

Northeast Nodaway R-V High School



A+ Student Handbook

126 South High School Avenue
Ravenwood, Missouri 64479
Phone: (660) 937-3125
Home of the Bluejays!
Serving Parnell & Ravenwood, Missouri

*Our Mission:
Promoting Student Success Daily in a Caring Environment*

Becoming A+ Eligible

To be eligible for the financial incentives of the A+ Program, a student must be certified by Northeast Nodaway High School. As the official representative of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of the State of Missouri, the A+ Coordinator has the responsibility to certify NEN HS graduates if they have met the criteria of certification. The high school principal will verify all qualifications and documentation. To be certified as an A+ participant, an individual must complete the following requirements by the date of graduation:

- ◆ Be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident
- ◆ Sign an A+ Program Participation Agreement;
- ◆ Attend an A+ designated school for two years prior to graduation;
- ◆ Maintain at least a 2.5 GPA during high school (based on a 4.0 scale);
- ◆ Hold a 95% attendance average for four years;
- ◆ Perform 50 hours of unpaid, approved, academic tutoring or mentoring for younger students;
- ◆ Score proficient or higher on the Algebra I EOC or other DESE qualified test;
- ◆ Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol;
- ◆ Make a good faith effort to first secure all available federal post-secondary student financial assistance funds that do not require repayment; and
- ◆ Register with Selective Service if applicable

A+ Participation

An A+ Program Participation Agreement must be completed with all the appropriate signatures, and on file in the A+ office. The agreement simply states that the student and parents are aware of the A+ Program requirements and incentives. NOTE: Signing an A+ Participation Agreement in no way obligates the students to adhere to the A+ guidelines, but is simply a necessary step if they choose to participate.

Enrolling in an A+ School

A student must attend an A+ school for two year (does not have to be consecutive) prior to graduation to be eligible for A+.

Maintaining the A+ GPA

The student must graduate from high school with a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. **The cumulative non-weighted GPA is applicable to all four years of a student's enrollment in high school.** Parents should note that since Northeast Nodaway uses a weighted grading system, the GPA utilized for A+ purposes will be computed differently than that used to determine class rank. The official transcript will document and certify that the GPA requirement has been met. The GPA must be 2.5; 2.499 renders the student uncertifiable.

Meeting the A+ Attendance Requirement

To be eligible for A+ Program financial incentives a student must have at least a 95% cumulative attendance record during his/her four years of high school. Students are expected to attend school regularly and to be on time for classes. Therefore, the student will acquire the habits of punctuality, self-discipline and responsibility. A student who does not meet the 95% attendance requirement will not be eligible for the A+ financial incentive. The following attendance guidelines are required of all students participating in the A+ Program:

- ◆ A cumulative attendance record will be kept from the beginning of the A+ student's high school career until graduation.
- ◆ The high school office will keep the official record-of-attendance. Students attending Northwest Missouri Technical School will have their attendance reported daily and their records maintained in the high school office.
- ◆ Each semester parents, guardians and students will be provided information that includes the student's attendance record.

The A+ Program does not necessarily excuse NEN excused absences. A+ attendance guidelines differ from the regular school attendance rules. A doctor's note for an excused absence does NOT qualify a student for an A+ attendance waiver. A+ attendance waivers are for serious, long-term absences, not the average cold or flu.

A+ participants who receive notification of unacceptable attendance through semester reports will have 15 business days from the date of the notification to file a written appeal with the A+ Coordinator. If an appeal is NOT filed within 15 days of notification, a waiver for days missed will not be considered. A+ Attendance Waiver forms are available in the high school office or from the A+ Coordinator.

Absences that occur because of school-sponsored activities are not counted against attendance. This includes post-secondary visits approved by the school. Attendance waivers would most often be granted for (but not necessarily limited to) long-term illnesses, hospitalizations, granted homebound instruction, and treatment for chronic health problems.

Anyone submitting a request for an A+ attendance waiver of days missed shall provide the A+ Coordinator with the following official documentation.

Reason for Absence	Documentation
Hospitalization	Letter from physician
Chronic health problems	Letter from physician with explanation of illness, verified by school nurse (Copies of bill or school excuses is NOT sufficient)
Catastrophic illness (long term)	Letter from physician
Court dates	Court letter
Funeral	Principal's approval
Religious holiday	Letter from clergyman
Personal/Family calamity (fire, flood, etc.)	Principal's approval

NO STUDENT WILL RECEIVE A WAIVER IF ABSENCES ARE DUE TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ◆ Truancy
- ◆ Skipping classes
- ◆ Personal/family vacations
- ◆ Transportation problems (except when riding the school bus)
- ◆ Suspension from school
- ◆ Employment or work purposes

It is not possible to list every situation in this handbook. If you have attendance questions, please contact the A+ Coordinator. All attendance waiver requests will be considered and decided on a case-by-case basis by the A+ Appeals Committee.

