



# MADERA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Middle School Handbook

## 2022-2023



**Jack G. Desmond  
Middle School**  
26490 Martin Street  
Madera, CA 93638  
(559) 664-1775



**Madera Technical  
Exploration Center**  
955 Lilly Street  
Madera, CA 93638  
(559) 416-5935



**Martin Luther King Jr.  
Middle School**  
601 Lilly Street  
Madera, CA 93638  
(559) 674-4861



**Thomas Jefferson  
Middle School**  
1407 Sunset Avenue  
Madera, CA 93637  
(559) 673-9286

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| TABLE OF CONTENTS .....                            | 2  |
| 2022-2023 CALENDAR .....                           | 4  |
| District Governance Board .....                    | 5  |
| District Administration .....                      | 5  |
| MADERA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT .....               | 5  |
| SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE .....                     | 6  |
| MUSD GOVERNING BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ GOALS .....      | 7  |
| STUDENT BILL OF RIGHTS .....                       | 8  |
| STUDENT BELIEVER .....                             | 9  |
| IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS .....                      | 10 |
| ACADEMICS .....                                    | 11 |
| Academic Integrity .....                           | 11 |
| Grades .....                                       | 11 |
| Grade Reporting .....                              | 11 |
| Homework Policy .....                              | 12 |
| Physical Education .....                           | 12 |
| Gym Clothes .....                                  | 12 |
| Medical Excuse .....                               | 12 |
| Promotion Requirements .....                       | 12 |
| INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORTS .....                       | 14 |
| Title I .....                                      | 14 |
| Library .....                                      | 14 |
| Textbooks and Other School/District Property ..... | 14 |
| Internet Use .....                                 | 14 |
| After School Program .....                         | 15 |
| Field Trips .....                                  | 15 |
| Participation Guidelines .....                     | 15 |
| Chaperones .....                                   | 15 |
| EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES .....                   | 15 |
| Associated Student Body .....                      | 15 |
| Dances .....                                       | 15 |
| Extracurricular Activities .....                   | 16 |
| Sports/Athletics .....                             | 16 |
| ATTENDANCE .....                                   | 16 |
| Attendance Policy .....                            | 16 |
| Tardy Policy .....                                 | 17 |
| Restroom Use .....                                 | 17 |
| Early Checkout .....                               | 17 |
| Excused Absences .....                             | 17 |
| Absence Verification .....                         | 18 |
| Truancy & Attendance Accountability .....          | 18 |
| Excessive Absences and Chronic Absenteeism .....   | 18 |
| Make Up Work .....                                 | 19 |
| HEALTH & WELLNESS .....                            | 19 |
| Counseling Services .....                          | 19 |
| Health Services .....                              | 19 |
| Illness .....                                      | 20 |
| Head Lice Information .....                        | 20 |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Food Allergies/Special Dietary Needs .....                         | 21 |
| Medication .....   | 21 |
| Assistance with Administration of Medication .....                 | 21 |
| Self-Carry and Self-Administration of Medication .....             | 21 |
| Delivery, Storage, and Disposal of Medication .....                | 21 |
| Student Accident Insurance .....                                   | 22 |
| SAFETY .....   | 22 |
| Safety/Security .....  | 22 |
| Use of School Phones .....   | 22 |
| Visitation Policy .....  | 22 |
| Emergency Contacts .....   | 22 |
| Student Identification Cards .....                                 | 22 |
| Dress Code .....   | 23 |
| Gang-related Apparel or Paraphernalia .....                        | 23 |
| Accountability for Dress Code Violations .....                     | 24 |
| Personal Property/Lost & Found .....                               | 24 |
| Smartphones & Electronic Signaling Devices .....                   | 24 |
| Electronic Listening or Recording Device .....                     | 25 |
| Bicycles, Scooters & Skateboard .....                              | 25 |
| Animals/Pets .....   | 25 |
| Outside Deliveries .....   | 25 |
| Fundraisers/Non-Authorized Sales .....                             | 25 |
| Emergency Procedures .....   | 25 |
| CONDUCT .....  | 26 |
| Behavior Expectations .....  | 26 |
| Prevention & Intervention Strategies .....                         | 26 |
| Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) .....            | 26 |
| Refocus/Buddy Room .....   | 27 |
| Restorative Justice .....  | 27 |
| Time to Teach (specific to DMS, MLK & MadTEC) .....                | 27 |
| School Incentives/Rewards .....                                    | 27 |
| Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion .....                         | 27 |
| Discrimination, Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying .....       | 29 |
| Sexual Harassment .....  | 29 |
| Instructional Program .....  | 29 |
| Defining Sexual Harassment .....                                   | 30 |
| Examples of Sexual Harassment .....                                | 30 |
| Reporting and Investigating Allegations of Sexual Harassment ..... | 30 |
| Public Display of Affection .....                                  | 31 |
| Dangerous Objects .....  | 31 |
| Property Damage .....  | 31 |
| Disrespectful, Unacceptable Language .....                         | 31 |
| Student Conflicts .....  | 32 |
| Loss of Privileges .....   | 32 |
| PARENT INVOLVEMENT .....   | 33 |
| Home-School Communication .....                                    | 33 |
| Classroom Observations and Parent-Teacher Conferences .....        | 33 |
| Classroom Observations .....                                       | 33 |
| Parent-Teacher Conferences .....                                   | 33 |

|   |    |   |    |
|---|----|---|----|
| Volunteers.....                           | 34 | Title I Parent Involvement Policy.....              | 35 |
| Parent Committees.....                    | 34 | Involvement of Parents in the Title I Program ..... | 35 |
| Parent Teacher Association (PTA).....     | 34 | School-Parent Compact.....                          | 35 |
| School Site Council.....                  | 34 | Building Capacity for Involvement .....             | 36 |
| English Language Advisory Committee ..... | 34 | Accessibility .....                                 | 36 |
| Parent Workshops.....                     | 35 | School-Parent Compact.....                          | 36 |

The term “parent”, as used in the following notifications, means the natural or adoptive parent, legal guardian, the person having legal custody, or other education rights holder; the term also includes a student 18 years of age or older. Additionally, the pronouns used in the notifications are meant to be gender-free.

# WE BELIEVE MADERA UNIFIED

## 2022-2023 CALENDAR

| JULY 2022 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|           |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| 3         | H  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10        | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17        | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24        | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31        |    |    |    |    |    |    |

| AUGUST 2022 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|             | 1  | I  | I  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7           | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14          | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21          | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28          | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |

| SEPTEMBER 2022 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|                |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4              | H  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11             | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18             | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25             | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |

| OCTOBER 2022 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|              |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 2            | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9            | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16           | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23           | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30           | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |

| NOVEMBER 2022 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|               |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |
| 6             | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | H  | 12 |
| 13            | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20            | 21 | 22 | 23 | H  | H  | H  |
| 27            | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |

| DECEMBER 2022 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|               |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4             | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11            | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18            | 19 | 20 | 21 | H  | H  | 24 |
| 25            | 26 | 27 | 28 | H  | H  | 31 |

| JANUARY 2023 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1            | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8            | I  | I  | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15           | H  | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22           | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29           | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |

| FEBRUARY 2023 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|               |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5             | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12            | H  | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19            | H  | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26            | 27 | 28 |    |    |    |    |

| MARCH 2023 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|            |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5          | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12         | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19         | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26         | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |

| APRIL 2023 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|            |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 2          | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | H  | 8  |
| 9          | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16         | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23         | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30         | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |

| MAY 2023 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|          | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7        | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14       | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21       | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28       | H  | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |

| JUNE 2023 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|           |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4         | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11        | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18        | H  | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25        | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |

| HOLIDAYS |    |                             |
|----------|----|-----------------------------|
| Jul      | 4  | Independence Day (Observed) |
| Sep      | 5  | Labor Day                   |
| Nov      | 11 | Veterans' Day               |
| Nov      | 24 | Thanksgiving Day            |
| Nov      | 25 | Board-Declared Holiday      |
| Dec      | 22 | Board-Declared Holiday      |
| Dec      | 23 | Board-Declared Holiday      |
| Dec      | 29 | Board-Declared Holiday      |
| Dec      | 30 | Board-Declared Holiday      |
| Jan      | 16 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day  |
| Feb      | 13 | Lincoln's Day (Observed)    |
| Feb      | 20 | President's Day (Observed)  |
| Apr      | 7  | Board-Declared Holiday      |
| May      | 29 | Memorial Day                |
| Jun      | 19 | Juneteenth                  |

| THANKSGIVING BREAK   |  |
|----------------------|--|
| November 21–25, 2022 |  |

| WINTER BREAK                        |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| December 19, 2022 – January 6, 2023 |  |

| SPRING BREAK     |  |
|------------------|--|
| April 3–10, 2023 |  |

| ATTENDANCE PERIODS |                     |        |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Period             |                     | # Days |
| 1                  | 08/08/22 – 09/02/22 | 20     |
| 2                  | 09/05/22 – 09/30/22 | 19     |
| 3                  | 10/03/22 – 10/28/22 | 18     |
| 4                  | 10/31/22 – 12/02/22 | 19     |
| 5                  | 12/05/22 – 01/20/23 | 17     |
| 6                  | 01/23/23 – 02/17/23 | 18     |
| 7                  | 02/20/23 – 03/17/23 | 17     |
| 8                  | 03/20/23 – 04/14/23 | 15     |
| 9                  | 04/17/23 – 05/12/23 | 20     |
| 10                 | 05/15/23 – 06/08/23 | 17     |
| Annual Total       |                     | 180    |

| FIRST SEMESTER |                     |         |
|----------------|---------------------|---------|
| 1st Qtr.       | 08/08/22 – 10/07/22 | 43 days |
| 2nd Qtr.       | 10/10/22 – 12/16/22 | 42 days |

| SECOND SEMESTER |                     |         |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------|
| 3rd Qtr.        | 01/11/23 – 03/24/23 | 48 days |
| 4th Qtr.        | 03/27/23 – 06/08/23 | 47 days |

