

**Parent/Student Handbook
2020-2021**



The Novus Academy

**3400 William D. Tate Avenue # 1000
Grapevine, TX 76051**

(817) 488-4555

<http://thenovusacademy.org/>

Table of Contents

Introduction Section

Message from Chief Executive Officer

School Leadership Roster

Novus Academy Board of Directors

Administrative Team

Faculty

Support Staff

Identification Section

Philosophy of Education Values

Mission Statement

School History

Parent/Student Handbook and Revision

Admission Philosophy and Guidelines

Statement of Cooperation

Procedures Section

Admissions

Registration

Tuition and Fees

Financial Aid

Academics

Extra-Curricular

Conferences

Grading Scale

Academic Misconduct

Report Cards and Progress Reports

Homework

Attendance

Excused Absences

Unexcused Absences

Excessive Absences

Prearranged Absences

Tardiness

Makeup Work

Same Day/Extended Day

Student Activities

Opportunities for Student Involvement

Service

Leadership

Fine Arts

Athletics

Lifestyle Expectations

- Student Conduct
- Student Behavior Policy
- Probation Policy
- Student Dress and Grooming

Opportunities for Parent Involvement

- Fund-Raising
- Novus Parent Association (NAPA)
- Volunteering

Health and Safety Issues

- Distribution and Consumption of Medication
- Administering of Medication
- Student Illness
- Responsibilities of Novus Staff
- Immunizations/Medical Examination
- Outside Play
- Emergency Drills – Fire, Inclement Weather, Lockdown

General and Miscellaneous Information

Awards/Recognition

School Hours

Before and After School Program

School Business Office Hours

Visitors

Change of Address

Conference Scheduling

Delivery and Pickup of Students

Field Trips

Lost and Found Items

Lunch Program

Snacks

Messages

School Closure Information

Procedures and Standards

Introduction Section

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

We are coming together for the 2020-2021 school year in the midst of a Global Pandemic. Novus staff members and I are prepared to provide a full-day educational program to your children. This year our students will have three options regarding how they will attend and participate in school. When it is safe to do so, some students may attend and participate in person and some may choose to attend several days per week in person and the remainder of the week work from home virtually. The third option is working from home virtually 5 days per week. Our first day of school is August 19, 2020. All schools in our area are required by the Tarrant County Health Department to begin the year with all of our students working virtually through "at least" September 28, 2020. Our ability to open the school to In-Person students will be dependent on the course the COVID-19 Virus takes. When it is deemed safe to open schools to in-person learning, we will do so and will be following the Guidelines outlined by the CDC, TEA, the Governor of the State of Texas, the State Health Department, and the Tarrant County Health Department.

So, as you and your family embark on the "Year of the Global Pandemic" with us, this Parent and Student Handbook will serve as your guide to all that is "Novus".

Take care, Kathy Edwards

The Novus Academy Board of Directors as of August 2020

Board President: Patrick Stanton
Board Member: Amy Martens
Board Member: Jim Binkley
Board Member: Susie Evans
Board Member: Evelyn Barker
Board Member: Peter Ohser

Administrative Team/Faculty

Chief Executive Officer: Kathy Edwards kedwards@thenovusacademy.org
Chief Financial Officer: Nicolle Galipeau ngalipeau@thenovusacademy.org
Director of Human Resources and Admissions – Carla Woodruff
cwoodruff@thenovusacademy.org
Curriculum Coordinator: Kyla Kiser kkiser@thenovusacademy.org
I.T. Director/Facilities Coordinator: John Edwards jedwards@thenovusacademy.org
Receptionist: Michelle Bowen mbowen@thenovusacademy.org

Faculty

Chaz Bowen cbowen@thenovusacademy.org
Michelle Cornine mcornine@thenovusacademy.org
Justin Gray jgray@thenovusacademy.org
Kristina Gray kgray@thenovusacademy.org

Libby Hines lhines@thenovusacademy.org
Kyla Kiser kkiser@thenovusacademy.org
Jennifer Messina jmessina@thenovusacademy.org
Javier Saenz jsaenz@thenovusacademy.org

Identification Section

Philosophy

In too many instances, our children are forced to fit schools and systems that don't truly cater to their specific needs or strengths. At The Novus Academy, our philosophy is unique — we provide a learning environment that nurtures students as individuals. They receive focused attention, positive reinforcement and an education that matches their true potential. This philosophy, developed by The Novus Academy Chief Executive Officer Kathy Edwards, really works. It has been studied by many educators, who universally agree that this type of education is a game changer.

At The Novus Academy, we provide *several educational tracks*, designed to support each student's needs:

- On and Above Age and Grade Level Academic Abilities
- Learning Differences
- Cognitive Difficulties with High Academic Achievement

Values

Strong ethics, high morals, integrity, pride, honor, courage, respect, and a growth mindset define our core value system. We operate with integrity and honesty, working diligently to educate and enrich the lives of our students. We promote personal growth and empowerment in a positive learning environment.

Core Values:

All students deserve, and we will provide, a healthy, safe and secure learning environment.

Value 1: Engagement

- All students can learn.
- All students' deserve programs that balance student's needs and interests, resulting in high levels of student engagement, achievement, and success.
- All students are provided with opportunities to showcase their talents, explore their affinities, develop and enhance work-ethic, and will learn to persevere and overcome obstacles.

Value 2: Empowerment

- All students are diverse and unique. When students are empowered and held accountable, self-concept can increase. When self-concept increases, student performance is enhanced.

- All students' experiences and perspectives are assets that reflect the strength of our school and the values of our community. Such assets, when respected, nurtured and explored, promote their academic success and the success of their peers.

Value 3: Environment

- All students thrive in a positive, creative, innovative, and stimulating learning and working environment.
- All employees excel in a culture actively supported by professional development opportunities. Highly-trained, highly-valued teachers and staff are pivotal to the continuous improvement and success of our students.

Mission Statement

The Novus Academy provides innovative, creative, and experiential educational programming within a culture that inspires confidence, respect, and self-worth.

The Novus Academy is a creative, innovative, vibrant, independent school for bright students with learning differences, high achieving students with cognitive difficulties, and students with high cognitive abilities and above average academic performance. Our students benefit from evidence-based, high-quality, comprehensive, and meaningful educational programming. The Novus Academy transforms the lives of students, their families, and their communities by preparing them to be self-advocates and problem-solvers through innovative learning programs, supportive interactions with faculty, staff, and students, exemplary scholarship, and purposeful service to others. Novus Academy students are prepared and empowered to apply their acquired skills and knowledge, to rely upon their personal attributes to confidently lead productive lives, and to become contributing members of the global community.

School History

Kathy Edwards, the Founder of The Novus Academy, is an educator with 26 years of extensive experience within public school, private school, and university settings. It had been her dream for many years to one day create a school unlike any in existence. The "**dream school**" would become a world class learning community that provided innovative, creative, and experiential educational programming within a culture that instilled confidence, respect, and self-worth. Staff would come together to operate with integrity and honesty, working diligently to educate and enrich the lives of the students. Unwavering ethics, high morals, integrity, pride, honor, courage, respect, and the development of growth mindsets would be the core of the school's value system. High expectations and rigor would lead to personal growth, intrinsic motivation, and empowerment for all students. The school would have outreach programs to enable students, families, and educators across the country to discover how to maximize their potential. The Novus Academy is built upon a strong foundation. Prior to its inception, the school operated as the Hill School of Grapevine. Kathy Edwards was selected by the Hill School of Fort Worth organization to create a satellite campus in Grapevine, Texas. It began as a 1st through 5th grade campus in the first year of operation and was serving students in grades 1 through High School Preparation in its final year.

The Hill School of Grapevine developed a much sought after school culture and program of instruction. Approximately 250 to 300 individuals per year from public and private schools, community organizations, and businesses visited the school to observe and learn from staff and students. The Hill School of Grapevine was in its seventh year of operation when the decision was made to cease operations to enable the creation of The Novus Academy. Creating and operating The Novus Academy would serve to increase opportunities for students, families, and the surrounding communities with the addition of a high school program. Professional Development opportunities for public and private school staff would also be extended. Working relationships with colleges and universities could be optimized to enhance the school program while also serving as a model site to help prepare future educators and clinicians.

On August 18, 2014, that "DREAM" became a reality when The Novus Academy opened its doors and students in grades 1-11, entered their "new" school for the first time.

Parent/Student Handbook Review and Revision

The Novus Academy Administrative staff will review the parent/student handbook a minimum of one time per year at which time revisions may be made. Also, the parent/student handbook may be reviewed and revised at any time during the school year by the Novus Academy Administrative staff. We reserve the right to change policy at any time at our discretion.

Admission Philosophy and Guidelines

Families choose The Novus Academy because they are seeking the best educational environment available for their children. Students come because they desire a new beginning and are motivated to learn. When they leave, they have skills to succeed – and they do.

The Novus Academy is designed for bright, creative students in grades K-12 with learning differences, high achieving students with cognitive difficulties, and students with high cognitive abilities and above average academic performance.

The Novus Academy accepts students who are struggling in traditional classrooms because:

- Their reading, writing, mathematics, and/or organizational skills may be below their cognitive potential.
- They are overwhelmed by the demands of tasks, class sizes, and peer interactions.
- They are not receiving the support they desire in large schools and classrooms.

We accept students who have one or more of the following:

- Cognitive Abilities in Average to Very High Ranges with or without Learning Differences
- Dyslexia/Reading Disorder
- Dysgraphia/Disorder of Written Language
- Dyscalculia/Mathematics Disorder

- Expressive/Receptive Language Disorder
- Executive Function Weaknesses
- Attention Deficit Disorder
- Anxiety
- Depression

We will consider accepting students with:

- Cognitive Abilities in below average ranges
- Nonverbal Learning Disabilities
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Developmental Delay

We may NOT be able to accept students with:

- Cognitive Abilities below 70
- Significant Psychological, Emotional and/or Behavioral Disorders –i.e. Bi-Polar Disorder, Conduct Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, etc.

Our students benefit from evidence-based, high-quality, comprehensive, and meaningful educational programming. To achieve success, our students must be able to learn within group settings. We do not provide “one-on-one” instruction and are unable to meet the needs of students that require Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) support.

The Novus Academy is an inclusive, non-discriminatory learning community dedicated to embracing diversity and honoring differences. We welcome students of any race, color, ethnic origin, religion, or gender/sexual orientation whose needs we are able to meet within our educational programs.

Guidelines:

1. Admittance into NOVUS is determined by the Admissions Committee consisting of the following: NOVUS Administrative staff and NOVUS classroom teachers
2. It must be understood that attendance at NOVUS is a privilege and not a right. This privilege may be forfeited by any student and/or parent who does not conform to the school’s standard of conduct, policies, procedures, and/or who is unwilling to adjust to the environment.
3. NOVUS reserves the right to select students based on academic performance or readiness; social, emotional, and behavioral needs; and a willingness to cooperate with NOVUS administration and policies.

