

**HELLGATE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
HANDBOOK
2023-2024**

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TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS:

Hellgate High School Student Handbook contains information that students and parents are likely to need during the school year. The handbook is organized alphabetically by topic. Throughout the handbook, the term “the student’s parent” is used to refer to the parent, legal guardian, or other person who has agreed to assume school-related responsibility for a student.

The Student Handbook is designed to work in conjunction with Board policy. Please note that references to policy codes are included to help parents confirm current policy. A copy of the District’s Policy Manual is available in the school office.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023-2024

The Board of Trustees would like to extend an invitation to students, parents and community members to come to board meetings throughout the school year and summer. We would also like to encourage you to share with us your concerns, ideas, and general comments. We will be available to listen to and we will provide guidance on how to get your concerns addressed through the proper channels.

<https://www.mcpsmt.org/Page/17972>

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Hellgate High School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability, in the educational programs and activities it operates including admission and employment. The District is required by federal law, including but not limited to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX, and Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act and their regulations to not discriminate against individuals in violation of these laws. The District also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding complaints under Title IX (sex discrimination and sexual harassment) and all other non-discrimination policies:

We are excited for another great year supporting our Knights!
Sincerely,
Hellgate Administrative Team

Academic Honesty Policy

The Hellgate High School community values personal and academic integrity in our classrooms, programs, and activities. The Hellgate Knight Code states that we will seek nothing before honor.

Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to:

- **Plagiarism:** Representing the ideas or works of another without proper acknowledgment, whether intentional or not.
- **Cheating:** Intentionally using or attempting to use another's materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.
- **Collusion:** An illicit agreement between students to copy one's original work for assessment by another.
- **Fabrication:** Deliberate falsification of any information.
- **Facilitation:** Assisting another student to violate the standards of academic honesty.
- **Duplication:** Submission of the same required academic work for more than one course.
- **Disinformation:** Deliberate fabrication of false information, sources, or research in any form, with the intention to mislead.
- **Artificial Intelligence(AI):** Computer generated writing, calculations, images, and art submitted as a student's original work.

Hellgate High School administration will apply penalties consistently and fairly when infractions occur, in accordance with the established scope and sequence of the Hellgate High School progressive discipline process.

1 st Offense	2 nd Offense	3 rd Offense
*Student receives a "0" on the assignment. *Hellgate Discipline Referral. *Teacher phone call/email home.	*Student receives a "0" on the assignment. *Hellgate Discipline Referral. *Teacher phone call home. * Conference with admin. *Admin phone call home. *Progressive discipline applied.	*Student receives a "0" on the assignment. *Hellgate Discipline Referral. *Admin conference with parent. *Possible loss of credit for the course.

Attendance

Regular school attendance is essential for the student to make the most of their education — to benefit from teacher-led activities, to build each day's learning on that of the previous day, and to grow as an individual. The District permits resident students of school age who are enrolled in a nonpublic or home school to enroll part-time in a District school at the parent's request.

- A student between the ages of 7 and 16 **must** attend school unless the student is otherwise legally exempted or excused. A student who voluntarily attends or enrolls after their sixteenth birthday is required to attend each school day.

- The School will contact a student’s parent, guardian, or legal custodian by the end of the school day in order to inform him or her of the student’s absence. The notification will occur for all absences pre-excused or not.

When a student is absent from school, the parent/guardian must call the HHS attendance office any time after 7:30 a.m. to notify the school of the absence. A student who is absent for any reason should promptly make up specific assignments missed and/or complete additional in-depth assignments assigned by the teacher. A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted through the late work deadline process may not receive credit.

The entire attendance process is designed to collaborate with families regarding regular attendance. Our goal is to ensure that students are completing makeup work in a timely manner. Both “Excused Absences” and “Unexcused Absences” are treated the same way when addressing work makeup and completion. Progressive discipline may follow for repeated Truancy. Attendance letters will be sent home after 5, 10, and 15 days of absence. Students are expected to keep up with their academics through communication with individual teachers, “Office Hours”, and attention to Late Work Deadlines. Students who are repeatedly absent and/or not making academic progress may be in danger of losing credit and being dropped from the classes. Students, Parents, and/or Legal Guardians can check attendance and grades in real time using the “Infinite Campus” program.

Excused Absences: These include family authorized absences and school authorized absences. The following reasons shall be sufficient to constitute excused absences:

1. Family authorized excused absences:
 - a. Personal illness
 - b. Family emergency or death in the family
 - c. Medical or dental treatment
 - d. Other activities as approved by the school
 - e. Parent excuse from instruction/assemblies/events that offend the parent’s beliefs or practices.
2. School authorized excused absences
 - a. Approved field trips
 - b. Interscholastic competitions and events
 - c. Other activities as approved by the school

Unexcused Absences: - These are absences which are not authorized by the parent/guardian or the school. The following absences are examples of absences which will not be excused:

1. Leaving school premises without authorization from the nurse, the attendance office or the principals’ offices;
2. Failing to attend class (while remaining on the premises) without advanced permission;
3. Family trips/vacations for which no prior arrangement have been made with the school;

4. Other absences not authorized by the school or parent/guardian

Tardiness

On-time behavior is expected. If a student is late for class (between the bell and 10-minutes) they will be considered “Tardy”. Progressive discipline will be applied to students who are Tardy on a regular basis. This will include communication with families, detention, In-School Intervention, and regular conferencing with the student. If a student is more than 10 minutes late they will be considered Absent.

- Tardies 1-2: Warning to student
- Tardy 3: Teacher Contacts Home
- Tardies 4-5: Teacher Assigns a Detention
- Tardy 6+: Student Service Center Referral

Once a student has gone through the entire process they start over.

BELL SCHEDULES 2023-2024

Monday, Tuesday, Friday

0 period 7:55–8:45, 1st period 8:50–9:40, 2nd period 9:45–10:35, 3rd period 10:40-11:30, 4th period 11:35-12:25, LUNCH 12:25-1:15, 5th period 1:15-2:05, 6th period 2:10-3:00, 7th period 3:05-3:55.

Wednesday – Odd Classes

0 period 8:00-8:50, 1st period 8:55-10:25, 3rd period 10:30-12:00, LUNCH 12:00-12:50, 5th period 12:50-2:20, 7th period 2:35-3:55.

Thursday – Even Classes

0 period 8:00-8:50, Teacher Time 8:00-9:40, 2nd period 9:40-11:10, Advisory Period 11:15-12:00, LUNCH 12:00-12:50, 4th period 12:50-2:20, 6th period 2:25-3:55

Blue Cards

The intent of this process is to recognize that, at times, students deal with mental health/life circumstances that impede their ability to remain in class. “Blue Cards” are a verbal request for a safe space/classroom break for mental health reasons and are no longer a physical card. The process is now tracked electronically. Teachers may ask students if they need a blue card in certain circumstances. A student using a blue card must report directly to the Student Services Center. The teacher will email Hellgate Cares to alert the office that the student is coming. The blue card is designed as a temporary tool that allows students an opportunity to “reset” and return to class. It is not an opportunity to leave class indefinitely or to go anywhere other than the Student Services Center. Students who do not follow the process may have blue card privileges revoked or be subject to progressive school discipline.

BULLYING/HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION/HAZING

Bullying (including cyberbullying), harassment, intimidation, or hazing, by students, staff, or third parties, is strictly prohibited and shall not be tolerated. Students/families who feel that they are a witness or victim to adverse behavior should immediately go to the Student Service Center or Main office to make a report. Reports will be investigated and may include Law Enforcement and/or the appropriate school-based resource. The Administrative Team will make a determination based on the legal definition of BULLYING/HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION/HAZING AND PROVIDE A COURSE OF ACTION. Retaliation is prohibited against any person who reports or is thought to have reported a violation, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry.

CELL PHONES

The possession and use of cellular phones and other electronic signaling devices on school grounds, at school-sponsored activities, or while otherwise under the supervision and control of District employees is a privilege. Due to the diverse educational needs and our mission to help students learn responsible use of technology, each classroom has posted cell phone/electronic devices expectations. Progressive disciplinary action may take place for students who violate individual classroom policies.