3/31/2022 lo/mj

| NON-SCHOOL DAYS                               |  |
|---|--|
| July 1 – August 4, 2022                       |  |
| <b>FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL</b>                    |  |
| August 8, 2022                                |  |
| <b>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL</b>                     |  |
| June 8, 2023                                  |  |
| <b>INSTITUTE DAYS (no students)</b>           |  |
| August 2–3, 2022                              |  |
| January 9–10, 2023                            |  |
| <b>COLLABORATION TEAM DATES (no students)</b> |  |
| August 4, 2022                                |  |
| October 10, 2022                              |  |
| December 12, 2022                             |  |
| March 13, 2023                                |  |
| <b>SAP DAYS (no students)</b>                 |  |
| August 1, 2022                                |  |
| October 3, 2022                               |  |
| February 27, 2023                             |  |
| May 26, 2023                                  |  |
| <b>TEACHER DAY (no students)</b>              |  |
| August 5, 2022                                |  |



**District Governance Board**

- Ed McIntyre, *President***
- Lucy Salazar, *Clerk***
- Nadeem Ahmad, *Trustee***
- Israel Cortes, *Trustee***
- Joetta Fleak, *Trustee***
- Ruben Mendoza, *Trustee***
- Ray G. Seibert, *Trustee***

**District Administration**

- Todd Lile, *Superintendent***
- Sandon Schwartz, *Deputy Superintendent***
- Sheryl Sisil, *Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services***
- Joseph Aiello, *Assistant Superintendent Human Resources***
- Arelis Garcia, *Chief Financial Officer***
- Jesse Carrasco, *Area Assistant Superintendent***
- Lalo Lopez, *Area Assistant Superintendent***
- Oracio Rodriguez, *Area Assistant Superintendent***
- Babatunde Ilori, *Executive Director of Accountability and Communication***
- Prince Marshall, *Executive Director of Student and Family Support Services***

**MADERA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*1902 Howard Road ♦ Madera, California  
(559) 675-4500*

*The Madera Unified School District prohibits discrimination, intimidation, harassment (including sexual harassment) and bullying based on actual or perceived age, ancestry, ethnicity, parental status, pregnancy status, color, mental or physical disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, immigration status, marital status, medical condition, nationality, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.*

*For any questions, concerns, or to file a complaint regarding discrimination, intimidation, harassment (including sexual harassment), bullying, or Title IX, contact the school site principal and/or the following compliance officers: Equity Compliance Officers – Area Assistant Superintendents Jesse Carrasco at [jessecarrasco@maderausd.org](mailto:jessecarrasco@maderausd.org), Lalo Lopez at [ladislaolopez@maderausd.org](mailto:ladislaolopez@maderausd.org) at Oracio Rodriguez at [oraciorodriguez@maderausd.org](mailto:oraciorodriguez@maderausd.org) or at (559) 675-4500; Title IX Coordinator – Prince Marshall, Executive Director of Student and Family Support Services, [PrinceMarshall@maderausd.org](mailto:PrinceMarshall@maderausd.org), (559) 416-5826; Section 504 Coordinator – Rebecca McHaney, Director of Special Services at (559) 416-5845.*



## Madera Unified School District

1902 Howard Road, Madera, CA 93637

(559) 675-4500

Fax (559) 675-1186

[www.madera.k12.ca.us](http://www.madera.k12.ca.us)

## Board of Trustees

Ed McIntyre, President

Lucy Salazar, Clerk

Hadeem Ahmad, Israel Cortes, Joetta Fleak

Ruben Mendoza, Ray G. Seibert

# SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

August 8, 2022

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s),

This new school year represents an opportunity to reignite *an unparalleled educational journey that is intellectually, socially, and personally transformative!* Despite the lingering challenges of COVID-19, the coming year will likely bring fewer disruptions. We are ready and will maintain the safety standards and practices that sustain our community. We will also intentionally develop conditions for a more joyful learning experience. Our elementary schools will continue to have art, music, STEM, physical education, and library time each week. In middle school, we are thankful our students will have a seventh period but our teachers will only instruct five classes. There will be extra collaborative planning time in both elementary and middle school to continuously improve our students' outcomes. Our eighth graders will continue to be inspired at MTEC to higher skill levels, and our high school students will continue to compete at the regional, state, national, and world levels in activities, arts, athletics, and career technical education. These new possibilities leave us optimistic after so many lessons in managing illness and anxiety.

The pandemic has taught us that we really do need each other. More than ever, we know our success depends on others and really has never been ours alone. Maderans need each other and Madera's students need all of us. We will forever be proud of all we did to help our students, staff, families, and community. Our colleagues, regardless of role, proved we can each be a Student Champion. We have seen the need to reset our entire organizational culture to develop new behaviors to meet our students' needs. An entire course has been developed to define our expectations that all educational employees can be Student Champions and uplift the lives of students and families.

A brilliant education researcher named Pedro Noguera told us, "Teachers' skills must match student needs." That sounds simple but often it is the students who change to match the teacher. That is not practical today. Students' needs are more extensive than ever before, and as an organization, we must meet the moment. MUSD has worked tirelessly to provide greater support for the social, emotional and academic needs of our students. With that in place, we also believed our students' experiences in school needed to be richer in terms of creativity and inspiration. Across all levels, a vast effort is being made to bring joy back into teaching and learning so everyone's experiences are more uplifting and healing than ever before!

To understand how this plays out for your student, please use this handbook as a guide. The MUSD Student Bill of Rights and Student Believer document help make crystal clear our belief in treating students with kindness, fairness, dignity, and respect. Education in the 21st century seeks to prepare students for occupations and technologies that have not yet been conceived. The MUSD Graduate Profile seeks to guarantee our students know how to learn on their own after graduation. Students who are confident in their ability to THINK, ADAPT, COLLABORATE, COMMUNICATE, PRODUCE, and CONTRIBUTE will find the flexibility to respond to an ever-changing future. The Class of 2025 will conduct an oral defense of their learning as a requirement their senior year.

We know we really need each other as partners and extensions of collective values. Your expectations at home and ours at school can be aligned. When we work together on positive skills, attitudes, behaviors, and outcomes, students feel supported. Our choice to work together will truly define the success of our students.

You will find the most updated information on our website at <https://www.madera.k12.ca.us/> and we ask you to carefully consider all the district communications we send out. **The Student and Parent Rights and Responsibilities Handbook** is accessible year-round under the Students/Parents section, or by requesting a copy from your school site or from the office of Student Services at Price's Plaza, 1820 Howard Road, (559) 416-5858.

In the following pages, you will find key policies and laws that affect your child's education; processes for accessing services; and procedures for finding answers to questions or voicing concerns. Please consult the District's website ([www.madera.k12.ca.us](http://www.madera.k12.ca.us)) or your local school webpage for more detailed information, which is updated throughout the year.

Within the handbook you will find these important topics:

- Governing Board Policies (BP) and Administrative Regulations (AR)
- California Education Codes (EC)
- Special Education, Categorical Funding and Child Development
- Dress Code
- Student Discipline

The MUSD Community Compact states our vision this way: *Madera Unified will set the standard for hard work, creativity and resiliency with a fearless drive to continuously improve.* This challenging vision requires us to work together as partners. Thank you for being part of our team and our mission to provide the opportunity for all students to reach their potential. We're proud to serve you and value your collaboration and communication to help us all improve!

Sincerely,

**Todd Lile**  
Superintendent

# MADERA UNIFIED COMMUNITY COMPACT

This Madera Unified Community Compact acknowledges our guarantee to all stakeholders – trustees, taxpayers, community partners, students, parents, staff, and leadership – that our identity and philosophy are built upon our best traditions and aligns modern student needs with the highest-level research and professional learning. The MUSD Governing Board believes in fair and equitable opportunities to empower students to learn deeply and live long healthy lives with the widest array of career opportunities. In ever-changing times, the MUSD Governing Board believes in ongoing collaboration with stakeholders to continuously improve student outcomes and college and career readiness.

## MUSD GOVERNING BOARD OF TRUSTEES' GOALS

Clarity & Consistency  
at All Levels

Changing Perceptions & Mindsets  
of Staff & Community

Excellence  
In All Things

### OUR VISION

Madera Unified will set the standard for hard work, creativity, and resiliency with a fearless drive to continuously improve.

### OUR MISSION

We are committed to creating and sustaining a culture enabling Madera Unified students to experience an unparalleled educational journey that is intellectually, socially, and personally transformative.

### OUR BELIEF STATEMENT

Madera Unified is where students are challenged to broaden their vision, inspired by meaningful opportunities, and strive for authentic achievements.

### OUR CREED

WE BELIEVE in...

- Strong relationships between students, staff, parents, and our community
- Rigorous expectations for ALL students with proper supports and opportunities to achieve mastery
- Collaboratively planned relevant, challenging, and creative lessons
- Intrinsic motivation through curiosity, creativity, and choice
- Intentionally engaging classrooms and active learning
- Strong civic engagement through service learning
- The highest student achievement in all areas
- An orderly learning environment with dynamic school cultures
- A financially sound & effective organization

## OUR CORE VALUES

These questions frame our decisions when considering expenditures and initiatives. During our Executive Cabinet meetings, we ask ourselves each question aloud and invite debate. We want our budget, programs, and priorities to be aligned to our vision, mission, goals, beliefs, and values to ensure we're moving the district in a positive direction our community and trustees believe in and support.