Admissions

Step One: Contact and Visit **if you feel The Novus Academy might be the right school for your child and family, please do one or both of the following:**

- Review our Website.
- Attend a school tour. School Tours take place every **Monday morning**. They begin at 8:00 a.m. and conclude by 9:00 a.m. You will experience the beginning of our school day and will tour the campus. This is an opportunity to gain an overview of our school. It is not a time to meet with staff to have individual questions addressed or spend time observing in classrooms. *Call ahead to make sure school is in session and a tour is being held.*

Step Two: Obtain and Complete an Application for Enrollment Consideration.

- Visit the Novus website to download the Application for Enrollment Consideration from the website. Print completed form to return with other required paper work. You may also choose to contact and/or visit the school to obtain the necessary paperwork.
- Gather the required documents for submission: *completed application for Enrollment Consideration, most recent assessment/testing information, copy of most recent report card, student work samples, and the teacher and administrator information forms from the school your child currently attends.*

Step Three: Submit required documents for Review

- Send all required materials to: The Novus Academy, 3400 William D. Tate, # 1000, Grapevine, Texas 76051.
- If you would like to scan and email the documents, please send them to cwoodruff@thenovusacademy.org

When The Novus Academy staff have determined that the application is complete and all required information has been received, your child's documents will be reviewed. At the conclusion of the review process, you will be contacted by a member of The Novus Academy staff.

Step Four: Invitation for a School Visit

- If it is determined that The Novus Academy ***might be*** an appropriate setting, you will be scheduled for an appointment. This appointment will include an interview and opportunity for you to meet with a member of the staff to enable you to gain additional information.
- At the conclusion of your appointment, if it is felt that The Novus Academy could be the right school for your child, a 2-day visit will be scheduled. Your

child will visit Novus for the entire school day and will participate in all age and grade appropriate activities that occur during the visit.

If a review of the documents submitted indicates that The Novus Academy **would not** be an appropriate placement for your child, you will be notified by a member of the school staff. When possible we make recommendations regarding other options you may pursue.

Step Five: Receiving a Decision

- Throughout the 2-day visit, staff will work with and observe your child.
- He/she will be assessed to determine present levels of performance.
- All information will be shared with Novus administrative and admissions staff.
- If the decision is made **to offer enrollment** to your child, you will receive an admissions letter.
 - You will have 2 weeks to decide whether you plan to accept the offer.
 - If your Registration Fee is not received within two weeks we will assume you are declining the offer.
 - If you decline the offer and decide at a later date that you would like your child to attend our school, you will need to reapply. *Prior acceptance is not a guarantee that we can meet the future needs of your child.* If an appropriate opening exists at the time you reapply, we may be able to enroll your child.
- If the decision is made **NOT to offer enrollment** to your child, you will receive notice from a staff member. When possible we will make recommendations regarding other options you may pursue.

The financial sacrifices that you make today to enable your child to attend The Novus Academy could be the difference between your child graduating from high school prepared for a future full of choices and options vs. being unprepared for life beyond high school completion.

Tuition and Fees 2020-2021

Tuition Grades K-5	\$19,650
Tuition Grades 6-8	\$20,050
Tuition Grades 9-12	\$20,850
Application Fee – Includes 2 day visit and Reading/Math Assessment	\$125
Registration Fee	\$1,500
Technology Fee	\$500
School Supplies	\$35
Graduation Fee (Seniors Only)	\$250
Novus Parent Association Fee	\$50
*New Student Fee	\$1,000

Additional Costs:

Each family is responsible for the following expenses:

- School uniforms
- Field trips or special group activities
- Extracurricular activities, if applicable
- Student travel, if applicable
- School-wide camping trip
- School supplies (except for a binder and planner that is included in the \$35 school supply fee)
- Lunches (including any required utensils, napkins, etc.) and snacks
- Replacement charges for lost or broken curriculum or computer equipment
- Before or after-school care

Financial Aid

The Novus Academy has a limited financial aid program that provides assistance to parents/guardians with clear financial need. The criteria used to determine financial aid recipients are based upon the inability of an admitted student and his/her family's to pay the full tuition and fees to attend The Novus Academy. As is the practice of other private schools, The Novus Academy outsources information collection and data analysis. Families requesting financial aid must contact Nicolle Galipeau at ngalipeau@thenovusacademy.org. Additional supporting documents may also be required by The Novus Academy Financial Aid Committee (NFAC).

Applying for Financial Aid

- 1. Families must complete the Admissions Process. The \$125 fee required when students complete the 2-day visit cannot be waived.*
- 2. The student must be accepted for enrollment.*
- 3. The family has to submit the required Registration Fee in the amount of \$1,500.*
- 4. After the Registration Fee has been submitted, the family will be able to apply for assistance. Instructions to complete this process will be provided to the family.*
- 5. The family will be required to pay any application fees.*
- 6. If the family does not qualify for financial assistance or does not qualify for an amount that enables the student to attend the school, one-half of the Registration Fee (\$750) will be refunded to the individual that submitted the fee.*

Academics

The Novus Academy curriculum standards correlate with the Texas Education Agency "Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills" (TEKS). The Novus Academy staff differentiate instruction based on the needs of our students. Accommodations and interventions are provided as needed to ensure student success.

The Novus Academy faculty understands that no two children learn, develop, or mature at the same rate. Learning differences touch not only academic skills, but also the entire child and his or her family. Whatever the specific stumbling blocks to learning, frustration and uncertainty almost always accompany them. At The Novus Academy, full attention is given to the student. Individual areas of strength are celebrated, struggles identified, and learning programs carefully developed.

Parent education is a crucial element for helping families understand the needs of their children, especially if they are struggling. Students need to see their parents as lifelong learners; so, it is important for parents to attend and participate in opportunities to strengthen their skills as parent advocates for their children.

Additional Opportunities

Central to the philosophy, The Novus Academy is committed to the education of the whole person. Students participate in a variety of experiential learning opportunities.

Extra-Curricular Activities

A variety of extra-curricular options are available to our students. Each year we consider the affinities of our students and offer activities that they express interest in. Afterschool Clubs and Programs are determined on an annual basis. Drama and additional Fine Arts activities often occur as well. Staff members are willing to consider sponsoring afterschool activities when students express interest in options that don't currently exist.

Our Athletics Program opportunities vary from one year to the next depending on student interests.

Conferences

Parent/teacher conferences will be held a minimum of two times per school year to discuss each student's progress.

Grading Scale

The following grading scale will be used for report cards and on each student's permanent academic record starting in the third grade. The first and second grade students will receive a skills based report card.

100-90%	A	Excellent Progress
89-80%	B	Good Progress
79-70%	C	Average to Below Average Progress

69-59%	F	Well Below Average – Improvement Needed
59-0%	F	Unsatisfactory – Significant Improvement Needed

Grading Policy

Grades are an indicator of a students' progress towards mastering skills taught. Low grades serve to let the student, teacher, and parents know that the student hasn't mastered or isn't able to demonstrate mastery of a skill **yet**. When parents complete work for their children or ask teachers to change grades, offer extra credit, etc. they are doing a disservice to their children. **We do not change grades and we do not offer "extra credit". Our students are taught that their work ethic, perseverance, time management skills, and choices directly correlate to skill acquisition.**

- Assignments turned in on time earn full credit.
- The first day the assignment is late, it's a loss of 20 points (highest grade earned can be an 80). The second day the assignment is late, it's a loss of 20 additional points (highest grade possible can be a 60). Third Day is a loss of 20 additional points, the highest grade earned would be a 40. Fourth Day late is a loss of 20 additional points, the highest grade earned would be a 20. From the fifth day on, the assignment would result in a grade of zero points.

All students will receive 45 minutes per day of Physical Education

7:55 a.m. to 8:10 a.m. – PE Instruction /Exercise (15 minutes)

1:05 to 1:25 Immediately following Lunch - PE Instruction /Exercise (20 minutes)

Grading Policy for PE:

30% of the daily grade = Attendance and Punctuality

70% of the daily grade = Participation

Examples:

1. Arrive early or on time = +30 points
 - a. Arrive 1-5 minutes late = +20 points
 - b. Arrive 5 – 10 minutes late = +10 points
 - c. Arrive between 11 – 13 minutes late = +5 points
 - d. Later than 13 minutes or No Show = + 0 minutes
2. Morning PE (15 minutes)
 - a. Actively participate the entire time = +70 points
 - b. Actively participate 14 – 10 minutes = +55 points
 - c. Actively participate 9-5 minutes = +40 points
 - d. Actively participate 4 minutes or less = +0 points
3. Afternoon PE (20 minutes)
 - a. Actively participate the entire time = +70 points
 - b. Actively participate 19 – 15 minutes = +65 points
 - c. Actively participate 14 -10 minutes = +55 points
 - d. Actively participate 9 - 5 minutes or less = +40 points
 - e. Actively participate 4 minutes or less = +0 points

Remote Learning and On-Campus In Person Grading Policy – 2020-2021

10% of the daily grade = Attendance and Punctuality

90% of the daily grade = Participation

Academic Misconduct Policy

This policy applies only to those violations of The Novus Academy student conduct regulations relating to academic dishonesty.

Definition

Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academically-related matter and any knowing or intentional help or attempt to help, or conspiracy to help, another student commit an act of academic dishonesty. "Academically-related" includes all instructional facets of the college, i.e., adult basic education, developmental education, transfer education, occupational/ technical education, continuing education, and training for business and industry.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the school;

- **Cheating:** The school defines cheating as knowingly attempting to or actually acquiring or giving information fraudulently in order to influence performance on examinations and assignments. It also includes using or attempting to use during any class assessment unauthorized materials, information, study aids, or computer-related information including, but not limited to, the use of a cell phone or other electronic communication device. The use of a cell phone or other electronic communication device by a student during a class assessment without the express authorization of the course instructor shall constitute prima facie evidence of cheating.

- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism involves representing the words, data, works, ideas, computer program or output, or anything not generated in an authorized fashion as one's own. Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional. All academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by a student to his or her instructor or other academic supervisor, is expected to be the result of his or her own thought, research, or self-expression. In any case in which a student feels unsure about a question of plagiarism involving his/her work, he or she is obligated to consult the instructor on the matter before submitting it.

