (which can be: insurance statement, utility bill in addition to the one above, vehicle registration, tax/bank/credit card statement, voter registration)

Note: To process the change of address in the system and notify transportation, items 1 and 2 above are required. Then, items 4, 5, and 6 must be submitted within 30 days of the address change. All forms and documentation can be submitted to: registration@nhsd.org.

STUDENT WITHDRAWAL

Prompt and thorough notification for the school in the event of a student's withdrawal is necessary to ensure timely processing and transfer of the student's records. Reference [Board Policy 208](#)

Parents/Guardians must:

- Notify the school's Guidance Office
- Complete the withdrawal form on the Sapphire Community Portal
- Provide the counselor with a completed "Release of Records" form. Copies of this form are available in the Guidance Office or on the guidance webpage.
- Return all District property (laptop, books, uniforms, etc.) to the issuing teacher and/or main office.

HOMELESSNESS

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act is a federal law that ensures homeless children and youth will secure immediate enrollment in school, facilitating the stability of their education. The term "homeless children and youth" refers to individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason. Reference [Board Policy 142](#) and Board Policy 251

The New Hope Solebury School District has designated its Director of Student Services as the liaison for students in homeless situations. Please contact Student Services for more information.

CALENDAR

DISTRICT CALENDAR



Refer to our **board-approved district calendar** to view school closings and important academic markers. This can be viewed in [PDF format](#) or we also offer a [Google calendar version](#).

For a **more detailed calendar** with district and affiliated group events, use the *events calendar at the bottom of our school homepage* at www.nhsd.org.

STANDARDIZED TESTING SCHEDULE

The Keystone Exam will be administered to every student prior to graduation. Students are required to take the exams when enrolled in English, Algebra 1, and/or Biology. Typically, these exams are administered during the spring semester of their 9th or 10th grade years. If students do not demonstrate proficiency in each of these exams, they must retake any exam where they did not score proficient in their 11th grade year. Reference [Board Policy 127](#)

Keystone Exams: May 12 - 23, 2025
Advanced Placement (AP) Exams: May 5 - 16, 2025

COMMUNICATION

HAZARDOUS WEATHER AND EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Our district is committed to the safety of our students, staff, and families. While we try to minimize disruptions to our educational programming, we will facilitate emergency school closings or delays due to hazardous weather conditions.

When is the decision made to close schools?

Typically, a decision is made early in the morning based on radio and television weather broadcasts, road conditions, and recommendations from transportation personnel, local police, and the Superintendent.

How is the public notified?

Conditions permitting, notification of emergency closings will occur as follows:

1. Automated voicemail message (to registered households)
2. Automated text message (to registered households)
3. Email message (to registered households)
4. Website posting (www.nhsd.org)

Unless announcements of school closings or delays are broadcast via these channels, schools will be open, and our school buses and vans will be operating transport services. However, pickup times may be affected by weather conditions. When schools are closed, they will reopen the next school day, unless we broadcast otherwise.

What happens if the weather becomes severe during the school day?

Sometimes it is necessary to dismiss students early because of hazardous conditions that develop during the school day. When that happens, parents/guardians need to know: Families will be informed through announcements via text message, phone call, email, and a posting on the District website.

Dismissal times will be broadcast through the methods listed above. K-8 students will be dropped off at their regularly designated locations as per the emergency dismissal plan. Requests for transportation changes will not be honored during emergency weather conditions. Usually, secondary students will be dismissed first to allow them, and their parents/guardians, to arrive home before younger children.

When emergency dismissals occur, all activity buses, after school, and evening activities are canceled. Parents/guardians may elect to go directly to their children's school location to sign out their children.

What about delayed openings?

Two-hour delayed openings may be broadcast when it appears that students and staff can get to school safely if extra travel time is provided.

When two-hour delays occur, buses and vans will arrive at their stops two hours later than usual and school will begin in accordance with the following:

Two-Hour Delay

High School 9:50 AM

Middle School 9:50 AM

Elementary Schools 10:50 AM

Affiliate Program Cancellations

All after-school, community, and K-8 aftercare programs are canceled when schools are closed. The Middle Bucks Institute of Technology follows the decisions of the sending districts.

NOTIFICATIONS AND NEWS

District Messages

Information relevant for district parents/guardians/emergency contacts is issued by email/text/voicemail via our student information system, Sapphire, or through our secondary learning portal, Canvas, for grades 6-12.

High School Happenings

High School Happenings is a weekly e-flyer sent home via email through Sapphire. It contains important notices, as well as information on upcoming events.

Freedom of Expression

No student has the right to interfere with the education of fellow students. It is the responsibility of each student to respect the rights of teachers, students, administrators and all others who are involved in the educational process.

Students are encouraged to express their ideas and opinions as long as they do so in a respectful manner. Self-expression comes in many forms, but students must be mindful of the following expectations when conducting themselves:

- Be aware of all rules and regulations for student behavior and conduct themselves in accordance with them. Students should assume that, until a rule is waived, altered or repealed in writing, it is in effect.
- Volunteer information in matters relating to the health, safety and welfare of the school community and the protection of school property.
- Dress and groom to meet standards of safety and health, and not to cause substantial disruption to the educational processes.
- Assist the school staff in operating a safe school for the students enrolled therein.
- Comply with Commonwealth and local laws.
- Exercise proper care when using public facilities and equipment.
- Attend school daily and be on time at all classes and other school functions.
- Make up work when absent from school.
- Pursue and attempt to complete satisfactorily the courses of study prescribed by local school authorities.

No use of obscene language in student media or on school premises. Reference [Board Policy 220](#)

District News and External Communications

The district shares a weekly eNewsletter with the greater community throughout the school year. This public-facing newsletter contains district news and highlights, school board updates, district and community events, and more. All parents/guardians will be automatically added to the distribution list. If there are extended family members, alumni, neighbors, or others who may be interested to know more about our schools, anyone can register to receive this email update at nhsd.org/enews.

Posting Materials

Students have the right to express themselves unless such expression interferes with the educational process, encourages unlawful activities, or interferes with another's rights. School officials require students to submit for prior approval a copy of all materials to be displayed, posted, or distributed on school property.

Students are not to post or distribute any materials, print or other, without prior approval from the High School Main Office. All postings must have the NHS approval stamp or they will be taken down. There is a limit of 10 posters within the building per event. All postings must be hung using the various bulletin boards or tack strips located throughout the building. Reference [Board Policy 220](#).

Television Studio

New Hope-Solebury High School students provide informative, entertaining broadcasts each morning for the benefit of the high school community. While the broadcasts are

entirely produced, written, directed, and anchored by students, this endeavor is supervised by a member of the high school faculty.

Any requests for announcements from non-district employees must be approved by the building principal.

FAMILY PORTALS

We offer two online platforms for parents and guardians to monitor their child(ren)'s progress:

The [Sapphire Community Portal](#) is used to access teacher information (grades K-12), schedules, assignment grades (grades 6-12), and report cards (K-12).

[Canvas Observer](#) accounts are used to continually monitor a child's progress (grades 6-12) throughout the year, offering parents/guardians the chance to view upcoming assignments, assignment grades, and to communicate with the teacher.

CONTACTING OUR TEAM

Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to engage in productive, respectful, and consistent communication with staff, faculty, and administration. While email is certainly an appropriate and efficient outlet for communication, phone conversations or in-person meetings often yield greater results and more congenial discourse and should be considered based upon the gravity of the concern. If a concern arises regarding a school operational practice, the following guidelines should be followed:

1. Parents/guardians or students should discuss the matter with the staff member closest to the source of the concern either through email or in person.
2. If unresolved, parents/guardians should contact the appropriate supervisor or curriculum liaison.
3. Parents/guardians may then contact the student's guidance counselor.
4. Parents/guardians may then contact the assistant principal or building principal.
5. Parents/guardians may then contact the Superintendent.
6. If the issue is still unresolved, parents or guardians may then contact the School Board of Directors in writing.

Timeliness is essential to satisfactorily resolving issues that arise. Should parents, guardians, or students have a concern, they should correspond with the appropriate person within 24-48 hours of the event so that the resolution process can begin. Parent, guardian, or student outreach through email will normally be answered within 24 hours the

next business day barring any extraordinary circumstances. Please refer to our [website](#) [Staff Directory](#) to access staff member contact information.

CURRICULUM EXEMPTIONS

New Hope-Solebury School District has a policy to ensure that parents/guardians have an opportunity to review instructional materials and have access to information about the curriculum, including academic standards to be achieved, instructional materials and assessment techniques. If you are interested in reviewing any curriculum, please contact the Director of Education. Reference [Board Policy 105.1](#) and [Board Policy 105.2](#)

BUILDING ACCESS

STUDENT ACCESS

The high school building is open at 7:00 AM. Students arriving between 7:00 AM and 7:50 AM are to report to a teacher or to the cafeteria if no teacher is available. Once arriving on campus, students are not to leave until dismissed. At the end of the academic day, students are to vacate the building unless remaining for scheduled appointments or activities. Students are not to be in the building beyond 2:30 PM unless they are under the supervision of a faculty or staff member.

