

# Mountain Empire Junior High School Student Handbook 2025-2026



Mountain Empire Junior High School  
3305 Buckman Springs Road, Pine Valley, CA 91962  
Phone: (619) 326-6662 website: <https://mejhs.meusd.org/>

**Grit, Grace, Gratitude, Greatness**

*Note: The Mountain Empire Student Handbook is a living document and is subject to change.*

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# WELCOME TO MOUNTAIN EMPIRE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

## The Redhawk

In the animal kingdom, the hawk is among the most intelligent of all birds. It has a broad and keen vision allowing it to see what the future holds. While it has a fierce reputation, it is also quiet and gentle. The hawk is a bird that appears in mythology and historical context in many cultures and time periods. There is a strong mythological belief that the hawk is a leader and is influential in many ways. The hawk's impact is everlasting.

## Redhawk Vision

**MEUSD Vision:** Our mission is to support students and families by providing a high-quality, successful community of learning and growth.

## Our School Community

Community can be defined as a feeling of fellowship with others as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals. Our community is unique in that we bring many distinct and unique mountain communities together to form one Mountain Empire. **The purpose of this handbook is to familiarize students and parents with the rules, regulations, required courses, activities, and organization of Mountain Empire Junior High School.** With this information it is our hope that a better understanding of the policies of the school by students, parents, and faculty members will consequently result in better cooperation and closer harmony. We want each student to feel they are a citizen of our Mountain Empire school community.



## Principal's Message

Welcome, Bienvenidos, and Haawka to all our RedHawks and families. The purpose of this handbook is to provide parents, students, and our school community with easy access to information on our Mountain Empire Junior High School programs, policies, and activities.

As we look forward to the 2025-2026 school year, we will continue to focus on the social, emotional, and academic well-being of all of our students. Our aims are to learn how to grow together with Grit, Grace, Gratitude, and Greatness.

Today more than ever, our students will need us to build strong connections and relationships as they navigate through an increasingly challenging environment. I am committed to providing a school environment that offers structure, is inspiring, and engages students with relevant opportunities. School is where students should feel connected and supported by teachers and staff. I look forward to establishing that with all of our RedHawk students and families as we embark on the 2025-2026 school year.

Your support of Mountain Empire Junior High School is always appreciated.

Please let us know how we may support you and your RedHawk student this school year.

Sincerely,

Trish Pulos, Ed.D  
*Principal*

# Quarter System & Grading Periods

The MEJHS school year will utilize a quarter system model. This means our year is broken into four quarters. Each quarter, students will take up to four classes at 90 minutes per class.

Final grades and credits will be issued at the end of every quarter. Most classes will last for two quarters; students will have a different set of classes in Term 1 vs. Term 2.

\*7th grade has the exception for Math and English which they will have all year long.

<b>TERM 1</b> <b>August - December</b>		
<b>TERM 1</b>	<b><u>Quarter 1</u></b> <b>August - October</b> (9 weeks)	<b><u>Quarter 2</u></b> <b>October - December</b> (9 weeks)
<b>Quarter Start Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday, August 13</b>	<b>Tuesday, October 14</b>
<b>Progress Report Date:</b>	<b>Friday, September 12</b>	<b>Friday, November 7</b>
<b>Quarter End Date:</b>	<b>Friday, October 10</b>	<b>Friday, December 19</b>
<b>Term 1</b>	<u>Sample 7th grade schedule:</u> Class 1A ELA Class 2A Math Class 3A History Class 4A PE	<u>Sample 8th grade schedule:</u> Class 1A ELA Class 2A Math Prep Class 3A History Class 4A PE
<b>Term 2</b>	<u>Sample 7th grade schedule:</u> Class 1B ELA Class 2B Math Class 3B Elective Wheel Class 4B Science	<u>Sample 8th grade schedule:</u> Class 1B ELD Class 2B Math Class 3B Science Class 4B Elective Wheel
<b>TERM 2</b> <b>January - June</b>		
<b>TERM 2</b>	<b><u>Quarter 3</u></b> <b>January - March</b> (9 weeks)	<b><u>Quarter 4</u></b> <b>March - June</b> (11 weeks)
<b>Quarter Start Date:</b>	<b>Monday, January 5</b>	<b>Monday, March 9</b>
<b>Progress Report Date:</b>	<b>Friday, January 30</b>	<b>Friday, May 1</b>
<b>Quarter End Date:</b>	<b>Friday, March 6</b>	<b>Thursday, June 5</b> <b>Fri, June 13 (Weather Days)</b>

Q4 longer to accommodate CA State (CAASPP, CAST, ELPAC) testing



## MEJHS 2025-26 Bell Schedules

DAILY Schedule*		Late Start WEDNESDAYS*	
<b>Period 1</b>	<b>7:25-8:55</b> (90 mins)	<b>Period 1</b>	<b>8:25-9:31</b> (66 mins)
<b>Period 2</b>	<b>9:00-10:32</b> (92 mins)	<b>Period 2</b>	<b>9:36-10:46</b> (70 mins)
<b>Break</b>	<b>10:32-10:40</b> (8 mins)	<b>Break</b>	<b>10:46-10:54</b> (8 mins)
<b>Period 3</b>	<b>10:45-12:15</b> (90 mins)	<b>Period 3</b>	<b>10:59-12:39</b> (100 mins)
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>12:15-12:45</b> (30 mins)	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>12:39-1:09</b> (30 mins)
<b>Period 4</b>	<b>12:50-2:20</b> (90 mins)	<b>Period 4</b>	<b>1:14-2:20</b> (66 mins)

RALLY Schedule*		MINIMUM DAY Schedule*	
<b>Period 1</b>	<b>7:25 - 8:45</b> (80 mins)	<b>Period 1</b>	<b>7:25 - 8:25</b> (60 mins)
<b>Period 2</b>	<b>8:49 - 10:10</b> (81 mins)	<b>Period 2</b>	<b>8:29 - 9:32</b> (63 mins)
<i>Break</i>	<i>10:10 - 10:19</i> (9 mins)	<i>Break</i>	<i>9:32 - 9:42</i> (10 mins)
<b>Period 3</b>	<b>10:23 - 11:42</b> (79 mins)	<b>Period 3</b>	<b>9:46 - 10:46</b> (60 mins)
<b>RALLY</b>	<b>11:46- 12:26</b> (40 mins)	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>10:46 - 11:16</i> (30 mins)
<i>Lunch</i>	<i>12:26 - 12:56</i> (30 mins)	<b>Period 4</b>	<b>11:20 - 12:20</b> (60 mins)
<b>Period 4</b>	<b>1:00 - 2:20</b> (80 mins)		

\*7:05 am - 2:30 pm are daily teacher reporting times

	TERM 1 (Aug 2025 - Dec 2025)		TERM 2 (Jan 2026 - June 2026) <span style="float: right;">▼</span>	
<b>Quarter:</b>	Q1: Aug-Oct ( 9 wks)	Q2: Oct-Dec (9 wks)	Q3: Jan- March (9 wks)	Q4: March-June (11 wks)
<b>Start Date:</b>	Wednesday, Aug. 13	Tuesday, Oct. 14	Tuesday, Jan. 6	Monday, March 9
<b>Progress Report:</b>	Friday, Sept. 12	Friday, Nov. 7	Friday, Jan. 30	Friday, May 1
<b>End Date:</b>	Friday, OCTOBER 10	Friday, DECEMBER 19	Friday, MARCH 6	Thursday, JUNE 5

# School Calendar

TERM 1 (Quarters 1 & 2)	TERM 2 (Quarters 3 & 4)
<p><b>August 2025</b>  <b>13</b> First Day of School  <b>21</b> Picture Day  <b>28</b> Make- Up Picture Day</p> <p><b>September 2025</b>  <b>1</b> Labor Day  <b>12 Q1 Progress Report</b>  <b>15</b> Hispanic Heritage Month Begins</p> <p><b>October 2025</b>  <b>10 END OF Q1</b> (Minimum day)  <b>14</b> Q2 Begins  <b>14</b> Indigenous Peoples Day  <b>23-31</b> Red Ribbon Week  <b>31</b> Costume Contest</p> <p><b>November 2025</b>  <b>1</b> American Indian Heritage Month  <b>7 Q2 Progress Report</b>  <b>10</b> District Holiday  <b>11</b> Veteran’s Day Holiday  <b>24-28</b> Thanksgiving Recess  <b>29</b> Native American Heritage Day</p> <p><b>December 2025</b>  <b>8-12</b> Check Your Mood  <b>19 END OF Q2/TERM 1</b> (Minimum day)  <b>12/22-1/2</b> Winter Recess</p>	<p><b>January 2026</b>  <b>5</b> School Resumes First Day of Q3/Term 2  <b>19</b> M.L. King Jr. Day  <b>30 Q3 Progress Report</b></p> <p><b>February 2026</b>  <b>1</b> Black History Month Begins  <b>12-16</b> Kindness Week  <b>13- 16</b> Presidents’ Weekend</p> <p><b>March 2026</b>  <b>1</b> Women’s History Month Begins  <b>6 END OF Q3</b> (Minimum day)  <b>9</b> Q4 Begins  <b>3/30-4/10</b> Spring Break</p> <p><b>April 2026</b>  <b>13</b> School Resumes</p> <p><b>May 2026</b>  <b>1</b> Asian Pacific Islander Month  <b>1 Q4 Progress Report</b>  <b>25</b> Memorial Day Holiday</p> <p><b>June 2026</b>  <b>1</b> Pride Month Begins  <b>3</b> End of the Year Awards  <b>5 END OF Q4/TERM 2</b> (Minimum day)  <b>12</b> END of Interim Weather Day Schedule  <b>19</b> Juneteenth</p>

