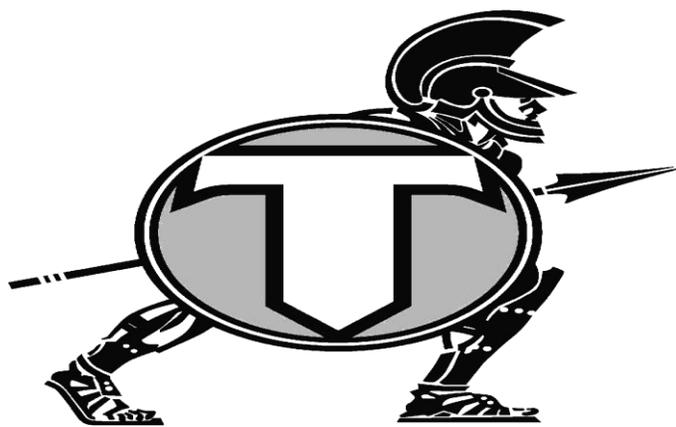


NORTH MOBILE COUNTY K-8 STUDENT HANDBOOK 2016-2017



North Mobile County K-8 School
1950 Salco Road W
Axis, Al. 36605
(251) 221-2000

Principal: Paige Mixon
Assistant Principal: Latrisa McCaskey

Dear Parents and Students,

I am happy to welcome you and your family to North Mobile County K-8 School. Through the efforts of everyone involved in your child's education we are committed to proving this statement for all to see. We are excited about the upcoming year and are dedicated to offering the best educational opportunity for every child.

The purpose of this handbook is to communicate to our students and parents North Mobile's expectations and goals, as well as share information regarding the outstanding programs we offer. There are many policies, services, and regulations discussed in the following pages. Please read this book with your child, and keep it readily available throughout the year.

We at North Mobile realize the importance of developing in each child an attitude of self-respect and self-worth. We will try to provide a variety of opportunities for students to form meaningful and responsible relationships. Anytime you have a question, concern, or suggestion regarding North Mobile, please feel free to contact me. I am truly interested in your input, and I welcome the opportunity to conference with you.

The teachers and staff join me in saying we are happy to have you and your child/children as part of the North Mobile family. Please know that we extend an open invitation to your family for all North Mobile activities, and we hope this will be a successful and meaningful year for you.

Paige Mixon, Principal

MOBILE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Mobile County Public Schools is to produce a literate, life-long learner who is visionary and productive, aware of self, accepting of cultural differences, sensitive to others and who applies knowledge to make morally responsible decisions in an ever changing global society.

We will accomplish this by providing a challenging, relevant, multicultural, integrated curriculum taught by caring, competent, motivated, accountable staff committed to the success of all students in a safe, orderly environment conducive to learning.

NORTH MOBILE COUNTY K-8 SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of North Mobile County K-8 School is to prepare all students to become productive members of society who demonstrate a strong commitment to honesty, responsibility, motivation, integrity, and respect.

NORTH MOBILE COUNTY K-8 SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

North Mobile School should provide educational experiences which foster individuality, educational growth, and responsible young adults. A responsive instructional program that stresses discovering, communicating and cooperating shall be provided.

Students will participate in learning experiences that promote the development of basic skills, academic excellence, and potential careers in professional, vocational, environmental, and technological areas. The faculty and staff are committed to assisting every student in reaching his/her potential academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. The community shall be encouraged to actively participate in all aspects of the school program.

PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION

The North Mobile School Parent-Teacher Organization exists to promote and support the educational process. Parents are encouraged to join and participate in the activities of the PTO. We are looking for a strong membership to continue the work at North Mobile School. We need members with new ideas and a willingness to help.

SCHOOL HOURS

North Mobile School hours are from 7:30 a.m. until 2:35 p.m. Students should not arrive before 7:10 a.m., as there will be no supervision until that time. Students should leave campus by 2:45 p.m., unless they are supervised by a faculty member. The school office is open from 7:00 a.m. until 4:00p.m. on regular days when students are attending classes



SCHOOL VISITORS

All visitors **MUST** report to the office when they arrive. Parents are always welcome at North Mobile School and may schedule visits. Please notify the teacher twenty-four hours prior to the date you want to visit your child's class or make an appointment through the office for visitation or conferences.

PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Parents are urged to contact the school whenever the need arises. Teachers may be contacted by e-mail, note, or telephone. If you call during the school day, the office will leave the teacher a message to return

your call. If you wish to have a conference with your child's teacher, please call ahead to make an appointment, as our teachers' schedules do not allow time for drop-in conferences. If you have a problem that persists, contact an administrator, we are here to help resolve any problems that arise during the school day.

