



Student Handbook

2023-2024

Mountain Home Junior High School Student Handbook

1600 East 6th South Mountain Home, ID 83647

208-587-2590 Fax: 208-587-2597

Principal: Ryan Kuntz
V.P.: Nick Chamber
Counselor: Jennifer Sirani
Counselor: Randall Lucas
Admin. Asst: Judy Blanchard

Attendance Sec: Emily Altenburger
Registrar: Amy Day
Receptionist: Stephanie Leopard
Activities Director: Nick Chamber

Mountain Home Junior High School

Let us hear your “ROAR” **RESPECTFUL**
OPEN MINDED
ACCOUNTABLE
RESILIENT

Respectful

- Show courtesy and respect to others
- Use acceptable language at all time, free of name calling, insults or profanity
- Take care of school grounds, property and equipment

Open Minded

- Share equipment and demonstrate good sportsmanship
- Leave toys, games, laser pens, personal electronic devices and other devices that distract from learning at home.
- Listen, follow directions, participate and cooperate

Accountable

- Eat in designated areas only and keep the school clean, free of litter
- Interact with each other safely without pushing or roughness
- Come to school and class on time, prepared to work and study
- Remain on school grounds from the time of arrival to dismissal- MJHS is a closed campus.

Resilient

- Settle differences without put-downs, threats, cyberbullying, bullying, harassment or fighting
- Ask staff for help as needed for conflict resolution
- Walk in a safe and orderly manner while on school property.

Activity Code of Conduct: Students participating in extracurricular and co-curricular activities, such as athletics, music, drama, club activities, and elected positions, should realize these are special opportunities. When visiting another school, students represent the pride and tradition of our school, coaches, and fellow participants; they are responsible for always conducting themselves according to the highest standards of behavior. If students violate the drug, alcohol, or tobacco policies, they will receive the consequences stated in the school rules.

Athletic Eligibility: A student must be marked present in at least four (4) of seven (7) periods on the day of competition or performance. Truant or suspended students are not allowed to participate or practice in any activity or athletic event.

Participants must be enrolled full-time, and have passing grades in all subjects. **They must also purchase an activity card.**

Attendance Policy- Students who do not attend ten (10) consecutive days will be unenrolled.

It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to contact the school as soon as possible to notify the school of their child's lengthy absence and to make arrangements to continue the child's education. Please call the Jr. High as close to 7:30 as possible to notify the school of absences. The phone number is 208 587-2590.

Prior to disenrolling a student, the school will send a letter to the most recent address on file informing the parent/guardian of the impending disenrollment. The letter will also inform the parent that the grade at the end of the tenth day will be the grade recorded in the student's cumulative/permanent record.

If a secondary student, especially those students who are in jeopardy of losing credits, withdraws from school ten (10) days before the end of semester, the student will need administrative approval for early completion of the semester.

- **Tardies:** As a part of being "Accountable," students are expected to arrive at class on time. If they arrive tardy and it is unexcused, students will receive tardy warnings. When they reach their 4th, 6th, and 8th tardy, they will receive a lunch detention. Any tardy thereafter will result in a lunch detention and/or an office referral.

Backpacks- Students are encouraged to only bring materials necessary to class and leave other belongings in their lockers. **Backpacks are not allowed in classrooms.**

Bicycles, Skateboards & Scooters- If you ride a bike to school, bikes and scooters need to be parked on the bike rack. Lock your bike or scooter. The school is not responsible for damage or theft while bikes are parked on campus. Skateboards may be used only for transportation to and from school, and must be locked in lockers. For safety reasons, none of these modes of transportation may be ridden or stood upon anywhere on campus.

Buying or Selling- No items are to be bought or sold without the consent and approval of the principal's office. Items will be confiscated without consideration for monetary loss.

Cafeteria/ Eating Area: Bring your lunch from home or take advantage of the Junior High's cafeteria selection. Students have a choice of full lunch in the cafeteria and a quick snack at the Snack Bar located by the front office. Free and reduced meals are available to those who qualify.

Our school-wide goal is to keep all shared eating areas neat and clean. Students are to take their place in line, advance in an orderly manner, and be well mannered while eating. All cafeteria items must be paid for when lunch is received. Money will not be loaned by the office. Continued infractions of cafeteria procedure will result in loss of this privilege.

