

7314 Glades Avenue • Richmond Heights, MO 63143 • 314-644-4403 mrhschools.net



This family handbook is provided for you to use as a reference guide throughout the school year. It is our hope that this handbook will prove helpful and informative. If you have any questions that are not answered here, please call the school office at 314-644-4403

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MRH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 7314 GLADES AVENUE RICHMOND HEIGHTS, MO 63117

Phone: 314-644-4403 FAX: 314-644-0315

Attendance Line: 314-256-7202 (24 hour)

School Hours: 8:05am – 2:55pm

(Early Dismissal Releases at 1:25pm)

Morning Supervision Begins at 7:55am

For safety reasons, students should not arrive before supervision begins.

Carlisha Elam Principal carlisha.elam@mrhschools.net Mary Hartnett **Assistant Principal** mary.hartnett@mrhschools.net tonja.robinson@mrhschools.net Tonja Robinson Counselor Lesa Thomas Counselor lesa.thomas@mrhschools.net Rashonda Sloan Main Office rashonda.sloan@mrhschools.net Attendance/Student Services aliese.johnson@mrhschools.net Aliese Johnson kathryn.whitehouse@mrhschools.net Kathryn Whitehouse School Nurse

MRH Elementary School Staff Directory

MRH SCHOOL DISTRICT	CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION	Dr. Bonita Jamison, Superintendent
President, <u>Joshua Miller</u>	Dr. Shonda Ambers-Phillips, Asst. Superintendent of Human
Vice President, Jenny Schmidt	Resources & DEI
Treasurer, <u>Brian Matz</u>	Dr. Chris McGee, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction &
Secretary, Linda Robinson	Assessment
Director, <u>Katie Kaufmann</u>	Chris Hoelzer, Chief Financial Officer
Director, <u>Christy Martinez</u>	Dr. Abby Erwin, Coordinator of Technology
Director, <u>Trent Colbert</u>	Michael Dittrich, Director of Operations
	Rachel Ward, Coordinator of Data, Assessment & Accountability
	Ed Rich, Director of Communications
	Vince Estrada, Director of Student Services
	Emily Kresyman, Special Education Administrator - SSD

MRHE SCHOOL AS MUSEUM SHARED MISSION, VISION, BELIEFS AND COMMITMENTS

MRH SCHOOL DISTRICT SHARED MISSION:

MRH is an inclusive school district where students, staff, families, and community members are seen, heard, and valued for their unique backgrounds, culture, talents, and beliefs. We **support**, **educate**, **encourage**, and **nurture** one another to reach our full potential in order to create a better community.

SHARED VISION FOR SUCCESS:

Our vision in MRH School District is to inspire and prepare students to be leaders, scholars, stewards, and citizens who will thrive in a diverse and changing world.

SHARED BELIEFS:

At MRHE School Museum, we as a staff believe:

- Every student is a capable learner with endless potential
- Learning experiences should embrace the academic, social, emotional, and physical development of students
- A student's background, culture, individual needs, and family structure should be honored in the educational process
- Change is necessary for continuous improvement
- Intelligence is not fixed and develops over time
- We are all connected and genuine relationships are essential to success
- The world is constantly changing and our students must be prepared to embrace each experience

SHARED COMMITMENTS:

To accomplish our mission and vision and honor our shared beliefs, the staff of MRHE School Museum will:

- Expect excellence from ourselves and each other every day
- Differentiate instruction to foster the academic, social, emotional, and physical development of all students
- Collaborate with all members of our learning community (colleagues, students, and guardians) to ensure every child is successful
- Embrace new learning, engage in reflection, and be open to change
- Stay at the forefront of educational research and best practices
- Assume goodwill and model our mission for our students

MRH ELEMENTARY FAMILIES ARE COMMITTED TO:

- Communicating with their child's teacher by phone, email, notes, and conferences.
- Acknowledging the importance of their child's education by sending him/her to school on time with their necessary belongings. *Please note our school hours are 7:55 a.m. 2:55 p.m.*
- Celebrating their child's efforts in reading, writing, math, and Inquiry with words of encouragement.
- Modeling appropriate behaviors for their children to encourage growth and success at school by talking respectfully at home and helping them see things from different perspectives.
- Instilling the love of literature by reading with their child every night and talking about the stories they have read.
- Supporting learning by monitoring and assisting with homework

WAYS FAMILIES CAN HELP:

Support the school. Maintain a positive attitude about education, the school and the teachers. If a problem occurs at school, get the FACTS, and then cooperate with the school to find a workable solution to the problem.

Become acquainted with your child's teachers and cooperate closely with them. You may help tremendously by coming to school for a conference when requested to do so. Make a point of seeing grade reports at each grading period. Attend all meetings for guardians. Learn "what's going on at school" so you can discuss schoolwork and activities at home. Read to your children and have them read to you. Model reading at home and play games with your children.

Volunteer to help the school in any way you can. Visit your child's classroom regularly as a "room helper." Become involved in our school.

Insist upon regular attendance and punctuality. Most parents and guardians go to great lengths to see that their children are in school on time every day except when illness, death in the family or another type of emergency necessitates their absence. Transportation problems, bad weather, and other involvements often make "getting the kids to school" a difficult task. However, the dividends of regular attendance on the child's education are well worth the effort.

Visitors to MRH Elementary

Please use Glades Circle Entrance Only.

Visitors should be prepared to ring the doorbell and explain the reason for their visit. If buzzed in, please remain in the foyer, and someone will assist you shortly. You will be required to sign the visitor log, and pick up a visitor sticker before moving past the foyer. Visitor stickers must be worn at all times while at MRH Elementary.

INFORMATION

MRH SCHOOL DISTRICT WEBSITE MRH District Calendars

COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES

Information about what's happening at MRH Elementary is emailed to families in the weekly **Museum Memo**. Please take a moment to review the Museum Memo each week. If you are not receiving this email newsletter, please contact school secretary Rashonda Sloan in the main office at 314-644-4403 or via email: rashonda.sloan@mrhschools.net

UPDATING STUDENT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

It is very important to keep your student's demographic information up-to-date. Please contact our main office secretary at <u>rashonda.sloan@mrhschools.net</u> or call the Elementary main office at (314) 644-4403 to report any changes in contact information. This includes phone, address, email, emergency contact, and custody information. By keeping this information current in our office, you help guarantee that we can contact you in the event of an emergency. Email address is important as this is the main way MRHE communicates with families. Telephone number, address, employment, and other changes should be reported. If your telephone number is unlisted, we still need the number in the school office in case of an emergency. The school considers all telephone numbers and email addresses confidential.

