

North Putnam Community School Corporation

# Bainbridge Elementary School Handbook

2020-2021



*Creating a community of learners by transforming education to meet all needs.*

**Mr. Rodney Simpson, Principal**  
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## HANDBOOK STATEMENT

Educational services, programs, instruction, and facilities will not be denied to anyone in the North Putnam Community Corporation as the result of his/her race, color, sex, disability, or national origin, including limited English proficiency. For further information, or to file a complaint please contact the following:

Title IX Coordinator &  
Civil Rights Compliance

Rhonda Jackson, Special Education Coordinator  
Bainbridge Elementary School  
765-522-6233

Superintendent: Dr. Nicole Singer  
300 North Washington Street  
Bainbridge, Indiana 46105  
765-522-6218

Terry Tippin, Section 504 Coordinator  
300 North Washington Street  
Bainbridge, Indiana 46105  
765-522-6218

High Ability Coordinator  
Mrs. Beth Waterman, Principal  
305 South Indiana Street  
Roachdale, Indiana 46172  
765-522-1732

Title I Coordinator  
Mr. Rodney Simpson, Principal  
412 South Washington Street  
Bainbridge, Indiana 46105  
765-522-6233

**The handbook is still subject to change due to revisions in state law and Board policy.**

## **WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOLS**

For more information regarding the school and the staff directory, please access the school's website at <http://www.nputnam.k12.in.us>.

### **NORTH PUTNAM COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**

Superintendent's Office  
300 N Washington St  
P.O. Box 169  
Bainbridge, IN 46105  
765-522-6218

North Putnam High School  
8869 N County Road 250 E  
Roachdale, IN 46172  
765-522-6282

North Putnam Middle School  
8905 N County Road 250 E  
Roachdale, IN 46172  
765-522-2900

Bainbridge Elementary  
412 S Washington St  
Bainbridge, IN 46105  
765-522-6233

Roachdale Elementary  
507 S Indiana St  
Roachdale, IN 46172  
765-522-1732

Transportation Office  
125 W Seminary St  
Bainbridge, IN 46105  
765-522-6220

Old National Trail Special Education Services  
1 N Calbert Way Suite B  
Greencastle, IN 46135  
765-653-2781

### **MISSION STATEMENT OF NORTH PUTNAM SCHOOL CORPORATION**

The North Putnam School Corporation builds on a strong sense of community to provide a safe and secure learning environment that supports the social, emotional, and academic needs of students through excellence in teaching and learning.

### **VISION STATEMENT OF NORTH PUTNAM SCHOOL CORPORATION**

The North Putnam School Corporation serves as the heart of the community where all students receive an excellent education and develop the capacity required to become productive and contributing members of society.

## **CORE VALUES**

**Cougars move with speed for the school community!**

S-Support  
P-Protect  
E-Education  
E-Encourage  
D-Develop

## **NORTH PUTNAM SCHOOL CORPORATION GOALS**

- 1. Create a Unique District Identity**
- 2. Support Individualized Student Success**
- 3. Quality Environment**
- 4. Safe Learning Environment**

## **MESSAGE FROM MR. SIMPSON**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Bainbridge Elementary School, we are excited to welcome you to Bainbridge Elementary School for the 2020-21 academic year. The elementary school years are an important time in your child's education and we are honored to participate in their academic development.

The student handbook is prepared so that all parents and students at Bainbridge Elementary may gain an understanding of the daily operation of our school. Though every attempt has been made to cover all subject matters that may occur, some items may not be included. Please feel free to contact the Bainbridge office for further information.

The teacher, parent, and student relationship is very important for student achievement and a positive school environment. We look forward to collaborating with you as we all join together to support our students to ensure their success.

Sincerely,

Mr. Rodney Simpson, Principal

## **BAINBRIDGE ELEMENTARY VISION STATEMENT**

*Bainbridge Elementary students will be provided with a safe, positive school environment which recognizes individual strengths and talents and supports and guides those students to achieve their personal best.*

## **MISSION STATEMENT OF BAINBRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

*Creating a community of learners by transforming education to meet all needs.*

## **BAINBRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOAL**

1. *Bainbridge Elementary School will increase student achievement in ELA and Math on ILEARN by 10% or more, and improve the school letter grade by demonstrating positive growth in all achievement groups.*

## **FOREWORD**

This student handbook was developed to answer many of the commonly asked questions that you and your parents may have during the school year. Because the handbook contains information about student rights and responsibilities, each student is responsible for knowing its contents. Please take time to become familiar with the following information and keep the handbook available for you and your parents' use. It can be a valuable reference during the school year and a means to avoid confusion and misunderstanding when questions arise. Should you have any questions that are not addressed in this handbook, contact your Principal whose contact information you will find listed in the Staff Directory section of the school's website. This handbook is supplementary to Board policy. Should a provision of this handbook contradict Board policy, the Board policy prevails. This handbook supersedes all prior handbooks and other written material on the same subjects.

