



MADISON PARK
ACADEMY

2026-2027
Middle School
Student and Family Handbook



**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools, Thriving Students



2026-27 School Calendar

July

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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August

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June

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27	28	29	30			

- July 3 Independence Day (observed)
- July 4 Independence Day
- Aug 5 Professional Development (PD) Day
- Aug 6 Collaboration/Work Day
- Aug 7 Teacher Work Day
- Aug 10 First Day of School
- Sept 7 Labor Day
- Sept 17 End of Marking Period (Middle/High School*)
- Sept 18 Professional Development (PD) Day
- Oct 12 Indigenous Peoples' Day (in lieu of Lincoln's Birthday)
- Oct 30 End of Trimester 1 (Elementary School)
- Oct 30 End of Marking Period (Middle/High School*)
- Nov 11 Veterans' Day
- Nov 23-27 Thanksgiving Break (some Child Development Centers open)
- Dec 18 End of Marking Period / End of Semester (Middle/High School*)
- Dec 21-Jan 4 Winter Break (some Child Development Centers open)

- Jan 1 New Year's Day
- Jan 5 Professional Development (PD) Day
- Jan 6 First Day of Spring Semester
- Jan 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Feb 15 Presidents' Day
- Feb 19 End of Trimester 2 (Elementary School)
- Feb 19 End of Marking Period (Middle and High School)
- Mar 25 End of Marking Period (High School)
- Mar 26 Farmworkers Day (in Lieu)
- Mar 29-Apr 2 Spring Break (some Child Development Centers open)
- Apr 9 End of Marking Period (Middle School)
- May 27 Last Day of Instruction / End of Semester / End of Trimester 3 / End of Marking Period
- May 28 Teacher Work Day
- May 31 Memorial Day
- Jun 18 Juneteenth Holiday (observed)
- Jun 19 Juneteenth Holiday

- Professional Development (PD) Day (No School for Students)
- Site Based PD / Collaboration (No School for Students)
- Teacher Work Day (No School for Students)
- First / Last Day of School
- Marking Period / Report Cards
- Schools Closed (District Offices & Child Development Centers Open)
- Schools & Child Development Centers Closed (District Offices Open)
- Schools, District Offices, & Child Development Centers Closed

* Some alternative education high schools operate on different grading calendars.

Mission & Vision Statement

Vision: Madison Park Academy strives to offer educational journeys rooted in community school-based efforts. We center humanity and address the whole-child's needs to nurture a love of learning and prepare our youth for academic and post-secondary success.

Mission: We commit to cultivating an asset-based environment of pride, purpose, possibilities, and perseverance. We equip our students with critical literacy and post-secondary skills to build more equity within their communities.

School Contacts

MIDDLE SCHOOL MAIN OFFICE PHONE (510) 879-2315 Press 1	HIGH SCHOOL MAIN OFFICE PHONE (510) 879-2315 Press 2
KEY ADMINISTRATION	
Principal Bianca Lorenz bianca.lorenz@ousd.org	MS Assistant Principal Aaron Pratt II aaron.prattii@ousd.org
	HS Assistant Principal Sarah Altschul sarah.altschul@ousd.org

MPA Platforms

Parent-Square: School Information



Download the ParentSquare mobile app!

- Receive daily and weekly announcements
- Send and receive school communications with

teachers



Aeries: Grades & Attendance



MPA uses Aeries as one of the main communication systems to keep students and families informed of grades. Students and families have separate logins and are able to regularly communicate with teachers. You can login anytime to check your child's current grades, homework, missing assignments, test scores, and report cards.

Through parent.ousd.org or the app, it is a way to keep an eye on your student's grades and attendance. Please download the app in the app store - Aeries Portal.

Follow the steps here to sign up: tinyurl.com/aeriesmpa

Minga: Tardies & Behavior



MPA uses the Minga platform to support safety and security on campus, drive student participation and engagement, incentivize positive student conduct, and improve student communication. All in one place. Students can access Minga through Clever or download the app and use their OUSD student email to login. Parents with active Aeries portals and contact information (phone number and email) will be able to receive updates regarding attendance and behavior from Minga.

Yondr: Cell Phone Free School



Madison Park Middle and High School students will be required to use Yondr pouches for their cell phones beginning the 2025-26 school year. Every student will be assigned a personal Yondr Pouch. While the Yondr Pouch is considered school property, it is each student's responsibility to bring their Pouch with them to school every day and keep it in good working condition.

