

8th Grade
Classroom Handbook
2021-2022
New Life Academy

Devotions

Devotions will be held each morning. Devotions may be led by the teacher, students, or guests. We will have some special devotions with Zoom guests (i.e., missionaries, etc.). Devotions will be presented in a variety of ways and may cover topics such as principles of godly living, character development, testimonies, and biblical stories. Prayer, biblical skills, and Bible memory will be incorporated into this time.

Chapel

Chapel is typically held every other week for grades 6-12. Students are encouraged to participate in worship and singing.

Attendance

- Students in attendance less than 3 ½ hours will be counted absent for the day.
- Students in attendance for 3 ½ hours-6 hours will be counted absent for ½ day.
- Students in attendance for 6-7 hours will be counted present for the day.

Tardies

Any student arriving between 8:30-9:30 a.m. will be counted tardy.

Absences

For record keeping purposes, when an absence occurs, we require communication from a parent or guardian stating he/she was or is aware of the student's absence. This communication must take place no later than the day a student returns from the absence, or he/she will not be permitted to return to class and additional class time missed will be reflected in the attendance record period. Please contact the school office and mmckibben@newlifeschool.com in the event of an absence.

Lunch

Our lunch time will be from 12:10-12:35. If using the microwaves, we ask students to bring meals that can be cooked in less than four minutes. If purchasing school lunch, please order online ahead of time. In the event that your student forgets their lunch and a school lunch was not ordered, an emergency lunch will be ordered.

Coat/Backpack Rack

Students will keep their coats and backpacks on the hooks outside the classroom. Please remind your students to not keep money or other valuables in their backpacks.

Telephone Use

All phone calls must be made through the school office. This is limited to emergencies or unavoidable circumstances. Students will not be pulled out of class to receive phone calls. All messages will be given to your child through the school office. All routine business should be arranged before arriving at school. Cell phones will be turned in to Miss Mandi before the start of the day. **Cell phones will be allowed but must be turned in between 8:30 and 3:30.** Any cell phone that rings or is used during school hours will be confiscated.

Uniforms

Please see your 2021-2022 Parent Handbook for uniform specifics.

Dress code on any specified non-uniform days:

1. Ladies: skirts or dresses below bottom of kneecap when standing or sitting, slits below bottom of kneecap, not excessively tight
2. Gentlemen: long pants, not extremely baggy
3. Shirts: sleeves must be at least uniform length, no cap sleeves, neckline is no lower than two fingers width below the clavicle, any writing or emblems must not be offensive or in opposition to biblical principles
4. No cosmetics—including eye shadow, lip color, nail color, etc.
5. Gentlemen's hair must be standard, conservative cut, and face must be clean shaven.
6. No altering of natural hair color
7. No jewelry except for one ring (class ring or purity) and must be of conservative styling
8. No hats are to be worn in the building even on non-uniform days.

Weekly Lesson Plans

The weekly lesson plans may be accessed through the family portal on the Parents Web portion of Renweb. Please note that these are subject to change at any time.

Subjects

- Pre-Algebra (Abeka)
- English (Grammar, Literature, Spelling & Vocabulary) (Abeka)
- Earth and Space Science (Abeka)
- History (Ignitia)
- Bible (Ignitia)
- P.E. (Wednesdays)
- Music (Tuesdays & Thursdays)

Tentative Daily Schedule (This is subject to change as we see which areas the students need more or less time invested.)

8:30-8:45 Pledges and Devotions

8:45-9:05 Spelling

9:05-9:35 Grammar

9:35-10:00 Literature

*Students may have a snack around this time when I read to the class.

10:00-10:50 Science
 10:50-11:15 1st Break
 11:15-12:10 Math
 12:10-12:35 Lunch
 12:35-1:00 2nd Break
 1:00-1:45 History
 1:45-2:30 Bible
 2:30-3:15 Study Hall/Specials
 *Music will be on Tuesday and Thursday from 2:45-3:15.
 *P.E. will be on Wednesday from 2:10-2:40. We will adjust our schedule to accommodate this as needed.
 3:15 Pack Up
 3:30 Dismiss

Progress Reports

Progress reports will be sent out once a month beginning in September.