## **NPCSC NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT**

The North Putnam Community School Corporation is committed to equal opportunity and does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex, handicapping conditions, or national origin including limited English proficiency, in any employment opportunity, educational program, or student activity. No person is excluded from participating in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to unlawful discrimination on such basis in any employment practice, educational program, or student activity.

If you believe that the North Putnam Community School Corporation or any of the corporation's staff has inadequately applied the principles and/or regulations of (1) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (2) Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, and/or (3) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the Americans with Disabilities Act, you may present a complaint, which shall be referred to as a grievance, to one of the civil Rights compliance coordinators listed below:

Building Level Violations – Building Principal  
Corporation Level Violations – Superintendent

## **ACADEMICS**

The program of the elementary school builds basic foundations for understanding in the ever-expanding environment of each child, as well as a carefully planned developmental program of instruction. Planning for curriculum and instruction begins with the Indiana State Standards. These standards were established to ensure that students are prepared for College and Career Readiness. Instruction in the various subject matter areas includes:

- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science/Health
- Social Studies
- STEM
- Music
- Art
- Physical Education
- Library
- One-One Chromebook

The school uses a variety of assessment strategies to determine student progress toward mastery of content and skills. In addition to weekly classroom tests, students are assessed at the beginning, middle, and end of the year to determine readiness for State Standardized Tests (IREAD 3 & ILEARN). These formative assessments provide teachers with the necessary data to plan instruction and determine individual student needs. Since no two students are the same, instruction is differentiated whenever possible to instruct below, on target, or above level learners. The following resources and programs are in place to assist the diverse needs of students:

- Least restrictive placement for students with special needs
- High ability cluster grouping
- Title I remediation
- Multi Tiered System of Support
- After school tutoring
- Summer school
- Speech services
- STEM Camp

Parents are encouraged to partner with the classroom teacher to ensure that a student's learning needs are being met. All assessment data collected for each student is shared with parents throughout the school year.

## **ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL**

The school building opens each day at 8:00a.m. for student arrival. The gym doors will be used for car riders to drop off between the hours of 8:00-8:20 a.m. Class begins at 8:30 a.m. Students should exit the car on the passenger side closest to the sidewalk. Parents should stay in their car and let the system flow. Students walking or riding a bike to school will enter through the front doors. Students arriving by bus will enter the front doors.

Upon entering the building, students eating breakfast should report to the cafeteria to pick up their grab and go breakfast and take it to their classroom. Students not eating breakfast should report to their classroom.

## **ATTENDANCE** (I.C. 20-31-5-4 and governed by NPCSC Board Policy 6231)

It is imperative that students be in attendance each School day in order not to miss a significant portion of their education. Many important learnings result from active participation in classroom and other School activities which cannot be replaced by individual study. The corporation attendance goal is 96% or higher for each year. Parents are expected to contact the school office by 9:30am in the event of a student absence. The school will send out an automated alert call to any parent/guardian who has not called in each absence.

Exempt absences are for reasons provided by Indiana Code.

- Serve as a page or as an honoree in the Indiana General Assembly (IC 20-33-2-14)
- Serving on the precinct election board or as a helper to a political candidate or party on the day of a municipal, primary, or general election (IC 20-33-2-15)
- In response to a subpoena to testify in court (IC 20-33-2-16)
- The student is approved for an educationally related non-classroom activity (IC 20-33-2-17.2)
- The student or member of the student's household exhibits or participate in the INdiana State Fair for educational purposes (IC 20-33-2-17.7)

Excused absences are defined as absences that the school corporation regards as legitimate reasons for being out of school, as included in the school policy. These could include:

- Illness verified by note from parent or guardian
- Illness verified by note from a physician
- Family funeral

- Military related deployment or return
- Recognized religious holidays
- Situations mandated by government agency
- Prearranged absence approved by the principal

An unexcused absence is any absence not covered under the definition of excused. School principals shall determine whether circumstances warrant the granting of make-up work for unexcused absences. Parents are encouraged to schedule vacation time that corresponds to the vacation days built into the school calendar. Absences due to vacation time beyond that of the school calendar are considered unexcused.

Indiana’s compulsory attendance law mandates that children attend school every day school is in session. School officials and parents are obligated, by law, to ensure that students attend school in compliance with this regulation. Being at school regularly and on time, is vital for children to be successful learners. Students who accrue more than ten (10) countable days during the school year, will be considered excessively absent.

Medical excuses and dental appointments will be included in the 10 countable days. The school will notify the parents/guardians in writing on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> day of absence. Beyond 8 days of absence, a physician’s note is required for the day to be counted as excused. Upon the 10<sup>th</sup> total absence from school, the principal will review all absences and determine an appropriate course of action including, but not limited to, establishing an attendance contract, retention of the student in the current grade, referral to Child Services, and/or a report made to the Putnam County Prosecutor’s office.