- A student is guilty of plagiarism when submitted work borrows ideas, organization, wording, or related information from an alternate source without proper acknowledgement. This includes reproduction of another's work in any format.
- A student is guilty of plagiarism when employing or allowing another individual to write, alter, or revise submitted work. Assignments may be discussed with instructors, tutors, or fellow students, but submitted work should be done only by the student.
- A student is guilty of plagiarism when submitted work includes simple changes to another's work while leaving organization, content, and phraseology intact. A student utilizing research or outside sources of

information must carefully acknowledge what, where, and how the sources of information are included. If utilizing the work of another individual, the student must use quotation marks around the designated passage and appropriately indicate its origin.

- Misrepresentation: Falsifying, altering, or misstating the contents of documents or other materials related to academic matters, including schedules, prerequisites, transcripts, and medical or military excuses.

Academic Misconduct Penalties

Penalties for academic misconduct can range from a reprimand to severe consequences.

Plagiarism, cheating, or misrepresentation may result in a parent conference, extended school days, Saturday School, alternative assignment, and/or a lowered grade. Severe cases will be discussed with administration.

Report Cards and Progress Reports

Report cards will be issued quarterly approximately one week after the end of each quarter. Progress reports will be emailed automatically via RenWeb as needed for missing grades and incomplete assignments.

Homework

Teachers may assign homework to aid students in the progress of their studies. It is useful to reinforce daily lessons, to build good study habits, and to provide opportunity for parent involvement in student learning. Therefore, we encourage parents to provide a suitable environment for the completion of daily homework. Parents are urged to monitor their child's work daily. The parent should help the child to become responsible in returning the homework completed and on time. Parents should make a point to find time each day to discuss what their child has learned at school. Students may have homework assignments over extended school breaks to help reduce any regression or loss of skills gained. Choosing not to complete the summer assignments is not the ideal way to begin a new school year.

Attendance

Regular attendance is a critical component for success in school. Parents are requested to schedule family vacations during school vacation periods. A student is expected to be in attendance except when ill or when unable to attend because of emergency circumstances or a death in the family. When students are absent from school, it is critical that proper arrangements are made for the absence and that responsibility is taken for appropriate reentry into school. Absences in the following categories will be handled as indicated:

Excused Absences

In order for an absence to be excused for any reason, the parent must notify the school. A telephone call or email the day of the absence is preferred, but a written note or email the first day back in class is acceptable as long as the note includes the date returning, child's name, dates absent, and the reason for the absence.

School work that is missed will be allowed to be made up for excused absences (see makeup work). When a student is absent, it will be considered an excused absence for the following reasons (assuming the school office has received parental notification):

- Student illness – in an event of an extended illness or frequent absences due to illness, a doctor’s note may be required.
- Doctor or dentist appointments – occasional, unavoidable medical appointments.
- School-sponsored activities
- Death in the immediate family and/or close family friends.
- Unavoidable mechanical failure of automobile or accident
- Unavoidable traffic delays – this refers to unanticipated delays such as an accident blocking traffic or road blockage due to inclement weather.
- Other approved absences – approval for other absences may be requested from the school office, and if approved makeup work will be allowed.

Please note that an absence is not automatically excused because a parent gives written or oral permission for the student to be gone from school. Parents may respectfully disagree regarding the legitimacy of an absence when weighed against the benefits of attendance, however, the final decision as to whether an absence is considered excused or unexcused rests with the school administrator.

Unexcused Absences

Any absence for which the school does not receive appropriate notification will be unexcused. There will be no allowances made for missed work if an absence is unexcused. Examples of unexcused absences include, but are not limited to:

- Lack of parental notification
- Oversleeping – either intentional or unintentional
- Running late –daily schedules need to be adjusted to ensure that the student arrives on time.
- Birthdays – student birthdays are special events; however, absence from school will not be excused
- Absences due to family vacations or extended weekends that have not been pre-approved by the school office – prior notification and approval are required for absences due to family vacations to be excused. Parents are encouraged if at all possible to avoid taking family vacations during times when school is in session.
- Student chooses not to attend school – any absence when a student simply chooses not to attend school for any reason. This will result in disciplinary action as well.

No student is to leave the school premises without first obtaining permission from the NOVUS office. It is essential that the school be aware of a student’s location at all times.

Excessive Absences

Any student who misses more than 10 days in a semester or 20 days per school year will be reviewed for retention in the current grade level the following school year and/or removal from the school. The school reserves the right, should a student exceed these limits, to require the parents to submit, in writing, an explanation detailing the absences and the justification of each absence.

Tardiness

Students arriving after 7:55 a.m. will be considered tardy. When a student arrives after 7:55 a.m. the parent must come into the office to sign their child in.

Late Arrivals or Early Dismissals that may be excused

- Doctor or dentist appointments – occasional, unavoidable medical appointments.
- School-sponsored activities.
- Unavoidable mechanical failure of automobile or accident
- Unavoidable traffic delays – this refers to unanticipated delays such as an accident blocking traffic or road blockage due to inclement weather.

Other approved reasons for arriving late or leaving early – approval for other absences may be requested from the school office.

Late Arrivals or Early Dismissals that will not be excused

- Oversleeping – either intentional or unintentional
- Running late –daily schedules need to be adjusted to ensure that the student arrives on time.
- My child didn't want to: get up, get dressed, brush his/her teeth, get in the car, etc.
- I used my cell phone or computer to contact my parent to pick me up early because I don't want to be here...

If a student is habitually tardy, disciplinary measures may be taken.

Prearranged Absences

The parents will need to notify the school office, in writing, of any prearranged absences. Arrangements will need to be made with the child's teacher for school work that will be missed.

Makeup Work

For scheduled absences, arrangements for makeup work **must be made in advance with at least an equal number of days' advance notice as the number of days of planned absence.** This allows the teachers to prepare. The work will be due the first day the student returns to school. For other absences of less than two (2) days the makeup work will be available to the student on the day of their return to school. If a student is absent two (2) days or longer the parent should contact the school office as per the Attendance Policy, then the work will be collected and available at the end of the day, if possible. **Students will have one day to complete missed work for each day they are absent,** excluding scheduled absences.

Same Day/Extended Day

Same Day/Extended Day may be assigned for a variety of reasons. It could be utilized for students that refuse to complete assigned tasks. It may be assigned for students that have make-up work that they have not completed. It could be the consequence for misbehavior. Assignment to Same Day/Extended Day occurs at the discretion of school staff and administrators.

Hours: After School – the number of hours assigned to the student occurs at the discretion of school staff and administrators

Cost: Fees are determined by the intervention provided.

Student Activities

Opportunities for Student Involvement

Statistics show that overall student success in school is closely related to the student's involvement in school activities. The administration and teachers, using recommendations from students and their parents, will offer various extra activities during each school year. Listed below are some suggestions.

Service

Classes and/or Clubs may sponsor a needy family at Christmas, run a recycle program, or make collections for local food banks. Students will be encouraged to look for ways to help others.

Leadership

Leadership opportunities for students of all ages are presented throughout the year.

Fine Arts

Music, Art, and Performance Arts activities are presented throughout the year.

Athletics

A variety of afterschool athletic activities may be available. As the school grows, the goal is to increase athletic opportunities for students.

Lifestyle Expectations

Student Conduct

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is honorable, respectful, and kind towards themselves, their parents, and the school. This expectation applies to all student conduct regardless of whether the students are in school or at school activities as well as the time they are away from school. Students and parents understand that the school reserves the right to impose discipline including expulsion, based upon conduct which occurs outside of the school. Expectations for general conduct that have been adopted are:

1. Students will refrain from using inappropriate language. Obscene language, excessive grumbling and complaining is unacceptable.
2. Students will exercise courtesy and kindness when dealing with others, as well as not harass, abuse, bully, tease, threaten, torment, humiliate, or intimidate other students either physically, mentally, or emotionally.
3. Sexual harassment of employees, students, visitors, or others will not be tolerated.
4. Students will show respect for their own bodies by neither possessing nor using tobacco, alcohol, other controlled substances, visible tattoos, or engaging in harmful conduct.
5. Students will respect the authority of the faculty and staff of The Novus Academy.
6. Students will show respect for the school facilities by keeping hands and marking utensils away from the walls, tables, floors, and windows. Unnecessary waste or damage to school property or facilities will not be tolerated. Families may be required to replace and/or repair items damaged by their child.
7. Students will show respect for others by not taking things that do not belong to them.
8. Students will be representatives of their school in the community in which they live and will observe this conduct code at all times.
9. Students will not participate in any other conduct that, in the school's discretion, significantly impairs the student's progress or brings discredit to the school and community.

Disregard for, or violation of, these standards will be dealt with according to the Student Discipline Policy of The Novus Academy.

Student Behavioral Policy

The overarching goal is for each student to achieve the ability to make appropriate decisions for themselves, accept responsibility for their actions, and learn from their experiences. As the student's ability to manage his/her behavior increases, there is less need for imposing rules and regulations upon them.

Each staff member has the responsibility of guiding and assisting students with their behavioral choices. The teacher and school staff will ensure students understand behavioral expectations. maintain order in the classroom by speaking to students about the policy violation and working with the student to determine deciding what an appropriate consequence would be to help ensure the student learns to make better behavioral choices. Consequences must be appropriate for the student and circumstance in accordance to the discipline policy. The administrator will be available to assist as needed.

At all times, The Novus Academy reserves the right to administer any discipline it deems necessary in its sole discretion based upon the facts and circumstances of each situation. Factors to consider will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the seriousness of the offense, student's age, frequency of misconduct, student's attitude, accepting responsibility for his/her actions and learning from the situation.

Staff will use a variety of methods to promote good behavior and aid in positive character development. In all interactions efforts will be made to focus on student strengths to help address areas of difficulty. Staff will use positive responses for appropriate behavior.

Inappropriate behavior includes but is not necessarily limited to:

- unexcused tardiness to school and/or class
- having or using a smart phone during the school day
- failure to complete assignments
- classroom and hallway disruptions
- unnecessary talking in class
- disobedience to teacher directives
- public displays of affection – inappropriate touching
- stealing
- selling items at school
- possession or use of tobacco, alcohol or other controlled substances*
- fighting
- possession of knives, guns or other weapons*
- misbehavior in the restroom or playground
- disrespect and/or defiance toward staff
- any form of harassment or intimidation
- lying
- leaving school without permission from the office
- abuse or willful destruction of school property
- mistreatment of other students
- conduct outside of the Novus Academy which would have an adverse effect on the school and/or students in the school
- critical or derogatory remarks
- possession of nuisance items (without school staff permission), such as iPods, games, personal toys, skateboards, pets, etc.

Consequences that may be used include, but are not limited to:

1. Warning: Teacher will talk to student and discuss/develop corrective action
2. Time-out – in or out of classroom
3. Exercise Recess rather than free play with others
4. Assigned Tasks
5. Parent Notification
6. Extended Day
7. Working Lunch
8. Student conference with the administrator
9. Conference with the administrator and parents
10. Probation
11. Removal from class and/or school for a specific period of time
12. Expulsion

NOTE: The school reserves the right, based upon the particular facts and circumstances, to render any consequence it deems necessary. By listing these possible consequences/actions, the school, in no way, implies that some or all of these will be utilized in a specific situation or prior to suspension and/or expulsion.