### Equity Before Equality

Will this prioritize equity before equality?

### Student Centered

*Decision Making*  
Is this focused on students' needs?

### Collaborative Culture

Will this facilitate a collaborative culture in our district?

### Excellence for All

Will this promote excellence for all?

### Learning Organization

Will this further the development of our learning organization?

### Community Relationships

Will this foster and deepen relationships with our community partners?

### Results Oriented

Will this be measured effectively and be results oriented?

**HONESTY + COMPETENCY = TRUST**



# Madera Unified School District

## Student Bill of Rights

### Resolution No. 32-2020/21

***Students have the right to have a socially, emotionally, and physically safe positive school environment; defined as***

- a freedom to experience a “safe and inclusive campus; with adults who are committed to protecting and serving all students”; and
- a positive learning environment that is welcoming; and
- empowers students to have confidence in their identities; and
- shows compassion in making mistakes free from ridicule; and
- have administrators who are consistent and approachable; and

***Students have the right to be treated with respect and valued by the school community; defined as***

- being treated fairly regardless of religion, race, national origin, or disability, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, and sexual orientation); and
- to attend schools that are free from bullying by students and by adults; and
- to be treated according to their maturity, competency and with compassion; and

***Students have the right to inclusive teaching and learning environments in our classrooms; defined as***

- having classrooms that feel safe, respectful and welcoming, where everyone can learn; and
- learning opportunities tailored to our individual needs; and
- teachers who care about all students where all means all; and
- teachers who value our educational progress and us as human beings; and
- students are able to see themselves in our schools through challenging and culturally relevant learning; and

***Students have the right to effective teachers that are both knowledgeable and supportive; defined as***

- individuals who know their content and use various teaching strategies that contribute to a greater understanding; and
- understand that learning starts with relationships; and
- make learning active and visible; and
- are servant leaders who accept feedback from their students; and

***Students have the right to equitable quality education, that prepares them for life beyond high school; defined as***

- providing instruction that lends itself to differentiation, feedback and re-teaching for proof of mastery; and
- ensures teachers’ skills align with students’ needs; and
- ensures accessibility to the fullest range of rigorous academic classes to all students; and
- provides real life learning opportunities with the widest array of post-secondary options, with the greatest number of choices around College and Career with equity in access to modern technology to support adulthood success; and

***Students have the right to Freedom of Expression within an educational context that has clear guidelines and expectations; defined as***

- allowing students to exercise our First Amendment rights through various forms and mediums; and
- informing students of these opportunities through a variety of means; and
- providing clear expectations and guidance; and
- providing a defined platform to report violations of student rights without fear of retribution or dismissal of the concern; and

***Students have the right to equitable school disciplinary policies and practices that focus on correction not punishment; defined as***

- ensuring due process is implemented at every level of infraction; and
- schools adopting positive forms of discipline, aimed at addressing the cause of the behavior and providing an opportunity for students to grow from their mistakes; and
- focusing on the resolution of conflict and restoration of all relationships involved to the extent that is possible; and
- refraining from use of stereotypes, unwarranted attention, and personal interactions that result in mistrust; and
- focusing on bringing the students back into the school community in a positive manner; and

***Students have the right to shape decisions that affect our education; defined as***

- formalizing opportunities with school board members, district administration, school administration and with our teachers on a regular, scheduled basis because student voice counts

***Madera Unified School Board of Trustees hereby proclaims and recognizes on this 23rd Day of March 2021, that the above-mentioned rights be declared as a right of every student within Madera Unified School District.***



## STUDENT BELIEVER

**WE BELIEVE** every student has a right to a socially, emotionally, and physically safe, positive school environment and students have a responsibility to express themselves and behave towards other students and staff with honesty, respect, and kindness.

**WE BELIEVE** students have the right to be treated with respect and valued by the school community and students have a responsibility to be empathetic and mindful in how they act and show their thoughts and feelings with others.

**WE BELIEVE** students have the right to inclusive teaching and learning environments in our classrooms and students have a responsibility to embrace their chances to learn by keeping open minds and hearts toward others.

**WE BELIEVE** students have the right to effective teachers that are both knowledgeable and supportive and students have a responsibility to strive to learn, grow, and achieve their best.

**WE BELIEVE** students have the right to equitable, quality education that prepares them for life beyond high school and students have a responsibility to take risks and explore what they're capable of by seeking variety in what they learn.

**WE BELIEVE** students have the right to Freedom of Expression within a place of learning that has clear guidelines and expectations and students have a responsibility to reveal their values, creativity, and opinions without harming others and with understanding of differences.

**WE BELIEVE** students have the right to equitable school disciplinary policies and practices that focus on correction not punishment and students have a responsibility for their actions and will learn how to appropriately react to challenges and conflicts.

**WE BELIEVE** students have the right to shape decisions that affect their education and students have a responsibility to properly and clearly share their views on such matters when chances arise to do so.



## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

| <i>Elementary Schools (K-6)</i>                                  |  | <i>Junior High Schools (7-8)</i>   | <i>High Schools (9-12)</i>                                     |
|--|--|--|--|
| <b>John Adams</b><br>1822 National Avenue<br>(559) 674-4631      | <b>Lincoln</b><br>650 Liberty Lane<br>(559) 675-4600           | <b>Jack G. Desmond</b><br>26490 Martin Street<br>(559) 664-1775                      | <b>Madera High</b><br>200 South L Street<br>(559) 675-4444     |
| <b>Alpha</b><br>900 Stadium Road<br>(559) 661-4101               | <b>Millview</b><br>1609 Clinton Street<br>(559) 674-8509       | <b>Martin Luther King Jr.</b><br>601 Lilly Street<br>(559) 674-4681                  | <b>Madera South</b><br>705 West Pecan Avenue<br>(559) 675-4450 |
| <b>Berenda</b><br>26820 Club Drive<br>(559) 674-3325             | <b>Nishimoto</b><br>26460 Martin Street<br>(559) 664-8110      | <b>Thomas Jefferson</b><br>1407 Sunset Avenue<br>(559) 673-9286                      | <b>Matilda Torres</b><br>16645 Road 26<br>(559) 416-5909       |
| <b>Cesar Chavez</b><br>2600 East Pecan Avenue<br>(559) 664-9701  | <b>Parkwood</b><br>1150 East Pecan Avenue<br>(559) 673-2500    |  | <b>Furman</b><br>955 West Pecan Avenue<br>(559) 675-4482       |
| <b>George Washington</b><br>509 D South Street<br>(559) 674-6705 |  | <i>Additional School Options</i>   |  |
| <b>James Madison</b><br>109 Stadium Road<br>(559) 675-4630       | <b>Pershing</b><br>1505 East Ellis Street<br>(559) 664-9741    | <b>Pre-School Department</b><br>1816 Howard Road, Suite 1<br>(559) 675-4490          |  |
| <b>James Monroe</b><br>1819 North Lake Street<br>(559) 674-5679  | <b>Sierra Vista</b><br>917 East Olive Avenue<br>(559) 674-8579 | <b>Madera Technical Exploration Center (8)</b><br>955 Lilly Street<br>(559) 416-5935 |  |
| <b>Virginia Lee Rose</b><br>1001 Lilly Street<br>(559) 662-2662  |  | <b>Ripperdan Community Day School (7-12)</b><br>26133 Avenue 7<br>(559) 674-0059     |  |
| <i>Elementary Schools (K-8)</i>                                  |  |  |  |
| <b>Dixieland</b><br>18440 Road 19<br>(559) 673-9119              | <b>Howard</b><br>13878 Road 21½<br>(559) 674-8568              | <b>Mountain Vista Continuation (9-12)</b><br>1901 Clinton Street<br>(559) 675-4580   |  |
| <b>Eastin-Arcola</b><br>29551 Avenue 8<br>(559) 674-8841         | <b>La Vina</b><br>8594 Road 23<br>(559) 673-5194               | <b>Madera Adult Education</b><br>2037 West Cleveland Avenue<br>(559) 675-4425        |  |

### Service Departments

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Child Nutrition .....  | (559) 675-4546 |
| Community Services and Parent Resources Centers .....  | (559) 416-5842 |
| Facilities Planning and Construction Management .....  | (559) 675-4548 |
| Student and Family Support Services ( <a href="#">Resource Directory of Community Services</a> ) ..... | (559) 416-5842 |
| Transportation .....   | (559) 673-2288 |

# ACADEMICS

## Academic Integrity

Academic honesty and personal integrity are fundamental components of a student’s education and character development. The school’s goal is to help each student realize their full academic potential and become a responsible and productive citizen and lifelong learner. Therefore, students are expected not to cheat, lie, plagiarize, or commit other acts of academic dishonesty.

When students cheat or plagiarize, their work does not reflect their own efforts or understanding, and it gives them an unfair advantage over other students. *Cheating* includes, but is not limited to: copying the work of others (including both class work and homework); having someone else do the homework or assignment; stealing someone else’s idea for an assignment or project; using notes on tests or quizzes when such notes have been prohibited; or giving others answers to a test or quiz. Examples of *plagiarism* include, but are not limited to: copying part or all of another person’s work and submitting it as one’s own; passing off the ideas or words of another as one’s own without giving credit to the source; or paraphrasing from a different sources without citing those sources. This is because any original work is considered the intellectual property of the person who created it -- when another person’s work is plagiarized, it is a form of stealing their intellectual property.

