

MISSION

"The mission of the Northern Lehigh School District community is to create a challenging and supportive environment dedicated to meeting the diverse educational needs of all learners."

--Northern Lehigh School District Strategic Plan, 2008

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK 2010 - 2011

Peters Elementary School ♦ **Slatington Elementary School**

4055 Friedens Road
Slatington, PA 18080
Mr. Paul D. Rearden, Jr.
Principal

Office: 610-767-9827
Health: 610-767-9855
Guidance: 610-767-9825

1201 Shadow Oaks Lane
Slatington, PA 18080
Dr. Linda W. Marcincin
Principal

Office: 610-767-9821
Health: 610-767-9822
Guidance: 610-767-9823

District Transportation: 610-767-9846
District Bus Garage 610-767-7706
District Food Services: 610-767-9811

Please refer to the Northern Lehigh School District website,
www.nlsd.org, for school policies.

Northern Lehigh School District is an equal opportunity educational institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, age, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or limited English proficiency in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Physically and/or mentally handicapped individuals may qualify for special educational/employment services and equipment modifications. These services will assist students in successfully completing their educational program and in participating in school activities. On the other hand, these services will enable employees covered by this policy in the performance of their job related duties.

For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, and special services for physically and/or mentally handicapped individuals, contact the Assistant to the Superintendent and Coordinator of Title IX, Title VI, Section 504, and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, at the Northern Lehigh School District Office, located at 1201 Shadow Oaks Lane, Slatington, PA 18080, 610-767-9800.

DISTRICT OFFICE PERSONNEL

Administration

Superintendent

Mr. Michael W. Michaels

Business Manager

Mr. Jeremy Melber

Technology Coordinator

Mr. John Hrizuk

Assistant to the Superintendent

Mrs. Karen A. Nicholas

Director of Building and Grounds

Mr. Gregory Derr

Members of the Board of Education

President

Mr. Edward E. Hartman

Secretary

Mr. Gregory S. Williams

Members

Mr. Gary Fedorcha

Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr.

Mrs. Lori A. Geronikos

Vice President

Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser

Treasurer

Mr. Mathias J. Green

Mrs. Natalie Green

Mrs. Donna Kulp

PETERS SCHOOL INFORMATION

Times of School

Grades K - 2 9:05 AM—3:25 PM

Telephone Numbers

Main Office	610-767-9827
Health Office	610-767-9855
Guidance Office	610-767-9825
Transportation	610-767-9846
Bus Garage	610-767-7706
Food Services	610-767-9811

Additional Information

Students may enter school after 8:50 AM. Students are expected to report to school no later than 9:05 AM. Any student reporting to school after 9:05 AM will be reported tardy.

Parking and Pick-Up: One-way traffic patterns are in effect. Traffic enters at the westernmost driveway (at the left when facing the school), passes through the parking lot, and exits at the easternmost driveway (at the right when facing the school). Students may be dropped off at the main entrance nearest the office. Parents who wish to enter the building **must** park in the lot, not along the curb or driveway area. Bus traffic will enter and exit from the easternmost driveway. Cars may not block or enter the bus loop, the area in front of the two-story portion of the building.

Dismissal: Walkers and students being picked up by parents will be dismissed at 3:20 PM. Parents picking up students must park in the lot and report to the westernmost set of glass doors (at the left when facing the school) with photo identification, such as a driver's license, to sign out students. Bussed students are dismissed immediately following dismissal of walkers and after buses arrive.

Building Security: All doors to the school are locked at 9:05 AM. All visitors shall enter by the center doors and proceed directly to the principal's office. All visitors must sign in at the office upon arrival; visitors will be given a badge which must be worn while in the building. When leaving, visitors should sign out at the office and return the visitor's badge.

SLATINGTON SCHOOL INFORMATION

Times of School

Grades 3 - 6 8:25 AM—2:45 PM

Telephone Numbers

Main Office	610-767-9821
Health Office	610-767-9822
Guidance Office	610-767-9823
Inst. Support	610-767-9851
Transportation	610-767-9846
Bus Garage	610-767-7706
Food Services	610-767-9811

Additional Information

Students may enter school after 8:15 AM. Students are expected to report to school no later than 8:25 AM. Any student reporting to school after 8:25 AM will be reported tardy.

Parking and Pick-Up: Cars are prohibited from entering the bus driveway in front of the school from 8:00—8:30 AM and 2:30—3:15 PM and during the school day when traffic cones are placed across the entrance. NO ONE may remove the traffic cones to gain access to school driveway.

Dismissal: Walkers and students being picked up by parents will be dismissed at 2:45 PM. Parents should park in the lower parking lot and walk to the crosswalk in front of the school to meet the students. Students should not walk unsupervised through the lower parking lot for safety reasons due to traffic congestion. Bussed students are dismissed immediately following dismissal of walkers and after buses arrive.

Building Security: All doors to the school are locked at 8:25 AM. All visitors shall enter by the main doors and proceed directly to the principal's office, located on the second floor. All visitors must sign in at the office upon arrival listing name, date, time, reason for visit, and section of the building they will be in. Visitors will be given a badge which they must wear while in the building. When leaving, visitors should sign out at the office and return the visitor's badge.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Parents Taking Children to Class: After the first day of school, please separate from your children at the bus stop or at the door of the school.

Bicycles: Due to hazardous road conditions, Peters' students are not permitted to ride bicycles to school. Upon arrival at school, Slatington students must place their bicycles in the bicycle racks. They may not be used during the school day. Students and their parents assume full responsibility for the safety of bicycles at school and the students riding to and from school. PA Act 72 requires bicyclists under the age of twelve (12) to wear an ANSI, SNELL, OR ASTM approved helmet when riding a bicycle. Bicycle locks are recommended since the racks are not monitored during the school day. Cyclists will be dismissed with walkers at the end of the school day. Students should proceed directly to their bikes and leave the school grounds to avoid traffic congestion with school buses.

Littering: Littering inside and/or outside of the school or anywhere on school grounds is prohibited. Violators may be subject to disciplinary action and/or levying of fines.

Six-Day Schedule: Both elementary schools operate on a six-day cycle. If a day of school is canceled, the scheduled activities will be planned for the next day school is in session. Students are given daily reminders for the day of the cycle.

Car Pooling: Children will not be permitted to car pool without written permission from the custodial parent. Children will not be allowed to leave the building with anyone other than the parent, unless written permission to do so is sent to the office by the custodial parent. Identification must be provided to the office when picking up students.

District Emergency Plan: The district has adopted a comprehensive emergency response plan designed to aid district personnel in responding to any emergency. A copy of the emergency plan is available for review in the office of any district school or the office of the superintendent of schools.

Student Insurance: The district **does not** have insurance coverage for expenses resulting from accidental injuries occurring on district property during the school day. Medical expenses incurred from an accident are a personal responsibility and as such should be reported to your medical insurance carrier, if such coverage exists, and/or under the optional school insurance plan, which is available for parent purchase through the school.

Requests for Class Assignment: Each year the elementary staff invests a great deal of time and effort in making the best determination of placement for students. In doing so, they take into consideration the abilities, social concerns, behaviors, and other pertinent educational needs of the children. In prior years, parents have requested to have children placed with teachers. The numerous requests we have had in the past have made it impossible to meet the demands. Effective with the 1999-2000 school year, it is no longer possible to honor requests for a specific teacher.

EMERGENCY CLOSING OF SCHOOLS

During the school year it may become necessary to close schools because of an emergency, usually involving weather conditions. This section lists the official district directives to be used when schools must be closed.

***** PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL *****

Canceling School for the Day

When inclement weather, road conditions, or other emergencies make it necessary to close schools, the district's automated calling system, Connect-ED will place a phone call to specified phone numbers. An announcement will also be made over radio stations in the Allentown and Bethlehem areas as well as local TV stations as listed below. (Listen for "Northern Lehigh School District.")

Radio Stations	B104 FM	CAT COUNTRY 96 FM	WAEB 790 AM
	WZZO 95 FM	KYW News Radio 1060 AM	WYHM 1470 AM
T.V. Stations	WFMZ Channel 69	WYOU Channel 22	WCAU Channel 10
	WNEP Channel 16	WBRE Channel 28	BRCTV Channel 13

Web Site: www.mcall.com (The Morning Call)

Delayed Opening of School

If a delayed opening occurs, the Connect-ED call will be made, and the previously listed radio and TV stations will announce that all schools will open late. Please note that there may be an update to closed after a delay has initially been called. Continue to listen for announcements until the time your child must leave for school. Students are to be at their bus stop either one or two hours later than usual depending upon the announced delay. On days with two-hour delays, breakfast is not served.

Early Dismissal of School

When weather or emergency conditions warrant it, schools will close early. Buses will follow usual dismissal procedures, and pupils will be taken home as the buses arrive at the schools. The Connect-ED call will be made, and the previously listed radio and TV stations will announce the early closing of schools during the day.

Parental Responsibility

Parents are urged to note weather conditions that might cause the early release of students from school. Parents should be at home to receive the children when they arrive or should make alternate provisions in advance, in order to have an adult available to care for the children upon their arrival home. Children should be aware and reminded of such arrangements. If you plan to drive your child home, meet him/her at the bus stop. Do not drive to school. This creates additional traffic problems for the police, the road crew, and school officials.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Breakfast Program (Slatington, Peters)

Breakfast is served beginning at 8:15 AM at Slatington and 8:50 AM at Peters. Students who attend Y-Care, walk to school, or are dropped off by their parents may go directly to the cafeteria for breakfast at the starting time. Students who are bussed to school will have the option of having breakfast prior to reporting to their homebases.