Unauthorized possession or use of these devices is grounds for confiscation. Repeated unauthorized use will result in disciplinary action. Depending on the nature of the unauthorized use, the student's parents and/or law enforcement may be contacted and the student's cell phone may be searched.

Montana Law prohibits the use of a cell phone or other electronic device (or camera embedded in such device) while in a locker room, bathroom, or any other location where the privacy rights of others may be violated. Students may not use cell phones or other electronic signaling devices during classes unless such use is under the direction of certified staff for educational purposes.

CHILD SAFETY GPS AND AUDIO CHILD TRACKING/MONITORING SYSTEMS

Parents and students are expressly prohibited from using covert means to listen-in or make a recording (audio or video) of any meeting or activity at school. This includes placing recording devices, or other devices with one- or two-way audio communication technology (i.e., technology that allows a person off-site to listen to live conversations and sounds taking place in the location where the device is located), within a student's book bag/backpack, on the student's person or otherwise in an area capable of listening in or recording without express written consent of the Superintendent. Any requests to place a recording device or other device with one- or two-way audio communication technology within a student's book bag/backpack or on a student's person shall be submitted, in writing, to the Superintendent along with an explanation of why such recording is necessary. The Superintendent or a designee shall notify the parent(s), in writing, whether such request is denied or granted within five (5) school days. Where consent has been given by the Superintendent, the Principal must be given access by the parent to be a school guardian on the device. This will ensure any "Listen-In" feature is disabled during school hours due to privacy concerns.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

To protect children from contagious illnesses, students infected with certain diseases are not allowed to come to school while contagious. Parents of a student with a communicable or contagious disease should phone the school nurse or principal so that other students who **may** have been exposed to the disease can be alerted.

These diseases include, but are not limited to:

Amebiasis	Mumps
Campylobacteriosis	Pinkeye
Chickenpox	Ringworm of the scalp
Diphtheria	Rubella (German Measles)
Gastroenteritis	Scabies
Hepatitis	Shigellosis
Influenza	Streptococcal disease, invasive
Measles (Rubeola)	Tuberculosis
Meningitis	Whooping Cough (Pertussis)
Coronavirus	

COMPLAINTS BY STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Usually student or parent complaints or concerns can be addressed simply — by a phone call or a conference with the teacher. For those complaints and concerns that cannot be handled so easily, the District has adopted a Uniform Complaint Procedure policy for most complaints (Policy 1700) with the exception of complaints/concerns regarding sexual harassment and/or disability discrimination. A written copy of the Uniform Complaint Procedure can be obtained at the Superintendent's office.

Usually student or parent complaints or concerns can be addressed simply by contacting the person who can most directly address the concern as a first step. Please make sure you do your best to resolve the concern using the matrix below:

Classroom = Teacher

Athletics = Coach

Attendance = Attendance Secretary

Discipline = Student Service Center/Assistant Principal

Please reach out directly to the individual who is most directly connected to your concern and allow 48 hours for a response.

If the concern is regarding student-to-student conflict or has to do with safety, please come to the Student Service Center (2nd Floor) immediately.

COMPUTER RESOURCES

Computer resources, including the District's electronic networks, are an integral part of the District's instructional program. Use of these resources is a privilege, not a right. Students have no expectation of privacy in material that is stored, transmitted, or received via the District's electronic networks or the District's computers. General rules for behavior and communications apply when using the District's computer resources. Students must sign the *Authorization for Electronic Access Agreement* prior to being authorized to use the District's computer resources.

CONDUCT

In order for students to take advantage of available learning opportunities and to be productive members of our campus community, each student is expected to:

- Demonstrate courtesy — even when others do not.
- Behave in a responsible manner and exercise self-discipline.
- Attend all classes, regularly and on time.
- Prepare for each class; take appropriate materials and assignments to class.
- Meet District or building standards of grooming and dress.
- Obey all building and classroom rules.
- Respect the rights and privileges of other students, teachers, and other District staff.
- Respect the property of others, including District property and facilities.
- Cooperate with or assist the school staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline.

Applicability of School Rules and Discipline

To achieve the best possible learning environment for all our students, Hellgate High School District's rules and discipline will apply:

- To individuals with a direct nexus to school, during or after school hours.
- Off school grounds at a school sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school;
- Traveling to and from school or a school activity, function or event; and
- Anywhere, including virtual networks, if conduct may reasonably be considered to be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member, an interference with school purposes or an educational function, or a threat to the safety and welfare of the student population, or conduct that detrimentally affects the climate or efficient operations of the school.

Violation of Student Code of Conduct

A student is in violation of the Student Code of Conduct if the student engages in any inappropriate behavior, including but not limited to:

- Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling tobacco, vapor products, or marijuana products (tobacco includes, but is not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, snuff, smoking tobacco, smokeless tobacco, alternative nicotine product, or any other tobacco or nicotine innovation; marijuana products include but are not limited to edible products, ointments, tinctures, marijuana derivatives, marijuana concentrates, and marijuana intended for use by smoking or vaping);
- Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages.
- Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling illegal drugs or controlled substances, including look-alike drugs and drug paraphernalia.
- Using, possessing, controlling, or transferring a weapon in violation of the "Possession of a Weapon in a School Building" section of this policy.

- Using, possessing, controlling, or transferring any object that reasonably could be considered or used as a weapon.
- Disobeying directives from staff or disobeying rules governing student conduct.
- Using violence, force, coercion, intimidation or other comparable conduct toward anyone or urging other students to engage in such conduct
- Causing or attempting to cause damage to, or stealing or attempting to steal, school property or another person's property.
- Engaging in any activity that constitutes an interference with school purposes or an educational function or any other disruptive activity.
- Chronic absenteeism.
- Misconduct of any sort on any means of District transportation.
- Bullying, hazing, harassment (including sexual harassment), or intimidation, including cyberbullying.
- Forging any signature or making any false entry or attempting to authorize any document used or intended to be used in connection with the operation of a school.

Gun-Free Schools/Firearms

In accordance with the Gun Free School Act, any student who brings a firearm onto school property shall be expelled for a period of not less than one calendar year unless the Board of Trustees has authorized the school administration in writing to modify the requirement for expulsion, including eliminating the requirement for expulsion, on a case-by-case basis.

An administrator may immediately suspend a student if there is cause to believe the student brought a firearm to school or possessed a firearm at school prior to any board hearing on a recommendation for expulsion. If there is a recommendation to expel a student for bringing a firearm to school or possessing a firearm at school, the trustees shall notify the adult student or parent/guardian of a minor student in a clear and timely manner that the student may waive their privacy right by requesting the hearing be held in public and may invite other individuals to attend the hearing. At a due process hearing on the recommendation for expulsion due to a student bringing a firearm to school or possessing a firearm at school, there shall be a presentation of a summary of the information leading to the allegations and an opportunity for the student to respond to the allegations. The Board of Trustees is permitted to expel a student only when the trustees determine that the student knowingly (had knowledge of the facts) brought a firearm to school or possessed a firearm at school.

The Board of Trustees is not required to expel a student who has brought a firearm or possessed a firearm at school as long as the firearm is secured in a locked container approved by the District or in a locked motor vehicle the entire time the firearm is at school unless the firearm is in use for a school-sanctioned instructional activity. If a student is determined by trustees to not have knowingly brought or possessed a firearm at school, the student's record will be expunged of the incident.

COUNSELING INCLUDES BOTH ACADEMIC AND DIVERSE INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTS

Students who are interested in attending a college, university, or training school or pursuing some other type of education beyond High School should work closely with school employees so that they take the high school courses that best prepare them.

School counselors are available to assist students with a wide range of personal concerns, including such areas as social, family, or emotional issues, or substance abuse. Counselors may also make available information about community resources to address these concerns. Students who wish to meet with a counselor should fill out the Student Services Request Form online.

