

PS/IS 121 Nelson A. Rockefeller Magnet School of Applied Life Sciences Student Success Guide

Please refer to the 1st Day Packet, Planner Introduction, and Discipline Code for information regarding arrival, uniform, homework, media, blue cards, discipline, internet usage, cell phone policy, and other school-wide rules and regulations.

As a Middle School student, one of your most important goals is to prepare yourself for High School and beyond. Successful High School Students can meet expectations independently. Successful High School students and adults follow a few simple guidelines.

- 1. Be Here:** Students who come to school on time and are absent less than 10 days a year are more likely to be successful in school.
- 2. Be Safe:** Students who follow safety rules help create a school where all students are comfortable being in and learning.
- 3. Be Responsible:** Students who take responsibility for their actions, their learning, and their future will be successful.
- 4. Be Respectful:** Students who treat others the way they want to be treated create a positive atmosphere where all can be successful and excel. Students that respect themselves work their hardest.

Excuses and Blame

As young adults students must learn to take responsibility for their actions in order to learn and grow. Making excuses and blaming others is the opposite of taking responsibility. Pointing to another student's inappropriate behavior does not excuse one's own behavior. "He did it first," and "He did it too," are not acceptable excuses.

Student Safety Responsibilities

It is your **RESPONSIBILITY** to:

- Follow the direction of adults who are ultimately responsible for the safety of all students.
- Make good decisions that ensure the safety of all students, including Elementary Students.
- NOTE: For safety reasons aerosol sprays (perfume, deodorant, etc.) are prohibited.

Student Social Responsibilities

It is your **RESPONSIBILITY** to:

- **Show respect for school property and the property of others.** Inappropriate behavior includes: writing on or scratching school or other people's property, or taking things without asking to borrow or use them.

- **Bring problems and concerns to the attention of an adult:** Inappropriate behavior includes: bullying, biased based language, and unwanted physical contact.

Student Classwork and Homework Responsibilities

It is important the students of **PS/IS 121** set and keep high expectations. High grades are not guaranteed, but rather earned.

It is your **RESPONSIBILITY** to:

- Know all assignments and complete them on time.
- Track grades and progress with peers, teachers, and parents.
- Check Google Classroom and Engrade daily for upcoming assignments.
- Know the Grading Policy and understand the importance of assignments (see attached).
- Use Google Classroom and Engrade to share work and progress with your family. Progress reports will be generated by Engrade in the middle of each marking period.

Grading Policy

50% Assessments – Tests and Quizzes

25% Classwork

25% Homework

Subject teachers will discuss more in detail for each category

Student Classroom Responsibilities

It is your **RESPONSIBILITY** to:

- Be seated immediately and begin working as soon as possible.
- Be **PREPARED** by taking out and organizing all necessary materials. Unused materials should remain in your backpack.

Teachers will have a “quick write,” “warm up,” or “do now” activity for you to work on as soon as you are seated. Even if they don’t, your task is always to take out your notebook and assignments that need to be turned in, and look back at the previous day’s lesson.

Class begins with the students, not the teacher. Students should know what is expected and begin immediately. Students should walk into the classroom quietly, take their seat and begin to work on the quick write.

Student Technology Responsibilities

It is your **RESPONSIBILITY** to:

- Maintain and secure all technology.

Each student has access to a Chromebook. There is a monitor who hands out the Chromebooks and collects them at the end of the day. All Chromebooks are assigned to students in September. Students are responsible for them for the rest of the school year. Student activity will be monitored.

Student Cleanliness Responsibilities

It is your **RESPONSIBILITY** to:

- clean up after yourself and make collective efforts to clean classrooms and the cafeteria when necessary.

All eating and drinking (including candy, gum, and bottled water) are prohibited everywhere in the school building, except in the cafeteria (unless allowed by a teacher for a special circumstance). All food and drink brought to school for lunch needs to be stored in your lockers. Gum chewing is not permitted in school. If you are chewing gum you will be asked to remove it. Glass bottles are not permitted in school because they pose a **safety** hazard and will be confiscated.

Student Attendance Responsibilities

It is your **RESPONSIBILITY** to:

- Make every effort to be on time and in school every day.
- It is your **responsibility** to complete all missed assignments during your absence to the best of your ability. It is your **responsibility** to find out what you missed and what you have to make up from your peers or your teachers.

Excessive lateness and absences can affect promotion. When you are absent you must bring a note, either from a parent/guardian or a doctor, explaining why you were absent. Your parent/guardian is also required to call the attendance office each day you are absent. All absence notes must be brought in the day that you return to school and given to your homeroom teacher. If it is deemed that you were absent without the school and your parent/guardian aware that you were not in attendance you will be deemed cutting and disciplinary action will be taken.

If you are late your parent/guardian will be notified. Excessive lateness without a legitimate reason can be grounds for disciplinary action. In order to maintain progress with schoolwork be sure to consult the Google Classroom or contact a classmate in the event of your absence.

Student Dismissal Responsibilities

It is your **RESPONSIBILITY** to:

- Be **safe** on your way home.
- Be **respectful** towards people who live in the community, and of their homes and property.
- Bring your books and supplies to and from school.

Students in Grades 6 – 8 will be dismissed through the 53rd street exit at 2:20 p.m. Students are expected to leave the school grounds as soon as they are dismissed. Students will not be permitted to remain on school grounds unless they are part of an after school activity or program. Students are expected to continue to follow school rules even after school hours.

Student Hallway Responsibilities

It is your **RESPONSIBILITY** to:

- Sign out and have a pass when leaving the room.
- Go directly to your destination and return to your class promptly.
- Always be **respectful** of classes that are in session when you are in the hallway by remaining quiet.

Every class has a sign out book. All students must sign out, noting the time they departed the room, and sign in, noting the time they returned to the room. If you are using the bathroom you must use it and return promptly. The bathroom and hallway are not places to socialize.

Student Organizations

Various organizations and teams exist or will be created to provide opportunities to extend learning and become more involved in the school. These include Student Council and Science Teams. You are encouraged to join. Participation is voluntary and a privilege.

Student Recognition

Honor Society

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding middle level students. More than just an honor roll, N.J.H.S. serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character, and Citizenship. Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 who have a cumulative grade point average of 85 and above are eligible to be inducted into Honor Society.

First Honors - 95-100

Second Honors - 85-94

Honor Roll

The purpose of the Honor Roll program is to recognize and honor middle school students who have attained outstanding academic success and to provide positive reinforcement that inspires all students to strive even harder and perform at their highest level in all subjects.

The Honor Roll system recognizes students for high academic achievement at the end of each marking period. We will recognize student as follows: Principals List, Honor Roll and Most Improved. If a student receives a U (unsatisfactory) or an N (needs improvement) in conduct, they cannot participate. The following criteria will be used to identify students at each level:

Principals List - 95-100

Honor Roll - 85-94

Most Improved

Working papers

Applications for working papers may be obtained in the School Counselor Office Room 319. In order to file papers it is required to present a birth certificate, social security card, a signed application form, and a doctor's medical note.