The cost of breakfast is determined by family income. In order to be eligible for free or reduced-price breakfast, parents must complete the necessary application. This application can be obtained in either elementary office or from the director of cafeteria services.

Free Lunches

In compliance with state and federal requirements, the Northern Lehigh School District provides free or reduced price lunches to those children whose family cannot afford to pay the full price. Eligibility is determined by several criteria including size of the family, the number of children in school and the total income of the family. Application forms will be distributed to all district students during the first week of school.

Child Care (Slatington, Peters)

The Northern Lehigh School District, in conjunction with Suburban North YMCA, offers before- and after-school care for elementary students of the district in grades kindergarten through six. The program is held in both elementary schools and is staffed by YMCA employees. The daycare is open before school from 6:30 AM and after school until 6:00 PM. Y-Care is **usually** available when the schools have late starts and early dismissals. When school is closed due to inclement weather, there is no Y-Care at the schools or at the YMCA. Parents interested in registering their child(ren) for Y-Care should contact Suburban North YMCA, 880 Walnut Street, Catasauqua, PA at 610-264-5221 or your child's school.

ESL

ESL services are provided to all eligible students.

Enrichment Program (Slatington, Peters)

Commonly called the Gifted Program, this service is provided through the cooperation of the district and the Intermediate Unit. Students usually meet one-half day each week to engage in challenging and enrichment units of study. Students are recommended for this program by their teacher or parents. Initial screening and testing information is gathered. A team meeting is held to review results; at this meeting the decision to test for the program is reached. If testing is recommended, the school psychologist completes a battery of tests with the student, and all results are reviewed to determine eligibility for the enrichment program.

Homebound Instruction

Homebound instruction is available to students who are unable to attend regular classes due to the student's lengthy illness or disability. A request must be made in writing by the attending physician.

Safety Patrol (Slatington)

Slatington students in grades 5 and 6 have the opportunity to express an interest in serving as a member of the safety patrol for their school. Faculty members, in conjunction with the principal and guidance counselor, choose responsible students to wear the belt and badge of safety patrol.

Members are assigned the task of helping to keep order during arrival and dismissal of students. Members of Safety Patrol develop the skills of responsibility, reliability, and the ability to deal in a positive manner with their peers.

Speech, Hearing, Vision Program (Slatington, Peters)

Children who exhibit speech and language disorders, hearing losses and/or visual impairment, often have difficulty with educational achievement. Speech clinicians, teachers of the hearing impaired, and teachers of the visually impaired are available to test all pupils and provide services. If you believe that your child is in need of these services, call the school nurse or instructional support teacher to arrange testing for your child.

Title I

Title I is a federally funded remedial reading program. Students become eligible for Title I services upon review of student assessments and classroom teacher input. Title I provides intensive instruction and review of necessary skills.

Weekday Club (Slatington, Peters)

Planned and organized by the guidance counselor, this club consists of students who may be experiencing stress that is preventing them from working to their ability in school. In this club that meets with the guidance counselor every week, students share experiences and feelings; they learn to cope with those feelings in order to work more effectively in the classroom and with their peers. The guidance counselor and classroom teacher usually choose the students for this club, pending approval of the parent. Parents who believe their children would benefit from this club should contact the guidance counselor.

AIDS/Family Living Health Curriculum

The Northern Lehigh Elementary Schools are required by the State Board of Education to provide instruction about Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). The elementary schools do provide an AIDS awareness curriculum. In addition, students receive instruction in family living and human sexuality in the upper grades.

A pupil can be excused from instruction in these areas with a written request from the parent/guardian. Parents/guardians wishing more information about this instruction may contact the elementary school's guidance counselor.

NORTHERN LEHIGH ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

Northern Lehigh Elementary Schools agree to support student learning in the following ways:

1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables children to meet Pennsylvania's academic achievement standards as follows:
 - Curriculum is aligned with PA State Academic Standards
 - Instructional practices are scientifically research-based practices
 - Instructional materials are scientifically research-based
 - Assessment is conducted annually
 - Results of assessment are used to guide instruction and make curricular improvements
2. Hold parent-teacher conferences to discuss student achievement at the end of the first marking period in November and at the end of the third marking period in April with parent or teacher request.
3. Provide parents with frequent reports on their children's progress. These reports are provided at the end of each marking period. Mid-marking period progress reports for students who are experiencing difficulties are also provided at Slatington Elementary School.
4. Provide parents reasonable access to staff. Parents may contact staff members via email, telephone, or written note to schedule a conference.
5. Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and to observe classroom activities. The building principal is the contact person for these opportunities.

Parents agree to support their children's learning in the following ways:

1. Monitor their children's daily attendance
2. Encourage homework completion
3. Scrutinize the amount of television their children watch
4. Participate, as appropriate, in decisions related to their children's education
5. Promote positive use of their children's extracurricular time
6. Encourage a positive attitude towards learning

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Northern Lehigh Elementary Schools welcome the involvement of parents and other adults. In addition to regular communication with your child's teachers, we urge you to become actively involved in one or more of the following groups.

Elementary Volunteer Aide Program (Slatington, Peters)

Mothers, fathers, senior citizens, college students - community members who have time to spare, time to share, enter into the every day world of our elementary schools and, under the direction of a certified teacher, assist the children in non-instructional activities. Volunteers select the school, the grade level, and portions of the day, week or month they are able to participate. Volunteers also help by working on projects in their home. Orientation for volunteer aides is held shortly after the beginning of the school term.

Northern Lehigh Elementary Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO)

(Slatington, Peters combined)

The PTO is a group of caring adults who work year-round to benefit students in our elementary schools. PTO raises money for additional learning materials and equipment, field trips, and an annual scholarship. The organization also provides periodic general meetings with programs about contemporary educational and parental concerns. The PTO sponsors programs by and especially for children.

Title I Parent Advisory Council (PAC) (Slatington, Peters)

Title I is the district's remedial reading program. It is conducted with federal funds and, therefore, has several restrictions and obligations. A primary obligation, beyond that of helping students with difficulties in the classroom, is that the district maintains an active advisory council to help determine the program's objectives at the local level. Meetings are held throughout the school term. The coordinator for Title I is the Assistant to the Superintendent.

RULES & REGULATIONS

Students shall behave in a responsible, polite manner. Students have certain freedoms and rights, as well as responsibilities. Students shall respect and cooperate with adults on the staff. Students shall follow directions of and cooperate with Safety Patrol members.

The following list has been developed over the past few years, in cooperation with students and staff.

Dress & Grooming

- Students shall present a neat appearance at all times; clothing that focuses attention on the wearer is considered extreme.
- Students shall wear clothing that is comfortable, acceptable, and appropriate for weather conditions (especially considering outside recess).
- Students may wear shorts appropriate for school. Shorts less than mid-thigh are not permitted.
- Students may not wear shirts or other articles of clothing displaying objectionable scenes, words, or messages with double meanings which are suggestive. Clothing promoting drinking, smoking, or substance abuse or containing a statement which is derogatory to any racial, ethnic, or religious group is prohibited. Half blouses and shirts (with bare midriffs) are not permitted.
- Students may not wear shoe skates (wheelies), clog shoes, flip-flop types of sandals, or pool/beach footwear in school. Students may wear sandals with back straps.
- Students may not wear clothing considered hazardous for school activities, damaging to school equipment, or disruptive to the educational program.
- All hats, caps, scarves, bandanas, and sunglasses should be removed while in the building.
- Jackets and outerwear are not to be worn in classrooms.
- Hair should be neat, clean, and groomed.
- If at any time a student's dress or grooming causes concern, parents will be contacted by the school nurse or the principal to bring a change of clothing to school for the student.

Physical Education Classes

All students are expected to participate in physical education classes unless they have a doctor's excuse.

Students, Grades K - 3 - Each student should wear appropriate clothing and sneakers.

Students, Grades 4 - 6 - Each student should wear appropriate clothing and sneakers. Students will have the option of changing into shorts and tee shirts.

Classrooms

- Walk at all times - no running. Move through the building in an orderly and quiet manner.
- Display proper respect for all staff members and follow their directions.
- Arrive at school on time.

- Make proper use of all school facilities, equipment, and material. This includes the proper use of paper towels, toilet paper, and equipment in the bathrooms.
- Maintain proper dress and a clean, neat appearance.
- Respect and follow directions from safety patrol members.
- Respect the rights and property of all people. Do not handle anyone else's belongings. Label all your belongings (including your coat and hat) with your name.
- Keep your area (desks, chairs, floors, etc.) as clean as possible. Pick up any paper or other waste materials you may see on the floor.
- Students should not bring personal pencil sharpeners to school.
- Maintain proper attitudes and work habits, and complete academic work in accordance with teacher directions and expectations.
- Become familiar with and follow all school-wide rules and regulations.

Desks and lockers are the property of Northern Lehigh School District. Each student must use his/her desk, tote tray, or locker area for the purpose of storing books, lunches, garments, and other personal items of which possession is not prohibited by the district. No pupil shall use any desk, tote, or locker for storing any prohibited material.

