



2026–2027 Student Handbook

Yankee Hill Education Center

865 W. Burnham Street

Lincoln, NE 68512

402-436-1927

Lincoln Public Schools Student Calendar, 2026–2027

The LPS district calendar for the 2026–2027 school year is shown below. An accessible, text-based version of this calendar is available on the district website at lps.org.

Lincoln Public Schools STUDENT CALENDAR | 2026-2027

APPROVED 3/25

JULY 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JANUARY 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

AUGUST 2026

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

FEBRUARY 2027

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

SEPTEMBER 2026

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26	27	28	29	30		

MARCH 2027

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30	31					

OCTOBER 2026

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30	31					

APRIL 2027

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NOVEMBER 2026

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MAY 2027

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DECEMBER 2026

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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JUNE 2027

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

■ First Day for K, 6th, & 9th Grades

■ All K-12 Students in Session

● Last Day for Students

■ All Schools Not in Session

□ Schools Not in Session (Professional Learning/Planning Day)

◁ Quarter Start Dates ▷ Quarter End Dates

GRADUATION DATES

Tuesday, May 18, 2027 – Yankee Hill

Wednesday, May 19, 2027 – Independence Academy

Thursday, May 20, 2027 – Bryan Community

At Pinnacle Bank Arena – May 21-23, 2027

Fri: LHS | Sat: LNS, LNW, LSE, LNE | Sun: LSW, LSB, EHS

Intent of Handbook

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents/guardians and staff as a guide to the rules, regulations, and general information about Yankee Hill Education Center. Each student is responsible for becoming familiar with the handbook and knowing the information contained in it. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to use this handbook as a resource and to assist their child in following the rules contained in this handbook. Although the information found in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, the handbook is not intended to be all encompassing so it does not cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during any school day, or school year. This handbook does not create a “contract.” The administration reserves the right to make decisions and make rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well-being of all students. The administration will be responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. Should a situation or circumstance arise that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon all applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

Mission Statement

Our school mission is to provide a safe, supportive, educational learning environment that encourages students to achieve their best, engage in learning, graduate and become productive citizens. We strive to achieve our mission through the implementation of innovative and trauma informed practices to support our students in taking ownership of their learning, self-management and coping strategies.

Yankee Hill Belief Statements

At Yankee Hill, we believe in the potential of each student. We also believe in the importance of collaboration with families and students’ home schools in order to meet the potential found within each of our students. Your support and collaboration with the staff at Yankee Hill is encouraged and welcomed.

Yankee Hill Bell Schedule

Monday, Wednesday–Friday

Time	Period or activity
8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Morning Assembly, Breakfast, and RAS

Time	Period or activity
8:30 a.m. – 9:28 a.m.	Period 1
9:30 a.m. – 10:18 a.m.	Period 2
10:20 a.m. – 11:08 a.m.	Period 3
11:10 a.m. – 12:28 p.m.	Period 4 and lunch — see the lunch schedule below
12:30 p.m. – 1:18 p.m.	Period 5
1:20 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.	Period 6
2:10 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.	Dismissal

Period 4 Lunch Schedule (11:10 a.m. – 12:28 p.m.)

Lunch assignment	First block	Second block
1st Lunch	Lunch, 11:10 – 11:38	Class, 11:40 – 12:28
Half Day	Class, 11:10 – 11:40	Lunch, 11:40 – 11:58; 12:00 — load buses to home schools
2nd Lunch	Class, 11:10 – 11:58	Lunch, 12:00 – 12:28

Yankee Hill Final Exam Procedures

We do provide review materials for students in the days leading up to final exams for classes taken at Yankee Hill. Students who attend partial days at their home schools are responsible for studying a day or two prior to their final exams at the home schools. Yankee Hill staff will coordinate with families of partial day students to ensure they are able to attend their home school finals when they are scheduled at the home school. Students who attend partial days at schools with Block Scheduling will receive accommodation to attend finals at their home attendance school each quarter. If there is a family obligation that conflicts with any final exam schedule, please start the communication with your student's teacher and/or therapist so an arrangement can be made regarding final exams. Note, any altered final exam schedule will be communicated to families via email and phone message. Finals for Yankee Hill will take place during the same dates as finals at Home Attendance Schools, however we do not operate on a shortened bell schedule, so the bell times will remain the same in this building.

