



***MPHS***  
***Student***  
***Handbook***  
***2022-2023***

August 10, 2022

**WELCOME**

The administrative team would like to welcome you back to school for the 2022-2023 school year. We are excited to have the opportunity to work with each of you and look forward to a successful school year.

We would like to challenge each of you to put forth your best effort both in the classroom and in your extra-curricular activities. It will be through your hard work and overall commitment that you will achieve the ultimate high school experience.

We wish you all the best and are here to support you in one of the best times of your life.

**ADMINISTRATION**

Russ Snyder Principal  
Sara Lamb Assistant Principal (A-K)  
Larry Sullivan Assistant Principal (L-Z)

**CABARRUS COUNTY SCHOOL CALENDAR 2022-2023**

For a variety of reasons ranging from inclement weather to legislative requirements, the school calendar is subject to change. We encourage you to periodically review the school calendar online at [www.cabarrus.k12.nc.us](http://www.cabarrus.k12.nc.us). This is the surest way to get the most up-to-date school calendar information.

Important school events will be announced daily. The *Independent Tribune*, the *Charlotte Observer*, Spectrum cable channel 21, Twitter, Connect Ed, the school sign and the MPHS website are also excellent sources of school information. Our website address is listed on the front cover of this handbook, and there is also a link to our site from the Cabarrus County Schools homepage listed above.

# MPHS Bell Schedules--- 2022-2023

T.I.G.E.R. Time (Teamwork, Improvement, Growth, Excellence, Rigor)

## Normal Bell Schedule

Normal Bell Schedule		No TIGER Time	
Warning Bell	7:10	Warning Bell	7:10
1 <sup>st</sup> Block	7:15-8:35	1 <sup>st</sup> Block	7:15-8:50
TIGER Time	8:40-9:35	2 <sup>nd</sup> Block	8:55-10:30
2 <sup>nd</sup> Block	9:40-11:00	3 <sup>rd</sup> Block	10:35-12:35
3 <sup>rd</sup> Block	11:05-12:50	A Lunch	10:35-11:00
A Lunch	11:05-11:30	B Lunch	11:00-11:25
B Lunch	11:30-11:55	C Lunch	11:45-12:10
C Lunch	12:00-12:25	D Lunch	12:10-12:35
D Lunch	12:25-12:50		
4 <sup>th</sup> Block	12:55-2:15	4 <sup>th</sup> Block	12:40-2:15

## Two Hour Delay (No TIGER Time)

Two Hour Delay (No TIGER Time)		Pep Rally Bell Schedule	
First Bell	9:10	First Bell	7:10
1 <sup>st</sup> Block	9:15-10:15	1 <sup>st</sup> Block	7:15-8:40
2 <sup>nd</sup> Block	10:20-11:20	2 <sup>nd</sup> Block	8:45-10:10
3 <sup>rd</sup> Block	11:25-1:05	3 <sup>rd</sup> Block	10:15-12:10
A Lunch	11:25-11:50	A Lunch	10:15-10:40
B Lunch	11:50-12:15	B Lunch	10:40-11:05
C Lunch	12:15-12:40	C Lunch	11:20-11:45
D Lunch	12:40-1:05	D Lunch	11:45-12:10
4 <sup>th</sup> Block	1:10-2:15	4 <sup>th</sup> Block	12:15-1:40
		Pep Rally	1:40-2:15

## Early dismissal Schedule

## Exam Day Schedule

Early dismissal Schedule		Exam Day Schedule	
First Bell	7:10	First Bell	7:10
1 <sup>st</sup> Block	7:15-8:00	Exam	7:15-11:00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Block	8:05-8:50	Lunch	11:00-11:30
3 <sup>rd</sup> Block	8:55-9:40		
4 <sup>th</sup> Block	9:45-10:30		
Lunch	10:30-11:00		

Car riders can leave at 10:30 Bus riders dismiss at 11:00	Car riders can leave at 11:00 Bus riders dismiss at 11:30
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## **CABARRUS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY**

### **A. Attendance Records**

School officials will keep an accurate record of attendance, including accurate attendance records in each class. Attendance records will be used to enforce the Compulsory Attendance Law of North Carolina

### **B. Student Attendance Accounting**

#### **1. Daily Attendance**

To be counted present for the school day, a student must be in attendance for at least one-half of the school day. This shall include attendance at official school activities at a place other than school, with the approval of the principal or his/her designee.

To be in attendance during remote instruction days (with the exception of the initial enrollment day), students must: (1) complete their daily assignments, either online or offline; and/or (2) have a daily check-in through two-way communication with (a) the homeroom teacher for grades K-5 or (b) for all other grade levels, each course teacher as scheduled. School officials shall communicate the attendance procedures to students and their families before the first day remote instruction begins.

#### **2. Class Attendance (Applies to high schools)**

For a high school student to be counted present in class, he/she must be present for at least one-half of the class period. A student shall be in his/her assigned area at the beginning of the school day and the beginning of each class, or he/she will be recorded as tardy. A student will be given one absence for each class when he/she has accumulated a combined total of four tardies, check-ins and/or check-outs. To be in attendance during remote instruction days, students must: (1) complete their daily assignments, either online or offline; and/or (2) have a daily check-in through two-way communication with each course teacher as scheduled.

#### **3. Late Check-ins and Early Check-outs**

Late check-ins and early check-outs are recorded as tardies under the state Student Information System (SIS). Students who have excessive tardies (late check-ins or early check-outs) may be assigned 'make-up time' at the discretion of the principal, with consideration to lost educational time as described in section E, Excessive Absences and Tardies.

### **C. Absences**

When a student must miss school, a written excuse from a parent or guardian must be presented to the teacher within two school days of the student's return after an absence. A written excuse may be submitted by hard copy, electronically through email, or other school approved form of communication (i.e., absence forms on school websites, classroom communication apps, etc.). Written excuses submitted beyond two school days will be subject to principal approval.

#### **1. Excused Absences**

The superintendent, principal, or teacher who is in charge of a school has the right to excuse a student temporarily from attendance on account of sickness or other unavoidable cause. (Below are the valid/lawful excuses for temporary nonattendance of a student at school).

- a. Student's Illness or Injury: When the absence results from illness or injury which prevents the student from being physically able to attend school;
- b. Quarantine: When isolation of the student is ordered by the local health officer or by the State Board of Health;
- c. Death in the Immediate Family: When the absence results from the death of a member of the immediate family of the student. For the purpose of this regulation, the immediate family of a student includes, but is not necessarily limited to, grandparents, parents, brothers, and sisters. The principal will consider each event individually to determine a sufficient number of excused absences and may request additional documentation at his/her discretion;
- d. Medical or Dental Appointments: When the absence results from a medical or dental appointment of a student;
- e. Court or Administrative Proceedings: When the absence results from the attendance of a student at the proceedings of a court or an administrative tribunal if the student is a party to the action or under subpoena as a witness. The Local Board of Education can be considered an administrative tribunal;
- f. Religious Observance: School principals are required to authorize up to two excused absences each academic year for religious observances required by faith of a student or a student's parents or legal guardian;
- g. Educational Opportunity: When it is demonstrated that the purpose of the absence is to take advantage of a valid education opportunity, including but not limited to, college visitation, or service as a legislative or governor's page with prior approval (based on the student's current and previous attendance history) from the principal or designee and with demonstration of learning by the student;
- h. Local School Board Policy: LEAs may excuse temporary or occasional absences for other reasons in accordance with local school board policies, provided that the student has been in attendance for at least one-half of a school day during the current school year;
- i. Absence related to Deployment Activities: School principals are required to authorize up to two days each academic year for visitation with the student's parent or legal guardian who is an active duty member of the uniformed services as defined by Policy 4050, Children of Military Families and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting for the purpose of visiting said parent or legal guardian. (G.S. 115C-407.5 Article V (E));
- j. Child Care: Absences due to the illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child of whom the student is the custodial parent are to be coded excused (lawful) (G.S. 115C-375.5); and
- k. Exam exemption(s): approved in accordance with the provisions of Policy 3405.

## 2. Unexcused Absences

- a. A student's willful absence from school with or without the knowledge of a parent;
- b. A student's absence from school for any reason other than those listed under C.1. Excused Absences;
- c. A student not permitted to attend school because he/she lacks proper immunizations; and

d. A student not permitted to attend school because he/she lacks a proper health assessment

Absences due to extended illnesses or after accumulating more than ten (10) absences generally require a note/statement from a physician [or health care provider]. This requirement may be waived by the school principal for extenuating circumstances, but a waiver is not available for more than twenty (20) absences. Notes/statements from a physician [or health care provider] may require clarification or verification by school staff in order to be accepted.

**Make-Up Work** - Students are given the opportunity to make up work for all absences, even those due to suspensions. With exception made for unusual circumstances, students are expected to complete make-up work within an appropriate time frame according to the classroom teacher's rules and expectations.

**Truancy/improper check-in/improper check-out** - A class truancy is defined as: (1) a willful absence from school without the prior knowledge of your parents, (2) an absence from a class without permission, (3) leaving class without permission, (4), not returning to class promptly as instructed by school personnel (5), and being in an undesignated area of the school. The first incident of truancy will result in an Administrative assigned consequence. Any further class truancy may result in additional days of in-school suspension. Parents will be informed of attendance quarterly, and they will be contacted as attendance issues arise.

**Steps to follow when absent from school:**

1. Have your parent call the school office prior to 9 AM on the day of the absence.
2. If a call is not received, the school will contact your parent/guardian by the end of the day.
3. Upon return to school, bring the **original** note from a parent/guardian, doctor, court of law, etc. The note should list your name, dates of absence(s), specific reason for absences and his/her signature. **Copies of notes will not be accepted.** Present the note to the school attendance clerk upon your return to school. **All notes must be submitted within TWO days of an absence.**
4. Ask all teachers for make-up assignments.

**STUDENT DROP-OFF/PICK-UP**

Student drop-off and pick-up is in the front driveway. Please Note: This is a one-way in and one-way out route. Please use the full drive and do not stop in front of the school. This will allow for a faster and more orderly drop-off.

**LEAVING SCHOOL EARLY**

**Students are required to provide written documentation of requests to leave school at any time.** All written documentation will be followed by a confirmation phone call to the parent. In case of emergencies, parents may call and request early dismissal, however, written documentation must follow.

All absences will be considered unexcused according to CCS guidelines. Only extreme situations are waived by the county.

1. Whenever possible, make doctor and dental appointments after school hours. **There will be no student checkouts after 1:45 P.M.**
2. Please notify the office regarding prearranged absences (family trips, college visitation etc.). **All dismissal requests must be verified by a call from a parent/guardian.**

## TARDY POLICY

MPHS will continue to use the “sweep” tardy system for tardy management for the 2022-2023 school year. Students who are tardy to class will be required to go to the front office before they are allowed in class. Teachers, on planning that period, will “sweep” the students to the Attendance Office where each tardy to class will be documented. Students will then be sent to their classroom with a pass to be admitted to class. Chronic violators of the MPHS tardy policy will receive additional consequences from the appropriate administrator as shown below:

### Number Consequence

**1<sup>st</sup> Tardy & 2<sup>nd</sup> Tardy-Warning**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tardy-Lunch detention**

