

# NORTH PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL #50



## Family Handbook

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## SCHOOL INFORMATION

### North Park Community School

**Principal:** Mrs. Graves  
**Assistant Principal:** Mrs. McCall  
**School Clerk:** Mrs. Upshaw

The staff at NPCS are excited to become part of your child's educational journey. We welcome your input and would always like you to feel as we are partners in building your child.

#### North Park Community School #50

780 Parkside Avenue

Buffalo, NY 14216

Telephone: (716) 816-3440

Fax: 838-7448

[www.buffaloschools.org/PS50](http://www.buffaloschools.org/PS50)

#### ***Transportation Contact Numbers***

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| District Transportation | 816-4895 |
| 200 buses               | 874-0544 |
| 300 – 400 buses         | 835-5410 |
| 500 buses               | 826-4771 |
| 600 buses               | 896-1171 |
| 700 – 900 buses         | 894-4778 |

**Buses will leave school at 3:15 PM**

## SCHOOL HOURS

School Day: 8:20 am – 3:10 pm

**Dismissal for pick up students: 2:55 (early pick-up frozen at 2:30)**



\*Children who enter school after attendance is taken at 8:30 am must be accompanied to the main office and signed in by an adult (they are tardy).



### **NPCS's Big Paws**

Cultivating a strong family/community connection  
Challenging children to become independent learners  
Building a caring, nurturing environment



### **Mission**

*TOGETHER we will create and nurture a lifelong love of knowledge.*

### **Vision**

*At North Park Community School, all stakeholders will work **together** to ensure that our curriculum is rigorous and relevant, our instruction is differentiated, our environment is positive, our entire community is engaged and our staff is supported to provide an instructional environment where learning and growing are paramount. As a result, our students will be empowered to acquire knowledge, show empathy towards others, become life-long learners and contribute positively to their community.*

**Motto**  
TOGETHER





## BUILDING SECURITY

### Safety Drills & Fire Drills

We appreciate the support and partnership of our NPCS families and want all families to feel welcome in our school. Simultaneously, we must continually work to ensure a safe learning environment for all students, staff and visitors. We have worked with our District level security to implement procedures to establish and maintain a safe building. These procedures are common across all Buffalo Public Schools. The following information describes safety and security procedures in place at NPCS. We appreciate your support in adhering to these policies.

The school will conduct practice fire drills and safety drills to ensure students and faculty are aware of the procedures and comfortable with carrying out these procedures. Prior to our first safety drill, parents will be notified via a phone call from our automated system and a letter home in your child's take-home folder. **All visitors are expected to follow NPCS's safety procedures.** The emergency evacuation location for NPCS is BPS Adult Education located at School #81 (140 Tacoma Ave).



## SCHOOL SAFETY PROCEDURES

### Entering School:

All doors are locked during the instructional day. Please press the "call button" next to the Main Entrance (entrance at circle drive) door. Office staff will answer the intercom and unlock the door. Visitors should report directly to the main office, provide office staff with the reason for visit, produce a government issued photo identification (driver's license, passport) sign-in, and wear a visitor ID pass while in the building.

### Visitors:

All visitors are to enter through Door #1 (entrance at circle drive). Parents are permitted to visit a classroom when they have a scheduled appointment, field trip, or volunteer opportunity of which the Main Office has been previously notified by the teacher. Any visitors that are unannounced or not pre-planned will NOT be permitted to visit any classroom. Visitors and volunteers are required to show a government issued picture ID and sign in the "visitors' book" in the Main Office. A visitor pass is always to be worn and shown visibly on the clothing. These passes will be issued at the Main Office. When your time is finished at the school, visitors will need to sign out in the "visitors' book".  
Birthday Celebrations – Due to daily instructional schedules/routines we ask that you kindly schedule a birthday celebration in advance with your child's

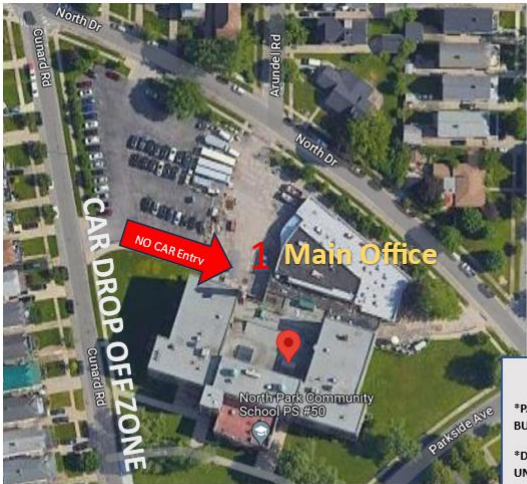
teacher. Anything brought in should be store bought so ingredients are available to staff for allergies.