Students who engage in academic dishonesty will be referred to an administrator or counselor, and may be disciplined accordingly. Consequences are cumulative and may include the student receiving a “0 on the assignment or test, without the opportunity to make it up. To avoid this, students should master and use the correct skills to cite sources, ask for help when questions arise regarding cheating or plagiarism, and not participate in sharing or receiving answers from others.

## Grades

Grades help students and parents understand performance expectations, represent an accurate evaluation of the student’s achievement, and identify a student’s strengths and areas of needed improvement using a system that is familiar and understandable. Students will receive letter grades based on assignments and assessments related to the California Content Standards. Behavior, effort, and attendance are reported in separate evaluations, not in the student’s academic grade. However, if a student misses a class without an excuse and does not subsequently show mastery or makes up any missed assignments within a reasonable period of time, the teacher may lower the student’s grade for nonperformance.

Academic achievement is reported using the following scale:

|             |                           |                  |
|-------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| A (90-100%) | Outstanding Achievement   | 4.0 grade points |
| B (80-89%)  | Above Average Achievement | 3.0 grade points |
| C (70-79%)  | Average Achievement       | 2.0 grade points |
| D (60-69%)  | Below Average Achievement | 1.0 grade points |
| F (0-59%)   | Little or No Achievement  | 0.0 grade points |

Each student’s cumulative grade point average (GPA) is calculated by using the grade points assigned to each letter grade. The grade points are totaled and divided by the number of courses/subjects completed.

## Grade Reporting

To provide parents an opportunity to be involved in the educational process, report cards and progress reports are issued according to the following schedule:

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| First Progress Report.....   | End of the Fourth (4 <sup>th</sup> ) Week      |
| Quarter Progress Report..... | End of the Ninth (9 <sup>th</sup> ) Week       |
| Third Progress Report.....   | End of the Thirteenth (13 <sup>th</sup> ) Week |
| Semester Grades.....         | End of the Eighteenth (18 <sup>th</sup> ) Week |

Parents are encouraged to utilize their Parent Portal account on AERIES (accessed through the Madera Unified School District website) to see current grades and monitor their student’s progress more closely. Parents will also have the opportunity to meet with their child’s teacher(s) to discuss grades and strategies to improve their child’s performance. Parent-Teacher conferences may be scheduled for students who are at risk of failing a class/subject, or at risk of retention.

## Homework Policy

Relevant and meaningful homework assignments contribute toward building responsibility, self-discipline and life-long learning habits, and directly influences a student's ability to meet academic standards. Homework, whether assigned to be completed individually or with a group of students outside of the classroom setting, can include working on a specific assignment or project, reading for knowledge or pleasure, or studying for a test. Homework will be assigned when necessary to:

- Give students the opportunity to practice, reinforce, or review skills learned in class. (*Note: If a student was not present for the lesson, the teacher may decide not to assign the homework to avoid confusion.*)
- Extend learning beyond the classroom.
- Enable students to complete unfinished class assignments.
- Teach and reinforce a positive work ethic.

Homework assignments will be reasonable in length and appropriate to the grade level and course. The number, frequency, and degree of difficulty of homework assignments will increase with the grade level and the maturity of students. For students with disabilities, homework will be assigned in accordance with their individualized educational program (IEP) or Section 504 plan. For days when no assignment is given, students should read at least 30 minutes.

Although it is the student's responsibility to undertake assignments independently, parents may serve as a resource and are encouraged to ensure that their child's homework assignments are completed. When a student repeatedly fails to complete homework, the teacher will notify the student's parents as soon as possible so that corrective action can be taken prior to the release of any final grades or report cards.

## Physical Education

The Physical Education (P.E.) Department is committed to promoting the physical, emotional, social, and mental growth of each student. The curriculum follows the California Physical Education Content Standards for 7th and 8th grades. The 7th grade curriculum focuses on individual and dual activities, whereas the 8th grade curriculum focuses on team activities. Students in both grade levels participate in daily fitness activities, daily skill activities, weekly mile tests, and quarterly fitness tests.

### Gym Clothes

Pursuant to guidance issued by the California Department of Education and the Education Code, schools may require students to wear standardized clothing for P.E. including clothing of a specific color for general wear outside of school. To prevent any health or safety hazard, the mandatory daily P.E. dress code is enforced as follows:

- Solid grey shirt (no graphics)
- Solid black athletic shorts (no graphics)
- Athletic shoes with socks (no slip-on shoes, boots, flip flops, heels, dress shoes or sandals)
- Sweatshirts are allowed over the P.E. shirt
- Sweatpants (black, grey, navy, white, dark green) are allowed in lieu of shorts
- All PE clothes must have first and last name with black marker only

P.E. clothes may be purchased through the P.E. department or from outside sources as long as they meet the uniform requirements stated above. A student's grade will not be lowered or otherwise impacted upon any failure to wear compliant P.E. clothing if such failure was clearly beyond that student's control. Students unable to comply with the uniform requirements should inform their P.E. instructor.

### Medical Excuse

A student who is ill may be excused from participation for the day if a note from the parent is provided. A doctor's note is required to excuse a student from participation for three or more consecutive days. All notes must be turned in to the school nurse. Students will be given an alternative assignment while not participating in any P.E. activities.

## Promotion Requirements

In order to be promoted to the 9th grade, a student must maintain a comprehensive 2.0 academic grade point average during both their 7th and 8th grade years and meet the requirements specified in the District's policy on Promotion/Acceleration/Retention (BP 5123).








All students who commit a suspendable offense during the last 30 days of school will not be able to participate in the promotion ceremony, nor will they be eligible to participate in any 8th grade “End of the Year” activities (*i.e.*, field trip, dances). However, the administration has the right to use their discretion when assigning a consequence on any violation.



# You can go to college

## A-G REQUIREMENTS

The University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) systems require that students complete at least 15 courses in the areas listed below to be considered for admissions. Courses must be completed with a grade of “C” or better. Additional coursework beyond the minimum requirements is strongly recommended.

|          |  |               |               |                  |                  |
|----------|--|---------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>A</b> |  <b>History/<br/>Social Science</b><br>2 Years Required                             | 1<br>Required | 2<br>Required |                  |                  |
| <b>B</b> |  <b>English</b><br>4 Years Required  | 1<br>Required | 2<br>Required | 3<br>Required    | 4<br>Required    |
| <b>C</b> |  <b>Mathematics</b><br>3 Years Required<br>4 Years Recommended                    | 1<br>Required | 2<br>Required | 3<br>Required    | 4<br>Recommended |
| <b>D</b> |  <b>Laboratory Science</b><br>2 Years Required<br>3 Years Recommended             | 1<br>Required | 2<br>Required | 3<br>Recommended |                  |
| <b>E</b> |  <b>Language Other<br/>Than English</b><br>2 Years Required - 3 Years Recommended | 1<br>Required | 2<br>Required | 3<br>Recommended |                  |
| <b>F</b> |  <b>Visual and<br/>Performing Arts</b><br>1 Year Required                         | 1<br>Required |               |                  |                  |
| <b>G</b> |  <b>College Preparatory<br/>Electives*</b><br>1 Year Required                     | 1<br>Required |               |                  |                  |

\*Any courses taken in excess of the minimum required in any subject area may count toward the fulfillment of the College Preparatory Elective requirement

## **Title I**

LEAs target the Title I funds they receive to public schools with the highest percentages of children from low-income families. Unless a participating school is operating a schoolwide program, the school must focus Title I services on children who are failing, or most at risk of failing, to meet State academic standards. Schools enrolling at least 40 percent of children from low-income families are eligible to use Title I funds for schoolwide programs designed to upgrade their entire educational programs to improve achievement for all students, particularly the lowest-achieving students. Title I is designed to help students served by the program to achieve proficiency on challenging State academic achievement standards. Title I schools with percentages of students from low-income families of at least 40 percent may use Title I funds, along with other Federal, State, and local funds, to operate a “schoolwide program” to upgrade the instructional program for the whole school. Title I schools with less than the 40 percent schoolwide threshold or that choose not to operate a schoolwide program offer a “targeted assistance program” in which the school identifies students who are failing, or most at risk of failing, to meet the State’s challenging academic achievement standards. Targeted assistance schools design, in consultation with parents, staff, and district staff, an instructional program to meet the needs of those students. Both schoolwide and targeted assistance programs must use instructional strategies based on scientifically based research and implement parental involvement activities. Under Title I, LEAs are required to provide services for eligible private school students, as well as eligible public school students. In particular, section 1120 of Title I, Part A of the ESEA, requires a participating LEA to provide eligible children attending private elementary and secondary schools, their teachers, and their families with Title I services or other benefits that are equitable to those provided to eligible public school children, their teachers, and their families. These services must be developed in consultation with officials of the private schools. The Title I services provided by the LEA for private school participants are designed to meet their educational needs and supplement the educational services provided by the private school. For additional information on services to eligible private school children, see the U.S. Department of Education Office of Non-Public Education website. For more information, please visit: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/index.html>.

## **Library**

The Library Media Center is an important part of the school. It is open every day from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Library serves as a place to check out books, research, study, and read. There are thousands of books and a wide selection from which to choose. The main goals of the Library are to promote a culture of literacy and increase circulation from year to year, thus, increasing the volume of independent student reading and improving student achievement.

Books can be checked out from the librarian and are the sole responsibility of the individual to whom they checked out. Books are due the day printed on the inside cover of the book, and fines may accrue for every day they are late. Unpaid fines will result in a hold of the student’s grade reports, as well as promotion participating ineligibility.