**4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Tardy-Afterschool detention 2:30-3:00pm**

**6<sup>th</sup> Tardy-Extended Afterschool detention-2:30-3:30pm and conference with Grad Coach/Admin.**

**7<sup>th</sup> Tardy-1 Block ISS**

**8<sup>th</sup> Tardy-2 Blocks ISS**

**9 + Tardies: Admin discretion**

## GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

1. The administrators are available for consultation and assistance. To ensure that your concern receives the time and attention it deserves, an appointment is recommended.
2. Parents, please avoid sending messages to students during the school day. This includes cell phone calls and text messages. We are not able to deliver messages from employers and friends, or other nonessential info/items. Students are called out of class for emergencies only.
3. Announcements concerning school activities are made once a day. The announcements are also posted on the school website.
4. An administrator must approve all announcements. Non-school related announcements are subject to administrative approval and restricted to the bulletin board near the office.
  5. At the end of the instructional day, all students are expected to exit the building unless they are working with a faculty/staff member or attending a school function.
6. CCS School Board Policy prohibits students from selling items on school property unless the sale is part of a school fundraiser.
7. All State and Federal laws apply on School property.
8. All students must sign an Acceptable Use Policy letter to use the internet at school.
9. **Supervision of students on school days is provided between the hours of 7:00 AM and 2:25 PM.**

## STUDENT BEHAVIOR

At Mount Pleasant High we believe that (1) good discipline is essential to good learning; (2) each student has a right to be free from distractions caused by the inappropriate behavior of others; and (3) the school must teach responsible behavior. We expect students to conduct themselves in a manner that allows them the opportunity to acquire the fullest education possible. Students should avoid any behavior that is disruptive to the good order of the school. **Students should be WHERE they are supposed to be, WHEN they are supposed to be there, doing WHAT they are supposed to be doing. Always respect oneself and others.** In addition:

1. Students will show respect toward all school personnel.
2. Students will follow any direction given by a school employee.
3. Students will not participate in, encourage, or instigate fights on campus or at any school function regardless of its location. **Participants in fights will be suspended from school and may be subject to arrest. Special note on Fighting:** Law enforcement will be informed of and will investigate every fight that occurs on the MPHS campus, or at any school function, regardless of location. Criminal charges may be filed.
4. Students will not use or display profane/vulgar/gang-related language or symbols.
5. Students will not abuse or misuse school property.
6. Students will not threaten, coerce or intimidate, either a single person or in groups, any fellow student or school employee.
7. A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit an object that reasonably can be considered a weapon on school grounds or on school transportation at any time (including personal vehicles).

8. Unnecessary noise or loud talking in halls, cafeteria, etc., will not be tolerated.
9. Students will, always, be at their assigned location, on time, and with all necessary materials. disruptive behavior will not be tolerated on campus.
10. No student will possess, use, sell or be under the influence of any drugs or alcohol at school, at any school function, or on any school transportation.
11. No one, including students, parents/guardians, or employees, shall possess or use tobacco products/paraphernalia, to include vaping, on Cabarrus County School Board property or at any school sponsored activity regardless of location.
12. The inappropriate display of affection is prohibited (including no kissing).
13. Cheating on schoolwork will result in a disciplinary consequence at the discretion of the administrator and parent notification.
14. Parents/guardians are permitted to join students for lunch. No other guests will be permitted. Food brought in from fast food restaurants cannot be consumed in the cafeteria in its original packaging.
15. **All outside food and drink must be consumed prior to entering the building. Food is not allowed in classrooms.**
16. Students are not allowed in unassigned class or unauthorized areas unless requested by a teacher and that teacher is supervising students.
17. NCVPS/RCCC students and students who flex are to remain in the assigned area when on campus.

### **BULLYING AND/OR HARASSMENT**

Bullying and/or harassing are strictly prohibited. The repeated pattern of intimidation may be real or threatened. There are 3 types of bullying: physical, emotional, and relational. Bullying may include, but is not limited to verbal taunts, name-calling, implied or stated threats, and exclusion from peer groups. Bullying can occur in person, or through social networking sites, texting, blogging, and the internet. Students who feel bullied, harassed or intimidated at school by an adult or another student should report the concern to a teacher, administrator or other staff member at school. Bullying and Harassment Reporting Forms are available on the CCS website, The MPHS school website, in student services, and the main office. **Any student who believes he or she has been harassed or bullied should report the incident to a teacher or administrator immediately.** Students who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

**PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND BULLYING Policy Code: 1710/4021/7230 STUDENT USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES, BLOGGING, AND THE INTERNET Policy Code: 4312 DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND BULLYING COMPLAINT PROCEDURE Policy Code: 1720/4015/7225**

### **Cell Phone Expectations**

**Students must turn cell phones off and put in clear tote during class time. Teachers will secure tote during class time. *\*If students need to call home, they may use the main office phone. Parents/guardians may call students using the main school number or call/text them during class change.***

**Students may use cell phone and headphones (“One In - One Out”) in the hallway during class change and in the cafeteria during their assigned lunch**

### **Cell Phone Consequences**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense Teacher takes phone and **returns at the end of the class period.**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense Teacher takes phone, takes to office, **student may pick up** at the end of the day.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense Teacher takes phone, takes to office, **parent must pick up** at the end of the day.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Offense Teacher takes phones, takes to office, **parent must pick up** at the end of the day, student receives **one-day ISS.**
- 5<sup>th</sup> Offense Teacher takes phone, takes to office, **parent must pick up** at the end of the day, student receives **two-day ISS.**
- 6<sup>th</sup> Offense Teacher takes phone, takes to office, **parent must pick up** at the end of the day, student receives **one-day OSS.**

### **OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Cell phones and other electronic devices have forever changed our world. While it is not against school rules to carry a cell phone on campus, this must be done within a specific set of guidelines: Electronic devices may be used by students at specified times and locations for instructional purposes only with specific permission of the teacher and/or administrator.

- All electronic devices will be collected by the teacher during instructional time each block. **The silent or vibrate setting is**



**not an acceptable alternative to the device being shut down.**

- **Students are permitted to use phones before school, after school, during class changes and during assigned lunch.**
- Electronic devices that are either heard **OR** seen during restricted times or in restricted areas, regardless of the reason, will be confiscated.
- **Students who refuse to give an electronic device to a teacher when asked to do so, will be considered insubordinate, and subject to consequences in addition to the item being confiscated by an administrator.**
- **At the third offense, and thereafter, a parent must retrieve a confiscated device** from the front office.
- Teachers are not required to bring confiscated devices to the front office until 2:15 PM. If the confiscated item that is being sought is not in the office, and it is before 2:15 PM the device will not be retrieved by anyone until that time.
- During an emergency (lockdown, bomb threat, etc.) Students are **not** to use cell phones unless directed to do so. Cabarrus County Schools Board policy allows student suspension from school for cell phone use during emergencies and or drills.
- Students may not carry or have in their possession: video cameras, laser pointers, televisions, DVD players or any other non-specified electronic device while on campus without teacher permission.
- Anyone who uses an electronic device to create an unauthorized recording, either in audio or video, of any student or staff member, will be subject to out of school suspension.
- Anyone who forwards or sends any unauthorized recordings of any student or staff member, either audio or video, and regardless of whether or not they are the originators of said recording, will be subject to out of school suspension. Length of the suspension depends on the disruption to the learning environment caused by the video
- Anyone who originates, adds to, or forwards any correspondence through the use of: social networking sites, instant messengers of any kind, texting or any other electronic or social media that is in any way considered to be threatening, of graphic sexual nature, or in any way violates school rules or policies will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension and referral to the Alternative School. This is true regardless of the hour of the day or whether the correspondence was created on or off campus. Length of the suspension depends on the disruption to the learning environment caused by the video or social media site.

## **WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS OBJECTS**

A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit a gun, chain(s), knife, razor, ice pick, stun gun, explosive, loaded cane, machete, pistol, rifle, shotgun, air-rifle, air-soft gun, or any other object that can reasonably be considered a weapon. These items may not be possessed on Cabarrus County School Board Property or at any school function regardless of its location. **IT IS A CRIME TO POSSESS A WEAPON ON SCHOOL GROUNDS.** Law enforcement will be contacted.

## **DRIVER'S LICENSE LEGISLATION GUIDELINES/DROPOUT PREVENTION**

State law mandates that for a student to maintain a driver's permit/license he/she must make adequate progress in school. Specifically, a student, under the age of 18, must pass three 75% of enrolled classes per semester in order to apply for and keep a driver's permit/license. Also, students who drop out of school will lose their permit/license until they turn 18 years old. School administrators will notify the Department of Motor Vehicles of students who have not met these requirements.

## **SPIRIT ROCK**

The Spirit Rock may be used to display messages that are in good taste (birthday announcements, congratulations, etc.) Messages or signs that are vulgar, offensive, potentially disruptive, Political in nature, gang-related or are displayed on any surface other than the rock itself, are prohibited, and students will receive appropriate consequences. Access to the rock is on a first come first served basis and no guarantees are made that messages will not be painted over at any time.

## **MPHS DRESS CODE**

In conjunction with the Cabarrus County School Board, the MPHS administration and staff believe that "the dress and personal appearance of students greatly affect their academic performance and their interaction with other students." The MPHS dress code is implemented to promote the health and safety of all students as well as to ensure a positive, professional educational environment. Please use the following guidelines when selecting clothing to wear to school.

Cabarrus County Board of Education specifies that each student must come to school appropriately dressed in clothing that is not disruptive to the educational process and does not endanger the health and safety of others. (See Policy 4316 Student Dress Code).

The board believes that the dress and personal appearance of students greatly affect their academic performance and their interaction with other students. The board requests that parents outfit their children in clothing that is conducive to learning. Generally, dress and grooming standards as determined by the student and his or her parents will be deemed acceptable. The principal has the authority to determine when a student has violated the school dress code and assign consequences consistent with the *Student Code of Conduct*.

**THE BOARD PROHIBITS APPEARANCE OR CLOTHING THAT DOES THE FOLLOWING:**

- violates a reasonable dress code adopted and publicized by the school;
- is substantially disruptive;
- is provocative or obscene;
- depicts or promotes gang affiliation; or
- endangers the health or safety of the student or others.

**Each school will adopt a dress code in compliance with Policy 4316 that includes but is not limited to the following expectations:**

- Skirts and shorts: Mid-thigh length or longer
- Shirts and blouses that cover the student's midriff
- Straps at least the width of the student's ID card (two inches or greater)
- Pants that are fitted at the waist
- Shoes, tennis shoes, sneakers or sandals

**Students may not wear:**

- Tank tops (with straps less than 2"), muscle or mesh shirts
- See-through or excessively baggy, short, tight, or revealing clothes (i.e. plunging necklines or exposed cleavage)
- Exposed undergarments
- Clothing advocating drug, alcohol, vaping or tobacco use
- Clothing advocating products or services illegal to minors (i.e. weapons, drugs, etc.)
- Clothing with inappropriate or suggestive language or symbols (i.e. profanity, pornography)
- Clothing that discriminates against particular groups
- Clothing with holes or slashes above mid-thigh
- Bedroom slippers and pajamas
- Excessively long or oversized shirts, coats or jackets
- Sunglasses, hats, caps, stocking caps, toboggans, bandannas, skull caps or any other headgear in school
- Any apparel and accessories including jewelry, emblems, tattoos or body markings, that depict gang affiliation
- Excessive face painting
- Chains, spikes or other accessories that could be perceived as or used as a weapon

Principals may use their discretion in implementing the dress code, including making reasonable accommodations on the basis of students' religious beliefs or medical conditions.

If a student is asked to alter his or her dress due to an infraction, complies, and later reverts back to the infraction within the same instructional day, he or she will face a more severe disciplinary consequence.

**Students who fail to comply with our dress code will be offered alternative clothing or remain in the control room until a proper change of clothing is provided.**

## **PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Protect yourself by being cautious with your property. **The faculty and staff of MPHS are not responsible for lost or stolen items.** Here are some suggestions: 1) Identify all your personal articles in a manner that cannot be erased, 2) Do **not** bring large sums of money or other valuables to school, 3) Request a locker and keep it locked at all times, 4) Do not leave clothing, purses, etc. lying around on desks, cafeteria tables, the floor etc. 5) We encourage you to leave electronic devices at home as they are frequently targeted by thieves. It is a student responsibility to adequately secure personal property at **all times.**

## **SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

The administration has the right to search a student, a student's locker, his/her belongings, or vehicle if it is deemed there is reasonable suspicion that a school rule has been violated or for health and safety concerns. Trained law enforcement K-9 units periodically conduct random searches for controlled substances. Illegal substances and/or stolen property will be confiscated, and law enforcement will be contacted. Students in unauthorized areas of campus will automatically be subject to search.