Absence and tardiness defined:

The following is the means for which a student’s attendance is recorded.

Students who arrive:

- After 8:30 a.m. and before 10 a.m.....Tardy
- After 10:00 a.m. and before 2 p.m.....Half-day absent
- After 2 p.m.....Full day absent

Students who leave:

- Before 10 a.m..... Full day absent
- After 10 a.m. and before 1 p.m.....Half-day absent
- After 1 p.m.....Tardy

Parents shall accompany the student to the office upon late arrival to school and sign the student into school. Similarly, parents shall report to the office to sign-out a departing student from school. Frequent and habitual tardiness to school will result in referral to the Department of Child Services for possible charges of educational neglect.

Truancy (I.C. 20-33-2-3.2 and NPCSC Board Policy 6232) – Students absent from school without the permission and/or knowledge of their parent/guardian or school officials will be recorded as truant. Students who are truant shall be subject to disciplinary action.

## **BEHAVIOR AND CONDUCT**

Bainbridge Elementary School students are encouraged to learn the school pledge which outlines the behavior expectations for the school:

*“Today I promise to do my best in reading, math, and all the rest. I pledge to follow the rules of my school, to be kind and never cruel. I will show respect in all I do and respect how others think and feel too. I will be polite in all of my ways. Good character will follow me all of my days.”*

Classroom, school, and district rules are in place to provide safety and security of everyone in the school environment. Behavior guidelines are enforced to ensure the learning environment is orderly, healthy, and promotes respect and good character. When working with students, disciplining students, or making a professional judgment for students, our goal is for them to learn that:

- Every attempt will be made to maintain the dignity and self-respect of both the students and the teachers
- Students will be guided and expected to solve problems without creating problems for anyone else
- Students will be given the opportunities to make decisions and live with the consequences, be it good or bad
- Misbehavior will be handled with natural or logical consequences whenever possible
- Students are expected to follow guidelines set forth by the school

Teachers in every classroom use a variety of positive reinforcements to manage student behavior. When positive reinforcement ceases to be effective, teachers have the following consequences (not all are listed) at their disposal to correct student behavior:

- Conference with student
- Refer to counselor
- Call or send a note home
- Conference with parents/guardians
- Loss of classroom privilege such as recess or incentive activity
- Lunch detention
- Removal from class for specified period
- Refer to principal
- In School Suspension (assigned by the principal)

- Out of School Suspension (assigned by the principal)
- Expulsion (recommended by the principal, assigned by a hearing officer)

It is important to remember that the School's rules apply to going to and from School, at School, on School property, at School-sponsored events, and on School transportation. In some cases, a student can be suspended from school transportation for infractions of school bus rules. The Board has also extended the authority for school administrators to impose discipline for unlawful activity by students that occurs on or off School property if the activity interferes with School purposes or the educational function of the School. This authority applies to unlawful activity that may occur on weekends, holidays, and other school breaks including summer recess.

North Putnam Schools adhere to the Indiana Code for student discipline when establishing its student discipline code. This code is I.C. 20-33-8. Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion can be found in the subsections of this code (I.C. 20-33-8-3; I.C. 20-33-8-7; I.C. 20-33-8-14; and I.C. 20-33-8-23). In accordance with rights of due process, which are guaranteed to all Americans, students of North Putnam Schools will always be provided the opportunity to present their version of any disciplinary incident. The principal has the authority to engage in a search of students if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search would produce evidence of a violation of school rules (NPCSC Board Policy 6800-6802).

Nothing in this policy will prevent an administrator from assigning a more severe consequence, up to and including suspension and a recommendation of expulsion. The school reserves the right to alter student consequences as new information is obtained. Infractions that would warrant suspension and/or expulsion include, but is not limited to the following:

- Fighting or assault against another student
- Assault on school personnel
- Bringing and/or possessing weapons or look-alike weapons to school
- Harassing or threatening behavior
- Bullying or hazing
- Using, possessing, transmitting, selling, or being under the influence of any controlled substance or look-alike substance (including prescription medication without a prescription or OTC medicines)
- Destruction of school property or the property of others
- Theft
- Sexual behavior or possessing and/or transmitting inappropriate material of a sexual nature
- Unlawful activity of any kind

## **BULLYING (I.C. 20-33-8-13.5)**

Bullying is defined as a repeated act to a student or a group of students by another student or group of students. In accordance with Indiana Code, bullying is prohibited at any school site or school board-sponsored activity. Incidents of bullying should be reported to the administrative or guidance office in order to allow an administrator or guidance counselor to properly investigate the situation. The prohibition on bullying encompasses hazing (NPCSC Board Policy 6365). Students who engage in bullying behavior shall be subject to a range of punishment with progressive discipline, and parents shall be notified and involved in the educational component of the training as a part of the consequence. Consequences for bullying shall be determined by the administrator based on the discipline record of the student, and on the severity of the bullying incident. In some instances, if appropriate, a counselor may mediate between parties and/or parental involvement may be sought in order to prevent further occurrences.