RAPTOR WARE SYSTEM

Tracking and restricting access to our buildings is critical to the safety and security of our students and staff. Anyone who enters the building must proceed to the main office where you will be asked to sign-in with a [Raptor Ware system](#) using your photo identification. When you visit a building for the first time, you will be asked to present a government-issued photo ID, such as a Pennsylvania driver's license, to a staff person in the building office. Your ID will be scanned and the following information will be immediately collected: your photo, your name, and your date of birth. This information will be utilized to register you in our system, create an ID badge, and compare your information against sex offender databases throughout the country.

For future visits to a school at which you have previously registered, you will only be asked to show your ID as your name and information will be in the system database and selected from an existing list of previous visitors. You will also be asked to sign out with the office upon leaving the school so that we know, and record in the system, that you

are no longer in the building. [Reference Board Policy 907.](#)

VISITATION

As educators, we endeavor to create opportunities for parents/guardians to be active in the learning experience and social aspects of their children's educational career. While **general visitations are not permitted** during the school day, parents/guardians may make special requests to observe classrooms and other school areas and activities by contacting the principal with a minimum of twenty-four hours in advance to schedule the visit. Please be aware that visitors may not take any time from the teachers and students while classes are in session. Reference [Board Policy 907](#)

There is a scheduled opportunity each year in November for parents/guardians to visit the school during **American Education Week**. All visits must be approved in advance through the Main Office. While visiting, parents and guardians are to avoid interacting with students and staff and limit their attention to observation only. We ask that cell phones be placed on silent and small children remain at home to avoid interruptions to instruction.

PARENT/GUARDIAN VOLUNTEERS

Parents and guardians must have up-to-date clearances on file in order to volunteer or chaperone at any school function or field trip.

If parents/guardians would like to volunteer and need to obtain or update clearances, they should refer to [this district webpage](#) under Human Resources for more information about Volunteer Tracker. All clearances are listed along with instructions for how to obtain them.

SCHOOL BUS

TRANSPORTATION

The New Hope-Solebury School District provides transportation to and from school for all

students who reside within the district's boundaries. The district utilizes First Student Bus Company for transportation services and has a designated Transportation Manager onsite.

Students should wait for the bus in a safe place, well off the roadway, and they should form lines to board the bus. Students may ride only the bus to which they are assigned.

Students are expected to conduct themselves properly and respectfully on school buses and vans. The driver is responsible for all activity on the bus, therefore, students must be responsive to the driver's direction. Standing, switching seats or moving around on a moving school bus is not permitted. This and other disruptive behavior may interfere with the driver's performance and safety.

Uncooperative students will have a disciplinary meeting with the principal and possibly their transportation privileges revoked for an appropriate period of time.



In partnership with our transportation provider, First Student, the New Hope-Solebury School District will continue to use FirstView®, a bus tracking and parent communications app for your smartphone or desktop. The app enables families to stay informed regarding your children's transit on our buses and alerts you if the bus is running late. It will also notify you when your child's bus arrives at home and school. Please ensure that your contact information is current in the Community Portal and that you have **installed the [FirstView® app](#)** and turned-on notifications. Detailed instructions on installing and getting the most out of the app [can be found on our district website](#).

Questions concerning bus transportation should be [directed to our Transportation Manager](#).

CHANGING A STUDENT'S MODE OF TRANSPORTATION

If a parent/guardian wishes to change a student's mode of transportation, an email or note should be sent to [Transportation](#) alerting them of the change. However, parents/guardians are reminded that students may only ride the bus to which they have been assigned. First Student will notify the bus driver of the change for the day. Students who do not normally ride on a bus will not be permitted to ride a bus to another student's home unless it is an emergency and is cleared by transportation. High School students are not issued bus

passes from the Main Office. Reference [Board Policy 810](#), [Board Policy 810.2](#), and [Board Policy 816](#)

FIELD TRIP REGULATIONS

Signed permission slips from a parent/guardian are required for students to participate in all field trips. Students attending school trips must report to the trip with the class; whether this is walking or riding the bus. Students are not permitted to be dropped off or picked up to/from a trip unless there is an extenuating circumstance. Volunteers for trips are reserved for the legal parent/guardian of a student unless there is an extenuating circumstance. Siblings, neighbors and anyone other than the legal parent/guardian will NOT be permitted to attend class trips. In addition, parents are asked not to join trips unless assigned by the school. Students not participating in field trips still must attend school on the day of the trip. During the time of the field trip, they will be placed in another classroom with appropriate class work. Staying home during a field trip (if not ill) is an illegal absence. For students requiring medication during the day, the school nurse will accompany the trip. Again, students are encouraged to be proactive and plan ahead with teachers of classes they will miss during a field trip. Please reference make-up work policy. Reference [Board Policy 121](#)

EXTRACURRICULARS/ATHLETICS

The following section outlines the range of extracurricular activities we provide for students. We highly encourage participation in these opportunities to help students build connections and to learn beyond the classroom. This section also helps provide an overview of the expectations for students participating in extracurriculars. Please realize that this is an abridged version of the Code of Conduct for Interscholastic Athletics and Extracurricular Activities. For a detailed list of all rules and expectations please [visit this link](#).

EXTRACURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT

The district's [Code of Conduct](#) applies to any New Hope-Solebury High School student who participates in extracurricular activities (school-sponsored athletic competition and club activities). Membership in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. All students have access to Lunch & Learn and should take extra steps to meet with teachers to account for work missed during their absence. The privilege of team, club membership and/or activity participation carries with it certain responsibilities and expectations.

Student-athletes, club members and/or activity participants who fail to meet these responsibilities or honor these expectations will be subject to appropriate disciplinary consequences. As publicly recognized representatives of their school, student-athletes, club members and/or activity participants must consistently exhibit and model appropriate behavior, both in and out of uniform, and on or off the school campus. The high school faculty and administration will be steadfast in its effort to uphold this standard. Reference [Board Policy 122](#) and [Board Policy 123](#)

LIONS ATHLETICS

New Hope-Solebury High School's [Athletics Program](#) sponsors interscholastic competition in the following sports:

Girls

Field Hockey
Cross Country (co-ed)
Golf (co-ed)
Volleyball
Basketball
Soccer
Tennis
Softball
Track & Field (co-ed)
Cheerleading
Lacrosse
Wrestling (co-ed)

Boys

Soccer
Cross Country (co-ed)
Golf (co-ed)
Football
Tennis
Baseball
Basketball
Lacrosse
Track & Field (co-ed)
Wrestling (co-ed)

Team success in all sports is dependent upon student participation and support. The administration encourages all interested students to become involved in one or more sports. Good sportsmanship is a requirement of all participants and spectators.

STUDENT CLUBS

New Hope-Solebury High School offers leadership and service opportunities to its students through a [variety of clubs and organizations](#). The following organizations are currently active:

Art Club
Chess Club
Debate Team
Environmental Club

English as a Second Language Club
Fashion Club
Future Business Leaders of America

(FBLA)	National Honor Society
Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA)	Peer Leadership
Key Club	Reading Olympics
Lions of Wall Street	Robotics Club
Lion's Tale	Science Olympiad
Mask and Zany Theater	Ski Club
Mathletes	Student Council
Model UN	TODAY Club
	Yearbook

ACADEMIC STANDARDS/ELIGIBILITY

The academic performance of students is tracked on a cumulative basis each week and grades of record are issued at the end of each nine-week marking period. Students must meet eligibility requirements in order to earn the right to participate in interscholastic athletics, club activities or extracurricular events such as dances, movie nights and athletic contests. If a student has 2 or more failures as reported either weekly, at the end of a marking period or at the end of the academic year there will be a period of ineligibility.

For a list of consequences associated with offenses to these, please consult the [Extracurricular Code of Conduct](#).

ATHLETICS ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) stipulates in its bylaws that "a student who has been absent from school during a semester for a total of twenty (20) or more school days, shall not be eligible to participate in an Inter-School Practice, Scrimmage, or Contest until the student has been in attendance for a total of forty-five (45) school days following the student's twentieth (20th) day of absence." This standard will be applied to student-athletes and club participants.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Possession, use, sale or distribution (or any attempt to possess, use, sell or distribute) of alcohol, controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia by a student-athlete/participant is a violation of law and is strictly prohibited. Violators will be subject to suspension and criminal proceedings.

Additionally, if a student-athlete/participant finds themselves in the presence of one or more individuals who is in possession of, using, selling or distributing alcohol, controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia, they are to take immediate steps to remove

themselves from the environment.

For a list of consequences associated with offenses to these please consult the [Extracurricular Code of Conduct](#)

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND CO-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

Student-athletes/participants must check in to the office before 10:40 a.m. in order to compete or participate in a scheduled athletic contest (game) or co-curricular event (e.g., club activity, concert, theater production) unless other arrangements have been made in advance with the principal or his/her designee.

Student-athletes/participants may not attend a team practice or co-curricular event if not present for two class blocks (or the equivalent AM or PM MBIT session) on the day of the practice or event.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Any student-athlete or fan (student or adult) removed from an event for unsportsmanlike conduct or cited by an event official for inappropriate behavior before or after a game/event will be subject to progressive discipline. This discipline is cumulative both within a season and across seasons in a given school year in accordance with PIAA rules.

For a list of consequences associated with offenses to these please consult the [Extracurricular Code of Conduct](#).