## **Textbooks and Other School/District Property**

Textbooks and other school/district property (*e.g.*, chromebooks, library books, school supplies) may be issued to students at the beginning of the school year or semester, and must be returned at the end of the school year or when requested by the school. Each student is responsible for the proper care of items loaned to them by the school, and parents will be responsible for any lost or damaged school/district property. If any item is stolen, the student should immediately report it to the administrator.

The school may withhold grades, diploma, or transcript from the student and parent if the student willfully damages any school/district property, or willfully does not return school/district property loaned to the student upon demand, until restitution is paid.

## **Internet Use**

Madera Unified School District’s Acceptable Use Policy outlines the rules governing student and employee use of District and school data communication networks, the intranet, and internet safety, and provides education about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social media networking sites, and cyberbullying awareness and response. This policy includes the use of computers in class (Chromebooks and iPads), computer labs, and the library. All students must submit an Acceptable Use Agreement signed by a parent in order to use any technological resources on campus.

## After School Program

The mission of the after school program is to provide students a safe, healthy environment with caring, responsible adults. Each school strives to seamlessly align its after school programs with the end of the regular school day so that learning does not stop when the last bell rings. The after school program (Desmond, MLK & TJ) offers academic tutorials and enrichment activities that foster a passion for music, art, and technology. Parents must enroll their students in this program in order for them to attend. Enrollment packets are made available annually during registration; contact the school office for an enrollment packet.

## Field Trips

Academic field trips are meant to supplement and enrich the classroom learning experience, lead to increased student achievement, and foster student engagement. They are to be conducted in connection with the adopted course of study or school-related social, educational, cultural, athletic, school band, or other extracurricular or co-curricular activities.

Field trips may also be intentionally planned to incentivize appropriate behavior and academic progress during the school year. For these trips, students that do not meet the established criteria (*e.g.*, grades, behavior, attendance) will not be eligible to attend.

### Participation Guidelines

Before a student can participate in a school-sponsored trip, parent permission slips must be signed and returned to the school. All school rules apply on school-sponsored field trips. Violations of any school rules will be dealt with the same way as if the infraction had occurred on campus. If a student is suspended during the time frame of a scheduled field trip, that student is not eligible to attend the trip. Administration may also exclude from the trip any student whose presence on the trip would pose a safety or disciplinary risk.

### Chaperones

All chaperones that will be supervising a group of students must be fingerprinted, cleared through Megan's Law, and sign a chaperone form. To maintain student safety during a field trip, a student's siblings and/or other family members are not permitted to accompany the chaperone. Additionally, anyone who is NOT cleared by the office as a volunteer/chaperone will NOT be allowed to have contact with students at any time during a field trip.

A parent chaperone who wishes to transport their student home from a field trip, must complete an "Authorization to Transport" form 24 hours in advance; otherwise, the student will return to the school on the school bus.

# EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

## Associated Student Body

The Associated Student Body (ASB) is a student-run council composed of students elected at each comprehensive middle school. All students are elected annually and placed into various leadership positions (*e.g.*, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, etc.). The following are some of the ASB's purpose and goals:

- Represent the Student Body and its interests to each school's administrative team.
- Serve as the decision-making body that oversees school clubs, ASB funds, and other extracurricular activities.
- Plan and carry out cultural events, spirit weeks, dances, and extracurricular activities to increase school pride/spirit.
- Host lunchtime events to raise student morale.
- Plan and carry out school and community activities, as well as service learning projects.

ASB holds regular meetings throughout the school year and students who are elected are required to participate as student representatives. ASB officers are also required to regularly attend School Site Council meetings (approximately 5 per year) as Student Representatives.

## Dances

After school and evening dances are sponsored by ASB and/or by the Parent Club/Parent Teacher Association. Dances are held at least once per quarter. Student identification cards are required for admission. Once inside, students may not leave the dance. If a student needs to leave early, a parent must directly retrieve the student from administration. Participation may be based on a student's grades, attendance, and behavior. Only students who are eligible may attend dances. Students

who are on the Loss of Privilege list may NOT participate and must leave campus immediately after school. The school also reserves the right to refuse entrance to dances.

## **Extracurricular Activities**

We believe that all extracurricular activities, including athletics, should require students to be ethical and demonstrate good sportsmanship. School activities seek to promote the development of good character and other important life skills. We also believe that participants in any school related activity should be committed to pursuing victory with honor. When participating in extracurricular activities, students are expected to follow the school site's behavioral expectations.

Clubs are approved by the ASB annually. Each middle school may have up to 11 clubs. Opportunities for involvement include Clubs, the After School Program, academic competitions, and Athletics. When registering a student for an athletic team, please refer to the MUSD Athletic Handbook found on Family ID. The Handbook contains athletic eligibility requirements and the Code of Conduct for both students and parents.

## **Sports/Athletics**

Students are encouraged to get involved in athletics. Our athletic programs follow school league policies that strive to reach the highest standards of excellence. We also maintain a strict code of conduct in which sportsmanship and good character are emphasized. Our middle schools participate in a highly competitive league with other Central Valley Middle Schools in a variety of sports.

Athletic participation guidelines include the following:

- To encourage and support an athletic program that is consistent with high academic standards, the school desires to encourage athletic participation to develop teamwork and school pride.
- The athletic program will adhere to appropriate league policies in terms of athletic participation, attendance and academic requirements.
- Athletes will follow the same Loss of Privilege policies as the rest of the student population (see athletic handbook for more details).
- Students must have a 2.0 GPA or better to participate. Athletes cannot have two or more F's on their quarter grades and still remain eligible.
- It is the athletes' responsibility to make up work missed in classes due to athletic competitions.
- It is the athletes' financial responsibility to replace sports uniforms that are trusted in their care that become damaged and/or lost.
- All athletes must have an annual physical examination (from a licensed medical doctor) as well as an emergency card turned in to their coach in order to participate.

# **ATTENDANCE**

## **Attendance Policy**

Regular attendance plays an important role in student achievement and is an important life skill that will help students graduate from college and keep a job. When students do not attend school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance.

Absences can be minimized by scheduling medical, dental, and other appointments after school or when school is not in session. Vacations should be planned around holidays. Parents must make school attendance a priority.

Steps to follow when a student is, or will be, absent from school:

1. The parent must verify the student's absence, providing a reason for the absence. (See notification below on "Absence Verification".)
2. The student should make immediate plans to request from the teacher and do all make-up work due to their absence. **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO ARRANGE FOR MAKE-UP WORK UPON THE STUDENT'S RETURN.**
3. The parent of a student who will be absent from school for five days or more should inquire about short-term independent studies.

An automated phone call will be sent to inform parents of their student's absence.



## **Tardy Policy**

Every minute counts! When students are late, they are missing instruction or instructional activities that could lead to learning loss. In addition, when a student arrives to class late, it can be distracting to the other students and the teacher. Therefore, students are responsible for being on time to their classes every day.

Students late to school must be signed in by a parent and will only be excused with a valid reason. Students signing in late without a parent will be marked as unexcused. During scheduled passing times between classes, students should walk quickly and quietly to class. Socializing along the way or “hanging out” in the hallways may prevent a student from arriving on time. Excessive tardies to class may result in an assignment to Mandatory After School Study Skills (MASSS) or lunch detention.

Periodically school administration and Safety Officers conduct Tardy Sweeps/Lockouts to ensure all students are on time and prepared for class. If a student is caught in a Tardy Sweep/Lockout, they will be given an “Unexcused Tardy” for that class, and will follow the tardy consequences, which may include lunch detention.

## **Restroom Use**

Students are prohibited from using the restroom the first and last 10 minutes of any class period unless there is an emergency or medical condition that warrants an exception. All students have a scheduled break, lunch, and 4 minutes between classes to address any restroom needs. During class time, students are expected to wear an orange vest that identifies their classroom when walking to and from the restroom.

## **Early Checkout**

In order for a student to be released from school before the end of the school day, the student’s parent or authorized adult must report to the school office, present a photo ID upon request, provide a reason for the early checkout, and sign a log. The student will be called to the office only when the parent or authorized adult is physically present. Students will not be released to anyone who is not listed on the emergency procedure card. These procedures are to ensure the safety of all students.

Parents are strongly encouraged not to arrange for the early checkout of students within the last 30 minutes of the school day.

## **Excused Absences**

Once verified by a parent, a student’s absence will be excused for any of the following reasons:

1. Personal illness, including an absence for the benefit of the student’s mental or behavioral health
2. Quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer
3. Medical, dental, or chiropractic appointment
4. Attendance at funeral services for a member of the student’s immediate family (limited to one day if the service is conducted in California or three days if the service is conducted out of state)
5. Jury duty
6. Illness or medical appointment of the student’s child
7. Upon advance written request by the parent and the approval of the principal or designee, justifiable personal reasons including, but not limited to:
  - a. Appearance in court
  - b. Attendance at a funeral service
  - c. Observance of a religious holiday or ceremony
  - d. Attendance at religious retreats for no more than four hours per semester
  - e. Attendance at an employment conference
  - f. Attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization
8. Service as a member of a precinct board for an election
9. To spend time with an immediate family member who is an active-duty member of the uniformed services, and has been called to duty for deployment to a combat zone or a combat support position or is on leave from or has immediately returned from such deployment (limited to three days)
10. Attendance at a naturalization ceremony to become a United States citizen
11. Participation in a cultural ceremony or event (“cultural” means related to the habits, practices, beliefs, and traditions of a certain group of people)

12. Participation in religious exercises or to receive moral and religious instruction at the student's place of worship or other suitable place away from school

For the purpose of the absences described above, immediate family means the student's parent, brother or sister, grandparent, or any other relative living in the student's household.

