

Medford High School Student Handbook 2010-2011

Excerpts, Amendments, Summaries

The following include excerpts from, amendments to, and summaries of the text in the *Medford High School Student Handbook 2010-2011*:

The rules in this handbook pertain not only to students' behavior during the school day but also to any school-sponsored event, home or away, at any hour of the day or night throughout the twelve months of the year. Unless otherwise stated, these rules apply to the entire MHS/MVTHS complex and school grounds, including one thousand feet of school property, to all of the property of the Medford Public Schools, to bus stops, to travel on buses, and to facilities and grounds where school events are held.

- Students that sell, possess, or carry a weapon or weapons shall be expelled. The term *weapon* includes, but is not limited to, knives, firearms, paint/pellet/BB guns, clubs, a realistic facsimile of a weapon, any item that is used as a weapon, any razorblade, and any device that includes a blade.
- Also, students may be expelled or suspended for other serious violations such as arson, assault, battery, possession or use of explosives (including fireworks), possessing or selling/distributing drugs or alcohol, intending to sell/distribute drugs or alcohol, extortion, blackmail, coercion, larceny, theft, vandalism, possession of stolen property, and intimidation of a student or school personnel.
- A violation of the Drug and Alcohol Policy may result in suspension or expulsion, as stated above. Other penalties include social probation, which prohibits attendance at or participation in all school-sponsored activities and events, including but not limited to proms, rehearsals, performances, athletic practices and events, and graduation.
- With respect to all school rules, the term *possession* not only means holding an item, having it on one's person, or storing it, for example, in one's bag, locker or automobile; it can also mean being willingly and knowingly in the presence of the item.
- Bullying, intimidation or fighting OFF school property (where the behavior disrupts school operations or student behavior/perceptions of safety) is to be treated the same as if the bullying, intimidation or fighting occurred ON school property.
- Students who are absent from school more than twelve days (exclusive of home instruction and documented absences) must repeat their entire program and receive no credit (NCR)... A day's absence will not count toward NCR if the student presents official documentation that the student received medical care from a doctor during the school day on the day of the absence and if the documentation is presented to the nurse's office within two weeks of the absence...The Headmaster will consider student appeals, based on extenuating circumstances and in consideration of additional instructional time the student has missed due to tardiness to school, dismissals and ground permits. Please see the *MHS Student Handbook* for further details.
- Students who are passing in a given course, but who have cut class three (3) times during the quarter, will be given a failing grade of E for the quarter...Students will be penalized five percentage points on the quarterly grade per cut (for each of the first two cuts).
- Although the academic penalties pertain to class-cutting within a specific quarter, disciplinary penalties pertain to the accumulation of class cuts throughout the year. Although the academic penalties for class cuts pertain to each course individually, disciplinary penalties for class cuts pertain to the total number of class cuts (across all courses, not just cuts of a single course). FIRST VIOLATION: referral to Submaster, detention. SECOND VIOLATION: referral to Submaster, Saturday detention, and parental conference. THIRD AND EACH SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION: referral to Mr. Ross, Saturday detention or regular schoolday suspension, parental conference, and social probation for a month. (In relation to all school rules, social probation for a month is now defined as a calendar month, e.g., April 23 through May 23.)
- Students who have requested a course change must continue to attend all classes on their approved schedule until the change has been approved by the Headmaster or his designee. Missing these classes will be considered class-cutting.
- All state and Federal laws obviously apply at all times on school property. Violations of state and Federal laws will result in action by law enforcement personnel and in appropriate disciplinary action by school officials.
- Hats, hoods, and any other form of head-cover (including head bands) are not allowed to be worn (carried or visible) by both girls and boys during the school day from 7:45 a.m. to 2:18 p.m. (Students may, however, tie back long hair, e.g., ponytails, pigtails, with an item that is no more than one-half inch in width.) Students may not wear or be in possession of bandanas at any time on school property or at a school event. Students who violate this rule will be suspended the school day after the infraction. As an alternative to this penalty, students may, however, opt to hand over the head-cover to the school official for a week (five school days) and serve a detention.
- Before school and during lunchtime, the cafeterias are the only places where students may consume the liquids (soft drinks/juices/water) or food that they bring to school or buy in the cafeteria. Students found carrying and consuming liquids or food outside of the cafeteria before and during school hours will have their beverage or food thrown away and will be subject to disciplinary action. One exception is water, which students may consume in classrooms (not corridors) at the teacher's discretion. Students may not bring glass bottles to school under any circumstances. Students may not bring into the school building coffee or other beverages in disposable containers or travel mugs. Beverages in disposable containers will be thrown away, and travel mugs will be confiscated for one week. (However, unopened soda cans and unopened plastic bottles are allowed.)