The administration reserves the right to inspect any desk, tote, or locker and its content at any time and may confiscate prohibited material. Such material may be used as evidence against the student in disciplinary proceedings. Prior to a search, the student shall be notified and given an opportunity to be present. However, where school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the belongings contain materials that pose a threat to the health, welfare, and safety of students in the school, those belongings may be searched without prior warning.

Hallways

- Walk at all times, using the right side of the hallway and stairs. Running creates a safety hazard.
- Remain quiet in the halls and stairwells. Loud talking and noises are prohibited.
- Conduct yourself in an orderly manner. Games are to be played in the gym or on the playground.
- Use correct doors, and do not put your feet on any door or wall.
- Pick up any paper or other waste materials you may see in the halls.

Cafeteria

Food Services: 610-767-9811

- All students must buy a lunch or bring a lunch with them. Students who bring a lunch should have a drink in a plastic bottle, box, or thermos. Students should not bring glass containers to school.
- Pupils should walk to the cafeteria and in the cafeteria in a quiet, orderly manner. Jumping ahead in line is not permitted.
- Each student has an assigned seat and must remain in that seat for the entire lunch period except when directed to return trays or dispose of garbage.
- Do not touch food or containers on anyone else's tray.
- If a student wishes to go to the lavatory, s/he must obtain permission from the aide on duty.

- Courtesy to fellow pupils demands that pupils clean up food items or paper which is dropped or spilled. The lunch room table and chairs should be left in a neat condition.
- Choose proper topics for conversation. Some subjects are not discussed when people are eating.
- No students shall leave the cafeteria until his/her table is dismissed.
- Throwing of food is strictly forbidden.
- Students may not yell, but speak in normal tones ONLY to students seated near them.
- Popping of bags, whistling, or other unnecessary noises will not be tolerated.
- Lunch is not recess.
- At the end of the lunch period, students shall become quiet at the signal to provide orderly dismissal from the cafeteria.
- The lunch aides have the right to assign alternate seating and other interventions if the student fails to abide by the above listed rules. Should inappropriate behavior persist, the principal and/or teacher has the right to take additional measures. These disciplinary measures are listed in the discipline section of this handbook.

Fire Drills

- Students are to line up immediately after hearing the fire bell.
- Once in line, no one should talk. BE QUIET in order to hear directions.
- Move quietly to the nearest door and go outside.
- If you are not with a class or are walking to another area of the building, simply go out the nearest door and walk away from the building.
- Remain in line outside and wait for the all-clear signal.
- Return to the building in a quiet, orderly manner.
- Go back to whatever you were doing just before the fire drill.

Assembly Programs

- Enter the auditorium in a quiet, orderly manner. Stay in line.
- Sit in the next seat available. Do not switch seats or "save" seats for a friend.
- Talk quietly with your neighbor until the program is about to begin.
- Stop all talking when someone appears in the front of the group.
- Remain quiet while the program is going on.
- If you enjoy the program, applaud at the end. Booing or shouting is impolite and should not be done at any time.
- Leave the auditorium in a quiet, orderly manner.

Playground

- Walk out to the playground in a quiet, orderly manner.
- Only balls or other game items should be thrown. Stones, sticks, snowballs, snow and ice, and other harmful objects are not to be thrown at any time.
- Students must stay within designated areas. Be careful of cars entering or leaving the area. Play away from roadways.
- Be sure you are aware of where your own coat and belongings are at all times. Do not handle anyone else's belongings.
- Play in only those games in which you are involved. Do not interrupt other games.
- Students may not physically or verbally bully or abuse other students.

- Fighting is never permitted for any reason.
- Students should wear shoes appropriate for recess.
- Playground equipment and materials must be used by students in the manner that it was intended. Play on any piece of equipment for a short while. Give others a chance to play on it.
- Students are not permitted to engage in rough play, tackle football, wrestling, or any other potentially dangerous contact sport. Do not push or shove anyone on or near the equipment.
- Students may not return to the building without the approval of the recess monitor. Line up at the correct time and come back into the building in a quiet, orderly manner.
- Students who create problems at recess will be subject to disciplinary action by the teacher. If problems persist, the students will be referred to the principal for disciplinary measures as listed in the discipline section of this handbook.

Buses

Transportation: 610-767-9846

Bus Garage: 610-767-7706

- No eating or drinking on the bus.
- Line up in an orderly manner to get on the bus.
- Refrain from profane, foul or indecent language.
- Talk quietly to your neighbor. Do not shout to people in other parts of the bus.
- Sit in any seat, unless the bus driver assigns you to a seat. Do not "save" any seats.
- Up to three people may sit in a seat.
- Do not handle another person's belongings.
- Fighting or hitting anyone is not allowed at any time.
- The bus driver is in charge at all times. Follow whatever directions s/he gives you.
- Sit completely down on the seat and stay seated for the duration of the bus ride.
- Kindergarten students will not be permitted to exit the bus at their stop unless an adult is present to meet the child. For their safety, kindergarten students will remain on the bus and return to their school office where the parent will be contacted to pick up the child.
- Smoking or possession of cigarettes or other tobacco items is not permitted on the bus or at the bus stop.
- Students shall not transport any animal on the bus.
- Students may listen to music players with earphones. Upon exiting the bus, the player must be placed in the student's book bag and remain there throughout the day. The school is not responsible for loss.
- Students will not behave in any manner which would endanger the health, safety or welfare of the driver and students by distracting the driver from his/her responsibility to operate the bus in a safe manner.

Students may ride only the bus to which they are normally assigned. In case of emergency only, students may be permitted to ride another bus if **prior approval** has been received from the transportation department. If you require a change in transportation, have your child stop in the office to pick up a Request for Transportation form. Two working days are required after receipt of the request to implement new transportation.

When making a request for a change in your child's bus stop, please keep in mind that the district's policy on transportation states that the location of the stop must remain consistent for each day of the week. Schedules that change day by day or week by week will not be accommodated. Such changes increase the likelihood that students could be placed on the wrong bus. The maximum number of times per month that stops can be changed is one. Emergency situations will be handled on a day-to-day basis by calling 610-767-9846. To view the entire policy, visit our website at www.nlsd.org: About District: Policies: 800 Operations: Transportation. Call 610-767-9807 if you have questions or would like to have a copy of the policy mailed to you.

HEALTH SERVICES

The role of the school nurse is to assist students who become ill or injured during the school day and to fulfill the school health services mandated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The school nurse is not authorized, on an on-going basis, to diagnose illnesses or treat injuries that have occurred outside the school setting. It is the parent's responsibility to pick up children who become ill or are injured during the school day. If you have questions related to the health of students, please call the school nurse at 610-767-9822 [Slatington] or 610-767-9855 [Peters].

Medication for Students

The Northern Lehigh School District has adopted a medication policy for the district. As in the past, medication should be administered at home whenever possible. However, we realize some students require medication during school hours and provide these regulations to protect children. All medications (prescription and over-the-counter) must be **hand delivered** by a **parent** or **responsible adult** to the appropriate school personnel for all elementary students. An exception may be made to allow students to carry inhalers and/or epipens if the school has a signed letter from the physician ordering this practice. A new letter must be placed on file with the school nurse every year.

All prescription medications must be provided in the original container and display the label prepared by the pharmacy. If medication must be administered at school and at home, ask your pharmacist to prepare a duplicate bottle when filling the prescription. Over-the-counter medications must be provided in their original container. Put your child's name on the container. Dosages which exceed the recommended amount listed on the label will not be given to the student unless accompanied by a written request from the physician.

A written authorization for medication must be signed by the parent or guardian and must include the following:

- ◆ name of the medication
- ◆ dosage
- ◆ when to be administered
- ◆ name of the prescribing physician
- ◆ pharmacy.

An "Authorization for Medication" form and a "Physician Request for Administration of Medication" form is located at the end of the student handbook. All controlled substances as identified in the Federal Narcotics Act (such as ritalin, dexedrine and codeine) must have both written authorization from the prescribing physician and parental authorization. A new physician authorization must be placed on file with the school nurse every year.

Medications will be administered only by mouth. An injection can be given only if the immediate health of the student is endangered. Written parental and physician authorization must be provided indicating the necessity of an injection.

When Advisable to Keep Your Child at Home

Children attending school in a possible contagious stage of their illness present a threat to themselves and children around them. It is advisable to keep the child home under the following conditions:

- Fever
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea
- Severe cough
- Red and/or irritated eyes
- Skin rash or unusual skin condition
- Dizziness/unusual tiredness

Please call the health room (Peters - 610-767-9855, Slatington - 610-767-9822) before 8:45 AM to leave a voice mail message for the nurse when your child is absent.

Accidents

Any accident happening at home cannot legally be treated in school. Accidents happening in school will be given first aid treatment the day of occurrence.

Lice

Lice is not a particularly dangerous or life-threatening condition; nevertheless, it is a sensitive and troublesome public health problem difficult to deal with in school and embarrassing for parents and children. This condition not only has to be dealt with in school but even more so at home. If infestations are found and they are not treated correctly, re-infestation will occur. Classrooms will be checked and parent notification made as required in school district policy.

Reporting Cases: Don't be embarrassed to notify your child's school. The nurse can offer specific steps to follow to aid you in the treatment of this problem. You should also notify your child's playmates' parents. Parental cooperation will help protect all children, including your own.