***POSSESSION OR USE OF DRUGS, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO OR WEAPONS MAY RESULT IN EXPULSION FROM SCHOOL.**

Responsibilities –The staff at The Novus Academy feels that our role is to assist you as parents. We will strive to work in partnership with you on behalf of your child.

If, at any time, parents have questions or disagreements regarding disciplinary actions, it is their responsibility to immediately discuss these questions or differences with the teacher or staff member involved and not to bring their grievances to other parents, faculty or students. If the matter is not resolved with the teacher, the parents would then discuss it with the administrator.

At no time will a Novus Academy staff member use corporal punishment.

Probation Policy

Probation gives the student an opportunity to correct a serious problem. If he/she does not improve to a satisfactory level, the consequences will be suspension – forced absence from the school for a number of days to be determined by the school administrator, then expulsion – forced withdrawal from the school.

A review date will be set at the time the discipline is administered. Specific improvements to be made should be established. The administrator will determine the length of the probation. At the end of the probation period, if the student has corrected the problem areas outlined by the administrator, he/she will then be taken off probation and be held as a student in good standing.



Due to the COVID-19 virus ALL students, staff, and visitors MUST correctly wear a mask (nose and mouth covered) and adhere to recommended physical distancing and safety protocols.

Novus will provide In-Person students with 5 custom made washable masks. Students can choose to wear the masks provided or wear masks that they've obtained elsewhere.

EACH DAY they must wear a clean mask.

All students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear face coverings (mask or face shield with a mask) while on campus. We view these coverings as a critical way to support mitigation efforts, slow the impact of the virus on our community, and protect each other.

I'm sharing this new school-wide policy now in order to:

- **Give families time to explore different fabrics and styles that will be comfortable for their students to wear for face masks.** *Note: The links that accompany the examples aren't ones you have to purchase. They are provided to illustrate features needed in the different styles of masks.*

Option 1 – Washable Fabric Masks

Note: single-layer masks may reduce spreading droplets from speaking, double and triple layer face coverings are better than single layer at preventing the spread of droplets from coughing and sneezing, double and triple layer with replaceable filters are best

- All students and staff must wear double or triple layer masks if wearing washable fabric masks
- **All students and staff will receive 5 double layered washable cloth masks from Novus. They may choose to wear those and/or other "Acceptable" Face Masks.**

Acceptable Fabric Masks



https://www.amazon.com/balaclava-Infinity-Headwear-Protection-Headgear/dp/B089NS8B5X/ref=sr_1_2_sspa?dchild=1&keywords=kids+neck+gaiter&qid=1596061834&s=apparel&sr=1-2-spons&psc=1&smid=AGJSL3RLRX9I4&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUExSVg5OEIXTEdVVTkxJmVuY3J5cHRIZElkPUEwMDAzMTY5Mk5GS1IQMFIOOE9SNiZlbmNyeXB0ZWZlZElkPUEwNTcyMjU3MzZFWEdHSzRlUzZWSSZ3aWRnZXROYW1I



Gaiter Masks without filters – However, they will probably need to be doubled. To check, hold the mask up to sunlight or a light. If you can see through the mask, it doesn't protect others. Some are made of thicker fabric than others.

https://www.amazon.com/Gaiter-Bandana-Cover-Gaiters-Coverings/dp/B08BL7NHF2/ref=sr_1_55?dchild=1&keywords=kids+neck+gaiter&qid=1596062256&s=apparel&sr=1-55



This style as long as it has two or 3 layers



This style as long as it has two or 3 layers



This style as long as it has two or 3 layers

NOT ACCEPTABLE



Masks with Breathable Valves – They allow particles to escape and don't protect others from the wearer.

Option 2 - Disposable Masks – Can be worn however, not recommended for students because they are so easily broken, torn, etc. If Disposable Masks are worn, be sure your student has a few extras with him/her each day because the bands tend to break easily.



3 Layer Disposable Masks https://www.amazon.com/BRINCH-Disposable-3-Layer-Comfortable-Breathing/dp/B086HCZFMC/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=homemade+face+masks&qid=1596063509&s=apparel&sr=1-2

Face Shields

Face Shields worn without a mask allow particles to escape from the sides and bottom.

Students will have an opportunity to remove their masks when seated at their individual desks. The desks have been custom made and have 3 sided Plexiglas shields.

If your child wants to be able to remove his/her mask they will need a Face Shield.

When seated behind the Plexiglas, they can lower their mask as long as they wear a face shield.

This is the ONLY TIME a face shield without a mask may be worn.

Face shields worn with masks can be worn anytime.



<https://www.parenting.com/gear/child/face-shields-for-kids/>

At Novus Academy we believe in using evidence-based instructional practices. As educators, we need to listen to those who are experts in scientific, medical and epidemiology fields that study and utilize safe practices. We remain steadfast in our mission to utilize best practices to protect our students, their families and our staff as we work together to face and overcome obstacles presented by the COVID-19 virus. As we move forward together on behalf of your children and families, we will be depending on all of our families to support our efforts to maintain a healthy school environment and minimize risk to our entire community.

2020-2021 In-Person Learning Uniform (Male) Due to COVID-19 and the need to frequently launder items of clothing, we are relaxing the Formal Dress Guidelines

- **Male Monday Dress: Purple Plaid Mask** – *This is obtained at the Novus Academy*

If students want to wear Formal Dress, they can choose to do so.

- **Black slacks** - if not purchased from Lands' End, must be the same fabric as Lands' End pants (**No Denim**)
- **Black leather belt** is required with a non-distracting buckle
- **Socks** – **Black Crew Socks** – **no-show socks are not permitted**
- **Athletic Shoes** are permitted
- **Novus Purple Polo shirt with the Crest**

Male Regular Dress: Tuesday – Friday School Approved Mask

- **Grades K-12 - Black slacks or shorts** - if not purchased from Lands' End, must be the same fabric as Lands' End pants and shorts (**No Denim**)
- **Grades K-12 - Black leather belt** with non-distracting buckle.
- **Grades K-12 - Purple polo shirt** (all students must have at least one of these), or **White polo shirt, or Long or short sleeved white oxford button-up shirt** with the Novus Logo that appears at the top of this page – **must be tucked in**
- **Grades K-12 - Shoes** can be any combination of purple, emerald green, silver/grey, white, or black and must have closed toes and backs. Athletic shoes are allowed if they are in the approved colors.
- **Grades K-12 – Black Crew Socks** – **no-show socks are not permitted**
- **Approved Face Mask** – EACH DAY they must wear a clean mask.

Grades 9-12 Optional: Tuesday - Friday

- **Black polo shirt** with the Novus Logo that appears at the top of this page – **must be tucked in**

- **Gray slacks or shorts** (MUST be purchased from Lands' End) (**No Denim**)
- Socks with colors and/or designs as long as they don't display inappropriate images or content

Outerwear:

- **Black Sweater Vest, Long Sleeve V-neck sweater, or Black Blazer** – all with the Novus Logo that appears at the top of this page - any option, needs to be black.

2020-2021 Remote Learning Uniform (Male)

- **Monday – Purple Polo Uniform Shirt**
- **Tuesday - Friday Grades K-12 - Purple polo shirt** (all students must have at least one of these), **White polo shirt, Long or short sleeved white oxford button-up shirt** with the Novus Logo that appears at the top of this page
- **Grades K-12 - pants or shorts** – **must meet Free Dress guidelines**
- **Optional if you are cold – Novus Academy black Sweater, Fleece, or Blazer with the logo**

2020-2021 In-Person Learning Uniform (Female) Due to COVID-19 and the need to frequently launder items of clothing, we are relaxing the Formal Dress Guidelines

Female Monday Dress: **Purple Plaid Mask** – *This is obtained at the Novus Academy*

If students want to wear Formal Dress, they can choose to do so.

- **Lands' End Plaid Skirt, Plaid Skort, Plaid Jumper, black pants, black skirt, black skort**
- **Novus Purple Polo shirt with the Crest**
- **Grades K-12 – Black leather belt (if the pants, shorts, skirt, or skort have belt loops a belt must be worn)**
- **Grades K-6** – White knee socks
- **Grades 7 and 8** – White knee socks or white bobbie socks
- **Grades 9-12** - White knee socks, white bobbie socks, or no socks
- **Grades K-12** – Black leggings or white tights without any designs

Female Regular Dress: **Tuesday - Friday**

- **Lands' End Plaid Skirt, Plaid Skort, Plaid Jumper, black pants, black shorts, black skirt, black skort**

- **Grades K-12 - Purple polo shirt** (all students must have at least one of these), **white polo shirt, long or short sleeved button-up shirt** with the Novus Logo that appears at the top of this page - ALL must be tucked in
- **Grades K-12 - Shoes can be any combination of purple, emerald green, silver/grey, white, or black and must have closed toes and backs.** Athletic shoes are allowed if they are in the approved colors.
- **Grades K-12 - black or white socks**
- **Approved Face Mask** – EACH DAY they must wear a clean mask.
- **Grades 9-12 Optional Tuesday - Friday**
 - **Black polo shirt** with the Novus Logo that appears at the top of this page – **must be tucked in**
 - **Gray skirt, gray slacks or shorts** (MUST be purchased from Lands' End) (**No Denim**)
 - Socks with colors and/or designs as long as they don't display inappropriate images or content

Outerwear:

- **Black Sweater Vest, Long Sleeve V-neck sweater, or Black Blazer** – all with the Novus Logo that appears at the top of this page - any option, needs to be purple or black.