## **METAL DETECTORS-** (See [Policy 9222 Use of Security Equipment](#))

Metal detectors shall be used, as needed, to protect the safety of students, staff and visitors to school facilities. The superintendent or principal shall determine the appropriate times and places for the use of metal detectors. Metal detectors are part of the district Safety Checks.

## **DISCIPLINE POLICIES**

The administration, faculty and staff are concerned that each individual student experiences academic success and learn responsibility for his/her behavior. We firmly believe that parents and students also share this concern with us.

The staff of MPHS wants to ensure that our students receive the rigorous education they deserve, along with having a safe environment. The following guidelines are set to accomplish this goal. Administrators may assign Lunch Detention, After School Detention, ISS, or Out-of-School Suspension. The administration reserves the right to assign different consequences when deemed necessary. Repeated and/or flagrant violations may result in the student being suspended for the remainder of the school year.

## **THE CONTROL ROOM (In-School Suspension – ISS)**

The decision to assign a student to the Control Room/ISS is at the sole discretion of the MPHS administration. The Control Room/ISS is held in the ISS room from 7:15 AM until 2:15 PM. Students in ISS will be counted present for the day and will be required to complete all assignments as directed. Students who are disruptive in ISS could be suspended from school for at least one day. **Cell phones and electronic devices are turned over to ISS Coordinator upon arrival.**

## **OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS)**

An out-school-suspension can be short term (1-10 days) students may be re-assigned to the Opportunity School for the remainder of the semester if severe enough or it is a repeated pattern, or Expulsion. The decision to assign a particular type and duration of OSS is determined by, but is not limited to, the following factors: school or district policy, severity of the offense, a student's discipline record, level of danger to fellow students, etc. Law enforcement officials may also be contacted. Students may neither be on school property during the suspension period, nor may they participate in or be a spectator at any school related activity during the suspension. Examples of school related events include, but are not limited to athletic contests, band, or choral concerts, dramatic productions, school dances, drivers' education etc. **If a student is suspended (Either ISS or OSS) during their 11<sup>th</sup> grade (Junior) year, he/she is not eligible to be a graduation marshal.**

Students who are suspended may make up their academic work. The decision to suspend a student from school is at the sole discretion of the MPHS administration.

## **PASS PROGRAM DESCRIPTION- Positive Alternative to Student Suspension (Long-term)**

PASS is an intervention program assigned in lieu of long-term suspension or assignment to an alternative program. PASS is an education program focused on decision making for middle and high school students who have engaged in identified high-risk behaviors in violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

- Students are referred to PASS on the first offense for sexting or drug/alcohol use possession on campus.
- Students who come to campus or other school related events under the influence of substances may be referred to PASS on a second offense.
- Other behaviors addressed through PASS may include **but are not limited to**

- misuse of school technology;
- mutual sexual contact;
- use or possession of vapes;
- cyberbullying;
- **possession/sharing pornographic images; or**
- sexting

PASS is not a counseling or treatment program.

**The safety of our students is of utmost importance.** Students, who have demonstrated either at school or in the community that they could pose a threat to our students' wellbeing, will not be allowed to continue their association with Mount Pleasant. Also, students who have been long-term suspended or expelled from MPHS are prohibited from attending ANY school event or function either on the MPHS campus or in any other location.

## **SUSPENSION FROM PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES - POLICY**

### I. General Statement of Policy

Students who participate in the extracurricular activities offered at their schools enjoy a privilege, and many of them are called upon to represent their schools in local, state, and national arenas. Accordingly, students may be held to a higher standard of eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities than what is required for participation in the regular instructional program. It is the policy of the Cabarrus County Board of Education that students who commit prohibited acts, as defined in Section II, below, may have suspended their privilege of participation in extracurricular activities offered by their schools. This Policy shall govern each student at all times that he or she is enrolled in the Cabarrus County Schools. It shall also apply equally to conduct taking place outside of school-related activities, and not on property owned or leased by the Board as to conduct or taking place during school-related activities and on property owned or leased by the Board.

### II. Prohibited Acts

A student may be suspended pursuant to this Policy for the following:

- Conduct that constitutes a felony under state or federal law or any crime involving moral turpitude, including the illegal possession, sale, or use of drugs or alcohol.
- Conduct that constitutes a violation of Board policy and/or school rules.

## **PROM**

All persons, other than assigned chaperones, desiring to attend the annual Junior/Senior Prom must be at least in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and under 21 years of age. **Students may not miss more than 13 days in any class during 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> semester without medical documentation; must have passed 3 out of 4, or 75%, of classes during 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester; must pay all fees; and must have completed 60% of Credit Recovery course(s), if enrolled in CR.**

## **VIDEO SURVALIANCE**

For your safety, video cameras have been installed in the school buildings and in parking lots on campus. Be advised:

- School administrators and law enforcement officials monitor both the cameras and the recordings.
- Video recordings are used to investigate violations of school rules and the law.
- Video recordings may become part of a student's educational record.

## **STUDENT PARKING REGULATIONS**

Driving to school and parking on school property are privileges. All student vehicles parked on school property must be registered with the school office. A valid student parking pass must be displayed on the vehicle. Students are to enter and exit the student lot via the lower driveway – not by way of the bus lot. During school hours, no students are permitted to park in any of the following areas without the permission of the school administration: the Bus Lot; the faculty parking lot next to the main gym; the shop areas; the faculty parking lot at the front of the main building; any other area that has been designated off-limits to students; the side of any road on campus, or on a non-paved area. Students parking at the field house must not obstruct the stadium access lane or any bus. Loss of driving privileges will result for the following: parking violations but are not limited to these violations, excessive tardies to school, speeding, and reckless operation of a motor vehicle. The parking/driving suspension will be for an amount of time deemed appropriate by the school administration up to and including the remainder of the semester or year. Students are to exit their cars upon arrival (no loitering in cars) and exit

campus upon dismissal from school. Students are not permitted to go to their cars or be in the parking lot without permission from a school official. All vehicles parked on school property are subject to search by the school administration. Parking fees will be forfeited in all revocation of parking privileges. The administration reserves the right to change student-parking regulations as the need arises.