Returning to School: Your child may return to school after s/he has been properly treated and is completely free of nits. In most cases, the child should be able to return to school the next day. The parent must bring the child to the health office before reporting to his/her classroom. If any nits are found, the child will be sent home for further treatment. Additional information will be made available during the school year.

Health Screenings

Health services are mandated by the state of Pennsylvania. All children in grades K through 12 are required to have vision screening and height and weight measurement yearly. Grades K through 3, 7, and 11 are required to have hearing screening. Scoliosis screening is mandated in grades 6 (as part of the sixth-grade physical) and 7. Physical exams are required on original entry into school, grades 6, and 11. Dental exams are required on original entry into school, grades 3, and 7.

Vision, hearing, and height and weight screenings are scheduled throughout the school year by the school nurse. After the screenings are complete, you will be notified of the results. Physical and dental exams can be done by your own doctor and dentist at your expense and provided to the Health Office. With your permission the school doctor and dentist can provide the required physical and dental exams at no expense to you. You may be present for these exams if you wish. You will be notified of the date and time of the exams. Scoliosis screening in the seventh grade is done initially by the school nurse with signed permission of the parent. A second screening of any students with defects noted by the school nurse is done by the school doctor before a referral is made.

If you have concerns or would like to be present for any of the screenings, please contact the Health Office immediately.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

ACCEPTABLE/UNACCEPTABLE REASONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE/LATENESS

Acceptable Reasons

- ◆ Illness
- ◆ Death in the immediate family
- ◆ Impassable roads
- ◆ Inclement weather as to endanger health/safety of child
- ◆ Emergency at home
- ◆ Medical/Dental appointments (some)
- ◆ Official religious holidays
- ◆ Vacations (provided prior notice is given via educational field trip form)
- ◆ Hunting/Fishing (provided prior notice is given via educational field trip form)
- ◆ Other emergency reasons at principal's discretion

Unacceptable Reasons

- ◆ Absence through parental neglect
- ◆ Missed bus
- ◆ Overslept
- ◆ Shopping
- ◆ Unapproved appointments
- ◆ Working
- ◆ Truancy
- ◆ Hunting/Fishing (without prior educational trip form approval)
- ◆ Vacation (without prior educational trip form approval)
- ◆ Absence on day due to bus suspension
- ◆ Car problems
- ◆ Babysitting

Absence Excuses

Whenever a student is absent from school, s/he is required to bring a written excuse from parents the day the student returns to school. This excuse should include the reason for the student's absence, the date(s) of absence, and the parent's signature.

Unlawful Absence

If an excuse is not provided within five school days following an absence, parents will be notified that an excuse is required. If no excuse is received within five days of the date of the notification, such absence will be considered illegal. After three illegal absences, the district magistrate will be notified and fines may be levied.

If the administrator of the school has reason to believe or suspect the student's absence is illegal, the administrator or designee has the right to demand an excuse from a physician. Lack of producing a physician's excuse when advised to do so will result in the absence being reported to the district magistrate as an illegal absence.

Excessive Absence

If the administrator of the school considers a student's absences to be excessive, parents will be notified in writing of this concern. The administrator or designee may demand an excuse from a physician. Lack of producing a physician's excuse when advised to do so will result in the absence being reported to the district magistrate as an illegal absence.

When absence is excessive, the following measures may be taken:

- illegal absence notification to district magistrate, including levying of fines;
- conference with parents, student, principal, teacher, and counselor;
- after-school counseling and/or tutoring; and/or
- referral to appropriate child advocacy agency.

Excessive absence and failure to complete missed assignments are valid reasons for a student to fail a marking period. In order to provide time for a student to complete assignments, projects, take tests, and other activities necessary to meet the educational objectives of the course(s), the student may be denied participation in school functions including, but not limited to, assemblies, field trips, special programs, and recess. A conference may be scheduled to discuss excessive absences and the possibility of retention. If it is determined that no extenuating circumstances exist, and if the student fails to improve attendance and satisfactory work completion, the student may be retained.

Truancy

When reported to the district magistrate, both the truant student and parents must appear at a hearing. If the parents show that they took reasonable steps to ensure the attendance of the student, they will not be convicted of a summary offense. If the parents are not convicted and the student continues to be truant, the student can be fined up to \$300 or be assigned to an adjudication alternative program. If parents do not show reasonable steps to ensure the attendance of the student, the \$300 fine for truancy may be placed on parents and they may be required to pay court costs or be sentenced to complete a parenting education program.

Truant juveniles who are not old enough to have driving privileges are prohibited from applying for a learner's permit for 90 days for the first offense or six months for the second offense **after** their 16th birthday.

Tardiness

Students are expected to report to school no later than 8:25 AM at Slatington and 9:05 AM at Peters. Any student reporting to school after 8:25 AM at Slatington and 9:05 AM at Peters will be reported tardy.

There are only three acceptable reasons for being late to school:

- illness of the student
- medical or dental appointment of the student
- family emergency.

Students who are excessively late to school will be subject to detention in accordance with the discipline procedures outlined in this handbook.

Early Dismissal

Permission to leave school grounds during the school day must be given in advance by the principal or his/her designee.

Early dismissal is granted only in accordance with the following reasons: religious observance, health care, urgent reason.

A written request from the parent or guardian must be presented to the office stating the reason for the early dismissal. Children of divorced or estranged parents may be released from school only with the permission of the custodial parent.

Educational Trips

Should a family trip be planned, or if a student will be absent from school and this is known in advance, a "Request for Educational Field Trip" form must be taken home, filled out by parents, and returned to school two weeks before the date(s) of absence. This form must be submitted for all trips, regardless of the amount of time away from school.

A student who does not have permission prior to the trip will be marked as illegally absent. This policy applies to all trips.

Parents should make every effort to plan family vacations to coincide with dates that school is not in session. Requests for educational trips must be made with discretion when no other alternative is available. Students must satisfactorily complete all work missed during their absence.

COMPULSORY STATE ATTENDANCE LAW

Every parent, guardian, or person in parental relation having control or charge of any child or children of compulsory school age who shall fail to comply with provision of this act regarding compulsory attendance shall, on summary conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine, not exceeding three hundred dollars, and to pay court costs, and/or be sentenced to complete a parenting education program offered and operated by a local school district or other community resources. In default of the payment or completion of parenting program, the offending person shall be sentenced to county jail for a period not exceeding five days.

Defendant may appeal within thirty days to the Court of Common Pleas upon entering into a recognizance in double the amount of fine and costs.

Child must appear with parent at the hearing established by the District Justice.

District Justice may order the defendant to perform community service in the school district for a period not exceeding six months.

If the defendant takes all reasonable steps to insure attendance of the child and the child has attained the age of thirteen years, the child shall be charged with truancy and be required to pay a fine not exceeding three hundred dollars or shall be assigned to an adjudication alternative program.

This law covers that period of a child's life from the time the child's parents elect to have him/her enter school, which shall not be later than the age of eight until the age of seventeen. The law is strict in regard to absence from school. Health care, religious holiday, sickness of the child, death in the family, and extreme emergency are the only legal excuses for absence.

In order to encourage compliance with the law, the state has enacted the following Provisions for Enforcement:

First Offense - three or more days of absence without legal excuses. Upon three days of illegal absence, the school provides written notice to parents.

Second Offense - after the first offense is closed, the next school day within that school year that the child is unlawfully absent becomes the second offense and requires the serving of a citation on the parent or guardian through the magistrate's office which could result in fines and court costs. Serving the citation closes the second offense. Each succeeding day of unlawful absence by the same student is another second offense.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

The problem of maintaining effective discipline in the school is the joint responsibility of all persons who come in contact with students. Teachers and building principals carry the bulk of the responsibility for effecting good discipline in classrooms and throughout the building and school grounds. Teachers shall act on student misbehavior even when it involves students who are not assigned directly to them. The building principal, utilizing a process which involves school staff members, is responsible for establishing specific rules and regulations of the school within the framework of district policy that foster positive student behavior. When the principal is involved in a problem regarding student misbehavior, he/she shall keep the teachers or other employees who referred the problem to him/her informed of the status of the matter and actions taken.

The Northern Lehigh Elementary Schools practice a common-sense approach to discipline based on the power of clear, straightforward, direct communication and back-up techniques. The focus is on teacher/student communication and interaction patterns. If students are "out of control," refuse to pay attention, or will not study, very little learning takes place. Stopping students' inappropriate behavior is the foundation of an effective educational program. Students who are well-behaved and on task will learn more. Parents are strongly encouraged to be actively involved with the school and support the school's position on discipline. Together, parents and the schools enable students to be successful.

It is the responsibility of the home to:

- Assume the primary responsibility for the discipline of the child.
- Be aware of the child's responsibilities and obligations in the school and the community (including the bus stop and bus), and establish home conditions which are favorable to this success in school.
- Recognize that school personnel must necessarily concern themselves primarily with group training and group behavior, while keeping in mind the needs of individual students.
- Cooperate with school officials and participate in conferences regarding the behavior, health, and/or academic progress of their children. Parents are responsible for the willful misbehavior of the children, in conformance with provisions of the statutes of Pennsylvania.