School to Parent Communication

The Titansville Chronicle is a newsletter that is sent home at the beginning of each month to keep parents informed of the events that are planned at North Mobile. **We strongly encourage all parents to sign up for the Remind system .** This will allow you to receive text messages from the office of important events and deadlines. To receive these text messages simply text **@paigemixon** to **81010**. We also encourage to contact Ms. Turner in the office for your username and password to monitor your students grades, attendance and discipline online. Any device that has internet access may be used.

TELEPHONE/ADDRESS CHANGES

Please notify the school immediately if there is a change in your address, telephone number, or person to contact in an emergency. If you are unsure who is on your list, please contact the office. This information is very important in case your child becomes ill or injured.

OFFICE RULES

Students are not to come to the office without a pass. Upon entering the office, the student will be asked, "Do you have a pass?" If the answer is no, they will not be allowed to remain in the office.

Student Cell Phone Policy

According to MCPSS policy, students are allowed to have phones at school, but they must be powered off and stored away . If a student is caught with a phone out in class the teacher will take the phone and return it to the student at the end of class. If the student is caught a second time with the phone out, the teacher will bring it to an administrator and the student will be allowed to get the phone at the end of the day from the administrator. If the student is caught with a cell phone for the third time, the administration will only return the phone to the parent/guardian. Any further infractions of the cell phone policy will result in student will no longer being allowed to have a cell phone on campus or suspension.



STUDENT USE OF SCHOOL PHONE

Students will be allowed to use the phone in the office to contact parents. Students must have a pass to use the phone and phone calls will be monitored for content. This is for the safety of the student. We ask that phone conversations be brief and to the point. Please assist us by making sure that your child knows how he/she will get home from school and all other vital information prior to coming to school. **Students will not be called out of class to answer or make phone calls.**

MEDICATION

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD STUDENTS BRING MEDICATION OF ANY KIND TO SCHOOL!

This includes over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol, Aleve, etc. If it becomes necessary for a student to take any form of medication at

school, a signed “School Medication Form” must be presented to the office. (This may be obtained from the school secretary). This includes inhalers. Only prescription medication in the original prescription bottle will be dispensed. The label must clearly state the child’s name, doctor’s name, medication, dose, and the dosage schedule. All medication will be kept in and dispensed through the main office. Because of all the different forms and types of illnesses that children now encounter, the office will not dispense over-the-counter medication . A guardian may come to the school and bring the student medicine to be taken in the office.

We apologize for any inconveniences this might cause. If you have further questions, please refer to the Mobile County School Systems’ policy on medications or call the school.

EARLY DISMISSALS

Early dismissals are issued in the office. Students who get an early dismissal before 11:30 a.m. will be counted as absent from school on that day. **No early dismissals are issued after 2:00 p.m.** In order for a student to leave campus early, a parent or guardian should come to the school and sign the student out on the early dismissal log. **A driver’s license must be provided as verification of the person that is picking the student up every time . The person that is picking the student up must be listed as a contact. This is for the safety of the student. It is the responsibility of the parent to verify that the office has an updated list of individuals who have parental permission to checkout a student.** For an early dismissal prior to homeroom, the student will report directly to the attendance clerk.

EMERGENCY/ILLNESS

The school will make every effort to inform the parents of any illness or accident occurring at school that may need care and observation at home. To assist us in contacting you, please be sure that current business and home phone numbers are available in the office. If a parent cannot be contacted, the school will act in the manner considered to be in the best interest of the child. **THE OFFICE NEEDS TWO PHONE NUMBERS** to call when a

student becomes ill. Parents are to notify the counselor, first aid attendant, and the child's teachers in writing if a student has a chronic illness or disability that could require special or emergency treatment.

IMMUNIZATIONS



All students enrolling in Mobile County Public Schools MUST provide the office with a current Immunization Certificate from a private physician or the Board of Health. ALL sixth grade students are required by the Alabama State Department to have a second measles and DTAP immunization and certificate in order to be officially enrolled.

INSURANCE

School insurance will be offered at the beginning of each school year by a private provider. The cost is minimal compared to the potential cost of medical care, and parents are encouraged to take out insurance or provide proof of insurance.

LEAVING CAMPUS

Students will not leave the campus any time during the school day without permission from the principal or without following procedures for an early dismissal at the request of a parent.