### **Absence Verification**

Absences must be verified by the student's parent through a written note that contains the following information:

- Student's first and last name
- Student's identification number
- Date(s) of the absence or periods missed
- Reason(s) for the absence
- Parent's signature and contact information

The written note must be turned in to the school office upon the student's return to school. Absences not cleared will remain unverified.

It is important for parents and students to understand that writing a note to verify an absence does not excuse the absence. Absences are excused only if they meet the criteria listed under "Excused Absences" above; however, a doctor's note may be requested by the principal or designee when the student has been absent more than 10% of days enrolled in the school year due to illness. Absences that are not excused are marked unexcused in the student's records and can potentially lead to a SARB referral.

### **Truancy & Attendance Accountability**

A student is considered *truant* after three absences or three tardies of more than 30 minutes each time or any combination thereof and the absences or tardies are unexcused. After a student has been reported as a truant three or more times in a school year and the school has made a conscientious effort to meet with the family, the student is considered a *habitual truant*. A student who is absent from school without a valid excuse for 10% or more of the schooldays in one school year, from the date of enrollment to the current date, is considered a *chronic truant*. Unexcused absences are all absences that are not listed under "Excused Absences" above.

The school uses an automatic, computer-based system to generate notices to parents when students are initially classified as a truant. Students who are subsequently classified as habitual or chronic truants may lose the privilege to participate in school-sponsored activities/events and be subject to any or all of the following:

1. Required to attend Saturday make-up classes
2. Referred to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB)
3. Referred to the District Attorney

Parents of students who are classified as habitual or chronic students will be asked to work with the school site administrator to develop a written action plan to help reduce unexcused absences. Along with the student, parents will be asked to participate in the School Attendance Review Board (SARB) process. If the case is brought before the Court, the parent may be fined for their failure to insure their student's attendance at school.

### **Excessive Absences and Chronic Absenteeism**

The parent of a student who has 6 or more unexcused absences in any one-quarter (9 weeks) will be required to contact the Attendance Office and provide additional verification for any subsequent absences, such as a doctor's note for an absence related to illness.

A student is considered a chronic absentee when the student is absent on 10% or more of the school days in one school year, from the date of enrollment to the current date. Chronic absenteeism includes all absences – excused and unexcused – and is an important measure because excessive absences negatively impact academic achievement and student engagement.

Excessive absences may result in the student failing a class due to missed assignments and/or inability to show mastery of the content. They may also result in the student's loss of privileges and/or referral to SARB. Parents and students should regularly check the attendance records for any errors.

## Make Up Work

Students should take the initiative to make up for missed assignments due to absences. The following provides specific guidelines based on the type of absence:

1. *School Activities*. Students must clear all school activities with their teacher(s) in advance in order to get assignments. Lists of students involved in activities will be approved and distributed to teachers (for verification purposes) by the administration, activities director or athletic director.
2. *Excused Absence*. Students will be given the opportunity to make up school work missed because of an excused absence and to receive full credit if the work is turned in by the established deadline, which is usually 1 day for every day absent from the date the student returns to school.
3. *Unexcused Absence*. Students who miss school work because of unexcused absences will be given the opportunity to make up missed work for full or reduced credit at the discretion of the teacher.
4. *Out-of-School Suspension*. If the student's absence is the result of a suspension, the teacher may require the student to complete any assignments and tests missed during the period of suspension. When a parent of a student who has been suspended for two or more days from school requests homework that the student would otherwise have been assigned, the student's teacher must provide such homework. If a homework assignment is requested and is turned in to the teacher by the student either upon the student's return from suspension or within the timeframe originally prescribed by the teacher, whichever is later, and is not graded before the end of the academic term, the homework assignment may not be included in the calculation of the student's overall grade in the class.

If a student is planning to be absent, homework may be requested from the teacher(s) or office staff at least 24 hours in advance. For absences longer than 3 days, parents are encouraged to call at least 72 hours in advance or request for short-term independent study if the student meets the eligibility criteria.

# HEALTH & WELLNESS

## Counseling Services

The Counseling Department consists of Counselors, a Student Advocate, and a School Psychologist. Each team member serves a specific role in providing services to students. The following are some of the main roles and responsibilities of the counseling department:

- Provide academic, career, conflict resolution, restorative justice, personal/group counseling, and crisis intervention services
- Conduct conflict resolution and restorative justice procedures
- Coordinate schoolwide cultural awareness and other enrichment activities and behavior supports
- Conduct staff meetings, Student Study Team meetings, and facilitate problem solving
- Collaborate and consult with administrators, teachers, other staff, and parents to assess needs and monitor student progress
- Observe students individually and/or in the classroom setting and provide consultation for the development of strategies for student success
- Develop plans for students to stay on track with assignments and behavior
- Develop and maintain communication with social services, behavioral health services, and law enforcement

## Health Services

Providing for the health and safety of our students is our first priority. The school nurse is a registered nurse (R.N.) who has additional training in public health and possesses a School Nurse Credential. The school nurse provides the following services:

1. Maintenance of a health folder on each student.
2. Maintenance of an up-to-date immunization record.
3. Hearing and vision testing on all students in the 11th grade and those new to the District.
4. Scoliosis (curvature of the spine) screening, as needed.
5. Notification to teachers of students with significant health issues.
6. Administration of medication at school, as authorized by a student's parent and physician.
7. Medical treatments ordered by physicians.

8. Communication with physicians, parents, staff and students to prevent the spread of communicable disease and assist with sources of medical care.
9. Administration of first-aid care for injuries and illnesses occurring at school.
10. Health education, as requested.
11. Prenatal counseling, referral and follow-up care, as needed.
12. Referrals to parents about health concerns, health screening and follow-up care.

All medications are stored and administered, as authorized, in the nurse's office. Students who become ill during school hours should obtain a pass to the nurse's office before calling home.

Parents are asked to do the following to ensure the health and welfare of their students while at school and at school-sponsored activities:

1. Keep students home when ill. (*Refer to the notification on "Illness" below.*)
2. Keep immunizations up-to-date. Refer to the "Guide to immunization Requirements for School Entry" on the California Department of Public Health webpage for the Immunization Branch at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/>.
3. Keep the school informed of any address and phone number changes to ensure the appropriate and authorized adults can be contacted in the event of an illness or injury.
4. Keep the school nurse informed of any changes in the student's health status.
5. Provide a doctor's note to excuse a student from P.E. participation due to health reasons.
6. Provide a written request from both the doctor and the parent when medication is required to be taken at school, specifying if assistance in administering the medication is needed or if a student may self-carry and self-administer certain types of medication. (*Refer to the notification on "Medication" below.*)
7. Contact the school nurse with any health concerns, or for referrals or assistance in obtaining medical care.

## **Illness**

Students should not be sent to school if they have any of the following signs or symptoms:

1. *Fever (over 100 degrees)*. Keep the student at home until they have not had a fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication (e.g., Tylenol, Motrin).
2. *Eyes that are red, swollen, crusting or draining*. The student may return to school when the eyes are clear, or a doctor's note states "non-contagious" or "under treatment."
3. *Head lice*. Students with head lice may return to school after they have been treated with an appropriate lice shampoo and there is no evidence of live lice in their hair.
4. *Vomiting/Diarrhea*. Keep the student at home until they have not vomited or had diarrhea for 24 hours.
5. *Skin rashes*. A skin rash of unknown origin or a contagious rash requires a clearance from a health care provider that states the student is not contagious and may return to school. Otherwise, the student may return when the rash has cleared.
6. Any illness that requires prescribed antibiotic treatment. The student must complete 24 hours of the treatment prior to returning to school.

If there is a reasonable suspicion that a student is ill with any of the above signs or symptoms while at school, the student will be removed from class and isolated from others, as appropriate, and the parent, or authorized adult listed on the emergency contact list, will be called to pick up the student from school. Additionally, in accordance with EC 49451, a student may be excluded from school whenever there is good reason to believe that the student is suffering from a recognized contagious or infectious disease. The student will not be allowed to return to school until there is reasonable evidence to show that the contagious or infectious disease no longer exists.

## **Head Lice Information**

Madera Unified School District operates a no live lice policy. Parents will be notified if their student is found to have live lice. Students are allowed to come back to school the next day, providing a head lice shampoo has been used. The lice shampoo needs to be repeated in 7-10 days.

Current recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) do not support classroom wide screening. Lice do not carry any diseases, but it is important for the family to understand they still need to follow recommended procedures to address lice that may remain in the home. Bedding, clothing, upholstered furniture, including car seats, may harbor lice and nits. Thorough cleaning is required to prevent continued infestation with lice. Contact the school nurse for assistance with resources or to answer questions regarding care, or visit the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/index.html>.

## **Food Allergies/Special Dietary Needs**

There are students who have special dietary needs and/or are allergic to certain foods or ingredients (e.g., peanuts, tree nuts, wheat, milk, etc.). When exposed to an allergen, affected students may experience shortness of breath, wheezing, difficulty breathing, difficulty talking or swallowing, hives, itching, swelling, shock, or asthma. Students will not be excluded from school activities nor otherwise discriminated against, harassed, intimidated, or bullied because of their food allergy.