REQUIRED FORMS

Instructions:

- 1. Download the form(s) to your device
- 2. Name it and save it (student's first and last name)
- 3. Fill in the downloaded document/form
- 4. Return the completed form as an attachment to the email address indicated below
- 5. Forms must be signed by a legal guardian. Typing your name into the text box where indicated will serve as your digital signature.

The following 3 forms must be filled out, new, every school year.

1. Free & Reduced Meal Application

Complete the online form through MySchoolApps.com OR print the Free & Reduced Meal Application and send a completed copy to the elementary main office. (Only one application per family is needed.) <u>Click here for more information</u>.

Complete and email to School Nurse Kathryn Whitehouse at

kathryn.whitehouse@mrhschools.net

- 2. <u>Health/Medical Information Form</u>
- **3.** <u>Permission to Dispense Medication Form</u> (only needed if your child has medications dispensed at school.)

REGISTRATION & ENROLLMENT

Given the current health and safety guidelines due to COVID-19, we have eliminated in-person enrollment at this time. Through the combined efforts of our registrars and district administrators, we created a new online enrollment process.

Below you will find specific links to the Registration & Enrollment pages for each school building:

<u>MRH Early Childhood Center Registration & Enrollment (PreK – 2nd)</u> <u>MRH Elementary School Registration & Enrollment (3rd – 6th Grade)</u> <u>MRH Middle School Registration & Enrollment (7th - 8th Grade)</u> <u>MRH High School Registration & Enrollment (9th – 12th Grade)</u>

If you have any questions about residency and eligibility for enrollment, please contact our Director of Student Services, Vince Estrada @ 314-565-7441 OR <u>vince.estrada@mrhschools.net</u>

<u>Transfers</u>

Families should notify the office if they are moving. The receiving school will contact the MRHE office to request the student's records be sent to them. Alerting the MRHE office will help us to fill these records requests in a timely manner.

Parental Rights

All parents have certain legal rights. However, in the case of divorce or separation, these rights may be changed. MRH will do everything possible to adhere to the wishes of the court. Written documentation will need to be provided if special circumstances exist, and copies of such documents will need to be kept on file at school for the safety of your child.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

The Maplewood Richmond Heights School District abides by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which allows students and parents to opt out of the release of certain information about students, including photographs. The Communications Department will work with each school to determine who cannot be interviewed and photographed according to FERPA guidelines.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

Beginning at 7:55 there will be staff on duty to supervise arriving students.

Students should not arrive before this time. Please remind your child(ren) to stay on the sidewalk avoiding lawns during their travels to and from school. There will be a crossing guard at Bellevue and Glades each morning and afternoon.

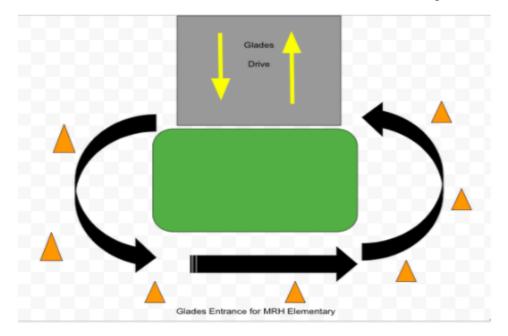
- **Bus riders** will be dropped off and picked up on the **Princeton Place** side of the building.
- **Car Riders** should be dropped off at **Glades Circle** as the entrance from Princeton Place will be gated after buses drop off students.
- Walkers can enter at Princeton Place or Glades Circle doors
- All students go directly to their classrooms upon arrival

Glades Circle Drop-Off/Pick-Up Instructions

- Right turns only onto Glades Avenue/traveling southbound on Bellevue
- Pull up to the furthest available cone on the circle drive
- Use the visor/window sign (provided by the school on the first day or by request) with your child's FIRST & LAST name.
- Do not attempt to pass other cars on the circle

- Students should enter and exit on the passenger side (closest to the sidewalk) of the vehicle.
- Do not block the driveways of area residents
- Students should not be dropped off earlier than 7:55 am

School dismisses at 2:55. Students who are not picked up from school in a timely manner will be escorted to the main office to contact the adult in charge.



Bus Schedules and Tracking

Click the link above for the 2024-25 Bus Schedules as well as information on how parents of students who ride the bus can pinpoint the location of their child's school bus. (Parents will need to follow instructions for creating a new account with Traversa Ride 360 to take advantage of this app.)

Student Drop Off & Pick Up

Families who are dropping off or picking up their children must use the **Glades Ave** side of the building. **Please pull forward as far as possible and only allow your child to exit your vehicle curbside. Please do NOT attempt to pass other cars in line as this puts our students and staff at risk.** If you are parking, you must use the Alameda parking lot (accessible from Bruno to Alameda) Please do not park in the bus/fire lane on Princeton Place in front of the school. DO NOT PARK ON GLADES AVE. PARKING ON GLADES AVENUE IS BY PERMIT ONLY AND YOU WILL BE TICKETED.

Bike Riders

Students riding their bikes to school must park and lock their bikes at the bike rack on the blacktop. Helmets can be stored in students' lockers.

Reporting Change in Normal Dismissal Plan for Student

Please fill out the <u>Dismissal Plan Change Form</u> by or before 1:30 pm if you have any changes to your child's normal dismissal plan. **If prior permission is not received by the school office from the parent or guardian, the student will be required to follow their normal dismissal plan.** Please inform any designee you send to pick up your child, that he/she may be required to present I.D. to school office personnel before the child is released. Again, we will require your child to follow their normal dismissal plan.

ATTENDANCE

Tardy, Absent, or Early Pick Up

A student is considered **tardy** if he or she joins their class later than 8:05 a.m. Teachers report student attendance first thing in the morning. Students not present with their class at this time are reported absent. Tardy/Late students <u>MUST</u> check-in for a tardy pass at the attendance desk to have their absence corrected. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to make sure their child arrives at school on time each day.

