

2026-2027 Student Handbook



A Caring Community of Learners
Committed to Excellence
Audrey Moralez, Principal
(970)254-7000

WELCOME

Welcome to Redlands Middle School. We are extremely proud of our school, and we encourage you to make the most of your time with us. We hope that you will be involved and take great pride in our accomplishments.

During this learning time in your development, we will work together with you and your parents to help you grow socially, academically, and organizationally. Every staff member at RMS is here to help you feel safe so that you can grow and learn every day. Please ask for help with academic, social, or safety issues if ever you feel confused, frustrated or unsafe. You are our priority every day!

Our mission at Redlands Middle School is to constantly work to be

**A Caring Community of
Learners Committed to
Excellence.**

**Si Usted desea una explicación en
español de este artículo por favor llame
a la oficina: ELPA/ESL 257-7101.
Estamos para servirles.**

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

RMS Phone Number **254-7000**
Address: 2200 Broadway/Grand Junction, CO 81507
School Website: <https://rms.d51schools.org/>

Communication with teachers is most efficient via email. Students or parents are encouraged to email.

STUDENT SERVICES

GUIDANCE

Students are encouraged to visit with the counselors for personal guidance and for information on grades, study help, and testing programs.

The counselors are available to discuss any home, school, or social concerns. Students may drop by the counseling center and leave a note for a counselor. The counselors will come and excuse you from class at an appropriate time. Additionally, both counselors may be reached by calling the main phone number, or by e-mail.

LOCKERS

Lockers are provided as a convenience to students. Students are responsible for keeping their lockers clean and orderly. No permanent decorations are allowed on the outside of the locker. Any decorations that are applied to the inside of the locker must meet school code of conduct rules, and must be thoroughly removed at the end of the year. Please remember that all lockers remain the property of the school, and that they can be opened

and the contents examined by school personnel if the situation warrants doing so.

Students should NOT share their locker combinations with others; doing so may result in theft. The school is not responsible for items stolen from your locker. A student whose locker is consistently jammed may lose the privilege of having a locker. Additionally, **all items placed on top of lockers, or left unsupervised around the school may be stolen, thrown away, or damaged.** You are responsible for taking care of your items. Locker assignments, combinations, and changes will be handled through your core teachers.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL/BAND ROOM USAGE

Students should not arrive on campus prior to 7:30 A.M. unless you ride an early bus or have made special arrangements with a teacher or administrator. **Students may not be in the music rooms (or any classroom) without the teacher present.** Students with band instruments may enter the band room after 7:35 A.M. to drop off instruments.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Breakfast and lunch are free to all students. Breakfast is provided each morning beginning at 7:30 A.M. Microwaves are available in the lunchroom for student use. Students are not allowed to use phones or other electronic devices in the building during school hours.

RMS Caring Community Expectations

SOAR TO ACHIEVE

S – SAFETY

O – OWNERSHIP

A – ACCEPTANCE

R – RESPECT

EXPECTATIONS AND SUPPORT FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Redlands Middle School strives to maintain an atmosphere which enhances the potential for success of every student. Our commitment to learning includes the following concepts:

- Students and staff must be guaranteed a physically and emotionally safe and disruptive-free learning environment.
- Safety, Ownership, Acceptance, and Respect are the underlying principles that support our learning environment.
- Rules are publicized, explained, and equitably enforced.

At Redlands Middle School, we believe in cooperation, courtesy, responsibility for one's actions, and sincere effort by everyone to do his or her best. School rules are derived from goals of respect for self, for property, and for others. In enforcing rules of our school, our district, and our state, the RMS staff believes students must understand that their actions do have consequences. As students become responsible for their own behavior, they develop the self-discipline necessary to become responsible citizens.

The Redlands Middle School mission statement "A Caring Community of Learners Committed to Excellence" supports and promotes our desired learning environment. To ensure this "commitment to excellence" within our environment, the RMS staff and parents must work cooperatively.

- All RMS staff are responsible for teaching students and for modeling S. O. A. R. in the classroom and throughout the school.
- Parental support of the school is essential to ensure that students respect and follow rules and expectations.
- Good attendance promotes high success, so parents and students must be responsible for regular school attendance.
- Students are to make choices and behave in ways that show concern for the safety of self and others; exhibit ownership for their

actions and pride in our school; model **acceptance** of others' differences and needs; and **respect** self, others, and property.