Please help keep all of students safe and healthy at school by keeping in mind the following:

1. Parents are responsible for notifying the principal or school nurse, in writing, regarding their child's food allergies or other special dietary needs.
2. When a student's food allergy or food intolerance substantially limits one or more major life activities, they may be evaluated to determine if accommodations pursuant to Section 504 are required.
3. School lunch meals make dietary accommodations for students who have a medically certified disability that is verified by a medical statement.
4. Each school site may designate allergen-free area(s) to ensure students with allergies are safe.
5. Students should not share or exchange meals or utensils with other students.
6. Without identifying the student, the principal or teacher may notify parents of other students in the class that a student is allergic to a specific food and may request that certain foods not be provided at class parties or other school events.
7. Parents are encouraged to bring non-food items, such as stickers or pencils, for school celebrations in lieu of food items which present a challenge for students with food allergies.
8. When sending food for others to consume, do not send any foods that do not have food labels.

## **Medication**

Parents are to notify the principal and school nurse if their student is on a continuing medication regimen for a nonepisodic condition. The notification must include the name of the medication being taken, the current dosage, and the name of the supervising physician. With parental consent, the principal or school nurse may communicate with the physician and may counsel with staff regarding possible effects of the medication on the student's physical, intellectual, and social behavior, as well as possible behavioral signs and symptoms of adverse side effects, omission or overdose.

Parents should talk to their child's doctor about making a medicine schedule that does not require the student to take the medicine while at school. However, when necessary, please follow the guidelines provided below. All written requests must be provided on an annual basis or when the medication, dosage, frequency of administration, or reason for administration changes.

### *Assistance with Administration of Medication*

The school nurse or other designated school employee may assist a student who needs to take prescribed medication during school hours only upon written request of both the physician/ surgeon and the parent. The written request from the physician/ surgeon must include details as to the name of the medication, method, amount, and time schedules by which the medication is to be taken and a written statement from the parent indicating the desire that the school assist the student in matters set forth in the statement of the physician/surgeon.

### *Self-Carry and Self-Administration of Medication*

In order for a student to carry and self-administer prescription auto-injectable epinephrine or inhaled asthma medication at school, the parent must provide a written statement consenting to the self-administration and a written statement from the physician/ surgeon or physician assistant detailing the medication, method, amount, and time schedules by which the medication is to be taken, and confirming that the student is able to self-administer auto-injectable epinephrine or inhaled asthma medication. The parent's written statement must provide a release for the school nurse or other designated school personnel to consult with the student's health care provider regarding any questions that may arise with regard to the medication, and releasing the District and school personnel from civil liability if the self-administering student suffers an adverse reaction as a result of self-administering medication. A student may be subject to disciplinary action if the student uses auto-injectable epinephrine or inhaled asthma medication in a manner other than as prescribed.

### *Delivery, Storage, and Disposal of Medication*

Supply the school with all medicine the student must take during the school day, with each medicine stored in a separate container labeled by a pharmacist licensed in the United States. The container must list the student's name, doctor's name, name of the medicine, and instructions for when to take the medicine and how much to take. The medicine must be delivered to the school by a parent or other adult, unless the student is authorized to carry and take the medication by themselves. Except for inhalers, the student may only carry one-day's dosage. For all other medication, no more than a 30-day supply

will be kept at the school. All discontinued, outdated, and/or unused medicine must be picked up before the end of the school year.

### **Student Accident Insurance**

Medical and hospital services for students injured at school or school-sponsored events, or while being transported, is insured at the parent's expense. No student will be compelled to accept such services without the consent of a parent.

Student Accident Insurance can be purchased through Myers-Stevens during student registration and throughout the school year. Please contact the District at (559) 675-4500 ext. 272 for additional assistance.

## **SAFETY**

### **Safety/Security**

Staff at our middle schools are committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for all students while they are in our care. Emergency drills are conducted monthly to ensure everyone is aware of safety protocols in the event of a disaster or emergency. All sites have security officers to provide added supervision on campus.

The middle schools follow a "closed campus" policy; therefore, students may not leave the school just to eat lunch. During the lunch period, students will be required to:

1. Leave backpacks in classrooms; backpacks are not allowed on the yard.
2. Line up in a quiet, orderly manner with no crowding.
3. Observe good etiquette or table manners while eating.
4. Refrain from throwing food.
5. Leave the table area clean. Put all trash in the identified cans.

### **Use of School Phones**

Students are not to use the telephones in the main office except in such cases that are vital and related to school matters. Students should make all arrangements for transportation, going somewhere with a friend after school, staying for after-school activities, etc. before coming to school. School phones may be used twenty minutes after dismissal if a student has not yet been picked up.

### **Visitation Policy**

The District's highest priority is keeping all students and faculty safe, and part of that is quickly identifying those that may present a danger to all persons and knowing who is in District buildings at all times. All visitors who wish to gain access to a school, including parents, contractors, and volunteers, must report to the main office to register and receive a visitor's badge. To register, visitors will be asked to present a photo ID and their purpose for entering school grounds. The visitor's badge must be visibly displayed at all times while on school grounds and returned to the office at the end of the visit. Unless otherwise directed by the principal or designee, a staff member will accompany visitors while they are on school grounds. Anyone on school grounds without permission is in violation of the law and may be reported to law enforcement.

Students from other schools are not allowed to be on campus during school hours without administrative permission.

### **Emergency Contacts**

At the beginning of each year, parents are asked to verify that their contact information is still current and to provide specified information about the student's doctor, as well as a list of authorized adults (relatives, friends) who may be contacted in the event of an emergency where the parents cannot be reached immediately. Please keep in mind that, other than the parent, students will only be released to the authorized adults listed as emergency contacts.

If any changes occur during the school year, it is extremely important that the school office is notified in a timely manner. Parents may also make those changes directly through their Parent Portal account.

### **Student Identification Cards**

Student identification (ID) cards must be carried at all times at school and at school-sponsored activities, and are to be presented upon request to any member of the staff. ID cards must be shown to gain entry into any school-sponsored activity

(dance, sporting events, etc.), and are required to check out library materials. Each student will be provided with an ID card at the beginning of the school year at no cost. Replacement cards for any that are lost, stolen or broken may be purchased for \$5.00 from the school office.

## Dress Code

The Governing Board believes that appropriate dress and grooming contribute to a productive learning environment. The Board expects students to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to wear clothes that are suitable for the school activities in which they participate. Students' clothing must not present a health or safety hazard or a distraction which would interfere with the educational process.

The dress code can be modified as appropriate to accommodate a student's religious or cultural observance, health condition, or other circumstance deemed necessary by the principal or designee. Coaches and teachers may impose more stringent dress requirements to accommodate the special needs of certain sports and/or classes. The principal, staff, students, and parents at each school may establish additional reasonable dress and grooming regulations for times when students are engaged in extracurricular or other special school activities as well as to address site-specific needs.

Please refer to the District's Annual Notification of the Rights and Responsibilities of Parents and Students for the complete Dress Code Policy. The following is an easy-to-read chart that summarizes the Policy that applies to regular school activities:

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Hats/Hoods/Beanies      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibited inside buildings and classrooms.</li> <li>Permitted while outdoors if worn to protect students from the harmful effects of the sun or when the temperature falls below 40 degrees Fahrenheit.</li> </ul>  |
| Shirts                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must cover the torso. Bare midriffs, tube tops, and halter-tops are prohibited, including tops or blouses that show midriff when arms are raised above the head.</li> <li>Openings for neck and arms that expose the body in a sexually suggestive manner are not acceptable.</li> </ul>   |
| Shorts/Skirts           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be mid-thigh or longer (or have leggings that are mid-thigh underneath) or 5" above the knee (whichever is longer in length).</li> <li>No sagging; all shorts/skirts must be worn at the waist.</li> </ul>  |
| Pants                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holes five inches above the knee must have leggings underneath.</li> <li>Must cover all undergarments.</li> <li>No sagging; all pants must be worn at the waist.</li> </ul>  |
| Pajamas                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not to be worn at school or at school-sponsored activities, unless part of an authorized event, in which case must adhere to the Dress Code Policy.</li> </ul>   |
| Shoes or Other Footwear | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be worn at all times.</li> <li>Athletic shoes with socks are required in all physical education classes and while participating in athletic teams.</li> <li>No slippers.</li> </ul>   |
| Piercings               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Piercings that create a safety issue are not acceptable.</li> </ul>  |
| Hair                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be clean and well-groomed.</li> </ul>   |
| Accessories or Jewelry  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dark sunglasses must not be worn in classrooms, offices, or inside other buildings unless a documented, related health problem exists.</li> <li>Any apparel, hairstyles, cosmetics, accessories, or jewelry, even if not specifically mentioned above, that creates a safety or health concern (as determined by administration) is prohibited.</li> </ul> |

All articles of clothing, head coverings, accessories, and jewelry must be free of writing, pictures, or any other insignia which are crude, vulgar, profane, obscene, libelous, slanderous, or sexually suggestive. They must also not advocate or depict racial, ethnic, or religious prejudice, or other unlawful acts, or drugs, alcohol, or tobacco.

### Gang-related Apparel or Paraphernalia

Gang-related apparel or paraphernalia, including symbols, emblems, insignia, or other gang identifiers, may not be worn or displayed. Specifically, the presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessories, notebook, or manner of grooming which by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, wording, or other attributes, or displayed under certain conditions or circumstances, denotes membership in or affiliation with gangs is prohibited. The following are some examples:

- The wearing of a blue or red shirt, in and of itself, may or may not be indicative that the shirt is gang-related. However, when a blue or red shirt is worn in the company of other persons who are wearing blue or red shirts, and who are flashing

gang signs or are speaking in a manner suggestive of gang affiliation, then it may legitimately be concluded that the blue or red shirt worn in such conditions and circumstances is gang-related apparel.

- There is a tendency for youth to use brand name clothing and apparel as a means of signifying gang membership and/or affiliation. Therefore, on a case-by-case basis, administrators may prohibit students from wearing clothing/apparel which bears certain brand names, whenever it is reasonably determined that the student is using the brand name as a means of proclaiming membership or affiliation with a gang.