**Arrival:**

For safety reasons, children who walk to school or arrive by car should arrive at 8:20 am. To avoid traffic and cars lined up along the streets, it is best if cars do not arrive to school until 8:20 am (8:15 am at the earliest). This will allow staff to get into the parking lot and neighbors to get out of their driveways. **There is no adult supervision of students prior to 8:20 am.** School doors open at 8:20 am, at which time your child may walk to their classroom or go to breakfast in the cafeteria. During arrival, all students **will enter through Door #1 (circle drive-up)** only. Cars should NOT enter the parking lot during arrival (8:20-8:30). Due to safety precautions, parents and guardians are **not** permitted to walk their child(ren) to the classroom. Staff members will be located at all entrances to ensure dropped off students walk into the building and immediately report to their classrooms. Staff members are also located throughout the hallways to ensure that students arrive safely in their classrooms. On time arrival is from 8:20-8:30 am. Students who arrive after 8:30 am will need to be walked in by a parent/guardian and signed in as a tardy student.

Students will unload from the buses in the parking lot to Door #1. Students who are dropped off during arrival time (8:20-8:30) can exit their vehicle on Cunard and walk up the parking lot sidewalk into Door #1. Walkers will enter through Door #1.

Any students who are **tardy (beginning at 8:30 am)** MUST enter with their parent through **Door #1** (circle drive). If your child arrives tardy to school, park and bring them to the Main Office. These students must be signed in by a parent/guardian.



**\*REMINDERS\***  
**\*PARKING LOT IS ONLY FOR BUSES**  
**\*DO NOT LEAVE VEHICLE UNATTENDED – LINE MUST CONTINUE TO MOVE**

## Dismissal:

All students being picked up at dismissal (2:55-3:10 pm) and not riding the PM bus home, will be released from **Door #3** (Cunard/lawn). Parents/Guardians may begin to pick up starting at **2:55 pm. The latest pick-up time is 3:10 pm.**

Vehicles should have their car tags (provided by school) hanging in their rearview mirrors for quick ID. If parents are walking to pick up, we ask they bring their pick-up tags; this will also be at Door #3. Vehicles should line up along Cunard beginning at the parking lot entrance at Cunard. For student and staff safety, we respectfully request vehicles use Cunard pick-up line as a ONE WAY, meaning NPCS will be at your passenger side. To avoid traffic congestion, please refrain from arriving prior to 2:45. Parents in the pick-up line **MUST REMAIN** in their vehicle so the line can continue to move. Students will be called outside when a parent arrives to pick up. It will be helpful to be ready to help your child load into their vehicle to avoid traffic.

During pick-up it is imperative that all drivers are mindful of students walking. **If you have students who need assistance to buckle, please park in a street parking space (adhering to parking rules) and walk up to get your child to avoid traffic lines.**

No one will be permitted to pick up a child unless their name is specified on the child's pick-up list located on their Student Information Sheet. (Please be sure your child's information sheet is up to date **via link** that is shared in the beginning of the school year.) All additional persons picking up a child will be asked for a government issued picture ID.

If your child is normally a PM bus student, but is being picked up, **the Main Office must be notified** that day by no later than **2:00 pm.**

**Early dismissal is CUT OFF at 2:30 pm.**

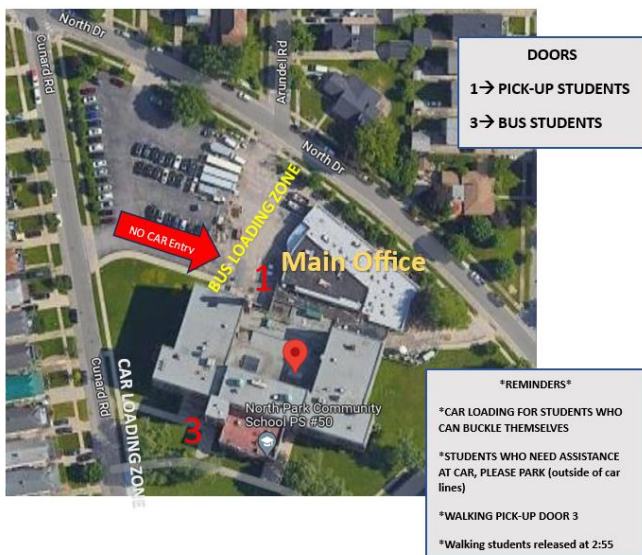
Students enrolled in the ELT program will be brought to the program at dismissal time.

Students walking home must have a walking release on file in the Main Office that has a parent/guardian signature. Students who are walking home will be released at 2:55 pm. Practicing your child's route home and traffic safety is imperative. There are crossing guards stationed at Parkside @ North and Cunard @ Parkside.

**Student Information Link →**

<https://www.buffaloschools.org/o/ps50/page/student-forms>





## Identification:

Every time a student is picked up for an appointment or at dismissal, the person picking up must be listed in the emergency information for that student and must show a government issued picture ID. Every adult will be asked to show identification, to the staff person releasing the student. No child will be released to an adult without proper identification. Early pick-up will occur at Door #1 (Main office/circle drive).