FAN BEHAVIOR

Students, parents and community members are encouraged to attend athletic/co-curricular events. Good sportsmanship demands that those in attendance cheer for our athletes/participants and not against the opposition. Opposing athletes/participants, their coaches/advisors, and their fans are our school guests and they are to be treated accordingly.

Students and other attendees are encouraged to be spirited in their support of our students. However, all cheers are to be positive in nature. The judgments of game/event officials are to be honored rather than challenged. Language directed to particular athletes/participants or an official is inappropriate and will be corrected when observed. A single egregious act, or the repetition of inappropriate behavior, will result in removal from the game/event site and possible restriction from future events. This standard applies to students, parents and community members.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The Donald A. Hedges Chapter of the [National Honor Society](#) is chartered to recognize outstanding student achievement in the areas of scholarship, leadership, character and service. Students are invited to apply for membership on the basis of scholarship and are selected for membership on the basis of scholarship, character, leadership and service. Candidates improve their chances for selection by consistently distinguishing themselves in the areas of character, service, and leadership throughout their high school years.

Membership in the National Honor Society is by faculty invitation only. Following is an outline of the process for selection:

1. Student applications are evaluated on four criteria required for National Honor Society Membership: Scholarship, Leadership, Character and Service.
2. Acceptable service consists of activities performed during grades 9-12 (including the summer prior to grade 9) which benefited a community or organization with no benefit to the person giving the service. Juniors and seniors should have a minimum of 50 service hours, which are required to be described and documented with either a signature, letter or email for each service opportunity.
3. There is a solid deadline for all service logs to be completed and submitted. Service logs submitted after the deadline will not be considered for membership, no exceptions.
4. Teachers are given a list of the eligible students who are interested in applying. Teachers will assign a score for both Leadership and Character only to students who they have had formal or informal contact with during grades 9-12. Leadership qualities are identified as someone who initiates and coordinates major school projects or is an effective team captain, class officer, or chairperson of a major school activity. Character qualities are identified as someone who demonstrates exceptional character AND actively encourages others to be of good character.
5. Students with scores of 28 points or higher on the rubric are considered eligible for membership into the Donald A. Hedges chapter of National Honor Society.
6. In the fall, all students who have applied for membership will be notified of their status by letter via US Mail.
7. Further details on the National Honor Society are available from the faculty advisors.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

The Student Government exists as a vehicle for student input in the following three areas:

- Formulation of policy affecting school life
- Identifying, implementing and monitoring improvements in school practices and procedures

- Planning social events and student activities

Students are encouraged to become familiar with their governance process and are strongly encouraged to participate.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

[PE Uniforms](#) (t-shirt) must be worn in all PE classes. Expectations for students during PE class are as follows:

- Sneakers and tied laces
- No chewing gum or jewelry
- Sweatshirts and Sweatpants are permitted overtop gym uniform
- Long hair should be pulled back

HEALTH SERVICES

The school health services help provide a community that is supportive of children's academic performance. Further information and all authorization forms are available on our [Health Services site](#).

11TH GRADE PHYSICALS

[Physical reports](#) are required of all eleventh grade students. Please submit completed forms in September.

11TH GRADE ATHLETES

The PIAA Physical Evaluation required to participate in sports may be used to satisfy the physical report required of all 11th grade students. Please forward a copy of the history and physician's report to the attention of the school nurse, and include an updated immunization record to satisfy state mandates.

MANDATED HEALTH SCREENINGS

Mandated health screenings are performed yearly. Growth rates are monitored in all

grades and BMI letters mailed home. A vision screening is also mandated for all students as well as hearing for all 11th grade students. If a student's health screening indicates a deficiency based on state levels for passing, a referral form will be mailed home.

DISCLOSURE OF MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to keep the nurse informed of changes in their children's medical condition. The information disclosed is confidential and will be shared on a need-to-know basis.

MEDICATIONS AT SCHOOL

The administration of prescribed medication and/or medical treatments in accordance with the direction of a parent or family physician to a student during school hours will be permitted only when failure to take such medicine or treatment would jeopardize the health of the student or the student would not be able to attend school if the medicine, or treatment, were not made available during school hours.

Prescription medicines required three times a day (unspecified times) should be given before and after school and at night.

Students are not to carry and self-administer other prescription or over-the-counter medicine without written consent from their parent/guardian and physician. Parents are NOT permitted to leave medication for students. Reference [Board Policy 210](#)

ASTHMA INHALERS

Asthma inhalers or other "rescue" medications may be carried and self-administered by the student with a completed "Care Plan" form which includes written permission from parent, and physician, and student signature agreeing to compliance and safety issues. Appropriate care plan forms will be mailed home and are [available on-line](#).

ANALGESICS

The nurse has standing orders from our School District medical advisor to administer an analgesic, aspirin free Acetaminophen (Tylenol), or an Ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin), with parent consent. All authorization forms must be renewed yearly.

ILLNESS OR INJURY AT SCHOOL

If a student needs to go home due to illness or injury, he or she is to seek the advice of

the school nurse and obtain a pass to go home. Students are not to make arrangements to go home without the prior knowledge of the nurse, principal, or High School Office staff. Protocol is for a student to visit the nurse and the nurse is to assess the nature of the illness. If a student calls a parent to pick them up from school, they will first need to be assessed by the nurse.

Dismissal is allowed only to a parent/guardian, a person designated by the parent/guardian, or an "Emergency Contact." A student who drives to school will not be allowed to leave without proper authorization from the parent or guardian.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

All students must submit **state-required health evaluations and immunizations required for their corresponding grade level**. Find the requirements on our [Health Services website here](#) or reference this chart.

All physical and dental forms are **due by October 15** of the current school year. On the first day of school, unless the child has a medical or religious/philosophical exemption, a child must have at least one dose of the required vaccinations or risk exclusion.

Reference [Board Policy 203](#) and [Board Policy 209](#)

Grade Level	Dental	Physical	Immunizations
K	X	X	X
3	X		
6		X	
7	X		X
11		X	
12			X

INSURANCE

The District makes a group personal accident insurance plan available to pupils at the beginning of the school year. Enrollment in this plan is voluntary for all students, except those engaging in any program of interscholastic athletics or inter-school sports. All students engaging in any form of interscholastic athletics shall, as a prerequisite to such participation, enroll in the student accident insurance program or provide proof of personal insurance. Student injury resulting from interscholastic or inter-school sports shall not be covered under the District liability policy unless the injury is a direct result of District negligence.

Exception to this enrollment may be made only when parents/guardians submit a signed waiver that payment of medical expenses will be borne by personal, presently-owned insurance plans covering the pupil, or by personal resources of parent or guardian. This waiver must be presented at the beginning of the school term when the insurance is made available. [Reference Board Policy 211](#)

SAFETY AND SECURITY

EMERGENCIES AND DRILLS

Our district will conduct two emergency evacuation drills annually to address concerns about intruders on our campuses or other emergency lockdown situations. The ALICE protocols outline five steps to address an emergency: Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate). It is necessary to periodically practice these procedures to ensure faculty, staff and students are prepared to respond in the event of an emergency. Notifications of anticipated drills are provided. Reference [Board Policy 805](#)

SAFE2SAY

Safe2Say gives members of our community the chance to anonymously report students who may pose a threat to themselves or others. We previously shared [an overview of the security measures](#) our district has enacted to keep our buildings safe. However, we recognize that the most crucial means of protecting our students is addressing concerns in their earliest stages, before someone turns to acts of violence.

[Safe2Say](#) offers three ways to report a concern: (1) their [website form](#) (2) by phone (1-844-SAF2SAY) and (3) via their [mobile app](#). Please speak with your child about this platform and encourage them to utilize it if they see or hear of anyone who may be in crisis.

Once a concern is reported to Safe2Say, our district and local police departments are notified simultaneously within a matter of minutes. All concerns are taken seriously, thoroughly investigated, regularly monitored, and met with the necessary support and resources by a trained crisis team. Due to [FERPA](#) and privacy concerns, we are unable to share the details and findings of our investigations with the community. Should the situation constitute a verified threat to the well-being of others, we will immediately communicate the relevant information and act in the best interests of all students.

PARENT/GUARDIAN REUNIFICATION

Our parent/guardian reunification plan is used if it becomes necessary to relocate the entire school population to our alternative site which is **Saint Martin's Church on Bridge Street for grades 3-12** or **Trinity Church on Sugan Road for grades K-2**. Such a move would take place when it is determined by school officials that keeping students in the school would be hazardous to students and staff.

What is Parent/Guardian-Child Reunification?

This is an orderly and efficient process of reuniting children with their parents/guardians after an emergency/crisis, which prohibits the normal dismissal process from occurring.

If it becomes necessary to activate our parent/guardian reunification plan, KYW 1060 and WPHT 1210 radio stations and KYW television stations will be notified. Please tune in to any of those stations for information and directions. Additionally, each school maintains a roster list with parent/guardian names and phone numbers. Staff members will utilize these lists to notify parents/guardians of the situation when it is feasible to do so. It is critically important that our student information system, Sapphire, has all necessary phone numbers so that we are able to contact you at any time during the school day in the event of an emergency.

When you arrive at the alternative site to pick up your child, there will be four clearly marked stations: A-F, G-L, M-R, S-Z. Please report to the station that has the first letter of your student's last name. Give our staff member at the appropriate station your child's name. Once you have been identified, your child will be brought to you at the station.