Counselor Split

Katie Boynton: A-E

Tri Pham: F-K

Morgan Troutt: L-Q

Aine Franczyk: R-Z

Administrator Split

Michelle Beatty: A-K

Britt Hanfordt: L-Z

Please note: The school will not conduct a psychological examination, test, or treatment without first obtaining the parent's written consent, unless required by state or federal law for special education purposes.

Class Requests

Hellgate High School Spends a considerable amount of time in the Spring aligning course requests to class schedules. Due to the complexity of schedule, we are unable to accommodate change requests based on teacher preference. Teacher changes may be considered after following the process outlined below:

- Talk to the teacher regarding specific concerns
- If a student needs assistance talking to a staff member, our counseling team can help
- Create informal plan/timeline for resolution of concerns
- Arrange meeting (phone/email/in-person) with teacher regarding ongoing concerns
- Talk to Assistant Principal about ongoing/unresolved concerns
- Meeting with AP, Family, and Teacher to outline concerns and create a written plan with specific timelines for remediation
- Review plan after defined timeline
- Meet with principal for possible teacher switch

Hellgate High School Discipline

We embrace the following tenets of behavior expectations: Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be A Graduate, Be a KNIGHT.

Progressive discipline is a tool our building staff uses for students in violation of school/classroom rules. If students choose not to follow the rules there will be progressive discipline applied by teachers and administrators as necessary. The goal of all discipline is to provide a safe and conducive learning environment for all while teaching good citizenship.

Discipline can include teacher assigned consequences, warnings, parent contact, detention, in-school intervention, out of school suspension, up to expulsion.

- **Detention-** Students are assigned a detention with a written and/or verbal notice. The student is expected to arrive in the detention room (258) within 10 minutes of the start of lunch. They can bring food, but must stay in the detention room for the entirety of their lunch period. Failure to serve detention will result in progressive discipline.
- **In- School Intervention-** Full days or specific periods where a student is assigned to be in a monitored room other than the regular classroom to work quietly and without the social interaction with their peers. The student is expected to report to the ISI room at the beginning of the school day or the specific period to which they are assigned. Teachers will send work to the ISI room for the student to complete and the student is responsible for turning the work into the teachers the next day.
- **Out of School Suspension-** Student is assigned 5 days of OSS at the time of the infraction. Parents will be contacted and the student will be asked to leave campus. Parents can schedule a re-entry meeting with the appropriate Administrator to discuss early re-entry. Students are responsible for getting their missed work from the teachers upon their return.
- **Expulsion-** Recommendations for expulsion, permanent removal from Hellgate High School, will be made to the School Board, who will then make the final decision about student placement.

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIAL

School Materials

All school publications are under the supervision of a teacher, sponsor, and the principal and are part of the curriculum. School officials have the discretion to edit or delete material which is inconsistent with the District's educational mission. School-sponsored groups are permitted to distribute materials directly to students upon approval of the building Principal or Superintendent.

Non-School Materials

Written materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, petitions, films, tapes, posters, or other visual or auditory materials may not contain material that is obscene, libelous, invasive of the privacy of others, substantially disruptive to the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities, or which advocates conduct inconsistent with the shared values of civilized social order are not permitted. Outside groups, including governmental agencies, parent and student organizations not sponsored by the school, and community organizations are permitted to display their materials on a centrally-located bulletin board and/or table available for the displaying of these materials. Any student who posts material without prior approval may be subject to disciplinary action.

DRESS AND GROOMING

The student dress code supports equitable educational access and is written in a manner that does not reinforce stereotypes, or increase marginalization or oppression of any group based on race, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, household income, gender identity or cultural observance.

Missoula County Public Schools expect that all students will dress in a way that is appropriate for the school day or for any school sponsored event. Student dress choices should respect the school’s intent to sustain a community that is inclusive of a diverse range of identities. The primary responsibility for a student’s attire resides with the student and their parent(s) or guardian(s). Each MCPS High School is responsible for seeing that student attire does not interfere with the health or safety of any student, and that student attire does not contribute to a hostile or intimidating atmosphere for any student.

Minimum Expectations:

- Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times.
- All underwear and undergarments will not be visible. Undergarments must be covered when sitting, standing, or bending. (visible waistbands and visible straps are allowed)
- Clothing will not contain wording or graphics that advertise or promote illegal activities, are sexually explicit, or that contain obscenity or profanity.

The dress code guidelines shall apply to regular school days and summer school days, as well as any school-related events and activities, such as graduation ceremonies, dances, and prom. Student athletic apparel will be defined by safety and competitive performance standards.

DUAL CREDIT COURSES / COLLEGE COURSEWORK

Check with grade level counselors about dual credit, college coursework, and other advanced academic opportunities.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, AND ORGANIZATIONS

At Hellgate High School we are excited to offer a variety of clubs, activities and athletics teams that allow our students to compete and connect. A solid high school is built on the foundation of strong Academic, Activities and Athletics programs. We recognize the value and importance of balance in these three areas. We encourage all of our students to find ways to connect with our school community outside of the classroom. A list of our Activities and Athletics programs is below. Talk with an Administrator about starting a new club!

Parent/guardian permission is required for a child to participate in a school club and/or extracurricular activity. Parents also have the right to withdraw their child from any club or extracurricular activity.

Hellgate High School Athletics,	Activities and Clubs	
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Activities and Clubs	Sponsor	Email
Academic World Quest	Brendan Work	bawork@mcpsmt.org
Art Club	Kasey Arceniega	karceniega@mcpsmt.org
Band	Jesse Dochnahl	jdochnahl@mcpsmt.org
BPA	Beth Huguet	bhuguet@mcpsmt.org
Choir	Ellen McKenzie	emmckenzie@mcpsmt.org
Curling	Charlene Young	cyoung@mcpsmt.org
Drama (Thespians)	Laramie Dean Carlsen	ldcarlsen@mcpsmt.org
Flagship (various clubs and activities)	Sam Jones	hhsflagship@wmmhc.org
Hellgate United	Rachel Lunde	rlunde@mcpsmt.org
HOSA	Paul Capp, Ellen Parchen	pcapp@mcpsmt.org, emparchen@mcpsmt.org
Indigenous Student Union	Juliana Arechaga	jarechaga@mcpsmt.org
Journalism (Lance)	Jill Derryberry	jderryberry@mcpsmt.org
Key Club	Charlene Young	cyoung@mcpsmt.org
Model United Nations (MUN)	Jeff Waniata, Courtney Christopher	jbwaniata@mcpsmt.org, clchristopher@mcpsmt.org
Mountain Biking Club	Caroline Lurgio	cclurgio@mcpsmt.org
National Honor Society (NHS)	Jessica Buboltz, Velita Rholl	jbuboltz@mcpsmt.org, vrholl@mcpsmt.org
Orchestra	Ryan Davis	rsdavis@mcpsmt.org
Prom Coordinator	Heather Cheney, Britt Hanford	hlcheney@mcpsmt.org
Robotics	Dave Hamilton	dhamilton@mcpsmt.org
SAVE/Recycling		
Speech and Debate	Connie Moothart	cmoothart@mcpsmt.org
Spirit (Cheer)	Caroline McCormick	cmccormick@mcpsmt.org
Spirit (Dance)	Jennifer Meyer-Vaughn	TBD
Student Government	Velita Rholl	vrholl@mcpsmt.org
Troubadour	Lew Procacci	lprocacci@mcpsmt.org
Upward Bound	Raymond Kingfisher	rdkingfisher@mcpsmt.org

Yearbook	Darci Coffman	dcoffman@mcpsmt.org
Athletics	Coach	Email
Fall	-	
Boys Soccer	Jay Anderson	jjanderson@mcpsmt.org
Girls Soccer	Natalie Hiller-Claridge	firstpointgk@gmail.com
Volleyball	Erin Keffeler	parkseparks@aol.com
Football	Ryne Nelson	rnelson@mcpsmt.org
Golf	Rob Henthorn	rhenthorn@mcpsmt.org
Cross Country	Anders Brooker	anders@runnersedgemt.com
Winter		
Boys Basketball	Jeff Hays	jbhays@mcpsmt.org
Girls Basketball	Maddie Keast	coachkeast@outlook.com
Swimming	Brady Baughman	bbaughman@mcpsmt.org
Wrestling Boys/Girls	John Smith	johnsmithmax21@gmail.com
Spring		
Softball	Gavin Booi	booigavin@gmail.com
Tennis	Brian Hanford	oscarhanford@hotmail.com
Track and Field	Jeff Dohn	jdohn@mcpsmt.org

Activities Eligibility

MHSA - Montana High School Association

A student must have received a passing grade and received credit in at least twenty periods of prepared class work or its equivalent in the last previous semester.