# MEJHS STAFF

<p><b><u>ADMINISTRATION</u></b>  <b>Principal..... Trish Pulos</b>  <b>Assistant Principal ..... Heather Westgaard</b></p>	<p><b><u>EXT</u></b>  <b>313</b>  <b>319</b></p>
<p><b>Counselor .....Christina Crane</b>  <a href="mailto:christina.crane@meusd.org">christina.crane@meusd.org</a>  <b>Psychologist ..... Jarrett Clifton</b>  <a href="mailto:jarrett.clifton@meusd.org">jarrett.clifton@meusd.org</a></p>	<p><b>234</b>  <b>230</b></p>
<p><b><u>OFFICE STAFF</u></b>  <b>Junior High School Office Manager..... Nancy Chavez</b>          See Ms. Chavez for the following: appointments needed with principal; if you are sent to the office for behavior issues; all medical related needs; campus security needs; custodial needs; any questions on sports release times and calendar events. *All campus guests need to sign in with Ms. Chavez at her desk.</p> <p><b>Attendance Clerk .....Nishma Yanez</b>          Check in with Ms. Nishma when you return from an absence, need attendance reports, or need to turn in doctor's notes and other documentation of excused absences; independent study contracts.</p> <p><b>District Nurse ..... Kimberly Darnell</b>          See the Nurse for all medical related needs. <b>All medications MUST be checked in with the front office.</b></p> <p><b>Media Services Coordinator .....Ricky Prince</b>          The Media Services Coordinator tracks and maintains the textbooks and Chromebooks for each class and student.</p>	<p><b>300</b>  <b>320</b>  <b>253</b>  <b>238</b></p>
<p><b><u>CAMPUS SUPERVISOR</u></b>  <b>Aime Quintana</b></p> <p><b><u>CUSTODIAL STAFF</u></b>  <b>Martina Villanueva</b></p>	<p><b>320</b>  <b>320</b></p>

# TEACHERS

Teachers can be reached by phone or email. To contact by phone, please dial the school at (619) 326-6662 and use the extension below. There are times that our extensions cannot be reached from outside lines, during this time a front office staff member will transfer your call.

<b>ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS</b>	
Deitchman, Tracey ( <a href="mailto:tracey.deitchman@meusd.org">tracey.deitchman@meusd.org</a> ).....	308
Kluver, Rebekah ( <a href="mailto:rebekah.kluver@meusd.org">rebekah.kluver@meusd.org</a> ).....	309
Brown, Michelle ( <a href="mailto:michelle.brown@meusd.org">michelle.brown@meusd.org</a> ).....	310
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	
George, Taylor ( <a href="mailto:taylor.george@meusd.org">taylor.george@meusd.org</a> ).....	303
Ramirez, Pedro ( <a href="mailto:pedro.ramirez@meusd.org">pedro.ramirez@meusd.org</a> ).....	304
Kaiser, Danielle ( <a href="mailto:danielle.kaiser@meusd.org">danielle.kaiser@meusd.org</a> ) .....	302
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>	
Velazquez, Erik ( <a href="mailto:erik.velazquez@meusd.org">erik.velazquez@meusd.org</a> ) .....	305
<b>SCIENCES</b>	
Kaiser, Danielle ( <a href="mailto:danielle.kaiser@meusd.org">danielle.kaiser@meusd.org</a> ).....	302
Lucero, Patrick ( <a href="mailto:patrick.lucero@meusd.org">patrick.lucero@meusd.org</a> ).....	301
<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION</b>	
Dougherty, Christie ( <a href="mailto:christie.dougherty@meusd.org">christie.dougherty@meusd.org</a> ) .....	311
Campos, Nicole ( <a href="mailto:nicole.campos@meusd.org">nicole.campos@meusd.org</a> ).....	305
Heinemann, Kristen ( <a href="mailto:kristen.heinemann@meusd.org">kristen.heinemann@meusd.org</a> ).....	305
<b>SOCIAL SCIENCES</b>	
Brown, Michelle ( <a href="mailto:michelle.brown@meusd.org">michelle.brown@meusd.org</a> ) .....	310
Gradillas, Ernesto ( <a href="mailto:ernesto.gradillas@meusd.org">ernesto.gradillas@meusd.org</a> ) .....	307
<b>CAREER and TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION</b>	
Tardiff, Hannah ( <a href="mailto:hannah.tardiff@meusd.org">hannah.tardiff@meusd.org</a> ) .....	306
<b>SUPPORT TEAM: SECAS/ INSTRUCTIONAL AIDES</b>	
Maureen Marino Karem Hernandez Angela Deniz	320 Selena Moraga

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO BE A GREAT REDHAWK

### **Applying for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program**

Information is available at the front office.

[Breakfast and Lunch Menus](#)

### **Bus Passes**

All bus passes need to be approved by the MEUSD Transportation Department. Please call 619-473-9022 ext.133. Requests must be submitted and approved 24 hours in advance. Site secretaries do not approve bus passes.

### **Checking Grades**

MEJHS uses the AERIES Learning Management System. Parents may access student grades via the parent portal on the district website at [www.meusd.org](http://www.meusd.org).

### **Chromebooks**

**\*\*Payment for broken/damaged/lost devices and accessories\*\* (Price list on next page)**

MEJHS is committed to increasing technology accessibility for our students in order to provide 21st Century learning opportunities. Students will be issued a Chromebook. Devices will be turned in over the summer so the district can maintain them. Do not place papers, pens, pencils, headphones, or other objects in between the screen and keyboard while closing the chromebook. As with all other school issued materials, ***students are responsible for any damage to the Chromebook.*** Also see the Technology Acceptable Use Policy at the end of this handbook for more information.

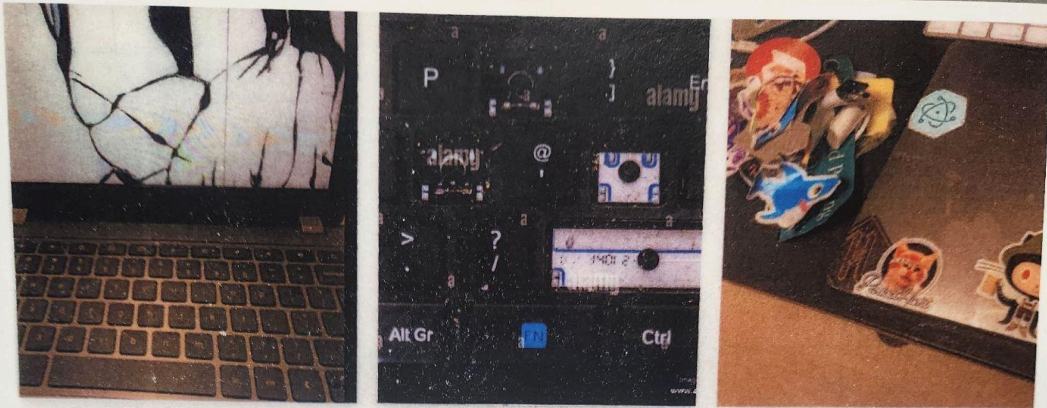
### **Designated Eating Areas**

Students may only eat outdoors in the quad on the concrete areas. **Eating is not allowed in the halls.** **Eating in classrooms is only permitted in inclement weather or by individual teachers.**

### **Hallway Etiquette**

Our school is unique in that we have students moving through hallways as they travel from class to class or to break times. Important things to remember about how to behave and conduct yourself while in the halls:

- A. Go in the direction of the arrow posters on the walls
- B. Do not stand in the middle of the hallway to talk to friends; move to the side so others can pass
- C. Be mindful when others are using water stations that you don't run into their backpacks or them
- D. Always walk in the hallways; passing periods are long enough to get into any classroom from inside the building
- E. Do not stand in the entries and/or exits of any doors



## Chromebook Repair PRICE LIST

FULL CHROMEBOOK	\$350
LCD DAMAGE	\$75
KEYBOARD	\$50
CHARGING ADAPTER	\$40
STICKER REMOVAL	\$20
TRACKPAD	\$17

DAMAGE IS NOT SUBJECT TO A SPECIFIC SET OF  
CONDITIONS OR EXAMPLES

### **Loss of Privileges**

Failure to attend assigned detentions, having excessive tardies, and/or repeated discipline problems, may result in a loss of access to school activities, practices, and games. The loss of privilege can be assigned through a request from a teacher to a school administrator once home contact has been made about the reason for the loss of privilege or by a school administrator who includes the loss of privilege as a consequence.

