

NMS South Campus POSITIVE Behavior/Attendance Complex

As a result of our belief in the process of Positive Behavior Support, North Middle School has developed a second office to support students integrate the “**Three R’s: Respect, Responsibility, and Relationships**” into their lives. In other words, we help all students to support, “The Jr. Huskie Way!” This office is located on the opposite end of the campus (from the main office) which may seem like an inconvenience at first. However, the intent is to provide greater adult visibility and support for the students and staff at North Middle School.



Late Arrival/Early Dismissal

Students arriving late to school after an appointment or students who need to leave early will check-in or check-out in the new South Campus Behavior/ Attendance Office.

Parents are asked to enter through the South Campus door at the very south end of the building (the parking lot is between PCEC and NMS). Ms.

Pam Newhouse is the secretary who oversees the office and can assist parents and caregivers with any questions or concerns related to behavior and attendance.



Behavior Support Staff

In addition to attendance and checking-in or out of the building, the South Campus office houses **Ms. Molly Hamman, Portage Public Schools Behavior Specialist**. Ms. Hamman provides all of the middle schools in Portage with support in developing positive behavior support plans to ensure social/emotional growth and development. She also serves as the NMS MiBLSi (Michigan’s Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative) Behavior Coach. In this role, she supports teachers and staff members by providing tools and evidence-based intervention strategies to support behavior in the classroom, and supports the Check and Connect program and students.

The South Complex will also house **Ms. Deb Mearing, our In School Support Supervisor**. We have changed the concept of ISS (formerly In School Suspension) to **In School SUPPORT** in an effort to create an environment that provides services during the day which promote reflection of undesirable behaviors and allow students to understand related behavioral cause and effect. In School Support will also be utilized for students who are recommended for homework recovery.

Special Education Office

Because of their expertise in developing accommodations related to behavior and academics, our four grade-level Special Education instructors are also housed in the South Complex. **Ms. Jen Barnhard (8th grade), Ms. Megan Richter (7th grade), Ms. Karen Riggs (6th grade) and Ms. Alice Srackangast (6th grade) will be a resource for staff and students.** Ms. Barnhard and Ms. Richter also serve on the Behavior Response Team and will serve as liaisons between the behavior office and the team.



Check and Connect

Students who are on our **Check and Connect** program meet their advisors in the South Campus office, both in the morning before school and just prior to the end of the school day. **NMS instructors, Mr. Brandon Baker, Mr. Josh Bartz, Ms. Jeanne Burnham, Ms. Amy Hamet, and Mr. Robert Jordan** staff our morning and afternoon Check and Connect program and encourage students to give their very best every day, track their progress and provide feedback!

Vice-Principal’s Office

Ms. Kimberly Kirshman, Vice-Principal will be in the South Complex three days a week, and as needed to meet with students and parents, and will be in classrooms two days a week to observe and support student learning.

As a parent/caregiver, we would like to welcome you to visit our office. First thing in the morning and late in the afternoon the office will be full of activity so please do not let that scare you off. Our office is intended to be student-friendly and we are consistently meeting the needs of students.

Two Offices

Having two offices at North Middle School is new for us and we realize that it is new for students, staff and parents, which can cause some confusion. We want to encourage you to call us if you have questions about which office will best serve you. **For security, we must insist that parents use the South Campus Doors for student late arrivals and early dismissals (or if you just need to drop something off that your child left at home).** To protect our NMS students, parents or other adults are not permitted to walk through the building during the school day unless escorted by a staff member. We do not have staffing to provide this service and therefore ask for your cooperation in parking by the office that you need. This will help us expedite our service to you and your family. We look forward to a great year!



To protect our NMS students, parents or other adults are not permitted to walk through the building during the school day unless escorted by a staff member. We do not have staffing to provide this service and therefore ask for your cooperation in parking by the office that you need. This will help us expedite our service to you and your family. We look forward to a great year!