There is no eating in the academic wings or gym area. Eating is allowed in the cafeteria and designated areas only. If litter becomes a problem in the eating areas, student wide privileges may be limited.

Canvas Learning Management System (CLMS): Teachers will maintain their Canvas site to allow students, parents, and administrative staff to access lessons, assignments, grades and communicate with teachers.

Cell Phones: Cell phones and other electronic devices, including headphones, can be used during the non-academic part of the day (Before school, during lunch, passing periods, after school) . During the academic times, students are encouraged to keep their cell phones in their lockers. Students must ask the teacher for permission to use their phones during class time.

- All students have a Chromebook (or personal device) on which to complete schoolwork. There is rarely an academic reason to access personal phones.
- Students will not take ANY pictures or videos on school campus or buses unless given explicit permission from administration (for example: photo students working on a project). This includes selfies.
- Students will not upload pictures/videos of other students to social media or websites without permission.
- Students will not record voice memos without permission.

1st Offense - The cell phone is submitted to the office. This is documented in Milepost and a warning is issued. The student can pick it up at the end of the day.

2nd Offense - The cell phone is submitted to the office. This is documented in Milepost, a parent/guardian is notified to pick it up.

3rd Offense - The cell phone is submitted to the office. This is documented in Milepost and a parent/guardian meeting is required.

Chromebooks

Every student will be issued a chromebook to use for academic purposes. Students are not allowed to bring their own computers without administrative permission. Students will be allowed to take them home in order to complete their homework. Once you are issued a chromebook, immediately change the password. **DO NOT** loan your chromebook to anyone and allow them to use your login. Students are responsible for taking proper care of their chromebooks. Any damage to the chromebooks will need to be paid for by the student. If damages occur on a persistent basis, the student may be limited to only using a chromebook at school or may lose access to a chromebook altogether. **Chromebook Protection Plans can be purchased. The plans can be purchased on the webstore page on the junior high website.**

Class Changes- Requests for 1st semester changes may be made immediately following registration. No class changes will be made after August 18th, 2023. Requests for the 2nd semester will begin 5 days preceding the start of the new semester (January 8th, 2024) until the third day of classes (January 11th, 2024).

Penalty: After the deadline, the only option is to drop the class with an F and receive a NC semester grade for the added class.

Classroom Procedure & General Conduct: Students are expected to always behave in a manner that will bring credit to themselves, their teams, school, family, and community. It is important for students to recognize that they are responsible for their behavior on the way to and from school, during school hours, on the bus and at all school events.

Mountain Home staff and adult volunteers help to monitor student behavior and provide a safe and productive learning environment. We want students to develop habits of mind that reinforce respect and responsibility.

Daily Schedule: The building opens for students at 7:40 daily. If a student needs to be in the building before 7:40 we ask them to check-in at the office or with a faculty member on duty. Students needing leave requests should check in with their teacher before going to the school office. The doors will be locked at 4:00 P.M. each day. There will be no unnecessary loitering in the building after 3:30 P.M.

Daily Schedule								
1st Period	2nd Period	3rd Period	4th Period	Lunch (7th)	6th Period (7th)	7th Period	8th Period	
7:50-8:44	8:48-9:40	9:44-10:38	10:42-11:34	11:34-12:04	12:09-1:00	1:05-1:57	2:01-2:55	
				5th Period (8th)	Lunch (8th)			
				11:38-12:30	12:30-1:00			
Collaboration Schedule - Wednesday								
1st Period	2nd Period	3rd Period	4th Period	Lunch (7th)	6th Period (7th)	7th Period	8th Period	Advisory
8:10-8:58	9:03-9:51	9:56-10:44	10:49-11:37	11:37-12:07	12:11-12:59	1:04-1:52	1:56--2:45	2:45-2:55
				5th Period (8th)	Lunch (8th)			
Collaboration 7:30-8:00				11:41-12:29	12:29-12:59			
1:30 Schedule								
1st Period	2nd Period	3rd Period	4th Period	Lunch (7th)	6th Period (7th)	7th Period	8th Period	
7:50-8:30	8:34-9:14	9:18-9:58	10:02-10:42	10:42-11:13	11:17-11:57	12:02-12:42	12:46-1:30	
				5th Period (8th)	Lunch (8th)			
				10:46-11:26	11:26-11:57			
Assembly Schedule								
1st Period	2nd Period	3rd Period	4th Period	Lunch (7th)	6th Period (7th)	7th Period	8th Period	Assembly
7:50-8:35	8:39-9:24	9:28-10:12	10:16-11:01	11:01-11:31	11:35-12:20	12:24-1:09	1:13-1:58	1:58-2:55
				5th Period (8th)	Lunch (8th)			
				11:05-11:50	11:50-12:20			

Discipline: For any organization to function properly, there must be certain expectations for performance. Mountain Home Junior High School has expectations of behavior that will provide for an orderly school atmosphere. Our goal is to develop students who are self-disciplined and able to make good judgments about acceptable behavior. Our philosophy is that no student should be allowed to disrupt the learning of another student. Mountain Home utilizes a discipline policy which is explained by each individual teacher to each class at the beginning of the school year. Rules and expectations for behavior are posted in the classroom. Additionally, there are school wide expectations throughout the campus that will be explained at the beginning of the year by school staff.

Dress Code- Students are encouraged to “dress for success” and come to school properly prepared to participate in the education process. Clothing worn to school should be comfortable and appropriate for school activities.

1. Clothing and jewelry with writing or designs that depict prejudice, sexual innuendos, pornography, violence (including guns), unlawful acts, tobacco, drugs or alcohol are prohibited.
2. Clothing that reveals underwear or bare stomach and or back is prohibited, including spaghetti straps and tank tops with narrow straps. Pants should be worn above the buttocks.
3. Chains, large rings, jewelry, belts or shoes that may be used as weapons are not allowed on campus.
4. Clothing or property that displays gang related symbols, emblems, or other gang identifiers are prohibited.
5. Sunglasses may not be worn in the building unless required for medical reasons.
6. Clothing shorter than mid-thigh, regardless of under garments, are prohibited.
7. Bandanas, hats, hoods, slippers, pajamas, clothing with holes above the mid-thigh are prohibited.
8. Capes and flags worn as capes are not permitted.

Violations- The following will be the steps to correcting a dress code violation:

1. Administrative conference and correction of the problem (change or turn inside out).
2. We will make every effort to provide the violating student with loaner clothing (if needed) in order to return to class. Inappropriate clothing will be labeled and can be picked up after school from the campus supervisor or an administrator.
3. If proper clothing cannot be provided by MHJH, the student will remain in the quiet room until the parent can provide a change of clothes.

Drugs - Mountain Home Junior High follows the District guidelines restricting the possession, use or distribution of drugs, alcohol, vapor cigarettes, and tobacco. Local law enforcement may be involved with any student that uses, distributes or is in possession of illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco or vapes. Please refer to the section below titled **Medications** that addresses proper protocols for students who need access to over the counter or prescription medications.

Emergency Management plan: Throughout the year, students and staff will be practicing lockdown, bomb threats and fire drills, etc. Students who refuse to follow safety procedures or comply with staff instructions will receive appropriate consequences based on their behavior.

Extra curricular activities attendance.

One of the more popular opportunities as a junior high student is to participate or watch your classmates' involvement in school sponsored activities. Whether it be sports, concerts or dances, you have the opportunity to hang out with your friends and support your classmates in these activities. Even though these activities are after school, rules still apply while you are attending these events.

1. In order to attend these activities, a student must have been in attendance at school for at least 4 periods of the day. Students who were suspended that day, in school or out of school, will not be allowed to attend the event.
2. Stay in the designated areas where the event is taking place. Whether the event is at the football stadium or the gymnasium, you need to stay in these areas until the event is over or when you are ready to leave. Areas outside of the designated areas (hallways, playground, parking lot) are not for loitering. If you leave the event you will not be allowed to return.

3. Be positive! Cheer on your team. Be respectful to the opposing team and their fans. Booing and heckling others will not be tolerated.
4. Be mindful of those around you. Vulgar and inappropriate language will not be tolerated. Please clean up after yourself when you leave the event.
5. At the end of the event, please make sure to have a ride to pick you up within a reasonable time. Staff members cannot leave until everyone has left the school.

DANCES

Dances are for current Mountain Home Junior High students only. Students who wish to participate must have attended at least four periods of class the day of the dance. If a student was assigned ISS on the day of the dance, they will not be permitted to attend. Students must also bring their current ID card to get into the dance. Dances are a privilege and only students who demonstrate good behavior will be able to attend. Dance attendance is at the discretion of the administration.

Attending after school activities is a privilege. Don't lose your privileges by disregarding these expectations.

Lockers- Lockers are a privilege and available to all students for book and backpack storage. The student will need to be responsible and allow themselves enough time to go to their locker and get to classes on time. All combinations should be kept a secret! The school assumes no responsibility for locker security. The abuse of any locker could result in it being taken away. The school still retains ownership of the locker while it is in use by the student. Therefore, the staff has the right to check any locker at any time. Students should only store items in lockers that are appropriate for school.

Leave of Absence: If a student plans to be absent more than five consecutive days, a leave of absence form needs to be filled out two days prior to absence. If the absence will take place before finals, prior arrangements must be made. This request must be approved by the administration.

Lost and Found: It is helpful that all personal items such as clothing, books, sports equipment, etc. are clearly labeled in indelible ink. The school cannot be responsible for any of these items. Items turned in to the office that are plainly marked will be returned to the owner. Unmarked items will be placed in Lost and Found (located by the bus doors). Please check in the bins if you have lost something. Unclaimed items are donated to worthy charities.

Make-up Work: Papers, assignments, tests announced while the student was in attendance prior to the absence should be handed in on the day the student returns to school. Unless previously contracted with an instructor, a student will be allowed two (2) consecutive days for each day of an excused absence to make up for missed work. Make-up time **will not exceed 5 consecutive school days** from the time a student returns to school following an absence. Make-up work may not be allowed for unexcused absences or unverified absences. Because of the nature of some participatory classes make-up work cannot be performed.

Medications.

Medication Policy for Mountain Home Junior High Students

If a student requires medication during the school day, the following guidelines must be followed:

Prescription Medications

- 1) Written consent from a parent/guardian is required.
- 2) Written consent from a physician is required.
- 3) Medication must be in its original container.
- 4) Medication must be stored and dispensed from the office.

Over the Counter Medications

- 1) Written consent from a parent/guardian is required.
- 2) Medication must be in its original container.
- 3) Medication must be stored and dispensed from the office.

Please contact the School Administration if you have any questions regarding this policy.

Network Services: MHSD refers to Mountain Home School District. Network refers to network services, which includes voice and data information equipment, software, and the Internet. *Computers and the school district network are tools for students and staff to use for educational purposes to assist in meeting curriculum goals and objectives. Users are expected to abide by the generally accepted computer and network rules.*

PROMOTION PROCEDURES/CREDITS: The Idaho State Department of Education has required that the Local Educational Agency (LEA) must implement a credit system no later than grade seven. Idaho Administrative Code IDAPA 08.02.03

1. Attendance- All students in Mountain Home School District shall be in attendance for at least 90% of the school days each semester.
2. Students enrolled in grades 7 and 8 in the Mountain Home School District must pass with 11 out of 14 semester credits or 22 out of 28 quarter credits (80% of credits offered) in order to be promoted to the next grade level and/or high school. Students will not be allowed to lose a full year of credit in one academic area. The ASAP panel may establish an alternate mechanism to determine eligibility for grade level promotion. The alternate mechanism shall require the student to demonstrate proficiency of the appropriate content standards. If the ASAP panel determines that students are required to complete credits for promotion to the next grade level, then these credits for recovery can be obtained through summer school, online courses (IDLA), or correspondence courses. Parents will be responsible for the tuition of recovery credits.

Non Academic Items: Students are discouraged from bringing non academic items to school that could be considered a hindrance to the academic environment. Items such as lasers, toys and other items that have no academic value may be confiscated if they become a distraction to the academic environment.