As students **arrive at school**, they will:

- 1) Turn their **phone off, silenced** or put in airplane mode.
- 2) Place their phone **inside their pouch and secure it** in the presence of school staff.
- 3) Store their pouch **in their backpack** for the day. (If they do not have their pouch or a backpack to store their pouch then they will leave in the front office)

At the end of the day, students will unlock their pouch, remove their phone and put their pouch in their backpack. Students must bring their pouch to school with them each day.

*****Students arriving late or leaving early will pouch/unpouch their phones in the Main Office.**

Grading Policy

Grades are 70% standard mastery and 30% habits of mind (soft skills).

Proficient <i>Competencia</i>	Training <i>Capacitación</i>	Developing <i>Desarrollando</i>	Beginning <i>Comenzando</i>	Not Enough Evidence <i>No hay suficiente evidencia</i>
				
4	3	2	1	0
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MPA Expectations

Attendance

Regular attendance is a critical component for academic success in school. Parents/guardians are responsible for their child's attendance at school during the entire school year. Parents/guardians may check their child's attendance at <https://parent.ousd.org>.

When your child is absent from school, please call the school office at **(510) 879-2315** as soon as possible. When leaving a message regarding your child's absence please provide the following information: ***Student's name, Date(s) absent, Reason for absence, Grade, Your name and your relation to child, and Daytime phone number.***

Absences in the following categories will be handled as indicated:

Excused Absences

Students who are ill, have medical appointments, have a family emergency, have funeral services for a member of the immediate family, or have justifiable personal reasons (e.g. religious holidays) will have the absences excused through a parent/guardian phone call or note.

Unexcused Absences & Truancy

Unexcused absences may affect a student's academic standing. When a student has missed over 3% of school without clearing absences, they are considered truant and at risk. Parents will be notified by mail and, if the absences continue, the student will be referred to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB).

Punctuality

Students are expected to arrive at school on time. When students are absent or tardy, they miss valuable class time. Students who arrive after the start of school shall receive a **Morning Tardy** pass on Minga from a staff member. Once a class period begins, teachers will close the door for the first ten minutes of class. If a student is tardy to classes after school arrival then they must get a **Tardy** pass on Minga from a staff member.

Consequences for continuous concern of tardiness:

3+ tardies in one week	Removal of Minga store and family contact
6+ tardies in one week	Removal of Minga store, community service, family contact, behavior contract
10+ tardies in one week	Removal of Minga Store, community service, parent contact, behavior contract, Saturday school

Consequences for continuous concern of cutting class:

1 class cut in one week	Behavior contract, parent contact, and referral
2 classes cut in one week	Removal of activities and Minga store, community service, parent contact, referral
3 classes cut in one week	Removal of activities and Minga store, community service, parent contact, referral, Saturday school

Independent Studies

The Oakland Unified School District defines independent studies for any student who will have an extended absence of 5 days or more while continuing to be enrolled in their prospective school site. The family must notify the attendance office of dates prior to the absence in order to avoid being truant. If students are going to take an extended absence, parents/guardians MUST complete paperwork with the attendance clerk and Principal.

Student Release Prior to Dismissal Time

For the protection of our students, the following conditions must be met for a student to obtain early dismissal:

- The child/youth must be picked up at the **front office** by an adult (18 years or older).

- A High School sibling cannot sign out a middle school student at any time, especially on any minimum days.
- The adult must be listed on the student's Contact Information on Aeries (<https://parent.ousd.org>)
- The adult must have a photo ID.

Dress Code

There are three main reasons we have a dress code: safety, school pride, and college and career readiness. It is important to prepare all students for the world of work. School is your job. You should take it seriously by coming on time, completing your work, and dressing appropriately, much like you would at your job. Repeated violation of the Dress Code will result in disciplinary action. Families will receive a message via Minga regarding violations.

All students must wear the following:

- MPA uniform collared shirt
- MPA t-shirt or long sleeve
- MPA hoodie or sweatshirt

NOTE:

- Wearing an MPA logo cut out that is tapped/pinned to a shirt is not being in uniform
- Any hoodie that is not MPA affiliated is out of dress code
- Jackets/Coats over any MPA uniform/t-shirt/hoodie is okay

Not Permitted:

- Short skirts or shorts.
- Shorts and skirts that show inside pockets (inner fabric of pockets)
- Any clothing that exposes undergarments (such as bras, underwear, or boxers).
- Jeans or ripped pants exposing one's entire upper thigh.