### Expectation

In order to park on campus, a student: Must purchase a parking pass.

- Students must park in designated student parking areas with parking pass
- Parking pass must be visible/affixed to vehicle.
- Student must not acquire 13+ absences.

### Consequences

1<sup>st</sup> Offense \$30 ticket (\$25 cost of parking pass plus \$5 parking violation fee)

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense \$5 parking violation fee

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense \$5 parking violation fee

4<sup>th</sup> Offense Loss of parking privileges for 1 month

5<sup>th</sup> Offense Loss of parking privileges for rest of semester

6<sup>th</sup> Offense Loss of parking privileges for rest of year

**Students must meet all requirements. No refunds will be given if a student purchases a parking pass and has it revoked during the school year. Students are responsible for towing expenses.**

### BUS REGULATIONS

Riding the school bus is a privilege and not a right. You will lose your privilege to ride a school bus if you frequently violate school bus rules. The decision to remove your bus riding privilege is made by the MPHS administration. Your bus driver is performing a service by providing you with transportation to and from school. You depend on the driver for your safety, so you should follow his/her directions and refrain from any annoying behavior. Your life may depend on it. **Be Safe, Respectful, and Responsible** at all times

1. Please wait at your assigned stop and only get on and off of your assigned bus.
2. Stay seated in your assigned seat facing forward at all times
3. Keep all body parts and objects to yourself and inside the bus at all times.
4. **Foods and drinks are prohibited.** You must keep the bus clean and do not damage the bus in any way.
5. Smoking, using profane language, gambling, threatening other students and horseplay of any kind are not permitted. You must also use appropriate noise levels and be respectful with your words and actions.
6. Buses will load immediately after school and depart campus exactly three minutes following the bell to end fourth period. Any student who is not on the bus at the time the school buses begin to depart will not be permitted to board any bus. Students who miss the bus will be responsible for finding transportation.
7. Follow the bus driver's directions the first time they are given. This includes the use of electronic devices.
8. Failure to follow bus rules can result in suspension from the bus and/or school.
9. Note: **All buses are equipped with video surveillance.**

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The number of units/"credits" required for graduation is 27 units. Transfer students must complete their maximum potential for earning units less 5. **Students attempting to earn credits outside of Cabarrus County Schools must have prior approval from the Principal and the High School Director.** "Future Ready Core" curriculum requirements are intended to prepare a student with the skills to be successful in college or the workforce. This standard mandate that a student must successfully complete the following state required courses: **English:** 4 units. **Mathematics:** 4 units. Note Math 1 successfully completed in 8<sup>th</sup> grade will fulfill the Math I course requirement; however, only units earned 9-12 count toward the number of units required for graduation. **Social Studies:** 4 units; Social Studies requirements differ depending on the year that the student started high school. Specific Social Studies graduation requirements can be found in the NC DPI website. **Science:** 3 units; one each in Biology, Earth & Environmental Science, and a physical science (either Chemistry or Physical Science). **Health/PE:** 1 unit. Six elective credits. Students must also complete cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction (CPR). In addition, students are required to pass any and all tests required by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and fulfill any other

state required learning outcomes. Note: A curriculum guide is given to each family at the time of student enrollment. In addition, see CCS website to access for details.

### **PROGRESS REPORTS**

Progress reports will be available through Power School Parent Portal every 2-4 weeks during the grading period. A schedule of progress report dates is located on the school website

### **REPORT CARDS**

Report cards will be available through Power School Parent Portal every 9 weeks. Student's grades should be updated weekly by their teachers and accessible in Power School. The course exam counts 25% toward the final course average.

#### **Quarter Event Date Due**

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Progress Reports 9/28/22

*Report Cards 11/9/22*

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Progress Reports 12/7/22

*Report Cards 2/8/23*

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Progress Reports 2/22/23

*Report Cards 4/5/23*

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Progress Reports 5/3/23

*Report Cards 6/21/23*

### **GRADING SCALE**

Letter grades:

A: 90-100

B: 80-89

C: 70-79

D: 60-69

F: 59-below

### **A/B HONOR ROLL**

Honor Roll will be calculated at the end of each grading period and will be based upon a student's non-weighted numerical average. The A Honor Roll will be 4.0 Avg. (A). The B Honor Roll will be 3.00 (B). A student cannot have any Ds or Fs to be on the A/B honor roll.

### **PROMOTION STANDARDS AND GRADE-LEVEL CLASSIFICATION**

Promotion will be determined for the total number of credits.

#### **Credits Needed to Be A**

6 Sophomore

13 Junior

19 Senior

### **Transfer Student Grade-Level Classification**

The transfer student's grade classifications at his/her former school and an evaluation of the student's transcript will be used for grade placement and GPA. The GPA of a transfer student will be based on the weighting system used by MPHS.

### **PARENT ACCESS TO STUDENT GRADES**

Parents/Guardians will have online access to their student(s) grades and attendance. Additional information will be provided to all parents as the system is implemented throughout this school year. Please contact the office for assistance if needed.

### **JUNIOR MARSHALS**

Junior Marshals consist of the top 16 students in the junior class as noted by 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter grades. The Junior Marshals main responsibility is to assist during graduation.

