

Newberry Math & Science Academy Parent Handbook



2019 - 2020

Linda Foley, Principal
Edward Collins, Assistant Principal

Vision

Leaders Grow Here

Mission

Newberry cultivates a positive, safe and academically rigorous environment that develops the whole person and empowers students to thrive as leaders

Roles & Responsibilities

Newberry Administration:

Linda Foley, Principal (LSFoley@cps.edu)

Edward Collins, Assistant Principal (ECCollins1@cps.edu)

Newberry Office Staff:

Main Office email is NewberryOffice@cps.edu

Dolores Toolis, Clerk (DToolis@cps.edu)

Counseling & Support:

Nicole Corbiere, Counselor (NACorbiere@cps.edu)

Adam Dassow, Case Manager

Our School-wide Leader In Me Values:

At Newberry, we follow The Leader in Me framework. Some examples of what this looks like for your child are:

Habit 1: **Be proactive** means that students are responsible individuals and take initiative. They choose their actions, attitudes and moods. They do not blame others for wrong actions. They do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

Habit 2: **Begin with the End in Mind** means students plan ahead and set goals. They do things that have meaning and make a difference. Students are an important part of their classroom and they contribute to Newberry's mission and vision. Our students look for ways to be good citizens.

Habit 3: **Put First Things First** means students work first, then play. Students spend time on things that are most important. This also means they say no to things they know they shouldn't do. Our students set priorities, make a schedule, and follow their plans. They are disciplined and organized.

Habit 4: **Think Win-Win** means that everyone can win. Our students balance courage for getting what they want with consideration for what others want. They make deposits in other's Emotional Bank Accounts. When conflicts arise, students look for Third Alternatives.

Habit 5: **Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood** means to listen before you talk. Our students listen to other people's ideas and feelings and try to see things from their viewpoints. They listen to others without interrupting and they are confident in voicing their ideas. Our students look people in the eyes when talking.

Habit 6: **Synergize** means that together is better. Our students value other people's strengths and learn from them. They get along well with others, even people who are different from themselves. Our students work well in groups and seek out other people's ideas to solve problems because they know that by teaming with others, they can create better solutions than anyone can alone. They are humble.

Habit 7: **Sharpen the Saw** is when balance feels best. Our students take care of their bodies by eating right, exercising, and getting enough sleep. They spend time with family and friends and learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school. They find meaningful ways to help others.

Attendance (school starts promptly at 7:30am, no exceptions)

It is important to arrive to school on time. The first school bell warns students at 7:25am and the formal school bell rings at 7:30am, which means all students should be in line on the playground at their assigned locations.

School staff members are outside beginning at 7:15 AM to monitor safety. They should be shown respect because they have been entrusted to keep students safe and secure during morning recess. Parents and students can communicate with these staff members if they have questions or concerns.

Absences

Occasionally, there are valid reasons for students to miss school: **illness, death in the family or a family emergency are examples**. If your child must be absent from school, they are required to return to school with a signed note explaining their absence. Parents are encouraged, but not required, to email to classroom teacher and/or NewberryOffice@cps.edu to also report the absence.

Family vacations are NOT considered a valid excuse and they will not be excused. Work will not be provided in advance for vacation absences.

Morning Drop-Off

If you plan on bringing your child to school, options for morning drop-off are as follows:

- 1) Walk your child to the playground
- 2) Drive down Burling Street and drop off near the playground. Under no circumstances are our families allowed to block neighbor's driveways.
- 3) Drop off at the Orchard Street Kiss-&-Go station. Staff will ensure your child gets to the playground. When using this option, please cooperate with school staff; they have been assigned the duties of keeping your child safe and maintaining a flow of traffic. Stay within the orange cones and do not exit the car, leaving it parked in the lane. ****Please show courtesy to staff who are working the Kiss & Go station. They are there to ensure your child's safe passage onto the playground.****

Tardy Policy

The school day begins at 7:30am and all students enter through the playground. Tardy students must enter the school via the auditorium doors located on Orchard Street and obtain a tardy pass. Students entering the school after 7:45am are considered tardy and this is entered into the IMPACT grades/attendance system. **Persistent tardiness is listed in the CPS Student Code of Conduct under Group**

1 Inappropriate Behaviors. When students are tardy to school, this affects the participation portion of their grade. Students are never considered tardy if the school bus is the cause of their tardiness.

School Fees

In order to achieve the goals and objectives of the Newberry Academy Continuous Improvement Plan (CIWP), a school fee of \$100 is necessary to supplement all areas of curriculum. After the first day of school, the fee is non-refundable. School fees can be paid on the Newberry website.

Morning Entry

While playing during morning recess, students are to be kind and cooperative with others. It is expected that they treat other students nicely during this time and play safe. Please remind your child of this school-wide norm.

