MOUNTAIN HOME SCHOOL DISTRICT 193

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ELMORE COUNTY

Dear Parents,

The Mountain Home School District has implemented Blackboard Connect so school leaders can stay connected to parents and staff and efficiently provide them with direction in the event of a district/school emergency. The system can be used to disseminate information on attendance and truancy issues, school closures, testing schedules, student performance, and volunteer programs, helping ensure parents and staff receive relevant information. In urgent situations, the district can quickly send accurate notifications and updates to parents and staff, helping to streamline efforts and keep students safe.

Using Blackboard Connect, school officials can record and send an unlimited number of personalized voice messages to home phones, businesses, and mobile phones in just minutes. The service also sends email, text messages (SMS) to mobile phones (standard text messaging rates apply), and posts on Facebook, RSS feeds, and Twitter channels. Messages can also be sent to TTY/TDD devices for people who are hearing impaired.

Parents can manage their message settings, including their preferred language, mode of contact, and specific message topics they wish to receive, through their parent portal in PowerSchool (https://powerschool.mtnhomesd.org/public/). Each student can have 10 phone numbers, 4 text messaging numbers (standard text messaging rates apply), and 4 email addresses in the system. The 2 primary phone numbers, all text messaging numbers, and all email addresses will be called with emergency information and school/district announcements. The remaining 8 numbers will only be called in emergency situations. The primary number will also be called with an attendance message when your student is absent. The primary phone number for your student in PowerSchool has been automatically added to the primary phone number in the emergency system. Please login to your PowerSchool Parent Portal and select Emergency Messaging to add, change, or remove numbers, email addresses, and text messaging information. If you have any questions or issues please call the school, or the district technology staff at (208) 580-9680.

The Mountain Home School District will be testing the Blackboard Connect platform on 12/18/2013. The district advises that it is testing the system based on the data provided by parents in PowerSchool. All numbers and email addresses in the system will receive the test message.

Sincerely yours,
MHSD

"Committed to Learning Today for Tomorrow's World"