The goal at Bainbridge Elementary is to reduce and prevent bullying problems among school children and to improve peer relations at school through the guidance department and the Bucket Filling Program. .

The following are the rules for bullying:

Rule 1: We will not bully others.

Rule 2: We will try to help students who are bullied.

Rule 3: We will try to include students who are left out.

Rule 4: We will report any bullying we see and expect our peers to do the same.

## **CELL PHONES**

Students must store all such devices in his/her locker or book bag when classes begin until the end of the day. The school will not be responsible for items lost or stolen. Cell phones are to be turned off and are not to be used from the time a student enters the building until the final bell of the day.

## **DRESS CODE (NPCSC Board Policy 6330)**

1. Appearance should be clean, neat, and appropriate.
2. Caps, hats, bandanas, headbands, or sunglasses are to be removed when entering the building.
3. Students are required to wear appropriate footwear at all times. Flip-Flops are not to be worn at the elementary school level. Heelys or wheeled shoes are not allowed at school.
4. Coats or jackets are to be stored in the student's locker during the school day.
5. Pants/shorts are to be fitted and worn at the waist. Shorts are to be at or below knee length and pants shall not be long enough to drag on the floor.

6. Skirts are to be at or below knee length and slits are not to extend above the knee. Skirts must not drag on the floor. Dresses must comply with skirt and shirt/top rules. Leggings may only be worn if the covering garment is at or below the knees.
7. Shirts and tops are to have sleeves that cover the shoulders and not expose undergarments. Shirts must be long enough to be tucked-in. Shirts and tops not tucked-in must remain below the waistline at all times. In addition, all shirts longer than mid-thigh must be tucked-in. No exposed cleavage, back, or midriff will be allowed. Shirts must fit properly, regardless of style, and must not expose anything below the armpit line.
8. The following are items that are not acceptable for students to wear during the school day:
  - a. Form fitting clothes
  - b. Sheer/see-through fabrics
  - c. Pajamas (leisure wear)
  - d. Clothing with holes, rips, or tears
  - e. Wallet or pocket chains
  - f. Any item that could cause harm to self, others or school property, promotes drugs, alcohol, tobacco products or any illegal substance, depicts violence, sexual innuendos, racial/religious slurs or is gang related.
9. Students are not to wear jewelry to school that is attached through piercing anywhere except the ears and a single clear plastic flat non-obtrusive post in the side of the nose. There are a variety of safety factors the school has considered for piercing of the tongue, noliip, mouth, eyebrow, and any additional areas other than the ear. School officials also reserve the right to forbid certain types of jewelry that may be determined to be dangerous such as collars and bracelets with long pointed spikes.
10. When allowing students to wear shorts after Fall Break and Spring Break, the weather should be taken into consideration. Recess will continue to be outside if weather permits during the colder months.

Students who wear objectionable items or create a learning distraction with their attire, (ex. hair coloring other than a natural color) will be dealt with appropriately. This may include the changing of clothes at school, having parents bring other clothing, removing the student from classes, etc. Repeat offenders will be dealt with following the school's disciplinary procedures and may include a more restrictive dress code. The dress code would include and apply to all athletic and PE uniforms that are worn during the school day.

***GYM SHOES ARE REQUIRED FOR P.E. CLASS.***

## **CAFETERIA & FOOD SERVICES**

All students eat in the cafeteria whether they purchase lunch from school or bring lunch from home. Grab and Go Breakfast is served in the cafeteria from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 am, and is available to be purchased for any student. Students are to display appropriate courtesy and

manners while in the cafeteria. This includes entering and leaving the cafeteria, and eating in a quiet, orderly manner, keeping the area clean, etc.

Breakfast and lunch payments are collected by cafeteria personnel or submitted online through Harmony. Parents sending checks to school for lunch payment are encouraged to write their child's first and last name on the memo line of the check to assist the school in entering the money into the student's account. Checks for lunches should only be made out for the cost of lunches, and may not include money for payment of other items related to the school. Parents should send payment in an envelope with the student's name, child's cafeteria identification number, his/her teacher's name, and what is being purchased (e.g., number of lunches and number of extra milk). When possible, parents are encouraged to pay for lunches on a weekly, monthly, or yearly basis. An updated charge policy will be available and communicated to parents at the beginning of the school year. Breakfast and lunch prices will be available at the beginning of the school year.

Special dietary requests or food allergies must be supported by a statement, which explains the food substitution that is requested. A physician, licensed to practice in the State of Indiana, must sign the statement. The medical statement must include an identification of the medical or other special dietary condition which restricts the child's diet; the food or foods to be omitted from the child's diet; and the food or choice of foods to be substituted. Diet orders should be renewed every year to reflect the current dietary needs of the child.