## Door #1



## Door #3



## ATTENDANCE COUNTS

Regular school attendance in all grades is essential for success. Students are required to be in school every day. Students need to be in class for instruction from 8:20 am to 2:55 pm. Parents/guardians are asked to notify the school when your child is unable to attend school due to illness or other reason(s). For



an absence to be excused, a parent or legal guardian must write and sign a dated note explaining the absence (vacations are NOT excused absences). Please send the excuse to school upon the student's return. Absences not accompanied by a note are recorded as illegal absences. Parents/guardians are asked to schedule non-emergency medical and dental appointments before or after school hours. Students who arrive at school after 8:30 am will be marked tardy. Students who are tardy should enter through **Door #1 (Main Office/circle)** accompanied by a parent/guardian to sign them in. When students are tardy it affects their attendance record and their success in the first lessons of the day. More information regarding BPS's attendance policy is available at <https://www.buffaloschools.org/o/ps50/page/attendance>

### FAMILY CONTACT INFORMATION



Please notify the school at least two weeks prior to an address change. This will enable the school to make transportation arrangements, send student mail to the proper address or to prepare student records if your child is leaving the District. Proof of address is required. A current pay stub, utility bill (within 30 days), or lease are all sufficient. Please remember to notify the school of any changes in the telephone numbers you have provided for home, work, and emergency contacts. Emergency contacts will only be modified when submitted by the **parent in writing**. This also applies to the list of persons who are "permitted to pick up" students, which is located at the bottom of the **NPCS Student Contact** sheet (via link).

### FAMILY COMMUNICATION AND CALENDAR

All students have a take home folder that goes home and is returned DAILY. Any information for parents will be found in this folder. Students in grade 2 and up have an agenda to record information in that will travel between home and school. Parents should expect a MONTHLY Newsletter from their child's teacher and a QUARTERLY School Newsletter. Important dates are included at the end of these documents; please take note of them. NPCS #50's webpage will also be a valuable tool for staying connected. All calendars can be found at <https://www.buffaloschools.org/o/ps50/events>.

### COMMUNICATION WITH STAFF

Teachers are available via Dojo, email, and phone. If a parent calls to speak with a staff member while they are teaching, the office will take a message. While teachers are available to receive messages via Dojo and email during the school

day, they will be limited on returning messages depending on the time they are free from teaching. If a message is sent after school hours or during a weekend, please expect a response by next business day.

Dojo is a free program NPCS uses as a quick and convenient way to stay connected between home and school. We ask that all users who are connected to Dojo maintain professional and civil communication. If there are messages or comments that are deemed as threatening, intimidating, hostile, or aggressive the school reserves the right to revoke Dojo privileges.

### **HOMEROOM PARENTS**

Each class has a homeroom parent who serves as a liaison between the classroom teachers and parents. Homeroom parents are an excellent resource who help to provide a space for all families to communicate with each other, set up play dates, organize supplies the classes may need for events, and assist with bridging the communication between home and school. Sign-ups for HR parents occur in the beginning of the school year.

<https://www.buffaloschools.org/o/ps50/page/student-forms>

### **SBMT/PTO MEETINGS**

We host one meeting for each SBMT (School Based Management Team) and PTO each month during after school hours. For all meeting details, see the calendar section of our webpage.

### **PARENT CONTACT FORMS**

Parents can share their contact information with various NPSC parent entities. There is an electronic form located on the parent section of our webpage, which allows parents to select if they would like their information shared with the Homeroom Representative of their child's class, the PTO, and the classroom directory. Our Parent Engagement Liaison is connected to Class Dojo, therefore parents can always contact our NPCS PEL through this avenue. The forms should be completed EACH year.

<https://www.buffaloschools.org/o/ps50/page/student-forms>

### **TOGETHER EVENTS**

Each classroom/grade-level will host at least FOUR Together Events per school year. During these events a representative of the student will be invited to the school (i.e. parent, guardian, grandparent, family member).

## FAMILY CONDUCT

At NPCS, we uphold all visitors to the same standards that are expected of faculty and students. We thank all family members, community members, and visitors in advance for adhering to our expectations of positive language, maintaining personal space, and modeling acceptance.

## STUDENT MEALS

Students in grades K and up will eat breakfast in the lunchroom. Breakfast will be served from 8:20-8:35. If you would like your child to eat breakfast at school, please ensure they arrive at 8:20 **am to Door #1 (Main Office/circle)**. Students in grades K and up will eat lunch in the cafeteria as well. Any students who arrive after 8:30 AM will be directed to their classrooms; breakfast is done being served after this time. PK students will eat breakfast in their classrooms upon arrival. Students who arrive late on buses will bring their breakfast to the classroom. The procedures and expectations during this time will be discussed and practiced with students throughout the first days of school.

Each classroom teacher will provide parents with information regarding snack for their child's classroom. Students are encouraged to have water bottles (labeled with their name) in their classrooms with **only water** in it.

A doctor's certificate is required of all students who have allergies. Please alert the school office, cafeteria manager, the school nurse and teacher if your child has food allergies and/or food restrictions. If an allergy plan is necessary for a student, this will be created. The monthly calendar can be found on the district website under Departments – “food service” then “lunch menu”.

Students who bring food and drinks to school should maintain in line with the Nutrition Wellness Policy. (This includes not bringing any caffeinated drinks.)

## STUDENT LEARNING & HOW TO SUPPORT AT HOME



Parents are provided with a “syllabus” that provides information about the content and skills their child will be learning for the school year. This will be used as a basis to monitor student learning and provide feedback to parents throughout the school year regarding their child's progress.

*How to help your child learn:*

- Start each day right; a calm beginning at home makes the school day much more successful.
- Check your child's backpack for items that are distracting and should be left at home.
- Make sure your child sleeps at least 9 hours each night.

