

E-hallpass FAQs

Dear Gladiator Families,

In the August letter to families it was stated that Northwood would pilot an electronic hall pass system for the current school year. The purpose of this communication is to provide additional information about e-hallpass at Northwood and to describe opportunities for students and families to ask questions and learn more about the system before it is implemented. Below you will find a frequently asked questions (FAQ) resource designed to address common questions we've heard about e-hallpass. You will also find the dates and locations for discussions for staff, students and parents.

What is e-hallpass?

E-hallpass is a digital hall pass system that allows students to create passes using check out stations in the classroom, similar to how you would have a sign out sheet in a classroom. Students may create passes using existing classroom technology such as chromebooks, desktop computers and tablets. Teachers may also create proxy passes for students. While the commercial version of e-hallpass does allow students to create passes through an app downloaded to their cellphones, this practice is neither required nor encouraged at Northwood.

Why an electronic hall pass system?

Northwood staff had the opportunity to see e-hallpass in action at another Maryland school and to talk with staff and students about the system. Based on information gleaned from those experiences, we believe that e-hallpass has the potential to reduce classroom disruption by allowing students to digitally create passes; enhance accountability for student whereabouts; and allow for the management of "appointment passes" for students to leave class to take part in enrichment and reteaching during our GLAD, or advisory, period.

Where can I learn more about e-hallpass at Northwood?

Teachers & Students: During a special GLAD session on Tuesday, Sept. 10th
Parents: Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) Meeting on Sept. 17th at 7:30pm, Back-to-School-Night (BTSN) on Sept. 19th at 6:30 pm

Does a student need to use their personal cell phone or personal device to obtain a pass out of class?

No, a student may use any web-connected device such as a Chromebook, desktop computer or tablet to request a pass from a teacher.

Can a teacher still create a pass for a student if a student does not have a web-connected device available?

Yes, teachers can create Proxy passes for students in only a few seconds from the e-hallpass teacher dashboard.

Does e-hallpass track a student's location using cell phone location services?

No, e-hallpass does not use location services at all.

Is a student required to carry a device on them in the hallway or bathroom?

No, a student need not carry a device with them in the hallway or in the bathroom. Our security team will be able to view all active student passes to quickly confirm when a student has a legitimate hall pass.

What personal information does e-Hallpass use in the application?

E-hallpass uses student first and last names and MCPS Google email addresses.

Their Privacy and Security Policy can be found at: <https://www.eduspiresolutions.org/privacy-policy/>. The Policy indicates E-hallpass' compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). Data on student hall pass usage is stored on a short-term basis.

How does a digital hall pass system enhance security?

A digital hall pass system allows a school to know how many students are in the hallway at any given time and identifies each student on a pass. Whether in a real emergency or a practice drill situation, this information allows for greater awareness and security across the entire school campus.

When will e-hallpass be implemented at Northwood HS?

We would like to implement e-hallpass the week of Sept. 23rd, following our meetings with students, staff and families and after we have customized the efforts to meet the unique needs of our community. Until then, students will continue to use paper passes.

Since Northwood is the only MCPS school using e-hallpass, where can I learn more about how other schools have approached e-hallpass?

Here's an article from a school that uses

e-hallpass. <https://archive.triblive.com/local/southhills/14210674-74/electronic-passes-provide-added-level-of-security-at-tjhs>

What if I am just not comfortable using this system?

Accommodations will be made for any student with concerns about using e-hallpass, including the ability to opt-out of using the system.