Consequences for not following the uniform policy:

Consequence 1	Students will be sent to the office to get a Loaner uniform or call home for a uniform drop off. All loaner uniforms must be returned by the end of the school day.
Consequence 2	Students will be assigned to community service during lunchtime.
Consequence 3	Parents will be contacted to meet with administrators.

Cell Phone and Personal Electronic Devices Policy

Madison Park Academy 6-12 is a cell phone and personal electronic device-free school. The use and presence of cell phones and personal electronic devices in school and in classrooms are disruptive and present security problems. ***MPA will not be responsible for cell phones or other electronic devices that have been brought to school.*** This includes Smartwatches, Tablets/iPads, and Headphones. MPA 6-12 has provided all students with a Yondr pouch to support this policy.

Forgotten Pouches

If a student forgets their pouch, **their phone will be collected, and Administration will call home to remind the parent of the policy.** The phone will be returned to the student at dismissal. If a student consistently forgets their pouch, it is considered lost.

Lost Pouches

If a student loses their pouch, they must turn in their phone daily until they pay the replacement fee (\$30) and are issued a new pouch.

Damaged Pouches

If a student damages their pouch, they must return the damaged pouch and turn in their phone every day until they pay the fee (\$30) for the replacement pouch.

Examples of pouch damage include:

- Bent pin
- Ripped fabric
- Deep scratches on the lock exterior + green ring
- Intentional pen marks on the inside of the pouch
- Pin and button not fully recessing due to pin damage

All students are required to return their pouches at the end of the year. Any pouch that is damaged or lost must be replaced for a \$30 replacement fee.

Parents can always reach their students by calling the main office or directly to the student's classroom. You can find the directory for classrooms at the end of the handbook. Any phone calls or texts made to students during class time disrupts learning and will result in disciplinary action. Please call the office.

Emergencies

The first priority is always to follow school safety protocols. Students should not be on their phones, but rather following school staff instructions during an emergency. School staff and administrators will have access to their phones and once students are in a safe location, they will be able to quickly open their pouch and use theirs as well.

If a student needs to make/receive an important or emergency phone call, the student should get a pass to the office from teacher/staff to use the Main Office phone to contact their family.

If parents need to reach their children because of an emergency during class time, they can call the classroom or main office at 510-879-2315. *Parents should not call or text their child during the school day, 8:30am-3:30pm.*

Families will receive a message via Minga regarding violations.

Consequences for not following the cell phone electronic device policy:

Consequence 1	The student's phone or device will be confiscated and a parent must come to school to pick it up.
Consequence 2	The student's phone will be confiscated, a parent must come to school for pick up, and the student will be assigned to the Pause with Purpose reflective space during a designated time.

Consequence 3	The student and parent(s) or guardian(s) must attend a conference to discuss a phone management plan. The student will be on contract to turn in their phone daily.
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Respect of Property

MPA believes that our school community belongs to all members. When school property has been damaged it will be the responsibility of the student and their families to pay for damages. Failure to pay for the damages can result in community service and/or suspension.

Searches

Any report of concern with credible insight may be followed up by a search of property. Searches are conducted with an administrator and a staff member present. All searches are consensual. If a student refuses to be searched, they will be sent home for the day to ensure the safety of the community.

Hate Speech & Respect

MPA does not tolerate any language, threats, physical violence, harassment, bullying, or other related behaviors towards peers. MPA is a safe space and open to students of all identities and backgrounds. Students who struggle to treat others with respect and utilize hate speech or violence will have consequences.

Consequence 1	Students will be provided an opportunity to be re-directed to change their language choices
Consequence 2	A referral will be submitted and parent contact will be made
Consequence 3	A behavior contract related to hate speech and respect with aligned consequences will be established. The behavior contract will be communicated with families
Consequence 4	Once a behavior contract is broken, students will have in-school-suspension and lose privilege to activities like sports
Consequence 5	If hate speech and disrespect continues, the student will serve Saturday school
Consequence 6	After Saturday school, a student will be suspended from school

Contracts & Suspensions

Contracts & suspensions are considered part of our school's progressive discipline approach. Our goal is to guide students in making positive choices and learning from their behavior. Suspensions may be considered when a student has already been placed on a behavior contract and continues to violate school expectations.

Depending on the severity of the behavior, a suspension may be issued without a prior contract. This includes serious incidents that impact the safety or well-being of others or significantly disrupt the learning environment.

Each situation is reviewed individually, and consequences are determined based on the nature of the behavior, the student's disciplinary history, and the overall impact on the school community. All suspensions will include a scheduled time for student, family, and school personnel to engage in a re-entry transition meeting to establish support around next steps.