- **Attendance Counts!** It is important for students to be at school daily to ensure their success.
- **Help your child stay organized** by checking his or her take home folder daily.
- **Have a special place** that your child can put their schoolwork.
- **Ask your child** what they did at school that day.
- **Talk positively about the school experience.** Even if your own school memories were not always pleasant, you can help your child by emphasizing the positive opportunity that school affords him.
- **Talk positively about teachers, education, and homework.** Your positive attitude can help your child develop an optimistic approach to school.
- **Show interest in what your child is learning.** By asking questions and letting your child share, you communicate that learning is important and stimulating. Again, emphasize the positive. Ask questions like, "What did you do that you really liked?"; "What did you feel good about?"; "What would you like to learn more about?"; "What are you reading?"
- **Continue learning.** Your child sees you as a model for many things. If you continue to expand your own knowledge and skills by reading or perhaps even taking a course, your child sees the value in learning.
- **Let your child teach you.** You can strengthen your child's learning by letting her explain new concepts to you.
- **Help your child find ways to apply his learning to everyday life.** The more practical information seems to be, the more motivated your child will be to tackle new material.
- **Avoid the grade trap.** Avoid the trap of making grades a competition. Help your child learn to relax and enjoy learning without the pressure to compete.
- **Develop realistic expectations for your child.** Encourage your child to do the best he can in school, keeping in mind that children will naturally do better in some areas than in others.
- **Provide a quiet place and time for homework.** Having a special place for homework, whether it's a quiet desk in their own rooms or at the kitchen table, helps build a routine and an atmosphere conducive to work.
- **Encourage your child to read at home.** Reading is the cornerstone of much learning. The more your child practices this essential skill, the better he'll do in all his subjects.

## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

"Homework helps build confidence, responsibility, and problem-solving skills that can set students up for success in high school, college, and in the workplace." Students at NPCS will have homework depending on their grade level and classroom activities occurring that week. Parents and caregivers should check their child's take home folder and agendas (3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up) each night to help manage them being aware of what

their homework is. More information about homework at NPCS can be found on our webpage at <https://www.buffaloschools.org/o/ps50/page/homework-policy>.  
PK-1<sup>st</sup> grade: 0-20 minutes each night  
2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> grade: 20-30 minutes each night  
5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade: 30-60 minutes each night

**CONFERENCES**

School-wide conferences are held twice a year. (Please see the back of this booklet for dates.) Times for conferences will be available during the evening and during the school day (upon request). As questions arise, you are invited to meet with the teachers throughout the school year. You may arrange a meeting by writing a note or making a phone call to the teacher, as questions transpire. Remember, if you are coming to meet with your child’s teacher it should be previously arranged. All visitors during the school day must sign in, in the Main Office and get a visitor pass.

**REPORT CARDS**

Report cards for Pre-Kindergarten will be issued during the 20<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> weeks. Report cards for grades K and up will be issued at the end of each quarter. Report cards will be viewed via Parent Portal. Beginning 25-26 SY, NO report cards will be mailed home. They may be printed upon request to office. The report card calendar can be found on our school webpage under “calendar” section. Parents and caregivers are able to see their child’s assignment scores in Parent Portal. If you need access to Parent Portal, you can see more information on our website at <https://www.buffaloschools.org/o/dept-accountability/page/parent-portal>.

| Numeric Grade | Letter Grade | 4.0 Scale |
|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| 97-100        | A+           | 4.0       |
| 93-96         | A            | 4.0       |
| 90-92         | A-           | 3.7       |
| 87-89         | B+           | 3.3       |
| 83-86         | B            | 3.0       |
| 80-82         | B-           | 2.7       |
| 77-79         | C+           | 2.3       |
| 73-76         | C            | 2.0       |
| 70-72         | C-           | 1.7       |
| 67-69         | D+           | 1.3       |
| 65-66         | D            | 1.0       |
| Below 65      | F            | 0.0       |

Students in grades 7 and 8 who receive less than a 65% overall average in any core subject (Math, Science, SS, ELA) will be assigned to summer school. BPS Summer School are organized in hub locations and vary from year to year.

### PARENT ROOM

NPCS is proud to offer a parent/alumni room. Our Parent Engagement Liaison (PEL) is housed in this room and can aid families on items such as school tours, communication assistance, HR parent documentation, and volunteer opportunities. Our PEL can be reached via Dojo, calling the Main Office, or visiting room 125. ALL visitors must be scheduled and sign in, in the Main Office prior to attending a meeting in the Parent Room.

### TEAM-TEACHING

Beginning in grade 1, students will benefit from a Team-Teaching approach. Students in grades 1 and 2 will travel to math or literacy depending on the content their Homeroom teacher is responsible for (i.e. if their Homeroom teacher is teaching math then they will go to the other team teacher for literacy). Beginning in grade 3, students will have one teacher for math and Science and a second teacher for ELA and Social Studies. Students in grades 5 and up will have a different teacher for each core subject, Social Studies, Math, ELA, and Science.

Team-Teaching provides many benefits to children, including increasing their learning flexibility, building relationships with more adults, and participating in more opportunities to deepen their knowledge in specific content areas. Families will receive what their child's "schedule" will look like during the summer prior to the start of the school year. The ICT (Integrated Co-Teacher) will travel with their class to continue to provide services to students.



