

NORTH NEWTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

221 West 26th St
Newton, NC 28658

Telephone 828-464-2631

*Mr. Shane Whitener
Principal*

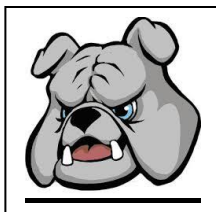


Student/Parent Handbook

This agenda belongs to:

NAME _____

TEACHER _____ GRADE _____



Principal's Message

It is indeed a pleasure to **WELCOME** you to the 2017-18 school year at North Newton Elementary School. Today, the North Newton Staff accepts into our outstretched arms, the most precious commodity anyone can receive, our community's children. We accept this awesome responsibility with humility, vigor, compassion, and courage. We pledge to you our passion for the individual security, safety, and success of each child. We offer our unfailing desire to serve our students and our community and to give them the necessary skills to become competent problem solvers and outstanding citizens! What parents value or believe defines what is important to their children. When you value education and believe it is important, so will your children. Our partnership with you in this shared value is critical. Your child's education is our priority!

The North Newton staff, parents, and surrounding community share a common vision. High quality classroom instruction, students who are highly motivated to learn, a warm and nurturing learning environment, and a supportive and encouraging parent community make North Newton Elementary a wonderful place to learn and work. It is our goal that all students will leave North Newton able to read, write, and compute at successful levels that will enable them to experience academic success at the next level and beyond. To ensure this success, the North Newton staff is dedicated to the use of sound instructional practices and high quality instructional materials, including the integration of technology throughout the curriculum. Students have the ability to go beyond the "basics," through the use of technology and through an intentional focus on meeting the needs of each individual student.

We are excited to continue our global focus for this school year. We will be a global community school which will build upon the diversity of our school. This means that each grade level will have a specific country(s) or regions of the world that they will focus on as they go through the curriculum. This will not be an additional curriculum, but an integrated approach where aspects from these regions will be pulled into the regular curriculum. We also have two dual immersion kindergarten classes and two first grade classes. These four classes will function on an A day/B day approach where half the curriculum will be presented in English and half will be presented in Spanish. We are looking forward to what this program can provide for our students.

The purpose of this agenda is to help parents/students become aware of the privileges, opportunities, and responsibilities as a citizen of this school. This exciting, fun-filled agenda will help students with organizational and time management skills, and will provide a communication link between school and home. All parents/students should read this agenda and be knowledgeable of its contents. Education will be much more effective and enjoyable when dedicated staff, concerned parents, and conscientious students work together to reach common goals.

I am excited to work with each of you this school year! I invite parents and the community to become involved with our students and school. It is my personal promise that your North Newton experience will be a fulfilling one, as you become an active citizen of our school community. Please feel free to share any praises or concerns with me on a regular basis. My door is always open! Join me in helping to make this the ***BEST YEAR EVER!!***

Sincerely,
Shane Whitener, Principal



SCHOOL HOURS

Following are the listed hours of school operation.

Cafeteria Opens for Breakfast	7:35 AM
First Bell – Students report to rooms	8:05 AM
Tardy Bell	8:15AM
Car Riders/Walkers Dismissal	3:15 PM
First Bus	3:20 PM
Afterschool Dismissal	3:25PM

No Sign outs after 2:30, unless you have a doctor's note.

HERE TO SERVE YOU!!!

Please feel free to contact us on any problem or concern. Listed below are telephone numbers that may be helpful to you.

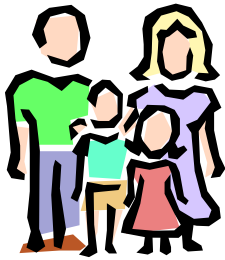
North Newton	464-2631
Superintendent	464-3191

NORTH NEWTON'S MISSION STATEMENT

North Newton Elementary School will ensure that each student succeeds.

VISION STATEMENT

Shaping the World – one student at a time!



North Newton Elementary School

Parent Involvement Policy

Our goal is for each child to have a successful learning experience. For this to happen, it is important that the school staff, the community and families work together.

In order to build a strong partnership between home and school, we will provide the following:

- An annual Open House where parents will meet teachers, learn about the Title 1 program requirements, and be given opportunities to become involved in their child's education.
- Additional meetings throughout the year to provide assistance to parents in understanding the State's academic assessments. Meetings will also focus on how parents and teachers can work together to monitor the child's progress in order to improve student achievement. Particular topics and needs from parents will be addressed through timely meetings.
- Materials and specific training to help parents work with their children.
- Meetings scheduled at different times during the day to better accommodate parents' schedules.
- At least two scheduled parent conferences where the progress of the student will be discussed and explained, as well as the expectations for the grade level, school curriculum, academic assessment, state's academic content and achievement standards, and any other concerns that the teacher or parent may have. All students who have a PEP, must meet each quarter with the teacher to review progress.
- Monthly newsletters informing the parents of activities and programs along with the outside marquee sign providing advanced notice of upcoming events.
- A School-Parent Accountability Pledge to outline how parents, school staff and students share the responsibility for improvement in learning.
- A minimum of two meetings during the school year where parents will have an opportunity to help review, plan for and make suggestions to improve the Title 1 program, as well as the Parent Involvement Policy, and the School-Parent Accountability Pledge.
- Brochures/pamphlets with tips on various school related topics for home integration.

Parents and community leaders are always welcome at North Newton Elementary School. Every effort will be made to communicate with parents in an understandable format and language.



Children are important to us!

When you visit North Newton, we want you to see:

- 1. High expectations for all!**
- 2. Strong school-home partnership.**
- 3. Colorful, welcoming, and inviting building.**
- 4. Child-friendly technology that is readily available.**
- 5. Strong, solid decision-making process.**
- 6. Continuously high teacher and student morale.**
- 7. Everyone aware of where we are headed and what steps are in place to reach that goal.**
- 8. Everyone on board with the same goal of success.**
- 9. Close, supportive family attitude.**

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

After school care will be provided through the Community Schools Program. The supervision is provided from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. each day. Inquiries should be directed to the Community Schools at 464-4001 from 2:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.



TRAFFIC PATTERN

KISS AND GO

- 1. All Car riders will line up on North Ashe Ave and follow through the West 26th St to the driveway on the right side of the building. We ask that you Kiss and Go. Kiss your child in the car and let them go into the building. (Safety Concerns)**
- Children must leave and enter cars from the passenger side of the car only. (This will keep them out of the traffic and prevent accidents.)
- The bus loading is in the front entrance of the North Newton Elementary School.
- 4. No student is to be dropped off in the staff parking lot.**
- 5. NO WALK – UPS ALLOWED! All students must be picked up in a car!**
- 6. All children MUST be picked up by 3:40 pm!**

DELAYED OPENINGS OR CLOSINGS

In the event of severely inclement weather or mechanical breakdown, school may be closed or starting time delayed. The same conditions may also necessitate early dismissal. School closing, delayed starting time or early dismissal will be announced over WNNC/WIRC radio (1230 AM or 630 AM) as well as other radio stations, TV stations, and the Newton Conover City Schools website www.newton-conover.org. Reports in the morning will be broadcast as early as possible. Please do not call the school. Telephone lines must be kept open for emergencies.

ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is imperative for pupil achievement. Students are expected to be in attendance each day school is in session except for personal illness or exempt holidays. North Carolina has compulsory attendance laws that we must follow. Work missed through absence from school is difficult to make up and there is no substitute for actual participation in the daily classes. Each day and each class make a small contribution to one's education. It is very important for your child to develop good attendance habits; however, if it is necessary to be absent, the following procedure should be followed:

1. If possible, notify the teacher before your child is absent for such things as funerals, etc.
2. Parents are asked to call the school to report the reason for a student's absence.
3. When children are absent, upon their return to school, they must bring a note from their parent or guardian as to the exact reason for their absences including the kind of sickness. This is required by the State. This written record enables the school and the parents to work together for the best interest of the child. If the child does not bring in this excuse by the second day, a phone call to the parent may be made to determine the child's excuse for the absence. Sometimes we have found that children were absent and the parent was not aware of it.
4. A student is expected to make up work missed when absent. By doing this, the student will not fall behind in classwork.
5. One Call Now will send a message each day to any student who is absent.
6. Excessive absences may be referred to Judges in School.

In accordance with the North Carolina State attendance policy all absences will be considered "lawful" or "unlawful". *The ONLY absences that will be considered lawful are:*

1. personal illness or injury which makes the student physically unable to attend;
2. isolation ordered by the State Board of Health;
3. death in the immediate family;
4. medical or dental appointment;
5. participation under subpoena as a witness in a court proceeding;
6. observance of a religious event with prior approval by the principal,

Excessive absences without a reasonable excuse may constitute truancy. Ten or more tardies and/or early dismissals make children ineligible for perfect attendance recognition.

TARDIES

We ask that students arrive at school promptly, before 8:15 a.m., to avoid interruptions in the instructional day. The first ten minutes of school are a vital part of the school schedule when students make preparations for the entire day. Parents must be responsible for getting students out of bed and to school on time. Parents of late students **MUST** come in to sign your child in for that day.

BRINGING THINGS TO SCHOOL

Students are not to bring tape recorders, radios, jam boxes, headphones, cell phones, game-boys, I-Pods, or collection cards to school. Often times, these items are dropped and/or broken by students or friends, either on the bus or at school, and then liability becomes an issue. Any items brought to school will be collected by the child's teacher and returned only when the parent of that child comes to school to meet with the teacher and pick up the item.

BUS EXPECTATIONS

1. Talk in a normal conversational voice with no excessive noise.
2. Cooperate with and obey the driver at all times.
3. Remain seated, facing forward with feet on the floor.
4. Keep heads, arms, and feet inside bus at all times.
5. Never use profane and indecent language while riding on the school bus.
6. Never mar or deface the bus in any way.
7. Never attempt to ride on a school bus, unless assigned to it by the principal.

It is unlawful for a person to ride on a school bus without proper assignment. Remember that riding a school bus is a **privilege**, not a **right**. Violations of these rules may result in loss of bus riding privileges. A student must have a note from a parent or guardian to get on or off the bus at a stop that is different from the normal one.

The safety of students riding our school buses is a great concern. One of the leading causes of bus accidents is driver distraction. If students are disruptive, they will be given a bus referral. To ensure the safety of our bus riders, the following consequences will be given to those receiving bus referrals:

- 1st slip—warning/parent note home
- 2nd slip—1 day bus suspension/note home
- 3rd slip— 2 day bus suspension/note home
- 4th slip— 3 day bus suspension/note home
- 5th slip— 1 week bus suspension/note home
- 6th and above—Principal's discretion

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are important events to elementary school children. If you wish to provide a small snack for the students in your child's classroom, please discuss it with the teacher ahead of time. He or she will let you know what is appropriate to send and what time of day is best. Please remember that students may not receive deliveries of balloons, flowers, etc. at school. ***NO homemade baked goods are permitted in accordance to the state child***

nutrition laws. All food for student parties, socials, etc. must be purchased from a grocery/department store.

CAFETERIA

Child Nutrition offers a range of services for students, while striving to prepare and provide healthy, well balanced meals that meet your child's needs. Breakfast and Lunch Meals are offered daily in all cafeterias. Students may purchase one complete breakfast and one complete lunch per day. A breakfast consists of two breads or one bread and one meat, a fruit and milk. Lunch consist of one meat, one bread, two fruits or vegetables and a milk. Students may also purchase additional items at a la carte prices.

Child Nutrition encourages all parents to pay for their children's meals in advance. Payments are accepted daily, weekly, monthly or any other frequency the parent desires. Online payment for meal accounts is also available at www.lunchprepay.com. Benefits of the lunch prepay system include the following:

1. Quick and easy payments 24 hours a day
2. Pay for multiple students with one single payment
3. Check your child's meal account balance
4. Get low balance alerts by email

If an elementary or middle school student fails to bring money they will only be allowed to charge lunch. Once the student accrues five (5) days of charged lunches their charge privileges will be suspended for a regular lunch. A courtesy meal will then be provided to the student and charged to his meal account. High school students are not permitted to charge lunch; they may pay for their meals on a daily basis or prepay money into their account. Child Nutrition staff will send letters home weekly to parents informing them of the meal charges. Child Nutrition staff and principals will work with parents/guardians to determine the best method to ensure payment of meal costs for students who have exceeded their charge privileges.

Free/Reduced Meals

Newton-Conover City Schools sends a free and reduced priced meal application form home with every student at the beginning of the school year. Forms are available in the school office for students arriving throughout the school year. Free and reduced priced meal forms are to be completed and returned to the school or to the Child Nutrition Office at 605 North Ashe Avenue, Newton, NC 28658 as soon as possible. All students in the household may be placed on one application form even though the students go to different schools. **Complete one form per family.**

If a student was receiving free or reduced priced meals last school year in the Newton-Conover City Schools they

will continue to receive the benefits the first 10 days of school giving parents time to fill out the new application form. New students will be required to pay for their meals until the application form is processed and approved. Charges made on a student's account prior to receiving free or reduced priced meal benefits must be paid. Child Nutrition is unable to take off charges made prior to the day their application was approved.

Special Needs/Diet Orders – Students who require a special diet or diet modification due to a medical issue must complete and return the special diet order form that is signed by a licensed physician. This form must be on file before any changes can be made to a child's meals. This form can be found in the school office or online at www.newton-conover.org . When you are looking at the Newton-Conover City Schools web site, click on departments and then click on Child Nutrition. *The form is located at the bottom of the screen under teacher forms.* All special diet orders are implemented and followed as written throughout the school including the classrooms. No deviation from these orders are allowed without notification and/or change by a licensed Physician, accompanying a newly completed form. Please have your child's physician be as clear and detailed as possible with instructions. If necessary, we may call to verify diet orders and instructions.

Refunds – Students may receive a refund for the remaining balance on their lunch account when leaving the school system. It is the parent or adults responsibility to contact the cafeteria to inform the manager they are leaving and would like a refund. The manager will check the specific account and complete the necessary form based on the balance amount.

- Below \$5.00 – Ask the cafeteria manager for a refund from your student's account. The manager will complete the refund form and ask for your signature. Money will then be returned.
- Over \$5.00 – Ask the cafeteria manager for a refund from your student's account. A refund form will be completed with the necessary information and given to the parent. The parent is responsible for completing the remainder of the form and submitting it to the Child Nutrition Department at Newton-Conover Administrative Office. The parent requesting the refund must provide their Social Security Number in order for a check to be processed. This procedure may take approximately 3 weeks to complete. The check will be mailed to the address provided on the form.

CUSTODY

When one parent has exclusive custodial rights granted by the court, a copy of the court documents must be filed in

the office. If there are special requests regarding custody, make these requests known on the Student Information Card and directly to the teacher and the office. It is the responsibility of the custodial parent or legal guardian to notify the school of a child's change of custody. North Newton Elementary staff cannot legally prohibit the biological parent from picking up their child unless specified in legal court or DSS documents.

DRESS AND APPEARANCE

Students are to dress for school and school activities in an appropriate manner. Clothing should never be a distraction to instruction or disruption to the order of the day.

The 2017-18 Student Dress Code includes but may not be limited to the following conditions:

1. Shoes must be worn at all times. ***No flip-flops will be permitted.***
2. Head coverings (hats, bandannas, toboggans, and other headwear) and sunglasses may not be worn inside the building.
3. Clothing with questionable or inappropriate language or pictures on it will not be permitted.
4. Clothing that displays alcoholic beverages, drugs, smoking or tobacco products will not be permitted.
5. Students may not wear tank tops, strapless tops, spaghetti strap tops, midriff tops, halter-tops, or muscle shirts. Stomachs are to be covered at all times. (A good test is to raise the arms and make sure no stomach shows.)
6. Shorts and skirts must be long enough to reach the fingertips when the student is standing.
7. Articles of clothing that are offensive to race, color, creed, or sex will not be permitted.
8. No chains will be allowed on articles of clothing.
9. Pants must be worn at the waist and will not be permitted to expose undergarments.



FIELD TRIPS

Teachers may schedule field trips to reinforce and enrich the basic curriculum plan. **Parents will receive field trip plans for the entire school year sometime in early September from your child's teacher. You will receive information for each trip, the date it is scheduled, and the cost involved. You may choose to pay for all of the field trips for the year in September, pay for the field trips by the semester, or pay for each individual field trip. Parents will also receive a field trip permission form that will serve as permission for all field trips for**

the school year. Please turn in these forms and field trip money to your child's teacher. Hopefully, this will help you with your planning for the year. For the different field trips, we need parent volunteers. We know that many of you gladly volunteer. If you will please contact the teachers to inform them of your wishes to help they will gladly share information with you. One policy that we need your help with is the attendance of children who are not in the class attending the field trip. We are asking that parents not bring children who are not in the class with them on the field trip. If you would like to bring a child who is attending North Newton but is in a different grade level or class, the student will receive an unexcused absence for the day.

SCHOOL WIDE DISCIPLINE

The expectation is that students come to school to learn. To learn, good behavior is needed. We believe all students can behave appropriately while at school. We will allow no student to stop the teacher from teaching or prevent other students from learning. Positive Behavior Intervention System is our way of monitoring behaviors. We believe all students should:

North Newton Bulldog Rules

Be Prepared.

Act Responsibly.

Respect Others.

Keep Safe.

PBIS at North Newton

At North Newton we are a Positive Behavior Intervention Support School. This means that we gear our discipline around a positive approach rather than a negative one. We want to reward students for doing well, rather than just having consequences for inappropriate behavior in school.

We will continue using our behavior management system from last year. In your child's classroom, a behavior management program called the clip chart is used. The chart is pictured on the left hand side of this page. Each child has a clip on the clip chart. Every student starts their clip on ready to learn or green. The student has the chance to move their clip up or down throughout the day depending upon the choices that they make. If a clip is moved up, it can be moved down if behavior worsens, and vice versa, if the clip is moved down, it can be moved up if the behavior improves. At the end of each day, the clip chart is recorded for record keeping.



As students end their days at the top of the chart, they earn points toward recognition on the “Super Achievers Wall” that is located in both buildings at our school.

This year, students will no longer be earning one grade for citizenship. Instead their behavior will be recorded throughout the 9 weeks on the 6 work habits that will be on the report card. These grades will come directly from their performance in the classroom and other areas in the school each day and their performance on the clip chart. We are very excited about this new behavior management system, as it allows students the opportunity throughout the day to improve behavior and be their best selves! Students also have the opportunity to earn tickets throughout the day for making good choices. Tickets will be turned into a classroom bucket, and at the end of the week 2 tickets from each classroom will be drawn for various prizes.

In addition to daily and weekly opportunities to be rewarded for exhibiting excellent behavior, students in grades 3-5 have the opportunity to earn gold and silver BARK cards each nine weeks. When a student earns a BARK card they have special privileges and rewards they receive throughout the nine weeks. Students in grades K-2 have the opportunity to be recognized as a “PUP” and have lunch with the principal once a month!



Class Dojo

Teachers use Class Dojo in the classroom as a monthly reward to recognize positive behavior. Students will earn points based on their color on the clip chart at the end of the day. Here are the point values for the clip chart.

+1, purple +2, pink +3, yellow -1, orange -2, red -3

Parents can also sign up to be notified of their child's progress through Class Dojo and receive a daily report from the teacher. At the end of the month, students who have an average of 80% or higher in Dojo points will be rewarded. Rewards include: movies, popcorn, extra recess and many other special activities. At the end of the year we will have larger rewards such as inflatables, bowling etc.

VIOLENT BEHAVIOR AND WEAPONS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!

Beginning December 1, 1993, the following laws regarding violent behavior and weapons on school property became effective: Committing any of the following acts constitutes a FELONY punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment.

1. Possessing or carrying any gun, rifle, pistol, or other firearm (other than a BB gun) onto school property.
2. Possessing or carrying any dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine, or powerful explosive onto school property.

HEAD LICE

Students found to have head lice and/or their nits are to be excluded from school until treated and nits are removed from the hair. The absences accrued from exclusion due to lice infestation shall be excused for the day the lice were discovered and the following day ONLY. If lice are found on Friday or the day before a holiday, students are expected to return to school on the next instructional day. Designated personnel in each school will be trained in the identification of head lice and the appropriate execution of school policy and procedures. *Parents are required to accompany a child returning to school*, so that the child can return home if additional nits or lice are found. Chronic cases are subject to be reported to the County Health Department and the Department of Social Services. Newton-Conover's lice policy is a no-nit policy.

STUDENT ILLNESS

Should a student become ill during the school day, parents will be notified and asked to come to take the student home. Emergency numbers will be kept on file in the school office. **It is crucial that the school be given a telephone number where the parents or other designated adult may be reached in case of an emergency or illness. If we do not have an updated phone number, the principal has to make all medical decisions for your child.** If your child has a chronic illness (asthma, diabetes, allergies, bladder infections, etc.), please notify his/her classroom teacher. This will assist us in helping, treating, and understanding your child.

USE OF MEDICATION

The Newton-Conover City School District recognizes that it is more desirable for medication to be administered in the home. However, any student who is required to take prescription medication or over-the-counter medication during school hours must have written permission from a licensed health care provider. No medicine will be given unless it is sent from home. Please refer to NCCS School Board Policy #6125 (Administering Medicines to Students) for more information about this.

PRINCIPALS HONOR ROLL AND AWARDS ASSEMBLY

- The Principals Honor Roll will list all students who earn 4's and 5's in academic subject areas.
- The Honor Roll will list all students receiving all 3's 4's and 5's in academic subject areas.
- An awards assembly will be scheduled each quarter to recognize the students listed on the honor rolls and "Terrific Kids".
- Teachers will present the students with the perfect attendance and citizenship awards in the classroom.

GRADING SCALE FOR K-5 STUDENTS

As a school district, elementary schools will be moving to a new grading system beginning with the 2015-16 school year. This grading scale matches better with the state testing scale used for EOG testing. This scale will be used for all academic areas: English Language Arts, Math, Writing, Science, and Social Studies.

Grading Scale for Academics

- 1 – No progress toward grade-level standards
- 2 – Limited progress toward grade-level standards
- 3 – Progressing toward grade-level standards
- 4 – Meets grade level standards
- 5 – Exceeds grade-level standards

For special classes, the following grading scale will be implemented:

E – Exceeds Expectations
M – Meets Expectations
NY – Not Yet Met

IMMUNIZATIONS AND KINDERGARTEN HEALTH ASSESSMENT

North Carolina state law requires that all students enrolling in public school for the first time or coming from outside our school system present their birth certificate and immunization record when registering. A physical examination must also be completed for students entering school for the first time. Each child in North Carolina must be immunized against the following diseases by receiving the specified doses of vaccine by certain ages:

- 5 DTaP, DTP or DT doses (If 4th dose is after 4th birthday, 5th dose is not required; DT requires medical exemption.)
- POLIO VACCINE-booster dose is required on or after 4th birthday and before entering school
- 1-4 Hib doses (Series complete if at least 1 dose given on/after 15 months and before 5 years of age; not required after age 5.)
- 3 Hep B doses (Children born on or after July 1, 1994 are required to have 3 doses.)
- 2 Measles doses (at least 30 days apart; 1st dose on/after 12 months of age)
- 1 Mumps dose (on/after 12 months of age)
- 1 Rubella dose (on/after 12 months of age)
- 2 Varicella doses are required (Children born on or after April 1, 2001 without documented history of disease)

A parent/guardian has thirty (30) calendar days in which to furnish the school with the child's immunization records and Kindergarten health assessment. Failure to do so will result in the child not being permitted to attend school until such records are produced.

**“You just can’t hide our
BULLDOG pride. We show our
pride through our B.A.R.K.
*Be prepared, Act responsibly, Respect
others, Keep safe***