## **Lost and Found**

Lost and Found is located in the brown box on the quad patio. See Ms. Nancy or Ms. Mo for assistance.

## **Lunch and Break Boundaries**

Students may only eat on the left (West) side of the quad area at the tables provided for eating. The hallways are not open before school or during lunch unless there is inclement weather. Students will wait to enter for the school day in the designated junior high quad area (North end of campus outside).

## **Medications**

**Students are not to self-dispense any medication while on campus or at a school function including over-the-counter drugs such as Tylenol, aspirin, cough drops, eye drops, etc.** All medications **MUST** have a doctor's prescription with a label. Any prescription medication must be checked in and kept with the front office staff immediately upon arrival on campus. Inhalers are the one exception; students should check in with the nurse regarding the inhaler so that it can be noted on their emergency card and they may keep it on their person.

## **Off Campus Passes**

**Mountain Empire Junior High School is a CLOSED CAMPUS; students may not leave without permission.** Students that need to leave school during the school day must: check out through the Attendance Office, and be signed out by a parent, guardian, or emergency contact.

## **Restroom/Hall Passes**

**Restroom and hall passes will not be issued in the first or last 10 minutes of class.** Students needing to use the restroom must be on time to class, allowing for roll to be taken and class to start prior to asking for the pass. Students should not be in the hallways without a pass.

\*The 10 minute rule is given an exception at the end of the last period of the day as students prepare to ride the bus home.\*

## **Search and Seizures**

School officials have a duty to protect all students from the possible damages of contraband, such as weapons or drugs. Although student rights are of primary importance, when situations warrant, searches of vehicles, lockers, backpacks, purses, pockets and other personal belongings will be performed. "The legality of a warrantless search depends on the reasonableness under all circumstances of the search, including the following factors: whether the search was justified at its inception and whether, as conducted, it was reasonably related in scope to the circumstances that justified it in the first place," (New Jersey v. TLO, 1985).

# ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

## Attendance

Excellent attendance will be awarded every quarter! Students will be rewarded for excellent and improved attendance. Excused absences are listed in CA Ed Code 48205. Absences must be cleared by the **parent/guardian within five full days** or they will be considered truant. The parent/guardian must call the attendance office at 619-326-6662 ext. 320 or email [nishma.yanez@meusd.org](mailto:nishma.yanez@meusd.org) to report an absence. If you are unable to call, or email, a note signed by the parent/guardian **and** delivered to the attendance office is sufficient.

A student absent from school under CA Ed Code 48205 shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during the absence that can be reasonably provided and, upon satisfactory completion within a reasonable period of time, usually five days from the last date of absence, shall be given full credit. The teacher of the class from which a pupil is absent shall determine which tests and assignments shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the tests and assignments that the pupil missed during the absence.

**It is a student's responsibility to talk with their teacher about what work has been missed.**

## Independent Study Contracts

IS Contracts should be requested upon notice of a student absence. All parents sign a master agreement to allow their student to use an IS Contract with their registration paperwork at the start of the school year.

**Step 1:** School is made aware of a student absence for one to fifteen school days.

**Step 2:** The Daily Learning Plan [DLP] (document showing work to complete) is given to the student.

**Step 3:** The student completes the missing work within five school days of the end of the absence and gives their DLP to their period 1 (homeroom) teacher.

**Step 4:** Homeroom teacher verifies the work was completed with other teachers through samples and gradebook evidence and returns the DLP to the attendance clerk who updates the attendance to show the student completed the requirements for the day(s) missed.

## Tardies

Tardies are when students are late to class without cause including time spent in a restroom without an adult being aware of their whereabouts. Being tardy interrupts class and delays learning. Being late to school or class is a bad habit, and shows a disregard for others. Students will be considered tardy if they are not in class prepared to learn when the bell rings. Some teachers may request students to be seated at their desk to avoid a tardy mark in attendance.

**Students arriving late to school in the morning must check in with the attendance clerk before going to class.** If a student is more than 30 minutes late to class without a valid excuse, the tardy will be marked as an unexcused absence.

If students are tardy, consequences will be as follows:

- **1st Tardy** - Verbal Warning and marked tardy in Aeries
- **2nd Tardy**- Home contact to discuss tardies with parent/guardian and marked tardy in Aeries
- **3rd Tardy and beyond:** Referral to VP for discipline which can include, but is not limited to, loss of school activity privileges and having an adult escort you to each class

Excessive tardies will be considered defiance and may result in loss of privileges and may result in a referral to consequences including alternatives to suspension.

# ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

MEJHS expects 7th and 8th grade students to meet the following minimum standards of achievement and attendance to qualify for participation in non-academic school activities. Events occurring in Term 1 will use Term 1 grades for consideration, and events occurring in Term 2 will use Term 2 grades. 8th Grade Promotion

- **Academic Achievement:** Students must show passing grades for at least three of their four classes throughout each school term up to the last 2 weeks of a semester/grading period
- **Attendance Requirement:** Students must have 90% or better attendance per school year to participate in promotion.
- **Citizenship Requirement:** Students can only have O, S, N on their report cards.

## **8th Grade Promotion Activities & Eligibility**

The privilege of participating in activities, including promotion, is one that 8th graders earn. Students who do not meet the requirements may **not** be eligible for activities leading up to and including promotion. Students and parents may request an appeal with the site Promotion Committee if they disagree with a decision about eligibility. The Promotion Committee will analyze the student's records and determine eligibility to participate in the activities and notify parent/guardians of the determination.

\*Students with Individualized Education Plans will have their eligibility reviewed by their IEP team\*

- ◆ Students who receive 1 or more Fs in any classes recorded by the most recent progress report or report card OR earning an F in a current grading period up to 2 weeks prior to an event including promotion, may be disqualified from attending or participating.
- ◆ Students must have a minimum of a 2.0 GPA in order to participate in activities.
- ◆ Three or more referrals in one semester are considered excessive and will be cause for disqualification for activity attendance or participation.
- ◆ Any suspensions (in or out of school) totaling three or more days in the quarter before an event is considered excessive and is cause for disqualification, OR any disciplinary action within two school weeks of an event are cause for disqualification.
- ◆ Students who have missed more than 10% of school days throughout the year up to the day of an activity are considered chronically absent and this is cause for disqualification.

## **Academic Eligibility Dates**

Quarter 1 Progress Report	September 12, 2025
Quarter 1 Final	October 10, 2025
Quarter 2 Progress Report	November 7, 2025
Quarter 2 Final	December 19, 2025
Quarter 3 Progress Report	January 30, 2026
Quarter 3 Final	March 6, 2026
Quarter 4 Progress Report	May 1, 2026
Quarter 4 Final	June 13, 2026 (Determines CIF Eligibility)

# ACTIVITIES

## **After School Program (ASP)**

Room 6 is where before and after school programming will be centered. It will be open everyday with late buses coming at 5:30pm Monday-Thursdays. We encourage students to stay after school to work to keep up their grades and get involved with extracurricular activities on campus. Participating in the ASSETs (After School Safety and Enrichment for Teens) program gives students additional opportunities to succeed in school, and build culture and grow in spirit as a Redhawk!

**Behavior Expectations:** Students that participate in ASP are expected to follow the same school rules as during the school day (walking in the hallways, respecting others, alerting adults when there is an issue or concern). If a student chooses not to follow school rules during ASP, the coordinator may contact home to discuss the concerns with a parent or guardian and discuss whether continuing to attend ASP is the right decision for the student.

## **Promotion**

Students that are eligible to participate in promotional activities have met the standards set forth by MEJHS and the board of MEUSD. This is a celebration and a privilege, not a right, of students that have provided evidence of their learning, consistent attendance, and appropriate behavior during school such that their friends and families can celebrate their accomplishments as they prepare to move into high school.

## **Student Leadership**

Student Leadership serves MEJHS by voicing and addressing student opinions and needs, upholding the MEJHS Leadership Constitution, raising funds through the Student Store, overseeing the expenditures of student funds, and sponsoring many school-wide programs and events.