### ENCORE CLASSES



Your child will participate in Library, Physical Education Art, Music, & STEAM.

**Library:** Students may borrow books from the school library under the discretion of the librarian and their classroom teacher. The books must be treated with care, so they are not damaged. Students may not borrow a book until their book borrowed prior has been returned. Students are responsible for the return of library books and will be charged for lost or damaged books.

**Physical Education (PE) Classes:** New York State Law mandates that students (grades K and up) participate in PE classes. A doctor's note is required to excuse a student from these important classes. *To ensure safety in the Gym, please be*

sure your child is either wearing sneakers to school or has a pair that they can keep in their classroom cubby. If a student needs to miss a single class for a health concern, a parent note should be sent to school in the child's take-home folder.

**Art:** Students will participate in Art 1-2 times per week, depending on their grade level. This will also be offered as enrichment for some students. It is recommended students keep an oversized shirt or smock in school.

**Music:** Students will participate in Music 1-2 times per week, depending on their grade level. This will also be offered as enrichment for some students.

**STEAM:** Students will participate in STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art Math) weekly in our STEAM Lab. Students will work on problem-solving, coding, robotics, and more.

### ANTI-BIAS LESSONS



Each class teaches an anti-bias lesson to the students each month. Each lesson includes a children's book that aligns to the grade level's monthly theme. Our goal is to increase representation and exposure and to facilitate positive conversations and learning activities surrounding those texts. Our anti-bias lessons align to our Equity & Inclusion vision statement that can be found below.

*At NPCS we envision a community who is devoted to ensuring there are fair and just systems in place, so all stakeholders are able to reach their full potential. We are facilitating the growth of our stakeholders through lessons surrounding differences, Social Justice, and equity. Through inclusion our youth will be equipped to face today and the future with compassion, appreciation, trust, and respect for all persons regardless of their background, education, economic level, race, or religion.*

You can find more information and resources aligned to this topic on our webpage at <https://www.buffaloschools.org/o/ps50/page/equity-and-inclusion>.

### STUDENT DEVICES

Each student has a device provided to them by the BPS District. Please see the Acceptable Use Policy at <https://www.buffaloschools.org/o/dept-technology/page/acceptable-use-policy>. Students should always have their district iPad case on their devices. When transporting to and from school, it is highly encouraged for students to use a travel case for their device protection. Students in grade PK will keep their devices at school. Students in grades K-2 will bring their iPads home on the weekends. Students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> and up will bring their iPads/devices home every night. Devices must return to school daily.



If a parent needs assistance with their child’s device that the school cannot assist with, they should call 816-3510 (district IT).

**OUTSIDE TIME**

It is always the GOAL for students (PK-6) to go outside for **Recess DAILY**, however there will be days that students have indoor recess instead due to variables that may prevent getting outside (i.e. weather, student needs, scheduling conflict, etc). Please ensure your child is prepared for the elements so they may go outside with their class. If it rains or the temperature is too cold (below 30 degrees) then arrangements will be made for students to still receive a physical activity indoors. As the seasons change, students should have at least a hat, gloves, boots, a warm coat and scarf at school each day. Students who are unprepared for the elements will remain indoors. During the months that it is warm, it is suggested students are sent to school with sunscreen on and a hat, so they are prepared to be outside for their recess time. Sunscreen cannot be applied by staff members at school. If a student requires sunscreen application at school, this will be done by the nurse if a doctor’s script and signed documentation is completed.



**CHARACTER COUNTS**

NPCS will partner with Character Counts to provide our staff and students with consistent strategies to foster a positive school environment. Character Counts lessons will be embedded within our Morning Meeting times to teach community and peace to our students.



**TEACHING PEACE**

Students will participate in morning meetings, facilitated by their teachers each day during breakfast. The purpose of the morning meetings is to foster a sense of community. Students will have the opportunity to get to know their peers and begin to build strong relationships with them and their teachers. Students will be provided with the tools of coping and conflict-resolution through “peace circles”. Teachers will utilize this method to encourage students to use their words to describe their feelings during a time of conflict with a peer.



**STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM**

North Park Community School #50 has several on-site supports for students and families. District staff includes a School Counselor, a Social Worker, a School Psychologist, and a part-time Committee on Special Education (CSE) Chairperson. In addition, we have several full-time community partners,

including: Family Support Specialist through Say Yes and licensed Mental Health Counselor through Best Self, and a Community Schools Navigator. All support staff personnel are here to partner with parents/guardians and teachers to develop academic and/or behavioral supports for students, as needed. The goal is to work with families to create interventions and to implement supports to help children succeed. The Student Support Team has more information on their website at <https://www.buffaloschools.org/o/ps50/page/student-support-team>.

**LUNCH BUNCH groups** – These groups are for all students that serve a purpose of providing semi-structured social time in a small group of 5 or 6 students. The groups are facilitated by members or our student support team and they occur once a week per homeroom. All students have an opportunity to participate on a rotating basis.