(Translation: A student must have passed 4 classes in the last previous semester)

At Hellgate High School, we monitor the academic progress of our students participating in Activities and Athletics. Any student failing a course is placed on an Academic Improvement Plan (next page). Failure to comply with the Academic Improvement Plan will result in the student becoming ineligible for Association Contests. Students on Academic Improvement

Plans are reviewed weekly. If at any point a student is not passing 4 classes, the student will become ineligible for Association Contests, effective immediately.

Please note: Student clubs and performing groups such as the band, choir, and drill and athletic teams may establish standards of behavior — including consequences for misbehavior — that are stricter than those for students in general. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the administrator will apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization.

FEES

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided with state and local funds and are at no charge to a student. A student, however, is expected to provide their own pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks and may be required to pay certain other fees or deposits, including:

- Costs for materials for a class project that the student will keep.
- Membership dues in voluntary clubs or student organizations and admission fees to extracurricular activities
- Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel.
- Voluntarily purchased pictures, publications, class rings, yearbooks, graduation announcements, etc.
- Voluntarily purchased student accident insurance.
- Musical instrument rental and uniform maintenance, when uniforms are provided by the District.
- Personal apparel used in extracurricular activities that becomes the property of the student.
- Parking fees and student identification cards.
- Fees for lost, damaged, or overdue library books.
- Fees for driver training courses, if offered.
- Fees for optional courses offered for credit that require use of facilities not available on District premises.
- Summer school courses that are offered tuition free during the regular school year.

Any required fee or deposit may be waived if the student and parent are unable to pay. Application for such a waiver may be made to the building principal.

FOOD SERVICES

The District participates in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program and offers students nutritionally-balanced and appealing meals daily. Free and reduced-price meals are available based on financial need. The District will make every effort to prevent the overt identification of students participating in the free and reduced-price meals by utilizing electronic identification and payment systems. Applications are available in the main office or online at the district web site.

FUNDRAISING

Student clubs or classes, outside organizations, and/or parent groups occasionally may be permitted to conduct fund-raising drives for approved school purposes. An application for permission must be made to one of the School Administrators prior to the event. .

GRADE CLASSIFICATION

After the ninth grade, students are classified according to the number of credits earned toward graduation. Promotion to the next grade level is based on successful completion of the coursework, attendance, performance based on standardized testing, or other testing administered.

Credits Earned Grade Placement

6 credits 10th grade, sophomore

12 credits 11th grade, junior

18 credits 12th grade, senior

GRADING GUIDELINES

Grades assigned by a teacher cannot be changed except by that teacher after discussions involving the student, teacher, and administrator. Grades will comply with the following:

Letter Grades--Students' grades are alphabetically designated (i.e., A, B, C, D, F). Grade point averages will be computed on a 4-point scale as follows:

A--4.0 points

B--3.0 points

C--2.0 points

D--1.0 points

F--0.0 points "I" is used as an incomplete and the students are given a specific length of time by the teachers to complete the work in the course. Incompletes not made up are recorded as failures (F)

GRADUATION

Activities

Participation in graduation activities is reserved for those members of the senior class who have completed state and District requirements for graduation before the ceremony. Some graduating students may be invited to participate in graduation exercises according to academic class standing or class officer status. Students invited to participate in graduation exercises may decline. Students may wear traditional American Indian tribal regalia or objects of cultural significance at a graduation ceremony.

Requirements for a Diploma

Missoula County Public Schools requires students earn a minimum of 24 credits to graduate in the following courses:

- 4 credits of English language arts;
- 3 credits of mathematics;

- 2.5 credits of social studies (includes one year of American History, one year of US Govt., and one semester of social science elective);
- 2 credits of science (includes one year of earth & space science and one year of biological science);
- 2 credits of health enhancement;
- 1 credit of arts (music, drama or visual arts);
- 1 credit of vocational/technical education;
- 8.5 credits of elective coursework

State of Montana Graduation Requirements

A school district can establish its own requirements for graduation. The minimum graduation requirements are established by the Montana Board of Public Education and are found in ARM 10.55.905. A student has to complete a minimum of 20 credits in order to receive a Montana high school diploma with 13 credits in the following courses:

- 4 credits of English language arts;
- 2 credits of mathematics;
- 2 credits of social studies;
- 2 credits of science;
- 1 credits of health enhancement, with ½ credit each year for two years;
- 1 credit of arts;
- 1 credit of career & technical education;

A student with disabilities eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act may satisfy those competency requirements incorporated into the individualized education program (IEP). Satisfactory completion of the objectives incorporated in the IEP may serve as the basis for determining completion of a course.

Graduation requirements will not generally be waived; however, in rare and unique circumstances, a recommendation may be made to approve a minor deviation from the graduation requirements.

HOMEWORK

Homework is a constructive tool in the teaching/learning process when geared to the needs and abilities of students. Purposeful assignments not only enhance student achievement, but also develop self-discipline and associated good working habits.

Teachers may give homework to students to aid in the student's educational development. Homework should be an application or adaptation of a classroom experience, and should not be assigned for disciplinary purposes.

IMMUNIZATION

A student must be fully immunized against certain diseases or must present a certificate or statement that, for medical or religious reasons, the student will not be immunized. The immunizations

required are: diphtheria, pertussis, rubeola (measles), rubella, mumps, poliomyelitis, varicella and tetanus. Haemophilus influenza type B is required for students under age five (5). Except for those vaccinations required by law, the District will not discriminate against a student by denying or withholding educational opportunities based upon the student's vaccination status.

A student who transfers into the District may photocopy immunization records in the possession of the school of origin. The District will accept the photocopy as evidence of the immunization. Within thirty (30) days after a transferring student ceases attendance at the school of origin, the District must receive the original immunization records for the student who transfers into the District.

If a student's religious beliefs conflict with the requirement that the student be immunized, the student must present a notarized form signed by the student (or by the parent, if the student is a minor) stating that immunization conflicts with the religious tenets and practices of the parents and student. This certificate will be maintained as part of the student's immunization records.

If a student should not be immunized for medical reasons, the student or parent must present a certificate signed by a health care provider who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by the laws of any state or Canada to provide health care under Montana law, is authorized within the provider's scope of practice to administer immunizations to which the exemption applies, and has previously provided health care to the student seeking the exemption or has administered an immunization to which the student has had an adverse reaction. This certificate must indicate the specific nature and probable duration of the medical condition or circumstances which contraindicate immunization. This certificate will be maintained as part of the student's immunization records.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Questioning of Students

Law enforcement or social service workers must contact students through the administrative office. Students will not usually be questioned or interviewed by law enforcement or other lawful authorities while at school. When law enforcement officers or other lawful authorities, however, wish to question or interview a student at school or the principal requests that the student be interviewed at school:

- The principal shall verify and record the identity of the officer or other authority.
- If the interview is not at the request of the principal, the principal shall ascertain the authority of law enforcement to question or interview the student at the school. If the interview is by court order or other exigencies exist (concern about loss/damage of evidence, flight from jurisdiction, or health, safety, or welfare of the student or other students or staff),

the principal has the discretion to allow the interview to take place. Otherwise, if law enforcement can reasonably interview the student at a time when the student is not in school, the principal may, absent a court order or warrant, deny the request for an immediate interview of a student.