The primary goals are to create a memorable experience for all students on campus, to promote Redhawk unity and spirit, and to grow as student leaders. Leadership actively works to ensure that student activities and campus life are alive and well.

## **Yearbook**

Students that participate in the yearbook class are assigned the elective class for one year. The production of the yearbook is an important part of the MEJHS experience for students. Students are trusted to contribute positively and exhibit good character that represents the school in a positive way. Yearbook students get to work on photography, design, and formatting of the memorable book that all students and family get to enjoy as they reminisce on the year!

# How Do I Calculate My GPA?

Here is the standard scale for letter grades:

Letter Grade	Point Values
A	4.0
B	3.0
C	2.0
D	1.0
F	0.0

**Calculate your GPA with these steps:**

- **Look** at your grades on Aeries to see how many points each of your grades are worth.
- **Add** all the point values together – this is your sum.
- **Count** the number of classes you're taking.
- **Divide** the **sum** of the converted points by the **number of classes you're taking**.

## Academic Honor Roll

Any student who has earned an overall grade point average of 3.5 or better for a quarter is recognized as an Honor Roll recipient.

### EXAMPLE:

English	A	4 points	13 points	= 3.25 Grade Point Average
Math	C	2 points	_____	
Science	B	3 points	4 classes	
PE	A	4 points		
		_____	13 points	

# GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

## Counseling Services and Schedules

The MEJHS Counseling Program is designed to provide both direct and indirect services to *all* students as well as program planning and school support. We work with students to support them in the three domains of school counseling; academic development, social-emotional development and college and career readiness. Support can be provided through classroom guidance lessons, individual counseling, mental health referrals, school-wide programs/events and small group counseling. *We look forward to working with and supporting you over the next two years.*

### Student Schedules

To view a student schedule, login to the AERIES Learning Management System via the district website at [www.meusd.org](http://www.meusd.org). You can access AERIES via the link at the top of the MEUSD Website Homepage. You can also access AERIES on the app found on most phones.

### Schedule Changes

Schedule changes are discouraged. It is unlikely that a student will be able to move into a different class because a schedule change often affects the overall class schedule. Our master schedule is created to meet the needs of all students.

- *If you find you do need to make a schedule change request, please obtain a **Schedule Change Request** form from your School Counselor. It will require a parent/guardian signature prior to review.*
- **Requests for specific teachers, teacher changes, or specific periods are not accepted.**

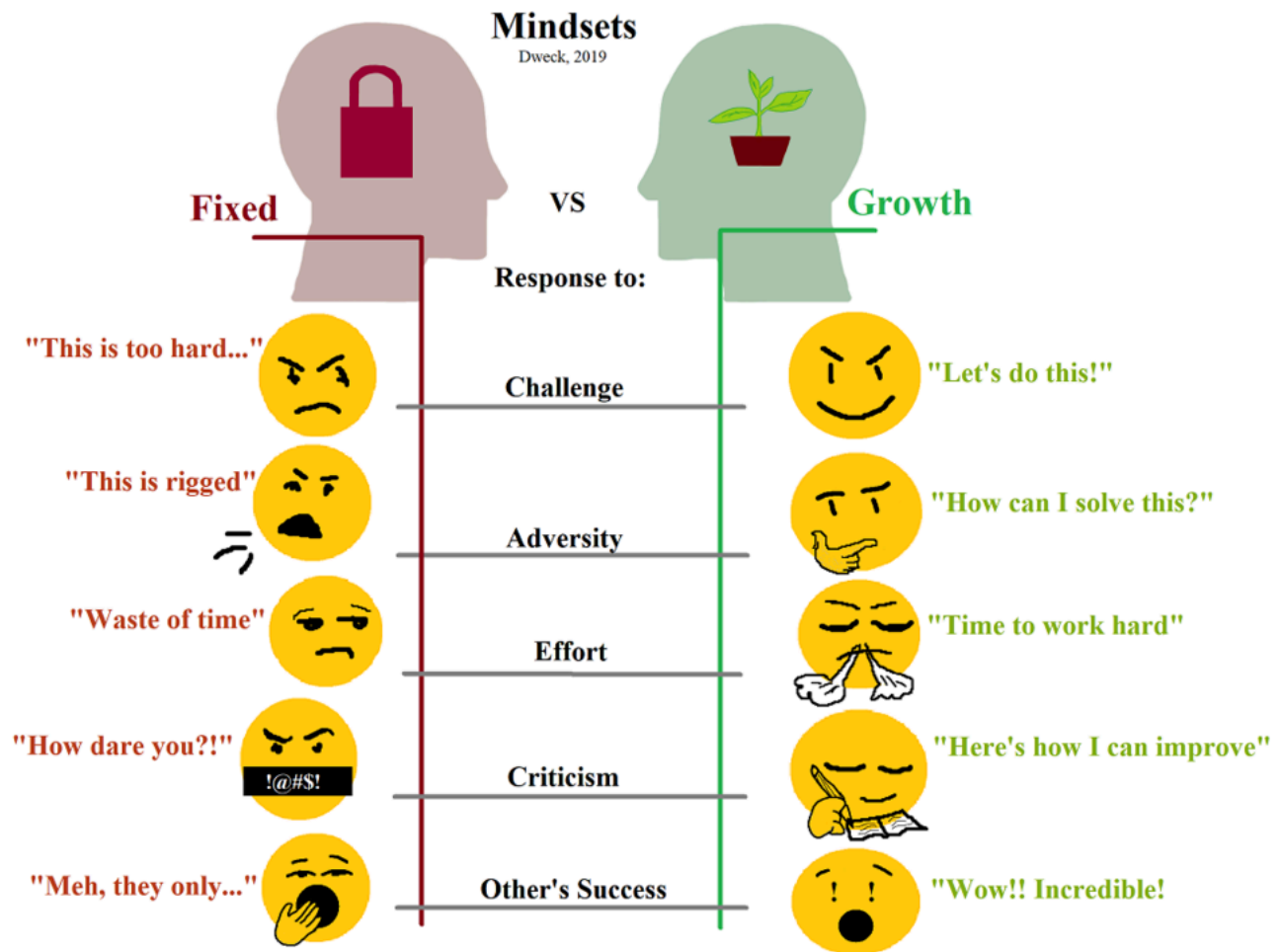
### School Counselor Appointments

**If you want to meet with your counselor, you have several options.**

- Walk-in to the Counseling Center **before school, at break, during lunch, or after school** (no appointment is necessary during these times but is first-come/first-serve). This method is best for students who have a minor concern or question that can be addressed quickly.
- Complete the [MEJHS School Counselor Request Form](#). This form can be accessed via Classlink on the student's chromebook.
- Emergency situations may walk-in anytime. This method is ONLY for students who have a concern or situation that needs **immediate attention**.
- Email your counselor your question or concern. Ms. Crane can be reached at [christina.crane@meusd.org](mailto:christina.crane@meusd.org)

# GROWTH MINDSET

Students with a growth mindset are more likely to be confident and resilient when faced with challenges, and are more likely to see failures as learning opportunities. They may also be more inspired to work hard, which can lead to increased productivity. Research has shown that students who believe they can grow their intelligence through practice may even outperform their classmates academically.



# Career Pathway Opportunities

Junior high is the time for students to be exposed to and explore career pathways and learn habits that will help them be successful.

While in high school, students will have the opportunity to learn career-oriented skills.

<p><b><u>Agricultural Mechanics CTE Pathway</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Farm Equipment Parts &amp; Service Technician</li> <li>● Heavy Equipment Operator</li> <li>● Agricultural Engineer</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Health Science MEHS Pathway</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nursing: Registered Nurse, LVN, Nurse practitioner</li> <li>● Physician, Dentist, or Pharmacist</li> <li>● Technician: Surgical, X-ray, laboratory</li> <li>● Firefighter, EMT, Paramedic</li> <li>● Medical Examiner</li> <li>● Athletic Trainer</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>AgriScience CTE Pathway</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Laboratory Aide/Animal Caretaker</li> <li>● Farm/Ranch Hand</li> <li>● Farm Management/Ranch Management</li> <li>● Farm supply sales</li> <li>● Animal Scientist</li> <li>● Livestock</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Ornamental Horticulture CTE Pathway</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Crop specialist, Soil scientist</li> <li>● Plant breeder</li> <li>● Landscape Equipment Operator</li> <li>● Nursery Associate</li> <li>● Field Assistant</li> <li>● Floral Designer</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Design, Visual and Media Arts CTE Pathway</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Photographer</li> <li>● Page layout Artist</li> <li>● Creative Director, Art Director</li> <li>● Marketing Specialist</li> <li>● Writing</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Information Support and Services CTE Pathway</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Graphic designer creating product illustrations, logos, product packaging, websites</li> <li>● Creative Director, Art Director</li> <li>● User Interface Designer</li> <li>● Marketing Specialist</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Software and Systems Development CTE Pathway</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Engineering: Computer, Electrical, Mechanical</li> <li>● Systems Analysis, System Design</li> <li>● Coding, Web Design</li> <li>● Game Design</li> <li>● Technician: maintenance, repair, field service</li> </ul>	

# Behavior Code

At MEJHS, we take pride in our students' behavior and attitude toward their peers and our staff and we expect our students to do the same.

## Explanation of Consequence Terms

- **Alternative to Suspension (ATS):** An ATS is assigned in lieu of an off-site suspension. The student will be enrolled in online classes via Edgenuity and will attend class in an alternative setting; the student will not have a break or lunch with other students. Upon completion, the referral will not be logged on their permanent record as a suspension and the student will be allowed to make up classwork.
- **Class Suspension:** A class suspension is assigned during a school day. The student will be removed from a specific class for one to two school days and work quietly in the office.
- **Detention:** Detention is assigned as a consequence either during lunch or before school. Students in detention are expected to remain quiet, focus on school work and stay off their personal devices.
- **Expulsion:** A formal process that entails suspension and a hearing at the District Office to determine if a student will be dismissed from their current educational setting. Students who are expelled by the Governing Board will be placed in an alternative educational setting until the Governing Board acts to lift their expulsion.
- **Involuntary transfer:** A student may be involuntarily transferred to the MEUSD alternative education program for the remaining semester plus the following semester in the event that previous discipline attempts have not brought forward the desired behavioral changes.
- **Suspension:** Removes student from campus for 1 to 5 days after which time a student may return to campus. Make-up work will be determined at the teachers' discretion.

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty and personal integrity are fundamental components of a student's educational experience. Young adults preparing for college or work are expected to become independent. With this independence comes the responsibility to complete assignments on-time and to understand the material presented. With this responsibility, students are expected to act honestly at all times and may not engage in acts of: cheating on tests, assignments, or projects; fabrication or falsification; unauthorized collaboration; plagiarism; or theft; using AI sources to complete or present assignments/tests/projects as their own work.

### **Consequences for Academic Dishonesty:**

- **First Offense: (in any class)**
  - Teacher issues a referral; teacher discretion determines if the student may redo the work
  - Parent or guardian contact
  - Student receives a "0" on the assignment and may earn an "N" in citizenship for that class
- **Second Offense: (in any class)**
  - Teacher issues a referral
  - Parent or guardian contact
  - Student receives a "0" on assignment
  - Student receives an "N" in citizenship for that class
  - Student will be assigned lunch detention
  - Student will not be able to make up the work

## **DRESS CODE**

Clothing must be school appropriate, clean, in good repair, and worn as designed. Appropriate, safe footwear must be worn at all times while students are at school or at school sponsored activities. **Note: Slippers are never permitted, even on PJ days. Closed toed shoes are required for PE class.**

**\*\*Please note that boots can not be worn in the gymnasium.\*\***

Apparel, garments, and/or accessories ***may not contain words or images that:***

- **Contain double meanings** which may be construed to be either sexual, illegal or patently offensive in nature.
- Display **profane or obscene words, phrases, or images** which are sexually explicit.
- Display **images of weapons, drugs and alcohol, vulgar gestures, racial/ethnic or sexist slurs.**
- Display **advertising or promotion of any alcohol, tobacco, weapons, or drug products** of any type, or verbal message or image which publicizes or encourages the use of these products.

The following apparel is ***not allowed*** to be worn during school hours, including any afterschool programs, or any school sponsored event:

- Any garment that can be construed by school administration as being an *undergarment, swimwear, or beachwear*. Note: plain white tank tops are considered an undergarment and slippers are considered sleepwear.
- *Tops/shirts for all students that allows a student's undergarments or torso skin to be seen*, whether the material is considered sheer, opaque, mesh or netting.
- *Tops/shirts that expose the midriff.*
- *Shorts that do not cover the upper 1/3 of the thigh and those expose a student's undergarments or inset pockets.*
- Students with saggy pants exposing underwear will be required to wear a temporary "zip tie" belt to maintain the pants at waist level.
- *No hoods up while in classrooms* during regular school hours.  
Note: students may be asked to remove hoods while on campus.
- *Belt buckles, or large metallic necklaces displaying initials, numbers or images* which can be construed to be a reference to the drug culture, sexually suggestive/demeaning acts, or related to identified gang activity.
- *Chains* (including dog chains, and watch chains), *spiked jewelry*, or similar potentially dangerous items are prohibited.

## **Corrective Action for Dress Code Violations**

School administration will make the final judgment regarding the appropriateness of individual student attire. Students who persist in any of these infractions will be considered defiant and disciplinary actions may be taken. The school, at no time, is responsible for loss or theft of confiscated items.

**The dress code is a dynamic document. Changes may be made at any time during the school year.**

*Disciplinary actions may include:*

- Confiscation of the offending accessory item (hat, jewelry, etc.) and released to student or parent, as appropriate.
- Being directed to change out of the offending item into a school-provided option.
- A parent or guardian will be asked to bring an appropriate clothing item(s) to school.

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

### **School Site Policy for violation of electronic device rules:**

#### **MEJHS follows a “No Cell, Bell to Bell” Policy**

Students are **STRONGLY** advised not to bring cell phones, earbuds/earphones, Smart Watches, portable devices including speakers and tablets, or any other electronic devices to school. These devices, if brought, are done so at the student’s own risk and they are responsible for any damage or loss of the device. **IF** a student chooses to bring their personal device to campus, it must be stored in their backpack and turned off from the first bell to the last bell (7:25 am to 2:20 pm).

- Cell phones may not be used during instructional time unless permission is specifically granted by the classroom teacher. Students who violate this rule will be subject to disciplinary action. Additional information can be found in the Technology Acceptable Use Policy.
- If parents need to reach their student during the school day, they can contact the school directly and the school will inform the student with a note, invite them to the office to use their cell phone, or transfer the call to a calssroom line to talk to the parent.

Consequences may depend on classroom policy, on the number of offenses, and level of student cooperation. However, as a general rule, the device will be confiscated and turned into the office.

- **First Offense:** Device will be held in the office until the end of the school day. The student may pick it up.
- **Second Offense:** Device will be held in the office and a parent/guardian must pick up the device.
- **Third Offense:** Parent/guardian must pick up the device and parent/student/assistant principal meeting. The meeting will determine how long the student will use a ‘Yondr’ case while at school.

### **School Board Policy 5131.8: Mobile Communication Devices**

The Governing Board recognizes that the use of smartphones and other mobile communication devices on campus may be beneficial to student learning and well-being, but could be disruptive of the instructional program in some circumstances. The Board permits limited use of mobile communication devices on campus in accordance with law and the following policy.

Students may use cell phones, smartwatches, pagers, or other mobile communication devices on campus during non instructional time as long as the device is utilized in accordance with law and any rules that individual school sites may impose.

Mobile communication devices shall be turned off during instructional time. However, a student shall not be prohibited from possessing or using a mobile communication device under any of the following circumstances: (Education Code 48901.5, 48901.7)

1. In the case of an emergency, or in response to a perceived threat of danger
2. When a teacher or administrator grants permission to the student to possess or use a mobile communication device, subject to any reasonable limitation imposed by that teacher or administrator
3. When a licensed physician or surgeon determines that the possession or use is necessary for the student's health and well-being
4. When the possession or use is required by the student's individualized education program.

Smartphones and other mobile communication devices shall not be used in any manner which infringes on the privacy rights of any other person , including unauthorized photos and videos .

When a school official reasonably suspects that a search of a student's mobile communication device will turn up evidence of the student's violation of the law or school rules, such a search shall be conducted in accordance with BP/AR 5145.12 - Search and Seizure.

When a student uses a mobile communication device in an unauthorized manner, the student may be disciplined and a district employee may confiscate the device. The employee shall store the device securely until it is returned to the student or turned over to the principal or designee, as appropriate. A student may also be subject to discipline, in accordance with law, Board policy, or administrative regulation, for off-campus use of a mobile communication device which poses a threat or danger to the safety of students, staff, or district property or substantially disrupts school activities. The Superintendent or designee shall inform students that the district will not be responsible for a student's mobile communication device which is brought on campus or to a school activity and is lost, stolen, or damaged.

**SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR**

The MEJHS community believes Socially Responsible Behavior is crucial for a climate of respect. Socially Responsible Behavior during school and at all school sponsored events includes, but is not limited to, the following:

**A. Public Displays of Affection:** Physical intimacy is to be valued but should be shared discreetly and not showcased. In an effort to promote behavior which establishes a friendly atmosphere without causing others to feel embarrassment or discomfort, unacceptable behaviors are:

- 1) Prolonged or heavy kissing;
- 2) Fondling/inappropriate sexual contact;
- 3) Excessive body contact including sitting on laps

**B. Language:** Appropriate language enhances mutual respect and raises the level of comfort necessary for students and staff to perform at their best. The following misuse of written, spoken or gestured communication in any language is unacceptable:

- 1) Obscene or profane language,
- 2) Derogatory slurs that are racial, ethnic, religious, gender related, sexual, or intended to be hurtful or harassing in nature.