It is the responsibility of each student to:

- Be honest and ethical.
- Avoid the use of obscene language or actions.
- Refrain from loud, distracting conversations and horseplay.
- Report to class on time, with all needed materials, prepared to work.
- Attend school on a regular basis, avoiding absence unless absolutely necessary.
- Exhibit appropriate conduct in the classroom, cafeteria, bathrooms, playground, hallways, and bus.
- Treat others with courtesy, dignity, and respect.
- Demonstrate proper grooming and hygiene.

- Maintain a neat, clean school atmosphere and safeguard school property.
- Demonstrate proper social etiquette.
- Comply with state/local laws and school rules/policies.
- Show academic integrity and good judgment - refraining from activities such as cheating.

It is the responsibility of each staff member to:

- Consistently enforce all existing school policies.
- Maintain an atmosphere conducive to good behavior.
- Exhibit an attitude of respect for students who have a positive influence in helping students develop good citizenship traits.
- Plan a flexible course of study to meet the needs of all students.
- Promote effective discipline based on fair and impartial treatment of all students.
- Set standards in their classes that reflect a district-wide attitude of high standards of achievement, as well as reflecting the belief that all students can learn.
- Ensure that all students are aware of what is expected and required of them whenever they enter the classroom.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

To achieve an efficient and orderly operation of the school, we expect all students to meet certain responsibilities with respect to behavior.

The following regulations are cited below with the appropriate disciplinary action in order to inform students and parents as to what is considered unacceptable behavior. Every effort has been made to develop an approach to discipline which embodies fairness, firmness, and consistency.

Every attempt will be made to resolve individual problems which originate within the classroom by an approach involving teacher, counselor, administrator, and student. Should this prove unsuccessful, parents will become involved. Outside resources may also be utilized, such as a school psychologist, child guidance service, and the like.

In most disciplinary cases, the procedure will include parent involvement by having the student personally telephone the parent and describe the incident and his/her part in it. Timely and direct communication with the parent by the child (rather than the teacher or principal) is very effective when combined with the support of the parent for the school. This is accomplished by the parent expressing their concern to the child over the telephone and reaffirming their commitment to the school and their child's success.

The following is intended as a guideline. These suggested guidelines will be interpreted by the administrator and/or his/her designee in a manner which the administrator deems appropriate, given the circumstances of each individual case; these disciplinary actions or any others, including suspension, may be assigned. Administrators shall have the authority to enforce other reasonable disciplinary actions which are warranted by situations that

may not be covered here. Finally, the Northern Lehigh School District is not limited to the specific disciplinary actions listed below.

Disciplinary Incidents

- Assault on a teacher or other staff member
- Cheating
- Class cutting or leaving school without permission
- Destruction of or damaging school property (not accidental)
- Disrespect to an adult
- Failure to do school and/or homework
- Fighting (includes roughhousing)
- Gum chewing
- Handling snow, making snowballs, or throwing snow on school property or on the way to/from school
- Injury to other students
- Misbehavior at recess
- Misbehavior in cafeteria
- Obscene gestures, notes, and/or comments
- Possession of cigarettes or tobacco products
- Possession of dangerous items (explosive devices, firearms, illegal fireworks, knives, legal fireworks, lighters, matches, pocketknives, tools)
- Possession of drugs/drug paraphernalia/alcohol
- Pulling false fire alarm
- Setting off fireworks
- Setting off snaps/caps
- Student tardiness
- Theft
- Threats of bodily harm, verbal provocation and/or harassment
- Truancy
- Use of cigarettes or tobacco products
- Use/sale/distribution of drugs/alcohol
- Other unacceptable behavior

Disciplinary Actions

- Confiscation of item(s)
- Counseling
- Detention
- Isolation from others
- Loss of privileges
- Loss of recess
- Parent notification
- Report to law enforcement or other appropriate agency
- Warning
- Suspension - In school/Out of school
- Other - Students who are involved in snow related incidents will receive a minimum of five days' loss of recess and/or other disciplinary procedures at the principal's discretion.

Loss of privileges may include any or all of the following: recess, assemblies, special programs, field trips, movies, special projects, lunch with classmates, extra computer time, social time with classmates, other privileges not considered the normal or usual part of the school day.

PROCEDURES IN DISCIPLINARY CASES

The classroom teachers in most instances will deal directly with those who violate the rules. However, there will be those instances in which a serious violation occurs, and it is these cases which will be referred to the principal. When this occurs, there will be an examination of the facts in each case in a conference with teacher, pupil, and principal. Incidents will be managed on an individualized case-by-case process.

General Regulations Concerning School Discipline

Every teacher in these schools shall have the right to exercise the same authority as to conduct and behavior over the pupils attending his/her school during the time they are in attendance, including the time required in going to and from school, as the parents or guardians of persons in parental relation to such pupils may exercise over them.

Should discipline problems occur with any student, consequences will result as outlined in this student/parent handbook.

Disciplinary Steps to be Taken

If behavior problems cannot be resolved using the procedures listed above, the appropriate staff member will utilize one or more of the following disciplinary steps.

- **Detention** - If a student repeatedly violates rules and attempts to correct the situation have not been successful, detention may be considered as a next step. Parents must be contacted in advance and informed of any detention. Any day may be used for detention. Parents are responsible for the transportation home for their child.

Students who are assigned detention must observe the following rules:

- Students must do all assignments.
 - Students are not allowed to talk.
- **In-School/Out-of-School Suspension** - When it becomes necessary to temporarily suspend a student for an infraction of school regulations, each student suspension will be considered on its own merits. The type of suspension will be determined by what is considered in the best interest of the student and parents. Students on in-school suspension will report to a supervised, isolated area and do their schoolwork there. Parents/guardians are responsible for supervising students on out-of-school suspension during regular school hours. Students on out-of-school suspension are not permitted on school property throughout the suspension time period. In the event that suspension is scheduled during vacation or emergency closings, suspension days

will be revised to correspond to school days. Length of a suspension can range from one to ten days. This disciplinary step can be taken only by a principal.

- **Corporal Punishment** - The Northern Lehigh School District does maintain a policy on the use of corporal punishment. This policy is listed here in its entirety for the benefit and information of students and parents.
 - Corporal punishment shall be defined as physically punishing a student for an offense.
 - The Northern Lehigh School District does not permit the use of corporal punishment as a means of chastisement or discipline.
 - A staff member may use reasonable physical force:
 - 1) To quell a disturbance, or
 - 2) To obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects, or
 - 3) For the purpose of self defense, or
 - 4) For the protection of persons or property of the school district.

General Regulations

Every teacher in school shall have the right to exercise the same authority as to conduct and behavior over students attending school during the time they are in attendance, including the time on the school bus going to and from school.

BUS DISCIPLINE

Over the past few years we have become increasingly concerned about student behavior on the bus and at the bus stops. All students and parents should be aware that riding a school bus is a privilege that can be revoked at any time. When students are reported for misbehavior on the bus, the following steps will be followed. Offenses are cumulative throughout the school year.

- **First Offense** - Conference with the principal. Parents will be informed in writing with an official warning notice.
- **Second Offense** - Students are suspended from riding the bus for one week. Students are expected to attend school. Parents are responsible for transportation. (Parents will be informed in writing.) *
- **Third Offense** - Students are suspended from riding the bus for two weeks. Students are expected to attend school. Parents are responsible for transportation. (Parents will be informed in writing.) *
 - * If a student is absent while suspended from the bus, the suspension will be extended by the same number of days of absence.
- **Fourth Offense** - Students are suspended from riding the bus for the remainder of the school year. Transportation becomes solely the responsibility of parents. (Parents are informed in writing.)

PARENT CUSTODY GUIDELINES

The responsibilities of the school and the rights of parents in educational matters involving separation or dissolution of a marriage shall take into consideration the following board guidelines:

1. Separated or divorced parents are advised of their obligation to officially inform the school of their status in terms of the custody of the child and provide any court directives which would fix the rights of either parent regarding access to the child and responsibility for the child's education. This includes, but is not limited to, any custody agreement, as well as any changes that occur within the agreement.
2. Where the court has awarded "legal custody," the right to make educational decisions for the child resides with the custodial parent. Involvement in the child's educational process by a non-custodial parent should be subject to the custodial parent's approval or some provision set by the custody agreement.
3. In the absence of a court directive fixing custody, the parent who has actual physical possession and control of the child would be responsible for the child's attendance at school and thus make the decisions affecting the child's education.
4. Although the school may permit access of the child to the non-custodial parent, they are not obligated to do so. Through the proper exercise of their in loco parentis responsibility, the school authorities may deny access in any case where the child's education, health, and welfare might be placed in jeopardy.
5. Non-custodial parents shall not be allowed to take the child from school premises without the explicit consent of the custodial parent, unless a valid and specific visitation schedule is on file in the office.
6. In the matter of school records, both parents have the right of access to all information relating to their child's education unless there is a court document specifically prohibiting it. Report cards, progress reports, and other educational information routinely provided to the custodial parent by the school may also be sent to the non-custodial parent upon written request. The written request must state the name and address of the person making the request, their relationship to the student, and specifically list the information requested. It takes approximately ten working days for the information to be collected.
7. Contact by the non-custodial parent with school staff may be permitted under the same conditions as it is offered to the custodial parent. In the case of the non-custodial parent, it should be understood that such contacts are for informational purposes only and should not involve educational decision-making unless explicitly approved by the custodial parent.