Please contact our SST if your child is experiencing any school challenges such as, difficulty understanding concepts in class, poor grades, limited attention skills, multiple school suspensions, peer issues, trauma outside of school, or excessive behavioral and/or emotional issues. Your child's teacher may also make a referral to this team. Some of the interventions available include: Check In Check Out (CICO), Social and Academic Instructional Groups (SAIG), attendance support, psychological and educational assessments, parent consultation and support, school-based counseling, and mental health counseling provided by Best Self. A parent referral is available on the SST webpage.

### **HEALTH SERVICES**

All health services are provided through our on-site Health Clinic (Supplemental Health). All students receive related health services; this includes dispensing medications, sick calls, or students receiving services due to injury/illness. Our nurse is available during school hours.

#### **Student Medication**

If a student has medication that needs to be administered at school, the parent is required to provide the medication in a script bottle filled specifically for school, a script from the doctor, and a consent signed by the parent.

A student who would require over the counter medication on an as-needed basis (i.e. Benadryl) will only be able to receive this with signed consent from the parent and doctor.

If a student is in Pre-Kindergarten and must have medication administered in school, the parent will be notified via phone **prior** to that medication being given to the student for the first time to complete identification.

<https://www.buffaloschools.org/o/ps50/page/health-office-at-npcs>

## **STUDENT HEALTH**

Please adhere to the Buffalo Public School health guidelines to ensure safety for all our staff and students. If a child has a fever, they should remain out of school until there are 24 hours fever free. As a community, when this is adhered to then we are able to keep more students healthy.

## **CLASSROOM TREATS**

There may be various reasons for snacks being sent to school. Some lower school classrooms work as a parent collective to organize a snack calendar. Often, students bring in a snack to share with the class on their Birthday. Regardless of the reason for sending in any food to the classroom, please be sure to coordinate with your child's teacher.

## **INVITATIONS**

Invitations will only be able to be handed out at school (in any manner) if the entire class is invited. If students need to provide invitations to only some students, please utilize the classroom directory to invite fellow students. Teachers will be unable to facilitate passing out any invitations unless the entire class has an invitation.

## **CELL PHONES & SMART WATCHES**

Students are NOT permitted to carry cell phones or wear smart watches while in school. Students who have cell phones or smart watches must put them in their lockers/backpacks in the OFF position. Students in grades 5 and up should have locks for their lockers (as part of their supply list). If a student is found with a cell phone or smart watch on them and in use, it will be taken for parent pick-up. If a student has a device on their person (not in use) then they will get a warning first. If a student has a device on their person or in use then they will need to give their device to their homeroom teacher to lock in the cell phone lockers for the day. Families will be contacted by school staff of any incidents. BPS's Code of Conduct will be used if cell phones are deemed to be affecting the school day. Cell phones must be in "off" mode while in the school building. If students choose to bring cell phones or any other personal electronic communication devices to school, NPCS will not be held liable for any stolen items.

## **STUDENT LOCKERS**

LOWER SCHOOL: Students in PK-1<sup>st</sup> grade are assigned cubbies. Students in grades 2-4 will be assigned lockers outside of their Homerooms to keep all belongings in that they will not need for class that day (i.e. jackets, backpacks).

UPPER SCHOOL: Students in grade 5 and up will be assigned a locker close to their Homeroom. Students in Upper School will need a lock with a combination for their lockers. Combinations are shared with classroom teachers if a combination is misplaced or forgotten. In the event the lock becomes unable to open then the lock will be cut off. Students will be permitted to go to their lockers between changing classes for their supplies as backpacks are not permitted to be carried during the school day outside of arrival and dismissal times.

### **FIELD TRIPS**

Parents/guardians will receive a permission slip prior to any field trip. The form should be completed, signed and returned to school by your child. Your child's teacher must receive written parent permission prior to a field trip for your child to attend. Students with medication will need to communicate with the nurse regarding needs prior to the field trip. Parents/guardians are always invited and encouraged to chaperone field trips. Please contact your child's teacher when you are available.

PARENT CHAPERONES: NPCS will adhere to the district policy regarding parent chaperones. This policy will be posted to the "parent" section of our webpage and will be shared with families in the beginning of the school year. Any parent who wishes to chaperone or volunteer MUST have a volunteer form submitted AND approved. This form can be found on our website under the [volunteer section](#).

### **EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING**



In the event of a school closing, announcements will be posted on the Buffalo Public School District website (<https://www.buffaloschools.org/>) and made on local radio and television stations. Remote learning day information can be found on the parent section of our webpage and in student Schoology. A Connect-Ed (automated phone call) message will also be sent to all students and staff.

### **EXTENDED LEARNING TIME**

The afterschool program is available for NPCS students in grades K and up, however there are limited seats. Information is released in September about afterschool program each year. The students will participate in both academic and enrichment activities each day. Best Self (information in section prior) is a partner with the school in providing the enrichment portion of the time. The ELT program will run from school dismissal until 5:10 pm. Students who are picked up late (twice) will be removed from the program.

Requirements:

- Completed application (will be sent home in September)
- Signed agreement of ELT expectations
- Must be a student at NPCS

## SATURDAY ACADEMIES

NPCS is proud to be a community school. We host events throughout the school year that allow all community and school members to participate in various activities. For a list of our Saturday Academies, please see the community section of our webpage.

