

## **Behavior Expectations**

Fighting, disrespect, profanity, stealing, destruction of school property, vandalism are unacceptable behaviors while at school, as well as on the way to and from school. Students who are involved in physical altercations (fights) and students who harass other students will be disciplined up to expulsion.

Students may not possess or be under the influence of drugs or alcohol. In addition, students may not be possession of weapons such as knives, guns, or any object that could be used as a weapon. Students who do so will be disciplined up to expulsion and may be referred to school deputies.

Students instigating fights will be held accountable for their actions. PARENTS — please work with us and remember that school rules may differ from home rules. School rules dictate that if a student “hits back”, he/she will receive the same consequences as if he/she started the fight. Students need to report problems to an adult on campus *before* a fight results.

Students are strictly forbidden from engaging in play-fighting, slapping, wrestling, tackle football, or other forms of dangerous physical contact. Too many times innocent “playing” escalates into fights. A safe campus environment must be maintained for students and events. Students who disrupt school will be disciplined up to expulsion.

## **Merit System**

Each quarter students start with a Citizenship grade of an “A” and 100 merits. When students break school rules, teachers issue and record demerits by homeroom. When a student accumulates a certain number of demerits, he/she drops one letter grade. For each grade drop, a letter is sent home to parents. If a student drops to a “D” or “F”, he/she is assigned After School Detention.

## **Magic Mountain** 8th graders only

**In order to attend the Magic Mountain field trip, students must:**

- Earn a “C” or better in Citizenship for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter.
- Retain a total of at least 280 merits for all 4 quarters.
- Be promoting to 9<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Return all textbooks, school equipment and pay all outstanding fees.

## **Attendance**

In order for your child to succeed academically and to be prepared for the next grade level, it is critical that your child is at school each day and on time. Incentives are put into place each quarter for those students with perfect attendance. In the event that your child is absent, please

call or send a note the next day. School starts at 8:25am and ends at 2:57 pm.

## **Bullying or Threatening**

NVMS will not tolerate bullying or threatening behavior by students. This includes but is not limited to: verbal threats, physical intimidations, phone calls, electronic texting, emails, Myspace, Facebook, or websites. Students who engage or participate in bullying will be disciplined up to suspension and referred to the school deputy.

## **Student Hall Passes/Truancy**

Students must obtain a teacher’s initials on the Responsibility Sheet to be out of class. A signed hall pass may also be acceptable. Students who leave their classroom or supervised class area without the appropriate permission will be considered truant.

## **After School Detention**

Students facing disciplinary action may be assigned After School Detention (ASD). Students meet in the administrative office at 3:10 pm and clean the campus until 4:10 pm. Parent notification will be provided in advance for any students assigned after school detention. Students are supervised by school personnel. Any misbehavior during an assigned ASD will result in further consequences.

## **Personal Property**

Please do not bring important or valuable personal items to school. While we pride ourselves on maintaining a safe learning environment for students, we cannot guarantee thefts will not occur.

## **NVMS Cell Phone Policy**

Cell phones or electronic devices are to remain in a backpack and turned off. If a cell phone or similar device is seen or heard, the student will be issued 5 demerits, the device will be confiscated and held in the administration office until a parent picks it up. Any cell phone or electronic device remaining at the school after the last day will be donated to a charity the following Friday.

NOTE — Please be careful sending your student to school with expensive cell phones or electronic devices as they are easily lost or stolen.

## **Lost and Found**

All clothing and non-valuable items found will be placed in a bin in the cafeteria. Any electronic or valuable items are kept elsewhere. If you cannot locate your property please come to the administration office. Items left a school will be donated to local charities twice a year—once during Holiday Break and once after the last day of school.

# **NEW VISTA MIDDLE SCHOOL**

753 East Avenue K-2  
Lancaster, CA 93534  
Phone: 661-726-4271



## **Tiger Handbook School Policies and Expectations**

**2011-12**

## **Awards and Recognitions**

### **Awarded every Quarter and Semester:**

- Teachers give out subject awards of their choice for their students.
- Perfect 100 Merits
- Perfect Attendance— no absences, no tardies

### **Awarded 1st Semester only:**

- 4.0 GPA: Superintendent's Honor Roll
- 3.5 - 3.99 GPA: Principal's Honor Roll
- 3.0 - 3.49 GPA: Teacher's Honor Roll

### **Awarded 2nd Semester only:**

- Presidential Award of Excellence: 3.5-4.0 GPA, nothing less than a 'B' in any class, no more than 10 absences for the year, no more than 5 tardies all year, 'A or B' in citizenship for the year
- Presidential Award of Achievement: 3.20-3.49 GPA, nothing less than a 'C' in any class, no more than 15 absences for the year, no more than 9 tardies for the year, 'A-B' in citizenship all year.

## **Contacting NVMS teachers**

Parents may call NVMS at 726-4271 and leave a message. Please understand that during school hours classrooms will not be disturbed. Written notes may also be attached to or written onto Student Responsibility Sheets. All teachers have district email. Type the last name and first initial of your student's teacher and follow that with @lancsd.org. See example below. Parents may also e-mail teachers through the staff links at the school website. Please give teachers a day or two to reply. If emailing is not successful, call the main school number and leave a message.