INTERNET/NETWORK/AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT

The Northern Lehigh School district will provide access to the internet/network/software, hardware, peripherals, and other information technology equipment for students. The Acceptable Use Policy strictly prohibits the following activities and any others determined by district authorities to be unacceptable uses of the internet/network/software, hardware, peripherals, and other information technology equipment. These prohibitions are in effect any time school district resources are accessed in any way whether in school, directly from home, or indirectly through another internet service provider.

- Allowing person to use an assigned account.
- Use of internet/network/software, hardware, peripherals, and other information technology equipment to access or transmit obscene or pornographic material.
- Use of internet/network/software, hardware, peripherals, and other information technology equipment to participate in inappropriate and/or objectionable discussions or news groups.
- Use of internet/network/software, hardware, peripherals, and other information technology equipment to transmit hate mail, harassment, discriminatory remarks, and other antisocial communications on the network.
- Use of internet/network/software, hardware, peripherals, and other information technology equipment which results in any copyright violation.
- Use of internet/network/software, hardware, peripherals, and other information technology equipment to order or purchase in the name of the school district or in the name of any individual any type of merchandise or service. All costs to the district or any individual incurred because of this type of violation will be the responsibility of the user.
- Use of internet/network/software, hardware, peripherals, and other information technology equipment to access any fee-based on-line/internet service. All costs to the district or any individual incurred because of this type of violation will be the responsibility of the user.
- The illegal installation, distribution, reproduction or use of copyrighted software on district computers.
- Use of internet/network/software, hardware, peripherals, and other information technology equipment to intentionally obtain or modify files, passwords, or data belonging to other users.
- Use of internet/network/software, hardware, peripherals, and other information technology equipment to misrepresent other users on the network.
- Use of school technology or the internet/network/software, hardware, peripherals, and other information technology equipment for fraudulent copying, communications or modifications of materials in violation of local, state, and federal laws.
- Loading, downloading, or use of unauthorized games, programs, files or other electronic media.
- Malicious use of internet/network/software, hardware, peripherals, and other information technology equipment to develop programs that harass other users or

infiltrate a computer system and/or damage the software components of a computer system.

- Destruction of district computer hardware or software.

Consequences for Inappropriate Use

The internet/network/software, hardware, peripherals, and other information technology equipment user shall be responsible for all costs for damages to the equipment, systems, hardware and software resulting from deliberate or willful acts.

Illegal use of the internet/network/software, hardware, peripherals, and other information technology equipment; intentional deletion or damage to files of data belonging to others; copyright violations or theft of services may be reported to the appropriate legal authorities for possible prosecution under Pennsylvania and/or U.S. Crimes Code and/or to school authorities for possible prosecution under School Policy and/or Pennsylvania School Code.

General rules for behavior and communications apply when using the internet/network/software, hardware, peripherals, and other information technology equipment, in addition to the stipulations of this policy. Loss of access and other disciplinary actions in accordance with other school board policies and state law may be consequences for inappropriate use.

Vandalism may result in cancellation of access privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, internet or other networks. This includes but is not limited to the uploading or creation of computer viruses. Vandalism may also result in school or criminal prosecution as stated above.

AUDIO AND VIDEO SURVEILLANCE OF PROPERTY/BUSES

Under the direction of the superintendent and his/her designee, audio and video surveillance may be used to discourage misconduct and to maintain safety and order on school property and in school vehicles. Audio and video surveillance can protect the security, safety, and property of students and others.

Tape recordings from surveillance equipment shall become the property of the school district and shall be under the supervision, direction, and control of school officials. Recordings shall be subject to other policies of the district, including policies concerning confidentiality of student and personnel records and shall be subject to record requirements of state and federal law.

Audio or video surveillance shall be used only to promote the order, safety, security, and property of students. Recordings may be used for review of any incidents or as evidence for disciplinary action.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

By the authority of the Public School Code (24 P.S. 1317.1), the School Board prohibits possession of laser pointers and attachments, cellular telephones and telephone paging devices, also referred to as beepers, by students on school grounds, on buses and other vehicles provided by the district, and at school-sponsored activities. The first infraction will result in the confiscation of the device and parents will be contacted. Any further infractions may result in appropriate disciplinary consequences.

WEAPONS

The School Board recognizes the importance of a safe school environment to the educational process. Possession of weapons in the school environment is a threat to the safety of students and staff and is prohibited by law.

A "weapon" is defined as any object which could be used to injure another person and which has no school-related purpose for being in school or on school grounds. The term "weapon" shall include but not be limited to any knife, cutting tool, nunchaku stick, brass or metal knuckles, firearm, shotgun, rifle, bb or pellet gun, look-alike gun, chemical agent, explosive device, and/or any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury.

Articles designed for other purposes but which are used to inflict bodily harm and/or to intimidate other persons will be treated as weapons (examples: laser pointers, scissors, lighters, belts, pencils, files, compasses, tools). Also included in this category are look-alike weapons such as rubber or plastic knives, toy guns, and any toy made to look like a weapon.

A student is in "possession" of a weapon when the weapon is found on the person of the student; in the student's book bag; in the student's locker; under the student's control while s/he is on school property or property being used by the school, at any school function or activity, at any school event held away from the school; or while the student is on his/her way to or from school. This includes possession of weapons in personal vehicles while on school premises and in vehicles used for official school purposes or school-sponsored activities.

The Board prohibits possession of weapons and replicas of weapons in any school district building, on school property, at any school-sponsored activity, and in any public conveyance providing transportation to school or a school-sponsored activity.

The possession, distribution, concealment, and/or use of any weapon on school property is an extremely serious offense. A student who possesses, uses, and/or distributes any of the above-named items or who aids in the concealment of an article construed to be a weapon shall be expelled for a period of not less than one (1) year. Such expulsion shall be given in conformance with formal due process proceedings required by law. The Superintendent may recommend discipline short of expulsion on a case-by-case basis. All incidents will be reported to the proper law enforcement agencies.

In the case of an exceptional student, the Superintendent shall take all necessary steps to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Act.

SMOKING

Adults and Children

For the purpose of this policy, "smoking" shall mean all use of tobacco, including cigars, cigarettes, pipes, chewing tobacco and snuff.

In order to protect students and staff from an environment that may be harmful to them, and because the Board cannot, even by indirection, condone the use of tobacco because of its possible harm to personal well-being, the Board prohibits smoking, effective September 1, 1994, by anyone at any time in school buildings, on school grounds, on school buses, or in any classroom, hallway or instructional area, and also at all district-sponsored events wherever such events are held.

Act 145 Possession of Tobacco

On December 4, 1996, Governor Ridge signed into law Act 145 which became effective February 3, 1997. The new law defines possession or use of tobacco products or smokeless tobacco by a student in a school building, a school bus or on school property owned by, leased by or under the control of a school district as a summary offense. This law, The Tobacco Control Act, now defines possession of tobacco as a summary offense violation. Therefore, in compliance with Act 145, students who possess or use tobacco commit a summary offense and as a result, will be subject to a \$50.00 fine plus court costs as determined by the District Magistrate.

Act 145 of 1996 Section 6306.1 USE OF TOBACCO IN SCHOOLS PROHIBITED

- (A) Offense defined** - A pupil who possesses or uses tobacco in a school building, a school bus or on school property owned by, leased by or under the control of a school district commits a summary offense.
- (B) Grading** - A pupil who commits an offense under this section shall be subject to prosecution initiated by the local school district and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$50 for the benefit of the school district in which such offending pupil resides, and to pay court costs. When a pupil is charged with violating subsection (A), the court may admit the offender to adjudication alternative as authorized under 24 PA. C.S. Section 1520 (relating to adjudication alternative program) in lieu of imposing the fine.
- (C) Nature of Offense** - A summary offense under this section shall not be a criminal offense of record and shall not be placed on the criminal record of the offending school-age person if any such record exists.
- (D) Definitions** - As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning given to them in this subsection:
- "Pupil"** - A person between the ages of 6 and 21 years who is enrolled in school.
 - "School"** - A school operated by a joint board, board of directors or school board where pupils are enrolled in compliance with the Act of March 10, 1949 (P.L. 30, No. 14), known as the Public School code of 1949, including area vocational-technical schools and intermediate units.
 - "Tobacco"** - A lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe or other lighted smoking product and smokeless tobacco in any form.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

The possession, use, or sale of alcohol, drugs, drug paraphernalia, or narcotics, including hallucinogenic and look-alike drugs on school property is strictly forbidden. It is also forbidden to come onto school property while under the influence of any of these, or similar, substances. Students in violation will be removed for administrative action.

Illegal Use of Drugs/Alcohol

Definition: Drugs, mood-altering chemicals, alcohol, and paraphernalia shall include any alcohol or malt beverage, controlled substance, look-alike, or illegal or abused substance or medication not approved and registered by the health office, or any substance which is intended to alter mood, or any item that may be identified as drug paraphernalia.

A student in possession of illegal drugs and/or alcohol shall be brought to the principal or principal's designee.

A student exhibiting unusual behavior or judged in need of personal medical attention shall be brought to the nurse or principal. Those needing immediate emergency treatment shall be transferred to the nearest medical facility, accompanied by the nurse or school official designated by the principal.