All Newberry students enter the building in two lines and with their classroom teacher. Students may take a breakfast when they enter to eat during the first 15-minutes of the school-day.

Morning entry into the school is orderly. All staff reinforce this behavior and safety expectation while students are at the lockers. When finished at the locker, students enter their classroom and begin their teacher's assigned task for the morning. **Kindergarten parents: We work to promote student independent functioning. By December 2019, we ask that you refrain from walking your child to their locker.**

Safety

All doors are locked after 7:30am. The Orchard Street tardy entrance is locked after 8:30am. **All visitors to the school must enter through the Main entrance at 700 W. Willow Street, sign-in at the Security Desk and report to the Main Office.** Students are not allowed to be alone in the classroom at any time. When walking to the bathroom, students are to travel in pairs. Students are never allowed to open doors to strangers as all visitors enter through the front door.

Visitors & Volunteers

All visitors must sign in at the Security Desk and go to our Main Office. All visitors must have a campus visitor ID. If you see someone you do not know without an ID, please ask them to report to the Main Office. Volunteers need to fill out a volunteer application and be approved by CPS.

All individuals who wish to assist inside the school building must be processed through the Office of Family & Community Engagement in Education (FACE). A link to the application for background checks can be accessed through CPS.edu or clicking this link:

https://cpsparentu.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=319488&type=d

Ways you can Donate

Oftentimes parents volunteer in a number of ways. We understand that not all families have the time to work in classrooms, but ask how they can monetarily support the school's efforts. We ask that when donation checks are made to the school, you identify the purpose of the contribution. Here are some ways to support the school:

- \$250 for a field trip school bus
- \$30 for a bulk box of popcorn kernels used for school-wide Popcorn Fridays
- \$50 for school-wide technology (includes repairs and purchasing smartboards, iPads and Chromebooks)
- \$30 for garden beautification
- \$50 for science curriculum
- \$50 for The Leader in Me development (covers teacher trainings and student materials as needed)
- \$100 towards middle school overnight trips
- \$20 towards Staff Appreciation
- \$50 towards office supplies

Grading & Aspen Parent Portal

Aspen Parent & Student Portals are tools for parents/guardians and students to view grades and attendance online. Aspen Parent Portal link: <https://cps.edu/Pages/parentresources.aspx>

Aspen Student Portal link: <https://cps.edu/Pages/studentresources.aspx>

Please do not contact teachers through Aspen Parent Portal. Instead, parents should use the teacher email address or call the school to set up an appointment to communicate with the teacher.

A consistent grading criteria helps ensure students are understanding content. Grades take into account assessments/tests and how all exams and classwork align to the Common Core Learning Standards. Grades are entered on a weekly basis, but there is no minimum number of required grades. Elementary Science and Social Studies may enter grades every two weeks. There should be a sufficient number of grades to assess student achievement both at progress reports and end of the quarter.

Student Records

Under federal and state laws, parents have the right to inspect records kept on their children. They also have the right to a copy of any of their child's records. If they feel that information in the records, other than grades, is misleading, inaccurate or invades their child's or family's privacy, they may request that such information be corrected. Before the school can release student records to persons outside the school system, the school must first obtain parents'/guardians' written consent. If children transfer to another school district, parents have the right to inspect and correct student records prior to release of the records to the new district. When a request is made, the school has 10 business days to comply with the request and may charge a fee.

Phones

Students may ask the Office to call home during the school day only when absolutely necessary. Please do not call or text your child during the school day. Even if your child receives and responds to a call/text during the school day, disciplinary consequences may be issued. While many children have cell phones, students are not allowed to use the cell phones during school hours. If your child is caught using the cell phone during school hours, it will be taken away and parents/guardians will need to come to the school to pick up the phone. The school is not responsible for cell phones. **In Grades 4-8, students are required to turn-in cellular phones to their teacher and collect it at dismissal.**

Student Achievement

Each semester, we will recognize the achievement and progress of all students in the form of celebration in the auditorium. Students have the opportunity to demonstrate projects, poems, writing essays, etc. that demonstrate their progress towards goals.

Report Cards & Progress Reports

Report cards and progress reports are each issued four times a year. Parents/guardians are required to pick-up their child's report card at the first and third marking periods. Report cards are sent home with students at the second and fourth marking periods. Progress reports are sent home with the student per the CPS calendar.

Conduct in the Classroom

At the beginning of the year, teachers will distribute classroom rules and expectations based on the age and development of your children. Please help support the classroom teacher's behavior expectations by reinforcing them with your children. Newberry teachers follow the CHAMPS model in the classroom for different activities such as room clean up, group activity, handing-in homework, moving to the classroom library, read aloud time, and independent work. When these different activities take place, your teacher will instruct you and post what transition looks like for the following:

Conversation: How you engage in conversation during this transition

Help: How you get questions answered

Activity: How the transition is explained to the class

Movement: What are the acceptable reasons for moving about the room

Participation: The behaviors that show students are participating

Success!