Candy bars and other snacks are not to be brought to school unless they are part of a sack lunch, and then will be eaten only during the lunch period. In the interest of promoting sound nutritional habits, soft drinks and candy are discouraged as sack lunch items.

### **BBE LUNCH VISITOR POLICY**

For the safety of all students and staff, Bainbridge Elementary will not allow lunch visitors. There will be other times during the school year where parents and guests will be able to visit the school.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Parent/Teacher communication is an important aspect of a student's success in school. Your child's classroom teacher will communicate with you on a regular basis regarding your child's progress. Parents can expect the school to communicate in a variety of ways over multiple types of media including telephone, notes home, reports, email, newsletters, school website, and Facebook. Parents are welcome and encouraged to come and talk to their child's teacher and principal. Appointments must be made to coincide with the teacher's schedules. Please make appointments through the school secretary or principal.

Communication between the home and the school is imperative. Students, while not necessarily intentional, may perceive things at school differently than what took place. Should your child convey anything that disturbs you about what has taken place at school or in the classroom; you are strongly encouraged to contact the classroom teacher for information.

Parents are strongly urged to follow the proper lines of communications. If a problem or question develops in a classroom or on a bus, parents should contact the appropriate classroom teacher or bus driver. If the parent is not satisfied with that contact, or if the question or the problem concerns an aspect of the school, the principal should be contacted. If parents are still unsatisfied with the outcome, the Superintendent of Schools may be approached with the concern. If after contacting the Superintendent of Schools, the concern has not been addressed, parents may approach the School Board with the concern.

## **DISMISSAL**

The student day ends at 2:50 p.m. Car riders are dismissed through the gym doors while bus riders exit and board buses through the main entry door. Cars will enter Bainbridge Elementary on Cherry Street, which is the back drive of the school. Cars will pull around the gym door circle. Students will load on the passenger side and parents will stay in their car. Cars will then leave back out the back drive on Cherry Street. Cars should not enter or exit through the front drive because of buses. Walkers are released after buses leave the driveway at approximately 3:05 p.m. ***Parents must notify the school of alternate transportation prior to 2:00 pm.***

## **ELEARNING DAYS**

By offering eLearning, North Putnam School Corporation can effectively manage learning opportunities. The days of missed instruction, due to weather, normally occur in the timeframe preceding standardized testing. If days missed are made up with eLearning, then teachers are able to still assist the students with remediation and/or continue instruction. When days are added at the end of the year or outside the typical inclement weather window, they are not as beneficial to the progress of the student.

eLearning guidance:

- no more than two consecutive days
- every third day would be made up in person
- eLearning Days will be announced the same way school delays and closings are announced
- if more than three days would be needed, the previously approved snow days that will remain a part of the calendar are January 20, February 17, and April 10, 2020. If these days are not needed to makeup school they will be days off school for students and teachers.

## **EMERGENCY CLOSINGS & DELAYS**

In the event of severely inclement weather or mechanical breakdown, school may be closed or starting time delayed. School closing, delayed starting time, or early dismissal will be announced over the following radio and television stations: Radio –TV Channels – 4, 6, 10, 13, and 59. Additionally, the North Putnam website will list delays and closings. An automated phone alert will notify parents/guardians of a cancellation or delay. If weather closes school, then all extracurricular activities including athletic practices and games are canceled.

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY**

Most activities are connected to the curriculum either academically or in the development of social or physical skills. Thus, it is important to the child's total development that he/she participates in these offered activities. To establish a grade requirement at this level to allow participation would be counterproductive to the goal of exposing children of this age to as many opportunities as possible in their formative years. If in the rare instance a child presents a discipline problem or disrupts an activity to the detriment of other students, it is the principal's responsibility with input from the teacher and parent to deny that student the opportunity to participate in certain school activities, including those of an extracurricular nature.

## **GRADE REPORTS & GRADING SCALE**

North Putnam's elementary schools are on a nine-week grading period. All students shall receive a midterm report between each nine-week grading period. Progress reports and report cards will be made available to parents through Harmony. Parents are encouraged to call or arrange an appointment with the teacher when they have questions about student progress.

Letter grades (A-F) are given in most academic subjects, while participatory grades (E, S, U) are given in special area classes. The Kindergarten report card does not follow the same format as grades 1-5, so letter grades are not used at that level.

A+	100	C	72-77	E	Excellent
A	92-99	C-	70-71	S	Satisfactory
A-	90-91	D+	68-69	U	Unsatisfactory
B+	89-88	D	62-67	NA	Not Applicable
B	82-87	D-	60-61		
B-	80-81	F	0-59		
C+	78-79	INC	Incomplete		

Incomplete grades may be given to students who have not completed their work at the end of a grading period and/or semester, if the teacher feels that circumstances justify additional time.