Bussing, Arrival and Dismissal Plan

Yankee Hill students do have LPS Transportation provided. Yankee Hill staff will contact each family in regards to route times and bus changes. Please plan to have your students ready for the bus 5 minutes before your given route time. The bus will arrive and wait until 3 minutes after your given route time to move on to the next stop, unless you live on a major thoroughfare. Due to the nature of the bus routes, and the drivers having routes they must complete following their Yankee Hill routes, it is imperative your student is ready and waiting for the bus. **We will not send the bus back if you miss the bus**, as this delays the route times for students on the bus. LPS bus drivers are not supposed to honk to notify you that they have arrived, so it is imperative that you or your student are actively watching for the bus. LPS buses are an extension of LPS property, so students are expected to follow LPS and Yankee Hill norms and expectations while riding the bus. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

Bus Norms

- Ride quietly — use your inside voice. Any music or audio from your phones must be through headphones, and the volume must be low enough that it cannot be heard by those around you.
- Wear your seat belt — remain seated with your seatbelt on for the duration of the bus ride.
- If asked, sit where the driver asks you to sit, or move if needed.
- Use school appropriate language.
- Follow directions the first time.
- Respect each others' space.
- No vapes.
- No items, or body parts, outside the windows.
- No food or drink on the bus. If you have any trash while you are on the bus, please dispose of it in the trashcan at the front of the bus when you enter or exit; do not leave it in your seat. If you make a mess, clean it up, or let the transportation staff know as you exit the bus so it can be cleaned prior to the next stop.

Arrival and Dismissal

Staff will dismiss students from the bus in the morning, and direct students where to wait to enter the building. Students will turn in all personal belongings when they check into

the building, and will be wanded upon entry of the building. Complying with staff directions and procedures ensures the process moves quickly and smoothly.

Staff will dismiss students from their RAS classrooms to load their buses in the order that the buses have arrived for pickup. Students will have their personal items returned prior to loading the buses. It is the expectation that students do not keep their personal belongings at the school overnight, and that their items return home with them each day.

Grading System

Percentage Grades

Letter grade	Percentage
A	90–100%
B+	85–89%
B	80–84%
C+	75–79%
C	70–74%
D+	65–69%
D	60–64%
F	Below 60%

Other Marks

Mark	Meaning
S	Satisfactory
U	Unsatisfactory
INC	Incomplete
W	Withdrawn

Due to the unique nature of our program, students may join and leave us any time during the year. Yankee Hill will do our best to continue whatever LPS classes your

student was already taking at their home attendance school, and will continue their existing grades to give them the best chance to pass their classes possible. However, we do not offer all the same classes that other buildings do. In that event, partial credits may be offered as a way for your student to earn as many credits as possible, without sacrificing the integrity of their education.

Missing and low-grade assignments can be turned in, or have corrections completed, to help improve grades until the end of the quarter the assignment was given in. After the quarter has completed, no additional assignments or corrections can be turned in for a grade. Not all assignments may be eligible for corrections (for example, DCA assignments). Students should work with their teachers throughout the term to determine the best way to accomplish the grades they are hoping to achieve.

District-Wide Guidelines

Students at Yankee Hill Education Center are still eligible, and actively encouraged, to participate in LPS athletics through their home attendance high schools, provided they meet all the same criteria as other student athletes. If your student is participating, or interested in participating, in a sport, please have them talk with YHEC staff so we can support your student and coordinate with the home attendance school.

A copy of the Athletic/Activities Code of Conduct can be found on home attendance schools' websites under Activities/Athletics. Questions about these policies should be referred to the home attendance school your student is assigned to. The document is often titled Online Participation Packet. You may also refer to LPS Policies 6700 and 6740 for code of conduct; consequences can be found in Regulation 6740.2.

For LPS student conduct, rights and responsibilities, please refer to the Important Information Handbook on lps.org. There is also a link on the Yankee Hill website at the bottom of the home page on the right hand side.

Yankee Hill Attendance Policies

Regular attendance is vital for students to succeed in school. It is an important habit for teenagers to develop, as most teens will soon have jobs and find their employer expects them to be at work every day. School attendance is so important that Nebraska law requires all children to attend school until the age of 18. When children are frequently absent from school, Nebraska law holds parents/guardians accountable. Nebraska law now requires schools to inform the county attorney of every student who is absent 20 or more days, or the block equivalent, regardless of the reason.

The following three attendance absence codes are counted against you by the county attorney when your student is absent from school:

- Illness (IL)
- Parental Acknowledged (PA)
- Truancy (TR)

If a student sees a medical provider (appointment, or documented illness or procedure) and brings a note from the provider to the office, then the absence will be coded Medical Documentation (MD), and does not count in the absences noted toward the county attorney referral. However, these absences still count against a perfect attendance award at home attendance schools.

An electronic parent portal is used to record and share student information with parents and students. With this system, families are able to view attendance, grades and assignments online. This information is live and can be accessed by parents any time they choose, or by setting parameters for information to be sent to them on a regular basis.