- Personal listening devices, cell phones, headphones and any other electronic device or equipment are not to be activated or used in any way in the building or on school grounds during the school day (7:45 A.M.—2:18 P.M.), during regular schoolday detention, or during Saturday detention. The use of headphones (placement in or on the ears) assumes that the headphones are connected to an activated electronic device. Students who violate this rule will be suspended the school day after the infraction. As an alternative to this penalty, students may, however, opt to hand over the device to the school official for a week (five school days).
- Students who text or use a cell phone while driving on school property or at venues where school events are held will have their parking privileges at MHS revoked for two weeks (first offense) and revoked for the remainder of the school year (second offense). Violators will also be subject to other disciplinary action and legal penalties.
- During the first 10 minutes of a lunch period, students may move freely from their classroom to their locker, and from one cafeteria to another (albeit without food or beverages). After the first ten minutes of a lunch period, students may not move outside their chosen cafeteria without a pass. Students should not expect to obtain a pass from adults supervising the cafeteria; they should obtain passes from the adult who wishes to see the student during lunchtime or from the adult who assigns them work to do in the library during lunchtime.
- Saturday detention is intended to be a vehicle for holding students accountable for their behavior, but without suspending students and forcing them to miss classroom instruction. However, school administrators will assign no more than three Saturday detentions to a given student. After the third Saturday detention, administrators will assign routine penalties, such as social probation and regular schoolday suspensions. Penalties for failing to report to Saturday detention (and on time) will be social probation, a two-day regular schoolday suspension, as well as the loss of the privilege to attend other Saturday detentions in place of a regular schoolday suspension.
- Vandalism to locker interior or exterior includes damaging the locker in any way including, but is not limited to, applying tape and other adhesives to the locker and marking the locker with graffiti or other writing.
- Bags are not to be carried by any student during the school day from 7:45 a.m. to 2:18 p.m. They are to be placed in lockers before homeroom period in the morning.
- Over the course of the year, each student is allotted five free tardies to homeroom (not applicable to tardiness after 8:15 A.M.) No notes are necessary for these five tardies; in fact, the administration has ended the practice of considering notes from parents about the tardiness of their children to school. No penalties are attached to the student's first five tardies of the year. However, for the sixth and each subsequent tardy to school, the student will serve a detention on the day of the tardy. Students who are tardy to school fifteen or more times total will serve a Saturday detention. Subsequently, students will serve a Saturday detention for each additional set of five tardies. This pattern will repeat indefinitely through the first five Saturday detentions. (See the note on Saturday detentions above.) However, when the third (and each subsequent) Saturday detention is assigned, social probation for one month will be added to the penalty.
- Tardiness to class is a disciplinary matter between the teacher and student. Repeated tardiness to class will be reported to the submaster by the teacher. (In any event, teachers will admit tardy students to class with or without a pass.)
- To attend or participate in after-school or evening activities or events, students must be in attendance on the day of the event (present at school for at least four (4) hours and forty (40) minutes of a regular school day and no fewer than three hours of an early release day. Students who play a specific role or serve a specific function in formal afternoon or evening school events (plays, athletic events, concerts, shows) may not be dismissed on the day of the event. (See the *MHS Student Handbook* for details about extenuating circumstances.)
- Students are responsible for the contents of their lockers, not only with regard to school regulations but also with regard to local ordinances, and state and Federal laws. Accordingly, it is dangerous to share one's locker combination with even one fellow student.
- Students who are in possession of tobacco products or paraphernalia or are in an area where active cigarette smoke is evident will be suspended for one day and will be placed on social probation for one month.
- Only students who earn a final grade of E (50-59%) are eligible to attend summer school. Students who earn a final grade of F (0-49%) are not eligible to attend summer school and must repeat applicable courses during the regular school day during the regular school year. (The Headmaster will consider appeals based on extenuating circumstances.)
- To be eligible for interscholastic athletics, students need to have passed, and need to be taking, at least four five-credit courses in certain categories. (See the *MHS Student Handbook* for more details.)
- Under certain circumstances, students placed on social probation may make arrangements to be released from social probation earlier than expected. These contracts do not apply to students in violation of the Drug and Alcohol Policy or to students who pose a threat to the safety and security of the school, students, faculty and staff.

I have read and understand the above statements, acknowledge that I have been given a copy of the *MHS Student Handbook 2010-2011* and understand that I am responsible for reading it in its entirety and for complying with all of the rules and regulations found within that document during the current school year and future school years. I also acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Drug and Alcohol Policy and that I have read it.

Student's Name (*Please print.*) _____ Homeroom _____

Student's Signature _____ Date _____