- The principal will make reasonable efforts to notify parents unless the officer produces a court order prohibiting the notification of the parents.
- In the event that a parent cannot be present or cannot be reached, the principal will observe the interview.
- Law enforcement must comply with all legal requirements regarding notification of parents and consent prior to interviewing students.
- Social service workers may be permitted to interview students at a school consistent with Montana law. The principal will observe the meeting if the social service worker declines to notify the parents.

Students Taken into Custody

State law requires the District to permit a student to be taken into legal custody by a law enforcement officer or probation officer to comply with a lawful court order, a warrant for arrest, or a law enforcement determination that probable cause exists for the arrest. To the extent practicable, the arrest should be conducted out of the view of other students in the administration offices. A social service worker may take custody of a student with a lawful court order or under the powers of MCA § 41-3-301.

The principal will immediately notify the Superintendent and will make reasonable attempts to notify a parent unless the officer or official produces a court order prohibiting the notification of the parents. Because the principal does not have the authority to prevent or delay a custody action, notification will most likely be after the fact.

Service of Process

At times, law enforcement may seek to serve a student with a subpoena or other legal documents (i.e., complaint, summons). Absent a court order, the principal has the discretion to determine whether service at school is disruptive to the educational environment. If service is directed by a court or is not disruptive to the educational environment, the principal will make reasonable attempts to contact the parents regarding the service. Where the principal has determined that service would be disruptive to the educational environment, the principal will make a reasonable attempt to coordinate with law enforcement to serve the student when school is not in session. Service on a student will be accomplished out of the view of other students in the administration offices.

MEDICINE AT SCHOOL

A student who must take prescription medicine during the school day that is necessary for their health and well-being must have a written authorization signed by the parents and the licensed health care provider allowing the dispensation of the medication. The parent must bring the

medicine in its original, properly labeled container, to the school nurse. The school nurse or school employee to whom the task is delegated pursuant to Montana law will either give the medicine at the proper times or give the student permission to take the medication as directed.

A student who has authorization to possess and self-administer medication must have completed and filed, with the office, a written order for self-administration of a medication from a licensed healthcare provider or dentist as well as written authorization from the parents for the self-administration. The principal may authorize, in consultation with medical personnel, a student with asthma, severe allergies, or anaphylaxis to possess and self-administer emergency medication from an epinephrine pen (EpiPen) or asthma inhaler. The written order and written authorization must be provided annually.

OFFICE HOURS

Hellgate High School uses a lot of data to make decisions regarding programming. In reviewing our data, we found that student absences have a direct correlation to both grades and classroom engagement. We also found that this impacted all students. We have a number of students who are involved in a variety of athletic and extracurricular activities that take them out of one or more class periods every week. This is compounded when students are sick, on vacation, injured, or out for a host of other reasons. We found that it is very difficult for our students to get makeup work and meet with teachers in a timely way to ensure they do not fall further behind. Based on all of this information, HHS has created a program called “Office Hours”.

Every Thursday HHS will run an “Office Hours” schedule that carves out 45 minutes after 2nd period to work with a teacher, in the library, or on work of their choosing. This may include makeup homework, extra help, makeup tests/quizzes, enhancement, labs, PE makeup, library, or other academic related engagement.

LEGAL GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND RIGHTS

The District believes that the best educational result for each student occurs when all three partners are doing their best: the District staff, the student’s legal guardian, and the student. Such a partnership requires trust and much communication between home and school. To strengthen this partnership, every parent is urged to:

- Encourage their child to put a high priority on education and commit to making the most of the educational opportunities the school provides.
- Review the information in the student handbook. A parent with questions is encouraged to contact a building administrator.
- Become familiar with all of the child’s school activities and with the academic programs and course of study, including special programs, offered in the District. Discuss with the counselor or principal any questions, such as concerns about placement, assignment, early graduation, methods to opt-out of programs and instruction consistent with parent/family rights, and other options available to the child.

- Monitor the child’s academic progress and contact teachers as needed, including to discuss homework, attendance, and discipline. Parents have the right to review their child’s education records upon request.
- Attend scheduled conferences and request additional conferences as needed. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, counselor, or principal, please email for an appointment.
- Access District policies, handbooks, Board and committee meeting agendas, and District grievance procedures to participate in the governance of the District through the Board of Trustees. Contact information for administrators and trustees is available on the District’s website.
- Contact a counselor or principal to discuss rights related to student name and pronoun use consistent with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act and Policy 3600.

PROTECTION OF STUDENT RIGHTS

Parent Rights

All fundamental parental rights are exclusively reserved to the parent of a child without obstruction or interference by a government entity in accordance with state and federal law (including without limitation to statutes and the common law) and District policy.

Surveys

Parents have the right to inspect any survey or evaluation and refuse to allow their child to participate in such survey or evaluation.

Instructional Materials

Parents have the right to inspect instructional materials used as a part of their child’s educational curriculum, within a reasonable time. This does not include academic tests or assessments.

Collection of Personal Information from Students for Marketing

The District will not administer or distribute to students any survey or other instrument for the purposes of collecting or compiling personal information for marketing or selling such information, with the exception of the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products/services for, or to, students or educational institutions.

Pursuant to federal law, the District will seek parental consent prior to and will not request, nor disclose, the identity of a student who completes any survey or evaluation (created by any person or entity, including the District) containing one or more of the following:

- Political affiliations.
- Mental and psychological problems
- Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, and demeaning behavior.
- Criticism of other individuals with whom the student or the student’s family has a close family relationship.

- Relationships privileged under law, such as relationships with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of students or the student's parent/guardian.
- Income, except when the information will be used to determine the student's eligibility to participate in a special program or to receive financial assistance under such a program.

RELEASE OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL

A student will not be released from school at times other than at the end of the school day except with permission from the principal or designee and according to the building sign-out procedures. Unless the principal has granted approval because of extenuating circumstances, a student will not regularly be released before the end of the instructional day.

A student who will need to leave school during the day must bring a note from their parent that morning. A student who becomes ill during the school day should, with the teacher's permission, report to the office or school nurse. The administrator or nurse will decide whether or not the student should be sent home and will notify the student's parent. When in doubt as to custodial rights, the District will rely on the most recent information available in the student's records. A student will only be released with prior written permission from the custodial parent to a previously unauthorized adult unless an emergency situation justifies a waiver.

RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

Each student has a right to individually, voluntarily, and silently pray or meditate in school in a manner that does not disrupt instructional or other activities of the school. Students may also pray in groups and discuss their religious views with other students as long as they are not disruptive or coercive. The school will not require, encourage, or coerce a student to engage in or to refrain from such prayer or meditation during any school activity. Student prayer, even if nonsectarian or non-proselytizing, will not be broadcast over the school public address system.

Students may study religions ancillary to the studies of human history and development and various national, cultural, and ethnic groups. This study will give neither preferential nor derogatory treatment to any religion or religious belief. The inclusion of religious music, symbols, art, or writings during instruction or in school programs or performances may occur where the religious content has a historical and/or independent educational purpose consistent with the approved curriculum. A student may read the Bible or other religious material during free reading time or when self-selected and consistent with a classroom or course requirements.

SAFETY

Accident Prevention

Student safety on campus and at school-related events is a high priority of the District. Although the District has implemented safety procedures, the cooperation of students is essential to ensure school safety. A student should:

- Avoid conduct that is likely to put the student or other students at risk.

- Follow the behavioral standards in this handbook, as well as any additional rules for behavior and safety set by the principal, teachers, bus drivers, or coaches.
- Remain alert to and promptly report safety hazards, such as intruders on campus.
- Know emergency evacuation routes and signals.
- Follow immediately the instructions of teachers, bus drivers, and other District employees who are overseeing the welfare of students.

Emergency Medical Treatment and Information

If a student has a medical emergency at school or a school-related activity when the parent cannot be reached, the school will need to have written parental consent to obtain emergency medical treatment and information about allergies to medications, etc. Therefore, parents are asked each year to complete an emergency care consent form. Parents should keep emergency care information up to date (name of doctor, emergency phone numbers, allergies, etc.). Please contact the office to update any information.

