

MHS

2024-2025 Student Handbook



129 Hwy 71 SW
Mountainburg, AR 72946
www.mountainburg.org

MOUNTAINBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS **2024-2025 School Calendar** Approved 4/15/24

June 1- Aug 5 Contract Days 1 & 2 FLEX PD
 July 4-5 Vacation
 Aug 5 Contract Day #3—PD
 Aug 6 Contract Day #4—PD
 Aug 7 Contract Day #5—PD
 Aug 8 Contract Day #6 ELEM OH/HS/MS PD
 Aug 9 Contract Day #7 Elem PD/HS/MS OH
 Aug 12 1st Quarter Begins
 Sept 2 Labor Day
 Sept 27 Homecoming
 Sept 30 Contract Day #8 PD
 Oct 12 Fall Festival
 Oct 14 Vacation Day
 Oct 16 1st Quarter Ends (45 days)
 Oct 17 2nd Quarter begins
 Oct 21 PT Conferences 2:30-6:30
 Oct 22 PT Conferences 2:30-6:30
 Nov 25-29 Thanksgiving Break
 Dec 20 2nd Quarter Ends (42 Days)
 Dec 23-Jan 3 Christmas Break
 Jan 6 3rd Quarter Begins
 Jan 20 Contract Day #9 PD
 Feb 14 Vacation Day
 Feb 17 Contract Day #10 PD
 Mar 12 3rd Quarter Ends (45 days)
 Mar 13 4th Quarter Begins
 Mar 17 PT Conferences 2:30-6:30
 Mar 18 PT Conferences 2:30-6:30
 March 24-28 Spring Break
 May 11 Baccalaureate
 May 16 Graduation
 May 22 4th Q Ends (46 days)
 May 26 Memorial Day

Days in 1st Qtr	45	Days in 3rd Qtr	45
Days in 2nd Qtr	42	Days in 4th Qtr	46
Days in 1st Sem	87	Days in 2nd Sem	91
Total Class Days	178		
Scheduled PD	7		
Flex PD	2		
Work Day/Open House	1		
PT Conference Days	2		
Total Contract Days	190		

Missed Days of Instruction
 Five additional days or 30 additional hours
 May 23, May 27, May 28, May 29, May 30*

*MPS utilizes an alternative calendar. In the event the number of school days missed due to inclement weather, power outages, etc. causes the District to not meet the required number of hours, additional days will be scheduled at the end of the school year calendar to meet the required 1068 hours of annual instruction.

The Superintendent and School Board shall have the authority to amend the calendar in the event of excessive days missed.

July 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Professional Development

Grading Period Begins

Grading Period Ends

Parent Teacher Conferences

Vacation

Mountainburg Board of Education

Mr. Jason Watkins, Mrs. Shari Moxley, Mrs. Emily Bassham, Mr. Boyd Mize, Mrs. Terra Becker

Mountainburg Schools District Office

(479)-369-2121 Fax: (479) 369-2138 Special Education Office: (479) 369-4442

Superintendent of Schools	Dr. Debbie Atwell	debbie.atwell@mountainburg.org
District Business Mngr/Treasurer	Mrs. Chasity Powell	chasity.powell@mountainburg.org
District Technology Coordinator	Mr. Scott Organ	scott.organ@mountainburg.org
District School Resource Officer	Mr. Jayson Peppas	jayson.peppas@mountainburg.org
Special Education Supervisor	Mrs. Sarah Walker	sarah.walker@mountainburg.org

Mountainburg High School

Office (479) 369-2146 Fax: (479) 369-2845

High School Principal	Mrs. Courtney Cristee	courtney.cristee@mountainburg.org
Student Performance Specialist	Mr. Darren Jones	chop.jones@mountainburg.org
High School Counselor	Mrs. Whitney Mirus	whitney.mirus@mountainburg.org
High School Secretary	Mr. Roger Atwell	roger.atwell@mountainburg.org

TO THE PARENT/GUARDIAN

On behalf of all faculties, we are happy to welcome you to Mountainburg Public Schools! This handbook has been prepared to explain and clarify the procedures, policies, and regulations at MPS in accordance with code 6-18-502 of state law. The policies are board adopted and on file with DESE. Additional policies and procedures that are not covered in this handbook will be published on the school website. All the policies contained herein are meant to be non-discriminating as to race, creed, or handicap.

Please review this handbook and discuss the regulations with your child. This handbook is not meant to be comprehensive or all-inclusive. School personnel are not limited to the means described in their capacity to enforce and maintain discipline and order, as well as promote district goals and objectives. You are urged to contact the building principal or the superintendent if you have any questions.

STUDENT HANDBOOK (4.42)

It shall be the policy of the Mountainburg School District that the most recently adopted version of the Student Handbook be incorporated by reference into the policies of this district. In the event that there is a conflict between the student handbook and a general board policy, the general board policies or policies, the more recently adopted language will be considered binding and controlling on the matter provided the parent(s) of the student or the student (if 18 years of age or older) have acknowledged receipt of the controlling language. Principals shall review all changes to student policies and ensure that such changes are provided to students and parents, either in the handbook or, if changes are made after the handbook is printed, as an addendum to the handbook. Principals and counselors shall also review Policies 4.45 and the current ADE Standards for Accreditation Rules to ensure that there is no conflict. If a conflict exists, the Principal and/or Counselor shall notify the Superintendent and Curriculum Coordinator immediately, so that corrections may be made and notice of the requirements given to students and parents.

NONDISCRIMINATION

The Mountainburg School District #16 is committed to a policy of educating children for living by helping them to develop an awareness and appreciation for the achievements, problems, and aspirations of all people in our society. The Mountainburg Schools shall help children from all walks of life to gain the knowledge, skills, and determination that will enable them to reach their highest potential and to contribute to the welfare of all people. The Mountainburg Schools shall establish and maintain an atmosphere in which all persons can develop attitudes and skills for effective, cooperative living including:

1. Respect for the individual regardless of economic status
2. Respect for cultural differences
3. Respect for economic, political, and social rights of others
4. Respect for the rights of others to seek and maintain their own identities

Mountainburg Schools shall continue to promote good human relations by removing all vestiges of prejudice and discrimination in employment, assignment, and promotion of personnel. Any student, parent, employee or patron of the school district who has a grievance concerning discrimination should contact the school district equity coordinator.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (FACE) SUMMARY

Revised 7/31/24

Mountainburg Public Schools values family and community engagement. The district and each school develop FACE plans to engage families in the education process and solicit input and feedback on the plans, academic programming, athletics, wellness, and communications. For more information and each school's plan, visit the district website or contact the following FACE coordinators:

MPS-Mrs. Nancy Robbins, MES - Mrs. Becky Dean, MMS - Mr. Steve Johnson, MHS - Mrs. Jordan Bradley

----- Attendance and Tardies -----

ABSENCES (4.7) (See online district policy)

If any student's Individual Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan conflicts with this policy, the requirements of the student's IEP or 504 Plan take precedence.

Education is more than the grades students receive in their courses. Important as that is, students' regular attendance at school is essential to their social and cultural development and helps prepare them to accept responsibilities they will face as an adult. Interactions with other students and participation in the instruction within the classroom enrich the learning environment and promote a continuity of instruction which results in higher student achievement.

