

Students share thoughts about NCSSM discipline

BY: CAROLINE DESAUSURE

The class of 2013 will sit through countless orientation lectures learning about NCSSM discipline. The class of 2012 has heard and experienced the brunt of this discipline. NCSSM's seniors share their personal experience, tips, and opinions punishment for rule-breaking at NCSSM, "levels", in particular.

Levels range in severity in numerical order: one, two, and three, a level one being the least serious. This includes missing check, missing mandatory meetings, and late work. Level two's can result from repeated level ones or more serious rule-breaking, such as walking off-campus alone or after dark. Level threes can, and often do, result in expulsion and are typically the result of sex, drugs, and/or alcohol. The following are some of the most common and controversial rules at NCSSM.

****Disclaimer: do not attempt to break any of these rules. Despite what is said in this article, any of these scenarios may result in a level and/or room restriction****

Walking barefoot- Walking barefoot on a residential hall is permitted. However, if one steps outside of hall without shoes on, it is considered "self-endangerment" and could result in a level two. Often students are simply given a verbal warning.

Using someone else's keys- Halls are not united in BBR, meaning that if someone from First Beall wants to go see someone on Third Bryan, they have to bang on the door. Some people fix this solution by borrowing someone else's access pass to get on their particular hall. Although this may seem perfectly fine, it can be punishable with a level. The argument is that with this exchange, someone may be able to get access to another's room without their consent or get onto a hall of the opposite sex.

Being in prohibited areas after dark- This rule is in place just to make sure that no further rule-breaking goes on. Prohibited areas are usually classroom areas. After dark, most teachers go home, leaving these areas abandoned. Senior

Cassandra Lindquist shares, "SLI's should check Hunt Lobby and other areas before they become off-limits so that sleepy/sick people aren't left to get in trouble without knowing."

In-room- Breaking in-room means that you're found in someone else's room after a certain hour. On weekdays, this is midnight and on weekends it is 2:00 am. This is one of the most common levels because SLI's make rounds through the halls and catch people breaking this rule.

"Sometimes last year, I would sleep in the lounge because my room fluctuated between extreme temperatures. This is considered breaking in-room and I was caught a few times," said Emily Chen.

Prohibited phone usage- Phones are not supposed to be visible or used during mandatory school events, including meetings and classes. A level one may result

and in extreme cases, one's phone may be taken away for a week. Denise Elizondo tells, "I was playing games on my phone during a junior

ing- Junior and senior meetings are when administration shares something important that we should know and typically occur once a month. They are mandatory and missing one is usually an automatic level one.

"I accidentally missed a meeting with the attendance director once and was confronted. It seemed like I would be dismissed with a written warning, but come to find out that I received a level one and two nights of room restriction," says Jeremiah Collins.

Missing check- Check is important because it ensures that we are all safe and on-campus. However, sometimes students will accidentally sleep through check without knowing and wake up to a level. If a fire alarm goes off after the last check of the day, everyone in the building has to evacuate and sign check again once it is over.

Denise Elizondo shares, "Find a buddy on your hall to knock on your door to make sure you're awake in case of an emergency!"



Courtesy of Caroline deSaussure

The NCSSM dark room: an example of a prohibited area after dark.

meeting and received a level one without warning." Missing a mandatory meet-

Advice on popping the bubble at NCSSM

BY: NOAH LIEBERMAN

It is common knowledge that NCSSM is a bubble; most students are informed of the

organizations, such as CNN.com or NewYorkTimes.com. By using multiple, credible

While it is surely important to be informed on various events around the world, one should not ignore the stories shaping the Durham region or the state as a whole.

Using sources such as www.heraldsun.com for local news or charlotteobserver.com/state for state-wide stories can help keep you fully informed.

On the other hand, students should try to stay informed on what is happening around the country or around the

very different content and points of view. Mediums that you should try to use include radio, television, and print.

4. Talk to other students: Having a group of friends who you can talk to about the news allows you to get different viewpoints on important events or learn about stories that you may have missed.

While an informal discussion may be enough for some, there are also several clubs at NCSSM that offer a more structured discussion of current events. Look for these clubs at club fair and try to be a part of their forums as much as possible.

5. Have news be part of your routine:

With everything that students at NCSSM have to deal with, staying on top of the news may not be a top priority. Having a news source be a constant part of your life is a great way to keep from falling behind.

Some simple methods for sneaking news into every day include setting a website like HuffingtonPost.com as your home page, having your alarm clock wake you up with a radio station such as NPR, or attending the meetings of news-oriented clubs.



Newstand on 9th street.

Courtesy of Caroline deSaussure

latest developments at the school, but are shocked when they hear of what's going on outside the bubble.

Because students at NCSSM don't have much free time to stay connected with the news of the world, the bubble is difficult to pop. Below is advice to staying informed, educated, and well-rounded while at NCSSM.

1. Find Multiple Sources:

One news source may seem like enough to some students, but this can be deceptive. Websites run the risk of using unverified information or running stories based upon rumors, since they are not held to the same standards as more established publications.

Exceptions from this rule include sites run by news

sources, you can separate fact from fiction. Using one source may also lead to an uninformed student because of a bias inherent in the organization.

This may be a political bias, skewing the information by only including information that supports the journalist's beliefs, or a content bias, only covering stories that fall under certain areas, like technology or sports news. By using several sources, a student will get more exposure to different stories and be less vulnerable to bias.

2. Get news from different areas:

Another common mistake that leads to a false sense of being informed is only getting news of a certain scale, such as national or international news.

world, since it may affect them just as much as local events.

3. Use different mediums:

Students trying to stay informed on life outside of the bubble should try to get information from as many different types of news as possible.

The stories or type of journalism one gets from reading a newspaper or magazine is very different from that of a news program on television or a collection of stories on the Internet.

Getting news from different mediums will also help one avoid bias, as a local paper and a national news program will have

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