



Welcome to Mesquite Junior High

Parent & Student Orientation
2022-2023

Kari Ramirez, Principal
Johnny Stegall, Assistant Principal
Chris Jackson, Dean of Students

When starting a new school, some common concerns are...

- ★ How will my child find his or her classes?
- ★ Will they have enough time to eat lunch?
- ★ How much homework will be given?
- ★ What if my student does not have a chromebook?
- ★ How does student pick up and drop off work?

The Basics

Bell Schedule:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 8:40 am - 3:30 pm

- 55 minute class periods

- 4 minute passing periods

- 6 classes per day

Wednesday: 8:40 am - 2:30 pm

Half Days: Students are released at 12:30 pm

- This is typically the day before break: Fall, Winter & Spring

Our Front Office Staff

- ★ 7th Grade Counselor: Julie Cryer
- ★ 8th Grade Counselor: Bernedette Thompson
- ★ Psychologist: McKenna Osborne
- ★ Social Worker: Lisa Yocum
- ★ Administrative Assistants: Amie Gaudioso & Brandi Lapadura
- ★ Attendance: Jennifer Snow
- ★ Receptionist: Nikki Levato-Demar
- ★ School Resource Officer: GPD Officer Mathison

School Nurse

Nurse: Lisa Krause, RN

Health Assistant: Michel Kaliebe

- ★ ALL medications given to student during the school day **MUST** be stored and distributed through the school nurse.
 - This includes Tylenol, Motrin, Midol
- ★ Please contact Nurse Krause if your student sustains an injury that requires adjustments for PE or other courses.
- ★ Contact Nurse Krause if your child has a medical condition that teachers and staff need to be aware of.



Proud to be a
Title I School

- ★ Whole school program
- ★ On site social worker
- ★ Title I math intervention classes and academic support
- ★ Instructional coach
- ★ Behavioral interventionist
- ★ Free/reduced lunch applications

How will I find my classes?

- ★ Walk your schedule before the first day of school.
 - Schedules are posted in the Student/Parent Portal (make a copy/write it down)
- ★ Maps are available
- ★ Between classes: 4 minutes is more than enough time to get from class to class if you use your time wisely
- ★ When the end of class bell rings, you will have 4 minutes to be in your next class.

Classes

- ★ Students will have 6 classes per day.
 - Science, Math, Social Studies, PE, English and and elective
 - 8th Grade - No PE/2 electives
 - PE Uniforms
 - Be sure to write your full name using black sharpie on both your shirt and shorts.
 - Uniforms are mandatory and can be purchased on campus for \$15.00 per set.
 - Locks will be issues through the PE department. A replacement will cost \$5.00.
- ★ During the first few days of school, plan a route that will allow you to get to your next class in the most efficient way.
- ★ Each classroom teacher will be a little different, so make sure you pay attention to classroom procedures.

Schedule Change Policy

- ★ Only necessary schedule changes will be made
 - Incorrect enrollment in music elective or improper grade level/honors placement.
- ★ Having different teachers and personalities is a GOOD thing and will allow you to adjust and grow.
- ★ Please make a note that due to staffing and scheduling demands, we are not able to accommodate specific requests for teachers and/or periods. Please be understanding of this policy, as it is in the best interest of our entire student population.

How much homework can students expect?

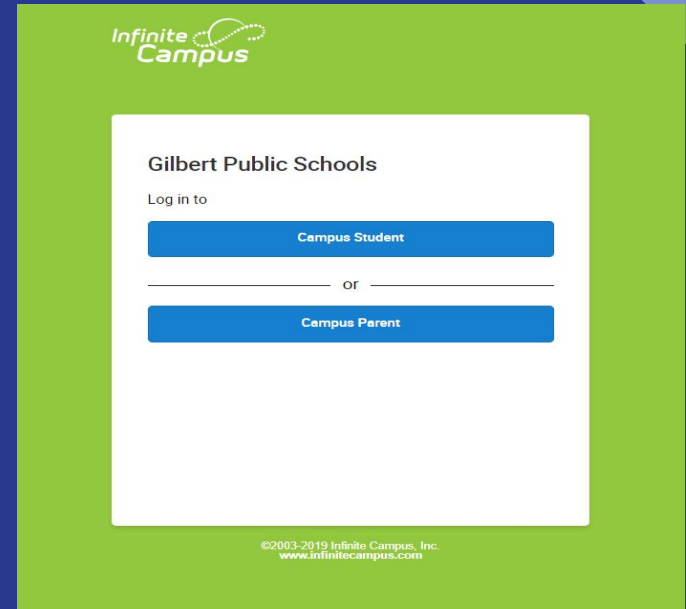
- ★ This can range from 30 minutes to 1 ½ hours a day.
- ★ Typically, teachers will give class time to complete a portion or all of the work.
- ★ Provide your child with a distraction free space to do their homework.
- ★ Check Infinite Campus/Parent Portal often.

