

Northwest School of the Arts - Home of the Phoenix
1441 W 116th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44102
D. Lockett Sr. M. Ed., Principal
R. Szymczak- Dean of Academics
Dontez Smith - Office Manager

Northwest School of the Arts 2025–2026 Book of Expectations

Northwest School of the Arts Creed

When I want to speak let me think first.

Is it true?

Is it kind?

Is it necessary?

If not, let it be unsaid.

When speaking of others this day, I desire to do so with a spirit of kindness.

As a Family Member of Northwest School of the Arts

You represent yourself.

You represent your family.

And now you represent the NWSOTA Community.

We call you to be the best that you can be, and we will daily push you above and beyond that expectation.

We expect you to exhibit the characteristics of a NWSOTA student 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. This includes during the school year, vacation, in public, at dances, parties, on social media, and anywhere else you go.

You are a member of the NWSOTA family, and we care about who you are and what you do!

Our Beliefs

- Every student deserves a safe, secure, and engaging learning environment.
- Every student is unique and deserves to be treated as an individual.
- Diversity is valued, and our classrooms are safe, respectful spaces for all cultures and voices.
- We foster positive relationships among students, staff, and families.
- Open communication is essential between school and home.
- High expectations promote motivation, success, and self-worth.
- Education is a tool for lifelong learning and responsible citizenship.
- As NWSOTA representatives, our behavior must reflect excellence in all areas—school, home, community, and online.

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Community Expectations

At NWSOTA, we respect each person's right to express themselves without infringing on others' rights. We will not tolerate:

- • Disruptions to learning
- • Disrespectful or hateful speech
- • Bullying, harassment, or intimidation
- • Physical, verbal, or emotional abuse
- • Inappropriate displays of affection
- • Academic or behavioral negligence
- • Inappropriate language, excessive absences or tardiness
- • Hostile behavior or lack of effort

Dress Code

Students may express themselves freely—within a framework of professionalism and safety.

Allowed:

- • All colors, materials, and patterns (except bandana print)
- • Head coverings for religious purposes
- • Sweatshirts, sweaters, light jackets, denim
- • Clothing that covers chest, stomach, buttocks
- • Bottoms that are knee-length or longer
- • Hard-soled shoes with backs

Not Allowed:

- • Pajamas, crop tops, tank tops
- • Ripped or shredded clothing
- • Flip flops, slides
- • Hats or hoods indoors
- • Long coats inside
- • Face coverings (excluding medical masks)
- • Items with hate speech, drug, gang, or sexual content

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- • Disruptive or unsafe attire

Enforcement:

- Checked daily in homeroom
- Parents may need to bring proper clothing
- Dress code violations do not excuse absences

School Hours & Attendance

- School Hours: 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM
- Breakfast: 7:30–7:55 AM only
- Students must be in their seats by 8:05 AM or are marked tardy.
- Early dismissals must go through the main office with photo ID verification.

Not Permitted:

- • Leaving campus for food
- • Food deliveries to students or staff
- • Glass or open containers
- • Classroom eating (except water bottles)
- • Selling food unless part of the entrepreneurship program
- • Self-carrying medication

Birthday Policy:

- Store-bought treats allowed (dropped off by 12 PM)
- No decorations or gifts
- Limit: 2 adult visitors per celebration

Cell Phones, Technology & Social Media

Northwest School of the Arts is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged cell phones or personal technology. Students bring such items at their own risk.

Guidelines:

- • Cell phones and smartwatches must be powered off and placed in the designated bin by homeroom
- • No use of smartwatches or earbuds during the school day unless expressly permitted

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- • No photos, audio, video recordings, or livestreaming of any student or staff without explicit consent
- • Phones or devices used inappropriately may be confiscated

Violations may result in:

- • Phone held until the end of the day/class
- • Loss of phone privileges
- • Parent/guardian retrieval required
- • Suspension or other disciplinary action

Cyberbullying (Expanded Policy)

Northwest School of the Arts maintains a zero-tolerance policy for cyberbullying.

Cyberbullying is defined as any form of bullying, harassment, or intimidation carried out through digital means—this includes but is not limited to:

- Text messages
- Social media platforms (e.g., TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook)
- Online forums, group chats, or email
- Any use of photos, videos, memes, or posts that ridicule, embarrass, threaten, or emotionally harm another person

This also includes:

- Posting derogatory comments about students or staff on any public or private platform
- Creating fake accounts or anonymous messages to target others
- Sharing private or embarrassing information or images without consent
- Participating in or sharing harmful digital content, even if not the original creator

Important: Any post, message, or comment—whether during school hours or off-campus—that threatens the emotional or physical safety of others or disrupts the learning environment is considered cyberbullying and will lead to disciplinary action.

Students are accountable for their behavior both in-person and online.

Disciplinary actions may include:

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- • Removal of technology privileges
- • In-school or out-of-school suspension
- • Restorative justice or counseling sessions
- • Police involvement if the behavior violates the law