- Violations of socially responsible behavior include
  - Home contact for parent awareness of the behavior
  - Lunch detention
  - Campus beautification
  - A new schedule that moves a student from the vicinity of others affected or included in the behavior

	<b>BE SAFE</b>	<b>BE RESPECTFUL</b>	<b>BE RESPONSIBLE</b>
<b>BASIC</b> EXPECTATIONS	~Move safely ~Remove hoods indoors ~Let an adult know if help is needed ~Bring school appropriate items only	~Follow adult directions without arguing ~Use positive language ~Be honest ~Respect yourself and others	~Keep our campus clean ~Recycle ~Phones off and in backpack from bell to bell ~Take care of school devices

# Technology - Acceptable Use Policy

## MEUSD Acceptable Use of Technology Agreement for Students – Grades K – 12

Mountain Empire Unified School District believes that access to technology in school gives students greater opportunities to learn, engage, communicate, and develop skills that will prepare them for work, life, and citizenship. We are committed to helping students develop the technology and communication skills that are necessary to support their future success. Therefore, we believe all students should have access to technology tools when they act in a safe, responsible, courteous and legal manner.

Access to online content via the district network is restricted through filtering in accordance with our policies, federal regulations (Children’s Internet Protection Act [CIPA]) and follows privacy protection legislation (Student Online Personal Information Protection Act [SOPIPA]). If parents do not wish for their children to use particular district/school technologies, they must notify the school in writing. Mt. Empire Unified School District makes a reasonable effort to ensure students’ safety and security online but will not be held accountable for any harm or damages that result from use of school technologies.

The District Acceptable Use of Technology Agreement outlines the guidelines and behavior that students are expected to follow when using school technologies or when using personally owned devices on the school campus:

- The Mountain Empire Unified School District network is intended for educational purposes.
- All activity with district technologies will be monitored and related information, data and history may be retained.
- Students are expected to follow the same rules for good behavior and respectful conduct online as well as offline.
- Students shall always use the Internet, network resources, and online sites in a courteous and respectful manner.
- Misuse of school resources can result in disciplinary action.
- Student users of the district network are expected to alert school staff immediately if they have any concerns for their safety and security and the safety and security of others.
- Mountain Empire Unified School District will not be held accountable for any harm or damages resulting from student violations of copyright restrictions or user mistakes or negligence.

**Technologies Covered** - Mtn. Empire may provide Internet access, mobile computing devices, online collaboration and video chat capabilities, and other new technologies that emerge. The policies outlined in this document are intended to cover *all* available technologies, not just those specifically listed.

**Web Access** Mtn. Empire Unified School District provides students with access to the Internet, including web sites, resources, curriculum, and online tools. That access will be restricted in compliance with CIPA, SOPIPA, and school policies. Web browsing will be monitored, and web activity records may be retained indefinitely. The Internet filter is a safety precaution, and students shall not circumvent it when browsing online. If a student inadvertently accesses an inappropriate site, the student shall alert the teacher.

**Social/ Web 2.0/ Collaborative Content** - Mtn. Empire Unified School District may provide students with access to web sites or tools that allow communication, collaboration, sharing, **video chat** and messaging among users. Posts, chats, sharing, **video-based communications** and messaging will be supervised and monitored by school personnel. Students are expected to communicate with the same appropriate, safe, mindful, courteous conduct online as offline. *Students are not allowed to take pictures or make recordings during video-based communications. Use of video-based communications may result in inadvertent disclosure of student information to other students or families.*

**Mobile Devices** - Mtn. Empire Unified School District may provide students with mobile computers or other devices to promote learning in the classroom. Students are expected to treat these devices with extreme care and caution, and never remove devices from the classroom without the permission of the teacher. Students should report any loss, damage, or malfunction to the teacher immediately.

**Personally-Owned Devices Policy** - Students must keep personally-owned devices (including laptops, tablets, and phones) turned off and put away during school hours—unless in the event of an emergency or as instructed by a teacher or staff for educational purposes.

**Network Security** - Students shall take reasonable safeguards against the transmission of security threats over the school network. This includes not opening or distributing infected files or programs and not opening files or programs of unknown or untrusted origin. If a student believes a computer or mobile device might be infected with a virus, they should alert a teacher. Students should not attempt to remove the virus or download any programs to help remove the virus.

**Downloads** - Students shall not download or attempt to download any files, programs, music or software updates, or run .exe programs over the school network or onto school resources, even if prompted to do so by the computer or device being used. Teachers may give students special permission to download images or videos. For the security of the network, such files should only be downloaded from sites provided by the teacher, and only for education purposes.

**Plagiarism** - Students shall not plagiarize (or use as their own, without citing the original creator) content, including words or images, from the Internet. Students shall not take credit for things they didn't create themselves, or misrepresent themselves as an author or creator of something found online. Research conducted via the Internet shall be appropriately cited, giving credit to the original author.

**Personal Safety** - Students shall never share personal information, including phone number, address, social security number, birthday, pictures, or financial information over the Internet without adult permission. Students shall recognize that communicating over the Internet brings anonymity and associated risks, and shall carefully safeguard their own personal information and that of others. Users should never agree to meet someone they meet online in real life without parental permission. **If students see a message, comment, image, or anything else online that makes them concerned for their personal safety, they should bring it to the attention of an adult (teacher or staff at school; parent at home) immediately.**

**Cyberbullying** – Cyberbullying will not be tolerated. Harassing, dissing, flaming, denigrating, impersonating, outing, tricking, excluding, and cyber stalking are all examples of cyberbullying. Students should not be mean, send emails or post comments with the intent of scaring, hurting, threatening or intimidating someone else. Engaging in these behaviors, or any online activities intended to harm (physically or emotionally) another person, will result in severe disciplinary action and loss of privileges. In some cases, cyber bullying can be a crime. Students should remember that their activities are monitored and retained. **If students see a message, comment, image, or anything else online that looks or feels like bullying, they should bring it to the attention of an adult (teacher or staff at school; parent at home) immediately.**

## Google Apps for Education (GAFE)

Students in grades K – 12 shall have access to Google Apps for Education (GAFE), to enhance the way we use technology and share information within our school community. We encourage parents to be proactive discussing and exploring it with their child.

GAFE is a cloud-based learning platform, allowing teachers and students to create a range of documents and presentations online, and store gigabytes of data to be accessed at home and school on any device. GAFE allows us to collaborate and learn more effectively using technology and offer a range of new learning opportunities for teachers and students.

Further information about GAFE can be found here: <https://www.google.com/edu/products/productivity-tools/>

### Which Google Apps for Education will my child have access to?

- Google Drive for digital storage and sharing.
- Google's creative suite: Docs for word processing, Sheets for working with data, Slides for presentations, Forms to submit information, and Drawing to create posters.
- Google Calendar to keep track of assignments and school activities.
- Google Classroom for receiving and turning in paperless assignments.

### How will Google Apps for Education enhance my child's learning opportunities?

- GAFE allows teachers and students the ability to collaborate on documents simultaneously.
- GAFE works on any internet-connected device. This allows our students to continue learning beyond the classroom and the ability to access their content at any time.
- Students and teachers can work in teams, sharing calendars, documents and collaborating ideas to learn more effectively.

### What should I be aware of?

- GAFE allows students to communicate and store information in both public and private spaces online.
- Unlike many other web services GAFE acknowledges its users as the owners of content they produce and store.
- You can learn more about GAFE and student privacy here: <https://www.google.com/edu/trust/>. ● Student use of GAFE applications is covered under the current Acceptable Use of Technology Policy.
- Student GAFE accounts are monitored whether used on a school device or a personal device.
- Student GAFE accounts are monitored whether used on the school network or home network.

### Terms of Agreement

- I will use school technologies for school-related activities.
- I will follow the same guidelines for respectful, responsible behavior online that I am expected to follow offline.
- I will not damage, change, or tamper with the hardware, software, settings or the network in anyway.
- I will not seek, view, send, or display offensive content that is threatening, obscene, or that could be seen as harassment.
- I will not use the system to encourage the use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco or any activity that is against the law.
- I will obey copyright laws and properly cite sources when using online resources. I will not share my passwords with another person.
- I will not harm other people or their work.
- I will not trespass in another's folders, work, or files.
- I will not interfere with the operation of the network.