2020-2021 Remote Learning Uniform (Female)

- **Monday – Purple Polo Uniform Shirt**
- **Tuesday – Friday Grades K-12 - Purple polo shirt** (all students must have at least one of these), **White polo shirt, Long or short sleeved white oxford button-up shirt** with the Novus Logo that appears at the top of this page
- **Grades K-12 - pants, skirt, skort or shorts** – must meet Free Dress guidelines
- **Optional if you are cold – Novus Academy black or purple Sweater, Fleece, or Blazer with the logo**

2020-2021 Uniform (Spirit and Free Dress)

In-Person and Remote Learning Spirit Dress Guidelines:

- **Allowed on certain, designated days** - must be approved by the Head of School or her designee

- **Shoes can be any combination of purple, emerald green, silver/grey, white, or black and must have closed toes and backs.** Athletic shoes are allowed if they are in the approved colors.
- **Spirit dress bottoms** will consist of pants, shorts or skirts that are (**no higher than 2" above the knee**) and can either be blue jean, black jean or black school uniform bottom
- **Spirit dress shirt** will consist of a Novus Academy spirit shirt that will need to be purchased from The Novus Academy. No personalizing of the top is permitted (i.e. cutting the shirt to make fringe)
- **ALL clothing must be clean and without holes, fraying, tears, stains, unpleasant odors, and/or excessive wrinkling**
- ALL clothing must meet Regular Uniform Dress guidelines **with regard to length and fit**

In-Person and Remote Learning Free Dress Guidelines:

- **Allowed on certain, designated days** - must be approved by the Head of School or her designee
- Shoes/boots must be closed toe, have a back, and allow the student to participate in all activities
- Bottoms will consist of pants, shorts or skirts that are no higher than 2" above the knee
- Tops must have short sleeves or longer (sleeveless, thin straps, tank tops, etc. are not permitted), must completely cover stomach and back when arms are raised above the head, and be free of any distracting or offensive artwork or messaging
- ALL clothing must be clean and without holes, fraying, tears, stains, unpleasant odors, and/or excessive wrinkling
- ALL clothing must meet Regular Uniform Dress guidelines with regard to length and fit

***Students that have earned the opportunity to have spirit or free dress **will receive an email message.** If your child tells you they've earned Free Dress, have them show you the email they received.

2020-2021 Uniform

In-Person and Remote Learning Additional Information:

Students are NOT allowed to:

- Wear headbands that have ears or any decorations/novelty items that protrude or bows that are colors other than white, silver, green, black, or purple

- Dye their hair with colors that don't naturally occur (i.e. blue, green, orange, purple, cherry Kool-Aid red, burgundy red, etc.)
- Wear jackets, hoodies, sweatshirts, etc. indoors when wearing the school uniform
- Wear jewelry that distracts the student and/or others
- No excessive and or large jewelry/make-up, gauges in ears, piercings (other than ears), tattoos (must not be offensive, contain inappropriate words or messages)
- No facial hair
- Hats – permission to wear them must be approved by the Head of School or her designee **Hats may only be worn on designated days and may NOT be worn indoors without permission**

EVERY DAY - All Students MUST practice proper Hygiene:

Due to the COVID-19 Virus ALL students MUST take a bath or shower every evening or in the morning before coming to school.
All clothing must be clean.

- Arrive to school with clean bodies and proper uniform
- If learning Remotely, arrive to school with clean bodies, and proper uniform
- Hair must be clean and styled in a non-distracting manner (brushed, combed, etc.,).
- Teeth must be brushed
- **Grades 5-12 – MUST wear deodorant every day** (*HINT: Deodorant only works when put on a clean body*)
- Female students that have reached Puberty – if you use feminine products, be sure to leave extras in your container in the restroom (*in case you need them*). It's also a good idea to have an extra change of underclothes and possibly an extra skirt or uniform bottom. There will be a place for you to leave these items.

Consequences for Non-Compliance of Uniform Guidelines

Each situation will be addressed on an individual basis.

Please don't make us have to come to your house because you are choosing not to follow Novus Guidelines.

Opportunities for Parent Involvement

Parent involvement is critical to The Novus Academy's overall effectiveness. Parents can get involved by:

Fund-Raising

Each year, Novus participates in various fundraising efforts. Parent participation is highly encouraged in order to ensure Novus' continued growth.

The Novus Parent Association (NAPA)

The Novus Academy Parents Association, also referred to as "NAPA", supports staff, students and families throughout the school year. As a Novus parent, you have the opportunity to be a part of this valuable group that lends its abilities to assist the needs of the entire school and to help The Novus Academy carry out its core values and mission. Parents are welcome and encouraged to serve. There are various events during the school year that allow NAPA to raise funds, provide assistance, and reward students and staff, such as:

Fundraising/Special Activities

- Family Welcome Back Party
- Parade of Lights
- Holiday and Classroom Parties
- Staff Birthday Lunches
- Holiday Performance
- Grandparents Day
- Camp Send-Off and Welcome Back
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Fundraising
- Dining for Dollars
- Box Tops
- Additional Activities as determined by NAPA

Maintenance/Outdoor Work

- General school clean-up
- Playground clean-up
- Performance set-up/take down

NAPA also welcomes new families and provides assistance to families and staff members during unforeseen circumstances and times of need.

Volunteering has many benefits, but the most important benefit is to your child. Meetings are generally scheduled on a monthly basis, but attendance is not required in order to provide assistance. Families can help in so many different ways, so please consider lending your time, talents and expertise. Additional information about NAPA will typically be distributed through RenWeb throughout the year.

Health and Safety Issues

It is of utmost importance that The Novus Academy provides a safe environment for our students. Because of this commitment, the following rules will apply:

Distribution and Consumption of Medication:

Parents are requested, whenever possible, to schedule medication to be given at home. **If medication is needed to be given during school hours, parents must provide a written request from the child's physician, including the name of drug, time of dosage, route of administration, possible adverse effects, and emergency instructions that might be applicable.** Medications must be brought to school in a container appropriately labeled by the pharmacy or physician and is to include only that medication to be given during school hours.

Administering of Medication:

A **signed medication permission slip** must be provided by the parent requesting that the school staff administer the medication. Forms are available from the school office. School Staff will be responsible for administering the medication. A log will be kept of all medication administered at school. It shall include the student's name, the date, dosage, time of administration, and initials of the staff member giving the medication. All prescription medications shall be kept in a locked cabinet.

Should your child need any non-prescription medication during school hours, parents must complete a non-prescription medication form, notify the school and provide these medications for their student. Prior to administration of non-prescription medication, a parent will be contacted to notify the parent.

Students are not to carry any medication (prescription or over-the-counter) on their person with the exception of prescribed inhalers for asthma. They must have a signed order from the doctor.

NOVUS will not administer the first dose of any medication that the student has not taken in the past.

Student Illness: (procedures designed to preserve the health of each child and each class.) If a child has been ill during the night or became ill upon awakening, please do not send the child to school. Students with low-grade fever, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or other acute symptoms will be sent home. If your child has been ill at home with any of these symptoms, please keep him/her home until these symptoms have subsided for 24 hours. If a child becomes ill after coming to school, the parent will be contacted. If a child has a fever of at least 100 degrees of temperature or has vomited, the student will be sent home.

If the parents cannot be reached by phone, the emergency contact person(s) listed in the student file will be called to pick up the child. **Please maintain accurate and current information for the emergency file. Any addition or deletion**

for emergency contact person(s) should be given immediately to the school office.

If signs of contagious conditions are recognized, the exclusion of pupils from school will be done on the basis of the following symptoms (there may be additional symptoms not included in this list):

- 100 degrees of temperature or above
- Unrelieved headache
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain
- Unidentified rash
- Head lice (NOVUS has a nit free policy)
- Listlessness
- Extreme sleepiness
- Persistent cough
- Excessive sore throat
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Excessive sneezing, running nose, or tearing
- Red, inflamed eyes with thick mucous discharge

Responsibilities of Novus staff:

The teacher will be the initial judge of the health condition of a child. The administrator, may assist with health issues, as needed.

No school staff will be held responsible or liable for medications of any kind.

The Novus Academy reserves the right to refuse the attendance of any ill child.

A note should be sent from the parent or physician if playground or any other activities should be restricted.

During the 2020-2021 School Year COVID-19 Policies and Procedures must be followed as well.

Immunizations/Medical Examination

*Current immunization records must be on file at NOVUS for every student by the first day of the school year. **If not, the child will not be allowed to attend.***

Outdoor Play and Activities Weather Guidelines

Purpose: To protect the health and safety of Novus Academy students and staff while providing and encouraging appropriate physical activities and opportunities.

Acknowledging that local weather and environmental conditions may be at intensities that may result in negative health consequences, Novus employees shall take the following measures to protect student and staff health and safety.

Students need daily, vigorous exercise. It is not the intent of this guideline that we eliminate physical education or other outdoor programs during or after school, only that certain activities be limited or revised during those times when negative health or safety consequences are most likely to occur. If your child has asthma or a respiratory problem, please have your child use caution when going outside for recess or PE. If your child uses

an inhaler, please remind them of the importance of using it before exercise. The same is true for very cold weather.

Encourage your child to bring his/her water bottle outside for recess and PE during the hottest days to stay well hydrated.

Responsibility: Novus Administrators, Teachers, Coaches, school staff

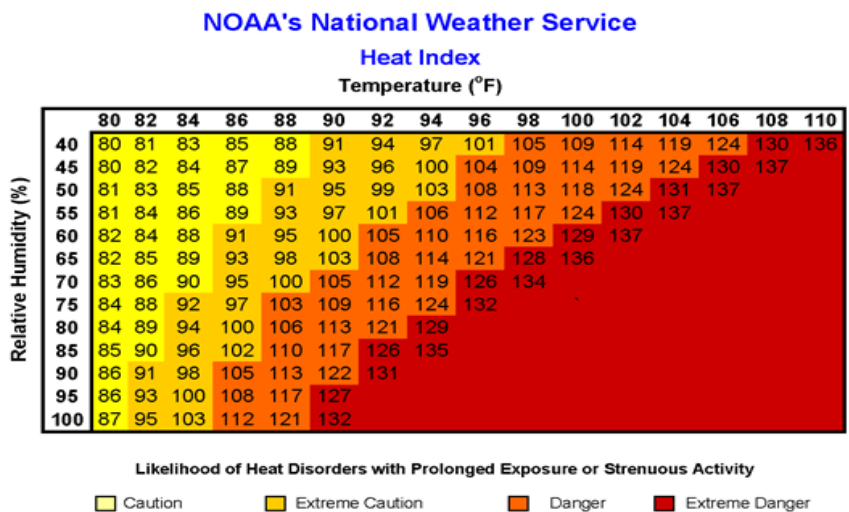
Procedure: Hot Weather

During times of excessive heat, the following precautions should be taken for all outdoor physical activity including, but not limited to: recess, physical education classes, sport activities and/or outdoor field trips.

- Students should be hydrated prior to outdoor activities and drinking water shall be easily accessible. Students are encouraged to bring their water bottles outside.
- During extended periods of outdoor activity (>30-35 minutes) periodic drinking should be enforced. Under no circumstances will access to drinking water be used as punishment or motivation.
- Heightened precautions including alternate student activity should be taken when temperature or heat index exceeds 100 degrees.
- Teachers are advised to use precaution on other days when the temperature or heat index is high. Limiting recess to no more than 15 minutes and ensuring that students have access to adequate water prior to and /or after outside play is essential. The Heat Index is the “feels like” or effective temperature. As relative humidity increases, the air seems warmer because the body is less able to cool itself via evaporation of perspiration. As the index rises, so do the health risks.