Absences for students enrolled in digital courses shall be determined by the online attendance and time the student is working on the course rather than the student's physical presence at school. Students who are scheduled to have a dedicated period for a digital class shall not be considered absent if the student logs the correct amount of time and completes any required assignments; however, a student who fails to be physically present for an assigned period may be disciplined in accordance with the District's truancy policy.

Students participating in extra-curricular activities (athletics, FFA, FCCLA, FBLA, etc) must attend school for at least ½ a day in order to participate in an event on the same day unless prior approval from administration or participant has a doctor's note.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

In order for the absence to be considered excused, the student must:

- A. Bring a written statement to the principal or designee upon the student's return to school from the student's parent or legal guardian stating the reason for the student's absence: or
- B. A written statement presented or uploaded for an absence having occurred more than five (5) school days prior to its presentation or upload will not be accepted.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Absences that are not defined in Board Policy 4.7, do not have an accompanying note from the parent, or legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis; or have an accompanying note that is not presented or uploaded within the timeline required by this policy, shall be considered as unexcused absences. Students with ten (10) unexcused absences in a course in a semester may not receive credit for that course. After ten (10) unexcused absences, a failure meeting will be held with the student and parent(s). At the discretion of the principal after consultation with persons having knowledge of the circumstances of unexcused absences, the student may be denied promotion or graduation. Excessive absences shall not be a reason for expulsion or dismissal of a student.

When a student has three (3) unexcused absences, his/her parents, legal guardians, persons with lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis shall be notified⁶. Notification shall be by telephone by the end of the school day in which such absence occurred or by regular mail with a return address sent no later than the following school day. When a student has accumulated five (5) unexcused absences, a mandatory parent meeting will be held with the attendance committee. Students will be given an opportunity to recover unexcused absences through after school detention and Saturday school in order to not lose course credit. One hour of after school will equate to one class period and three hours Saturday school will equate to three class periods.

Whenever a student exceeds eight (8) unexcused absences in a semester, regardless of making up time for course credit, the District shall notify the prosecuting authority and the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis shall be subject to a civil penalty as prescribed by law.

Days missed due to out-of-school suspension shall be unexcused absences.

MAKEUP WORK DUE TO ABSENCES

Students in grades 9-12 will make up all work missed due to absence. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange for all make-up work with his/her teacher(s). Make-up work is allowed at a rate of one day for each day missed or as

required/permitted by the student's Individual Education Program or 504 Plan. Students serving out-of-school suspension should complete their assignments during their suspension period and turn it in when they return to school. Students may be assigned lunch detention, after-school detention, Saturday School, or in-school suspension for assignment completion and/or credit recovery.

TARDY POLICY (4.9) (See online district policy)

Arriving late to school or to class constitutes a tardy. If a student arrives late to class, he/she must have approval from a faculty/staff member to receive an excused tardy. A student who arrives after the bell rings will be considered tardy for that period. A student who arrives more than 20 minutes late or leaves more than 20 minutes early will be considered absent for that period. When a student is late for school, they must sign in at the office; otherwise, they may be counted absent. Repeated tardiness at the beginning of the school day can be construed as truancy.

Consequences for Tardies in a semester:

Tardy # 1, # 2, #3: Warning, counseled by teacher, and parent contact by teacher .

Tardy # 4: Student receives a referral and one day of lunch detention

Tardy # 5: Student receives a referral and after school detention. Any subsequent tardy will result in an additional day of after school detention. Middle School students will receive ISD

CLOSED CAMPUS (4.10) (See online district policy)

All schools in the District shall operate closed campuses. Students are required to stay on campus from their arrival until dismissal at the end of the regular school day unless given permission to leave the campus by a school official. Students must sign out in the office upon their departure. Students who are being checked out for lunch must have a parent present. Notes and phone calls will not be accepted. If a student needs to leave between 10:45 AM and 12:00 PM a guardian must be present to check their student out and check their student back in. Failure to follow this policy will result in an unexcused absence. If a parent is not present, the student must return with a doctor's note in order for the absence to be excused.

----- Academic Policies and Procedures -----

EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY (4.11)

No student in the Mountainburg School District shall, on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity sponsored by the District. The District has a limited open forum granting equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other youth groups.

Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, to the Title IX Coordinator in person or by using the mailing address, telephone number, or email address. A report may be made at any time, including during non-business hours, and may be on the individuals's own behalf or on behalf of another individual who is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or sexual harassment.

Inquiries on non-discrimination may be directed to the Equity Coordinator, who may be reached at 479-369-2121. For further information on notice of non-discrimination or to file a complaint, visit; <http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm>; for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.

SMART CORE CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASSES OF 2024 and beyond (4.45.1) (See online district policy)

Curriculum and graduation requirements can be found in district policy 4.45.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (4.45.1) (See online district policy)

The number of units students must earn to be eligible for high school graduation is to be earned from the categories listed online in section 4.45. A minimum of twenty-two (22) units is required for graduation for a student participating in either the Smart Core or Core curriculum. In addition to the twenty-two (22) units required for graduation by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the district requires an additional 2 units to graduate for a total of 24 units. The additional required units may be taken from any electives offered by the district. There are some distinctions made between Smart Core units and Graduation units. Not all units earned toward graduation necessarily apply to Smart Core requirements.

In addition to the 24 required credits, all students must:

- Receive a passing score on the Arkansas Civics Exam
- Be trained in quality psychomotor skill bases in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators in order to graduate.
- Receive a credit in a course covering the Personal and Family Finance Standards
- Earn one (1) unit of credit in a computer science course (beginning with the class of 2026)
- Earn 75 hours of community service between 9th (15 hours), 10th (20 hours), 11th (20 hours), and 12th (20 hours) grade (beginning with the class of 2026)

A student who completes at least seventy-five (75) clock hours of documented community service in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) at any certified service agency or a part of a service-learning school program shall receive one (1) Career Focus credit as an addition to the required 24 credits for graduation⁹. This credit will no longer be offered after the class of 2025.

A student who enlists in a branch of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard through the military delayed entry program, the National Guard Split Training Option, or other similar early entry program and completes basic training before graduating from high school shall receive two (2) units of the Career Focus graduation requirements.

** MPS approves up to 2 local credits beyond the 1 full credit allowed by DESE for a total of 3 credits earned for PE or athletics. The 1st time enrollment for athletics counts for PE credit and within the first 22 credits required by the state. Years 2 and 3 could count as local credits only. Year 4 would count as additional local credit and in GPA, but not within credits #1-24.

GRADUATION CEREMONY REQUIREMENTS (5.34– MPS)

To be eligible to receive a **diploma** from Mountainburg High School the following criteria must be met:

1. Meet minimal requirements of the state of Arkansas.
2. Meet minimal requirements of the School District.
3. Be enrolled as a full-time student for the current school year in 4 classes or have removed deficiencies that prevent a diploma from having been awarded by this school in a previous year. Persons over 21 years old will have to have Board approval.
4. Correspondence courses or summer school will be accepted only as means of making up a course in which a student has made a “D” or an “F”. No correspondence course or summer school will be accepted for credit for the purpose of accelerating. Concurrent College credit may be accepted toward graduation under Act 1097 of 1991. No more than two credits of correspondence or Summer School credit may count toward graduation.
5. Students who have met ALL the graduation requirements may receive their diploma upon completion of ALL requirements.
6. Students who graduate early do not have to attend school after completion of graduation requirements.
7. THE MINIMUM REQUIRED UNITS FOR GRADUATION ARE 24.