## **ENROLLING IN SCHOOL**

A student may enroll if living with a parent(s) or legal guardian, and if he/she is residing in the North Putnam Community School Corporation. All legal documents (i.e. adoption, legal guardianship, and custody) must be presented to the school office before a student can be enrolled. When enrolling, parents will need to bring:

- Birth certificate,
- Court papers allocating parental rights, responsibilities, or custody (if appropriate),
- Proof of residency,
- Proof of immunizations.

Parents may petition the school for enrollment if they reside outside of the school corporation. Transfer documentation, including attendance and performance data, is required and must be submitted to the school by the published deadline each year. Transportation is not provided to students enrolling from outside the district.

## **FREE & REDUCED LUNCH PROGRAM**

Applications for Free and Reduced meals are available in the school office. A printable copy is available on the school's web site or it can be completed online. Applications cannot be completed until after July 1, 2020. All information is treated confidentially. Should a family experience a change in income during the school year, they may complete an application to determine if they qualify. This may be done at any time during the school year. Participation begins with the approval of a completed application. If an application is not complete or missing information, it cannot be processed.

## **HEALTH SERVICES & MEDICATION POLICY (I.C. 20-34-3-18)**

A school nurse or health aide is staffed in the clinic at every school building. The school nurse or health aide will treat all injured or ill students according to guidelines from the Indiana State Department of Health. If a student should become ill during the day, he/she should notify the teacher. If the teacher agrees that the student is too ill to be in class, he/she will be sent to the clinic. Students must go to the clinic to be evaluated by the nurse or health aide. Students who

are admitted to the clinic by the nurse/health aide will be allowed up to 20 minutes to rest before returning to class unless they are going home.

The nurse may exclude from school a student who has a communicable disease that is transmissible through normal school contacts and poses a substantial threat to the health and safety of the school community. The general guidelines for sending ill students home are: temperature above 100 degrees, vomiting, diarrhea, and/or serious injury or extreme pain. A student must be fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication for 24 hours in order to return to school. A student must also be free of vomiting and diarrhea for 24 hours in order to return to school. Parents will be contacted whenever the student's injury or illness is such that continued attendance at school is not possible. If a parent cannot be reached, the school nurse or office personnel will call the persons listed as emergency contacts and request that they pick up the child.

Whenever a student enrolls in North Putnam Community School Corporation, the parent(s)/guardian(s) shall provide a written record of the student's immunization. The complete health/immunization record will be given to the school nurse upon enrollment. According to Indiana Code (I.C. 20-34-4-5) this must be done within twenty (20) days of enrollment. Students who fail to comply with this requirement can face removal from school until immunizations are received.

Each student should have the immunizations required by law or have an authorized waiver. State law (I.C. 20-8.1-7-9.5) requires that every elementary age child residing in the state shall be immunized against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles, rubella, mumps, poliomyelitis, and Hepatitis B. All preschool and elementary age students must be vaccinated against chickenpox or have physician documentation of proof of disease. Preschool through Grade 5 students also need to be vaccinated for Hepatitis A. If a student does not have the necessary shots or waivers, the principal may remove the student or require compliance within a set deadline. This is for the safety of all students and in accordance with state law. Any questions about immunizations or waivers should be directed to the school's nurse. Each student shall provide documentation of immunizations that complies with the rules set forth by the Indiana State Board of Health pertaining to adequate dosage and age.

Indiana State Law (I.C. 20-34-3-18) mandates that neither prescription medications nor over-the-counter medications (such as Tylenol and cough drops) may be dispensed by school personnel unless written permission has been granted by the student's parent/guardian or a physician. This means that students may not carry any medication on their person during the school day unless the student has an acute medical condition. A student with a chronic disease or medical condition may possess and self-administer medication for the medical condition if the school has written permission from the parent/guardian AND physician. Otherwise, all medication must be brought to the clinic and will be dispensed from there by designated school personnel. Students may not transport medication to or from school. Parents must bring the medication to school and must pick-up the medication from school. All

medications brought to school must be turned in to the school clinic. If a prescription medication is to be given daily or 2-3 times a day per doctor's order, the medication should be given at home. Authorized school personnel may administer medication when the following directions are observed:

1. All medications shall be brought to the school office or clinic by the student's parent/guardian and be kept in the original container bearing the student's name. There will be no exceptions to this.
2. Written permission is given by the student's parent/guardian AND physician for prescription medications. The pharmacy label shall serve as the written consent of the physician. Written permission from the parent/guardian shall include the student's name, name of the medication, dosage and time to be administered.
3. Written permission is given from the student's parent/guardian for over-the-counter medications including the student's name, name of medication, dosage and time to be administered.
4. Herbal remedies and supplements will not be dispensed by any school personnel because these items have not been approved by the FDA.

Students who possess or use prescription medications at school independently from the school nurse will be subject to disciplinary action and possible expulsion from school. At the end of the school year, medications will be disposed of the following day after the last day of student attendance.