NO SMOKING

North Mobile is a non-smoking campus according to School Board Policy for both students and adults. **This includes all sporting events that occur on the school campus or field of any Mobile County Public School.**

PAYMENTS BY CHECK

Monetary obligations may be taken care of by cash or check. Checks should be made payable to North Mobile County School and should have the student's name and homeroom written on the check. All checks must have the following information in order to be accepted: 1. Full name; 2. Home phone number; 3. Street address

(NO P.O. BOX); 4. Driver's license number with state identified.

Insufficient funds checks will be handled by a collection agency. Students are encouraged to pay for field trips or fundraisers with a check, if possible. This eliminates students bringing large amounts of cash to school that could be lost or stolen.



REPORT CARDS

Report cards are issued at the end of each nine-week grading period. If a student's grades are not satisfactory, parents are encouraged to arrange an appointment with the child's teachers in order to discuss the problem(s). Progress reports are sent home every three weeks. Parents are encourage to monitor their child's grades on INOW. This can be done on any internet accessible device. Please call the office for your username and password.

VALUABLES AT SCHOOL

We encourage students to not bring items of value or large amounts of money to the school. Although the staff does everything to prevent loss of items , we are not responsible for student's property an will not use instructional time to search for missing items. This includes cell phones and electronic devices. If your child chooses to bring these items they are responsible for insuring the security of these items. Students will never need more than twenty dollars for school. Each student should also have a name on all clothing.

DELIVERIES TO SCHOOL

The school administration tries to maintain an environment conducive to the educational process. Parents are asked to assist the school in this endeavor by not sending flowers, balloons, etc. to school. Students will not be allowed to board the bus with flowers or balloons.

UNIFORM ENFORCEMENT

The dress policy will be enforced from the first day of school. **Please note that there have been some changes to the uniform policy. The uniform policy will be strictly enforced this year.**

In homeroom each day, the homeroom teacher will check for compliance of policy. If the student is in non-compliance with the uniform policy and can correct the infraction at the time (shirt tail out, pants not sitting at natural waistline) then it will be done immediately. If a student has unapproved outerwear or headwear, the item will be tagged with the student's name and homeroom teacher. It will be held in a specified location, until the parent retrieves the item. If the infraction cannot be corrected at that time (no belt, wrong pants, wrong shoes, etc), the teacher

will send the student to the office and the student will be asked to call a parent to bring correct the uniform attire. If they are unable to contact the parent or the parent is unable to bring the proper uniform attire the student will be sent to retract for the remainder of the day. If uniform violations become a repeated offense for a student, it then becomes a “Group B” offense (willful disobedience) and the student may be suspended.

ATTENDANCE/TARDIES

Students should arrive on time and get to each class prior to the tardy bell. A student is tardy if he/she is not inside the room at the beginning of the period. The first five minutes of class are crucial to creating an atmosphere of instruction. It is essential that all students make arriving to class promptly a priority.

Regular attendance is necessary for a good education. **Students are allowed only 8 parent notes per school year. Chronic poor attendance may result in an administrator making a home visit.** Students should miss as few days from school as possible during the year. Parents are asked to do all that is necessary to ensure that their child comes to school each day ready to learn.

Whenever a student is absent from school, on the day of the student’s return, he/she must bring a written excuse signed by a parent or guardian stating the reason for absence. Only reasons cited under the Code of Alabama will be considered excused (illness, death in immediate family, prior approval by the principal or legal reasons). This note is to be given to the homeroom teacher on the student’s return to school so that the student’s absence will be excused. However, if the student fails to bring his excuse by the third day of his return to school, the absence will become unexcused. Parents may call the attendance clerk to verify that the student turned in the excuse to the teacher.

ABSENCES

1. Each student is responsible for reporting to school and to each class in accordance with his/her approved schedule.
2. Each teacher shall be responsible for checking the rolls daily in their assigned classes and properly recording the student's attendance.
3. A student, approved by the principal or his/her designee to participate in or attend a school sponsored or other approved activity during the day, shall be counted present. Students are responsible for all assignments missed while participating in or attending said activities.
4. The sponsor shall notify teachers, in advance, of students who will be attending approved activities and should be counted present.
5. In cases of prolonged absence due to illness, the parent or guardian should seek assistance from the Homebound Program or make other reasonable arrangements with the principal of the school.
6. The principal or his designee should make every reasonable effort to contact (by phone or in writing) the parents of any absent students on the day of the absence.
7. **Excessive** tardiness to school or **excessive** unexcused absences will result in referral to the **Early Warning Truancy Program**.
8. Suspended absences are excused, but permission to make-up work is up to the individual teachers.

MAKE-UP WORK: IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO INITIATE MAKE-UP WORK WITHIN 3 DAYS OF RETURNING TO SCHOOL.