To be eligible to participate in **graduation exercises** the following criteria must be met:

8. Meet the minimal diploma requirements of the State of Arkansas and the School District;
9. Students who have passed 23 of the required 24 credits may participate in graduation exercises
10. Foreign Exchange students enrolled as seniors the full senior year, pass enrolled credits, and demonstrate successful participation in a program of study in their home country may petition the School Board for approval to participate in graduation exercises. Requests must be submitted by February 1, 2022 and by December 1 thereafter of the senior year in order to be considered. No diploma will be conferred.
11. Any student who is eligible for graduation exercises must be at the designated practices in order to participate in commencement.
12. The minimum required units for graduation from Mountainburg Schools are twenty-four (24). Honor graduates must have twenty-six (26) units.

DROPPING/ADDING CLASSES

Students in grades 9-12 will be allowed to drop/add electives during the first two weeks of the semester only, subject to approval from the counselor or principal. Exceptions to this include class changes necessary to balance the required class size ratios. Students enrolled in concurrent courses may withdraw from the Arkansas Tech portion of the course without it going on their college transcript as long as they do so before the college withdrawal deadline for each semester. However, they will not be able to withdraw from the Mountainburg High School portion of the course until the semester has ended.

SENIOR WORK RELEASE

Seniors requesting work release must complete the request form during the first two weeks of a semester. Requests submitted after the deadline will not be accepted until the following semester and the student's schedule will remain the same. In order to be considered for the work release the Senior must be on track to graduate and must be enrolled and on campus for at least four periods per day.

Beginning with the class of 2025, students requesting work release must have completed 75 hours of community service prior to approval of early release.

Students enrolled in courses such as concurrent or WATC that do not have the same timeline as other academic courses may apply for early release at the completion of the course. In order to be considered for early release, the student must be in good standing for graduation. Completed courses should be at the beginning of the day or end of the day so that the student is not checking in or out more than once during the school day.

GRADING (5.15) (See online district policy)

MHS follows the grading scale of 90%-100% A, 80%-89% B, 70%-79% C, 60%-69% D, below 60% F. Student grades may be accessed by parents/guardians by way of Home Access Center (HAC).

GRADE NOTIFICATION METHODS

Progress reports will be sent out every 4.5 weeks during the semester.
Report Cards will be generated at the end of each semester.

HONOR ROLL, HONOR GRADUATES (5.17– MPS) (See online district policy)

Honor Roll

Students in grades 9-12 who maintain a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) for the grading period will be recognized as honor roll students for that grading period.

Classes for Honor Graduates

In addition to meeting MHS graduation requirements with Smart Core Curriculum, a student must:

- Graduating with Honors – Have taken a combination of 6 PreAP, AP, or concurrent classes and have a GPA of 3.25 or above. Students will receive a cord for Honors.
- Graduating with High Honors - Have taken a combination of 8 PreAP, AP, or concurrent classes and have a GPA of 3.50 or above. Students will receive a cord for Honors and a High Honors sash.
- Graduating with Highest Honors - Have taken a combination of 8 PreAP, AP, or concurrent classes and have a GPA of 4.0 or better. Students will receive a cord for Honors, a High Honors sash, and a Highest Honors medallion.

The top three (3) students with Highest Honors will be offered the opportunity to prepare a speech to be given at graduation. The GPA will be rounded to the nearest hundredth of a point. If there are not three (3) students graduating with Highest Honors, students with the highest GPA and High Honors or Honors diplomas will be offered the opportunity to prepare a speech.

Students with an IEP or §504 plan are included to the extent that the courses that they have taken and successfully completed meet the course requirements prescribed by the State Board of Higher Education for preparation for college.

GRADE POINT CALCULATION (5.17– MPS)

- Failed courses that are taken again in order to improve the grade will not be calculated into the GPA. They will remain on the transcript.
- The final GPA and class ranking will be determined upon graduation. Students may not repeat or add Courses to the official transcript after graduation. They should, however, be able to repeat or add a course if it will help them in their career pursuits. The School District would recalculate their GPA accordingly and send a letter with the school seal to verify an update with the institution the student is to attend. We would not go back and change the GPA or class rank on the transcript.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE BANQUET

Students in grades 9-12 who meet the following requirements for the first semester of each school year will be invited, with their parents, to a semi-formal banquet during the Spring Semester. All eligible students will receive a Certificate of Academic Excellence.

The following guidelines will be used for the Academic Banquet:

- A. Students must have an average GPA for the first semester of the school year of 3.25.
- B. Seniors with a cumulative GPA of 3.75 at the end of their 7th semester will receive a Plaque of Excellence
- C. All eligible students may bring two family members as guests. Students who have step-parents may bring both parents and step-parents.
- D. All faculty members teaching 9th – 12th grade subjects and their spouses will be invited.
- E. 8TH grade students with a fall semester GPA of 3.25 or better will be asked to serve at the academic banquet.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT/INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (5.21) (See online district policy)

MHS offers multiple Advanced Placement courses online through Virtual Arkansas. Students wishing to take AP courses should see the counselor for course offerings. AP courses are approved for weighted credit by the Arkansas Department of Education as long as the student takes the applicable AP exam.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION (5.26) (See online district policy)

A student in grades 7-12 may be assigned to the Alternative School rather than being sent home.

A student may also see the need for him/her to be in a more isolated/structured situation in order to be able to concentrate and get their assignments done. This also is a possibility through the Alternative Education Program.

----- Code of Conduct -----

STUDENT DISCIPLINE (4.17) (See online district policy)

The Mountainburg Board of Education has a responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the District's students and employees. To help maintain a safe environment conducive to high student achievement, the Board establishes policies necessary to regulate student behavior to promote an orderly school environment that is respectful of the rights of others and ensures the uniform enforcement of student discipline. Students are responsible for their conduct that occurs:

At any time on the school grounds;

- Off school grounds at a school sponsored function, activity, or event; and
- Going to and from school or a school activity.
- Off-campus conduct occurring at any time that would have a detrimental impact on school discipline, the educational environment, or the welfare of the students and/or staff.

It is required by law that the principal or the person in charge report to the police any incidents the person has personal knowledge of or has received information leading to a reasonable belief that a person has committed or threatened to commit an act of violence or any crime involving a deadly weapon on school property or while under school supervision.

Note: As stated in the beginning pages of the handbook, not all situations can be covered in this handbook. Since all situations are different, it is deemed necessary and appropriate that decisions regarding discipline be left to the discretion of the building administration when needed.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT (4.18) (See online district policy)

DISRUPTION OF SCHOOL (4.20) (See online district policy)

No students shall, by the use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, or any other conduct, intentionally cause the disruption of any lawful mission, process, or function of the school, or engage in any such conduct for the purpose of causing disruption or obstruction of any lawful mission, process, or function. Nor shall any student encourage any other student to engage in such activities.