SOME BASIC EXPECTATIONS FOR SUCCESS (STAFF WILL REVIEW WITH STUDENTS DURING FIRST TWO WEEKS OF SCHOOL)

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are processes we want all students and staff to follow each day at RMS.

Morning Routine SOP

- Arrive before the first bell at 7:50 am.
- After arriving to school but prior to the first bell, all students should be in our pedestrian zone or cafeteria if you eat breakfast.
- Walk on sidewalks not grass.
- Once bell rings, travel with a purpose – do not wander. Follow our hallway SOPs.
- If you arrive late, check-in with front office and quickly go to class.

Hallway SOP

- Always walk on the right side of the hallway.
- Do not touch, write on, or alter hallway posters or trophy cases.
- Keep hands to yourself.
- Pickup any trash or items you see in the hallway.
- Do not jump to touch ceiling tiles or items hanging from the ceiling.
- Get to class quickly, move with a purpose.

CLASSROOMS

Students may not be in classrooms without a teacher present. Students need a pass in order to go to a classroom during lunch.

Lunchroom SOP

- Clean up after yourself and others. Do not throw food.
- Maximum of 8 students per table
- Stay in lunchroom unless you have a lunchroom pass.

- Stay in your seat during lunch unless using microwaves.
- No sharing of food or touching other students' food.
- Include others – no student sits alone at RMS.

Dress Code SOP

D51 Policy JICA "Student Dress Code"

- If a student is given a “dress code card” by a staff member, that is their pass to address the issue and go and change. They may go to their locker or call home for a change of clothes. Multiple dress code infractions may result in disciplinary action.
1. RESPECT -- Students will show respect for self, others (all adults and all students) and public property at all times. (See Policy #JIC)
 2. HALL PASSES – Any time you need to be out of your assigned class you must first report to your classroom teacher who will give you an appropriate pass. The pass must be carried visibly in the hallway, and students are to report only to the destination and then back to the assigned class.
 3. DISCIPLINE – When sent to the office for disciplinary reasons, report directly to the office secretary. After that is done, sit where she assigns you and follow her instructions completely until an administrator comes for you.
 4. DISORDERLY STUDENTS will be dealt with in a manner which allows all students to learn in a safe and disruptive-free environment. Law enforcement may be notified. (See Policy #JKD/JKE-E)
 5. DISCRIMINATION (or discriminatory slurs) on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability will not be tolerated and may result in parent/guardian contact and suspension. Law enforcement may be notified. (See Policy #AC, JB)
 6. HARRASSMENT OR BULLYING of any kind (verbal or physical) will not be tolerated and will result in parent/guardian contact and shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Law enforcement may be notified. (See Policy #JICDE)

(In order to provide both physical and emotional safety, we ask that students keep their hands to themselves – show respect for others’ personal space – and refrain from physical rough-housing.)

For the sake of safety, it is critical that students report any harassment or bullying they witness on the day it happens.

7. POSSESSION OF A KNIFE (including pocket knives) or any DANGEROUS WEAPON will result in parent/guardian notification, suspension and/or possible expulsion, and possible notification of law enforcement. (See Policy JICI)
8. FIGHTING will result in parent/guardian contact, suspension, and possible notification of law enforcement.
9. VANDALISM – Defacing public property is a crime. Students will be responsible for the cost of cleaning or repair. Parent/guardian will be contacted with possible suspension and notification of law enforcement.
10. All students are expected to be ethical in their school work. CHEATING OR PLAGIARISM will be cause for zeroes on an assignment, as well as possible suspension.
11. POSSESSION OR USE of ALCOHOL, DRUGS, or any other CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE is prohibited by law and will result in parent/guardian contact, suspension and/or expulsion, as well as notification of law enforcement. This includes substances that are not drugs or alcohol, but are represented as such. (See Policy #JICH-R)
12. POSSESSION AND/OR USE OF TOBACCO – 1st offense – parent contact and other appropriate consequence. Further offenses may result in suspension.
13. STUDENT DRESS: The purpose of the dress code and the discipline policies is to prepare students to participate in the community and the workplace and to teach students appropriate standards of dress of the community and the workplace.
14. HATS – Hats are not to be worn in the building other than during a spirit “hat” day.
15. AFFECTION –Public displays of affection are inappropriate and result in parent/guardian contact and may result in disciplinary action.