Drills: Fire, Tornado, and Other Emergencies

From time to time, students, teachers, and other District employees will participate in drills of emergency procedures. When the alarm is sounded, students should follow the direction of teachers or others in charge quickly, quietly, and in an orderly manner.

Emergency School-Closing Information

The District may close the schools in the event of hazardous weather or other emergencies that threaten the safety of students, staff members, or school property. Emergency school closing information will be broadcast on the district (MCPS Website).

Personal Protective Equipment

The District may require the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), including but not limited to face masks, if determined to be necessary for the safety and welfare of students and staff members. Exceptions may be made to any such requirement for PPE as permitted by law and on a case-by-case basis.

SEARCHES AND SEIZURES

To protect students, employees, and visitors from the serious risk to the health and safety of students posed by alcohol, drugs, drug paraphernalia, and weapons, which are compelling interests, it is necessary to conduct searches of persons and property under certain, limited circumstances. Such searches are necessary to: deter the presence and possession of prohibited substances and items; deter drug and alcohol abuse among the student population; to educate students as to the serious physical, mental and emotional harm caused by drug and alcohol abuse; to prevent injury, illness and harm as result of drug, alcohol abuse and/or weapons; to help identify student drug use and assist parents in pursuing evaluation and appropriate counseling; and to maintain a safe environment free of weapons, alcohol and drug use by monitoring. In the school environment,

including student use of District-owned parking lots, students have a lower expectation of privacy due to the District's responsibility for maintaining discipline, health, and safety.

District officials may conduct reasonable searches of school property and equipment, students and their personal effects, and vehicles parked on District property to maintain health, safety, and security in the schools. The types of property that may be searched by school officials include but are not limited to lockers, desks, purses, backpacks, cellular phones or other electronic communication devices, or vehicles parked on District property.

Students and their Personal Effects

School officials may search a student, the student's personal effects (e.g., purses, backpacks, coats, etc.), and/or District property under the direct control of the student when there is reasonable suspicion that the search will produce evidence that the student has violated or is violating the law or the District's policies or rules. Reasonable suspicion shall be based on the specific and objective facts that the search will produce evidence related to the alleged violation. The parent of the student shall be notified of the search as soon as possible.

Vehicles Parked on School Property

Parking on District property is a privilege for all students. Students may not use, transport, carry, or possess alcohol, illegal drugs or any weapons in their vehicles on school property. While on school property, vehicles may be inspected at any time by staff, or by contractors employed by the District utilizing trained dogs, for the presence of alcohol, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, or weapons. Any student seeking to park on District property shall sign the authorization form contained in Appendix D. Students who park on District property without signing the authorization form may be subject to discipline.

In the event the school has reason to believe that alcohol, drugs, drug paraphernalia, or weapons are present, including by alert-trained dogs, the District is authorized to contact law enforcement to conduct a search of the interior of the student's vehicle. A student who removes a vehicle prior to a search by law enforcement when staff have reason to believe that alcohol, drugs, drug paraphernalia or weapons are present, may be subject to discipline and is prohibited thereafter from parking on District property.

School Property

School property, including, but not limited to, desks, lockers, and school owned electronic devices, is owned and controlled by the District and may be searched by school authorities at any time it is not under the immediate, direct control of the student, regardless of whether there is reasonable suspicion. School authorities are authorized to conduct area-wide, general administrative inspections of school property without notice to or consent of the student and without reasonable suspicion. The District may employ contractors to handle trained dogs to assist in these searches.

Seizure of Property

If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the District's policies or rules, such evidence may be seized and impounded by school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, such evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

Evidence produced by a search may be used in a disciplinary proceeding against the student.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The District encourages parental and student support in its efforts to address and prevent sexual harassment in the public schools. Students and/or parents are encouraged to discuss their questions or concerns about the expectations in this area with the District's Title IX coordinator.

Sexual harassment is conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. Quid pro quo: An employee of the recipient conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the recipient on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct
2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the recipient's education program or activity; or
3. "Sexual assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), "dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10), "domestic violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), , or "stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30).

A determination of responsibility resulting from a formal complaint against a student for engaging in sexual harassment will result in appropriate disciplinary action, according to the nature of the offense. Complaints may be submitted via the District's Title IX Grievance Procedure.

STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE

Students in foster care are entitled to educational stability under Title I for the duration of their time in foster care. "Foster care" means "24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the child welfare agency has placement and care responsibility." This includes, but is not limited to, placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions, and pre-adoptive home.

The District will take efforts to ensure that a child in foster care:

- Remains in their school of origin (school last enrolled in at the time of placement in foster care) unless it is not in the child's best interest; or
- If the school of origin is not in the child's best interest, the child must be immediately enrolled in a new school regardless of being able to produce records otherwise required.

The District will collaborate with the child welfare agency involved in a particular student's case to make the "best interest" determination as quickly as possible. The District will also collaborate with the child welfare agency regarding the provision of transportation to the selected school for the student.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Student representatives from each grade level will work with elected students to create a Student Government. This government will work with the administration in order to promote school spirit, service, and student success. The Student Government will meet weekly during lunches and will host different student-centered activities throughout the school year.

STUDENT RECORDS

Access by Parents and Student

A student's school records are confidential and are protected from unauthorized inspection or use pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The District maintains two sets of records: a permanent record and a cumulative record.

By law, both parents, whether married, separated, or divorced, have access to the records of a student who is under 18. A parent whose rights have been legally terminated will be denied access to the records, if the school is given a copy of the court order terminating these rights.

The building principal will be responsible for maintenance, retention, or destruction of a student's permanent or cumulative records, in accordance with District procedure established by the Superintendent. The principal will respond to reasonable requests for explanation and interpretation of the records. Access to records will be granted within 45 days of receipt of a written request. If circumstances prevent a parent or eligible student from inspecting the records, the District will either provide a copy of the requested records or make other arrangements for the parent or student to review the requested records.

Parents of a minor, the student (if 18 or older), and school officials with legitimate educational interests are persons who may regularly access a student's records. "School officials with legitimate educational interests" include any employees, agents, or Trustees of the District; cooperatives of which the District is a member; or facilities with which the District contracts for the placement of students with disabilities, as well as their attorneys and consultants, who are working with a student or otherwise performing functions the school would perform in accordance with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

The parent's or student's right of access to, and copies of, student records does not extend to all records. Materials that are not considered educational records, such as teachers' personal notes on a student that are shared only with a substitute teacher, records pertaining to former students of the District, and records maintained by school law enforcement officials for purposes other than school discipline do not have to be made available to the parents or student. Access will also not be granted to the parent or the student to confidential letters and recommendations concerning admission to a post-secondary educational institution, applications for employment, or receipt of an

honor or award, if the student has waived their right of access after being advised of their right to obtain the names of all persons making such confidential letters or statements.

Access by Other Individuals and Entities

Certain officials from various governmental agencies may have limited access to the records without prior consent by the parents or student (over 18 years of age). Disclosure to these governmental agencies may be done under some of the following circumstances:

- The District may grant access to or release information from student records to employees or officials of the District or the Montana State Board of Education, provided a current, legitimate educational interest is shown.
- The District may grant access to or release information from student records without parental consent or notification to any person, for the purpose of research, statistical reporting, or planning, provided that no student or parent can be identified from the information released, and the person to whom the information is released signs an affidavit agreeing to comply with all applicable statutes and rules pertaining to school student records.
- The District will grant access to or release information from any student record as specifically required by federal or state statute.
- The District may release student records or information in connection with an emergency, without parental consent, if the knowledge of such information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other persons. The Superintendent or Principal will make this decision, taking into consideration the nature of the emergency, the seriousness of the threat to the health and safety of the student or other persons, the need for such records to meet the emergency, and whether the persons to whom such records are released are in a position to deal with the emergency.
- The District may disclose student records or information to the youth court and law enforcement authorities, pertaining to violations of the Montana Youth Court Act or criminal laws by the student.
- The District will comply with an *ex parte* order requiring it to permit the U.S. Attorney General or designee to have access to a student's school records without notice to or consent of the student's parent.
- The District may disclose student records in a court proceeding where the parent is a party to an action involving child abuse or neglect or dependency matters without parental consent or notification if ordered to make this disclosure.
- The District may disclose student records to caseworkers or other Child Protective Services representatives when DPHHS/CPS is legally responsible for the care and protection of the student without notification or consent of the parent.