<https://www.buffaloschools.org/o/ps50/page/saturday-academies>

## SAY YES



NPCS is continuing to partner with Say Yes. Through Say Yes, there will be a Community Schools Navigator and a Family Support Specialist. The Navigator coordinates our Saturday Academies (see calendar in the back of the booklet for dates) and other events that link our school and the community. The Family Support Specialist focuses on assisting students to show improvement on their attendance and behavior, which will then increase their academics.

## BEST SELF



Best Self Behavioral Health, Inc. (BBH) officially formed on June 1, 2017 as a merger between Lakeshore Behavioral Health and Child and Adolescent Treatment Services. Best Self Behavioral Health, Inc. (BBH) provides effective, accessible, and family focused behavioral health and educational services to promote health, hope, recovery, and an enhanced quality of life. NPCS offers Mental Health Counseling through Best Self in the building. Please contact a member of our SST if you believe this is something that your child would benefit from and qualify for.

## DRESS CODE

The following is adopted from the **Buffalo Board of Education Dress Code Policy** and is in addition to the school uniform:

1. Coats, jackets, gloves or clothing generally accepted as “outer wear” may not be worn during the school day.
2. Jewelry that may be deemed as unsafe is not allowed.
3. Backless sandals, slippers, clog-style shoes, or other footwear that could be considered unsafe or dangerous are not acceptable.

4. Clothing that is associated with or identified as a symbol of a gang or street club, lewd, vulgar, obscene, and libelous or denigrate others, may not be permitted in school.
5. Cover all underwear with appropriate outer garments.
6. Clothing must not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.
7. Avoid the following clothing: excessively short skirts and shorts, tank tops that are plunging or lowcut, cropped above the waistline shirts, spaghetti strapped shirts, and pants or skirts that expose the abdomen in any way.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Parents are highly encouraged to monitor their child's social media if they have any. NPCS prohibits the use of student social media while on school grounds during school programming and extended to the bus. If there are issues that occur on social media that affect the school day, then the BPS Code of Conduct will be used for consequences. Please encourage your child to use social media appropriately. The AAP suggests waiting until at least 13 to have social media. There are research studies that show a correlation between mental health being negatively affected due to use of social media at a young age. More information can be found on the SST section of our webpage or the district's Code of Conduct.

### **ATHLETICS**

After-school athletics begin in grade 4 at NPCS. Students who tryout and receive a spot on any team are expected to maintain an overall GPA of at least 80% and maintain a positive behavior record. Student-athletes will receive a contract in the beginning of their season that outlines their expectations. Specific information about athletics can be found on our webpage under the "student" section. Students in grades 5-8 will have access to BPS athletic teams. There are student-contracts that will need to be followed for students to participate, including behavior and academic standards.

### **BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS**

#### *District:*

In accordance with the District's Code of Conduct, it is important for all persons, including students, school personnel, parents/guardians and other persons, when on school property and at school functions to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with regard for school property and the rights and

welfare of others. All persons on school property and at school functions are prohibited from engaging in:

- A. Disorderly conduct (running in halls, vulgar language, etc....)
- B. Insubordinate conduct (disrupting the operations of the school, entering school premises without permission, etc....)
- C. Disruptive conduct (failing to comply with directions of teachers, administrators, school personnel, etc....)
- D. Conduct which endangers safety, morals, health or welfare of others (any forms of drugs/alcohol, threats, indecent exposure, false report of an emergency, etc....)
- E. Misconduct on a school bus (excessive noise, pushing, shoving, fighting, moving while bus is in motion, etc....)
- F. Academic Misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, altering records, assisting another in academic misconduct, etc....)
- G. Instigation or encouragement of another person to violate the District's Code of Conduct
- H. Hats, coats, etc. are to be removed upon entering school.

A copy of the District's Code of Conduct will be sent home with students at the opening of the school year. The full BPS Code of Conduct can also be found on the BPS webpage: <https://www.buffaloschools.org/o/dept-student-support-services/page/code-of-conduct>

#### *Panther Promise:*

The following behaviors are part of our Panther Promise. Students are expected to be:

1. **Respectful:** Treat ourselves, others and property in a considerate way.
2. **Responsible:** Follow school and classroom rules and take ownership of our actions.
3. **Ready to Learn:** Keep a positive, can-do attitude about learning and ensuring the safety of ourselves and others.

#### **Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS)**

PBIS are the ways we help teach social, emotional, and behavioral well-being to all our students. PBIS encompasses many different components which include: School Rules, Character Counts program, PBIS Celebrations, Social and Academic Instructional Groups (SAIG) Check In/Check Out (CICO) and the school's SST support as needed.



