

MOUNTAIN HOMES SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Mountain Home School District Launches Blackboard Connect to Enhance Emergency Preparedness and Communication

Parents and staff can register their contact information and preferences to receive urgent notifications and important updates

[Mountain Home, Idaho] – The Mountain Home School District has selected *Blackboard Connect* to facilitate important communication and emergency preparedness. The first district-wide test call will be held on December 18th.

The Mountain Home School District 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 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.

The Mountain Home School District will be testing the Blackboard Connect platform on 12/18/2013. The district advises that it is testing the service based on the data provided by parents. 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 (<http://north2k.mtnhomesd.org>). If you are a parent please login to your PowerSchool portal and select Emergency Messaging to add or remove numbers, email address, and text messaging information. If you are a community member who erroneously receives a call, please contact the school that sent the message or the district technology support staff at (208) 580-9680 to have your number removed or added to the service, as appropriate.