The District forwards a student's records on request and without prior parental consent to a school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. Records are also released in accordance with court order or lawfully issued subpoena. Unless the subpoena is issued for law enforcement purposes and the subpoena orders that its contents, existence, or the information sought not be disclosed, the

District will make a reasonable effort to notify the parent or eligible student in advance of compliance.

Parental consent is required to release the records in most circumstances. When the student reaches 18 years of age, only the student has the right to consent to release of records.

The District charges a nominal fee for copying records; however, no parent or student will be precluded from copying information because of financial hardship. An access log will also be maintained for each record which details those individuals accessing the records and their legitimate interest in the records.

Challenging Content of Records

Students over 18, and parents of minor students may inspect the student's records and request a correction if the records are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights. If the District refuses the request to amend the records, the requestor has the right to ask for a hearing. If the records are not amended as a result of the hearing, the requestor has 30 school days to exercise the right to place a statement commenting on the information in the student's record. Although improperly recorded grades may be challenged, parents and the student are not allowed to contest a student's grade in a course or references to expulsion and out-of-school suspensions through this process.

Directory Information

Certain information about district students is considered directory information and will be released to anyone, including military recruiters and/or post-secondary institutions, who follow procedures for requesting it, unless the parent objects to the release of any or all directory information about the child. The opportunity to exercise such an objection was provided on the form signed by the parent to acknowledge receipt of this handbook. Directory information includes: a student's name, address, telephone number, electronic mail address, date of birth, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, photographs, dates of attendance, grade level, and honors and awards received in school.

Maintenance of Records

Permanent records are maintained in perpetuity for every student who has enrolled in the District. Cumulative records will be maintained for eight (8) years after the student graduates or permanently leaves the District. Cumulative records which may be of continued assistance to a student with disabilities, who graduates or permanently withdraws from the District, may, after five (5) years, be transferred to the parents or to the student if the student has succeeded to the rights of the parents.

Rights Under FERPA

Specific parental and eligible student rights are listed in Appendix A in this Handbook.

Privacy Matters – Photographs and Social Media

Because of the advent of cell phones and social media, it has become almost impossible to fully protect the privacy rights of any individual from having their picture taken and shared with others.

Parents have the right to annually opt out of the District sharing their child's photograph in publications or through District media events. The District will honor any parent opt-outs and not share this information. However, the District cannot prevent others who are present from sharing photos and videos from school events open to parents and/or the public, including music performances, sporting events, open assemblies, or field trips.

STUDENT SCHEDULES

Student Schedules are based off of their course requests in the Spring, and are released through Infinite Campus prior to the beginning of the school year and subsequent Spring term. Once schedules are "live", students have an opportunity to request a change using a Google Form.

Schedule change requests are addressed in a tiered manner.

HHS starts in order of:

- Schedules for new students
- Graduation requirements
- Seniors
- Juniors
- Sophomores
- Freshman
- Changes based on preference (changing periods, electives, etc...)

We do this to ensure that everyone has the classes they need to graduate and it is the main reason we put so much energy into building the schedule from the Spring requests. HHS does not provide schedule changes based on teacher preference.

Unscheduled Periods

Students may apply for up to two release periods (Study Hall or Campus Release) and/or be assigned a Guided Study Hall. Students must be enrolled in 5 academic periods per day. The following are the criteria:

Guided Study Hall

- Students with lower than a 2.0 GPA in the previous semester.
- Students who have been removed from a class due to attendance.
- Specific daily expectations for check-in.
- Teachers to help assist with missing or incomplete work.
- In a classroom.

Regular Study Hall

- Students with a 2.0 GPA or higher in the previous semester.
- Students must check-in for attendance.
- Students may use the library, computer lab, and get help from teachers who supervise.
- In the Commons.

Campus Release

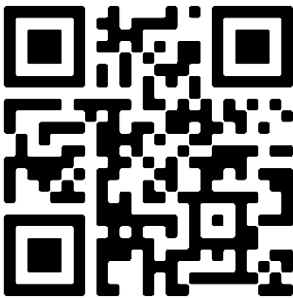
- Juniors or Seniors with a 2.5 or higher GPA on track for graduation.
- Must be approved by an Administrator.
- Students must be between the yellow lines or off campus.

STUDENT SERVICE CENTER

The Student Service Center is located on the 2nd Floor of HHS. This is the main student hub of the building and designed to be a one-stop location for all student needs. The following people/positions can be found by going to the main window of the Student Service Center (SSC):

- Principal
- Assistant Principal
- Advanced Programs Coordinator
- Social Worker
- Nurse
- Psychologist
- Counseling Team
- Attendance
- In school Intervention

All in the same area of the building. All of these positions are located on the second floor to the left (south) of the Upper Gym. In an effort to best serve everyone we have also streamlined our request process and now you can use this Google Form to set up a meeting with any of the Student Services listed above.



<https://forms.gle/qmNDn2cLV75sHbca9>

TEXTBOOKS

Board-approved textbooks are provided free of charge for each subject or class. Books must be covered by the student, as directed by the teacher, and treated with care. A student who is issued a damaged book should report the damage to the teacher. Any student failing to return a book issued by the school or damaging a book issued by the school may be charged to replace the book.

TRANSPORTATION

School Sponsored

Students who participate in school-sponsored trips are required to use transportation provided by the school to and from the event. The principal, however, may make an exception that the student

be permitted to ride with their parent. The parent must complete the travel request form before the scheduled trip

Buses and Other School Vehicles

The District makes school bus transportation available to most students living in the school attendance area. This service is provided at no cost to students. Bus routes and any subsequent changes are posted at the school.

Students are expected to assist District staff in ensuring that buses remain in good condition and that transportation is provided safely. When riding school buses, students are held to behavioral standards established in this handbook. Students must:

- Follow the driver's directions at all times.
- Enter and leave the bus in an orderly manner at the designated bus stop nearest home.
- Keep feet, books, band instrument cases, and other objects out of the aisle.
- Not deface the bus or its equipment.
- Not put head, hands, arms, or legs out of the window, hold any object out of the window, or throw objects within or out of the bus.
- Wait for the driver's signal upon leaving the bus and before crossing in front of the bus.

When students ride in a District van or passenger car, seat belts must be fastened at all times. Misconduct will be punished and bus-riding privileges may be suspended.

UNHOUSED STUDENTS

In accordance with federal and state law and regulations, the District will provide unhoused students with access to the instructional programming that supports achievement of the content standards and to other services for which they are eligible. Students shall not be segregated into a separate school or program based on their status as unhoused, nor shall they be stigmatized in any way.

The District will determine, according to the best interest of the child whether the child will be enrolled in the school of origin or in the public school that non-unhoused students who live in the attendance area in which the child is actually living are eligible to attend. In determining the best interest of the child the District will, to the extent feasible, keep the child in the school of origin, unless doing so is contrary to the wishes of the parent.

If the child is unaccompanied by a parent or guardian, the unhoused liaison will assist in placement and enrollment decisions, with the views of the child taken into consideration.

The District shall immediately enroll the unhoused child into the selected school even if the parent/child is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, immunization records, evidence of residency, or other documentation.

unhoused students shall be provided services comparable to services available to other students in the school system including, but not limited to, transportation services; educational services for which the student meets the eligibility criteria, such as educational programs for disadvantaged

students, students with disabilities, gifted and talented students, and students with limited English proficiency; vocational and technical programs; preschool programs; before and after school-care programs; and school meals/nutrition programs.

unhoused students are entitled to transportation to their school of origin or the school where they are to be enrolled.