Saturday School

Our goal is to ensure that students are held to high expectations and to reduce the amount of time they miss class. Saturday school is an opportunity for students to avoid missing school, continue supporting their academic progress, and spend time reflecting on better choices. Saturday school is from 9:00-12:00. Families will be notified in advance. Failure to attend Saturday school will result in a suspension and a family meeting to develop an action plan to support your student.

In-School Suspension

Any student on in-school suspension can come to school, but will be in an alternative space to do their school work. Students may also lose the ability to participate in other school events/activities.

Out-of-School Suspension

Any student on out-of-school suspension will be excused from school for the day(s). They may not be on campus or attend any school-related event during suspension. Students may also lose the ability to participate in other school events/activities. Upon their return, they will be informed of the process to make up for missed assignments.

Bathroom Policy

It is important that you are able to use the bathroom when you need to! It's also important that you learn to use the bathroom when appropriate and that it doesn't take away from your learning. Students have three hall passes per day via Minga. Bathroom passes help teachers support you in using the bathroom appropriately. While different teachers or groups of teachers might set different parameters for bathroom use, these rules **ALWAYS** apply.

- You may not use the restroom in the **first or last 10 minutes of class**. That is when a lot of the important information is shared so you need to be in class. Be sure to prioritize any bathroom use during the passing period
- You may not use the restroom while the teacher is giving instructions or doing direct instruction.
- Only one person from each classroom may be out at any time.
- Your trip to the restroom should be no longer than 5 minutes.
- EVERY time you wish to use the bathroom, ***you must first ask your teacher***. Your teacher will assign you a bathroom pass via Minga

If a student is not properly using their bathroom pass(es) or violating any of the policy above then it may result in a disciplinary action. Families will receive a message via Minga regarding violations.

Consequences for not following the bathroom policy:

Consequence 1	The student will be assigned to the Pause with Purpose reflective space during a designated time.
Consequence 2	Parent(s) or guardian(s) will be called to be informed of further restrictions regarding bathroom use and policy.
Consequence 3	The student and parent(s) or guardian(s) must attend a conference to discuss the concern and identify a plan.

Drug & Substance Abuse

Drugs and substance use is not permitted on OUSD property at any time. Drugs and substances include but are not limited to alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, vapes, etc. Any time a student is found engaging in substance use, they are subject to be searched and any paraphernalia found will be confiscated. Paraphernalia is not returned. Students who are engaging in drug and substance abuse while on campus will have immediate follow-up:

Consequence 1	Student will receive a check in with an MPA staff member Referral to a drug intervention coach will be made Student will be released to go home by an authorized caregiver
Consequence 2	Family meeting will be scheduled with drug intervention coach and review interventions implemented Behavior contract will be established
Consequence 3	Progressive discipline can include in-school suspension, Saturday school, and out-of-school suspension

In the event that a student is found to be under the influence and unresponsive, administrators will determine if 911 (ambulance) will be called. Families will notified immediately. A family meeting will be required before returning to school. Progressive disciplinary action will be dependent on the severity of the situation.

Active dealing or selling of drugs or substances will result in a suspension and, in some cases, expulsion.

Unauthorized Selling

Students are prohibited from selling candy, drinks, snacks, or any other item for personal gain on campus before, during, or after school unless it is an authorized fundraising event for an approved club or sport representing MPA. Things being sold on campus are subject to being confiscated.

Bicycles, Skateboards, and Scooters

Bicycle racks are to be used to park bikes. We recommend purchasing a lock because bicycles are not permitted in the building and cannot be ridden on campus.

Students are not to ride skateboards and scooters on campus for any reason. These items **MUST** be stored in the main office and can be retrieved at the end of the school day. If any of these items are used on campus they will be confiscated and disciplinary measures may follow.

Closed Campus

Madison Park Academy is a closed campus which means that students may not leave school or its grounds between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at any time without being signed out in the front office. Students are **NOT PERMITTED to leave campus during lunchtime or have food delivered**. MPA provides free breakfast and lunch daily. ***All food deliveries will be held by school staff until the end of the day.*** Parents/guardians should support students in preparing lunch or snacks from home and remind students that food deliveries from outside vendors are prohibited. Security has been instructed below.

All visitors to the school grounds must follow proper check-in procedures. When visiting the school for any purpose prior to the 3:30 p.m. dismissal, please report to the office. *Do not go directly to the classroom.* Items to be delivered to a student should be brought to the office. Students from other schools who are on the school premises before, during, or after school and have no official business or reason for being on the premises may be asked to leave.