Parents shall be promptly informed of school actions; they shall be notified of all such incidents and/or whatever action has been taken by the school and by medical officials in the case.

The illegal use of drugs and/or alcohol in school, on school grounds, or at school-sponsored activities, shall be considered the basis for suspension and/or expulsion upon the recommendation of the principal.

Look-Alike Drugs: Look-alike drugs are drugs such as caffeine which are manufactured or packaged to look like illegal drugs such as amphetamines, and which are often sold at prices much higher than the look-alike is actually worth. Besides being illegal, look-alike drugs can be dangerous. Among the dangers is the chance that a student using a look-alike drug will overdose if the student, not realizing the difference, takes the actual illegal drug.

The district will treat any infraction involving look-alike drugs as though actual illegal drugs were involved.

Selling or Distribution of Drugs or Alcohol in School: Selling or distributing drugs or alcohol in school, on school grounds, or at school-sponsored activities, shall be reason for immediate suspension, or after appropriate proceedings, expulsion from school. The police will be notified of incidents involving the selling or distribution of drugs and/or alcohol in school or on school grounds, or during school sponsored activities.

KEEPING OUR STUDENTS SAFE

The Board of Education is deeply concerned with the illegal use of controlled substances and alcohol among our young people, as well as the illegal possession of weapons and incendiary/explosive devices as major problems confronting our schools, our community, and our society in general.

The Board, therefore, reserves the right to authorize school personnel to inspect student lockers, student vehicles, book bags, gym bags, music instrument cases, and the like, when the health, welfare, and safety of the students and/or the school may be in jeopardy.

The Board reserves the right to authorize school officials to conduct a search of an individual student when such employee has reasonable suspicion that contraband is in the possession of the student and/or is being concealed by said student.

HARASSMENT, DISORDERLY CONDUCT, CRIMINAL MISCHIEF, AND CRIMINAL TRESPASS

While the student's rights and responsibilities address discipline measures concerning student behavior, there are those situations where severe discipline problems involving harassment, criminal mischief, criminal trespass, disorderly conduct, and related offense will be handled under the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, Title 81, Chapter 44, Section 2709, 3304, 3503, 5503, as well as other appropriate sections.

A decision on the involvement of the Northern Lehigh School District in the preferring of charges of harassment, disorderly conduct, criminal mischief, or criminal trespass is to be made by the administration. The person who witnesses the incident will not be the person bringing the charges. However, all school personnel who are involved in any way will give their full support and the person who witnesses the incident will appear at the hearing if requested by the magistrate.

Charges of harassment, disorderly conduct, criminal mischief, and the criminal trespass may be brought against a student or any other individual whether on school property, school-related functions, or on school buses.

These procedures are applicable to problems involving students and/or visitors in the school buildings, on school grounds, on school transportation, and at school-related functions.

Charges Which May Be Processed Through Local Magistrates

- **Disorderly Conduct** (section 5503): A person is guilty of disorderly conduct if, with intent to cause public inconvenience, annoyance, or alarm, or recklessly creating a risk thereof he:

- engages in fighting or threatening, or in violent or tumultuous behavior
 - makes unreasonable noise
 - uses obscene language, or makes obscene gestures
 - creates a hazardous or physically offensive condition by any act which serves no legitimate purpose of the actor.
- **Harassment** (section 2709): A person commits a summary offense when, with intent to harass, annoy, or alarm another person, he:
 - strikes, shoves, kicks, or otherwise subjects him to physical contact, or attempts or threatens to do the same; or
 - follows a person in or about a public place or places; or
 - engages in a course of conduct or repeatedly commits acts which alarm or seriously annoy such other persons and which serve no legitimate purpose.

Harassment includes verbally, physically, or sexually threatening or intimidating another student. The term "harassment" includes but is not limited to slurs, jokes, or other verbal, graphic, or physical conduct relating to an individual's race, color, religion, ancestry, sex, national origin, age, or handicap/disability.

When a student believes that s/he is being harassed, the student should immediately inform the harasser that his/her behavior is unwelcome, offensive, or inappropriate. If the unwelcome, offensive, or inappropriate behavior continues, the student shall report substantiated complaints of harassment, orally or in writing, to the building principal or a designated employee who shall inform the student of his/her rights and of the complaint process.

A substantiated charge against a district student shall subject such student to disciplinary action consistent with the student discipline code and may include educational activities and/or counseling services related to unlawful harassment. If it is concluded that a student has **made** false accusations, such student shall be subject to disciplinary action consistent with the student discipline code.

- **Criminal Mischief** (section 3304): A person is guilty of criminal mischief if he:
 - damages tangible property of another intentionally, recklessly, or by negligence in the employment of fire, explosives, or other dangerous means causing or risking catastrophe
 - intentionally or recklessly tampers with tangible property of another so as to endanger persons or property
 - intentionally or recklessly causes another to suffer pecuniary loss by deception or threat.

Criminal mischief is a felony of the third degree if the actor intentionally causes pecuniary loss in excess of \$5,000, or a substantial interruption or impairment of public communication, transportation, supply of water, gas, or power, or other public service. It is a misdemeanor of the second degree if the actor intentionally causes pecuniary loss in excess of \$1,000 or a misdemeanor of the third degree if he intentionally or recklessly

causes pecuniary loss in excess of \$500. Otherwise criminal mischief is a summary offense.

- **Criminal Trespass** (section 3503): A person commits an offense if knowing that he is not licensed or privileged to do so, he enters or gains entrance by subterfuge or surreptitiously remains in any building or occupied structure, or separately secured or occupied portion thereof; a person commits an offense if knowing that he is not licensed or privileged to do so, he enters or remains in any place as to which notice against trespass is given by:
 - actual communication to the actor
 - posting in a manner prescribed by law or reasonably likely to come to the attention of intruders
 - fencing or other enclosure manifestly designed to exclude intruders.

An offense under this sub-section constitutes a misdemeanor of the third degree if the offender defies an order to leave personally communicated to him by the owner of the premises or other authorized person. Otherwise, it is a summary offense.

TERRORISTIC THREATS OR ACTS

The School Board recognizes the importance of a safe school environment to the educational process. Terroristic threats or acts in a school environment or activity are threats to the safety of students and staff and are prohibited by law.

A terroristic threat is defined as a threat to commit violence communicated with the intent to terrorize another, to cause evacuation of a building, or to cause serious public inconvenience, in reckless disregard of the risk of causing such terror or inconvenience. A terroristic act is defined as an offense against property or involving danger to another person.

A student guilty of terroristic threats or acts may be suspended, may be reported to law enforcement officials (See Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Section 2706), and may be recommended to the School Board for expulsion depending on the individual circumstances.

If a student is expelled for making terroristic threats or committing terroristic acts, the Board may require, prior to readmission, that the student provide competent and credible evidence that the student does not pose a risk of harm to others. Upon returning to school, the student shall be subject to random searches.

SCHOOL VANDALISM AND PUBLIC TRESPASS

Any person found desecrating school buildings, structures, grounds or any other property of the school may be subject to \$5,000 in fines and/or two years in prison if the resulting damage is less than \$5,000. The penalty for damage in excess of \$5,000 may include fines of \$15,000 and/or a prison term of up to seven years.

Any person found breaking into a school building may be subject to \$25,000 in fines and/or a prison term of up to ten years. Any person who gains entry to a school building or property by trick or deception, or who secretly remains in the building may be subject to \$15,000 in fines and/or a prison term of seven years.

No one may be on school property after 10:00 PM unless attending a legitimate school function. At the conclusion of the school function, if occurring after 10:00 PM, all persons must immediately depart from all school buildings and grounds. Failure to do so is trespassing.

Any person who knowingly remains on school property that is posted or who is otherwise given notice of trespass and then refuses to leave when asked to do so may be subject to \$2,500 in fines and/or a prison term of one year.

Any other person found trespassing on school properties may be subject to \$300 in fines and/or a prison term of ninety days.

ANNUAL NOTICE TO PARENTS AND ELIGIBLE STUDENTS TO FERPA RIGHTS

The following information is provided to notify you of your rights and privileges under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a federal law which protects the confidentiality of student educational records by limiting their disclosure. FERPA guarantees parents and "eligible students" (students eighteen years of age or older) certain rights which are described below.

I. Access to Students

Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect their child's or their own educational records, to receive copies of the records in most cases, and to have a school official explain the records if requested. To inspect your child's or your records, contact the building principal.

II. Challenge to Records

Parents or eligible students have the right to request that their educational records be changed if they are inaccurate, misleading or violate student's rights, and to have a hearing if that request is refused.

III. Disclosure

FERPA provides that educational records cannot be released without the written consent of the parent or eligible student, except in certain specified instances.

IV. Policy

A more detailed explanation of your rights, the procedures to follow if you want to take advantage of them, and the limitations on the release of records is presented in the School District's FERPA policy statement. You may obtain a copy of this policy by contacting your child's principal.

V. Complaints

If you believe that the school district is not complying with FERPA or not guaranteeing your rights as outlined above, you may file a letter of complaint with the federal office in charge of enforcing the Act at the address below:

FERPA OFFICE
Department of Education
Room 4511 - Switzer Building
Washington, D.C. 20202

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The Northern Lehigh School District, either directly or indirectly or through various other education agencies including the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21, provides special education services which may be required by children with special needs.