North Putnam School Corporation has a written "Back to School Plan" in place in response to COVID-19. This plan has been developed with guidance from the CDC, IDOE, Indiana State Department of Health and the Putnam County Department of Health. Please understand that this plan may change frequently and be very fluid. We are asking for parents/guardians cooperation in doing a DAILY screening on your child/children prior to the student arriving at school and to keep them home if they are ill or have symptoms of illness. COVID-19 signs and symptoms include the following: A fever of 100.4 or greater, cough, congestion or runny nose, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, diarrhea/nausea, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell. The entire COVID-19 "Back to School" plan can be seen on the school corporation's website.

#### **HEAD LICE (I.C. 20-34-3-9)**

The North Putnam Community School Corporation, in accordance with the Indiana Department of Public Health, recommends the following procedure requiring any student found to have head lice to be excluded from school until the following steps have been taken:

1. Students identified with live lice or nits (eggs) will be excluded immediately from school to be treated. The school nurse or health aide will be responsible for all lice identification.

2. The parent/guardian will be notified by telephone. If the parent/guardian is unavailable, the emergency contact will be notified.
3. All checks for head lice will be done in a confidential manner, to respect the student's right to privacy and to avoid embarrassment.
4. An informational checklist will be given to parents/guardians of students identified with live head lice. Educational information on treatment and prevention will also be distributed as well as a proof of treatment form for the parents to complete.
5. The student will not be allowed to ride the bus either home or to school until cleared by the school nurse or health aide. The school nurse or health aide will contact transportation when the child is cleared to return to school.
6. Lost time in the classroom interferes with student learning, thus, classroom checks will not be conducted. The associates of students at the elementary, middle school and high school levels will be checked at the nurse's discretion. We ask that parents follow the treatment procedures in a timely manner so absences will be as few as possible.
7. Parents/guardians will be responsible for administering proper treatment and for removing all nits.
8. All siblings of the infested child will be checked by school personnel if they are enrolled in the North Putnam Community School Corporation.
9. The parent/guardian should transport the student to school once the student has been treated. The parent/ guardian shall remain with the student until the school nurse or health aide has checked the student's hair and the student is cleared to be readmitted to the classroom. Once the student is readmitted to the classroom, he/she may return to riding the bus. If live lice are identified, the student will be sent home again with the parent.
10. Upon re-admittance to the classroom, the student will be required to return to the nurse's office first thing every Monday morning for a month (4 weeks). If live lice or nits are present at any time, the student will be excluded from school again. It will be at the school nurse's or health aide's discretion to check a student more frequently or to send him/her home for further treatment if felt warranted.

Excessive absences due to head lice may result in the school filing a report with the Office of Child Protective Services.

### **HEARING & VISION SCREENING (I.C. 20-34-3-12 & 20-34-3-14)**

The State of Indiana mandates screening in the areas of hearing and vision. If a student does not pass a screening, according to state guidelines, the examiner is required to refer the child for further testing.

Students receive hearing, vision, and speech and language development screening tests at appropriate intervals during their school years. The results of all tests are available to parents. In order to identify students with hearing losses, hearing tests will be given to all students in the 1st, 4th, 7th, and 10th grades, all students in special education, all students transferred from other school districts, and all students suspected of having hearing losses. If you do not want

your child's hearing screened, you must return a written note to your child's school office immediately, stating your refusal. Please address the note to the "Speech and Language Pathologist". Vision screenings will be done on all students in Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 8th grades. Referrals will be sent by the school nurse on those students who fail the screenings.

### **HOMEWORK (NPCSC Board Policy 7650)**

Homework is an out-of-school assignment that contributes to the educational process. It is an extension of class work and is directly related to the objectives of the curriculum presently studied. Parents are vital to the homework experience. By monitoring their child's homework, parents can promote a sense of responsibility, check on their child's skills, and keep abreast of school activities. The amount of time spent on homework should reflect the student's age and educational needs. In most elementary grades, daily homework should take between 10-30 minutes.

The responsibility for making up missed work rests with the student. When a student is absent for one day, it is recommended that assignments and homework be obtained from the teacher. If the absence is for more than one day, homework may be obtained by telephoning the school. The general rule is that a student has one day for each day's absence to complete makeup work. However, continued absenteeism will be reviewed and definite dates established for work to be completed. If an absence is predetermined, the student shall discuss the absence with his/her teacher and complete the make-up work as directed.

### **PARENTS' RIGHT-TO KNOW – Title I School Requirement**

In accordance with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Section 1111(h)(6) PARENTS' RIGHT TO KNOW, this is a notification from North Putnam Community School Corporation to every parent of a student in a Title I school that you have the right to request and to receive information in a timely manner regarding the professional qualifications of your student's classroom teachers. This information regarding the professional qualifications of your student's classroom teachers shall include the following:

- If the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade level and subject areas taught;
- If the teacher is teaching under emergency or temporary status in which Indiana qualifications and licensing criteria are waived;
- The teacher's baccalaureate degree major, graduate certification, field of discipline; and
- Whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications.