Guidelines for determining Heat Index:

Temperature and humidity data may be obtained from <http://www.weather.com>. Details specific to Novus Academy should be accessed as follows: Enter school zip code; select “hour-by-hour” tab (it is suggested that the site be bookmarked at this point for easy daily access); highest estimated temperature and humidity during school hours should be used to calculate Heat Index from chart below.



The following precautions will be taken for all outdoor physical activity including, but not limited to: recess, physical education classes, and/or outdoor field trips.

- For unhealthy and sensitive groups - Students should not have outside recess or Physical Education classes for periods longer than 10-15 minutes.
- For unhealthy, very unhealthy and hazardous conditions - Students should not have recess or Physical Education classes outside.

Cold Weather:

During times of excessive cold weather, the following precautions will be taken for all outdoor physical activity including, but not limited to: recess, physical education classes, and/or outdoor field trips.

- Teachers and coaching staffs should be aware of the wind chill factor and take appropriate precautions during cold weather.
- If a student does not have adequate warm clothing to participate in the outdoor activity, such clothing should be provided or the student excused from the activity.
- **Students should not have recess or Physical Education classes outside when temperature or wind chill factor drops below 36 degrees.**
- On days when the temperature is unseasonably cold, outside recess should be restricted to no more than 15 minutes.

Guidelines for determining cold weather conditions:

Temperature and humidity data may be obtained from <http://www.weather.com>. Details specific to Novus Academy should be accessed as follows: Enter school zip code; select "hour-by-hour" tab (it is suggested that the site be bookmarked at this point for easy daily access); the lowest estimated temperature and "feels like temperature" during school hours should be used to calculate the wind chill factor.

If your child is unable to participate in outside recess, please send a note. We would like to keep this at a minimum.

Emergency Drills

Fire – In case of fire, it is imperative that the building be emptied quickly and calmly. Fire drills will be held periodically during the school year to practice clearing the school quickly, and teachers will instruct students on proper procedures during a fire.

Inclement Weather – When a tornado warning is given, the classroom teacher will lead students to a designated area within the building. Teacher will be well versed regarding proper emergency procedures and will dismiss students from the designated area only when an "all clear" signal is given. Inclement Weather warning drills will be conducted periodically.

Lockdown – May be implemented in situations involving intruders. Lockdown Drills will be conducted periodically.

General and Miscellaneous Information

Awards/Recognition

Character Awards – these awards are earned by students consistently demonstrating outstanding behavior and displaying the traits and characteristics expected in each category.

Academic Awards – when 3-12th grade students demonstrate outstanding academic progress or make great improvement in the area of academics, a teacher may select the student(s) to receive the following awards: "A" Honor Roll – no grades in any classes below a 90, "A/B" Honor Roll – no grades in any classes below an 80, Most Improved, and/or Excellent Effort. **Please note: First and Second Graders are not eligible for honor roll, however, they are eligible for Most Improved and Excellent Effort Awards.**

Presidential Awards – this award is earned at the end of the year for students in 3rd-12th grades who have excelled academically and/or in citizenship

Other – teachers are permitted and encouraged to present additional awards throughout the year.

School Hours

School begins at 7:55 a.m. and dismisses at 4:00 p.m. Unless your child is in Before School Care, they should not be in the school before 7:40 a.m. Students should be picked up no later than 4:05 p.m. If students are not picked up by then, they will be taken to After School Care and you will be charged according to the After School Care fee schedule. If an emergency arises and you need to make special arrangements, please call the school office.

Before and After School Program

As a service to the families of our school, the school will offer extended care for the students enrolled in the Novus Academy. Designated staff will be available to care for students from 7:00 a.m. until the beginning of school, then from the end of school until 6:00 p.m. Students will only be released to parents/guardians or those specifically designated on the Enrollment Paperwork. Fees for this service are separate from school tuition. A late pick-up fee will be charged after 6:00 p.m. Any students remaining after 6:00 p.m. will be charged \$1.00 per minute. The family will be invoiced.

All students not enrolled in after school care that are remaining after 3:45 p.m. and are not involved in a school-sponsored or an adult supervised activity will be taken to after school care. Parents will be billed for the session.

Any student arriving to school before 7:40 a.m. who is not enrolled in before school care will be taken to the before school care and charged for that session. *On the occasion a student must be dropped earlier than 7:00 AM, please contact the receptionist 24 hours in advance (if possible). An additional fee will be charged.*

Do NOT under any circumstances leave your child outside the school unaccompanied prior to staff opening the front doors at 7:40 a.m.

Before School Care Fees:

Daily / Drop In 7:00-7:40 AM	\$10
---------------------------------	-------------

After School Care Fees:

Daily/Drop-In	\$20
Afterschool Care on Early Dismissal Days – 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	\$50

You will be billed once a month for services provided. Non-payment will result in your child no longer being able to attend.

School Business Office Hours

All school business should be conducted during the regular business hours of 8:00-4:00 pm. NOVUS welcomes parents/guardians to visit our school. For safety, all visitors, including parents and guardians, are required to report to the office upon arrival and departure. A "Visitor" badge will be given to each guest, which is to be worn at all times within the building. All visitors are required to provide their driver's license. We use the RAPTOR system to conduct immediate background checks on all adult school visitors to help ensure the safety and security of our students.

Students not enrolled in Novus are not permitted to visit unless permission has been obtained by an administrator and they are accompanied by an adult. *i.e. if your student has a cousin or friend that he/she would like to bring to school for the day, permission will NOT be granted because this is a distraction. However, the cousin/friend could visit for lunch if accompanied by an adult.*

Change of Address

When families move during the course of a school year, it is critical that they notify the school office of this change so the school can maintain necessary and appropriate contact with the family. If you move during the course of the year, please submit all pertinent information to the school office prior to the move.

Conference Scheduling

The staff is always happy to discuss a student's progress or address any questions during planning time or during a scheduled before or after school conference time. Also, parent-teacher conferences will be scheduled before school begins in August, in October, and in February for all students. School staff are also available to communicate with you via phone and email.

Delivery and Pickup of Students

In order for the dropping off and picking up of students to run as smoothly and efficiently as possible, it is imperative that every driver follow the guidelines that govern the parking lot. All families will be provided with 2 signs bearing the student's name to place in the driver's side window when picking up. Your use of the signs is strongly encouraged. This helps expedite the pick-up process.

Drop-Off: All students are dropped each morning in Front of the school at the main entrance. Two car lines are formed. Staff members are present to help your student out of the car and assist with the car lines. **Due to the number of cars dropping students off and driving through the parking lot, to help ensure safety we request that parents drop off in the car line rather than parking and walking their child inside.**

After School Pick Up at 3:45: cars form 2 lines

All students are picked up at the Front of the School

Students being picked up after 4:00 are picked up at the Front of the School

Students are never to be left alone without an adult outside the school doors before or after school for any reason.

Field Trips

During the school year, teachers may schedule educational or service based field trips and experiences. Information regarding the trips will be shared with students and families by Novus staff members. Students will receive frequent instructions and reminders regarding what they are supposed to wear prior to each activity. If students arrive wearing clothing other than what they were told to wear, they WILL NOT be permitted to go on the Field Trip. School staff will not provide missing clothing items to students to enable them to go on the trip. When unsure, or in doubt, send your child in his/her dress uniform. On occasion we may invite parent chaperones to accompany us on a Field Trip. When this occurs, please make arrangements for child care for siblings because they are not permitted on the trip. Bringing other children would distract you from fully participating with the Novus students on the trip.

Lost and Found Items

Items that are lost or found can be turned in or looked for at the office. Students are reminded to check the lost and found for any missing items. Students should report all lost items to the office immediately. At the end of each grading period Lost and Found items will be placed in a location that students and parents can easily access. They will remain on the table for 3 days. At the end of 3 days, remaining items will be donated to Grace. Students will be reminded and email reminders will be sent home during these times. *NOTE: Every year numerous uniform sweaters, Lunch Boxes, and water bottles end up in lost and found. It's a good idea to clearly label these items with your child's name.*

Lunch Program

Due to facility constraints, Novus cannot provide a lunch program.

- Students must bring a sack lunch, including a drink, each day. Sodas are NOT permitted.
- Please send items that do not need refrigeration. We do not have the facilities to accommodate perishable foods.
- All lunch boxes or containers must have the child's name on them.
- **Microwaves are available.** However, your child must be able to use them independently and the time to heat items is limited to no more than 2 minutes due to the number of students that use them. Please don't send frozen dinners that require excessive prep or time.
- Students that "forget" to bring a lunch may be provided with a lunch consisting of:
 - Food we have available at the time
 - We will take into consideration food/nut allergies.
 - Families will be charged \$5.00 per day when school staff have to provide the aforementioned lunches.
- **NOTE: Include whatever utensils, condiments, napkins, etc. your child will need to each the lunch you send each day.**
- If you would like to have lunch with your student, you are welcome to do so. You should arrive no earlier than 5 minutes before lunch time. After signing in as a visitor and obtaining your visitors badge you will be directed to the lunchroom.
 - If you are bringing food and beverages for your child when you join him/her for lunch, please adhere to the no soda and no sharing food with your classmates policy.
 - When lunch-time is over we respectfully request that you leave the school so your child can begin his/her afternoon classes.
- If you are dropping off food for your child's lunch place it on the front counter of the school and clearly mark it with your child's name. Please adhere to the no soda policy. Staff will bring the items to your child at the beginning of his/her lunchtime.

Snacks

Students are encouraged to bring a **healthy** morning snack and water bottle each day. We are unable to provide snack for students that do not bring their own. Items such as cookies, donuts, candy, chips are not considered "healthy snacks". If your child brings these he/she will not be allowed to eat them. The teacher will instruct the student to return the items to his/her locker.

Messages

Students can receive **important messages** at school by calling the school office at (817) 488-4555. Students are not permitted to use cell phones while at school so please don't encourage your child to communicate with you via cell phone during the school day. Also, **refrain from use of your child's school email account as a manner in which to communicate during the school day.** We expect our students to use technology for school purposes throughout the day.

School Closure Information

Listen to local television station Channel 8 and Channel 5 for the list of closed schools. In case of weather emergency and/or other situations which might necessitate students being dismissed early from school, every attempt will be made to efficiently alert parents. However, parents should ensure in advance that the child has a procedure to follow for early dismissals. **Please note that if Grapevine/Colleyville ISD schools are not in session for inclement weather, The Novus Academy will not be in session either.**

Procedures and Standards for Novus Academy Students:

The procedures below are taught, reinforced, and expected to be displayed at all times:

The Novus Academy Staff and Student Procedures

Handshaking Procedures: *Always use your RIGHT hand*

Step 1.