It is essential that parents first report to their respective station. We must be organized in order to ensure 100% accountability of our students. First and foremost, remain calm. Remember, it is our primary concern that students remain safe at all times, and there is a plan for an orderly dismissal and release of our students.

When you arrive at the facility where students will be released, proceed to the Adult Report Point and plan to do the following:

1. Fill out a Student Release Form
2. Present a government-issued picture identification card
3. Move to the Student Release Point and wait for your child
4. A runner will go to the Assembly Area, get your child, and bring him/her to the release area
5. Be prepared to show your ID again
6. Sign for the student and depart

All individuals picking up students must be positively identified by our staff or provide valid identification. Unless a person's name is on our list as having your permission to pick up your child, we will not release your child to them.

REMINDER: Your child will be released only to those listed on the Emergency Card. It is therefore imperative that you keep information on your child's Emergency Card up to date.

Know also that for any reason your child is not picked up, he/she will be supervised until parent/guardian or emergency contact arrives.

These procedures should be shared with everyone you list on the Emergency Card so they are familiar with our plan and these concerns. If you have any questions about the Family Reunification Plan, contact your child's building principal.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN

The New Hope-Solebury School District has engaged Element Environmental Solutions to fulfill the requirements of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), 40 CFR Part 763, Subpart E. This law requires that each Local Education Authority (LEA) engage EPA accredited individuals to initially inspect and subsequently re-inspect every three years all student and staff-accessed areas for the presence of both friable and non-friable asbestos-containing materials (ACM) and to develop an Asbestos Management Plan from the information developed from the building inspections. All accessible areas of the facilities were inspected for asbestos-containing materials.

SECURITY GUARD

An assigned Security Guard will be on the school campus during and after school to ensure safe passage in halls, cafeteria, timeliness to class and other safety functions. This person is on staff and is to be treated with due respect. Reference [Board Policy 805.2](#)

COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE

COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

The counselors are concerned with the educational and personal growth of all students. Counselors are available to assist students in course selection, academic concerns, career planning, college selection, and in the identification and resolution of personal problems with friends, teachers or parents. The cooperative effort of students, faculty, parents and counselors enables students to achieve their fullest potential.

Students must make appointments with the guidance office if interested in seeing a

guidance counselor. Each student will periodically be scheduled to meet with his or her counselor. Reference [Board Policy 112](#)

Katherine McGinniss

A-K Guidance Counselor
kmcginniss@nhsd.org

Madeline Martin

L-Z Guidance Counselor
mmartin@nhsd.org

Sarah Reeder

College and Career Readiness Counselor
sreeder@nhsd.org

Meg Park

Administrative Assistant for Guidance Office
mpark@nhsd.org

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT (MTSS)

The MTSS team is a group of teachers, counselors, the school psychologist, and administration who help teachers support students who may be having academic difficulties. As a team, MTSS gathers information from teachers and the student to better understand the difficulties encountered by the student and to brainstorm intervention strategies to support the student's academic pursuits. Students are referred to this team based on their academic performance.

Students who are in need of further services due to academic difficulty will be given the necessary interventions to overcome their struggles. Progress will be monitored and updated at regularly scheduled MTSS meetings. Parent contact will be made for any student who rises to a Level II status which requires more intensive intervention.

Examples of Level I:

1. Team intervention – meeting with the student to address concerns and review goals
2. Structured study within academic study hall
3. Data collection to target further intervention

Examples of Level II:

1. Reading, Writing, Math support
2. After school homework help with teachers
3. Data collection and parental contact

MIDDLE BUCKS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (MBIT)

[Middle Bucks Institute of Technology \(MBIT\)](#) maintains a substantive partnership with New Hope-Solebury High School and encourages students to partake in its multidisciplinary, technology and trade based curricula. Students typically apply for MBIT during the 9th

grade year and have the option to visit campus to obtain a better understanding of the courses and certificates offered. If accepted, 10th grade students will be enrolled in either AM or PM classes depending on their schedule at New Hope-Solebury High School. Transportation to and from MBIT will be provided. Students may choose to continue enrollment at MBIT throughout the remainder of their high school career or re-enroll full time at New Hope. Courses taken at MBIT will count as credit hours for graduation from New Hope-Solebury High School. Although MBIT provides an opportunity to pursue a career in tech or the trades immediately after high school, most students who attend MBIT still choose to pursue higher education. If interested, students should speak with their guidance counselor during the fall of 9th grade.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Appropriate statutes and regulations govern use of a student's confidential communications to school personnel in legal proceedings. Information received in confidence from a student may be revealed to the student's parents/guardians, the principal or other appropriate authority where the health, welfare or safety of the student or other persons is in jeopardy.

COURSE SELECTION/CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

During the course selection process, students are asked to consider with deliberate care their course selection choices. Students receive recommendations from their teachers, meet with their guidance counselors, and are encouraged to discuss choices and receive approval from parents or guardians. Once a master schedule is created, counselors verify and resolve conflicts with students or by using their alternate course selections. Additionally, students have one final opportunity to make changes to their schedule as long as their request meets one of the following criteria: (1) failure to meet the required prerequisites, (2) a level change that has been recommended by the teacher, (3) a change directed by the student's IEP, GIEP, or 504 plan, (4) a request to add a class (provided it is not full) in place of a study hall.

Ultimately, we want to provide the best opportunity for each student to learn while maintaining the integrity of our master schedule that is based on students' requests. While it is not possible to satisfy all students' requests, the goal is to meet the maximum percentage of requests feasible—focusing first on core academic requirements and then turning attention to electives. If it is impossible to schedule all primary course requests, the alternate choices will be utilized. Reference [Board Policy 105.4](#)

WORKING PAPERS

Students between the ages of 14 and 18 are required by law to have a Work Permit if they

work in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Directions for obtaining working papers can be accessed by visiting the high school website or clicking [Working Papers](#). Students who are employed in the state of New Jersey must report to a high school in that state in order to obtain a Work Permit.

ABUSE/NEGLECT

To ensure the safety and well-being of every child, whenever there is reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect, school teachers, administrators and nurses are mandated reporters and as such are required by law to report any occurrence directly to the appropriate county and/or local authorities. Reference [Board Policy 806](#). The definition of Child Abuse is:

- Any recent act or failure to act by a perpetrator that causes non-accidental serious physical injury to a child under age 18.
- Any recent act, failure to act, or series of such acts or failures to act by a perpetrator that creates an imminent risk of serious physical injury to a child under age 18.

CHILD CUSTODY CONCERNS

Children of single, separated or divorced parents with custody decree:

At registration time, the parent/guardian must present any existing custody document so that the school district can adhere to the terms of the custody decree where applicable. A copy of the document will be maintained in the child's school file. If there are changes to the decree, please provide the school with the most current and updated copy.

Children of single, separated or divorced parents with NO custody decree:

Both parents/guardians will be allowed access to the child as well as to all data pertaining to the child: report cards, educational and health records, the right to attend parent/guardian conferences and school activities. Parents/guardians will be notified and urged to attend meetings pertaining to special education placement, discussions pertaining to promotion or retention, suspensions, expulsions or other serious disciplinary matters. Therefore, it will be the parents'/guardians' responsibility to keep the school information of their current addresses and phone numbers up to date

ACADEMICS AND ASSESSMENT

REPORT CARDS/GRADING

Full Year Courses

There will be four marking periods for a full year course. Each marking period grade will represent twenty-five percent (25%) of the final grade. The final grade is the only grade that is entered on the student's high school transcript.

Semester Courses

There will be two marking periods for a semester course and possibly a final exam at teacher discretion. The specific grading for each course will be included in a syllabus at the beginning of a course. The final grade is the only grade for a course that is entered on the student's high school transcript.

Honor Roll

Students can qualify for Honor Roll at New Hope-Solebury High School at one of two levels, Honors and High Honors.

Honors - 3.0 GPA or higher with no grade lower than 83%

High Honors - 4.0 GPA or higher with no grade lower than 93%

Please note that weights for Honors and Advanced Placement courses are not used in calculating marking period Grade Point Average and Honor Roll status.

Non-Numeric Marks

The letter "I" represents an "Incomplete" for a course. It is used in a situation in which a student has not turned in all assigned work. As a result of illness, injury or other extenuating circumstances, a student may be issued an "I" and given ten school days following the end of the marking period to complete and submit all work. Failure to submit missing work will result in the "I" being converted to the average of all submitted work or a 50, whichever is higher.

The letter "N" represents "No Grade." An "N" is used when a teacher establishes that a student, because of circumstances beyond his or her control, cannot complete the work. At the discretion of the principal, a final mark of "N" may be assigned in the event that a student has accumulated excessive total absences in a given course. Course credit will be withheld if an "N" is issued.

The letters "WP" represents "Withdrawn Passing." A "WP" is issued when the principal approves a student's withdrawal from a course for extenuating circumstances and the student at the time of withdrawal has a passing grade. A "WP" will be reflected on a transcript but have no impact on a student's GPA. A "WF" represents "Withdrawn Failing" and is issued when the principal approves a student's withdrawal from a course for

extenuating circumstances and the student at the time of withdrawal has a failing grade. A "WF" will be reflected on a transcript and be counted the same as a failing grade within a student's GPA.