Lunch \$3.65

- ★ Will they have enough time to eat?
 - They will have 39 minutes.
 - This is plenty of time, as long as they follow the rules of the cafeteria to ensure the line moves quickly and efficiently.
- ★ The line will be long the first few days while the students get adjusted, but we will ensure everyone has time to eat.
 - We have multiple lines inside and one á la carte area outside.
 - Students will have a variety of options (please see the GPS Website - Food Services for menus).
- ★ Please note, breakfast/lunch is no longer free. Free or reduced lunch applications are available online at gilbertschools.net/meals.
- ★ Please note that we will NOT accept deliveries from vendors such as Doordash, Uber eats, or Grubhub.

Grades

- ★ Infinite Campus - this is where all final grades are posted.
 - Grades can be checked online by parent(s)/guardian(s) anywhere/anytime (24/7).
 - An app is available.
- ★ Check your student's grades frequently and contact your student's teacher with any questions or concerns.
- ★ If you do not have your parent portal set up, information is available to do so on the MJHS and GPS website.



Grades

- ★ Passing grades (A-D) should be earned in all core classes.
 - If not, the class can be retaken through summer school or online.
 - To participate in athletics, students must have a minimum 2.0 GPA and no failing grades.
- ★ To maintain good grades
 - Avoid missing assignments
 - Keep an agenda of assignments and goals
 - Talk to your teacher
 - Check the portal often
 - Please complete the annual update in the parent portal asap

Weekly Grade Check						
	English	Math	Science	Social Studies	Elective 1/P.E.	Elective 2
Week 1						
Week 2						
Week 3						
Week 4						

Weekly Goal	
Week 1	
Week 2	
Week 3	
Week 4	

"Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up." -Nelson Mandela

Expectations

- ★ PBIS Schoolwide
 - Positive behavior interventions and support
- ★ Should an incident occur...
 - All involved will complete a written statement of facts
 - An administrator will talk to all parties involved
 - Consequences will be given if necessary
 - [GPS Secondary Student Handbook](#)
- ★ Backpack searches will be conducted if necessary
- ★ Dress code
 - [GPS Dress Code Guidelines](#)
 - No hats or hoods are to be worn on campus
- ★ Social Media concern

Cell Phones

- ★ Students may use their phones before and after school hours only.
- ★ Please, do not call or text your student during the school day.
- ★ All messages should go through the office.
- ★ Phone misuse
 - Phones will be confiscated if being used during school
 - 1st and 2nd offense - the student can pick up the phone at the end of the day from the office.
 - 3rd offense - phone can be picked up by parent/guardian in the front office.
 - 4th offense - lunch detention.
 - Future offense - determined as needed.

Vape Pens/E-Cigarettes

- ★ Possession or use of these devices on campus or bus is prohibited and will result in consequences.
 - 1st offense - 5 days out of school suspension
 - 2nd offense - 10 out of school suspension and possible referral to hearing officer.

Drugs

- ★ Marijuana/THC
 - This includes it in all forms, including wax pens.
- ★ Any other illicit drugs, including prescription pills.
- ★ Consequences
 - 10 day out of school suspension and referral to the district hearing officer
 - Could face charges from Gilbert Police Department

Sports, Clubs, Activities

- ★ All athletes must be cleared for tryouts on Register My Athlete.
 - How to's; video and written, tutorial emailed 7/11. Can be found on MJHS website.
- ★ Registration: Need a completed athletic packet and athletic physical prior to tryouts and practice.

PTSO - We are currently looking for parents who would like to work in partnership with us in bridging the community and the school.

Athletics - 4 Seasons

First Quarter Sports: (8/1 - 9/30)

- ★ Softball**
- ★ Boys Volleyball**
- ★ Cross Country
- ★ Boys Soccer**

Second Quarter Sports:(10/18 -12/16)

- ★ Wrestling
- ★ Girls Soccer**
- ★ Boys Basketball**
- ★ Cheer**
- ★ Danceline

Third Quarter Sports: (1/4 -3/10)

- ★ Flag Football**
- ★ Girls Basketball**
- ★ Chess
- ★ Cheer**

Fourth Quarter Sports: (3/27 - 5/23)

- ★ Track and Field
- ★ Baseball**
- ★ Girls Volleyball**

****Tryouts**

Athletics

- ★ Grades: Maintain at least a 2.0 overall GPA and have NO F's.
- ★ Clearance: Must have current athletic physical and clearance packet on file on the Friday (**7/29**) PRIOR to tryouts on Monday.
 - Clearance will last one calendar year
 - Register My Athlete, create an account
- ★ Tryouts: Dates will be announced and sent out to MJH families
 - Fall Tryouts begin: **8/1!**
 - General tryout time frames: August / early to mid-October / January / mid-March
- ★ \$75 fee for all sports

Clubs

- *Drama Club
- *NJHS
- *STUCO
- *Code Club
- *Chess Club
- *Mariachi Club
- *Robotics

Dances

- *August 26
Back to School Dance
- *October 28
Fall Festival Dance

- *December 9
Winter Dance
- *March 3
Spring Dance

School Dances & Activities

- ★ Dances are held on our campus from 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
- ★ Each dance is \$5.00 at the door if a Dance Pass has not been purchased.
 - Dance Passes can be purchased during the Round Up or in the front office until the beginning of September.
- ★ All students must have their ID in order to enter the dance.
 - No visitors or friends from other schools are allowed.
- ★ Students must be picked up from the dance no later than 15 minutes (5:15 pm) after a dance or activity.