Reporting an Absence

For your convenience, we offer multiple options to report absences.

4 WAYS MRH FAMILIES CAN REPORT AN ABSENCE

ONLINE: <u>MRH STUDENT ATTENDANCE REPORTING FORM</u> if your child's absence is due to illness of any kind. CALL: 314-256-7202 MRHELE Attendance Line TEXT: 314-565-9786 EMAIL: <u>aliese.johnson@mrhschools.net</u> *CC Nurse <u>kathryn.whitehouse@mrshchools.net</u> if your child's absence is due to illness or <u>ele.attendance@mrhschools.net</u>* Please contact the Elementary Attendance Office using any of the above options if your child is going to be late or absent. *Emailing or texting your child's teacher does not guarantee their attendance will be recorded correctly.*

- When reporting an absence, please state:
 - \circ $% \left({{\left({{{\left({{{\left({{{\left({{{\left({{c}}} \right)}} \right.}$ here } \right)}} \right)}_{0}}} \right)} \right)
 - his/her teacher
 - reason for the absence *(for state coding purposes)*
- If an absence is due to illness of any kind, please include specific symptoms as your child may be required to stay home due to current COVID-19 safety protocol. (see <u>Student Symptom Decision Tree</u>)
- If the attendance office has not received verification of student absence by 9:00 am, the attendance secretary will attempt to contact you.

Early Pick Up

When picking a student up early from school, the parent/guardian should ring the doorbell at the Glades entrance to alert office staff. Parents/Guardians are required to sign student(s) out with office staff. Students will be called down from class to meet you in the office. Staff cannot release a student without following these procedures. *Pick-ups after 2 p.m. may experience traffic delays around Glades Circle.*

Do not attempt to pick your student up directly from the classroom, playground, or a field trip. *Please make every attempt to inform your child's teacher of these plans ahead of time, no later than the morning of the event.* Leaving school early will reflect on student attendance records.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Y Club After School Child Care Program

Beginning this 2024-2025 school year, after-school childcare for MRH Elementary students will be provided by the Mid County YMCA. Y Club childcare will continue to be located here in the elementary building and space is limited to 48 children. The program will start after school until 6 pm. Communication was sent to families in early May 2024. regarding online registration.

For more information, please contact: **Rachel Janis Child Care Program Director Mid County Family YMCA** 1900 Urban Drive Brentwood, MO 63144 Office Phone 314-866-2322 (E) <u>rachel.janis@gwymca.org</u> (W) <u>www.gwrymca.org</u> (O) <u>Facebook</u>

Notify Y-Club Supervisor, Rachel Janis at <u>rachel.janis@gwymca.org</u> if your child has been picked up early from school and/or will be absent from childcare that day. If your child does not come to school due to illness or other reasons, they may not attend Y Club on that day.

After School Clubs

After-school clubs will be held from 2:55 – 3:45 pm on designated days. We have two club buses on these days, Bus A and Bus B. Club bus routes are different from regular day routes. When clubs begin you will get a copy of the club bus routes. *If your child does not come to school due to illness or other reasons, they may not attend clubs on that day.*

TECHNOLOGY

Parents can submit the **PowerSchool <u>Help Form</u>** when they are having trouble accessing their parent portal. Our building secretary has been notified and will be able to assist you upon retrieval.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

School Cancellation

When the decision is made to close schools or alter our school day, we use various procedures to notify the MRH community. Notification for full-day school closings or a late start to school will normally be made by 5:00 a.m., and afternoon and evening activity cancellations will normally be announced by 2:00 p.m.

Closing and emergency notifications are sent via phone calls through the District's family "robocall" notification system, posted on the <u>MRH District's website</u>, **Facebook** pages, and **Twitter** accounts. We also post school closings on the following radio and television stations:

- **Radio**: KMOX (AM 1120)
- **TV**: KTVI (Channel 2), KMOV (Channel 4), KSDK (Channel 5), KPLR (Channel 11), and KDNL (Channel 30)

While we try not to close school early due to weather-related concerns, there could be other emergencies where parents/guardians are asked to pick up students early from school. **Every family should have a plan for picking up children from school in such a situation.** Providing your child's school with information on all adults who are authorized to pick up your child at school is also advised. If necessary, due to safety

concerns, students will be kept at school until they are picked up by an adult who has been listed by a parent/guardian as an emergency contact.

FIELD TRIPS

During the school year, to enhance and support the curriculum, teachers plan field trips away from the school site. Notification of such trips will be sent home with students in advance of the event. With the submission of this <u>Field Trip Consent Form</u>, ALL responsible parties grant permission for their student to participate in field trips. In some cases, adult family volunteers are asked to accompany the classes to provide additional supervision. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact your child's teacher.

**IMPORTANT ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST OBTAIN A BACKGROUND CHECK BEFORE YOU WILL BE ALLOWED TO SUPERVISE CHILDREN ON A FIELD TRIP. ONLY ADULT FAMILY MEMBERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ACCOMPANY STUDENTS ON FIELD TRIPS.

Please note that participation in any off-campus experience (field trips, 6th-grade capstone trips) can be terminated as the result of a safety concern or as part of a discipline decision by school administration. *

MRH BUS RIDER - RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Students who qualify for MRH bus transportation will be required to wear a mask at all times while on the bus.
- Students will be seated according to established protocols and must remain in assigned seats to ensure effective contact tracing. If needed, students will have additional assigned seating based on the discretion of the bus driver and/or school administration.
- Students should arrive 5 minutes early at the bus stop.
- NO pushing, shoving, fighting, scuffling, etc., while in line waiting for the bus.
- **DO NOT** move to board the bus until the bus has stopped and the door opened.
- Talking should be at a conversational level.
- Students should not litter the bus.
- Food, candy, gum, or drinks may not be consumed on the bus (this includes breakfast items).
- Students are to remain seated while the bus is in motion. Not doing so is considered a serious violation and will be brought to the attention of the principal. Repeated offenses will be handled according to our MRH Bus Misconduct Procedures (see below).
- Arms, heads, feet, etc. should remain inside the bus windows & within the seat area not the aisles and/or over the seat

- Students will be considerate and respectful of the bus driver and in no way interfere with him/her.
- No inappropriate or hurtful language will be permitted on the bus or at the bus stop.
- Fighting, rough-housing, pushing, throwing objects, etc. will not be permitted on the bus.
- The bus driver is not permitted to discharge students at places other than the authorized bus stop unless authorized by the principal.
- Students may not throw anything on the bus.
- Students may not tamper with any of the bus controls or conduct any sort of activity that might place them or other bus riders in a dangerous situation.
- Objects other than regular school materials (skateboards, large instruments, glass containers, flammable items, knives, etc.) may not be transported to or from school.
- Animals of any kind are not permitted on the bus.
- Students should follow all reasonable rules and regulations given or posted by the bus driver.