16. Students may LEAVE CAMPUS FOR LUNCH only with their parent/guardian. Parents/guardians must sign the student out at the main office and upon return sign the student back in.
17. If you FIND OR LOSE AN ITEM OF VALUE, report it to the office. **(If a student has property in his/her possession that does not belong to them, it may be considered stolen.)** All thefts need to be reported at the office. Consequences can include parent contact, suspension & law enforcement notification.
18. LEAVE VALUABLES AT HOME. Please do not bring more cash to school than is necessary for lunch or a school social. We cannot help students recover lost or stolen valuables.
19. ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Cell phones: At RMS cell phones should be in lockers between 7:50 – 3:15 pm, including during lunch.

Airpods/earbuds are not allowed during the school day at RMS.

Students are not allowed to use phones or other electronic devices in the building during school hours.
20. GUEST TEACHERS – Substitute teachers are certified teachers and guests in our building. It is essential for us to treat them with the highest level of respect and dignity. Appropriate disciplinary action will occur for any act of disrespect or disruption in a guest teacher’s class.
21. INSUBORDINATION – Students are to immediately comply with any reasonable request made by an adult staff member of RMS. Failure to do so will result in appropriate disciplinary action. Be courteous when you talk to others.
22. SELF-ADVOCACY – If a staff member’s request or decision seems unfair or is based on misinformation, students are to follow a proper procedure (listed below) to advocate for their needs.
 1. Comply with the request.
 2. Speak privately with the staff member making the request, respectfully stating your case.
 3. If step 2 did not resolve the issue, (provided the student still complied respectfully with the request) see an administrator for further assistance.

If at any time you feel you have been treated unfairly, please see a teacher or make an appointment with one of our counselors or an administrator.

23. **RIGHT to APPEAL** – If a student believes a decision made by school personnel is unfair or in violation of board or school rules or policy, he/she should speak with an administrator. Your rights matter to all of us at RMS.

24. **HABITUALLY DISRUPTIVE STUDENTS** – Under Colorado House Bill 1203, a student will be declared “habitually disruptive” if he or she has been suspended three times during the course of the school year for causing a material and substantial disruption in the classroom, on school grounds, or at school activities or events because of student behavior that was initiated, willful and overt.

The above policies are a condensed version of the Mesa County Valley School District #51 Board of Education Policies and Regulations. The policies/regulations are most easily searched on the school district web site (www.mesa.k12.co.us) by clicking on “Board” and then “Policies”.

SAFE2TELL/CRIMESTOPPERS

The Safe2Tell Hotline was developed in response to the Columbine Commission’s recommendations and gives students in all Colorado schools an increased ability to both prevent and report violence by making anonymous calls or texts to 1-877-542-7233. This number is available 24 hours a day and do not have caller ID.

ATTENDANCE

Student success in school is directly tied to attendance. Responsibility for attending class lies with the student and parent/s.

Absences

Under provisions of the Colorado School Attendance Law, the principal has the responsibility to approve or disapprove student absences. According to district policies JEA & JEA-R: A child with four (4) unexcused absences a month or ten (10) unexcused absences during the school year is considered to be “habitually truant.” An excused absence can be obtained by: providing medical sources authenticating the legitimacy of past absences, legitimate advanced

parental permission, absence approved by the administrator of student’s school, or matters of an emergency nature. Unless appropriately documented, student absences shall be unexcused.

If a student is absent from class, he/she must do the following upon returning to school:

- 1. Bring a note from a parent or guardian stating the date(s) of the absence and the reason(s) for the absence to the attendance office. Alternatively, students may have their parent or guardian call the attendance office and give the date(s) of the absence and the reason(s) for the absence.**
- 2. Upon return, stop by the office and obtain a class admit slip.**

Absences are coded as follows:

(EXC) *Excused/Approved-* Provided the parent/guardian calls the school on the day(s) of the absence(s) or provides a note with an appropriate reason for absence upon return to school. Present this note to the attendance secretary to receive an admit slip to class.

(UNX) *Unexcused/Unapproved-* Failure of a parent to call the office or provide a note with a proper excuse to verify the absence will result in an unapproved absence. Students need to report to the attendance secretary for an unapproved admit to class(es). Unapproved tardies include sleeping in and missing the bus.

(UNX) *Unexcused/Truancy-* A student is considered truant when he/she is absent without prior knowledge and approval of a parent/guardian. Truancy will result in parent contact and double the time missed make-up during after school detention.