1. First, look the person in the eye.
2. If you are sitting, stand up – as you stand, quickly and discreetly make certain your hand is dry by pressing/wiping it against your pant leg or skirt.
3. Most of the time, it is appropriate to smile at the person whose hand you are about to shake.

Step 2.

1. Extend your hand with your palm facing left.
2. Your hand should be perpendicular to the floor.

Step 3.

1. Grip firmly – this is a very important step.
2. Not too hard and not too soft. Grip about the same as you would if you were holding a baseball or softball bat or a golf club.
3. While gripping, move your hand up and down 2 or 3 times.

Step 4.

1. Finally, the last step in giving a proper handshake involves the release.
2. Etiquette says to go with the flow, since some people prefer a longer handshake, but you should be prepared to let go after those “two or three pumps” and try to signal as much by relaxing the muscles in your hand. Holding on any longer can make some people uncomfortable.

Your handshake will communicate a lot about you. The key is to pay attention to the other person and the situation: Holding on to another person’s hand too long creates an awkward situation, and letting go too soon can also be uncomfortable.

Once you’ve mastered the proper handshake, you will be ready to add communication during the handshake:

Step 1. If someone holds their hand towards you for a handshake, use your RIGHT hand to shake their hand.

Step 2. Greet someone you are meeting with a firm handshake, a pleasant, friendly face and eye contact. Then say something like, "Hello". "My name is:_____". And you are _____? Or "Hello, it's nice to meet you." Or "Hello, it's nice to see you again."

Step 3. Remember not to hold the person's hand too long.

Step 4. – For advanced handshakers – Begin and participate in a good conversation with the person. Practice the Art of Conversation.

Procedures for Greeting Visitors to a classroom:

1. The student greeter will answer the door when a visitor arrives.
2. He/She will welcome the visitor with a firm handshake and eye contact and will say, "Welcome to our class. "My name is:_____. And you are _____? How may I help you?"
3. After meeting the visitor and determining the purpose of the visit, the greeter will either assist the visitor or introduce him/her to the rest of the class by saying something like this, "Ms. Kiser's class, this is _____."
4. The class will make eye contact with the visitor and will say, "Welcome to our class".

Options:

- A. Students introduce themselves to the visitor(s) by walking up to them, making eye contact, using a firm handshake and saying; "Hello, my name is _____. Welcome to our school. Then they will make a positive comment to the person or ask a question.
 - B. Students remain at their desks and stand to introduce themselves while remaining at their desks.
5. If appropriate, the student greeter offers the visitor a seat.

Procedures for Greeting Visitors during morning announcements:

1. The identified student greeters will approach the visitor.
2. He/She will welcome the visitor with a firm handshake and eye contact and will say, "Welcome to our school. "My name is:_____. And you are _____? What is the purpose of your visit today?"
3. The student will introduce the visitor to the students and staff when called upon to do so. They will say, "This is _____. He/she is visiting us today because _____."
4. The student will remain with the visitor and will help teach them what to do during the morning assembly.

Procedures for Students Greeting Visitors to the school in the Lobby: *Student Ambassadors will be assigned to do this.*

1. The identified student greeters will approach the visitor.
2. He/She will welcome the visitor with a firm handshake and eye contact and will say, "Welcome to our school. "My name is:_____. And you are _____? What is the purpose of your visit today?"

3. The student will guide the visitor to the Front Desk. They will introduce the visitor to the Front Desk Receptionist by saying, "This is _____. He/she is visiting us today because _____."

Morning Procedures – Arrival to School each morning

Student Expectations:

1. All students will be dropped off between 7:40 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. They will enter through the front doors.
2. Students will be directed to go to lockers to drop off belongings. There will be 2 staff members assigned to monitor the locker areas (1 per area). One staff member will be assigned to monitor the restroom and water fountain area to ensure students are properly using the area and going to their designated areas.
3. Students are to go to the morning gathering space. All teachers will be in attendance and participating in the morning celebration, and all remaining staff are encouraged to attend and participate.
4. Students arriving later than 8:00 a.m. will need to place their belongings in the area designated by the front desk. This will enable Front Desk staff to have time to complete a late arrival pass and enter into Renweb so we can track attendance. Students will get their belongings and a late arrival pass after the Morning Celebration.

Morning Celebration:

1. Morning Exercise starts as early as 7:40 AM. Students will
2. We will begin announcements as soon as morning duty staff members report to the morning meeting room.
3. Each year, prior to the beginning of the school year we will develop the agenda and procedures to be followed. This will be communicated to the students, taught, reinforced, and expected each day.
 - a. Reciting Creeds, Pledges, Quotes, Words of the Week, and School Spirit songs will be included each year.
4. At the end of the Morning Assembly, students will be dismissed to go to their first period classes.

Hallway Procedures:

1. **Walk** facing forward on the right side of the hallway. This enables you to see where you are going.
2. **Walk in single file or in pairs** – This ensures that anyone walking towards you will also have room to pass in the hallway.
3. **Use quite voices at all times in hallways.** – This helps keep you from distracting others.
4. **When someone passes you in the hallway,** greet them with a smile and a positive comment.
5. **Hold the door open for others when possible.**

- a. **When walking through a door, use your right hand to hold the door open.** Look behind you to make sure you aren't closing the door on them. Closing the door on a friend or stranger just wouldn't be nice at all.

Procedures for entering Classrooms:

1. Students will quietly wait in line outside the classroom until they are greeted by the teacher.
2. After being greeted, students will enter the classroom, go to their seats, open their planners or the scheduling section in their computers and write homework information in the appropriate section of the planner.
3. Students will remain seated awaiting further instruction from their teacher.

Locker Organization and use:

1. You can decorate the inside of your locker with school appropriate items. If you are unsure whether something you want to put in your locker is acceptable, ask your teacher.
 - a. Use magnets, not tape or glue
2. School staff are in charge of anything that goes on the outside of your locker.
3. Lockers are for backpacks, lunch bags, jackets, and your school books and supplies.
4. No loose food, drinks, open containers, etc. are to be in the locker
5. No loose items such as trash, paper(s), pens, pencils, etc.
6. If you bring a cell phone to school, it is to be stored at the front desk.
7. School staff will frequently inspect lockers.
8. Lockers will not have locks placed on them by students.

Notebook Organization:

1. Notebooks are arranged as follows:
 - a. Pencil Bag at the Front
 - b. Student Planner
 - c. Subject Dividers with papers filed behind the dividers
 - d. Homework Divider or Folder
2. No loose paper. All papers must be secured in the rings of the notebook.
3. Teachers will tell you where any additional items need to be placed in your binder.
4. School staff will conduct notebook checks throughout the year.

Headings:

ALL papers to be turned in must have proper headings. Points will be deducted if you do not complete each section every time.

The heading will begin in the upper left hand corner of all assignments.

Name: First and Last	Date:
Subject/Assignment:	Teacher:

Name: First ☹️-5 points
and

Last ☹️-5 points

Date☹️-5 points

Subject/Assignment: ☹️-5 points

Teacher: ☹️-5 points

So, if you choose not to put the proper heading on your work, you could lose up to 25 points. That would be very sad.

Restroom Procedures:

1. Between classes

- a. Enter the restroom calmly and quietly
- b. If there are others in the restroom, treat them respectfully
- c. Take care of what you need to in the restroom as quickly as you can.
- d. ALWAYS, ALWAYS wash your hands with soap and water. Just water won't do, the bacteria and germs will still be on your hands. Putting soap on one part of your hand and then quickly rinsing it off without rubbing your hands together with the soap, won't get rid of what is left on your hand either. SOAP and WATER will get your hands clean and will help keep you healthy while also helping keep others from getting sick.
- e. Dry your hands before leaving and put the paper towels in the trash can.

2. During class

- a. Get permission from your teacher to go to the restroom
- b. Follow steps a. through e. above
- c. Return quickly and quietly to your classroom or the designated area when you finish

3. Now for the part that is always a problem and no one wants to talk about it. Let's make sure it's not a problem this year.

- a. Gentlemen this part is for you...
 - i. When you use a urinal, do your best to use it properly. If you accidentally get urine on the floor or the wall, get toilet paper or a paper towel to clean it up.
 - ii. If you don't clean up after yourself, someone might slip and get hurt because the floor is wet.
 - iii. If you don't clean up after yourself, the urine gets into the grout between the tiles and makes your restroom smell bad.
 - iv. Don't be the guy that makes the restroom smell bad or causes a friend to slip and fall onto a wet floor.
 - v. When you use a toilet, if you get anything on the seat of the toilet, use some toilet paper to clean the seat.
 1. If you don't clean up after yourself, the next person that needs to use the restroom will have to clean the seat. Would you like to have to clean up after someone else? Don't be the guy that leaves a dirty toilet seat for the next person.
 - vi. Only use the amount of toilet paper absolutely necessary. No other paper products are to be in toilet.

- vii. Last of all...FLUSH. Always flush. Don't be the guy that forgets to flush.
- b. Ladies this part is for you...
 - i. When you use a toilet, if you get anything on the seat of the toilet, use some toilet paper to clean the seat.
 - 1. If you don't clean up after yourself, the next person that needs to use the restroom will have to clean the seat. Would you like to have to clean up after someone else? Don't be the girl that leaves a dirty toilet seat for the next person.
 - ii. FLUSH. Always flush. Don't be the girl that forgets to flush.
 - iii. Do not put feminine products in toilet. Please use the available trash bin.
 - iv. Only use the amount of toilet paper absolutely necessary. No other paper products are to be in toilet.

Audience Procedures:

1. Enter the room quietly and find a seat. Once you have your seat, stay in it.
2. Face the presenter(s).
3. Listen attentively, keep your eyes on the presenter(s).
4. Participate when appropriate.
5. Ask appropriate questions at the right time. Speak in complete sentences and address the presenter(s) by name.
6. Keep your hands and feet to yourself. Respect the personal space of those around you.
7. When the presentation is over, wait for instructions from your teacher or an administrator.
8. Thank the presenter(s) for taking the time to come to our school to spend time with us.

Mealtime Procedures:

1. At school – Enter the lunchroom quietly and walk to your seat.
2. Sit down and unpack your lunchbox or lunch bag. If you have something that needs to be microwaved, take it to the microwave.
 - a. Microwave use – wait in line for your turn
 - b. When it is your turn, place your item in the microwave.
 - c. When you finish heating your food, make sure you aren't leaving a mess in the microwave. If your food spills in the microwave, get a paper towel and some spray cleaner to clean it.

3. Before eating do the following:

- a. Look around to make sure no one is sitting alone. If someone is sitting alone, invite them to join you.
- b. Look around to make sure everyone has their food. It's not polite to eat when people sitting with you don't have their food yet.
- c. If you are the person whose food isn't ready yet and everyone around you has theirs and is waiting to eat, politely say something like, "go ahead and eat, I don't mind".