VIDEOTAPING OF STUDENTS

The District has the right to use security and surveillance video cameras on District property to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students, and visitors to District property, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent. Students in violation of Board policies, administrative regulations, building rules, or law shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Others may be referred to law enforcement agencies.

Video recordings from security and surveillance cameras may become a part of a student's educational record. The District shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws related to record maintenance and retention. Signs will be posted at various locations to inform students, staff, and members of the public that video surveillance cameras are in use. The District will seek consent before recording students individually in the classroom. A consent form seeking permission to record during extracurricular activities for coaching or instruction is available.

VISITORS

The District has the discretion to permit visitors. For the safety of those within the school, all visitors must first report to the Main Entrance. Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time are permitted only with approval of the principal, teacher, or designee (in the Main Office) and so long as their duration or frequency does not interfere with the delivery of instruction or disrupt the normal school environment.

Receipt of Handbook and Acknowledgement of Rights

I have received a copy of the Hellgate High School Student Handbook for the 2023-2024 school year. I understand that the handbook contains information that my child and I may need during the school year. I understand that all students will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the handbook.

I further acknowledge that I have been provided the opportunity to opt out (or limited opt-out) of the release of directory information about my child. If I so choose, I will make that designation in writing to my child's principal by October 1 of this school year.

Name of Student

Signature of Student

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

FERPA RIGHTS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records:

The District is providing you notice of these rights, as outlined below:

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access. Parents of eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing their tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill their professional responsibility.

Upon request, the school district discloses education records without consent to officials of another school or school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student’s enrollment or transfer.

4. The District classifies the following as Directory Information: a student’s name, address, telephone number, electronic mail address, date of birth, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, photographs, dates of attendance, and honors and awards received in school. School officials may release this information to any person without the consent of the parents or the student. Any parent or eligible student who objects to the release of any or all of this information without his

consent must notify, in writing, the principal of the school where the records are kept by October 1 of this school year, or within 10 working days following enrollment if enrollment takes place after October 1 of this school year. The objection must state what information the parent or student does not want to be classified as Directory Information. A parent has the right to provide a limited opt-out of directory information, which could include but is not limited to the District's disclosure or sharing of student photographs or images. If no objection is received as required above, information designated above will be classified as Directory Information until the beginning of the next school year.

5. Copies of the complete FERPA Policy adopted by the District may be obtained from the Superintendent's Office or from the Principal's Office of each school within the District.
6. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Capitan Municipal School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

APPENDIX B - K-4 AUTHORIZATION FOR ELECTRONIC ACCESS

Parents and Students:

Please read together and after signing, return this document to the school.

Statement of Purpose:

The District believes that all students should have access to technology when they act in a responsible, efficient, courteous and legal manner. Internet access and other online services, available to student and teachers, offer a multitude of global resources. Our goal in providing these services is to enhance the educational development of our students.

Acceptable uses of technology are devoted to activities that support teaching and learning. The following are our agreements about the use of technology in District schools:

Terms of Agreement

Using the computer correctly and responsibly is very important. I promise to follow these rules:

1. I promise to use all computer equipment carefully and not damage, change or tamper with the hardware, software, settings or the network.
2. I promise to use the computer and the Internet for schoolwork only. I will use only the programs and websites that my teacher has approved.
3. I promise to print only when my teacher tells me to print.
4. I promise to use my own file or my own folder on the student server.
5. I will not view, send or display inappropriate or illegal messages or pictures.
6. I promise never to use any form of electronic communication¹ to harass, frighten or bully anyone while at school.
7. I promise to tell a staff member if I read or see something on the computer that is inappropriate.
8. I promise to obey copyright laws.
9. I understand that if I break any of my promises, I might lose my computer privileges.

Use of New Web Tools

As part of 21st century learning, teachers and students may be using new web tools such as blogs, wikis, podcasts and video casts. These technologies improve students' communication and collaboration skills, provide a real audience and extend learning beyond the classroom walls while building digital citizenship skills. At some point during the school year, you may be asked to sign additional permission forms regarding the use of new web tools.

¹ "Electronic communication" means a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device, including but not limited to, a telephone, cellular phone, computer, pager, iPod, or other mp3 or audio-video players and cameras.

I will sign my name to show I understand and will follow the rules.

Student Name (print) _____

Student Signature _____

Homeroom Teacher _____

Grade ____ Date Signed _____

I have read this Agreement and have discussed it with my child:

Parent/Guardian Name (print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date Signed _____

APPENDIX C - 5-12 AUTHORIZATION FOR ELECTRONIC ACCESS

Parents and Students:

Please read together and after signing, return this document to the school.

Statement of Purpose:

The District believes that all students should have access to technology when they act in a responsible, efficient, courteous and legal manner. Internet access and other online services, available to students and teachers, offer a multitude of global resources. Our goal in providing these services is to enhance the educational development of our students.

Acceptable uses of technology are devoted to activities that support teaching and learning. The following are our agreements about the use of technology in District schools:

Terms of Agreement

Using the computer correctly and responsibly is very important. I promise to follow these rules:

1. I will not damage, change, tamper or interfere with the hardware, software, settings or the network in any way.
2. I will obey copyright laws. I will cite sources.
3. I will not seek, view, send or display offensive, inappropriate, or illegal messages or media.
4. I will keep my passwords private.
5. I will not waste limited resources, such as disk or server space, bandwidth or printing capacity.
6. I will not trespass in or harm another student's folders, work or files.
7. I will use my personal email account or any personal electronic device in accordance with school rules and or District policy.
8. I will notify a staff member immediately if I encounter materials which violate the rules of appropriate use.
9. I will not use any form of electronic communication² to harass, intimidate or bully anyone while at school.
10. I am prepared to be held accountable for my actions and for any loss of privileges if these rules are violated.

-

² "Electronic communication" means a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device including, but not limited to, a telephone, cellular phone, computer, pager, iPod or other mp3 or audio-video players and cameras.

Use of New Web Tools

As part of 21st century learning, teachers and students may be using new web tools such as blogs, wikis, podcasts and videocasts. These technologies improve students' communication and collaboration skills, provide a real audience and extend learning beyond the classroom walls while building digital citizenship skills. The following terms and conditions relate to these new web tools.

1. I will act safely by keeping personal information out of my web projects. I will not give out my family name, email address, home address, school name, city, country or other information that can help someone locate or contact me in person. I will not post identifying photos or videos, unless authorized by my instructor.
2. I will treat blog and wiki spaces as I do a classroom space, and I will use appropriate and respectful language. I will only post on school-appropriate subjects. If I include pictures on my blog, podcast, videocast or wiki, they will be appropriate.
3. If I post a link in a blog, podcast, videocast or wiki, I will have read that information carefully to be certain that it is appropriate for the school community.
4. I understand that if I fail to follow these guidelines, I may lose the opportunity to use web-based tools.

I will sign my name to show I understand and will follow the rules.

Student Name (print) _____

Student Signature _____

Homeroom Teacher _____

Grade ____ Date Signed _____

I have read this Agreement and have discussed it with my child:

Parent/Guardian Name (print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date Signed _____

APPENDIX D – HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AUTHORIZATION TO PARK ON DISTRICT PROPERTY

Parents and Students:

Please read together and after signing, return this document to the school.

By exercising the privilege of parking on District property, including school parking lots, I acknowledge that I do not have any expectation of privacy in the odors emanating from my vehicle which may alert a human or a canine to the presence of alcohol, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia or weapons. I acknowledge that I have received notice from the District that it may use trained dogs to sweep for the presence of alcohol, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia or weapons.

By exercising the privilege of parking on District property, including school parking lots, I consent to the District's unannounced deployment of trained dogs around my vehicle while parked on District property, including school parking lots.

Student Name (print) _____

Student Signature _____

Grade ____ Date Signed _____

For students under the age of 18:

I have read this Agreement and have discussed it with my child:

Parent/Guardian Name (print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date Signed _____