(EXC) *Excused/Pre-Arranged-* If students are aware that they will need to miss school prior to the absence, a note signed by the parent/guardian noting the date(s) and reason for absence must be brought to the attendance office. According to school board policy, in determining whether to approve pre-arranged absences, the principal should consider a student’s attendance record, academic performance, and disciplinary history. Students will receive an Advance Notice of Absence form to take to their teachers for assignments.

(SUS) Suspension – Absences due to suspension from school.

Withdrawal- Please notify the attendance secretary at least one day before you need to withdraw. You will receive a withdrawal form at that time.

Tardies and Late Arrivals

If a student is tardy to school or class they must have an admittance slip. Admit slips may be obtained from the office. Tardies will be marked as excused or unexcused. Core teachers will determine appropriate consequences for unexcused tardies. In the event of excessive tardies, students will be referred to the principal's office.

Tardies and Late Arrivals are coded as follows:

(UNT) Unexcused Tardy – Student arrives late to a classroom with no written pass. Teacher will simply mark the student tardy.

(EXT) Excused Tardy – Student arrives late to a classroom and shows the teacher a written pass signed by an RMS staff member. Teacher will still mark the student tardy.

(LAU) Unexcused Late Arrival – Student arrives late to school and checks into the main office. He/she has no pass, or the note submitted simply says missed bus, slept in, etc.

(LAU) Excused Late Arrival – Student arrives late to school and checks into the main office. Student presents a written pass, signed by a parent or guardian, verifying the reason for the late arrival.

(ILL) Illness - Parent/guardian calls and reports student is ill. Medical professional communicates that the student is ill.

***Visitors-* Redlands Middle School maintains a disruptive-free learning environment. Therefore, student visitors are not allowed. Parents are always welcome to visit classrooms if they have made pre-arrangements. Out of town visitors may visit for lunch provided they are supervised by a Redlands parent (Parent must remain with the students).**

***General-* You must attend a complete day of school on a day you intend to participate in an after school activity unless your absence is**

due to a medical appointment and you present a doctor's note to the attendance secretary before participation. (Additionally, to attend school socials, 8th grade Bon Voyage, and other similar activities, you must be a full time student at RMS and in attendance at school the entire day.)

Appointments/Early Dismissal- In order to limit the disruption of our classrooms, we have a specific process for students/parents to follow in the event of early dismissal. 1) Parents please write a note specifying the date and time the dismissal should occur 2) Student should present this note to the teacher who will be in charge during the time of dismissal. 3) Parent need to sign-out the student through the main office personnel.

***See School Website for Make-up Work, Late Work, and Re-Assessment Policies**

SAFETY

Bikes, Skateboards, and Scooters

- * Students are advised to follow all safety precautions.
- * All bikes/skateboards should be locked to the bike rack during school hours. Redlands Middle School is not responsible for lost or stolen bikes/scooters/skateboards. Parents should retain all necessary information about bikes, including serial numbers. Your bike may be registered with the Mesa County Sheriff's Department.
- * Riding is forbidden in the bus loading area, the parking lot, and patio or sidewalk areas.
- * Unsafe riding procedures will result in loss of riding privileges.

Walking:

- * Walk facing traffic.
- * Be aware of intersection and parking lot traffic.
- * Please use the sidewalk along Hwy. 340 (Broadway)
- * Only enter school grounds on the designated sidewalks.
- * Cross any street or highway only at clearly marked crosswalks
- * It is very important that Redlands students maintain a good neighbor attitude throughout our community.

Bus Riding:

- **It is a privilege to ride the bus.** Proper behavior is expected at all times. Your choices may have grave consequences including losing your bus riding privilege for 60 or more school days.

Car Transportation

- * **Students are to be dropped off as far forward along the drop off zone as possible.**
- * **Please do not drop students in a double lane as this creates a safety concern.**
- * **Please do not drop off students in the parking lot.**
- * **Cars are not permitted in the bus lane which is located on the south side of the building.**
- * **Do not cross lanes or make U-turns.**
- * **Absolutely no parking along the front curb of the school. Parking along this curb creates a**

traffic jam during busy times. Additionally, this is part of our fire lane and should be clear of all unoccupied vehicles. Plenty of parking spaces are available in our lot.

