

# Mountain Home Junior High School Student Handbook

1600 East 6<sup>th</sup> South Mountain Home, Id. 83647 208-587-2590 Fax: 208-587-2597

---

Principal: Dan Cochran  
V.P./AD: Nick Schamber  
Counselor: Jennifer Sirani  
SRO: Amber Staple

Attendance Sec.: A.J. Koehler  
Registrar: Amy Day  
Receptionist: Danielle Tabor  
Admin. Asst. Judy Blanchard

## ***A Message from the Principal...***

Mountain Home Junior High would like to welcome you and your student to our school. Whether you are returning, or this is your first year at the junior high, we are excited to connect with you and your student so that we can support the needs and goals of all our learners. The start of the school year always brings some excitement and anxiety. With it come the opportunities to set new goals, make new friends, and develop new habits which lead to success.

As a staff, we are confident that Mountain Home Junior High will challenge your student academically and help him or her to develop socially. Our focus as a staff this year will be the implementation of the Common Core standards, furthering our work on the development and implementation of literacy and mathematics strategies across the curriculum, and the continued use of assessments strategies to increase student learning.

Forging a strong relationship between the school and home is beneficial to student performance and academic growth. Please take advantage of the formal and informal opportunities that you will have to become involved at the Mountain Home Junior High. The student handbook is a resource that will serve as a reference and as a communication tool between home and school. For a complete version of the handbook, a student handbook link can be found on the school webpage, or a copy can be picked up in the front office.

Dan Cochran, Principal

## **Philosophy**

- To encourage students to look beyond high school and expose them to different career fields
- To prepare students with academic and social skills that will help them overcome adversity and obstacles they may face as young adults
- To provide students with life-long study habits and social skills they can use in all aspects of their lives

**District Mission Statement:** Educating today's students for tomorrow's world.

**District Vision Statement:** The Mountain Home School District, with the cooperation of the students, parents, and the community, will offer a quality education that has value and meaning for each student. Caring, quality teachers will instill a thirst for knowledge and will challenge each student's potential to the highest level. We will offer a curriculum that is challenging and diversified in which students are eager to learn because it is relevant to their futures. Our students will have the skills and knowledge to become responsible, contributing members of society who are excited about life and the possibilities ahead.

# Mountain Home Junior High School

## Follow “The Tiger Way”

### BE RESPECTFUL

Mountain Home students are expected to:

- Show courtesy and respect to others.
- Always use acceptable language- free of name calling, insults or profanity.
- Settle differences without put-downs, threats, cyberbullying, bullying, harassment or fighting.
- Ask staff for help as needed for conflict resolution.
- Eat in designated areas only and keep the school clean and free of litter.
- Interact with each other safely without pushing or roughness.
- Share equipment and demonstrate good sportsmanship.
- Remain on school grounds from the time of arrival to dismissal- MHJHS is a closed campus.
- Take care of school grounds, property, and equipment.

### BE RESPONSIBLE AND BE READY

Mountain Home Junior High students take responsibility for the task of learning. **They are expected to:**

- Come to school and class on time, prepared to work and study.
- Listen, follow directions, participate and cooperate.
- Walk in a safe and orderly manner in school buildings.
- Leave toys, games, radios, laser pens, iPods and other electronic devices that distract from learning at home.

**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.

Clothing must cover undergarments and the midriff. Clothing which promotes alcohol, tobacco, gang affiliation, nudity or profanity is not allowed.

1. Clothing and jewelry with writing or designs that depict prejudice, unlawful acts, tobacco, drugs, or alcohol are prohibited.
2. Clothing that reveals underwear or bare midriff is prohibited, including spaghetti straps and tank tops. Pants should be worn above the buttocks.
3. Chains, large rings, jewelry, 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 still unacceptable.
7. Prohibited dress attire includes bandanas, hats, slippers, pajamas, clothing with holes above the knee.

**Violations-** the following will be the disciplinary policy regarding not adhering to the dress code:

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 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. Student with major violation will wait for parents to bring proper attire. If parents cannot bring proper attire, student will remain in the Quiet Room.

**Backpacks-** Students are encouraged to bring only materials necessary for class and school activities. Students will not be assigned lockers.

**Bicycles, Skateboards & Scooters-** if you ride a bike to school, you can park it in the bike rack. Lock your bike. The school is not responsible for damage or theft while bikes are parked on campus. Skateboards and scooters may be used only for transportation to and from school, For safety reasons, none of these modes of transportation may be ridden or stood upon anywhere on campus. During school hours, they may be kept in the front office.

**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.

**Class Changes-** Requests for 1<sup>st</sup> semester changes may be made immediately following registration. No class changes will be made after August 20, 2021. Requests for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester will begin five days preceding the start of the new semester (January 5, 2022). No class changes will be made after January 11, 2022.

**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.

**Student Attendance Policy-** Due to ADA formula calculations and the less than desirable financial situation of the school district, students absent for ten (10) days or more count against the funding received. To help improve this area of school funding, all students who are absent for ten (10) days or more without a doctor's note or who are home/hospital bound will be disenrolled from school.

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.

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.

## **Mountain Home Junior High School**

### **Important Items to Know**

**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.

**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 they 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.

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

**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 with the bins if you have lost something. Unclaimed items are donated to worthy charities.

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

**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 or 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, either inside or outside, student wide privileges will be limited.

**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.

**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.

**Cell Phones:** Cell phones and other electronic devices can be used during the non-academic part of the day. Cell phones are not to be used during class time unless it's for educational purposes and the teacher has given students permission. Educational purposes **do not** include texting or calling and receiving phone calls. Each classroom teacher has their own expectations for students to follow. Also, unauthorized recording is not permitted. Phones that are confiscated during class may be picked up by a parent at the front office.

**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 using 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 cyber-bullying may lose the privilege of having their cell phone on school grounds!**

**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.

**Response to Intervention (RTI):** The core curriculum is effective for most students; however, there are times that additional interventions are needed to help students succeed. RTI is a process designed to assist students struggling with basic core educational concepts in the areas of Reading, Language, and Mathematics.

**Activity Code of Conduct:** Students participating in extracurricular and co-curricular activities, such as athletics, music, drama, club activities, and elected positions, must realize these are special opportunities that in most cases will only happen during high school years. When visiting another school, students represent the pride and tradition of their 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, tobacco policies, they will receive the consequences stated in the school rules.

**Student Eligibility:** A student must be in marked present at least four (4) of seven (7) periods all 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.

**Society of Academic Excellence:** The Society for Academic Excellence recognizes students with a 3.75 or higher-grade point average at semester, with attributes of leadership, character, service, and citizenship.

**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 and 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, IDLA, online courses, or correspondence courses. Parents will be responsible for the tuition of recovery credits.

**Request for 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 arrangement must be made. This request must be approved by the administration.

**Procedure for 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 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 will not be allowed

for unexcused absences or unverified absences. Because of the nature of some participatory classes make-up work cannot be performed.

**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.

**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.

**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.