We want to hear from you!

- ★ Communication is key!
- ★ Encourage your student to speak with their teachers or other trusted adults on campus.
- ★ Communicate with your student's teacher.
- ★ WE (parents, teacher, students & administrators) are a team!
 - Every teacher has a school email address. Our front office will relay phone messages to them, but not during class time
 - Our expectation is that teachers return emails and phone calls within 24 hours during business days.

MJHS Student Drop Off & Pick Up

- ★ Mesquite St. or Palo Verde (Must walk around to Entrance #1).
- ★ Main lot (buses only) / No drop off in Gym parking lot.
- ★ Remind your student to wear their student ID's. Must be visible to enter.
 - Each student will be provided with a lanyard and their student ID at the beginning of the year. They must have it on at all times.
- ★ Gates will open at 8:00 am

X =No Student Drop Off!

Students can only enter MJHS via Entrances #1 & #2 before the first bell rings.
****After the first bell rings Entrance #1 will be the only option for all Students, Parents, Guest, etc.**



Bus Information

- ★ Please refer to the GPS website for detailed information.
 - Go to Departments - Transportation - Bus Route Web Query (click on the bus)
 - Input address and bus stop/ bus number will populate (outside of a mile radius) for in boundary students.
 - Out of boundary student must provide their own transportation.

Attendance

- ★ Attendance line: 480-926-1433
 - Option 1
 - You can leave a message 24 hours a day.
 - Be sure to leave student name, ID number and reason
 - Absences must be excused within 24 hours or it will listed as unexcused.
 - Each period counts as an absence (no half v. full days like in elementary).
 - Over 10 minutes late is an absence.
 - Students are only allowed 10 absences per semester per state law.
 - A student missing more than 10 day of class may face truancy or have their courses audited (no credit status).

Attendance

- ★ Makeup Homework
 - Homework can be requested for students who will have or will miss 3 days of school. Teachers must be provided at least one school day advance notice.
 - Work can be picked up at 3:30 pm in the front office at attendance.
 - If your student is absent, it is their responsibility to speak with their teacher about missing work before or after class.
- ★ Please ensure your contact information is current.
- ★ Signing your student out: Photo ID is required
 - When signing out your students, please provide an ID. It is our school and district policy that ALL individuals signing out their student show an ID every time, regardless of the number of times that you sign them out. It is for the safety of your student.

The Front Office

★ New Safety Procedure

- District has installed a camera system next to the front office door.
- To gain access to the front office, visitors must push the button which alerts reception that you are here.
- Reception will then ask you the reason for your visit and to show your ID to the camera.
- Once verified, you will be buzzed in.
- Thank you for your patience during this time.
- Construction coming in the near future.

Chromebook Overview

- ★ Every student will be issued a Chromebook to complete homework assignment, create digital account, conduct web-based research and to work collaboratively in real time.
- ★ Issue date:
- ★ Parent/guardian annual update must be completed through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal before we can issue your student a computer.
 - Wifi is required for most features.
- ★ Student will be able to take their Chromebook home each day and must bring it to school every day with the battery fully charged.
- ★ Training session for students will take place in August/September regarding online safety.
- ★ All web searches are tracked.

Device Protection Plan (DPP)

- ★ Cost \$25.00 (no coverage for lost devices)
 - The cost rolls over to the next year if no repairs are needed throughout the year.
- ★ May be paid through Infinite Campus or in the office.
 - If DPP option is not chosen, the cost of any repairs will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
 - Repair costs range depending on damage and can be costly.
- ★ We encourage you to buy a protective cover for your student's device.

Keys for Success

- ★ Failures in Junior High Courses are due to...
 - Incomplete/Missing assignments
 - Students who make the effort will succeed
- ★ Communication
 - Please share any concerns with us
 - Be proactive
- ★ Awareness
 - Access your student's email, accounts etc.
 - Know their passwords
 - Check their search history
- ★ Get involved in athletics and clubs
- ★ Establish routines
 - Designated homework time
 - Bring a charged Chromebook everyday
- ★ Adversity
 - Now is the time to learn about navigating, adapting and overcoming challenges
- ★ We are here to help!



Welcome to the Mustang Family!

Mustangs Choose Kindness!

Upcoming Event:
MJHS
Curriculum Night - August 9
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm