

Northwest School of the Arts - Home of the Phoenix  
1441 W 116<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44102  
D. Lockett Sr. M. Ed., Principal  
R. Szymczak- Dean of Academics  
J. Abdullah- Behavior Intervention Specialist  
J.Umpierre- Office Manager

## **Northwest School of the Arts 2023-2024 Expectations**

### **Northwest School of the Arts Creed**

When I want to speak let me think first.  
Is it true?  
Is it kind?  
Is it necessary?  
If not, let it be unsaid.  
When speaking of others this day, I desire to do so with a spirit  
of kindness.

### **AS A FAMILY MEMBER OF NORTHWEST SCHOOL OF THE ARTS:**

You represent yourself.

You represent your family.

And now you represent the NWSOTA Community.

We call you to be the best that you can be, and we will daily push you above and beyond that expectation.

We expect you to exhibit the characteristics of a NWSOTA student 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. This includes during the school year, vacation, public, dances, parties, on social media, and anywhere else you go.

**You are a member of the NWSOTA family, and we care about who you are and what you do!**

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## THE BELIEFS:

- **We believe that** all members of our school community have the right to a consistently safe, secure, attractive, engaging, and positive learning environment.
- **We believe that** each student is an individual with unique needs.
- **We believe that** diversity is recognized and welcomed in the school and classroom environment. Our school is designed to support student work and discussions that are open, honest, safe, and respectful of all cultures and viewpoints.
- **We believe that** students, staff, parents, and community members benefit from positive relationships and mutual respect.
- **We believe that** positive and open communication is expected, encouraged, and supported between staff, students, parents, and the community.
- **We believe that** high expectations for students encourage the development of self-motivation through recognition, positive reinforcement, varied learning strategies and parent involvement to promote individual student success.
- **We believe that** education provides the knowledge and skills to support responsible citizenship and develop a sense of the value of lifelong learning. Being promoted from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to high school is a major milestone on this path.
- **We believe that** as representatives of NWSOTA, students are expected to hold themselves to the highest standards of behavior at school, at home, in the community, and on social media.

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## **COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS:**

Northwest School of the Arts strives to create and foster a school community in which all individuals are treated with respect.

All members of our community/ family are entitled to pursue their fullest potential.

We respect each member's right to express their individuality freely if it does not infringe on the rights of others.

### **We will not tolerate:**

- Violating students' rights to their education by causing disruptions in or out of the classroom
- Disrespectful speech or behavior directed towards anyone at anytime
- Hate speech
- Harassment, bullying, and/or ridicule
- Threats, fights, intimidation
- Verbal abuse, emotional abuse, or physical abuse
- Excessive/inappropriate displays of affection
- Conduct that belittles or shows hostility toward any individual or group
- Continually not meeting academic or behavioral expectations
- Inappropriate language and/or noises
- Excessive unexcused absences, excessive tardiness and/or truancy
- Lack of commitment and effort
- Speech or behavior that causes harm to the community

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## **DRESS CODE**

The dress code at Northwest School of the Arts is designed to give students freedom of expression while supporting choices that are professional.

We ask all students to arrive in dress code each day and all parents and guardians to support their students so that we can maintain a focus on academics rather than spending time on dress code infractions.

Any student who does not have enough dress code appropriate school clothing should contact the Behavior Intervention Specialist (Ms. Abdullah), Principal (Mr. Lockett) or our Say Yes to Cleveland Family Support Specialist (Ms. Worley)

### **Dress Code is enforced as follows:**

Teachers will check dress code daily during homeroom/ morning meeting. Students may also be checked for dress code by any adult throughout the school day.

Students who are out of dress code will receive communication from school staff/ administration. Parents are expected to provide approved Northwest School of the Arts Dress Code attire even if that means parents must drop off proper clothing or pick up the student, take them home and return to school. **Students will not receive an excused absence due to dress code issues.**

### **General Guidelines**

1. Students may choose any material, color, or pattern that is not bandana print.
2. Students can wear any clothing/attire that is not pajamas and does not expose the students' lower back or chest (below the armpits), buttocks, or stomach while sitting or standing.



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3. Students can wear any shirts/tops/dresses that have sleeves and any shirts/tops that can be tucked in. No crop tops or tank tops permitted.
4. Students may wear bottoms that are just above knee length when standing or longer. Bottoms **may not have rips, tears or shreds.**
5. Students may wear any head covering that is worn for religious purposes.
6. Students may wear sweatshirts, sweaters, light jackets, denim jackets, etc. Inside the building
7. Students may wear any shoes with a hard sole and a back. Students are not permitted to wear flip flops or slides.

### Safety Guidelines

8. Hats and hoods may not be worn inside the building.
9. Heavy outerwear or long coats may not be worn inside the building.
10. sunglasses, make-up that disguises the face, or anything else that disguises a person's appearance (other than protective face mask) may not be worn inside the building.
11. Any article of apparel, clothing, accessory, tattoo or hair style that contains hate speech, promotes gangs, subversive groups, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, violence, criminal activity, presents a hazard to the individual or others, or is offensive or degrading is not permitted
12. Anything that may cause a distraction to the educational process or is deemed inappropriate by administration is not permitted.

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### **SCHOOL HOURS AND ATTENDANCE POLICIES,**

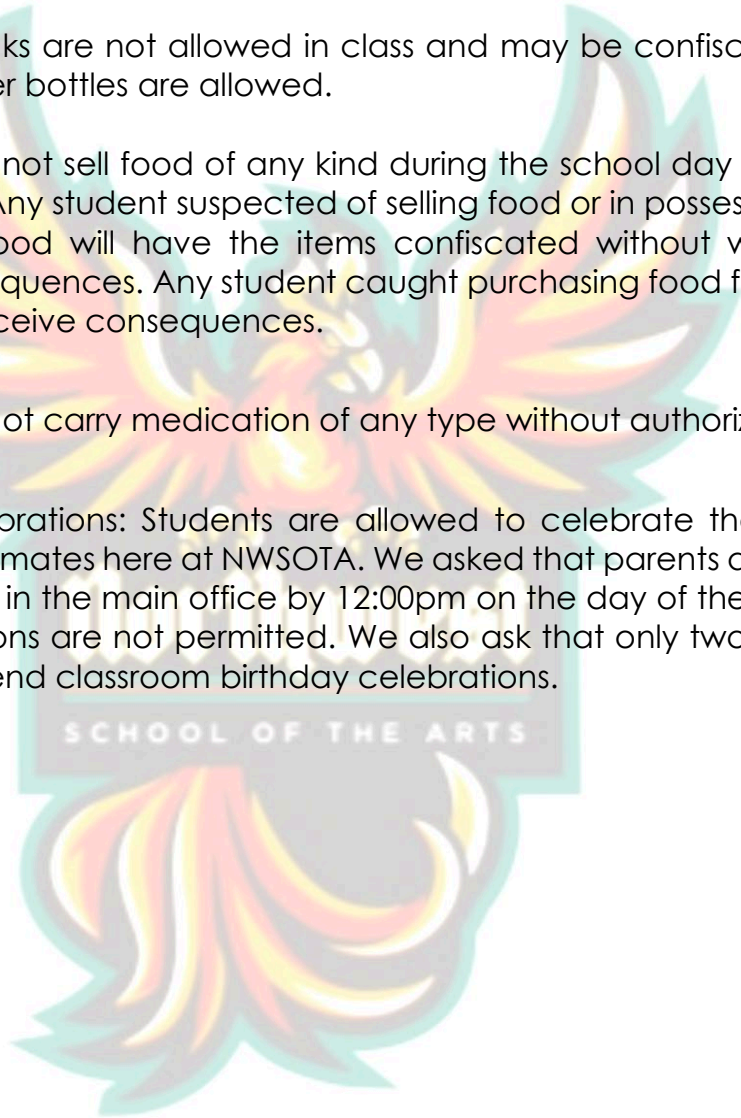
Ohio Revised Code mandate that all students attend school for the full school day, every day.

#### ***To ensure student safety and preserve the focus on learning:***

- Northwest School of the Arts hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:30pm.
- *Students are permitted to obtain breakfast between 7:30am and 7:55am. The cafeteria will close at 8:00am. Students are not permitted to receive breakfast past 8:00am unless given permission from an administrator.*
- Please ensure the safety of your students by planning for transportation and weather. NWSOTA staff cannot wait with students after the conclusion of after school activities.
- All students are expected to be in their seat, ready to learn, BEFORE 8:05 a.m. If a student is walking in the Main Entrance at 8:05 a.m., they are late for class.
- If a parent/guardian needs to pick up their student early, all communication must go through the main office. To ensure a focus on learning, please refrain from habitually picking students up early.
- No student will be released without the permission of a parent/guardian and proper photo id.
- Students may not post any video, photo or live stream taken in school during the school day.
- Students may not leave NWSOTA campus to get food.
- Students/ Parents may not order food or have food delivered to them during the school day and school employees cannot sign for food or accept food orders for students or parents. We ask that students that bring lunch to school would be sent to school with their lunch. Calling students down to pick up and receive lunch interrupts the educational process.

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- Students may not bring any type of glass containers, or any open containers (cups, mugs, bottles with the seal broken, etc.) into the building at any time. Beverages and water bottles must be sealed to be brought into the building (meaning they have never been opened).
- Food and drinks are not allowed in class and may be confiscated by the teacher. Water bottles are allowed.
- Students may not sell food of any kind during the school day as it violates several laws. Any student suspected of selling food or in possession of large amounts of food will have the items confiscated without warning and receive consequences. Any student caught purchasing food from another student will receive consequences.
- Students cannot carry medication of any type without authorization.
- Birthday Celebrations: Students are allowed to celebrate their birthdays with their classmates here at NWSOTA. We asked that parents drop off **store brought** treats in the main office by 12:00pm on the day of the event. Gifts and decorations are not permitted. We also ask that only two adults from the family attend classroom birthday celebrations.



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## **CELL PHONES/TECHNOLOGY/SOCIAL MEDIA**

**PLEASE READ:** Students at HANW bring cell phones and technology to school **at their own risk**. To maintain a focus on rigorous arts and academic instruction, Northwest School of the Arts CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST, STOLEN, OR DAMAGED CELL PHONES AND TECHNOLOGY. **Due to the amount of time required to request and review camera footage, NWSOTA will not be able to review footage in search of lost, missing, or stolen cell phones/technology.** Students with concerns over the safety of such items should keep the item secured in their locker, leave their cellphone/technology to a trusted adult, or leave it at home. Cell phones not in use for an authorized purpose should be powered completely off and secured in a locker, backpack, or purse. Even when items are secured in this manner, the student who chooses to bring the item to school does so at his or her own risk. NWSOTA and its employees are not responsible for loss, theft, damage, or vandalism to a cellular phone.

In order to ensure a safe and positive culture in the hallways, students must comply with the following expectations:

- Teachers may confiscate phone until the end of the period OR administration may confiscate the phone until the end of the day. Confiscated phones/electronics must be held in a secure location and labeled with the student's name. Multiple infractions may result in loss of privilege (a student cannot have their phone at school for a designated period), or the phone being held for a parent/guardian to pick up.
- Teachers reserve the right to request all students who enter their classroom to place their cellphones in a designated area upon entering the classroom.
- Students should keep their phones powered off and stored in a locker, purse, or backpack when not in use for an approved reason. Cell phones are not to be visible in the classroom unless a teacher instructs you to take them out.
- Students may not take photographs, livestream, audio or videos of other students and staff.
- Students may not use cell phones in bathrooms/locker rooms as use of photo/video equipment in a restroom or locker room is illegal.



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- Students may not post any video, photo or live stream taken in school.
- The main office is the only allowed location for phone calls, unless that student has been given express permission by an adult who is present at the time of use.
- Students may not wear ear buds/headphones in the hallway, cafeteria, or classroom (unless given permission) at any time.
- Students are accountable for their words and their actions both in school and all activity on their on social media accounts.
- We will not tolerate cyberbullying, or any form of bullying at NWSOTA.