Weighted Grades

Weighted grades are used at New Hope-Solebury Senior High School. Weighted grades are intended to provide an incentive to students to take more challenging academic coursework and to more accurately predict a student's ability to do college-level work.

NH-S HS Weight Scale

		Academic Scale	Honors Scale	AP Scale
A	93-100	4	4.5	5
A-	90-92	3.7	4.2	4.7
B+	87-89	3.3	3.8	4.3
B	83-86	3	3.5	4
B-	80-82	2.7	3.2	3.7
C+	77-79	2.3	2.8	3.3
C	73-76	2	2.5	3
C-	70-72	1.7	2.2	2.7
D	65-69	1.3	1.8	2.3
F	0-64	0	0.5	1

Level I: Advanced Placement/College Credit Classes (AP)

English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, United States History, Government, Economics, European History, French, Psychology, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Calculus AB, Computer Science, Statistics, Music Theory, Spanish, Research, Seminar, and Studio Art

Level II: Challenging courses that do not meet the criteria of Level I

Honors English, Math, Science, French IV, and Spanish IV

Calculating a Cumulative Grade Point Average and Class Rank

Cumulative grade point average is based on final course grades. Weighted grades for honors and Advanced Placement courses are included in the computation of cumulative grade point average.

GPA is calculated by converting each numeric grade on the transcript to a corresponding point value using the chart above and multiplying that number by the credit value of the course. This gives you a quality point number. Do this for each course on the transcript. Add all of the quality points together and divide by the total number of credits *attempted* to arrive at a student's GPA. *Questions on any of these matters can be addressed in the Guidance Office.*

REQUIRED CLASSES AND CURRICULUM

Students at New Hope-Solebury High School must earn credits in the following areas of study in order to satisfy District graduation requirements, listed below. Reference [Board Policy 105](#) and [Board Policy 105.1](#) to understand the Right to Review.

English	4.0 credits
Social Studies	4.0 credits
Mathematics	3.0 credits
Science	3.0 credits
Health/Physical Education (1.0 each)	2.0 credits
APEX Project	0.50 credits
College & Career Planning	0.50 credits
Financial Literacy (starting in '26-27 SY)	0.50 credits
Electives	9.0 credits
TOTAL	26.5 Credits

Students are required to take a minimum number of NHSD credits each year as follows:

9th & 10th Grades: 7.0 credits

11th Grade: 6.5 credits

12th Grade: 6.0 credits (including the 0.5 APEX requirement)

HOMEWORK POLICIES

The purpose of homework is to provide review/practice of lessons and prepare the student for upcoming lessons, provide remediation and/or enrichment, as well as assist the student in developing positive study habits. The amount and type of homework you receive is determined by your teachers' judgment of your ability to profit academically. Homework is considered an important outgrowth of class activities, thus, students should expect

homework on a consistent basis. Students may be required to remain after school for incomplete written homework assignments. Homework that is graded may not account for more than 20% of the marking period grade.

The Board of School Directors has adopted a district [Homework Policy](#) that mandates limits on the amount of homework assigned to students. In particular for HS - 10 minutes x Grade Level: 9th - 90 mins, 10th - 100 mins, 11th - 110 mins, 12th - 120 mins. Reference [Board Policy 130](#)

GRADUATION

A student must attend New Hope-Solebury High School a minimum of two years, or four concurrent semesters, in order to qualify to be Valedictorian/Salutatorian. The Valedictorian/Salutatorian will be officially notified by the Principal prior to APEX/Senior Project. If a student does not complete APEX, they will forfeit that status.

Students must have satisfied all obligations in order to participate in commencement exercises. If a student does not attend graduation, their name is not read during the ceremony. Their name will be listed in the graduation program. Reference [Board Policy 217](#)

ACTIVE PERSONAL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE (APEX)

What is the Senior APEX Project?

The New Hope-Solebury School District Senior APEX Project is a student-directed, challenging project to be completed by every senior. The Senior APEX Project, based on an interest identified by the student, is shaped by an essential question about the student's chosen interest. The essential question is a broad, open-ended question (unable to be answered with a simple "yes" or "no") that drives any large research project. After that question is created, the project entails researching and answering that question and then telling us what you learned about the topic of your question.

The project is divided into four phases:

- 1) preparation
- 2) experience
- 3) reflection
- 4) presentation

Why the Senior APEX Project?

The Senior APEX Project will give you a model for learning about future endeavors. In fact, the Senior APEX Project:

- helps with transition into life after high school
- taps into an interest

- gives you a practical learning experience
- puts into practice knowledge and skills
- helps you to learn skills and habits of mind by doing
- helps with direction and focus for the future
- helps you to see the value of process
- demonstrates how learning extends beyond school
- facilitates responsibility and empowerment

When does the Senior APEX Project occur?

The NHS Senior APEX Project begins formally in January and ends after the formal presentation in June. Listed below is a general timeline. Specific dates will be determined according to the district calendar, and information will be emailed to parents and students as soon as it becomes available.

- *Seniors will end the fourth quarter in mid May*
- *Experiential phase – mid May to early June*
- *Presentation Fair – June*
- *Remediation Presentations (if needed) – scheduled prior to commencement exercises*

For additional information about the APEX project, please reference the [APEX Handbook](#) and refer to [Board Policy 217](#) for graduation requirements.

SPECIAL EDUCATION RIGHTS

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)

Every child has the right to be properly educated. Under the [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#), Chapter 14 and/or Chapter 16 of the Pennsylvania Regulations, a child has a number of rights. If a child has a qualifying disability, is gifted, or both AND as a result of the qualifying disability, giftedness, or both needs specially designed instruction, the child has a right to an IEP or GIEP. Reference [Board Policy 113](#) and [Board Policy 114](#)

STUDENT RECORD ACCESS

The New Hope-Solebury School Board recognizes the need to protect the privacy rights of special education students and their parents/guardians. The New Hope-Solebury School Board and district will adhere to the provisions of state and federal law pertaining to these privacy rights, including but not limited to, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of

1974 (FERPA), as amended, and its implementing regulations; the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as amended, and its implementing regulations; and the Pennsylvania Public School code of 1949. FERPA affords parents and students 18 years of age or former students who are attending college ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. Reference [Board Policy 216](#) Some of these rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the district receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal or Director of Student Services a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's rights. Parents or eligible students should notify the school principal or the Director of Student Services in writing of the specific records that they believe are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's rights. Such written notice must clearly identify the part of the record the parent/eligible student wishes to have changed, and specify why it is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's privacy rights. If the District agrees to amend the record, it will provide the parent/eligible student with written notice of that decision. If the district decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the district will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to request in writing a hearing before a disinterested school official to challenge the decision not to amend. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. Parents/eligible students should understand that the law provides for and/or requires disclosure without consent in specific circumstances. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with a legitimate educational interest in the record or information. The term "school officials" may include teachers, administrators, school nurses, guidance counselors, coaches, advisors, paraprofessionals, clerical staff, school safety staff and other district employees. It may also include Board members. School officials may also include district contractors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom the district has outsourced institutional services or functions, provided that such outside party performs an institutional service for which the district would otherwise use an employee, is under the direct control of the district

with respect to the use and maintenance of education records, and is subject to the requirements of Section 99.33 of FERPA, which governs the use and redisclosure of personally-identifiable information from education records. Other exceptions include disclosure without consent to officials of another school district in which a student has enrolled, seeks, or intends to enroll and to child welfare agencies in certain circumstances. .

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School and/or district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that investigates complaints is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

EQUAL RIGHTS/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The New Hope-Solebury School District will not discriminate with regards to employment or education because of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, or familial status.

For information regarding this policy, and for information regarding services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped or disabled persons, please contact our Supervisor of Student Services at 215.862.2552, ext. 6222. Reference [Board Policy 103.1](#)

TEACHER QUALIFICATION ACCESS

As a parent/guardian of a student at New Hope-Solebury School District, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. The law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's classroom teachers and requires us to give you this information in a uniform and understandable format, including alternative formats upon request; and to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following minimum information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- The status of a teacher's licensure with the Pennsylvania Department of Education has licensed and whether the teacher has obtained "highly qualified" status.
- Whether the Pennsylvania Department of Education has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.

- The teacher's college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of degrees.
- Whether any teachers' aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please call your child's building principal.

TITLE IX

The district is committed to maintaining a safe, positive learning environment free from discrimination by providing instruction, counseling, assistance, services, employment, athletics and extracurricular activities for students without any form of discrimination, including Title IX sexual harassment. Discrimination is inconsistent with the rights of students and the educational and programmatic goals of the district and is prohibited at or, in the course of, district-sponsored programs or activities, including transportation to or from school or school-sponsored activities.

Violations of this policy, including acts of retaliation as described in this policy, or knowingly providing false information, may result in disciplinary consequences under applicable Board policy and procedures.

Reports of Title IX Sexual Harassment and Other Discrimination and Retaliation

The Board encourages students and third parties who believe they or others have been subject to Title IX sexual harassment, other discrimination or retaliation to promptly report such incidents to the building principal, even if some elements of the related incident took place or originated away from school grounds, school activities or school conveyances. A person who is not an intended victim or target of discrimination but is adversely affected by the offensive conduct may file a report of discrimination.