Public Displays Of Affection/No Touch - Students are to keep their hands and feet to themselves. This includes, but is not limited to, public displays of affection, holding hands, kissing, horseplay, pushing, shoving or bumping into each other. Depending upon the severity, No Touch violations can be minor or major violations of the school discipline policy.

School Counselor: Counseling services are available to all students. Services are provided on an individual basis, in small groups, and in a classroom setting. These services assist students with problem solving skills, decision making, and self-understanding. The better a student understands his or herself, the better able he or she is to respond to a problem, or to achieve personal growth. The school counselor is available to help each student and parent with development in three main areas: academic, career, and personal/social. To visit with the counselor, please sign up in the front office.

Society of Academic Excellence: The Academic Excellence Society (AES) is dedicated to recognizing and encouraging outstanding junior high school students in grades 7-8. Being a member of the Academic Excellence Society shows that you are among the best students in your class, not just in academics but also in terms of leadership, good character, and citizenship.

To be considered for membership in the Mountain Home Junior High School Academic Excellence Society, a student must satisfy the following:

- Have attended the junior high 1st thru 3rd quarter
- Attained a GPA (grade point average) of 3.75 or above for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarters.
- Maintained attendance as defined by the Mountain Home School District (present 90%) or more of the school days for the year)
- Leadership skills, good character, and citizenship qualities
- No major discipline referrals.
- Have high moral standards in congruence with the ideals of AES

State Assessments: Each spring, students will participate in the State's achievement test - the *Idaho Standard Achievement Test* or ISAT. They will be given grade level Math and English/Language Arts assessments. The results of the tests will help monitor student yearly progress. Student results will be made available to parents along with a brochure from the State that will provide parents with guidance on understanding their student's score report.

Student Guest Policy: Unfortunately, no student guests are permitted on campus due to district liability and insurance.

Violent Acts: Threats, written or verbal, or acts including **bullying**, **cyber-bullying**, and **physical abuse**, violent or potentially violent, which pose a threat to the **health** and **safety** of students, staff members, or visitors, or are disruptive to the educational process of the Mountain Home School District, will result in formal suspension procedures and referred to the Board of Trustees for possible expulsion.

1. **Harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying/cyber-bullying**, including, but not limited to, any intentional gesture or any intentional written, verbal, or physical acts or **threats**, against another student may be committed through any technology included, but not limited to, the use of landlines, car phones or wireless telephones, or through the use of data or computer software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, or computer network.
2. If **cyber-bullying** was committed by a student away from school grounds, the building principal or designee may report the incident to local law enforcement. In addition, school authorities have the right to impose a consequence on a student for conduct away from school grounds, including on a school bus or at a school-sponsored function. **Students involved in cyberbullying may lose the privilege of having their cell phone on school grounds!**

Weapons: Bringing weapons on campus is strictly prohibited. Law enforcement will be involved if someone brings a weapon on campus and may be referred for district review for possible expulsion.

Withdrawing from School: If you are leaving school, a parent/guardian must come to the counseling office, provide the last day you will be attending and where you are relocating, and sign the district withdrawal form.

TITLE I HOME-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Effective schools are a result of families and school personnel working together to ensure that children are successful in school. This partnership is an agreement between several groups that firmly unites them.

Title I Vision Statement

The Title I staff of Mountain Home School District believes that all children can achieve academic success and grow to be productive citizens. Parents, students, and the Title I staff play a vital role in this process.

Title I Staff will:

- ◆ Inform the classroom teacher of the needs and abilities of the student.
- ◆ Use time and materials to increase student achievement.
- ◆ Regularly communicate with parents/ students/teacher about student progress.

Parent(s) will:

- ◆ Ensure that my child attends school regularly and is on time.
- ◆ Monitor the amount and content of my child's television watching.
- ◆ Read with my child every day or as often as possible.
- ◆ Attend school functions (Open House, programs, etc).
- ◆ Volunteer at school or provide assistance when possible.

Student will:

- ◆ Believe that I can and will learn
- ◆ Be responsible for my own behavior

Changes to policy, procedures, rules, etc. may occur after our handbook has been sent for publication. Our school will follow the most current publication. Visit our school website for the most current policies, procedures and handbook updates.