## CABARRUS COUNTY SCHOOLS DROP-ADD GUIDELINES

High Schools in the Cabarrus County school district are on a block system. There are two terms with four courses each term lasting 82 minutes per class. With the implementation of the TIGER Time students receive additional instruction during tutorial sessions to either supplement or enrich content knowledge. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction requires a minimum number of seat time hours to earn a credit. As a result, if you miss more than 13 days in a course, credit might be withheld. Therefore, the following procedures are in effect for any student who requests a schedule change:

- 1. No changes will be made after the THIRD day of classes unless it is an administrative error or for pupil balancing.**
2. Any student that requests a change once the schedule has been created in the Spring (for the next year) can make an appointment to see his/her counselor and decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis and with Principal approval. (Changes at this point are contingent upon extenuating circumstances and available space).
3. Students failing the first course of a two-part sequence of a pre-requisite course will be dropped from the second course
4. Second term changes are particularly discouraged once the school year begins; however, the Principal with counselor recommendation may consider exceptional circumstances.
5. If a student drops a class once the term has begun, it is only with the Principal's approval and the grade of WF will be recorded on the student's report card and transcript. The WF will be averaged into the overall GPA as a failing grade.
6. These guidelines also apply to courses taken on-line or at a community college for dual credit.

## EXAM EXEMPTION POLICY

1. Only 12<sup>th</sup> grade students will be able to exempt only teacher made exams (non-EOC/NCFE/CTE) if they meet the following criteria in a course(s):
  - a. Student must have an 80 or above average.
  - b. Student who has accrued no more than 3 (three) absences prior to the exam
  - c. Student has received no suspensions during the semester
  - d. Please see School Board Policy Code: 3411 High School Final Examinations for additional information
2. Students are required to take all EOC, NCFE and CTE exams.

## REMOTE LEARNING

In the event schools are closed for an extended amount of time, CCS will utilize multiple resources to provide remote learning including utilizing Canvas, our Learning Management System (LMS), posted videos and assignments, phone calls, video conferencing, long-term projects. Two-way communication is extremely important in a remote learning situation. CCS is committed to providing high quality instruction in any situation.

## 1:1 DEVICES

All MPHS students will be assigned a Chromebook for the 2022-2023 school year. It is the responsibility of the student to bring his/her Chromebook to school each day. Students are also responsible for the care and general maintenance of the device assigned to them. Should a device become damaged or lost, a fine may be given. *Each student user is responsible for appropriate use of the Internet. If inappropriate materials are encountered, each student is to report the issue immediately to a teacher. Parents and students understand all student email communications and use of the internet on school-provided email and online collaboration platforms may be monitored*

## TIGER Time

The purpose of TIGER Time is to provide students with an opportunity to get small group and one on one assistance with their teachers. TIGER Time takes place between the times of 8:40-9:25. There is one power block tutorial each day and it lasts for 40 minutes. During this time students are expected to be in their designated class for tutorial unless they are released by the teacher. If they are released by the teacher, they are expected to go to the cafeteria for the duration of TIGER Time.

## Schedule:

<b>Monday</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> block
<b>Tuesday</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> block
<b>Wednesday</b>	Advisory
<b>Thursday</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> block
<b>Friday</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Block

## Expectations

### To be released for TIGER Time, a student must:

- Be passing the course with a 80% or greater and have no missing assignments.
- *\*Teachers may keep students if needed to help support/extend.*

### During TIGER Time, a student must: Remain in class, unless released based on above criteria.

- Only see teachers on his/her schedule for that semester, unless arrangements made between teachers.
- Student must sign in or receive consequences for skipping.

### Skipping TIGER Time

- Skipping TIGER time is as if a student skipped a class.
- Consequence will be assigned.

### REPEATING A COURSE WHICH CREDIT WAS EARNED (Grade Suppression)

The board recognizes high school students may need to repeat a course for which they have earned credit in order to increase their understanding of the course content, to improve skill mastery, or to meet postsecondary goals. Students may repeat a course for which they have previously earned credit, subject to the following preconditions and any other reasonable rules established by the superintendent or designee:

- the student must make a written request to repeat the course; the principal or designee must approve the request.
- there must be space available after seats have been assigned to students who are taking the course for the first time or repeating a previously failed course.
- the course to be repeated must be a duplicate of the original class and must be taken during the regular school day at a high school in this school system or through the North Carolina Virtual Public School (spring, fall or yearlong only);
- upon completion of the repeated course, the new course grade will replace the student's original grade on the student's transcript and in calculations of the student's GPA, class rank, and honor roll eligibility, regardless of whether the later grade is higher or lower than the student's original mark;
- credit towards graduation for the same course will be given only once.
- a course may be repeated only one time; students may repeat a maximum of four previously passed courses during their high school careers
- the course must be taken within two semesters of the original course.

### CREDIT BY DEMONSTRATED MASTERY (CDM)

Students in grades 9 through 12 can earn course credit by demonstrating mastery of course material without first completing the regular period of classroom instruction in the course. Students in grades 6 through 8 may earn credit by demonstrated mastery for high school courses offered in middle school. To earn credit by demonstrated mastery, students must demonstrate a deep understanding of the content standards and application of knowledge through a multi-phase assessment, in accordance with standards established by the State Board of Education and any additional standards established by the superintendent

### CREDIT RECOVERY (YES CENTER)

#### General Guidelines:

1. Edgenuity and NCVPS are the only approved platforms for credit recovery **2. Students may not complete packets or teacher work for credit recovery**
3. Students should be enrolled in credit recovery within two (2) consecutive sessions following a failed course
4. Students failing with less than a 50 and/or a non-passing/non-proficient score on the final exam must retake the course or use NCVPS Credit Recovery
5. Students failing with a grade between 50-59 and/or a passing/proficient score on a final assessment are a candidate for credit recovery via Edgenuity
6. Students must complete credit recovery in one semester or session.
7. Students must follow all YES center rules while taking credit recovery and may be removed from credit recovery for violating the YES Center or school rules.



## **BETA CLUB**

Students desiring membership in the Beta Club must: have a GPA of 3.8 or better, and have never been in ISS or out of school suspended. Changes in either grades or discipline/suspension status may affect a student's status in this club.

## **ATHLETICS**

MPHS offers students the opportunity to participate in the following competitive sports: football, volleyball, cross country, soccer, tennis, basketball, wrestling, swimming, baseball, softball, track & field, golf and cheerleading.