MRH BUS MISCONDUCT PROCEDURES

Safety is our main concern for all students when riding the bus to and from school. Bus misconduct cannot be tolerated. Please make sure your child understands this expectation to ensure that they remain on the bus without interruption. If you have any questions please contact your child's school.

- **First time** bus offenders will be given a verbal warning, parents will be contacted and a student conference will be held with the school administrator. However, if the act impacts the safety of the bus riders and/or drivers, suspension of bus privileges may be immediate.
- **Second time** bus offenders will receive a bus write-up, which will be followed by an in-school consequence determined by the school administration. However, if the act impacts the safety of the bus riders and/or drivers, suspension of bus privileges may be immediate.
- **Third time** bus offenders will be suspended from the bus for a period not to exceed 10 days.
- **Fourth time** bus offenders' continued bus privileges would be determined at a bus hearing with parents, school personnel, and district administrators. During the period between the 4th write-up and the bus hearing, which may take a week to schedule, the student will be suspended from the bus. Resumption of bus privileges will be determined within 24 hours following the hearing unless it is a weekend or holiday in which case it will be the end of the next school day. Parents will receive a decision in writing from the Director of Building/Grounds/Transportation.

REPORT CARDS & PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Progress reports are issued four times a year, at the end of each quarter. **Parent-Teacher Conferences** are normally held during the first and third quarters. **2024-25 MRHE Fall conferences will be held on the evenings of October 28, 2024. Spring conferences are scheduled for February 10, 2025.** You will be contacted by your child's teacher to schedule a conference as these dates approach. Parent-teacher communication is extremely important for your child's success, therefore, we may require you to attend your scheduled conference before a report card is released.

In addition to regular parent-teacher conferences, you are welcome to schedule a conference with your child's teacher or school administration at other times during the school year. You may send a note to the teacher or call the school office for an appointment.

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

The MRH Elementary counselors are available for consultation regarding appropriate methods of intervention for students with specific problems. Counselors will meet regularly with teachers to discuss teacher concerns regarding students and will make recommendations and suggestions to assist the teacher in meeting the student's needs. MRH Elementary school Counselors are:

- Lesa Thomas (<u>lesa.thomas@mrhschools.net</u>) 3rd & 4th Grade
- Tonja Robinson (tonja.robinson@mrhschools.net) 5th & 6th Grade

READING & MATH INTERVENTION

Building reading & math specialists and teacher assistants will aid students identified as needing additional support in literacy and/or math.

SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The MRH School District receives services from the Special School District (SSD.) Emily Kresyman <u>emily.kresyman@mrhschools.net</u> is the Special Education Coordinator assigned to the Maplewood Richmond Heights School District by the Special School District of St. Louis County. For more information regarding services provided by SSD, click the link above.

PERSONAL PROPERTY AND VALUABLES

Please mark items like coats/jackets, lunch boxes/water bottles, and other personal property with your child's name. Valuable items should not be brought to school without permission or pre-arrangement with your child's teacher. Large amounts of money are not to be brought to school. Monies brought to school should be in a marked envelope. Please keep all toys at home (electronic game devices, iPads, iPods, any type of trading cards). Any type of toy weapon brought to school will be confiscated and disciplinary action will be taken. MRH Elementary will <u>NOT</u> be responsible for or pay for any items (electronic game devices, cell phones, iPods, trading cards, etc.) that are lost or stolen at school.

Cell Phones

We understand that many families choose to send their children to school with cell phones. Children use phones to contact families when they arrive at school after walking or when they arrive home at the end of the day. We support keeping our students safe and respect each family's decision to use cell phones for this need.

Families choosing to send their child to school with a cell phone should be aware of the following:

- Once a student enters the school building, cell phones, and cell phone accessories are to be turned off and placed out of sight.
- Lockers DO NOT have locks and the school is NOT responsible for cell phones that are lost and stolen.
- Cell phone use on school buses is not allowed.
- Families hoping to contact their child during the school day should not use their child's cell phone.
- In individual cases where the above expectations are not being followed, cell phones will be kept safely in the school office until a parent or guardian can pick them up.
- Excessive abuse of this plan will result in a meeting with the school administration, the student, and parent/guardian to determine a plan to correct behavior.

Lost & Found

The lost and found is located in the cafeteria. These items will be displayed for students and families to check for lost items. Items not claimed by the end of the school year will be donated.

VOLUNTEERING AT SCHOOL

The PTO is the parent-teacher organization in our building. We encourage all adult family members and staff to become involved in the PTO. Studies indicate that family involvement is important in a child's education. We welcome you to become involved as a part of our school through the PTO. PTO Meeting dates are posted on the <u>MRH</u> <u>calendar</u>, and in the weekly Museum Memo eNewsletter. If you have questions or suggestions regarding the PTO feel free to contact our committee directly at elementary@mrhpto.org.

For more information please visit: https://www.mrhschools.net/domain/41

Family Volunteers

We invite you participation in our school. The volunteer program is coordinated mostly through our PTO. Information regarding specific areas for volunteering at school may be sent home with your child or shared via the Museum Memo. Please complete this <u>Volunteer Background form</u> and send it to the attention of: Erin Jackson at MRHSD Central Office located at 2531 S Big Bend Blvd. Maplewood, MO 63143 as soon as possible. *This form must be renewed every TWO years and can take as long as 2 weeks to process.* Direct any inquiry to Erin via email: <u>erin.jackson@mrhschools.net</u> or phone: 314-644-4400.

BIRTHDAY ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CLASSROOM CELEBRATION POLICY

Traditionally, celebrations are held districtwide during October for Fall, in December for a winter celebration, and in February for Valentine's Day. PTO coordinates and provides food/drinks for these parties in accordance with recommendations of the MRH Wellness Committee.

Staff and students at MRHE enjoy wishing each other a happy birthday on their special day. Each individual is acknowledged on his or her birthday during the morning broadcast with weekend birthdays on either the Friday or Monday surrounding that weekend. Even summer birthdays are announced during the last weeks of school in May.

We continue to encourage students to celebrate their birthdays with non-food items; however:

• Students may bring in individually wrapped, prepackaged treats to celebrate with their class (bag of Goldfish, fruit snacks, Jolly Ranchers, a roll of Smarties, etc.) during snack or lunchtime. Edible items must be store-bought with the manufacturer's ingredients clearly labeled. Healthy items are strongly

encouraged.

- All items must be PRE-APPROVED and assured allergen-free by the school nurse before they can be shared with MRHE students. It is the parent's responsibility to contact Nurse Kathryn with any questions or allergy concerns at <u>kathryn.whitehouse@mrhschools.net</u> or call 314-257-7207.
- Please continue to notify your child's teacher no less than one week in advance. This is very important as schedules often change and we want to ensure we acknowledge your child's celebration on the appropriate day.

Thank you for helping to ensure the safety of our students and their learning environment each day.

CAFETERIA INFORMATION

MRH is proud to partner with <u>Chartwells School Dining Services</u> for all food service needs.

<u>Free and Reduced Meal Application</u> (must be turned in the NEW beginning of each school year even if you don't qualify)

Prices:

\$3.20 for full-pay lunch\$0.40 for reduced pay lunch\$2.35 for full-pay breakfast

Menus: Chartwells will update menus on the website. https://mrhschools.nutrislice.com/

No food sharing or trading among students. Please do not order food delivery to school for your child. Students carrying lunch boxes should make sure that their names are marked on or in the lunch box.

Precautions for Nut Allergies (see Allergy Anaphylaxis Management Statement pg.23)

RECESS

Assume there will be, and prepare your child to enjoy OUTDOOR recess unless any of the following is occurring during their scheduled recess period:

- Heat index between 95 and 105 degrees F
- Temperature with Wind chill is at or below 25 degrees F
- Steady Rain, Snow wet conditions

Dressing in layers, appropriate footwear for outdoor activities, and labeling coats and jackets with student names are recommended.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

MRH Elementary families are fortunate to have a full-time, registered nurse on staff in our building. Nurse Kathryn Whitehouse is an experienced school nurse and is available to answer any questions related to your child's health needs here at school.

MRHE School Nurse Contact Information

Kathryn Whitehouse, 314-256-7207 kathryn.whitehouse@mrhschools.net

MRH STUDENT ILLNESS REPORTING FORM

Sick Students

Any sick or contagious child should not be sent to school. The health room services are for emergencies, which occur during the school day, so we want to avoid having students attend school who are ill before the start of school. **Students who are too** sick to come to school are not to participate in after-school clubs including Y-Club, or attend sporting events or any other school-sponsored activities.

Do not send your child to school if they are experiencing any of these symptoms currently or within the past 24 hours: See the <u>Student Symptom Decision Tree</u>

- Fever of 100 or above
- Congestion/Runny Nose
- Sore Throat
- Cough
- Loss of Taste/Smell

Rather, contact the School Nurse and/or the Attendance office so a date can be determined for your child to return to school. Please continue to stay in close contact with Nurse Kathryn and/or Attendance, reporting updates on condition, testing, or personal physician recommendations.

4 WAYS MRH FAMILIES CAN REPORT AN ABSENCE

ONLINE: <u>MRH STUDENT ILLNESS REPORTING FORM</u> if your child's absence is due to illness of any kind. CALL: 314-256-7202 MRHELE Attendance Line TEXT: 314-565-9786 EMAIL: <u>aliese.johnson@mrhschools.net</u> *CC Nurse <u>kathryn.whitehouse@mrshchools.net</u> if your child's absence is due to illness*

Student Illness Guidelines

The following guidelines address how student illness may be handled within the MRH School District. The Maplewood Richmond Heights District Schools are staffed by Registered Nurses who have access to consultative backup from the District Physician, Dr. David Campbell, and/or the child's primary care physician when needed. As such, professional discretion and best clinical judgment will be used in conjunction with these guidelines.

- **CONJUNCTIVITIS**: Commonly called "pink eye", is highly contagious and treatment must be administered before a student may return to school. Students with red, crusted, and/or draining eyes will be sent home. A doctor's note is required for verification.
- HEAD LICE / NIT PROCEDURE: Effective 12/22/16: If there is evidence of untreated nits or live lice, the child will be temporarily dismissed from school until proper treatment and checklist have been done. The school nurse will provide the checklist as needed.
- **IMPETIGO**: This is highly contagious and requires treatment. The child may not attend school until consulted by a doctor and treatment has started for 24 hours.
- **PAIN**: Irritability, lethargy, persistent crying, and difficulty breathing should be referred to a physician. The school reserves the right to call the parent/legal guardian and request that the child be picked up as the nurse's office is not a substitute for home care.
- **RASH**: A child with a rash or open sore(s) should be excluded until the cause has been determined. This may require a physician's note to return to school.
- RINGWORM: This is a fungal infection of the body, scalp, or feet, and if suspected, a doctor's evaluation for diagnosis and treatment is required. The student will be excluded from school until 24 hours after treatment is started.

Please note: There are times when a child does not have a fever, is not vomiting, or has diarrhea but yet is not well enough to continue their day at school. Our school nurse will work with families, but for the care and well-being of the students, parent/guardian pick-up may be required.

Contagious or communicable diseases should be reported to the school nurse for the protection of students.

ALLERGY/ANAPHYLAXIS MANAGEMENT

Food and Insect sting allergies may result in anaphylaxis, which is a severe allergic reaction that has a rapid onset and may be fatal. The prevalence of food allergy diagnosis in school-aged children has soared, and 25% of children who experience anaphylaxis in school were not previously diagnosed. There is no cure for food allergies. Strict avoidance is key in preventing severe reactions. Furthermore, we recognize that Allergies have a significant impact on the lives of families. Families with allergies report a high level of stress for both parents/guardians and the child. Families are anxious about sending their child to school with an allergy. It is our priority to provide the safest learning environment for all our students. A collaborative approach between the family and the school is essential for us to safely and effectively manage allergies and anaphylaxis.