Transitions in the Hallway

Moving about in the hallway takes place at different times of the day. Newberry students are asked to transition quietly, so as not to disturb others. When travelling to the bathroom, they get a hallway pass from their teacher. Please reinforce with your child that they are never to leave the classroom without teacher permission.

Lunch & Recess

Some classes will eat lunch in their homeroom while others will eat in the gymnasium/cafeteria. This is a 45-minute period of the day where students eat and play together. Their classroom teachers usually will have their own lunch period during this time, so school staff is assigned to supervise children whether they eat in classrooms or the gymnasium. During this time, students are expected to play nice and listen to the directives of the staff supervising them.

Specials Classes

Specials classes help extend student thinking and learning beyond core subject areas. Our Specials classes are as follows: STEAM, Physical Education and Music. These are graded subjects and you can locate these teachers' emails via the school website or by leaving a message with the Main Office.

Conflict Resolution & Restorative Practices

Newberry Math & Science Academy follows the Chicago Public School Student Code of Conduct. What this means is that misbehaviors are all placed on a grid and given different consequences, depending on the misbehavior. Any teacher can communicate with a parent informing them of a child's misbehavior and the appropriate consequences. From time-to-time, misbehaviors are dealt with by the Principal or Assistant Principal and they, too, will call home to inform parents of consequences.

Sometimes personal conflicts with someone else happen more often. If a student feels that what started as a peer conflict may actually be bullying because it happens regularly, they should talk to the teacher and the school Counselor so that they can assist.

Early Dismissal

Parents/guardians removing children from school before the regular dismissal time must send a note to school. When parents/guardians arrive at the school, they must sign-in at the Security Desk and report to the Main Office and sign-out the student. A parent, guardian, or person officially listed on the Emergency Form or other person designated by the parent in writing, may pick up children released for early dismissal. The school does not support Early Dismissals as children incur a loss of instruction time. Signing a student out early from school will disqualify him/her from obtaining perfect attendance for the school year.

Students are considered half-day absent when picked-up before 2pm.

Dismissal

Students are released at 2:30pm. Teachers walk them outside to their various drop-off locations. All students who have been approved for bus transportation and take advantage of this service are dropped off at their bus. Any child who attends an after-school program (sports, clubs, band, etc.) goes to the auditorium to be picked up by their program supervisors. Students who are picked up by a family member go to the playground.

If your child is not riding the school bus on a particular day, there are two options for notification: 1) have a handwritten note from you given to your homeroom teacher or Main Office in the morning or 2) email the Main Office before 2pm at NewberryOffice@cps.edu. Without the note or email, your child must ride the bus.

After-School

Any time you would like to re-enter the school after dismissal, please ring the buzzer at the Main Office. Newberry students and staff are not to open side doors to others. For safety reasons, all visitors and community members enter through the Main Office doors.

Participation in Athletics & 8th Grade Activities

For student athletes Grade Point Average – All athletes participating in interscholastic sports must maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or above (C average). Any athlete with a GPA below this threshold will be conditionally eligible pending their adherence to required academic remediation.

Participation in 8th grade graduation activities such as the luncheon and other activities is contingent on student behavior.

All students enrolled at Walter L. Newberry Math & Science Academy are to abide by the rules laid out in this agreement.

2019-2020 Newberry Math & Science Academy Dress Code

The Newberry Academy administration and staff strives to create a community which does not judge people based on dress or fashion, but which values individuality. At the same time we recognize that clothing reflects the educational environment and therefore should not be offensive or disruptive to instruction. Please be aware of the following rules and guidelines when selecting clothing for school.

1. Clothing which depicts or refers to alcohol, tobacco, gang/cult or obscenities are never appropriate and not allowed. Dress that supports or promotes any illegal substance is not allowed. Clothing may not advocate or promote acts of violence, self-destruction, sexual or promiscuous behavior.

2. Clothing which contributes to the creation of a hostile, offensive, or intimidating environment based on race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, gender or sexual orientation is prohibited.
3. Clothing which does not adequately cover the front, back, sides or midriff is prohibited.
 - No pajama bottoms (unless approved with a teacher-sponsored event)
 - Only outer clothing may be visible, with no underwear showing.
 - Hats are not allowed to be worn in the school building during school hours.
 - Hooded sweatshirts may be worn, however the hood must not cover the head during the school day.
 - Flip-flops, sliding sandals and slippers may not be worn in the school building.

The Student Code of Conduct will be used as a reference for students failing to abide by the school dress code. When possible, they will be asked to remove or cover inappropriate attire. If this is not possible, a parent or parent designee will be called and asked to bring a change of clothing, or purchase *Newberry Wear*. It is to everyone's advantage to come to school dressed according to the guidelines stated above.