Disorderly activities by any student or group of students that adversely affect the school's orderly educational environment shall not be tolerated at any time on school grounds. Teachers may remove from class and send to the principal's or principal's designee office a student whose behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it seriously interferes with the teacher's ability to teach the students, the class, or with the ability of the student's classmates to learn. Students who refuse to leave the classroom voluntarily will be escorted from the classroom by the school administration. *Legal reference: A.C.A. 6-18-511*

STUDENT ASSAULT OR BATTERY (4.21) (See online district policy)

A student shall not threaten, physically abuse, or attempt to physically abuse, or behave in such a way as to be perceived to threaten bodily harm to any other person (student, school employee, or school visitor). Any gestures; vulgar, abusive,

or insulting language; taunting, threatening, harassing, or intimidating remarks by a student toward another person that threatens their well-being is strictly forbidden. This includes, but is not limited to, fighting, racial, ethnic, religious, or sexual slurs.

Furthermore, it is unlawful, during regular school hours, and in a place where a public school employee is required to be in the course of his or her duties, for any person to address a public school employee using language which, in its common acceptance, is calculated to:

- a. Cause a breach of the peace;
- b. Materially and substantially interfere with the operation of the school; or
- c. Arouse the person to whom it is addressed to anger, to the extent likely to cause imminent retaliation.

Students guilty of such an offense may be subject to legal proceedings in addition to any student disciplinary measures.

WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS (4.22) (See online district policy)

Weapons of any kind are prohibited on campus, in vehicles, or at school events. Facsimiles of firearms are also prohibited.

Definitions "Firearm" means any device designed, made, or adapted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or any device readily convertible to that use.

"Possession" means having a weapon on the student's body or in an area under the student's control.

"Weapon" means any: Firearm, Knife, Razor, Ice pick, Dirk; Box cutter, Nunchuck, Pepper spray, mace, or other noxious spray, Explosives, Taser or other instrument that uses electrical current to cause neuromuscular incapacitation, a simulated weapon, toy gun, aerosol gun, any portrayal of a gun or simulation; or Any other instrument or substance capable of causing bodily harm.

TOBACCO, ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS, AND RELATED PRODUCTS (4.23) (See online district policy)

Smoking or use of tobacco or products containing tobacco in any form (including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and snuff) in or on any real property owned or leased by a District school, including school buses owned or leased by the District, is prohibited. Students who violate this policy may be subject to legal proceedings in addition to student disciplinary measures.

With the exception of recognized tobacco cessation products, this policy's prohibition includes any tobacco or nicotine delivery system or product. Specifically, the prohibition includes any product that is manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pips, or under any other name or descriptor.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL (4.24) (See online district policy)

No student in the Mountainburg School District shall possess, attempt to possess, consume, use, distribute, sell, buy, attempt to sell, attempt to buy, give to any person, or be under the influence of any substance as defined in this policy, or what the student represents or believes to be any substance as defined in this policy. This policy applies to any student who: is on or about school property; is in attendance at school or any school sponsored activity; has left the school campus for any reason and returns to the campus; or is on route to or from school or any school sponsored activity.

DRESS AND GROOMING (4.25) (See online district policy)

All students and visitors are expected to maintain healthy and sanitary practices, and dress in a way that does not disrupt or interfere in the educational process. Students are prohibited from wearing, while on school grounds during the school day and at school-sponsored events, clothing that exposes underwear, buttocks, or the breast of a female. The following dress code will be enforced:

1. Shorts, skirts, and holes in jeans should not be above mid-thigh. This includes when these are worn at banquets.
2. No midriff, see through clothing, sagging pants--underclothes should not be seen at any time.
3. Straps on shirts should be dollar bill width and fit up under the arm.
4. No clothing with vulgar writing, symbols, or explicit references.
5. No clothing with alcohol, tobacco, or controlled substance advertising or references.
6. No use of emblems, insignias, or other symbols that could cause interference or disruption of operation of the school.
7. No clothing or articles that are excessively soiled, torn inappropriately, or ragged, or clothing or hairstyles that can be hazardous in education activities such as physical education, lab classes, etc.
8. Hoods should not be worn inside any school building during regular school hours without the prior approval of the principal.
9. No SAGGING pants that are belted below the belt line or hang below the waist.

10. Shirts with the arms cut out and are cut low enough that it would show personal wear are prohibited.
11. Clothing that purposefully conceals identity and possessions is prohibited.
12. Blankets are prohibited at school and on the bus.

Each violation of the dress code will result in the student being sent home to change clothes with an unexcused absence or the student will be provided a change of clothes. The student will be sent to the office with a Dress Code Violation. On the 3rd violation and each violation after, the student will receive a referral.

GANGS AND GANG ACTIVITY (4.26) (See online district policy)

Gangs and their activities create an atmosphere not conducive to student learning and shall not be allowed on school grounds or at school functions.

STUDENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT (4.27) (See online district policy)

The Mountainburg School District is committed to providing an academic environment that treats all students with respect and dignity. Student achievement is best attained in an atmosphere of equal educational opportunity that is free of discrimination. Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination that undermines the integrity of the educational environment and will not be tolerated.

DEFINITIONS OF VIOLATIONS AND DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FOR GRADES 9-12

- *Suspension (OSS)* – Dismissal from school for a period of time, not more than ten (10) days. Days of suspension shall count as UNEXCUSED absences and count against the number of missed days allowed. Participation in extracurricular activities is prohibited while suspended. Students serving OSS may not attend or participate in school activities while serving their assigned time.
- *In-School-Detention (ISD)*– Structured program of study where a student is separated from other students. Days served in ISD count as regular attendance days. Special work and/or projects may be assigned. Students must comply with rules of ISD and work on assignments or ISD will be removed as an option. Participation in extracurricular activities is prohibited while in ISD. Exceptions to this allow students to attend athletic or award banquets, graduation, and baccalaureate services accompanied by parents and with consent of the principal. Students in ISD may not attend or participate in school activities while serving their assigned time.
- *Expulsion* – Prohibition of a student from entering the school grounds until the end of the semester, the current school year, or permanently. Expulsion from school will be determined by the Mountainburg Board of Education. See Policy 4.31
- *Attribute* means an actual or perceived personal characteristic including without limitation race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, socioeconomic status, academic status, disability, gender, gender identity, physical appearance, health condition, or sexual orientation;
- *Misdemeanor Violation* means the student violated a code of conduct that is not considered serious or dangerous (this could include but is not limited to talking without permission, tardy, behaviors that disrupt learning, not following instructions).
- *Flagrant Violation* means the student violated a serious code of conduct (this could include but is not limited to vulgar language, fighting, physical contact with intent to harm, drinking, smoking, immoral or indecent acts).
- *Electronic act* means without limitation a communication or image transmitted by means of an electronic device, including without limitation a telephone, wireless phone or other wireless communications device, computer, or pager that results in the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment. Electronic acts of bullying are prohibited whether or not the electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic act is directed specifically at students or school personnel and maliciously intended for the purpose of disrupting school, and has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose.

Last Two Weeks of School – Students who get into trouble during the end of the school year may not have all the discipline options available. If no detention is available, the student may have to choose suspension or ISD. ISD will be extended into the summer so those students may serve all days assigned to them. Students who get into trouble on the last day of school may have to return to ISD after school has been dismissed.

GRADES 9-12

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which is conducive to a positive learning environment, to model productive behaviors, and to demonstrate respect for others and the learning environment. Behavior offenses will be addressed with a conference and the following consequences.

MISDEMEANOR OFFENSES

TIER 1- LUNCH DETENTION

- Disruptive behavior that interferes with orderly school operations
- Inappropriate public displays of affection
- Use of vulgar, profane, or obscene language or gestures

- **Consequences**

- 1st offense - 1 lunch detention
- 2nd offense - 3 days lunch detention
- 3rd offense - move to misdemeanor Tier 2 consequences

TIER 2- AFTER SCHOOL DETENTION

- Disrespect of school employees and failing to comply with their reasonable directions or otherwise demonstrating insubordination
- Copying, cheating, or claiming another person's work to be his/her own
- Gambling, buying, selling, or trading of any items outside of school sponsored fundraisers
- Use of vulgar language or gestures that is excessive or directed towards another person
- Operating a vehicle on school grounds while using a wireless communication device
- Skipping class or leaving campus without parental consent and/or not signing out through the office

- **Consequences**

- 1st offense - 1 hour of after school detention
- 2nd offense - 2 hours of after school detention
- 3rd offense - 3 hours of after school detention
- 4th offense and beyond - move to Flagrant consequences (Tier 3-A consequences)

FLAGRANT OFFENSES

*Students in violation of Flagrant offenses may be subject to legal proceedings and/or criminal charges

TIER 3-A- SATURDAY SCHOOL

- Willingly or intentionally damaging, destroying, or stealing school property
- Theft of another individual's property
- Videoing and/or recording fights/violence

- **Consequences**

- 1st offense - 2 days Saturday school
- 2nd offense - 4 days Saturday school

- 3rd offense - 6 days Saturday school
- 4th offense - move to Flagrant Tier 4 consequences

TIER 3-B- SATURDAY SCHOOL

- E-cigs, vapes, vape juice, cartridges, and other related devices or parts of devices-such devices and products will also be confiscated and destroyed
- Possession of tobacco in any form on any property owned or leased by any public school-such products will also be confiscated and destroyed

- **Consequences**

- 1st offense - 2 day Saturday school
- 2nd offense - 4 days Saturday school
- 3rd offense - 6 days Saturday school
- 4th offense - move to Flagrant Tier 4 consequences

TIER 3-C- SATURDAY SCHOOL

- Fighting

- **Consequences**

- 1st offense - 2 days out of school suspension
- 2nd offense - 4 days out of school suspension
- 3rd offense - 6 days out of school suspension
- 4th offense - move to Flagrant Tier 4 consequences

TIER 4- OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION

- Willfully and intentionally assaulting or threatening to assault or physically abusing any student or school employee
- Possession of any weapon that can reasonably be considered capable of causing bodily harm to another individual--see policy 4.22
- Possession, selling, distributing, or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, any illegal drug, unauthorized inhalants, or the inappropriate use or sharing of prescription or over the counter drugs, or other intoxicants, or anything represented to be a drug-such products will be confiscated and destroyed
- Engaging in behavior designed to taunt, degrade, or ridicule another person on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability
- Possess, view, distribute, or electronically transmit sexually explicit or vulgar images or representations, whether electronically, on a data storage device, or in a hard copy form
- Hazing or aiding in hazing of another person
- Sexual harassment - see policy 4.27
- Involvement in sexual activity at school, on school property including buses, school activities or trips
- Communication of a school threat verbally or in writing
- Sharing, diverting, transferring, applying to others (such as needles or lancets) or misusing medications or any medical supplies in possession
- Gangs or gang-related activities, including belonging to secret societies of any kind, are forbidden on school property. Gang insignias, clothing, "throwing signs," or other gestures associated with gangs are prohibited.
- Physical contact with intent to harm

- **Consequences**

- 1st offense- 5 days out of school suspension
- 2nd offense- 10 days out of school suspension
- 3rd offense- may recommend for expulsion

The following behaviors have consequences specified by specific policy:

- Bullying
- Dress Code
- Cell phones
- Tardies
- Truancy

SUSPENSION (4.30) AND EXPULSION (4.31) (See online district policy)

In some circumstances it will be necessary to suspend or expel a student from school. Authority and procedure for suspension and expulsion are outlined in board policy.

During the period of their suspension, students serving in-school suspension shall not attend or participate in any school-sponsored activities during the imposed suspension.

SEARCH, SEIZURE, AND INTERROGATIONS (4.32) (See online district policy)

Authority to do probable cause searches was established by Board Policy 4.32.

DRUG TESTING

It is the philosophy of the Mountainburg Public Schools that students involved in extracurricular activities be encouraged and supported in their efforts to develop and maintain a chemical-free lifestyle. The school board, administration, coaches and sponsors recognize the use of mood altering chemicals as a significant health problem for many students, resulting in negative effects on behavior and learning and the total development of each individual. The misuse and abuse of mood altering chemicals for some students affect academic growth, achievement, activities participation, and development of related skills. Others are affected by the misuse and abuse by family, teammates, or other significant persons in their lives.

PURPOSE

The purposes of the Chemical Screening Test at Mountainburg Public Schools are as follows:

1. Emphasize concern for the health of students in areas of safety while participating in activities and the long-term physical and emotional effects of chemical use on their health.
2. Promote a sense of order and discipline among students.
3. Confirm and support existing state laws which restrict the use of such mood alternating chemicals.
4. Establish standards of conduct for those who are leaders and standard-bearers among their peers.
5. To provide assistance to students who need a referral and evaluation regarding their use of mood altering chemicals.
6. Work with the parents to assist in keeping their children free of mood altering chemicals .

The Mountainburg Public School district recognizes any activity that is not part of the regular curriculum as an extracurricular activity. This includes all sports (basketball, football, baseball, track, band, and cheerleading,) dances, field trips, Quiz Bowl, Chess tournaments, Student Council, FFA, FCCLA, Fall Festival Royalty, and Banquets. The administration reserves the right to recognize any activity as an extracurricular activity.

Therefore it is the policy of this district that all students in grade 7-12 who wish to participate in any of the above mentioned activities must, along with a parent or legal guardian, sign a permission slip agreeing to participate in random drug testing throughout the school year. Refusal to give permission for testing or refusal to submit to testing will result in the student being removed from extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year. All permission slips must be turned in to the office no later than September 1st of the school year unless a student enrolls after that date, in which case the student will have 10 days from the date of enrollment to turn in the permission slip.

METHOD

Throughout the school year, all students in grades 5 - 12 who are involved in extracurricular activities will be picked at random for drug screening. Each random selection may involve between 5% and 90% of all Junior/Middle and Senior High students involved in covered activities. Percentages selected may vary between Junior/Middle and Senior High Groups. A list of all students who participate in extracurricular activities is compiled. Each student is assigned a number and a computer generated list is then obtained. Students who are selected will be required to submit a urine sample or undergo a Breathalyzer analysis under the supervision of the District approved health service provider.

Mountainburg Drug Testing Procedures

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1. Each student must have a signed parent/guardian consent form as a requirement for participation in any activity. Failure to produce a signed consent form will keep the student from participating until a form is signed and submitted to the school and sponsor.
2. The random selections will be conducted by MHS administration.
3. All student test results and test correspondence will be completely confidential between the school district, the student, and parents/guardians.
4. All students who are actively participating in or enrolled in school activities will be subject to random urinalysis testing.
5. Testing will be conducted without notification.
6. All testing is conducted on site (MHS) by a professional.
7. Male and female students are tested in separate locations and afforded complete privacy while producing a sample.
8. Consequences for a positive student test will proceed as follows:
 - a. When the student first tests positive they will immediately be suspended from participating in any activity for a minimum of 30 days. (See Student Handbook) The student may return to the activity when they return with a negative screening test by an approved Doctor or clinic. The expense of this screening is the parent/guardian's responsibility.
 - b. After reentering any activity following the first positive test, the student will be a part of the next three random screenings.
 - c. A second positive test will result in an immediate suspension from any activity for a full calendar year.
 - d. A third positive test will result in the student being permanently suspended from all activity privileges.
9. Parents can request the sample be sent off for another set of tests to be run. If it comes back positive the cost will be charged to the parents. If it comes back negative the school will cover the cost. In either case the student will be able to continue in the activity until the results are available.

Your signature indicates that you have received and read a copy of the Mountainburg Athletic Drug Screening Policy and that you will follow all the guidelines presented. Your signature also indicates your consent to comply with all aspects of the drug screening procedure(s) for as long as you are enrolled in Mountainburg Schools.

NOTE: Students enrolled or participating in athletics or other activities will receive this form one time (the first time they enroll). A signed form will remain valid and on file with the school for as long as the student attends through graduation.

Student Signature_____

Grade_____ Date_____

Parent Signature_____ Date_____

BULLYING (4.43) (See online district policy)

Respect for the dignity of others is a cornerstone of civil society. Bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, robs a person of his/her dignity, detracts from the safe environment necessary to promote student learning, and will not be tolerated by the Board of Directors. Students who bully another person shall be held accountable for their actions whether they occur on school equipment or property; off school property at a school sponsored or approved function, activity, or event; going to or from school or a school activity in a school vehicle or school bus; or at designated school bus stops.

Students are encouraged to report behavior they consider to be bullying, including a single action which if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, to their teacher or the building principal. The report may be made anonymously. Teachers and other school employees who have witnessed, or are reliably informed that a student has been a victim of behavior they consider to be bullying, including a single action which if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, shall report the incident(s) to the building principal, or designee, as soon as possible. Parents or legal guardians may submit written reports of incidents they feel constitute bullying, or if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, to the building principal, or designee.

The person or persons reporting behavior they consider to be bullying shall not be subject to retaliation or reprisal in any form.

Bullying Policy Consequences

- First Offense- Conference with parents; meetings with school counselor; and 5 days out of school suspension
- Second Offense- Conference with parents; meetings with school counselor; school officials will file a FINS petition, and the student will receive a 10 days out of school suspension.
- Third Offense- Recommendation for expulsion

----- Technology Use -----

INTERNET SAFETY and ELECTRONIC DEVICE USE POLICY (4.29) (See online district policy)

The opportunity to use the District's technology to access the Internet is a privilege and not a right. Students who misuse electronic devices or Internet access in any way will face disciplinary action, as specified in the student handbook and/or Internet safety and electronic device use agreement.

VANDALISM OF SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT

Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data or another user of the Mountainburg Public Schools' servers, or any network connected to the Internet backbone, uploading or creation of computer viruses, physical damage of school technology equipment including but not limited to Chromebooks, chargers, protective cases, etc. Privileges will be revoked for vandalism.

2023-24 Chromebook Repair Estimates

As with textbooks, in the event of damage, loss or theft, a student will be charged a fine to cover the actual repair or replacement costs for school issued Chromebooks.

The prices below are cost estimates for replacement parts as of June 15th, 2023 and are subject to change based on available pricing at the time of the repair. (Prices include taxes and shipping charges.)

	HP 14"	Lenovo 14e	Dell 11"
Screen Assembly	\$65	\$70	\$25
Keyboard Assembly	\$80	\$70	\$50
Charger	\$25	\$25	\$30
Screen Bezel	\$20	\$30	\$18
Hinge Cover Set	\$30	N/A	N/A
Top Cover	\$35	\$40	\$23
Bottom Cover	\$30	\$30	\$19
Hinge Set	\$15	\$25	\$7
USB Port Board	\$20	\$20	\$10
Entire Chromebook	\$300	\$350	\$300
Carrying Case	\$55	\$55	\$50

----- OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES -----

POSSESSION AND USE OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES (4.47) (See online district policy)

Students are responsible for conducting themselves in a manner that respects the rights of others. Possession and use of any electronic device, whether district or student owned, that interferes with a positive, orderly classroom environment does not respect the rights of others and is expressly forbidden. The prohibition in this policy does not extend to the

electronic device the District provides the student for the student's use during assessment administration to the extent the student is using the District provided device to complete the assessment.

As used in this policy, "electronic devices" means anything that can be used to transmit or capture images, sound, or data.

Misuse of electronic devices includes, but is not limited to:

1. Using electronic devices during class time in any manner other than specifically permitted by the classroom instructor;
2. Permitting any audible sound to come from the device when not being used for reason #1 above;
3. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, or wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores;
4. Using any platform of AI will be classified as academic dishonesty.
5. Using the device to take photographs in areas where a general expectation of personal privacy exists, including but not limited to locker rooms or and bathrooms;
6. Creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction of oneself or another person.
7. Recording another person without that person's knowledge

Use of an electronic device is permitted to the extent it is approved in a student's IEP or it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students are allowed to use electronic devices during lunch period. If the use of the electronic device becomes disruptive, that use can be stopped. What constitutes disruptive is determined by the principal and/or the duty teachers. Students may not take pictures or videos of staff, faculty, or other students without their knowledge and consent (this could be considered cyberbullying and will follow that tier of consequences).

- 1st Offense- 1 Lunch Detention
- 2nd Offense- 2 Lunch Detentions
- 3rd Offense- 1 hour after school
- Refusal to turn phone over will result in minimum of 1 hour after school

----- STUDENT SERVICES -----

FOOD SERVICES

MPS provides free breakfast and lunches for all students through the CEP program.

Prices for adult guest breakfast is \$3.50 and adult guest lunch is \$4.50.

Price for faculty and staff breakfast is \$3.00 and \$4.00.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND PARASITES (4.34) (See online district policy)

Students with communicable diseases or with human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment shall demonstrate respect for other students by not attending school while they are capable of transmitting their condition to others. Students whom the school nurse determines are unwell or unfit for school attendance or who are believed to have a communicable disease or condition will be required to be picked up by their parent or guardian. A student who has been sent home by the school nurse will be subsequently readmitted, at the discretion of the school nurse, when the student is no longer a transmission risk. In some instances, a letter from a health care provider may be required prior to the student being readmitted to the school.

The parents or legal guardians of students found to have live human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment will be asked to pick their child up at the end of the school day. The parents or legal guardians will be given information concerning the eradication and control of human host parasites. A student may be readmitted after the school nurse or designee has determined the student no longer has live human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment.

STUDENT MEDICATIONS (4.35) (See online district policy)

Unless authorized to self-administer or otherwise authorized by this policy, students are not allowed to carry any medications, including over-the-counter (OTC) medications or any dietary supplement or other perceived health remedy

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not regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration while at school. The parent or legal guardian shall bring the student's medication to the school nurse. The student may bring the medication if accompanied by a written authorization from the parent or legal guardian. When medications are brought to the school nurse, the nurse shall document, in the presence of the parent, the quantity of the medication(s). If the medications are brought by a student, the school nurse shall ask another school employee to verify, in the presence of the student, the quantity of the medication(s). Each person present shall sign a form verifying the quantity of the medication(s).

Medications, including those for self-administration, must be in the original container and be properly labeled with the student's name, the ordering provider's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, frequency, and instructions for the administration of the medication (including times). Additional information accompanying the medication shall state the purpose for the medication, its possible side effects, and any other pertinent instructions (such as special storage requirements) or warnings. Schedule II medications that are permitted by this policy to be brought to school shall be stored in a double locked cabinet.

----- Activities -----

EXTRACURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY FOR AAA ACTIVITIES (4.56) (See online district policy)

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS: Junior High

- The first semester ninth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if he/she has successfully passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester
- The second semester ninth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if he/she has successfully passed (4) academic courses the previous semester which count toward his/her high school graduation requirements.
- Ninth-grade students must meet the requirements of the senior high scholarship rule by the end of the second semester in the ninth grade in order to be eligible to participate in the fall semester of their tenth-grade year.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS: Senior High

In order to remain eligible for competitive interscholastic activity, a student must have passed (4) academic courses the previous semester and either:

1. Have earned a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 from all academic courses the previous semester; or
2. If the student has passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester but does not have a 2.0 GPA the student must be enrolled and successfully participating in a SIP to maintain their competitive interscholastic extracurricular eligibility.

STUDENTS WITH AN INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

In order to be considered eligible to participate in competitive interscholastic activities, students with disabilities must pass at least four (4) courses per semester as required by their individual education program (IEP).

For full policy, see board policy 4.56

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS/EQUAL ACCESS (4.12) (See online district policy)

Non curriculum-related secondary school student organizations wishing to conduct meetings on school premises during non-instructional time shall not be denied equal access on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings.

Supervised Organizations

Mountainburg Public Schools offer a number of supervised organizations and activities that offer constructive, enriching ways to use leisure time. Students have the right to join an existing organization and are not restricted for membership on the basis of race, sex, national origin, or other arbitrary criteria. There are certain requirements that must be fulfilled in order to participate in various organizations. It is the policy of the district to follow the rules of the Arkansas Activities Association to determine eligibility requirements for participating in extracurricular activities that fall under this jurisdiction. The Middle School may organize and maintain a Student Council. The High School may organize and maintain a Student Council, Yearbook staff, FBLA, FFA, FCCLA, FCA, Beta Club, Science, and Trap Shooting Clubs.

----- TRANSPORTATION -----

If it is economically feasible, the School District shall provide transportation for all pupils enrolled in the school and who reside at least two miles from the school in which they attend. The transportation system will operate as required by law and rules of the State Board of Education.

The Superintendent and staff shall be responsible for establishing bus routes and bus stops as appropriate. Such stops shall be established at central points for the convenience of the majority concerned and in the interest of conserving time and expenses.

School buses shall be used solely for the transportation of students to and from school and school-sponsored activities. Buses shall not be used by private organizations / persons.

CONDUCT TO AND FROM SCHOOL AND TRANSPORTATION ELIGIBILITY (4.19)

The District's Student Code of conduct applies to students while traveling to and from school or to and from a school activity to the same extent as if the students were on school grounds. Appropriate disciplinary actions may be taken against commuting students who violate the District's Student Code of Conduct.

The preceding paragraph also applies to student conduct while on school buses. Students shall be instructed in safe riding practices. The driver of a school bus shall not operate the school bus until every passenger is seated. In addition to other disciplinary measures provided for violations of the District's Student Code of Conduct, the student's bus transportation privileges may be suspended or terminated for violations of the Student Code of Conduct related to bus behavior.

Students are eligible to receive district bus transportation if they meet the following requirements: The transportation to and from school of students who have lost their bus transportation privileges is the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian.

BUS REGULATIONS

Transportation to and from school is regarded as a privilege. Safety is the main concern for all students involved. Continued or severe misconduct could result in the loss of transportation privileges. Students riding to/from school or special events should follow these guidelines:

1. Be at the bus stop on time. Wait approximately ten feet from the stop and wait until the door opens before moving towards the bus.
2. Remain a safe distance from traffic while waiting at the stop.
3. Do not attempt to walk or hitchhike to school if the bus is missed.
4. Keep aisles clear of feet, hands, books, bags, etc.
5. Conduct self in a manner that does not distract from the attention of the driver. This includes: remaining seated, keeping hands and possessions to self, remaining reasonably quiet, etc.
6. No knives, sharp objects, firearms, tobacco, or living animals are allowed on the bus.
7. Do not tamper with safety devices such as fire extinguishers, etc.
8. Passengers will be discharged at their regular stops only. A bus pass from the school office must be secured to ride any bus other than the student's assigned bus. Permission will only be granted if the street address of the student's destination is included in the request (either verbal or written). The street address must be included on the bus pass before a driver will allow the student to ride a bus other than their assigned bus.
9. No food or drink is to be consumed on the bus. Lunch brought to school should be stored in appropriate containers and not opened on the bus.
10. Students who must cross the road after leaving the bus must do so in front of the bus, only after the driver or student patrol has signaled to do so.
11. All other rules of student conduct apply during transportation.
12. No balloons are allowed on school buses. If your child receives a balloon at school, he/she must have alternative transportation home.

Activity Bus

The same rules should be followed as for regular routes. Any student who rides a bus to an event must ride the bus back to school unless signed off by a parent/guardian. Students are NOT allowed to be signed off with notes or by other parents.

Consequences for bus referrals are:

Follow Tier system for each consequence

2nd bus referral-tier system consequence plus 1 day off bus

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3rd bus referral-tier system consequence plus 3 days off bus

4th bus referral- tier system consequence plus 5 days off bus

After the fourth referral consequences will be at the discretion of the building principals. If a student is suspended from one school bus, the student may not ride another bus to school.

AUTOMOBILES

Automobiles are permitted on campus with students holding a valid driver's license.

BICYCLES

Bicycles may be ridden to school and parked in appropriate bike parking. Once the bike is on the school campus, it must remain in its parking spot until school is dismissed.

----- OTHER -----

PRIVACY OF STUDENTS' RECORDS/ DIRECTORY INFORMATION (4.13)

For full policy, see Board Policy 4.13

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEO NON PERMISSION/OPT-OUT FORM (5.20, 5.20.1, 5.20 F1– MPS)

For full policy and opt out form, see Board Policy 5.20, 5.20.1, and 5.20 F1.

OUTSIDE FOOD Food brought to school by parents can only be for their child. Because of food allergies, it cannot be shared with other students. Food deliveries in excess will not be accepted at lunch.

Parents, guardians and those listed on the student contact sheet filed in the office are allowed to eat only with their student(s). The mentioned visitors may not congregate or visit with other student(s). Visitors in the middle school are allowed to eat lunch with their student(s) but may not go to the playground with them.

2024 - 2025

MOUNTAINBURG HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN



24-25 EVENTS

August 9: Open House, Freshman & Senior Orientation, Title I Meeting

October 8: What's Next After MHS (Juniors and Seniors)

October 12: Fall Festival

October 21, 22: P/T Conferences, FAFSA Nights

November 11: Veteran's Assembly

April 16: MHS Reverse Career Fair

May 6: Signing Day for Seniors, M Awards

May 16: Graduation

Dates for Family & Community Engagement Meetings will be announced soon

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL

MRS. CRISTEE, PRINCIPAL

Parents of MHS students,

We invite you to partner with us to give your learner the best education and to prepare them for their endless possibilities after graduation. There are many opportunities to be involved and we welcome you! We will have committee meetings four times this year to plan and brainstorm ideas for parental involvement.

MHS is committed to using high-quality instructional materials to prepare students for success beyond high school. Our core classes are using Springboard and PreAP materials. Each year, our teachers receive training in their curriculum, planning, effective strategies, and communication. This year, we will really focus and continue our learning in the area of assessment, intervention, and enrichment.

Thank you for helping to make our school the best place for our students! We appreciate you!

COMMUNICATION

At MHS, we believe that a strong parent-school bond encourages learners to work hard and ensures success. We strive to have open lines of communication.

Teachers and administration can be reached by phone or email. Frequent communication about individual classes can be had through the use of ROOMS. Stay up to date with the happenings at MHS by following our social media pages, website and our weekly newsletter, The Dragon Weekly.



WWW.MOUNTAINBURG.ORG

School-Parent Compact and Parental Engagement Plan

2024-2025

Mountainburg High School and the parents of our students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) agree this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help high school students achieve Arkansas's high standards of learning. This school-parent compact is in effect during the 2024-2025 school year.

COMPACT SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

Mountainburg High School will:

1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating students to meet Arkansas standards for academic achievement and graduation as follows:

Pre-AP on grade level curriculum is used for all courses: Math, English, Science, Social Studies and Fine Arts

Springboard Instructional Model is a college and career readiness program included for ALL students in Math and English

- To increase the level of rigor in the curriculum
 - To accelerate learning and close the achievement gap
 - To prepare more students for AP, college and careers
 - Assessments meet the high standards of the college board
2. Hold parent-teacher conferences at least once a semester during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual student's achievement. Specifically, conferences will be held:
 - 1st Semester Oct. 21 and Oct. 22 (3:30-6:30)
 - 2nd Semester Mar. 17 and Mar. 18 (3:30-6:30)
 3. Provide parents with frequent reports on their student's progress. Reports are viewable through the Home Access Center in E-school and all reports are sent through the mail to each students' home address. Specifically, the school will provide reports as follows:
 - Mid-Semester Progress Reports – Sept. 11, Oct. 18, Nov. 19, Feb. 4, Mar. 14, Apr. 22
 - End of Semester Report Cards - Jan. 7, May 23

Official Credits are awarded on transcripts

4. Provide parents reasonable access to teachers and administrators. Specifically, staff will be available for consultation with parents as follows:
 - E-mail
 - Dragonslink App: "Rooms"
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
 - For situations that require immediate attention of the student's teacher or principal, parents may call the school to schedule an appointment or leave a voice message for a returned call
 - Dragon Weekly is a communication resource for parents and students. Current activities and events are updated each week. Parent resources are uploaded here to help parents with school, college and career related information.
 - Mountainburg is active on all social media outlets
5. Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in all school activities.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

We, as parents, will support our student's learning in the following ways:

- Ensure my child attend school regularly by monitoring their attendance through the Home Access Center
- See that my child has the necessary supplies needed throughout the school year
- Stay in contact with my child's teachers through regular communications and by reading and responding to all notices
- Provide a quiet place & time to do schoolwork at home or utilize community resources such as the library

- Volunteer when needed, support the goals of the school and participate, whenever possible, in the decision-making processes related to my child's education.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

We, as high school students at Mountainburg High School, will share the responsibility to improve our academic performance to achieve Arkansas's high expectations and standards with the end in mind which is Graduation. Specifically, we will:

- Do right by listening, paying attention, and participating in class
- Respond with respect my teachers, peers, and self
- Attend school with a purpose of learning
- Graduation is set as my #1 priority
- Organize and be prepared for each class
- Never quit on myself
- Study, turn in assignments on time and continue to STAY STRONG

At MHS we...

- **Make A Difference**– by volunteering, being a family, and teamwork
- **Hold Ourselves to High Standards**– to be college and career-ready, CTE completers, and graduates with endless possibilities
- **Set New Records**– with 100% graduation rate, state championship teams, and rising assessment scores

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's parental involvement plan in an organized, ongoing way. Mountainburg High School has a Family and Community Engagement Committee (F.A.C.E.).
2. Mountainburg holds an annual meeting in the Fall to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I, Part A programs, and to explain the Title I,Part A requirements, and the right of parents to be involved in Title 1,Part A programs.
3. Invite and welcome parents attending school board for updates to policy & procedures

F.A.C.E. meetings will be:

Sept. 26, 2024

Dec. 12, 2024

Feb. 27, 2025

April 2, 2025

**** Dates subject to change and may be updated.**

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Principal Signature ***Courtney Cristee***

August 1, 2024

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Our school, **Mountainburg High School**, receives federal funds for Title I, Part A programs. Throughout the school year, we will be providing you with important information about this law as it relates to your child's education. This letter lets you know about your right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of the classroom staff working with your child. Our district or school will be able to provide you with the following information regarding the qualifications of your child's teacher(s):

1. Whether the teacher meets the state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or provisional status because of special circumstances.
3. Whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and the field of discipline of the teacher's certification or degree.

If at any time your student has been taught for four (4) or more consecutive weeks by a teacher(s) that is not highly qualified, then you will be notified by the school.

You also have the right to request information regarding the qualifications of the paraprofessional(s) assisting your child's teacher(s). If your child is receiving Title I, Part A services from a paraprofessional, then our district or school is able to provide you with the following information:

1. Whether the paraprofessional has completed at least two years of study at an institution of higher education.
2. Whether the paraprofessional has completed an associate degree (or higher).
3. Whether the paraprofessional has met a rigorous standard of quality through our state's certification procedure for determining the quality of paraprofessional staff.
4. Whether the paraprofessional has: (a) the knowledge of and ability to assist in instructing reading, writing, and mathematics or (b) the knowledge of and the ability to assist in learning activities, such as homework, reading readiness, writing, mathematics, and other support as appropriate

To request this information please contact your child's school by phone at (479) 369-2146 or by email at Courtney.christee@mountainburg.org.

Should you have any other questions regarding your child's education, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Dr. Debbie Atwell
Superintendent

Revised 7/31/24