School's Responsibility

- Our school district has adopted a food allergy policy and focuses on providing a safe and healthy environment for all students to learn.
- School personnel will take part in annual food allergy education and epinephrine auto-injector administration training.
- All students will take part in age-appropriate food allergy education to create a positive school climate and promote acceptance/understanding of children with food allergies.
- In the cafeteria, allergen-friendly seating, including a peanut-free table is available.
- All surfaces are cleaned and disinfected. The peanut-free table has separate cleaning agents and cloths from the other tables to prevent cross-contamination between regular tables and allergen-free tables.
- An emergency protocol for an anaphylactic reaction has been developed and is practiced and documented.
- Classroom activities will avoid using common food allergens that are harmful to students.
- Bullying and teasing will not be tolerated.
- No eating on the school bus.
- We will celebrate special events with non-food items. If food is involved, only labeled pre-packaged items with a complete ingredient list are allowed
- All students will wash their hands before and after meals or snacks.
- A box of wipes will be kept in the classroom, please ask your child to use them.
- Children will wipe their hands before entering the classroom in the morning if necessary.
- The school nurse will work with the family to decrease stress and anxiety by answering all questions and assisting in developing an Individual Health Plan, a Food Allergy Action Plan/Emergency Care Plan, or a 504 plan if necessary.

Family Responsibility

- Make an appointment to meet with the school nurse before the school year starts to discuss your child's health history, and medical needs while at school and provide emergency care instructions from the child's physician/create a written plan that outlines necessary accommodations.
- Provide labeled medications and replace medications after use or expiration.
- Educate yourself on the seriousness of allergies and anaphylaxis.
- Discuss with your child the seriousness of their food allergy and how they can keep themselves safe. Your doctor can also help you with this.
- Keep an open dialogue about your concerns with your child's teacher.
- Check-in with the school nurse before field trips to assess safety needs.

Student's Responsibility

• The child must notify an adult immediately if they have eaten something they are allergic to or if they feel ill.

- The student should not eat anything with unknown ingredients.
- Absolutely no food trading or sharing.
- Report bullying or teasing to an adult.
- Discuss how to keep yourself safe with your parent or guardian.

Medical Emergencies

When a child is injured or becomes ill at school, and if in the judgment of the nurse, should be sent home, the parent/guardian is called. If they can not be reached, the persons listed as emergency contacts will be called. It is important to keep your child's emergency contact information up to date. If in the judgment of the nurse, a child's life and health is in immediate danger, 911 will be called and you will be notified of the emergency as soon as it is possible to do so.

Medications

ALL MEDICATION SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL BY AN ADULT. Please do not send medications in your child's backpack. All medications taken during school hours are required to be given by the school nurse or trained designee.

When medicine is to be administered by the school, the medicine must be accompanied by a label affixed by a pharmacy or physician showing:

- Name of child
- Name of medicine
- Dosage and schedule of administration
- Date purchased
- Physician's name

In addition, a <u>medication form</u> must be filled out by the child's legal guardian in order for the medicine to be administered at school.

Physicals

The MRH School District suggests a physical examination for entrance into school and at the beginning of fourth, seventh, and tenth grades.

Immunization Requirements

Missouri School Immunization Law 167.181 will be strictly enforced by the MRH School District. If you have any questions regarding your child's immunization status or for more detailed information, please check with MRHE School Nurse Kathryn Whitehouse at 314-256-7207 or email <u>kathryn.whitehouse@mrhschools.net</u>

The school nurse will contact those parents/guardians whose files show a lack of the proper immunizations for their children.

2022-2023 Missouri School Immunization Requirements

- All students must present documentation of up-to-date immunization status, including month, day, and year of each immunization before attending school.
- The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) allows a 4-day grace period. Students in all grade levels may receive immunizations up to four days before the due date.
- Required immunizations should be administered according to the current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Schedule, including all spacing, (http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html).
- To remain in school, students "in progress" must have an Immunization In Progress form (Imm.P.14) on file. In progress means that a child has begun the vaccine series and has an appointment for the next dose. This appointment must be kept and an updated record provided to the school. If the appointment is not kept, the child is no longer in progress and is noncompliant. (i.e., Hep B vaccine series was started but the child is not yet eligible to receive the next dose in the series.)
- Religious (Imm.P.11A) and Medical (Imm.P.12) exemptions are allowed. The appropriate exemption card
 must be on file. Unimmunized children are subject to exclusion from school when outbreaks of vaccinepreventable diseases occur.

Vaccines Required for					Do	se Red	quired	by Gra	ıde				
School Attendance	Κ	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
DTaP/DTP/DT ¹	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+	4+
Tdap ²									1	1	1	1	1
MCV ³ (Meningococcal Conjugate)									1	1	1	1	2
IPV (Polio) ⁴	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+
MMR ⁵	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Hepatitis B ⁶	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+	3+
Varicella ⁷	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

1. Last dose on or after the fourth birthday and the last dose of pediatric pertussis before the seventh birthday. **Maximum needed**: six doses.

- 2. <u>8-12 Grades</u>: Tdap, which contains pertussis vaccine, is required.
- 3. Grade 8-11: One dose of MCV is required. Dose must be given after 10 years of age.

<u>Grade 12</u>: Two doses of MCV are required unless the first dose was administered to a student who was 16 years of age or older, in which case only one dose is required. At least one dose must be given after 16 years of age.

- 4. <u>Kindergarten-12 Grade</u>: Last dose must be administered on or after the fourth birthday. The interval between the next-to-last and last dose should be at least six months.
- 5. First dose must be given on or after twelve months of age.
- 6. There must be at least four weeks between dose one and two; at least 8 weeks between dose two and three; at least 16 weeks between doses one and three and final dose must be given no earlier than 24 weeks of age.
- 7. First dose must be given on or after twelve months of age.

<u>Kindergarten-12 Grade</u>: As satisfactory evidence of disease, a licensed health care provider may sign and place on file with the school a written statement documenting the month and year of previous varicella (chickenpox) disease.