## **ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for a team a student must: **1)** Pass a minimum of three (3) courses during the previous semester at an approved high school. Student mentor and office assistant do not count as course offerings and will not count toward athletic eligibility purposes. **2)** Meet local promotion requirements (See Promotion Standards and Grade Level Classification listed above). There are other criteria for attaining athletic eligibility in a North Carolina High School Athletic Association member institution. For a complete listing and explanation of each of the criteria, consult [www.nchsaa.org](http://www.nchsaa.org).

## **VISITORS**

The school policy is to accept only those visitors who have legitimate business at the school. ALL VISITORS MUST REPORT TO THE OFFICE to sign in, obtain a visitor pass and be escorted to their destination. Any unauthorized visitor found on campus will be considered trespassing. Students from other schools are visitors and must be approved by the principal. **Students may neither eat lunch with visitors (non-family member) on campus, nor may they receive outside food from visitors.**

## **LOCKERS**

Students who wish to store their belongings in a locker may request one from the front office. It is the student's responsibility to see that his/her locker is always kept locked and in order. Students may not share lockers. Students are expected to keep their lockers in good condition. The administrators can conduct searches of lockers as they deem appropriate. No one should leave classes or the cafeteria to go to his/her locker without permission.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

Any student who does not have their assigned textbook at the end of the semester will be charged the full price for the missing book. Students will be assessed a fee for any damages to textbooks that may occur.

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

The Student Services Department is available for every student in the school. The services this department provides include: assistance with educational planning, interpretation of test scores, occupational information, career information, study helps, help with home, school and/or social concerns, or any issues he/she would like to discuss with the counselor.

Students wishing to visit a counselor must fill out a request on the Student Services page on the MPHS website to arrange for an appointment. Students are assigned a counselor based on the first letter of their last name.

*Students are assigned by Last Name to School a Counselor: **A-K Chris Lloyd, L-Z Diana Meitzler.***

Parents are encouraged to contact the counselors throughout the year. Information regarding careers, college admissions, financial aid, curriculum offerings, testing, records and personal assistance is available. The Student Services phone number is 704-260-6699.

## **MEAL PRICES**

*The U.S. Department of Agriculture has extended the waiver allowing schools to serve meals at no charge to all students, regardless of income level, through the end of the 2022-23 school year. Students will not be required to pay for complete meals at any school.*

## **APPLICATIONS FOR FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS**

While the application is not required in order to obtain a meal at no charge, there may be other reasons for applying. To do so, please visit [www.lunchapplication.com](http://www.lunchapplication.com) to apply online or obtain a paper application from the school or our website.

## 2022-2023 MEAL PRICES

### Breakfast

Secondary	\$1.55
Free/Reduced	No Cost

### Lunch

Secondary	\$2.95
Free/Reduced	No Cost
Quick Bites	\$3.55

## NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

Cabarrus County Schools provides equal access and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability or age in its programs or activities. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies:

504 Coordinator – Nancy Jones 704-260-5764 or [nancy.jones@cabarrus.k12.nc.us](mailto:nancy.jones@cabarrus.k12.nc.us)

Title IX Coordinator – Dr. Kelly Withers 704-260-5600 or [kelly.withers@cabarrus.k12.nc.us](mailto:kelly.withers@cabarrus.k12.nc.us)

## NOTIFICACION DE NO DISCRIMINACION

Cabarrus County Schools prove acceso equitativo y no discrimin en sus programas o actividades sobre la base de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, orientacion sexual, discapacidad o edad. Las siguientes personas han sido designadas para manejar consultas relacionadas con las politicas de no discriminacion:

504 Coordinator – Nancy Jones 704-260-5764 or [nancy.jones@cabarrus.k12.nc.us](mailto:nancy.jones@cabarrus.k12.nc.us)

Title IX Coordinator –Dr. Kelly Withers 704-260-5600 or [kelly.withers@cabarrus.k12.nc.us](mailto:kelly.withers@cabarrus.k12.nc.us)

## PARENT/ COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT INFORMATION

Mount Pleasant High School will strive to send home information in a timely manner using the school website, social media pages, and Connect Ed. emails and voice messages. During the first few months of school, a Curriculum Night is held for parents where a great deal of information concerning instruction is shared. Cabarrus County also distributes a booklet of information that includes rules and information about a variety of programs offered by the schools and the district.

Parents are notified each school year with information about the school's academic performance. This information is shared through multiple platforms. Performance and growth data is also available on the State Report Card website in English and Spanish.

Mount Pleasant will use a variety of methods to provide feedback to parents about their children's progress communication from teachers (emails and phone calls), progress reports in PowerSchool and end of nine-week report cards.

School-wide results will be shared through the State Report Card, which is available on the website. All parents receive written reports of state testing results including the End of Course assessments. Assessment results for EC and AIG students are shared through conferences with parents. During Curriculum Night teachers explain grade level curriculum expectations and standards.

All parents are invited to participate in school activities. We seek representation on committees that reflect our diverse population. Our School Improvement Team is made up of parents and teachers who meet every month. Comments, concerns, and suggestions from staff and parents are addressed.

Our staff makes itself available to parents. They communicate in emails and phone calls to parents.

This handbook was last updated on August 10<sup>th</sup> 2022. Please check back periodically for any updates to policies.

As a parent of a student at Mount Pleasant High School, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's classroom teachers and requires us to give you this information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers.

- Whether the NC Department of Public Instruction has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- Whether the NC Department of Public Instruction has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
- The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees.
- Whether any teachers' aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

Our staff is committed to helping your child develop the academic knowledge and critical thinking he/she needs to succeed in school and beyond. That commitment includes making sure that all of our teachers and paraprofessionals are highly skilled and qualified.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please call the school at (704) 260-6690.

*Upon reading the handbook in its entirety and by filling out the Scribbles form, you acknowledge that you have read the entire handbook, including all rules, policies and compacts and understand the Mount Pleasant High School expectations for the 2022-2023 school year.*