For more information on LPS attendance policies, please see the Important Information Handbook.

Yankee Hill Building Guidelines

In addition to the building norms below, you will find more specific information in this section regarding specific scenarios.

Food Deliveries

As is the norm in all other high school buildings, DoorDash, Uber Eats, Grubhub and other food delivery services are not permitted to deliver food for students. Students may still bring their own lunches from home; however, these lunches will be checked in with staff in the morning, and students will have access to them during their lunch time. Parents/guardians may also drop off food for students, but the parent/guardian must personally bring the items in, not have them delivered via a service.

Lunches from Home

Lunches from home are intended for your student only. Please do not share with peers in the building. Students do have access to a microwave, but do not have access to a fridge, so lunches that require refrigeration must be in an appropriate bag with an ice pack to keep them cool. If your student does not have a lunch bag, and you do not have

the ability to acquire one, please encourage your student to talk with their therapist to see what resources may be available to help.

Vaping

As is the norm for all LPS property, vaping and smoking is strictly prohibited on ALL LPS property. This includes inside of the building at Yankee Hill, as well as on the grounds surrounding Yankee Hill Education Center, and on buses provided by LPS Transportation. To be clear, this includes all First Student buses, and EverDriven student rides as well.

Yankee Hill Dress Code

All students will be expected to wear pants that fit at the waist and **do not sag below the hips**. Students may not wear clothing that is revealing or that exposes excessive skin. Students attending Yankee Hill are not allowed to bring backpacks or bags of any kind to school, unless they attend partial days at a home attendance school, or bring their own lunch from home. Any bags brought to Yankee Hill will be searched daily by staff for contraband. Students may listen to approved electronics with headphones on the bus if sound is not heard outside of the student's earphones. **Students must abide by the following dress code expectations.**

- Black, khaki, gray or navy cotton pants, jeans, or joggers (no cargo pants, sweat pant material or pajama pants).
- Solid color polo shirt (any color).
- **No** hoodies.
- Sneakers or tennis shoes (no slippers, slides, Crocs, boots, high heels, or anything else that could pose a security risk).
- Accessories — piercings are at the discretion of adults. No rings, necklaces, watches, bracelets, etc., unless the student is on Student Government.
- No hair accessories beyond a ponytail, to be worn on your head. A ponytail holder, if not worn in the hair, may be permitted to be worn on the wrist.
- Nails are permitted, unless they become a concern for your student. In that event, you will be contacted and notified of the concerns surrounding your specific student.

Yankee Hill Norms

Cafeteria Expectations

Responsibility • Raise your hand to throw away • Following directions • Take ownership of your actions • No cross-table talk	Respect • School appropriate language and conversations with staff and peers • No one has the right to hurt another person • Honor differences
Self-Control • Staying at assigned table • Appropriately throw trash away • Accept all redirects, right or wrong, weak or strong • Accepting no for an answer	Transition (Preparation) • Clean up tables • Put extra food in the middle of the table • Voices off • Lining up based on rating

Classroom Expectations

Responsibility • Sit up, no sleeping, eyes on speaker • Active participation and following directions • Take ownership of your actions	Respect • School appropriate language and conversations with staff and peers • No one has the right to hurt another person • Honor differences
Self-Control • Staying in assigned space • Accept all redirects, right or wrong, weak or strong • Accepting no for an answer	Transition (Preparation) • Clean up work space • Sitting in seat • Voices off • Lining up based on rating

Hallway Expectations

Responsibility • Following directions • Take ownership of your actions • Don't engage in negative behavior	Respect • No one has the right to hurt another person • Education and the classroom are sacred • Honor differences
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Self-Control • Stopping at assigned space • Accept all redirects, right or wrong, weak or strong • Accepting no for an answer	Transition • Keeps hands to self • Voices off • Walk in a straight line • Face forward • Walk on the right side
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7 Levels of Redirection

Yankee Hill is one of three programs in Lincoln Public Schools that supports students who have significant behavioral concerns. The key to student success at these three programs is consistency in expectations. There are set structures and expectations for all areas of the building to reduce the anxiety that comes from uncertainty in routine. Some of these structures and routines include norms such as specific hallway transition protocol, dress code, and daily assembly with peers to share building-wide positives and areas to improve. When students are experiencing struggles in maintaining safe behavior toward self, others or property, all staff are trained to respond in a consistent manner to both de-escalate the student and keep others safe. Below are the seven levels of redirection utilized within our programs.

1. Friendly non-verbal
2. Concerned non-verbal
3. Helpful verbal
4. Concerned verbal
5. Student/staff support
6. Staff escort
7. Manual hold