- I will not engage in illegal activities, hacking, personal gain or political purposes. I will not download software.
- I will not use my personal email account or any personal electronic device at school except with the permission of a staff member.
- I will notify an adult immediately if by accident I encounter materials which violate the rules of appropriate use.
- I will not use any form of electronic communication to harass, intimidate, or bully anyone.
- I am prepared to be held accountable for my actions and for the loss of privileges if these rules are violated.

### **Web 2.0 Terms of Agreement**

- I will act safely by keeping personal information out of any Web projects. I will not give out my family name, email address, home address, schools name, city, country or other information that could help someone locate or contact me in person. I will not post identifying photos or videos.
- I will treat online collaborative spaces as I would a classroom space, and I will use appropriate and respectful language and images. **I will not take pictures or make recordings of online video communications.**
- If I post information online or in a collaborative space, I will have read that information carefully to be certain that it is appropriate for the school community.
- I understand that if I fail to follow these guidelines, I may lose the opportunity to take part in online projects.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list. Users should use their own good judgment when using school technologies.

**Limitation of Liability** - Mtn. Empire Unified School District will not be responsible for damage or harm to persons, files, data, or hardware. While Mtn. Empire Unified School District employs filtering and other safety and security mechanisms, and attempts to ensure their proper function, it makes no guarantees as to their effectiveness. Mtn. Empire Unified School District will not be responsible, financially or otherwise, for unauthorized transactions conducted over the school network, for copyright violations, or any harm or damages resulting from user mistakes or negligence, or from the willful violation of this agreement.

**Violations of this Acceptable Use Policy** - Violations of this policy may have disciplinary repercussions, including:

- Suspension of network, technology, or computer privileges
- Notification to parents
- Detention or suspension from school and school-related activities
- Legal action and/or prosecution

# EDUCATION CODE

## SUSPENDABLE AND EXPELLABLE OFFENSES

The Education Code of California requires school personnel to adhere to the following actions regarding the listed offenses. The following violations of California Education Code 48900 may result in suspension, referral to Alternative Education, or expulsion from the Mountain Empire Unified School District. All cases recommended for expulsion will be investigated and determined on specific articulable facts.

### **Behavior: 48900 Section A: Physical Injury to Another Person**

1) Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person [Education Code 48900 (a)(1)].

#### *Disciplinary Consequences:*

At minimum a 2 day home suspension **and** a 1 day in school suspension with an intervention class. A second offense will result in a 5 day home suspension and a recommendation for an involuntary transfer to alternative education.

2) Willfully used force or violence upon another person [Education Code 48900

(a)(2)]. *Disciplinary Consequences:*

In home suspension from three to five days. Possible recommendation for involuntary transfer to alternative education. Consequence for a second offense: the student will be suspended five days and may be referred to alternative education. Students who commit an assault, battery or cause severe injury are subject to arrest and/or referral to the Governing Board for expulsion.

### **Behavior: 48900 Section B: DANGEROUS OBJECTS**

Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished a firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object, unless, in the case of possession of an object of this type, the pupil had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, which is concurred in by the principal or the designee of the principal.

#### *Disciplinary Consequences:*

Suspension and possible referral to the Governing Board for expulsion on the first offense.

### **Behavior: 48900 Section C & D: CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

#### **48915 Section C**

Section C : Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, or otherwise furnished, or been under the influence of, a controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, an alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind.

Section D: Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell a controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, an alcoholic beverage, or an intoxicant of any kind, and either sold, delivered, or otherwise furnished to a person another liquid, substance, or material and represented the liquid, substance, or material as a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant.

#### *Disciplinary Consequences:*

At minimum a 2 day in home suspension **and** a 1 day in school suspension with an intervention class. A second offense will result in a 5 day in-home suspension and a recommendation for additional substance abuse counseling or a possible involuntary referral to alternative education.

### **Behavior : 48900 Section D**

Students who sell alcohol/marijuana or any controlled substance to another person will be suspended for five days and will be recommended to the Governing Board for expulsion.

**Behavior: 48900 Section E: ROBBERY**

Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.

*Disciplinary Consequences:*

The consequences for robbery or extortion will range from suspension to referral to the Governing Board for expulsion. The student and/or parent will be responsible for returning the stolen property or for full payment. In addition, law enforcement may be contacted.

**Behavior: 48900 Section F: DAMAGE TO PROPERTY**

Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property. *Disciplinary Consequences:*

The consequences for attempting to cause or causing damage to others property will range from suspension to referral to the Governing Board for expulsion. The student and/or parent will be responsible for payment for the damage. In addition, law enforcement may be contacted.

**Behavior: 48900 Section G: THEFT**

Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property.

*Disciplinary Consequences:*

The consequences for theft will range from suspension to referral to the Governing Board for expulsion. The student and/or parent will be responsible for returning the stolen property or for full payment of the property. In addition, law enforcement may be contacted.

**Behavior: 48900 Section H: TOBACCO**

Possessed or used tobacco, or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets, and betel. However, this section does not prohibit the use or possession by a pupil of his or her own prescription products.

*Disciplinary Consequences:*

*First Offense:* Students will complete a tobacco cessation program on site while in ISS.

*Second Offense:* Students will enroll in tobacco cessation programs through a community partnership agency.

*Third Offense:* Student will serve a 2 day home suspension with a possible involuntary referral to alternative education

**Behavior: 48900 Section I: OBSCENITY, PROFANITY & VULGARITY**

Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.

*Disciplinary Consequences:*

Will range from detention to referral to the Governing Board for expulsion.

**Behavior: 48900 Section J: PARAPHERNALIA**

Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell drug paraphernalia, as defined in Section 11014.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

*Disciplinary Consequences:*

Students who possess, offer, arrange or negotiate to sell drug paraphernalia will receive consequences ranging from suspension through referral to the Governing Board for expulsion.

**Behavior: 48900 Section K: DEFIANCE & DISRUPTION**

Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties. *Disciplinary Consequences:*

Students who defy the directions of a school employee or disrupt the orderly operation of any school-related activity will receive consequences ranging from a detention, through a referral to the Governing Board for expulsion.

**Behavior: 48900 Section L: RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY**

Knowingly received stolen school property or private property.

*Disciplinary Consequences:*

Students who knowingly receive stolen property will be suspended, may be involuntarily transferred, and may be referred to the Governing Board for expulsion. In addition, law enforcement may be contacted.

**Behavior: 48900 Section M: POSSESSION OF AN IMITATION FIREARM**

Possessed an imitation firearm. As used in this section, "imitation firearm" means a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm.

*Disciplinary Consequences:*

Suspension and possible referral to the Governing Board for expulsion on the first offense.

**Behavior: 48900 Section N: COMMIT OR ATTEMPT TO COMMIT A SEXUAL ASSAULT OR SEXUAL BATTERY**

Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault as defined in Section 261, 266c, 286, 288, 288a, or 289 of the Penal Code or committed a sexual battery as defined in Section 243.4 of the Penal Code.

*Disciplinary Consequences:*

Suspension and referral to the Governing Board for expulsion on the first offense. In addition, law enforcement will be contacted. This is a Mandatory Expulsion offense [Education Code 48915 (c)].

**Behavior: 48900 Section O: HARASS, THREATEN OR INTIMIDATE A STUDENT WITNESS**

Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a pupil who is a complaining witness or a witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for purposes of either preventing that pupil from being a witness or retaliating against that pupil for being a witness, or both.

*Disciplinary Consequences:*

Students who knowingly harass, threaten or intimidate a student who is a complaining witness or who is a witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of either preventing that pupil from being a witness or retaliating against that student for being a witness or both will face suspension and possible referral to the Governing Board for expulsion on the first offense. In addition, law enforcement may be contacted.

**Behavior: 48900 Section P: UNLAWFULLY OFFERED, ARRANGED TO SEE, NEGOTIATED TO SEE, OR SOLD THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG SOMA.**

*Disciplinary Consequences:*

Students who sell Soma or any controlled substance to another person will be suspended for five days and will be recommended to the Governing Board for expulsion.

**Behavior 48900 Q: HAZING**

Engaged in, or attempted to engage in, hazing. For purposes of this subdivision, "hazing" means a method of initiation or preinitiation into a pupil organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, that is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective pupil. For purposes of this subdivision, "hazing" does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events.

*-Disciplinary Consequences:* Suspension and possible referral to the Governing Board for expulsion on the first offense.

**Behavior 48900 R: BULLYING**

Engaged in an act of bullying. For purposes of this subdivision, the following terms have the following meanings:

1. "Bullying" means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including one or more acts committed by a pupil or group of pupils as defined in Section 48900.2, 48900.3, or 48900.4, directed toward one or more pupils that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:
  - a. Placing a reasonable pupil or pupils in fear of harm to that pupil's or those pupils' person or property.
  - b. Causing a reasonable pupil to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.
  - c. Causing a reasonable pupil to experience substantial interference with his or her academic performance.
  - d. Causing a reasonable pupil to experience substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.
  