Grading Scale

A	92-100
B	83-91
C	76-82
D	68-75
F	0-67

Incentives

We will be utilizing the buck system in our classroom. Students may earn bucks for the following:

- Being on task
- Completing classwork/homework
- Being helpful
- Acts of kindness
- Winning a game in class
- Answering certain questions
- Encouraging others
- Improvement (in any area)
- Going above and beyond

Students may lose bucks for the following:

- Not paying attention during lessons
- Failure to complete homework
- Unkindness
- Disrespect
- Not following instructions/procedures

- Anything else deemed necessary by staff

Bucks may be used to purchase the following items:

- Free time
- Soda
- Snacks
- Candy
- Online game time
- Class reward party
- Homework passes
- Lazy Monday
- Class auction items

Miss Mandi's General Classroom Expectations

1. Be prepared.

- Have all class materials with you when you walk through the door.
- Have your homework completed (check to make sure every problem assigned has been done and every Ignitia lesson is completed).

2. Be respectful to others and yourself.

- A variety of ways will be used to present material in these classes, including, but not limited to, lecture, video, discussion, group projects, technology, games, and experiments. Please realize that not everyone learns the same way. What you like, someone else may not and vice versa. It is the teacher's responsibility to determine what is best for the class as a whole. Be respectful of the methods used.
- Disrespect may include, but is not limited to, eye rolling, talking back, arguing, talking when you're not supposed to, and rude comments.
- Disrespect may result in an automatic detention. It may also result in being sent to the principal.

3. Be aware.

- Inattentive or disruptive behaviors will be subject to disciplinary action. Inattentive or disruptive behaviors may include (but are not limited to):
 - Talking to classmates
 - Lack of participation
 - Incomplete work
 - Unpreparedness for class

3. Be responsible for your own work.

- Turn it in on time*
 - Late homework may be turned in one day late for ½ credit.
 - Late projects will be docked 10 points for each day they are late.
 - A detention will be issued for every third incomplete homework or no homework day each month.

4. If you are absent, you will have one day to complete the work for every day of an excused absence.

5. You do have the opportunity to complete unfinished homework without penalty. You will have to pay \$10 in classroom bucks and do the assignment at recess. If you choose to do this, it will not be counted as a no homework, etc.

b. Do the work yourself.

1. Anyone caught cheating will receive a zero on the assignment and an automatic detention.

c. Do the work thoroughly.

1. Complete every problem.

2. Check that you have completed all necessary steps.

3. Make sure you follow directions.

4. Homework will be checked by the teacher and graded accordingly.

5. Study/work a little bit each night.

6. Pay attention to deadlines.

d. Quizzes and Tests

1. 1-2 quizzes will typically be given per week in each subject. Study guides will not be given for quizzes. Students may use their notes on Ignitia quizzes.

2. Tests will typically occur every 2-3 weeks. In math, students will typically complete a chapter review the day or two prior to the test, which will have similar problems. Students will also practice problems like what will occur on the test in class and may take notes as we go over these problems. In all other subjects, students will be given a study guide ahead of time to complete.

3. The teacher cannot explain how to do a problem during a test or quiz. It is a test or quiz of what the student has learned, not the teacher.

4. Talking during a quiz or test will result in an automatic zero.

5. Cheating during a quiz or test will result in an automatic zero and a detention.

e. Extra Credit

1. Extra credit will be made available periodically throughout the quarter.

2. Extra credit may come in many forms, including, but not limited to, extra work (worksheets, projects, essays, etc.), answering special questions asked in class, being on the winning team in a review game, and participation above and beyond the required norm during class. You may also do community service projects and write about the experience to receive extra credit.

3. Extra credit is a privilege. If you have not turned in regular class work, you will not receive extra credit.

4. Extra credit is not something that is given just so you can make a passing grade.

f. It is your responsibility to know the material in class.

1. If you do not understand something, ask, ask, ask questions!

4. Have a great attitude!

a. "Your attitude determines your altitude."

b. Don't give up! You can do this, but you must keep trying!

c. It's okay to make mistakes.

- d. It's not okay to not try.
- e. Keep a positive mindset!
- f. You may not get it right now, but you will get it in the future!

5. Parent Communication

- a. Grades will be entered in Ren Web and e-mailed to parents once a month.
- b. Please feel free to contact me at any time via email. My e-mail is mmckibben@newlifeschool.com. I will return your e-mail when time is available to do so. Please understand that I work a second part time job and am very involved in the church side of things at New Life as Sunday school coordinator and food pantry coordinator, so you may not always receive a response right away. I do my best to answer all emails within 24 hours.
- c. The communication binder will go home each day. This will have their homework sheet, spelling lists, study guides, notes from the office, etc.