Field Trips

Each grade level coordinates two opportunities for students to experience off-campus field trips. Students are expected to attend and participate unless there are health or disciplinary concerns. There may be additional optional field trips organized by teachers and school partners/clubs/groups. All field trips allow students to engage in learning and continue to build community with their teachers and colleagues.

Academic Resources

Grading Policy

Grades are 70% standard mastery and 30% habits of mind or soft skills.

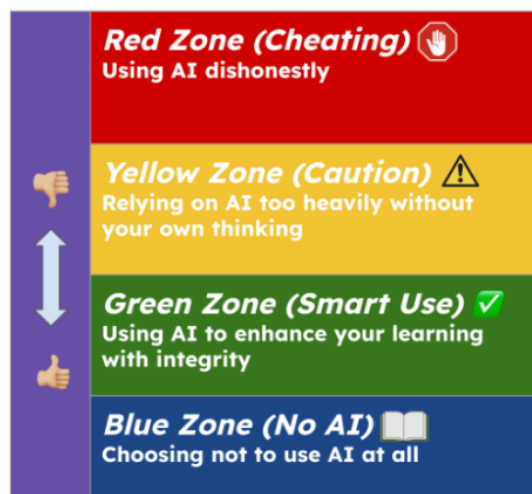
Proficient <i>Competencia</i>	Training <i>Capacitación</i>	Developing <i>Desarrollando</i>	Beginning <i>Comenzando</i>	Not Enough Evidence <i>No hay suficiente evidencia</i>
				
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AI Policy

OUSD and Madison Park Academy 6-12 recognize the growing presence of AI in society and education. Below is more information regarding AI use for school assignments. All students will pledge and agree to use AI responsibly, follow school rules, and be honest about their AI usage in academic work.

Guidelines for Acceptable Use

Allowable student use of AI on specific assignments should be determined by the teacher. Before using any AI tool or platform in the classroom, teachers should review terms of use to ensure that the platform is appropriate for student use. If allowed, AI should serve as an aid, not a replacement, in the educational process. Use of AI can be categorized into zones reflecting the nature of its use.



Citation Requirements

If the use of AI has been authorized by the teacher, students should cite the use of AI in their assignments, explaining the specific contributions of AI.

Consequences of Misuse

Misuse of AI includes submitting AI-generated work as one's own, excessive reliance on AI, or dishonest use during tests. Consequences *may* include:

Consequence 1	No credit or a failing grade on the relevant assignment or assessment.
Consequence 2	Record of integrity violation.
Consequence 3	Meeting with teacher, parent(s)/guardian(s) to address further disciplinary actions depending on severity and frequency.

Madison Park Academy M.S. Defenses

The 8th Grade Defense

The OUSD Graduate Profile makes a commitment to all students and their families that they will graduate “college, career, and community ready.” An important milestone at Madison Park Academy (6-12) is promotion from 8th to 9th grade. In order to prepare our 8th graders to be academically ready for high school, all 8th grade students will participate in an 8th grade “Habits of Mind” Portfolio Defense.

At Madison Park Academy (6-12) these capstone projects are called “Defenses” because, quite literally, students are required to publicly defend their thinking and learning publicly. In this defense, students will explain and reflect on their learnings from their core classes, as well as reflect on their personal growth as middle school students.

For the 8th Grade Defense, students are required to:

1. *Create a portfolio with a variety of artifacts of learning to demonstrate their mastery on the “Habits of Mind”*
2. *Deliver an oral presentation with a slide deck to peers, community, and staff audience.*

The 8th Grade Defense prepares students to be:

- *Academically proficient:* Students demonstrate developing mastery of the “Habits of Mind” in preparation for high school.
- *Essential communicators:* Students defend their portfolios in front of an authentic audience.
- *Socially, emotionally, and physically thriving:* Students become more self-aware by accurately assessing their strengths and limitations with a sense of confidence and optimism for future growth.

8th Grade Promotion Requirements

In order for a student to have the privilege of “walking across the stage” at the 8th-grade promotion ceremony, the following requirements must be met:

- Pass his/her/their 8th-grade defense.
- Have a 2.0 GPA.
- Have no suspensions during the second semester of 8th grade.
- Good behavior, standing, and following MPA and district policies.

It is our intention to have all students “walk across the stage” at the promotion ceremony. By working together and holding high standards, we ensure that students will not only participate in the promotion ceremony but also graduate from high school.