The special education contact person is Mrs. Laurie Newman-Mankos; she can be contacted at 610-767-9858 regarding special education services. Guidance counselors may be contacted directly regarding specific special education issues at the building level. Slatington Elementary guidance counselor is Mrs. Suzanne Mengel, who can be contacted at 610-767-9823. Peters Elementary guidance counselor is Mrs. Linda Thompson, who can be contacted at 610-767-9825.

Types of Programs and Services

Academic Support

Gifted Support: exceptional students identified as mentally gifted. The focus is to provide instruction beyond the regular curriculum.

Learning Support: exceptional students whose primary identified need is academic learning.

Life Skill Support

Exceptional students where the focus is primarily on the needs of students for independent living as well as general daily living skills.

Emotional Support

Exceptional students whose primary identified need is for emotional support. The focus is primarily on behavior management.

Sensory Support

Deaf or Hearing Impaired: exceptional students who are deaf or hearing impaired.

Blind or Visually Impaired: exceptional students who are blind or visually impaired.

Speech and Language Support

Exceptional students who are speech and language impaired.

Physical Support

Exceptional students where the program is modified primarily to meet the needs of the physically disabled student.

Autistic Support

Exceptional students who are autistic. The focus is primarily to develop daily living skills.

Multi-handicapped Support

Exceptional students who are multi-handicapped. The focus is on daily living, self help, and independent living.

Protected Handicapped

In compliance with state and federal law, the Northern Lehigh School District will provide to each protected handicapped student, without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities. To qualify as a protected handicapped student, the child must be of school age with a physical or mental disability which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to some aspect of the school program.

These services for "protected handicapped students" are distinct from those applicable to all eligible or exceptional students enrolled (or seeking enrollment) in special education programs.

For further information on the evaluation procedures and provision of services to protected handicapped students, contact Mrs. Laurie Newman-Mankos at 610-767-9849.

Screening

Kindergarten screening activities include a review of informal social and health history, developmental areas, functional vision and hearing, academic, and speech and language. Kindergarten screenings are held during the spring at the school district. Further screenings are conducted in each school throughout the year for any student who may be in need of special education services.

Parents who wish to request screening and evaluation for their child may do so by contacting the principal or counselor in their child's school.

Evaluations

Parents who believe their child needs special education services may request a multidisciplinary evaluation (MDE) that will be conducted by a multidisciplinary team (MDT). The team is composed of the parents, persons familiar with the child's development periods knowledgeable in areas of suspected exceptionality, persons trained in appropriate evaluation techniques and, if possible, persons familiar with the child's cultural background. All information gathered through the screening and/or reevaluation process is considered confidential under Section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act.

Preschool Children with Special Needs

Project Connect is a preschool program for children with special needs. Project Connect provides information, screening, evaluation, programs, therapy, parent involvement, and referral to community agencies at no cost to parents.

Parents who are concerned about their child's seeing, hearing, learning, talking, moving about, manipulating objects, understanding, showing emotions, getting along with others, playing with toys, taking care of himself/herself should contact the Supervisor of Special Education, Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit, at 1-800-223-4821 and ask about Project Connect.

Confidentiality

All information gathered about your child is subject to the confidentiality provisions contained in federal and state law. The District has policies and procedures in effect governing the collection, maintenance, destruction and disclosure to third parties of this information. For information about these policies and procedures, as well as rights of confidentiality and access to educational records, you may contact in writing the building principal.

No. 210-AR
NORTHERN LEHIGH
SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE
REGULATION

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
SLATINGTON, PA
SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

AUTHORIZATION FOR MEDICATION

My child, _____, must receive the following
(Full Name)
prescribed medication during school hours for the following reason: _____

_____.

Medication _____

Prescribed Dosage _____

Time Schedule _____

Physician _____

Pharmacy _____

Pharmacy Phone Number _____

I do hereby release, discharge and hold harmless, the Northern Lehigh School District, its agents and employees, from any and all liability and claim whatsoever for the administration of the above medication to my child, and agree that said District shall not be held accountable for the development of any type of reaction from the administration of such medication.

(Signature of Parent of Guardian)

WITNESS:

_____ Date: _____

**PRIVATE PHYSICIAN REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATION
OF MEDICATION DURING SCHOOL HOURS**

Dear Doctor:

The parent/guardian of _____ has requested that we administer medication(s), namely _____ to the student during the school day for _____.
(diagnosis)

It is our procedure to request the medication be given before or after school hours whenever possible.

If it is essential that the student receive the medication(s) during school hours, please complete the following information.

NAME OF MEDICATION(S) _____

DOSAGE _____

HOW TO BE ADMINISTERED (ORAL OR INJECTION) _____

TIME SCHEDULE FOR ADMINISTRATION _____

DURATION OF MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION _____

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OR CONTRAINDICATIONS _____

CURTAILMENT OF SPECIFIC SCHOOL ACTIVITY (SPORTS, SHOP, LAB, DRIVERS TRAINING, ETC.) _____

OTHER MEDICATIONS PRESCRIBED BY PHYSICIAN THAT STUDENT IS TAKING OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL HOURS _____

Date

Physician Signature

Physician Telephone Number

Thank you for your cooperation. _____
Parent/Guardian Signature

INDEX

A

ATTENDANCE.....	19
AUDIO AND VIDEO SURVEILLANCE.....	31
AUTHORIZATION FOR MEDICATION.....	43

B

BUS DISCIPLINE.....	27
BUSES.....	15

C

CAFETERIA.....	13
CALENDAR.....	5
CHILD ABUSE CHECKLIST FOR CAREGIVERS.....	46
CLOSING OF SCHOOLS.....	7
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.....	11
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF.....	36
CRIMINAL TRESPASS.....	37
CUSTODY GUIDELINES.....	28

D

DISCIPLINE.....	23
DISORDERLY CONDUCT.....	35
DRESS AND GROOMING.....	12
DRUGS AND ALCOHOL.....	34

E

ELECTRONIC DEVICES.....	31
EXCESSIVE ABSENCES.....	20
EXCUSED ABSENCE/LATENESS.....	19

F

FERPA RIGHTS.....	39
-------------------	----

G

GENERAL INFORMATION.....	6
--------------------------	---

H

HARASSMENT.....	36
HEALTH SERVICES.....	17

I

INTERNET/NETWORK/AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT.....	29
--	----

L

LICE.....	18
-----------	----

M

MEDICATION.....	17
-----------------	----

P

PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY.....	10
PETERS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.....	3
PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES.....	12
PLAYGROUND.....	14
PRIVATE PHYSICIAN REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATION.....	44

R

RULES & REGULATIONS.....	12
--------------------------	----

S

SAFETY.....	35
SERVICES FOR STUDENTS.....	8
SIGN-OFF.....	46
SLATINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.....	4
SMOKING.....	33
SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES.....	40

T

TARDINESS.....	20
TERRORISTIC THREATS OR ACTS.....	37
TRESPASS.....	38
TRIPS.....	21

V

VANDALISM.....	38
----------------	----

W

WEAPONS.....	32
--------------	----

CHILD ABUSE CHECKLIST FOR CAREGIVERS

Being a parent isn't easy for anyone and for some people it is very hard. If you answer "yes" to several of the questions below, you may need support and help.

- Do you feel troubled or nervous?
- Do you feel lonely and isolated with no one to turn to?
- Do you feel inadequate as a parent? Unable to cope?
- Are you often depressed?
- Do your problems seem overwhelming?
- Are you frightened about what you might do to your children?
- Do you sometimes physically hurt your children?
- Do you feel that you were mistreated as a child and are repeating your past?
- Do you feel confused concerning your sexual feelings towards your children?

Take that first step - reach out for help.
Call Valley Youth House's 24-hour hot line.
610-691-1200

-----Please sign and return-----

NORTHERN LEHIGH ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK
2010-2011
Parent Sign-Off

I have received, read, and understand the Student/Parent Handbook. I agree with the procedures and policies set forth herein and will assist my child(ren) in adhering to them.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Child(ren)'s Name(s)

Grade Teacher

SHARED VALUES

We believe that . . .

- ❖ all students can learn and succeed if given sufficient time and appropriate instruction.
- ❖ students will master a core of knowledge based on academic standard.
- ❖ communication skills are essential to success.
- ❖ positive attitude, motivation, self-esteem and responsible behavior are vital to the learning process.
- ❖ all students should develop skills and appreciation in areas of interest beyond the core of basic knowledge.
- ❖ ongoing staff development is essential to quality learning.
- ❖ learning is a life-long process.
- ❖ the school, community, family and students all share in the responsibility for learning.
- ❖ students must be challenged to think critically, problem solve, and use appropriate decision-making skills.
- ❖ students must have a nurturing environment that is physically, emotionally, and spiritually safe.
- ❖ the appreciation of diversity is an integral part of a student's educational experiences.

OUR VISION

Our learners will have:

- ❖ Creative and critical thinking skills necessary to be successful.
- ❖ Self-esteem, self-discipline and a sense of responsibility that enables them to meet challenges, be team players and respect others' differences.
- ❖ Communication, technical, and life skills to gather information, solve problems and adapt to change.
- ❖ An awareness of physical and psychological well-being.
- ❖ A vision for success.
- ❖ An appreciation for the arts and sciences.

Northern Lehigh School District
Strategic Plan, 2008