# North Park Community School Behavior Matrix

|                          | Across All Settings  | Classroom  | Hallways   | Lunch  | Bathroom   | Playground   | On The Bus  |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| <b>Be Respectful</b>     | Use your manners<br><br>Keep hands and feet to yourself<br><br>Use an appropriate voice level  | Use manners<br><br>Eyes on the Speaker<br><br>Hands to self<br><br>Appropriate voice level | 0 voice level<br><br>Walk on the right side<br><br>Hands to self | 0, 1, 2 voice level<br><br>Eat/touch your own food<br><br>Use manners      | Take care of yourself<br><br>Use good manners                          | Use your manners<br><br>Use kind words<br><br>Take turns on equipment  | 0 or 1 voice level<br><br>Use your manners<br><br>Hands/feet to yourself      |
| <b>Be Responsible</b>    | Follow the rules of the area you are in<br><br>Be where you are supposed to be<br><br>Be ready to be in the right place and with the right adult<br><br>We will treat others with kindness and respect | Complete your work<br><br>Follow classroom rules<br><br>Do your best                       | Go directly to where you should be<br><br>Walk                   | Clean up your space<br><br>Stay in your seat<br><br>Follow classroom rules | Flush the toilet<br><br>Wash your hands<br><br>Keep the bathroom clean | Respect/pick up the equipment<br><br>Use the equipment safely<br><br>Use the equipment for what it is supposed to do | Stay in your seat<br><br>Follow the posted rules                              |
| <b>Be Ready To Learn</b> | Offer to help when you hear something unkind<br><br>Include everyone<br><br>When a big deal happens report it to an adult and an adult at home   | Your materials are ready<br><br>Your body is ready to learn                                | Stop for announcements and the pledge                            | Be ready to leave with your teacher<br><br>Wat first, play later           | Get back to your classroom quickly                                     | Be ready to line up<br><br>Take your belongings with you<br><br>Dress for the weather                                | Be ready to get on and off of the bus<br><br>Take all of your things with you |

## CALENDAR OF SCHOOL-WIDE EVENTS

SEE NPCS Calendar @ <https://www.buffaloschools.org/o/ps50/events>

\*NPCS Dates (Please be sure to consistently check monthly classroom newsletters and our calendar on our webpage):

\*All Saturday Academy dates can be found @ <https://www.buffaloschools.org/o/ps50/page/saturday-academies>

At-a-glance



### Buffalo Public Schools 2025-2026 School Calendar

| SEPTEMBER 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S              | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|                |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 7              | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14             | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21             | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28             | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    |

| OCTOBER 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S            | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|              |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 5            | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12           | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19           | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26           | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |

| NOVEMBER 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S             | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|               |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 2             | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9             | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16            | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23            | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30            |    |    |    |    |    |    |

| DECEMBER 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S             | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|               |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 7             | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14            | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21            | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28            | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |

| JANUARY 2026 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S            | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|              |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 4            | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11           | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18           | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25           | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

#### IMPORTANT DATES

**SEPTEMBER**  
**1** Labor Day  
**2** Supt. Conf. Day (Professional Development)  
**3** Teacher Set-up Day  
**4** First Day for Students

**OCTOBER**  
**13** Indigenous Peoples' & Italian Heritage Day

**NOVEMBER**  
**4** Election Day  
**11** Veterans Day  
**26-28** Thanksgiving Recess

**DECEMBER**  
**24-31** Winter Recess

**JANUARY**  
**1-2** Winter Recess (cont.)  
**19** Dr. MLK Jr. Day  
**20-23** NYS Regents Exams (high school)

**FEBRUARY**  
**16** Presidents' Day  
**17** Lunar New Year  
**18-20** Mid-Winter Recess

**MARCH**  
**20** Eid al-Fitr

**APRIL**  
**3-10** Spring Recess  
**6-30** NYSESLAT Speaking Test Window  
**15-16** NYS 3-8 ELA Testing  
**28-29** NYS 3-8 Math Testing

**MAY**  
**1-22** NYSESLAT Listening, Reading, and Writing Test Window  
**4-22** NYSESLAT Listening, Reading, and Writing Test Window  
**5** NYS 5-8 Science Testing  
**13** Early Release Day  
**14 & 15** Supt. Conf. Days/NYS Test Scoring  
**25** Memorial Day

**JUNE**  
**9, 10, 17-25** NYS Regents Exam (high school)  
**19** Juneteenth Holiday  
**25** Last Day for Students  
**26** Rating Day/Last Day for Faculty

**JULY**  
**3** Fourth of July (observed)

#### CALENDAR DAYS

|      | FAC | STU | FAC | STU |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| SEPT | 21  | 19  | FEB | 15  |
| OCT  | 22  | 22  | MAR | 21  |
| NOV  | 15  | 15  | APR | 16  |
| DEC  | 17  | 17  | MAY | 20  |
| JAN  | 19  | 19  | JUN | 18  |

Total Faculty Days: 185  
 Total Actual Student Days: PK - 12 = 180 (incl. Regents exam dates for grade 9-12)  
 Credited Student Days: 183 (incl. 3 Supt. Conf. Days)

| FEBRUARY 2026 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S             | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
| 1             | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8             | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15            | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22            | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

| MARCH 2026 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S          | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|            |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 1          | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8          | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15         | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22         | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29         | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |

| APRIL 2026 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S          | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|            |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 5          | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12         | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19         | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26         | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |

| MAY 2026 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S        | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|          |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 3        | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10       | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17       | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24       | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31       |    |    |    |    |    |    |

| JUNE 2026 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S         | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|           |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 7         | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14        | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21        | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28        | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    |

H.S. Regents Exams  
Schools Closed

Supt. Conf. Day & NYS Test Scoring  
Central Office Also Closed

Early Release Day  
 \*Approved by Board of Education  
 March 19, 2025