2. "Electronic act" means the creation or transmission originated on or off the school site, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of a communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:
  - a. A message, text, sound, or image.
  - b. A post on a social network Internet Web site, including, but not limited to:
    - i. Posting to or creating a burn page. ("Burn page" means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in paragraph 1).
    - ii. Creating a credible impersonation of another actual pupil for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in paragraph (1). ("Credible impersonation" means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a pupil for the purpose of bullying the pupil and such that another pupil would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the pupil was or is the pupil who was impersonated.)
    - iii. Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in paragraph (1). ("False profile" means a profile of a fictitious pupil or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual pupil other than the pupil who created the false profile.)

Notwithstanding paragraph (1) and subparagraph (A), an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet.

"Reasonable pupil" means a pupil, including, but not limited to, an exceptional needs pupil, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of his or her age, or for a person of his or her age with his or her exceptional needs.

**Behavior 48900 Section T: AIDING AND ABETTING.**

A pupil who aids or abets, as defined in Section 31 of the Penal Code, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person may be subject to suspension, but not expulsion, pursuant to this section, except that a pupil who has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider and abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great bodily injury or serious bodily injury shall be subject to discipline pursuant to subdivision (a).

***Disciplinary Consequences:***

Detention, ISS, possible suspension.

**Behavior: 48900.2: SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

In addition to the reasons specified in Section 48900, a pupil may be suspended from school or recommended for expulsion if the superintendent or the principal of the school in which the pupil is enrolled determines that the pupil has committed sexual harassment as defined in Section 212.5. For the purposes of this chapter, the conduct described in Section 212.5 must be considered by a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim to be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon the individual's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. This section shall not apply to pupils enrolled in kindergarten and grades 1 to 3, inclusive.

***Disciplinary Consequences:***

The consequences for sexual harassment will range from a warning through referral to the Governing Board for expulsion.

**Behavior: 48900.3: HATE VIOLENCE**

In addition to the reasons set forth in Sections 48900 and 48900.2, a pupil in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive, may be suspended from school or recommended for expulsion if the superintendent or the principal of the school in which the pupil is enrolled determines that the pupil has caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause, or participated in an act of hate violence, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 233.

***Disciplinary Consequences:***

The consequences for hate violence will range from suspension through referral to the Governing Board for expulsion. Law enforcement will be contacted in the event of hate violence.

**Behavior: 48900.4: HARASSMENT, THREATS & INTIMIDATION**

In addition to the grounds specified in Sections 48900 and 48900.2, a pupil enrolled in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive, may be suspended from school or recommended for expulsion if the superintendent or the principal of the school in which the pupil is enrolled determines that the pupil has intentionally engaged in harassment, threats, or intimidation, directed against school district personnel or pupils, that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to have the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting classwork, creating substantial disorder, and invading the rights of either school personnel or pupils by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment.

***Disciplinary Consequences:***

The consequences for harassing, threatening or intimidating behavior will range from suspension through referral to the Governing Board for expulsion. Law enforcement may be contacted.

**Behavior: 48900.7: TERRORIST THREATS ON SCHOOL STAFF AND/OR PROPERTY**

(a) In addition to the reasons specified in Sections 48900, 48900.2, 48900.3, and 48900.4, a pupil may be suspended from school or recommended for expulsion if the superintendent or the principal of the school in which the pupil is enrolled determines that the pupil has made terroristic threats against school officials or school property, or both.

(b) For the purposes of this section, "terroristic threat" shall include any statement, whether written or oral, by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death, great bodily

injury to another person, or property damage in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for his or her own safety or for his or her immediate family's safety, or for the protection of school district property, or the personal property of the person threatened or his or her immediate family. *Disciplinary Consequences:*

The consequences for terrorist threats will range from suspension through referral to the Governing Board for expulsion. Law enforcement will be contacted.

### **Education Code 48915**

The following acts are mandatory recommendations for expulsion:

- (A) Causing serious physical injury to another person, except in self-defense.
- (B) Possession of any knife or other dangerous object of no reasonable use to the pupil.
- (C) Unlawful possession of any controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code.
- (D) Robbery or extortion.
- (E) Assault or battery, as defined in Sections 240 and 242 of the Penal Code, upon any school employee.

## **Title I, Part A School Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

Mountain Empire Junior High School, with parents and family members, has jointly developed, mutually agreed upon, and distributed to, parents and family members of participating children in Title I, Part A programs the following requirements as outlined in ESSA sections 1116(b) and (c).

Describe how parents and family members of participating children in Title I, Part A programs are involved in jointly developing, distributing to, a written school parent and family engagement policy, agreed upon by such parents for carrying out the requirements in ESSA Section 1116(c) through (f) (ESSA Section 1116[b][1]):

The school convenes an annual meeting, at an agreeable time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents and family members about the school's participation in Title 1 programming and to explain the requirements and the rights of parents involved.

At Back to School Night an introductory presentation about Title 1 programs and a copy of Title 1, Part A School Parent and Family Engagement Policy is distributed.

Describe how parents and family members of participating children in Title I, Part A programs, may amend a parent and family engagement school policy that applies to all parents and family members, if necessary, to meet the requirements (ESSA Section 1116[b][2]):

The Title 1, Part A School Parent and Family Engagement Policy ("Policy") along with School-Parent-Student Compact are reviewed annually at the School Site Council (SSC) and English Language Advisory Council (ELAC meeting. The Policy is reviewed as part of the annual review of the School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA).

Describe how the Local Educational Agency (LEA) involved has a school district-level parent and family engagement policy that applies to all parents and family members in all schools served by the LEA, and how the LEA may amend that policy, if necessary to meet the requirements (ESSA Section 1116[b][3]):

If requested by parents, the school provides opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their students, and to respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible. Examples of this include: informal and formal parent/teacher meetings, SSC and ELAC meetings, Back to School Night, and HAWK/Culture Day.

Describe how parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs can, if they find that the plan under ESSA Section 1112 is not satisfactory to the parents and family members, and the LEA shall submit the parent comments with the plan when the LEA submits the plan to the State (ESSA Section 1116[b][4]):

In the event a parent or family member finds that the program is not satisfactory, all written documentation of parent comments that reflect the program will be submitted to the LEA.

Describe how the school served by Title I, Part A funds holds an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents and family members of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under Title I, Part A and to explain the requirements and the rights of the parents to be involved (ESSA Section 1116[c][1]):

The school convenes an annual meeting to inform parents about Title 1, Part A School Parent and Family Engagement Policy as part of the annual Back to School Night presentation. A copy of the Title 1 presentation is made available to parents and translation services are offered at the meeting for those who are not English speakers and those who request these services.

Describe the steps that the school takes to offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning, afternoon, evening or other ways and may provide, with funds provided under Title I, Part A, for transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement (ESSA Section 1116[c][2]):

The school offers flexibility of meetings for Title 1, Part A School Parent and Family Engagement Policy by offering both morning and evening meeting times, Back to School Night, HAWK/Culture Day, SSC and ELAC meetings, and at parent requested meetings.

Describe how parents and family members of participating children are involved, and in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of schoolwide program plan under ESSA Section 1114(b), except that if a school has in place a process for involving parents in the joint planning and design of the school's programs, the school may use that process, if such process includes an adequate representation of parents of participating children (ESSA Section 1116[c][3]):

The school involved the parents of Title 1, Part A School Parent and Family Engagement Policy students in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in the planning, review, and improvements of the school's Title 1, Part A programs and the Title 1, Part A School Parent and Family Engagement Policy through general communications, SSC and ELAC meetings.

Describe how the school is providing parents and family members of participating children of Title I, Part A programs: timely information about programs under Title I, Part A; a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible (ESSA sections 1116[c][4][A-C]):

The school provides timely information about programs under Title 1, Part A using several methods. Examples include, but are not limited to, weekly newsletters, school announcements via the All-Call system, the school website, Aeries Parent and student portals, the student handbook, progress reports, quarterly report cards, any parent/teacher meetings, and Student Success (SST) Meetings.

Describe how the schoolwide program plan, ESSA Section 1114(b), is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children in Title I, Part A programs, submitting any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the LEA (ESSA Section 1116[c][5]):

MEJHS's Title I, Part A School Parent and Family Engagement Policy was developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs on September 17, 2025. The School will distribute the policy to all parents and family members of participating Title I, Part A students annually on or before November 30 of each school year.

Dr. Trish Pulos, Principal of Mountain Empire Junior High School

School Site Council Chairperson

California Department of Education

April 2020

**With Grit, Grace, Gratitude, and Greatness**

**Junior High Redhawks Soar!**