P.E. UNIFORMS

Students are expected to purchase physical education uniforms from the school or use uniforms from previous years. It is important that students wear appropriate clothing in physical education classes. Gym wear **MUST** meet safety standards by having no zippers, buttons, or snaps, which might cause injury during physical activity.

Gym socks and shoes **MUST** be worn during P.E. class in order to get credit for dressing out. **Tennis/Athletic shoes ONLY are allowed on the gym floor.** Expensive name brand tennis shoes or athletic shoes should be avoided.

DRESSING OUT

Dressing out is an important part of physical education class. Failure to dress out will cause a reduction in the student's physical education grade. Frequent failure to dress out can warrant a referral to the office for disciplinary action.

LOCKERS

Lockers are available for use in the Physical Education classes for \$5.00 per year. These can be rented from the child's P.E. teacher. Any problem occurring (mechanical or otherwise) should be reported to the P.E. teacher. It is strongly encouraged that students **lock** all items in the P.E. locker.

It will be the student's responsibility to care for and protect their PE locker. Lockers are rented to the students for protection and convenience. Lockers are the school's property and as such may be inspected by school officials using a master key. Each student has his/her own locker.

Locker sharing is not permitted. For the student's protection we ask that he/she not give anyone his/her locker combination. The student must be especially careful to see that his/her locker is always locked after use.

ATHLETICS

Competitive athletics will be offered to grades 7 and 8. The following sports will be offered:

Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, Softball, and Track



Alabama's Sports Officials Bill

Alabama has become the 16th state to toughen the punishment of angry sports fans that attack game officials, coaches, and administrators. It creates new crimes of harassing, menacing, and assaulting sports officials, coaches, and administrators. The punishments are harsher than normal for convictions for harassment, menacing, and assault. The legislation applies to all levels of athletics from church softball to professional sport

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP FOR STUDENTS AND OTHERS

1. Remember that a student spectator represents the school, as does the athlete.
2. Recognize the good name of the school is more valuable than any game won by unfair play.
3. Respond with enthusiasm to the calls of the cheerleaders for yells in support of the team.
4. Accept the decisions of officials without question.
5. Recognize and applaud an exhibition of fine play or good sportsmanship on the part of the visiting team.

6. Insist on the courteous treatment of the visiting team, as it passes through the streets or visits the local school building and extend the members every possible courtesy.
7. Be considerate of any injured player on the visiting team.
8. Acquaint the adults of the community and the elementary school students with the ideals of sportsmanship that are acceptable to North Mobile School.
9. Impress upon the community its responsibility for the exercise of self-control and fair play at all athletic contests.
10. Be friendly and polite to all visitor spectators.
11. Remember that North Mobile is a non-smoking facility.

BAND

North Mobile School offers beginning woodwind, beginning brass, and advanced band instruction for our middle school students. Fifth grade students have the opportunity to participate in elementary band.



SCHOLARS BOWL

Scholars Bowl members participate in local and state scholars bowl competitions. Students are expected to work with team members after school with the supervision of the Scholars Bowl sponsor.

YEARBOOK

The school publishes a full color yearbook at the end of each school year. The yearbook sponsors school portraits, sports pictures, and cheerleader pictures. The yearbook sponsor will select a limited number of students who have never made a C or lower on previous report cards. They must also have good conduct.

CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

1. Students should be in attendance on a regular basis and should report on time.
2. Students should abide by all school rules and regulations
3. Students should assume responsibility for having necessary tools and materials in class.
4. Students are expected to apply themselves actively in achieving academic goals. They should work while in class according to their teachers' directions.
5. Students should show respect for the property of others and the school grounds
6. They should accept responsibility for helping to keep the school building and grounds clean.
7. Students should exhibit a respectful attitude toward fellow students and school personnel.
8. No student should intimidate another or put his/her hands on another student without permission. If a student is threatened by another student, the student should report such threats to a teacher or adult immediately.

STUDENT MISCONDUCT

Student's misbehavior will be dealt with in accordance with the Mobile County School System's Discipline Policy. Parents will be given a copy of the Code of Conduct and are asked to go over it with your child. This code of conduct details the rights and expectations of parents, students, and school personnel. Please keep it handy for future reference.

Administration is not allowed to discuss the discipline of a child with anyone other than the parent/guardian.



BEHAVIORS NOT ALLOWED AT SCHOOL

The following behaviors are against school policy and will not be tolerated at North Mobile Middle School:

1. Use or possession of tobacco or tobacco products on school campus.
2. Use or possession of drugs, alcoholic beverages, fireworks, or dangerous weapons in or on school property.
3. Use of obscenities or profanities in any form, verbal or written. Suggestive, lewd, or obscene pictures, photographs, or drawings are also forbidden.