A+ Attendance/Citizenship Review Process

The A+ Staff Advisory Committee will review and decide all attendance/citizenship appeals. The committee will be comprised of the following:

- ◆ High School Guidance Counselor/A+ Coordinator
- ◆ High School Principal
- ◆ Three High School Teachers
- ◆ Advisory Committee member

The A+ Coordinator will act as a facilitator and a non-voting member of the A+ Staff Advisory Committee. After the Staff Advisory Committee reaches a decision, the A+ Coordinator will notify parents in writing. Any and all additional appeals will be conducted according to the policies set by the Board of Education.

Meeting the A+ Tutoring Requirement

The A+ Program requires that students complete 50 hours of academic tutoring to younger students. Before beginning this requirement for A+ certification, a student must have a signed A+ Participation Agreement on file in the A+ Coordinator's office.

The following guidelines are to be used for all tutoring experiences:

- ◆ The A+ Coordinator must approve all tutoring activities.
- ◆ To assist in the completion of the 50 hours requirement, A+ students will have the ability to complete tutoring hours during intervention time. Any A+ student can sign up to work with elementary grades during this time. Students may also obtain tutoring hours before or after school with the approval of a teacher and A+ coordinator. There may also be times throughout the year that students may receive tutoring hours with a school-associated function. Hours may also be earned while enrolled in a TA course during their junior/senior year.
- ◆ An A+ tutoring log must be kept daily by the student and must be signed by the supervising teacher. The log **MUST** be turned in **QUARTERLY** to the A+ Coordinator.
- ◆ All tutoring must be done on the school premises under the supervision of a classroom teacher or other certified personnel.
- ◆ Students are expected to behave responsibly while tutoring. This includes notifying the tutoring supervisor before absences when possible. It is important to the success of the programs involved that A+ participants remain dedicated to their responsibility.
- ◆ The student may receive **NO** financial compensation for A+ tutoring.

Citizenship Requirement Being an A+ Citizen

Participation in the A+ Schools Program is an honor and a unique privilege for Northeast Nodaway High School students. Students who participate in the program are expected to conform to a higher standard of conduct than is applicable to non-participants. Students pursuing the A+ Incentive must maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use, possession, and distribution of drugs and alcohol.

Certification of good citizenship is based on the official discipline record maintained in the administrative offices of Northeast Nodaway High School. Consequences for infractions of the discipline code are assigned by the high school principal, and that administrator is responsible for certifying the accuracy of the student's discipline record.

A+ Good Citizenship Determination

The Northeast Nodaway School District will use a point system to determine Good Citizenship status. All students begin with zero points when entering high school. Throughout high school they may accumulate points based on inappropriate or unacceptable behavior. The accumulation of 24 points or more at any time during enrollment results in revocation of A+ status. This is a retroactive process and applies to any A+ students moving into the district.

Disciplinary actions and resulting points are as follows:

First detention each school year – 0 pts
Second and each subsequent detention – 1 pt each
ISS – 3 pts per day
OSS – 4 pts per day

A student will be immediately removed from the program for drugs/alcohol/substance abuse, conviction of a felony, or conviction of violations of Safe Schools Act

A+ participants who receive semester notification of immediate removal will have 15 business days from the date of the notification to file an appeal with the A+ Coordinator. The A+ Review Committee will consider and decide appeals on a case-by-case basis. If an appeal is NOT filed within 15 days of notification, the appeal will not be considered. A+ Citizenship Appeal forms are available in the high school office or from the A+ Coordinator.

Unlawful Use of Drugs and Alcohol

An A+ participant will not possess, sell, or use any controlled substance or drug paraphernalia as defined by law and stated in the Northeast Nodaway High School Student Handbook. This applies to a student's entire high school career including nights, weekends, and summers. For purposes of this rule, the term "drug" includes any illegal drug, alcoholic beverage, tobacco, e-cigarette (vaping, juul, etc.), illegally possessed prescription drug, controlled substance, drug paraphernalia, or item which by markings or by representations made, is represented to be a drug. The use of prescription medicine is allowed only to the extent authorized by school district policy. Students and parents are responsible for understanding and following these guidelines.

Determination that an offense has taken place may come from:

- ◆ Violation of school board policy relating to drugs/alcohol
- ◆ Unlawful possession and/or selling of drugs or alcohol which is formally reported to the school through the Safe Schools Act
- ◆ Admittance by individual in writing
- ◆ Deferred prosecution (the act of a charged minor agreeing to be placed on a one-year probation in lieu of prosecution) will be treated as admission
- ◆ Legal conviction

The following offenses, regarding the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol, will result in immediate removal from the A+ Program:

- ◆ Possession, use, sale, or transfer of alcohol or drugs
- ◆ Possession of drug paraphernalia
- ◆ Any violation of the athletic code within a sport's season that results in suspension from participation in activities

Criminal Activity

Criminal activities, as defined by the Safe Schools Act, will also result in the **immediate removal from the A+ Program** and include:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| ◆ First and second degree murder | First degree arson |
| ◆ Kidnapping | Voluntary/involuntary manslaughter |
| ◆ First and second degree assault | Sexual assault |
| ◆ First and second degree burglary | Felonious restraint |
| ◆ Robbery | Property damage |
| ◆ Distribution of drugs | Intimidation of school staff |
| ◆ Distribution of drugs to minors | Physical threat to staff |
| ◆ Assault on a student | Expulsion from school |
| ◆ False fire alarm/bomb threats and misuse of emergency equipment | |
| ◆ Possession of a weapon (Under provisions of Chapter 571 Mo. Rev. Statutes) | |