- d. Wait for the teacher or administrator in charge to tell everyone it is okay to go ahead and eat.

4. While eating:

- a. Place a napkin in your lap before you begin eating.
- b. Make sure you are respecting the personal space of those around you.
- c. Sharing, trading, asking for food or drinks from/with one another is NOT allowed.
- d. Playing with food and beverages is disrespectful to those around you. Don't do it.
- e. ALWAYS chew with your mouth closed. Don't be the person that chews with their mouth open. No one wants to have to see your chewed up food before you swallow it.
- f. NEVER talk with food in your mouth. People won't want to eat around you if they have to see chewed up food in your mouth while you talk. Also, sometimes food falls out of a person's mouth if they talk with food in it. That's disgusting. Don't be that person.

5. After you finish eating:

- a. Gather your trash and get it ready to throw away.
 - i. Wait until the adult in the room tells you it's time to throw your trash away.
 - ii. When you are told to throw your trash away, walk to the trash and recycling cans. Place your items where they belong.
 - iii. Return to your seat and sit down.
 - iv. If you brought a lunchbox that needs to go home, place it on the floor next to you so the table can be cleaned.
- b. When it is your turn, clean the table, sweep the floor, and/or use the dustpans to help clean up.
- c. When you feel your area is clean, sit down and wait for the adult to dismiss you to go to class.

6. Enjoy the time with your classmates and friends:

- a. Mealtime is a great opportunity to spend time with others.
- b. Use a quiet, polite voice to talk to one another.
- c. Talk about things that you and your friends enjoy discussing.
- d. Be respectful of those around you. They can hear what you say. Choose your words and actions carefully.

7. Eating at a restaurant:

- a. All of the above AND remember to thank those that are waiting on you with your words and your actions.
- b. Leave a TIP. Before you order your food, calculate what your food, your beverage, tax, and a tip will cost. Order accordingly.

- c. There is a strong statistical possibility that you will one day have a job in the food service or hospitality industry at least for a small amount of time. Treat others as you hope to be treated one day.

Procedures for Turning in Assignments:

1. Each classroom will have a location designated for students to turn assignments in. Your teachers will show you where to turn them in.
2. Before turning your assignments in, check to make sure your heading is on your paper(s).
3. Make sure you completed everything. Losing points because you overlook or choose not to do something is unacceptable. Don't do that to yourself.
4. Neatly place the finished work in the place that your teacher has told you to.
5. When you have been absent, get the assignments you missed from the place that your teacher leaves work for students that have been absent.
 - a. It is NOT your teacher's job to make sure you have the missing work. It is YOUR job to ask for and get the work you missed.

Legibility and Neatness Requirements on all classwork and homework:

1. There are no acceptable excuses for messy work.
2. If you have a learning difference such as Dysgraphia that makes it hard for you to write, you may have to work harder and longer on assignments than someone that doesn't have Dysgraphia to make sure they are neat and legible. You may not feel its "fair". However, it is something that you must do to improve your skills.
3. Work that is illegible and/or messy will be returned to the student to be re-done. Students may not "choose" to turn the unacceptable work in to earn a lower grade.

Cell Phone Procedures:

1. If students bring cell phones to school, they must be turned off prior to entering the building and must remain off during school hours.
2. Cell phones are to be turned in to the front desk. Students may keep their cell phones for any reason during the school day and may pick up their cell phone at the front desk at the end of the school day.
3. Student cell phones are not permitted on field trips.
4. When students choose not to follow the expectations, their cell phones will be confiscated.
 - a. 1st time within a grading period- The teacher or school administrator will keep the phone until the end of the day.
 - b. 2nd time within a grading period – The teacher or school administrator will keep the phone until the end of the day.
 - c. 3rd time within a grading period – The phone will be confiscated, then a parent may come in to pick it up. The student will also receive a Notice of Inappropriate Behavior and the consequences that may accompany it.
 - d. 4 or more times within a grading period will result in the phone being kept for 3 school days and the parent may come in to pick it up. The student will

also receive a Notice of Inappropriate Behavior and the consequences that may accompany it.

Use of School Computers and Technology:

1. When using a Lap Top from one of the Lap Top carts:
 - a. Get your teachers permission to get a lap top from the cart.
 - b. Use both hands to carefully carry the lap top back to your classroom.
 - c. Log into your computer. If you need help logging in, raise your hand and sit quietly until someone is able to assist you.
 - d. When you are finished using the computer, SAVE your work, log out of the computer, and return it to the Lap Top cart.
 - e. PLUG the computer in to the correct power slot.
 - f. If you don't take care of the computer, you will lose the privilege of using one.
2. When using a computer that belongs to the school but has been assigned for you to use at school and at home:
 - a. Whether you are at home or school, the computer is school property.
 - b. You are expected to take care of it. If you lose it or it gets broken because you didn't take care of it, you may need to pay the school for the computer so we can buy a new one.
 - c. The computer is to be used for school and school work. It is not to be used to play games that are not educational, used for social media that is not school related, used to access inappropriate websites, etc.
 - d. School staff can and will review your use history when they want to and/or have reason to believe your use has been inappropriate.
 - e. **Inappropriate use whether at home or school, may result in the computer being returned to the school and you not having access to a computer. Your parents will be contacted and may be requested to come to the school for a conference.**
 - f. **If you use the computer to do something that is against the law, we will contact your parents and must report it to the police. When this happens, the situation is no longer in the control of the school or your parents.**
 - i. **In this situation, in addition to the consequences that you will receive from the legal system, we may need to have you no longer attend The Novus Academy as well. That would be bad. Don't get yourself into this situation.**
3. Use of your personal technology (smart phones, iPads, computers, etc.) at school:
 - a. See Cell Phone Procedures
 - b. You must have permission from a staff member to use personal technology while at school and/or at school functions.
 - c. If staff have reason to suspect your use has been inappropriate, your parents will be contacted and your use history will be checked.

- i. If the use has been inappropriate you may be prohibited from bringing it back to school or school functions. Additional consequences related to the specific inappropriate use may result.
 - ii. If the use is something that is against the law, see section F above.
- 4. Use of your personal technology (smart phones, iPads, computers, etc.) when NOT at school or school functions:
 - a. Use of your personal technology outside of school is between you and your parents. Most of the time it will not be a school issue or anything that the school would address.
 - b. However, when something inappropriate that you have done outside of school with your personal technology is reported to the school by a student and/or parent; school staff may need to contact your parents and review your use of the device to verify whether the reported incident(s) have occurred.
 - c. See section c. i. and ii. above

Recess Procedures:

1. Students are not to be at recess without staff members.
2. Staff members are expected to supervise the activities of students at all times at recess.
3. All students are expected to treat one another with kindness and respect.
4. Students are encouraged to invite others to join them in activities on the playground.
 - a. If you see someone playing or sitting alone, go over and invite them to play with you and your friends.
 - b. Don't expect everyone to always play the games you want to play. Offer to play and participate in activities that other students like too.
 - c. Share any toys or objects you are playing with.
5. Bullying, harassment, hurting others with your words or actions, or excluding your peers will not be tolerated. If you choose to do any of those things, you will not be allowed to play with others the remainder of the time your class is on the playground.
 - a. You may be allowed to continue playing but you will have to play by yourself close to the teachers so they can watch you.
 - b. You might even have to sit next to the teachers and not be able to play. That wouldn't be fun. Don't do anything that would cause that to happen.
6. When the weather is hot, it's a good idea to bring your water bottle outside with you so you can get a drink while playing.
7. When your teacher tells you it's time to leave line up quickly. Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself. Walk back into the school quietly. Walk directly to your classroom.

Bus Procedures: Students

1. Before getting on the bus, line up single file. Only one person at a time can go through the door so don't try to push your way through. Wait patiently for your turn.

2. Teachers will sit in the last two rows on both sides of the bus. They do this because it allows them to see what students are doing.
3. We fill the bus from the back seats to the front seats. Walk all the way back to the third seats from the back and sit down.
4. We do not save seats. If you are the first in the seat move all the way over to the window and sit down. The next person in line will sit next to you.
5. Girls and boys do not share seats.
6. Before the bus starts moving, put your seatbelt on.
7. Remain seated the entire time the bus is moving.
8. Use quiet voices to talk to one another.
9. The bus has air conditioning and heat. Do not open the windows without permission.
10. When getting off the bus, we will start at the back of the bus.
11. As you get off, bring any trash with you and always remember to thank the Bus Driver.
12. Students are not permitted to use electronic devices on the bus without administrative permission. The goal is to have students experience all that is going on while interacting with one another. Electronics get in the way of that occurring.

At Novus we place an emphasis on developing the ability to “find your voice and use it”. It’s one of the reasons why our students become confident and comfortable speaking with others, writing and sharing their thoughts, and reading to enhance their communication skills. We found a way to address two of the things we want to accomplish this year. Keeping in mind that this is an unusual school year and we will have students participating via 3 options – On Campus In-Person Learning, Remote Learning, and Hybrid Learning we identified two areas that must be addressed. Our students already receive a class period of Language Arts Instruction and a class period of Reading Instruction. We want to provide an additional class period of Writing and Computer Literacy Instruction. We are also aware of the importance of physical activity and want every student to have a minimum of 45 minutes of physical education per day. When you put Novus staff together amazing things happen. We’ve found a way to accomplish both objectives.

All students will receive 45 minutes per day of Physical Education

7:55 a.m. to 8:10 a.m. – PE Instruction /Exercise (15 minutes)

1:05 to 1:25 Immediately following Lunch - PE Instruction /Exercise (20 minutes)

Grading Policy for PE:

30% of the daily grade = Attendance and Punctuality

70% of the daily grade = Participation

Examples:

4. Arrive early or on time = +30 points
 - a. Arrive 1-5 minutes late = +20 points
 - b. Arrive 5 – 10 minutes late = +10 points
 - c. Arrive between 11 – 13 minutes late = +5 points
 - d. Later than 13 minutes or No Show = + 0 minutes
5. Morning PE (15 minutes)
 - a. Actively participate the entire time = +70 points
 - b. Actively participate 14 – 10 minutes = +55 points
 - c. Actively participate 9-5 minutes = +40 points
 - d. Actively participate 4 minutes or less = +0 points
6. Afternoon PE (20 minutes)
 - a. Actively participate the entire time = +70 points
 - b. Actively participate 19 – 15 minutes = +65 points
 - c. Actively participate 14 -10 minutes = +55 points
 - d. Actively participate 9 - 5 minutes or less = +40 points
 - e. Actively participate 4 minutes or less = +0 points

Doing this, makes it possible for every student to also have the additional Computer Literacy/Writing Class.