4. Truancy (skipping) for all or part of the school day.
5. Inappropriate display of affection or sexual harassment.
6. Bringing weapons to school.
7. Fighting, name calling, bullying or other peer conflicts.
8. Violence, vandalism, or threats toward teachers or school staff.

ITEMS NOT ALLOWED AT SCHOOL

Certain items, determined by school administrators, should not be brought to school. Students found in possession of these items deemed harmful, unnecessary, or disruptive to the educational process can face disciplinary action. These items will be confiscated and returned only to the parent. Examples of prohibited items, but not limited too:

Radios	cards of any kind
Stink bomb	liquid paper
Tobacco products , matches,	dice
Recorders (audio/video)	sunflower seeds
Water or play guns	permanent markers
Vulgar/obscene literature	trading cards
Playing cards	knives or blades of any size
Video games	alcohol /drugs of any form
Games	brass knuckles

VANDALISM AND PROPERTY DAMAGE

Our school building and equipment cost the taxpayers a lot of money to construct, purchase, and maintain. Students who destroy or vandalize school property will be required to pay for losses or damages. If students willfully destroy school property, suspension and subsequent expulsion

may be necessary. If a student should happen to damage something by accident, he/she should report the incident to a teacher or the office immediately.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

Out-of-school-suspension can be assigned by the principal or assistant principal. The school will make every attempt possible to contact a parent by phone when a student is considered for suspended. However, it is the student's responsibility to take the written notification home to the parent. **Students who are suspended may not attend a school function while under suspension. Parents MUST accompany the student for a conference with an administrator.**

ALTERNATIVE (SECOND CHANCE) SCHOOL

Students who have experienced significant discipline problems will be considered for placement in the Mobile County Public School System's Alternative School Program called Pathways.

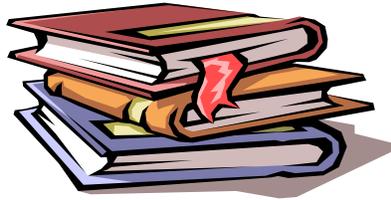
HALL PASSES

Each student leaving a room must have a properly filled out hall pass. Should the student go to an alternate destination, this will be considered skipping and will be dealt with accordingly. The student must carry the pass in his/her hand at all times.

ASSEMBLY ETIQUETTE

School activities will be held in the gym or cafeteria throughout the school year. Students should be seated quickly and quietly during this time. Applause is the only correct and courteous way of showing your approval

of a program or speaker. Students should be respectful of all speakers and are expected to remain seated and quiet during the entire presentation.



TEXTBOOKS

The Mobile County Public School System furnishes textbooks for students. The student is responsible for the care of the books issued to him/her. Loss or damage of these books will result in payment to the school. Covering the textbooks with non-adhesive covers will help protect them from unusual wear and tear.

INTERNET USAGE

Inappropriate use of the Internet will result in a cancellation of the privilege of using the Internet at school and can result in disciplinary or legal action. Each student should sign on the computer using their username and password provided by the school. Each student should make sure to log off the computer when they are done. The administration is monitoring the sites that students are using and will be sent emails if a student is searching inappropriate material.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

The school system provides bus transportation for students who live in the zoned school area and live more than two (2) miles from the school. Parents, however, must provide transportation for their children who participate in extracurricular activities after regular school hours. If a student exhibits poor conduct on a school bus, his/her privilege to ride a bus can be revoked.

BUS RULES

1. Students should be on time at the bus stop and should wait until the bus stops before getting on the bus.
2. Hands, arms, and head should be inside the bus at all times.
3. Loud talking and laughing are not allowed.
4. Horse playing is not permitted at the bus stop or on the bus.
5. Never tamper with the bus. Breakage and damage caused by careless or willful acts of vandalism shall be paid for by the parents or guardians of offending pupils.
6. Do not leave books, lunch, coats, or purses on the bus.
7. Do not throw anything out the bus window.
8. Do not leave your seat until the bus has stopped.
9. Be very quiet when the bus approaches railroad crossings.
- 10. Students will not be allowed to ride any bus other than the one they are assigned . Students are not allowed to ride the bus to a friends house or switch buses. All buses have a roster of students and they are not allowed to accept other riders.**

NOTE: RIDING A BUS IS A PRIVILEGE! THE SCHOOL SYSTEM IS NOT REQUIRED TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR ANY STUDENT THAT MISBEHAVES ON THE BUS.