The student's parents/guardians or any other person with knowledge of conduct that may violate this policy is encouraged to immediately report the matter to the building principal.

A school employee who suspects or is notified that a student has been subject to conduct that constitutes a violation of this policy shall immediately report the incident to the building principal and properly file any mandatory police or child protective services reports required by law.[22]

If the building principal is the subject of a complaint, the student, third party or a reporting employee shall report the incident directly to the Title IX Coordinator.

The complainant or the individual making the report may use the [Discrimination/Sexual Harassment/Bullying/Hazing/Dating Violence/Retaliation Report Form](#) for purposes of reporting an incident or incidents in writing; however, verbal reports of an incident or incidents shall be accepted, documented and the procedures of this policy and the relevant attachments followed. Reference [Board Policy 103](#) and [Board Policy 104](#)

CAFETERIA

SCHOOL CAFE

[SchoolCafe](#) is our district's food service application. Our food service staff will use this to process payments in the school cafeterias. Families can use SchoolCafe to add funds to your child's Food Service Account, apply for free or reduced-price meals, view menus, and review your child's purchase history.

LUNCH & LEARN

The [Lunch & Learn](#) period provides time during the school day for student choice. It is meant to empower students to self-reflect and consider what they need on a day-to-day basis. In essence, the students maintain ownership and control over their own learning and wellness needs and can access myriad and mutable offerings to support those needs. Student success and participation in the Lunch & Learn model, however, depends upon a respect for the building, staff, opportunities, and other students.

No classes will be held during the Lunch & Learn period (64 minutes). During this time, students may opt to eat their lunch in designated areas, attend an activity or Career Pathway guest speaker, meet with their guidance counselor, attend pre-arranged or drop-in (if available) meetings with teachers, or engage in other various activities offered. Staff members are only available for 30 minutes of the Lunch & Learn period, so students are expected to make arrangements with teachers and staff based on their availability.

Some options available to students are:

- Lunch in the cafeteria, or other designated areas, at your choice of times within the hour
- Visit teachers, counselors, staff members (if available or arranged in advance)
- Library and Academic Resource Center (ARC)

- Designated collaborative study and work areas
- Gym and fitness center (periodically)
- Staff-led wellness options (periodically)
- Guest speaker and Career Pathway programming (periodically)

Students will be assigned to one of three tiers for Lunch & Learn access. These tiers are not static and are subject to change based on academic standing, behavior and office discipline referrals, attendance, and general adherence to Lunch & Learn guidelines.

- Lion Status: Students have choice to pursue whatever options are available at the high school
- Monitored Status: Students will have choices limited to academic offerings
 - MTSS students (failing more than one subject)
- Supervised Status: Students will be assigned to a designed area/s for structured reinforcement and support
 - MTSS students and/or students with multiple ODRs.

FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH

Families who wish to apply for free or reduced meals may do so by obtaining forms from the school social worker, school nurse or on the Compass PA website: www.compass.state.pa.us. Reference [Board Policy 808](#)

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

Assembly programs and school guests are important supplements to the curriculum. Typically, these events will be held during Lunch and Learn in the Buck Theatre. Proper student behavior is required. As a general rule, the following behaviors are expected unless otherwise stated:

- Arrive and be seated in an orderly and quiet manner. Students are to be seated in the areas designated by their homeroom teacher or supervising adult.
- Cease conversation when the program begins.
- Be attentive and properly responsive to the speaker and/or performers.

- Be courteous at all times.
- Remain seated until dismissed by supervising staff.
- Refrain from calling out, whistling, or making distracting noises.

Students who fail to meet these expectations will be subject to removal and administrative discipline.

CARE OF DISTRICT PROPERTY

Providing educational resources for our students is essential to the learning experience. This section provides an overview of expectations regarding the care and return of these resources. It also outlines our efforts to protect student property while they are on school premises. Reference [Board Policy 224](#)

LOCKERS

No lockers are assigned at the start of the school year. Students may request a locker by completing the [request form](#) in their grade level Canvas Course if they wish. The student's PE teacher will also assign a gym locker. Each student assigned a locker will keep it for the duration of the school year. The assigned locker is the only locker a student is to use. Students are prohibited from sharing their assigned locker with another student (unless approved by the office) or from using a locker that is not assigned to them. Lockers are the property of the District and are issued to students as a courtesy for personal use. The privacy of the locker will ordinarily be respected; however, *school officials reserve the right to search any locker if there is reasonable suspicion of a threat to the health, welfare or safety of students*. Students are encouraged to leave valuables at home and are advised to bring limited amounts of cash to school. What cash students bring to school with them should be kept on their persons. The District will not assume responsibility for lost items or cash.

All lockers are equipped with built-in locks. Disabling the lock or circumventing the mechanism will substantially increase opportunities for others to access the locker resulting in the potential loss of valuables. The school is not responsible for such losses.

The exterior locker face is to be kept free of all stickers and permanent markings. Temporary decorations may be placed on the exterior face of a locker to celebrate special occasions. These temporary decorations are to be removed within one week of the event or at the end of the sporting season. If not removed, custodians will remove within that time frame. Under no circumstances are students to use any type of adhesive, such as scotch tape or masking tape, to secure decorations. Only materials that do not leave residue are permitted.

The interior locker face may be decorated with pictures and other memorabilia. All decorations are to be in good taste and appropriate. Administration has the right to remove any material deemed inappropriate or offensive. Stickers and permanent markings of any kind are prohibited. It is the responsibility of the student to keep their assigned locker clean and in good order. Problems with lockers are to be reported to the High School Office.

TEXTBOOKS

Students may be assigned textbooks in various classes and are responsible for returning the book in the same condition as it was received. If a student neglects to return the book or return the book in an unacceptable condition, they will be charged full replacement value.

LIBRARY RESOURCES

The library operates as an academic, social, and collaborative learning space in the high school. Aside from the multitude of print and digital resources students have access to, there is also a dedicated computer lab where teachers are welcome to bring their classes or send students in small groups to work on projects. The Podcasting Studio grants students the chance to exercise their creativity by themselves or with each other by creating digital media in a professional recording studio. Teachers can opt to reserve the Podcasting Studio by contacting the [high school librarian](#).

Students may elect to come to the library during Lunch & Learn or during their designated study hall period with the permission of their teacher. The courtyard outside of the library offers a forum for students to play games and socialize, weather permitting and so long as the rules of the library are observed. In keeping with tradition, the library also functions as a quiet sanctuary for students to find a nook and spend some quality time with a book. Any student seeking to check-out a book (even one not in-house) can speak to the librarian to see if it can be procured through interlibrary loan.

OBLIGATIONS

District property issued to students is expected to be returned upon request in the condition in which it was issued. Students and their parents/guardians will be billed for the cost of replacing lost or damaged items. The billing for lost or damaged property will be based on the current replacement cost.

Students, and their parents/guardians, will be given one marking period for remitting

payment for lost or damaged property. Students and/or parents/guardians may request an extension of the due date if necessary. If payment is not remitted by the due date, the student will immediately become ineligible for extracurricular activities (athletics inclusive), field trips, and graduation until such time as payment is received in full by the school office.

Failure to turn in obligations may result in a student not receiving academic transcript, report card, schedule, diploma, and may not be permitted to walk in the graduation ceremony.

THEFT/REPORTING THEFT

Victims of theft are to complete a theft report form in the High School office. Those persons having knowledge of the activity have a duty to report the facts as they understand them to the appropriate school official. Any person involved in such activity, or any person withholding information useful in identifying those involved, will be subject to the stiffest possible penalties, up to and including suspension and law enforcement involvement. A copy of all completed theft reports will be forwarded to the Borough of New Hope Police Department for their interest and discretionary action.

LOST AND FOUND

A Lost and Found is located outside of the cafeteria. Found articles of value should be turned in to the High School office. Items of value will be held by the office. All other items not claimed at the end of each marking period will be donated to a local charity.

TECHNOLOGY

TECHNOLOGY USE

The New Hope-Solebury School District embraces the evolution of technology and its central role in the educational process. The smooth operation of our district's technology resources relies upon the responsible conduct of all users. Reference [Board Policy 249](#) and [Board Policy 815](#)

- All use of the internet, computers or other district electronic resources will support educational activities.
- Electronic storage areas will be treated like school lockers. The privacy of electronic mail cannot be guaranteed. Teachers and administrators have the right to review files to maintain the integrity of the network and ensure that individuals are using the system responsibly.

- **Students, staff, parents/guardians, and teachers have a responsibility to report breaches of network security.**
- Students are responsible for the integrity of their own work. Systems occasionally “crash”; files are occasionally lost. The District can make no guarantees regarding reliability of the technical system.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENT USE OF ELECTRONICS

All student users are expected to abide by the rules of computer and network etiquette. For their own safety, students should exercise care and never reveal the personal addresses or phone numbers of students or staff to unknown users. The following activities are not permitted:

1. Sending or displaying inappropriate text or graphics.
2. Using obscene or offensive language.
3. Harassing others.
4. Damaging computer workstations or networks, vandalizing, damaging, or disabling the property of another person or organization.
5. Violating copyright laws.
6. Plagiarism: use of another person’s intellectual property without their permission or proper bibliographic reference. This includes the copying of commercial software or copying another student’s intellectual property and representing it as your own.
7. Using the network for any illegal activity.
8. Unauthorized access to areas of the Internet.
9. Accessing another individual’s materials, information or files without permission. Unauthorized access to areas of the network.
10. Wasting limited resources.
11. Employing the network for personal financial or commercial gain.
12. Misrepresenting or impersonating another user.
13. Students are prohibited from degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance, intentionally spreading viruses and other destructive programs.

CONSEQUENCES

Students violating any of the rules will face consequences to be determined by their principal or teacher according to the severity or nature of the infraction. Violations may result in loss of access and, in appropriate cases, may involve a report to law enforcement agencies. Consequences may include:

1. The student may be required to attend retraining sessions concerning the use of proper procedures.
2. The student may be required to make restitution for network or software/hardware damage.
3. The student may be banned from using telecommunication facilities for a specified period of time.
4. The student may be banned from using all technological equipment for a specified period of time (30, 60, 90 days, or up to one full school year).
5. The student may fail the marking period and/or the class.
6. The student may face suspension, detention, or expulsion.

CELL PHONES

Cell phones may only be used during school hours under certain circumstances. During Lunch & Learn, students are able to access and use their cell phone so long as they do not violate any bulleted item listed under "Prohibited Use" (see below). All classrooms are outfitted with designated cell phone storage compartments, and students are expected to place their phones in airplane mode and store them away in these compartments at the start of each class period. Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary actions, including administrative directives for students to turn in their cell phones to the Main Office at the start of each school day.

Those students requesting the use of cell phones for medical reasons (supported with a doctor's note) must obtain prior approval by the building principal. If suspected of being used in an inappropriate manner, or as part of an investigation, cell phones may be confiscated. Offenders will be subject to progressive discipline.

Prohibited Use

- Students shall not use personal electronic devices during instructional times during the school day, unless a teacher or school administrator has authorized it for instructional purposes.
- Students shall not use personal electronic devices in locker rooms, restrooms, or the nurse's office for any reason.
- Students shall not engage in the unauthorized audio or video recording of another person during the school day.
- Students shall not use personal electronic devices to bully, harass, or threaten another person in violation of school district policies and rules.
- Students shall not engage in phone calls, live video communication, or social media videos (i.e. FaceTime, Tik Tok) during the school day.

Acceptable Use

- Students may access their personal electronic devices during Lunch & Learn, Study Hall, prior to 7:50 a.m. and after 2:30 p.m. on school days.

Students may use the telephone or their cell phone in the High School Office upon request and for emergency purposes. Headphones, ipods, and portable music players are permitted to be used in common areas and study halls with the approval of the supervising teacher. If one of these items is misused during the day, the student may be asked to relinquish it.

Note: The school will not be responsible for the damage, loss or theft of any cell phone or electronic device. Reference [Board Policy 225](#), [Board Policy 237](#), and [Board Policy 815](#).

CODE OF CONDUCT

DRESS CODE

New Hope-Solebury School District is committed to creating a safe and conducive learning environment for all students. To maintain a positive and respectful atmosphere, the following dress code policy has been established. [Reference Board Policy 221](#)

- Appropriateness: Students are expected to dress in a manner that is appropriate for a positive learning environment. Clothing that poses a risk of substantial disruption, is invasion of others' rights, endorses illegal drug use, is lewd, vulgar, or profane, or may affect the health and safety or others strictly prohibited.
- Safety: Appropriate footwear should be worn at all times during the school day. Sneakers must be worn for physical education classes.
- Headgear: Headgear, such as hats, caps, and hoods, should not be worn indoors unless for medical or religious reasons.
- Sunglasses: Sunglasses are not to be worn indoors unless for medical reasons
- Exceptions: Exceptions to the dress code may be granted for special events or activities.

Students' respect for these guidelines is expected. Should a student's dress be inconsistent with these guidelines, they will be asked to change. If the student has no change of clothing available, a parent/guardian will be asked to provide a change of clothing. Repeat offenders will be subject to appropriate discipline.

DISCIPLINE CODE

The purpose of NHSD disciplinary procedures is to develop and support behavior that is self-directed, based on principles of social commitment, and which facilitates student learning. The Board of School Directors with the recommendation of parents, faculty, and students adopts rules and regulations necessary for the orderly conduct of the school. A fair, consistent discipline code is an integral part of a sound educational program. These practices have the following goals:

- To guarantee the rights of all staff and students by providing a discipline code that establishes rules and regulations prohibiting speech or actions that are disruptive to the learning environment.
- To guarantee the rights of each individual through fair and reasonable treatment of violators of the discipline code.
- To effect positive change in behavior.
- To comply with federal, state, and local law.
- To provide an atmosphere within the school of mutual respect and productive interdependence.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Pennsylvania Code Title 22, Education, Chapter 12 STUDENTS, outlines, in part, the following responsibilities:

Student responsibilities include regular school attendance, conscientious effort in classroom work, and acceptance of school rules and regulations. Most of all, students share with the administration and faculty a responsibility to develop a climate within the school that is conducive to wholesome learning and living.

Every student has the right to an education that is free of disruption or interference. It is the responsibility of each student to respect the rights of teachers, students, and administrators and to promote the interests of the learning community.

PARENT/GUARDIAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents/guardians are critical partners in the educational process. Parents have the right to be informed about their child's school progress and to advocate for their child's interests. It is the parent's responsibility to nurture in their child(ren) honest conduct, acceptance of school expectations, as well as respect for the law, public and private property, and the physical and emotional well-being of others.

FACULTY/STAFF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The school faculty and staff are responsible for creating and maintaining a growth-enhancing educational environment that promotes learning and is responsive to and respectful of individual differences. Articulating and demanding appropriate student behavior in the classroom and in shared spaces is a function of this responsibility.

Please see the complete [K-12 Expectations And Code of Conduct](#)

Reference [Board Policy 113.1](#), [Board Policy 218](#), and [Board Policy 235](#).

PROBATION

Students displaying persistent misbehavior may be assigned school probation. The length of the probation period can vary from 30 to 60 school days. During this time, school privileges such as attendance at school functions and assembly programs and use of passes during the school day may be withheld. Probation is removed when a marked improvement occurs in behavior.

PEER RELATIONS

It is quite natural to have occasional disagreements with peers. In the event this does occur, students are to take the following steps:

- Speak with the other party and attempt to quietly negotiate your differences.
- If not satisfied with the response of the other party, try ignoring him or her. If not comfortable speaking with the other party, go directly to this step.
- If the disagreement becomes or threatens to become heated, seek the assistance of an adult to help mediate the dispute.
- Inform your parent/guardian of your concern and invite your parent/guardian to be of help to you in finding a solution.

~~At no time will school officials tolerate the exchange of heated or fighting words in or around the school or at school functions. Students involved in such conduct will face appropriate consequences. Any student involved in a physical altercation will be suspended and will be subject to criminal charges.~~

BULLYING/HARASSMENT/HAZING

Hazing, Threats & Intimidation

The New Hope-Solebury School District Board of School Directors believes that students must be protected from hazing and other hurtful acts. All verbal, written or physical conduct that harasses, humiliates, or persecutes students, or disrupts or interferes with any student's curricular or co-curricular experiences shall not be tolerated. Any student who believes that actions or words of an employee or another student constitute hazing

has a responsibility to report such behavior to the principal. Any student or New Hope-Solebury employee who is found, after appropriate investigation, to have engaged in the hazing of any student or the filing of false charges shall be subject to disciplinary actions up to and including suspension or expulsion. ([District Policy 247 - Hazing](#)) Verbal and/or, written threats against persons or property are subject to the same guidelines as hazing.

Sexual Harassment

It is the policy of the New Hope-Solebury School District to keep the learning and working environment free from sexual harassment. It shall be a violation of this policy for any member of the District staff to harass a student through conduct or communications of a sexual nature as defined below. It shall also be a violation of this policy for students to harass a member of the District staff or other students through conduct or communications of a sexual nature as defined below. Sexual harassment shall consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other inappropriate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when made by any member of the school community to another member of the school community when:

- Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's education, or when
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting that individual, or when
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.

Sexual harassment, as defined above, may include, but is not limited to the following: verbal harassment or abuse; pressure for sexual activity; repeated remarks to a person, with sexual or demeaning implications; unwelcome touching; suggesting or demanding sexual involvement accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades or work. Any person who alleges sexual harassment by any staff member or student in the District may use the District's complaint procedure or may complain directly to his/her teacher, guidance counselor or principal.

Bullying

Bullying means an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical, social, or emotional act or series of acts directed at any student or employee, which occurs in a school setting that is severe, persistent or pervasive. Bullying involves a real or perceived power imbalance. A power imbalance may be caused by one's physical size, one's ability to communicate, and/or one's ability to advocate for him/herself.

Acts of bullying include, but are not limited to:

1. Substantial interference with a student's education.
2. Creation of a threatening environment.
3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.
4. Physical or verbal attacks.