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Criminal activities, as defined by the Safe Schools Act, will also result in the **immediate removal from the A+ Program** and include:

- ◆ First and second degree murder
- ◆ Kidnapping
- ◆ First and second degree assault
- ◆ First and second degree burglary
- ◆ Robbery
- ◆ Distribution of drugs
- ◆ Distribution of drugs to minors
- ◆ Assault on a student
- ◆ False fire alarm/bomb threats and misuse of emergency equipment
- ◆ Possession of a weapon (Under provisions of Chapter 571 Mo. Rev. Statutes)
- ◆ First degree arson
- ◆ Voluntary/involuntary manslaughter
- ◆ Sexual assault
- ◆ Felonious restraint
- ◆ Property damage
- ◆ Intimidation of school staff
- ◆ Physical threat to staff
- ◆ Expulsion from school

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Post-Secondary Student Incentives and How to Keep Them

Qualified A+ graduates will be eligible to receive:

Tuition to attend any Missouri public community college, vocational or technical college for two years. Funding for these tuition incentives is entirely dependent on appropriations from the Missouri General Assembly.

- ◆ FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) forms must be on file with the college by deadlines set by the college. To meet those deadlines, parents should have FAFSA forms submitted by April 15. Parents may file the FAFSA on the web at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- ◆ FAFSA forms must be filed every year
- ◆ A+ tuition incentives will only be made available to reimburse the unpaid balance of the cost of tuition after available federal financial aid funds have been applied to those costs.
- ◆ Private scholarships will not affect eligibility for A+, nor will they reduce the state's responsibility to a college or tech. school.
- ◆ Students must successfully complete 12 college credit hours per semester (6 hours during the summer) and maintain a 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale while enrolled in post-secondary training to be eligible to receive A+ funds for two years (including summer for a total of 6 semesters).
- ◆ Graduates have 48 months after completion of high school coursework or completion of 105% of the hours required for the program in which the student is currently enrolled.
- ◆ Students must adhere to each college's deadlines. Failure to do so may result in A+ incentives not being available for a student.
- ◆ Financial need is NOT a factor in determining A+ eligibility.

A+ Student Handbook Agreement

Student:

I am responsible for following the policies outlined in the Northeast Nodaway R-V A+ Student Handbook and will suffer the consequences if I choose not to follow the handbook policies.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian:

My son/daughter is responsible for following the policies outlined in the Northeast Nodaway R-V A+ Student Handbook and will suffer the consequences if he/she chooses not to follow the handbook policies.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

A+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Participation Agreement

Student's Name: _____ / _____ / _____

As a student of Northeast Nodaway R-V, I agree to abide by the district's A+ policies and procedures and the following conditions so that upon successful completion I will be considered a certified A+ graduate. I agree to:

1. Attend a designated A+ high school for two (2) years prior to graduation.
2. Maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
3. Have at least a 95% attendance record for grades 9-12.
4. Perform 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring (25% which can include job shadowing.)
5. Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use of alcohol and drugs while in grades 9-12.
6. Achieve a score of proficient or advanced on the Algebra I EOC or higher DESE approved EOC in the field of mathematics or other qualifying score.

I understand that failure to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and, if required, the U.S. Military Selective Service registration will jeopardize the receipt of A+ financial incentives.

Be it understood that in exchange for meeting or exceeding the above criteria that the above named student (providing the school is A+ designated) shall be eligible for scholarship incentives available from the state for all graduates who choose to attend a Missouri state public community college or vocational/technical school.

- Student financial incentive will be available for a period of four (4) years immediately following high school graduation.
- Tuition incentive payments will be limited to six (6) semesters of actual attendance or attainment of an associate's degree.
- Tuition incentives will be made available only after the student has made a documented good faith effort to first secure all available federal post-secondary student financial assistance funds that do not require payment.
- Tuition incentives will only be made available for the unpaid balance of the cost of tuition and standard fees after the federal post-secondary student financial assistance funds have been applied to these costs.

Said incentives are the responsibility of the Missouri General Assembly and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and **NOT** the Northeast Nodaway R-V School District.

I understand that to maintain eligibility during the four-year period of incentive availability I must:

1. Be enrolled in and attend full-time a Missouri public community college or career/technical school.
2. Maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
3. Make a good-faith effort to first secure all available federal postsecondary student financial assistance funds.

I understand that disclosure of my Social Security number is optional, and that if I disclose this number it will be used by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for the purposes of determining my eligibility to receive A+ funding and to make payments to the career/technical school or community college I attend. I further understand that failure to disclose my Social Security number may result in delays in the receipt of A+ funds. My Social Security number is: _____.

This agreement is entered into this _____ day of _____, 20____. Permission is hereby given for the release of A+ Schools Program information, including student records, to the institutions chosen by the student as well as to DESE, as required by law.

Signature of Student

Signature of Parent/Guardian