For example, teacher Robert Smith's email would be:

**smithr@lancsd.org**

## **Accessing the PowerSchool Parent Portal**

You may monitor your child's progress throughout the school year using the PowerSchool Parent Portal. You can access information on current grades, attendance and assignments by accessing the Parent Portal Website:

**<https://pschool.lancsd.org>**

Username and passwords will be sent home during the first weeks of school and can be requested any time by calling the administrative office.

## **New Vista Middle School Web Site**

Current information about school hours, events holidays, forms and announcements is available at:

**[NewVistaMiddle.com](http://NewVistaMiddle.com)**

## **District Handbook for Students**

A complete English or Spanish copy of the district handbook for students is available on the New Vista Middle School website.

## **Visiting School**

Parents or persons on the emergency card are welcome to visit NVMS. Visits to classrooms must be pre-arranged with the teacher(s) and/or administration. Parents wishing to see students at lunch may do so by signing them out. Common areas like hallways, the quad and lunch with students are closed to non-school employees. When coming on campus, visitors must register with the front desk and wear a visitor sticker or badge at all times in a visible place.

## **Academic Expectations**

Academic dishonesty or cheating (including plagiarism of print, electronic material, or forging signatures) will prompt disciplinary action. These actions could include:

- Notification to student
- "F" or zero on the assignment/quiz/test/exam
- Notification of parent/guardian

Opportunity to make-up an assignment/quiz/test/exam is at the teacher's discretion.

Possible further actions include, but are not limited to:

- Notification to administration
- 5 demerits
- Loss of extra-curricular privileges

Please note that it is Board Policy that all students must maintain a grade point average of 1.83 or higher each semester in order to be promoted to the next grade. Students with less than a 1.83 GPA are placed on Academic Probation.

## **Tutoring Program**

Before and after school tutoring is available for all NVMS students. Our tutoring program will begin in October and end in June. Students who are placed on academic probation are strongly encouraged to sign up for tutoring. Each 3 week tutoring session that is completed with no more than 1 tardy and 1 absence will result in grade point credit for students. Tutoring registration forms will be available for each tutoring session in the NVMS office and on the school website.

## **NVMS DRESS CODE**

The standards of dress at New Vista Middle School emphasizes that we are concerned with the education and safety of students. We expect students to dress appropriately for the learning environment. Our dress code is in place to assist in creating an effective climate for learning on our campus.

Students must abide by the following requirements:

- ❖ All clothing must be worn in the manner for which it is designed.
- ❖ All clothing must fit (no more than four inches from the length in width and no pants dragging on the ground.) No oversized or sagging clothing.
- ❖ Girls' clothing (jumpers, skorts or shorts) must fit and shorts, skorts, skirts and dresses must reach mid thigh. In general, shorts, skorts, skirts and dresses must be as long or longer than the student's longest finger with arms naturally at their sides. This requirement is in place regardless of tights or leggings worn underneath.
- ❖ Shirts/blouses may not be transparent, see-through, low cut, strapless, or reveal a bare midriff. Stomachs and shoulders must be covered and no cleavage may be visible.
- ❖ Shirts and blouses must have sleeves. No tank tops, tube tops, crop tops, fishnet, sleeveless tops or spaghetti-strap style tops are allowed.
- ❖ No dangling or large hoop earrings are acceptable (earrings cannot be larger than the size of a quarter). "Gauges" are not permitted.
- ❖ Appropriate shoes must be worn at all times; no slippers, flip-flops, backless sandals, open-toed shoes or heels over 1".
- ❖ Pants cannot have holes, slit or frayed legs and pant legs cannot be pulled up. This rule is in place regardless of tights or leggings worn underneath.
- ❖ Visible pierced jewelry is limited to the ears only. Students may not wear jewelry in the nose, eyebrow, lip, tongue, cheek, or other facial area. Belly button jewelry is also prohibited.
- ❖ No articles of clothing, jewelry, paraphernalia or accessories that are a threat to the physical well being and safety of students will be allowed.
- ❖ Visible tattoos are not permitted.
- ❖ Hair must be a natural color. No temporary spray-in hair color, weaves of an unnatural color, hairnets, curlers, handkerchiefs, skullcaps or bandanas are allowed.
- ❖ No gang-related attire, including slogans, initials, colors, etc., is acceptable.
- ❖ No pajamas or house shoes are allowed.
- ❖ No garment with offensive pictures and/or words may be worn (e.g. sexual innuendoes, etc.)
- ❖ Caps, hoods and hats are appropriate outside to protect from weather and must be worn in a manner that provides protection. Head coverings are not to be worn inside buildings or classrooms.
- ❖ Anything that distracts from the smooth functioning of the school program, as determined by the administration, is unacceptable. As styles change, we reserve the right to make alterations in the dress code as necessary.

**All school staff will enforce the New Vista Dress Code Policy. Students who do not come to school appropriately dressed will be asked to call home for a change of clothing. Students who persist in violating the district's standards will be issued demerits, required to change clothes and may be suspended.**