Reference [Board Policy 247](#) and [Board Policy 249](#)

HALL PASSES

Hallway traffic is to be limited during instructional periods so that class activities are not disrupted. If a student must leave class, the student will be issued a pass from their teacher and sign out/sign in to class when leaving and returning. Students found in the hallways without passes will be returned to their classroom and disciplined, if appropriate. Students called from class by a school office need not have a pass issued. The student will be issued a pass by the office for his/her return to class.

UNAUTHORIZED AREAS

During the school day, students are not permitted in the theater, gymnasiums, locker rooms, outdoor areas or staff work areas unless under the supervision of a teacher. Students found in these areas without prior permission will be sent to the high school office for administrative discipline.

TRESPASSING

Students are not permitted to be in school or on school grounds, unsupervised, after school hours, on weekends or days off from school. Students are not to arrive at the building until 7:30 AM unless granted approval by the administration.

UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS

Students are never to admit anyone into any school building for any reason whatsoever. Outside of the start and end of the school day, all students, parents, community members, and visitors are expected to enter and exit the building through the Main Office doors by the stadium. All entrances and exits in the building are monitored by video surveillance. If any student is observed allowing unauthorized access to the building, disciplinary consequences will be levied, up to and including suspension from school.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS AND INTEGRITY

Academic content is introduced to help students understand themselves and the world in which they live. Individual understanding and academic achievement are the result of

consistent effort and application. There is no substitute for hard work and engagement. The following are daily expectations of all students:

- Participate constructively in class activities
- Complete assignments conscientiously and in a timely manner
- Prepare thoroughly for assessments and special assignments
- Contribute to the creation and maintenance of a wholesome learning environment
- Demonstrate respect to others and their opinions
- Keep parent/guardian informed of progress and/or problems
- Seek help when needed

Academic integrity means that students' work products and demonstrations of understanding are not borrowed or taken from another source without attribution or credit. It means that the opinions, ideas, and views expressed by the student are the product of his or her own thinking.

Cheating of any kind is a serious violation and is treated accordingly. Facilitating or participating in an act of cheating is every bit as serious. The following is a partial listing of the more common forms that cheating takes. This list is not exhaustive, but it is illustrative. Cheating of any kind is unacceptable.

- Copying answers to quiz or test questions and/or written work (e.g., homework and/or lab reports) from another student without the prior approval of the teacher.
- Facilitating other students in the unauthorized copying of answers to quiz or test questions and/or written work (e.g., homework and/or lab reports).
- Submitting work completed with others as your own without the prior approval of the teacher.
- Plagiarism or the use of another's words or ideas in a written assignment without giving that person credit for the words or ideas. Check citation requirements for written work with the teacher before submitting it.
 - Students found to be cheating will receive consequences at the teacher's discretion and/or referral to administration.
 - Cheating of any kind will result in removal from—and/or prohibit consideration from—the National Honor Society, Peer Leadership and/or any other school organization that has the virtues of honesty and good character as part of the selection criteria.

SMOKING/TOBACCO

The NHSD prohibits student possession, use, purchase and sale of tobacco and vaping products, including Juuls and other electronic cigarettes. Reference [Board Policy 222](#) and Board Policy 904.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

The New Hope-Solebury School District values each member of the school community and believes that all individuals have the right to develop to their fullest potential. The District recognizes that self-destructive behaviors adversely affect the ability of members of the school community to achieve personal and educational goals.

[District Policy 227 - Controlled Substances](#) is based on the belief that chemical dependency is a life-threatening illness that affects the emotional, physical and intellectual development of all individuals. It is designed to help students, staff and parents understand and effectively respond to substance related problems. It also assumes that chemical dependency is a treatable illness and that early intervention for "at-risk" students will enhance the effectiveness of our schools. Students, District staff and parents must understand and support this policy if it is to be an effective tool in the prevention of substance abuse among the students of New Hope-Solebury High School.

The purpose of the drug and alcohol guidelines is to provide a consistent response to substance-related problems while recognizing the needs and rights of all concerned parties. Procedures are designed to protect the health, safety and welfare of all students.

Policy

- The District prohibits the possession, use, sale or distribution (or any attempt to possess, use, sell or distribute) of alcohol, controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia on school property, in school vehicles, or at school-sponsored events. Violators will be subject to suspension and criminal proceedings.
- This policy authorizes and establishes the professional school-based intervention groups -- the New Hope-Solebury Student Assistance Program and the New Hope-Solebury Student Assistance Team -- for the purpose of providing intervention and/or referral services to at-risk students.
- Students who appear to be at-risk for substance use are to be referred to the Student Assistance Program (SAP) team. This team shall serve as the direct intervention component of the Student Assistance Program. Peers, teachers, staff members and parents may refer students to the SAP team. Referral forms may be found in the Guidance Office.
- The District shall educate, intervene in, and strive to prevent substance abuse.
- The District shall enforce all federal, state, and local laws in addition to District policies, regulations and guidelines.

Reasonable Suspicion

District policy authorizes a school administrator to require a student to complete a drug or alcohol test in the event a school official has reasonable suspicion that a student has consumed a controlled substance. Students will be evaluated by the school nurse. A student's failure to immediately comply with a directive to be tested will result in a five-day suspension out-of-school.

SEARCHES

Where there is suspicion of a threat to the health, welfare or safety of students in school, administrative personnel have the authority to search lockers and to request students to divulge contents of their pockets, handbags, and other personal property, including cars. Illegal materials found will be confiscated and may be used in evidence against the student in disciplinary and legal proceedings. Please see [District Policy 226 - Searches](#) for further details. See also [District Policy 227 - Controlled Substances](#) and [District Policy 227.1 - Reasonable Suspicion and Drug Testing](#)

WEAPONS

The Board prohibits students from possessing and bringing weapons and replicas of weapons into any school district buildings, onto school property, to any school-sponsored activity, onto any public vehicle providing transportation to school or a school-sponsored activity and/or while the student is traveling to or from school. [Policy 218.1, Weapons](#)

The term **weapon** shall include but not be limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku, firearm, shotgun, rifle, replica of a weapon, and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury. A student is in possession of a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the student; in the student's locker; and/or under the student's control while on school property, on property being used by the school, at any school function or activity, at any school event held away from the school, or while the student is traveling to or from school.

SCHOOL DANCES

School dances are scheduled for high school students at the initiative of students and with prior approval from the principal. Participating students must be in good standing in terms of academics and conduct. Student attendees and their guests are to report directly to the dance area and remain in this area until dismissed. Doors will close 30 minutes after the dance has started and dismissal will begin no less than 1 hour prior to its end. Please plan on staying at the dance or do not attend. If a student would like to bring a guest from another school, the NHS student must fill out a guest form as well as submit a copy of their guest's valid driver's license or school ID well in advance of the event.

JUNIOR/SENIOR PRIVILEGES

Certain privileges are extended to members of the Junior and Senior Classes in accordance with terms agreed to by the class officers and principal. All such privileges are made available on the basis of satisfactory conduct, attendance, and academic performance and are subject to individual and/or group revocation on the basis of single acts of non-compliant or disruptive conduct; otherwise, the privileges will be earned on the basis of performance and conduct from marking period to marking period, effective the fourth marking period of the previous year. *The minimal academic standard for earning privileges is a passing grade in each subject. The minimal behavioral standard for earning privileges is a good disciplinary record; that is, no more than two afternoon detentions and no Saturday detention or suspension in a marking period.* Exceptions to these guidelines are solely at the discretion of the principal.

Senior Class Trip

If there is a Senior Class trip, participation will be limited to those students, who at the time of trip registration, are entitled to senior privileges and have a good attendance record as determined by the principal.

Senior/Junior Prom

Senior/Junior Prom is a privilege. A student must be eligible in terms of the NHS requirements for co-curricular participation. In order to attend Prom, a student must meet the attendance/disciplinary requirement threshold. Please reference both of those policies for guidance.

PARKING POLICIES

Student parking will be on a first-come, first served basis. No student parking is permitted in the yellow staff spaces, along the curbing, inside the circle at the main office or in the lot along Bridge Street. *The school is not responsible for items left in the vehicles.*

During the school day, students may enter their cars only with the permission from the high school office and with escort from security or an administrator. The posted speed limit on school property is 15 miles per hour. Students are to obey all signs and posted rules. No vehicle is to be operated on the school campus in a way that is reckless or that might cause an accident or injury to anyone. Reckless driving will result in the loss of

driving and parking privileges.

All motor vehicles parked on school property are subject to search by the administration at any time there is a reasonable suspicion that the student is violating law, Board policy or school rules, or poses a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the school population.

[\(District Policy 226 - Searches\)](#)

Parking on school district property is a privilege. Therefore, students who violate the driving and/or parking regulations are subject to disciplinary consequences such as detentions, suspensions and/or revocation of parking privileges. Students violating driving and/or parking regulations will receive the following disciplinary consequences:

- 1st offense Warning
- 2nd & 3rd offenses Tuesday/Thursday detention
- 4th offense Saturday detention
- 5th & more offenses Saturday detention/ISS/loss of future parking/driving privileges

NOTES AND RESOURCES

Please be aware that this handbook is periodically revised and can be updated at any time should the situation arise or should board policies change.

To review all Board of School Directors policies, utilize the [BoardDocs portal](#) on the district website.

For other helpful information, please reference New Hope-Solebury School District School Handbook. All school handbooks are posted to nhsd.org.