General Safety Rules:

- * Avoid any activity which could endanger the health and safety of others, including physical rough-housing.
- * Items not allowed on school grounds or on your person: matches, lighters, knives of any kind/length, weapons, fireworks, tobacco, vapes, alcohol, drugs, facsimiles of drugs or alcohol (students pretending a substance is alcohol or drugs) or any other item which could endanger the lives and/or safety of yourself and/or others.

Personal Safety:

- * All students have the right to feel safe throughout the school day, including traveling to and from school.
- * Students that harass or bully others will be dealt with according to school and district policy.
- * Notify any staff member if you do not feel safe during school, or traveling to and from school.

GRADES, GRADE REPORTING AND MONITORING PROGRESS

Parent Vue is a great way for both parents/guardians and students to monitor their own grades and attendance (as well as lunch balance). Registration is free and simple! Please drop by or call the office for a registration form, fill it out, and return it. You may also print a form from the MCVSD #51 website, <https://vue.d51schools.org/>. In a few short days you will receive an e-mail with the information you need to log on.

Report Cards are available at the end of each nine-week quarter. Parents may view and print report cards from Parent Vue.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Interscholastic sports are for students in 7th and 8th grades only and are offered throughout the school year. Sports that are offered include girls' volleyball, girls' and boys' basketball, girls' and boys' track, and boys' wrestling. A \$70.00 fee for EACH sport, along with proof of health and accident insurance coverage AND permission slip are required for participation. If you are in need of

student accident or health insurance, please visit www.K12StudentInsurance.com or contact the office.

Physical exams are not required for middle school participation, however it is recommended. Good attitude and sportsmanship are necessary for continued participation in any sport.

Athletes MUST attend a full day of school to play in games. Please see the Athletic Handbook for all rules, regulations, and disciplinary information.

Habits of Mind

At RMS, we strive to improve ourselves each day. The Habits of Mind provide a consistent and common language for learners to analyze and reflect upon our choices. The 16 attributes of the Habits of Mind are:

Resilient

Persistence – Don't give up too soon; mistakes often happen before solutions arrive.

Striving for accuracy – Excellence over expediency; Check for errors.

Think and communicate with clarity and precision - Fuzzy language correlates with fuzzy thinking; strive to be accurate.

Resourceful

Think flexibly – Consider all options to solve a problem; be willing to change your perspective.

Question and pose problems – Pose hypotheses. Develop a questioning attitude.

Create, imagine and innovate – Be intrinsically motivated to seek alternative options and feedback.

Reasoning Think about your thinking -

Metacognition; be aware of your thoughts, thinking strategies, and actions.

Apply past knowledge to new situations – Not every new lesson requires starting over with your thinking.

Gather information through all five senses – Learning isn't limited to sight and hearing.

Reflective

Remain open to continuous learning – Remain open to new ideas, even on a topic you've covered.

15. Respond with wonderment and awe – Be detail-aware and curious, intrigued by the world's beauty, nature's power and, the vastness of the universe.

Find humor in learning – Find humor in a positive, social way, not in other's misfortune.

Responsibility

Take responsible risks – Be different and think differently instead of sticking to the status quo. Be willing to try something new and different.

Manage impulsivity – Have self-discipline and persistence; take time to consider options; remain calm when stressed.

Listen with understanding and empathy – Try to see things from others' point of view.

Think interdependently – Work cooperatively with others and welcome their input.

Source: http://www.chsvt.org/wdp/Habits_of_Mind.pdf



*How can you contribute to our
"Caring Community of Learners Committed
to Excellence"*

We are Redlands!

RMS EXPECTATIONS

- **Expectation #1: Students will leave cell phones in their locker between the hours of 7:50 - 3:15. No cell phones during breakfast in the cafeteria or in the building during the school day.**
- **Expectation #2: Students will respect people, property, and personal space.**

Rule Violation: Arguing, back-talking, ignoring, and/or saying no, touching others, breaking property or supplies, failure to respect someone's locker space, intimidation, throwing objects, engaging in deliberate acts to annoy/tease/provoke/bother peers, teasing, taunting, put-downs, profanity, or name calling.

Extreme Rule Violation: Loud, hostile language, fighting, cheating, theft, vandalism, destruction of property, bullying, sexual harassment.

- **Expectation #3: Students will transition respectfully, be on time, and use a hall pass if leaving class.**

Rule Violation: rough housing, yelling, throwing items, loitering, walking friends to classes, running in the hall, don't waste time in the restroom.

Extreme Rule Violation: Physical aggression, excessive tardies.