If at any time your student has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by a teacher that is not highly qualified, you will be notified by the school of this information. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the principal of your child(ren)'s school.

### **PROMOTION & RETENTION (NPCSC Board Policy 7710)**

Advancement from one grade level to the next is earned by the student. In grades kindergarten through fourth, the age of the child, academic skill level, social development, school attendance, estimate of intelligence, transiency, past educational experiences, previous retention, and present grade placements are all considered. Students in grade five will advance to the next grade level if passing the academic areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Regardless of the grades received, a student will not advance to the next grade level until he/she successfully passes the statewide test given at that grade level, (IREAD) or having failed the test, successfully completes a remediation program provided by the school or a private tutoring program determined to be beneficial to the student by the principal, professional staff, and parents.

A direct observation by the principal as well as teacher documentation must occur prior to a decision to retain a student. Notice of the possibility of retention must be given to parents as early as possible. The teacher of the pupil has the responsibility for recommending promotion of the pupil to the next grade. However, where there is doubt or controversy, consultation involving the teacher, the principal, the parents, and/or other personnel may be held. Parents may request that their son/daughter be retained; however, the ultimate decision to retain a student rests with the teacher and the principal.

### **RECESS**

Student school day may include a recess time. Usually students will go outdoors for recess period. Inclement weather, excessively cold wind chill, or unsuitable playground conditions may cause recess to be indoors. When the wind chill is below 30 degrees, recess will be indoors. Please keep the weather in mind each day and prepare the proper attire for your child for outside recess. The elementary school recognizes that a child may occasionally be well enough to attend school, but because of recent illness or health conditions is unable to go outside to play. Parents should send a note to school if this situation arises. A doctor's note is preferred.

### **TOBACCO USE POLICY (NPCSC Board Policy 9720)**

The North Putnam Community School Corporation Board of School Trustees has validly adopted a policy that prohibits the use of tobacco products in all buildings in the School Corporation and on all grounds belonging to the School Corporation. This ban is on smoking and the use of all tobacco products and is in effect during school and non-school hours as well as any function sponsored by the Corporation or at a function occurring on Corporation premises even if the Corporation or a school group does not sponsor it.

## TRANSFERRING WITHIN THE DISTRICT

Parents may request a transfer from one elementary school to the other. Transfer documentation is required and must be submitted by established deadlines. Approval is required by both building administrators in order for a transfer to take place. The transfer will be considered based on class sizes and student needs. Parents must provide their own transportation.

## TRANSPORTATION

Every student eligible for bus transportation has a regular way of traveling to and from school. If a child does not have written parental permission, the child will be sent home in his/her usual way. Changes for transportation may be arranged by a telephone call to the transportation office prior to 1:30pm. A pass to ride a bus on a route other than the student's daily route will be provided by the transportation office only in extreme emergencies.

Bus transportation is provided to students who live within the North Putnam School district as a privilege, not a legal right. This privilege may be removed or suspended by the building administrator (or designee) should that action be deemed necessary due to student misbehavior. Students are expected to behave in a safe, courteous manner while at the bus stop, boarding/exiting the bus, and while on the bus. All rules and discipline policies, which apply in school, will also apply to student behavior while on the school bus.

## VISITORS

All visitors must report to the office upon admittance to the building. Students may not bring visitors to school during school hours. Room congestion, interference with the teacher and student's programs, and different school calendars make this rule necessary. Parents should coordinate visits with the student's teacher. All visitors are expected to check in at the office to obtain a visitor's badge. **Visitors will need to have a driver's license with them to obtain the badge.** Badges should be worn visibly at all times. Please do not put visitor badges on pants legs. Please do not be offended if you are stopped for not having a visible visitor's tag displayed, as our students' safety and security are of the utmost concern for all of us. **If you are visiting for your child's birthday with treats, please contact the classroom teacher prior to dropping off treats. Healthy store purchased treats are required, and food allergies must be taken into consideration. Anyone other than the custodial parent bringing in birthday treats must have a written note of permission from the custodial parent. Please follow North Putnam Schools COVID guidelines.**

## VOLUNTEERS

For the safety of our students, all volunteers in our schools will be required to have a Limited Criminal History check completed prior to working with our students. **A limited Criminal History check must be done and submitted to the school office three weeks in advance if parents**

**and volunteers are going to be working in classrooms, and going on field trips.** Each elementary school makes use of parent volunteers in ways that are most suitable for the particular building. Volunteers who are working in the school may not bring other children.

### **WITHDRAWING FROM SCHOOL**

Parents wishing to withdraw a student from school must contact the school office and must fill out the withdrawal form. At the time of withdrawal, all monies due to the school should be paid, including any outstanding lunch account balances. All textbooks, library materials, chromebooks, and school resources should be returned to the school. Parents may pick up student belongings prior to or on the student's last day. Once the student enrolls in a new school, a records request will be received and documents will be faxed to the new school.