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Bureau of Immunizations • 930 Wildwood Drive • Jefferson City, MO • 65109 • 800.219.3224

Rev 2-22

EXPECTATIONS

Certain rules are necessary for the smooth operation of any school. The following is a listing of the rules we expect students to adhere to while attending our schools.

RESTROOM					
INTEGRITY	EMPATHETIC	RESILIENT	MINDFUL		
 Get in and out quickly Clean up after yourself Report any mess you made or find to an adult 	 Wait appropriately for your turn Make sure others have a clean, safe restroom to use 	Practice self-control	 Take care of your space, the cafeteria, and others around you be aware of your voice level Put waste in the correct containers Use please/thank you 		

INTEGRITY	EMPATHETIC	RESILIENT	MINDFUL		
 Take only what you plan to eat Clean up after yourself Follow the directions of cafeteria staff 	 Be inclusive of others at my table and in my conversations Use polite and kind language 	 Eat for nourishment and enjoy your lunch Raise hand and advocate for your needs Wait your turn in line patiently Ask permission to get up or leave the space 	 Take care of your space, the cafeteria, and others around you Be aware of your voice level Put waste in the correct containers 		

INTEGRITY	EMPATHETIC	RESILIENT	MINDFUL
 Play fair Follow the rules of the game Accept the decisions of classmates and supervisors Use equipment safely and appropriately Show care for our neighbors and their property Follow boundaries set by supervisors 	 Be inclusive Invite all to play Encourage those who make mistakes 	 Learn from mistakes Keep Playing Try new things Work through disappointment and frustration Gracious behavior in winning and losing 	 Be aware of your space and the spac of others. Enjoy being outsid Pay attention to what your body needs (activity or rest) Compromise with classmates Share decision making Leave the space ready for the next class Use playground equipment in designated areas

FIELD/BLACKTOP PLAYGROUND

INTEGRITY	EMPATHETIC	RESILIENT	MINDFUL
 Play fair Follow the rules of the game Accept the decisions of classmates and supervisors Use equipment safely and appropriately Show care for our neighbors and their property Follow boundaries set by supervisors 	 Be inclusive Invite all to play Encourage those who make mistakes 	 Learn from mistakes Keep Playing Try new things Work through disappointment and frustration Gracious behavior in winning and losing 	 Be aware of your space and the space of others. Enjoy being outside Pay attention to what your body needs (activity or rest) Compromise with classmates Share decision making Leave the space ready for the next class Use playground equipment in designated areas

HALLWAY				
INTEGRITY	EMPATHETIC	RESILIENT	MINDFUL	
 Use an appropriate route Take care of walls and artifacts Voice Level 0 Only open your locker Use drinking fountains to get a drink or fill your water bottle 	 Walk quietly so others can continue learning Hold or pass the door carefully for peers Keep your hand and body in your own space Wait your turn when pass another class 	 Follow directions of the adult Keep the pace Stay with the group Stop at stopping points given 	 Be aware of your space and the space of others Quiet Feet Be mindful of the people learning atround you Stay in your line spo Look where you're going Stay to the right in the hallway and stairwell Keep doorways cleat Walk around others 	

BUS						
INTEGRITY	EMPATHETIC	RESILIENT	MINDFUL			
 Report unsafe behaviors Be accountable for your belongings and actions Follow the bus driver's directions Stay seated in your assigned seat Back to back; seat to seat Keep knees behind the seat Hand and feet inside Keep food put away 	 Engage in polite and quiet conversations with people around you Show care for others through our words and actions 	 Reflect on your school day. Be prepared to help yourself and others during an emergency. Practice self-control Taking care of yourself, others, and spaces. 	 Set a goal for your school day. Be safe by staying seated Use voice level 2 or lower Be aware of your surroundings Consider others before you act. 			

State and District Expectations

- No child may take part in any activity that is in violation of the criminal or juvenile codes under the state of Missouri, St. Louis County, or the municipalities within the MRH attendance area.
- No student shall intentionally threaten, harass, assault or cause physical injury to other students or any personnel.
- No student shall steal or intentionally damage any school or private property.
- Students shall obey all directions of administrators, teachers, substitute teachers, student teachers, teacher's aides, bus drivers, and other school personnel authorized to give directions during all school hours and activities.
- All students riding the school bus will observe the established bus rules and regulations.
- All students enrolled are required to attend school daily unless unable to do so for medical reasons or are properly excused.
- A student shall not use profane or abusive language.
- A student shall not cause disruption of any school function or activity or urge others to engage in any disruptive conduct.
- Personal appearance and conduct are required to be such as not to disrupt or distract from the instructional procedure of the school. Footwear shall be worn at all times. Special dress may be required to special activities such as field trips.
- Students shall not reproduce the signature of a parent/guardian, teacher or other child or staff member for the purpose of deception.
- A student shall not engage in unauthorized selling in school or on school property.
- A student shall not knowingly cause a false alarm or other emergency.
- No student shall smoke or possess a smoking product or smoking equipment.
- A student shall not knowingly buy, sell, transmit, use, possess or be under the influence of any drug, alcoholic beverages or intoxicant of any kind unless medically prescribed by a registered physician.

Student Social/Emotional/Behavioral Development and Classroom Management

The school-wide commitment to social/emotional/behavioral development for MRH Elementary is ongoing. Proactive components of the plan are: classroom universals in place, high expectations, well established procedures, frequent review/repetition/modeling of procedures and expectations, clear and consistent expectations and consequences, whole class reinforcement system, individual student support plans as needed, and class meetings devoted to supporting and reinforcing the MRHE Core Values.

Through Character Education, Restorative Practices, Mindfulness, and Trauma-Informed Principles we strive to achieve educational equity in social/emotional/behavioral development.

Student understanding and independence is the ultimate goal of the program. This will occur through a caring, consistent team approach that respects the individual needs of each child. Students will develop personal goals regarding their achievement, accountability, safety, and behavior with academic and social/emotional/behavioral success at the forefront.

The following process will be followed to maintain positive learning environments throughout classrooms and the entire school community.

RIME Expectations: Who We Are and What We Do

- Resilient
- □ Integrity
- Mindfulness
- **Empathy**

MRH ELEMENTARY HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework is a valuable tool in the learning process; it is a natural extension of the work students complete in class. Homework provides opportunities to apply learning and to experience necessary practice. Homework offers teachers, and families the opportunity to be involved in and support the learning process outside of school. R

Reading

Students must spend time reading to increase fluency and comprehension while preparing for discussions or key writing assignments. Practicing this key skill helps students improve in reading.

Grade	Homework Minutes per Night (excluding reading)	Reading Minutes per Night (additional minutes beyond required homework minutes)
3	Up to 30	15
4	Up to 40	15 – 20
5	Up to 50	15 – 20
6	Up to 60	15 – 20

Homework Minutes/Reading Minutes Recommendations by Grade Level

MRH ELEMENTARY PARENT/SCHOOL COMPACT

STUDENT NAME HOMEROOM

The MRH Elementary School and its STAFF will...

Provide certified teachers, develop appropriate high quality curriculum and instruction, and create an effective teaching-learning environment specifically designed to assure maximum student performance

Host orientation activities, especially for kindergarteners and new students, at the beginning of the school year to inform parents of expectations, procedures, policies, report card review, and explanations of the curricula at each grade level

Provide many and varied opportunities for parent involvement and education scheduled at mutually convenient times to support parents' efforts to take responsibility for high student performance

• Maintain communication with parents through school and classroom newsletters, conferences, telephone calls, notes, emails, meetings, and the parent/student handbook

• Provide written evaluations to parents informing them of their child's' attendance, attitude, and academic performance

Conduct a yearly survey that allows parents to evaluate curriculum and programs and provides them an opportunity to make suggestions and comments

As a **PARENT**, I will support my child's education in the following ways...

- Monitor my child's attendance and homework
- Read the parent handbook with my child and sign the parent/school compact
- Encourage the habit of reading for information and recreation
- Attend parent-teacher conferences and other school sponsored activities
- Encourage respectful behavior
- Make every attempt to get my child to school every day and on time

As a **STUDENT**, I will share in the responsibility to improve my academic performance...

- Attend school every day possible and be on time
- Be respectful towards others

Student Signature	Date
Parent Signature	Date
Teacher Signature	Date

ELEMENTARY CODE OF CONDUCT

The **Student Code of Conduct** is designed to foster student responsibility, respect for others, and to provide for the orderly operation of district schools. No code can be expected to list each and every offense that may result in disciplinary action; however, it is the purpose of this code to list certain offenses which, if committed by a student, will result in the imposition of a certain disciplinary action. Any conduct not included herein, any aggravated circumstance of any offense, or any action involving a combination of offenses may result in disciplinary consequences that extend beyond this code of conduct as determined by the principal, superintendent and/or Board of Education. In extraordinary circumstances where the minimum consequence is judged by the superintendent or designee to be manifestly unfair or not in the interest of the district, the superintendent or designee may reduce the consequences listed in this policy, as allowed by law. This code includes, but is not necessarily limited to, acts of students on district property, including playgrounds, parking lots and on district transportation, walking to and from school, or at a district activity, whether on or off district property. The district may also discipline students for off-campus conduct that is a serious expression of intent to harm or cause injury to another, or which would cause a substantial disruption of school activities.

DISTRICT POLICIES

The policies of the Maplewood Richmond Heights School district may be obtained in a searchable format at:

MRH TECHNOLOGY USAGE POLICY (EHB)

The technology of the School District of Maplewood Richmond Heights exists for the purpose of enhancing the educational opportunities and achievement of district students. Research shows that students who have access to technology improve achievement. In addition, technology assists with the professional enrichment of the staff and increases engagement of students' families and other patrons of the district, all of which positively impact student achievement. The district will periodically conduct a technology census to ensure that instructional resources and equipment that support and extend the curriculum are readily available to teachers and students.

The purpose of this policy is to facilitate access to district technology and to create a safe environment in which to use that technology. Because technology changes rapidly and employees and students need immediate guidance, the superintendent or designee is directed to create procedures to implement this policy and to regularly review those procedures to ensure they are current.

.ESSA COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

This complaint resolution procedure applies to all programs administered by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education under the Every Student Succeed Act of 2015 (ESSA). A complaint is a formal allegation that a specific federal or state law or regulation has been violated, misapplied, or misinterpreted by school district personnel or by Department of Education personnel.

Any parent or guardian, surrogate parent, teacher, administrator, school board member, or another person directly involved with an activity, program, or project operated under the general supervision of the Department may file a complaint. Such a complaint must be in writing and signed; it will provide specific details of the situation and indicate the law or regulation that is allegedly being violated, misapplied, or misinterpreted.

The written, signed complaint must be filed and the resolution pursued in accordance with MRH District Policy KL. Complaints are best resolved by addressing them at the level where the concern originated through communication with appropriate staff members. A complaint may be appealed by addressing the issue to the Board of Education by submitting a request to the superintendent or the secretary of the Board. If the issue cannot be resolved at the local level, the complainant may file a complaint with the Missouri Department of Education. If there is no evidence that the parties have attempted in good faith to resolve the complaint at the local level, the Department may require the parties to do so and may provide technical assistance to facilitate such resolution.

Any persons directly affected by the actions of the Department may file a similarly written complaint if they believe state or federal laws or regulations have been violated, misapplied, or misinterpreted by the Department itself.

MRH ELEMENTARY FAMILY HANDBOOK SIGNATURE PAGE For the 2024-25 School Year

This family handbook is provided for you to use as a reference guide throughout the school year. It is our hope that this handbook will prove helpful and informative. It is important that you sign and return the last page of the handbook to the MRHE office - OR complete the 24-25 Family Handbook/Policies/Compact Read & Agree form linked here.

If you have any questions that were not answered in the book please call the MRH Elementary main office at 314-644-4403 or email Principal Carlisha Elam at carlisha.elam@mrhschools.net.

My child and I have reviewed and will support the MRH Elementary Homework Policy (Pages 30 - 31)

My child and I have reviewed and will support the MRH Elementary Parent/School Compact (Page 32)

My child and I have reviewed and will support the MRH Code of Conduct (Page 33)

My child and I have reviewed and will support he MRH Technology Usage Policy (Page 33)

Parent Name (please print)				Parent Signature		
Student Name (please print)				Student Signature		
Student Grade (circle one)	3rd	4th	5th	6th		