When in doubt as to whether an item is gang-related, the principal or designee will consult with local law enforcement or with other persons with expertise in gangs.

#### Accountability for Dress Code Violations

All school staff, including teachers, classroom aides and other classified staff, as well as school administrators are expected by the Board to ensure that this Policy is fairly and consistently implemented throughout the District.

Progressive discipline will be imposed for violations of the Dress Code as follows:

1. *First Offense:* Verbal warning and counseling; documentation of the incident; and the student will be advised to read thoroughly the dress code as published in the District's Annual Notification. The administrator will ask the student if their copy of the referenced publication has been misplaced or lost. If so, a second copy will be provided.
2. *Second Offense:* Verbal warning and counseling; parent contact/conference; documentation of the incident; and parent and student will be advised to read thoroughly the dress code as published in the District's Annual Notification.
3. *Third Offense:* Parent contact/conference; documentation of the incident; detention to be served by the student; and confiscation, if possible, of the article of clothing or accessory which has resulted in the violation of the policy.
4. *Fourth Offense:* Parent contact/conference; documentation of the incident; after school detention to be served by the student; and confiscation, if possible, of the article of clothing or accessory which has resulted in the violation of the policy.
5. *Fifth and Subsequent Offenses:* Parent contact/conference; documentation of the incident; one day on-campus suspension; and confiscation, if possible, the article of clothing or accessory which has resulted in the violation of the policy.

As to each offense, the parent will be notified to bring acceptable clothing or the student will be supplied with a suitable garment from the site, if available.

#### **Personal Property/Lost & Found**

The school will make reasonable efforts to protect personal property, but will not assume the responsibility for any such items that are lost, stolen or damaged. Students are strongly encouraged NOT to bring to school any items of value, such as large sums of money, electronics, trading cards, etc. "Lost and Found" is located in the security office.

#### **Smartphones & Electronic Signaling Devices**

Students may bring personal technology, including computers, smartphones, network access devices, or other electronic signaling devices to school. However, students may use such devices only before and after the instructional day; they must be turned off and put away during the school day. Only under the following circumstances may a student possess or use a smartphone or other electronic signaling device:

- In case of an emergency, or in response to a perceived threat of danger.
- When a teacher or administrator grants permission to the student, subject to any reasonable limitation imposed by that teacher or administrator.
- When a licensed physician and surgeon determines it is necessary for the student's health or well-being.
- When it is required in a student's IEP or Section 504 plan.

Students must follow the instructions provided by teachers and other school staff in the use of personal technologies. School employees are directed to confiscate electronic signaling devices for use during unauthorized times or for improper use, including, but not limited to, use which causes disruption, invades another student's privacy, compromises the confidentiality of school records, infringes on copyrights, enables students to cheat on tests, facilitates activities in violation of the code of student conduct, or is illegal. Devices will be returned to the parent after a meeting with the administrator.

If the use of electronic signaling devices is abused and the use violates District policy or rules and regulations, the principal or designee has the right to revoke the privilege and prohibit a student from possessing such device(s) at school or school-related activities and/or impose disciplinary actions in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulation.



The school assumes no liability for personal technology, including computers, cell phones, smartphones, network access devices, or other electronic signaling devices, if such devices are damaged, lost or stolen.

### **Electronic Listening or Recording Device**

The use by any person, including a student, of any electronic listening or recording device in any classroom without the prior consent of the teacher and the principal is prohibited as it disrupts and impairs the teaching process and discipline in the schools. Any person, other than the student, willfully in violation is guilty of a misdemeanor. Any student in violation will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

### **Bicycles, Scooters & Skateboard**

State law requires all persons under the age of 18 to wear properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmets that meet specified standards when riding bicycles, scooters, and skateboards. When a student violates this law, the student's parents could also be held liable.

For the safety and protection of students who ride bicycles, scooters, and skateboards to and from school, students must:

- Obey all traffic rules
- Walk their bicycles, scooters and skateboards across crosswalks
- Not ride bicycles, scooters, and skateboards while on school grounds
- Lock up their bicycles, scooters, and skateboards in the designated racks, using their own locks

The school assumes no liability for lost, stolen, or damaged bicycles, scooters, and skateboards. However, if anything is stolen, students should immediately notify the school office so that staff can assist with filing a police report.

### **Animals/Pets**

Other than service animals for students with disabilities and animals used for instructional purposes by teachers, pets and other animals are prohibited from being on school property during, before, or after school hours. This is necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all students and staff.

### **Outside Deliveries**

To maintain an optimal learning environment that is free from distractions, the school will not accept items delivered to the school -- such as balloons, flowers, presents, etc. sent on birthdays, Valentine's Day, or other special occasions. Students should also not bring these items to school as gifts for others. If they are brought to school, or left at the office by the delivery person, the items will be held in the office until the end of the school day. The school is not responsible for contacting the recipient of the item(s) nor does the school assume responsibility for any items that are lost, stolen or damaged.

Student's forgotten homework assignments, P.E. clothes, books, or money will be accepted in the main office. However, these items may only be picked up by the student during non-instructional time.

### **Fundraisers/Non-Authorized Sales**

Students may not sell items (*i.e.*, candy, chips, drinks, food, merchandise, etc.) at school unless they are participating in a school-approved fundraiser, or have obtained prior written approval from the school administration. Violators will have their items confiscated and returned only to the parent.

### **Emergency Procedures**

In order to familiarize students and staff with proper procedures, the following drills will be conducted, as appropriate, throughout the school year: fire, lockdown, earthquake drop procedures, and bus evacuation.

Parents should prepare their children for an emergency by:

1. Being aware of the emergency procedure instructions given to their children at school.
2. Keeping their child's emergency card on file at the school and updated at all times.
3. Establishing the safest and most direct route to and from school.
4. Arranging for a neighbor or friend to care for their child if the parents leave home for the day.

In the event of an emergency during the school day, the best place for the students to remain is at school. Students will be kept in a safe area until parents or authorized persons noted on the emergency contact list arrive at the school. Students not picked up will remain at school until the end of the normal school day, and will be released at that time, providing it is safe

to go home. During the emergency, it is essential that the school telephone lines are available to school personnel and those providing emergency relief; therefore, the school should be called only if it is absolutely necessary. Families may tune in to the following radio stations to stay current on the situation: KMJ 580 AM (English) and KMMM 107.3 FM (Spanish).

## CONDUCT

### **Behavior Expectations**

Each school site and each classroom teacher has established behavior expectations for their students that are consistent with Board policy and applicable state and federal laws. It is the responsibility of the teachers and administrators to see that rules are carried out in a fair and reasonable manner. Every teacher, administrator and other designated employee will hold students to a strict account for their conduct on the way to and from school, in the classroom and other school buildings, on school grounds, and on the school bus. Students must conform to school regulations, obey all directions, be diligent in study and respectful to teachers and others in authority, and refrain from the use of profane and vulgar language.

Specific behaviors are forbidden by state and federal laws and by District policy. Violations of these laws and policies may result in advising and counseling students, conferencing with parents, detention during and after school hours, loss of privileges, community service, involvement of law enforcement, placement in alternative programs, suspension, or expulsion.

The severity of disciplinary consequences depends upon several factors such as the nature or seriousness of the offense and whether the offense is a first offense. Ordinarily, suspension (and expulsion) is imposed only when other means of correction fail to bring about proper conduct, or whenever the student has committed a serious, first-time offense; or when it is also determined that the student's presence causes a danger to persons or property or threatens to disrupt the instructional process.

Corporal punishment will not be used. The use of reasonable and necessary force by an employee to protect oneself or students or prevent damage to District property is not considered corporal punishment.

### **Prevention & Intervention Strategies**

The Madera Unified School District believes that high expectations for student behavior, effective classroom management, and parent involvement can minimize the need for discipline. Staff will use preventative measures and positive conflict resolution techniques whenever possible. In addition, discipline will be used in a manner that corrects student behavior without intentionally creating an adverse effect on student learning or health. At all times, the safety of students and staff and the maintenance of an orderly school environment must be priorities in determining appropriate discipline. When misconduct occurs, staff will attempt to identify the causes of the student's behavior and implement appropriate discipline in a fair and consistent manner, in accordance with the District's nondiscrimination policies. Persistently disruptive students may be assigned to alternative programs or removed from school in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation.

The PBIS framework, which is described below, is one that supports holding students accountable while continuing to support their social-emotional development. Additionally, our middle schools have adopted a Discipline that Restores (DTR) model that includes: conflict resolution, peer mediation, and restorative justice alternatives that help assist with resolving problems when students fail to demonstrate appropriate behavior. Our discipline procedures at each site are in alignment.

#### *Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS)*

PBIS is a system-wide framework (or approach) for establishing social culture, learning and teaching environment, and the individual behavior supports needed to achieve academic and social success for all students. Implementation of PBIS includes the following:

- Establishment of a PBIS Leadership team
- Identification of positive school-wide expectations
- Teaching of school-wide expectations
- Teaching of classroom expectations
- Encouraging and strengthening positive student behavior
- Discouraging student behavior violations
- Monitoring success of PBIS using data

Our schools are excited to continue building programs for PBIS. (DMS-Prepared, Prompt, Polite, Productive and Positive; MLK-Respectful, Responsible and Ready to Learn; TJ-Respect, Integrity, Safety, Excellence; MadTEC-Engaged, Excellent, Thoughtful, Accountable). We believe that student success is related to the demonstration of shared behavioral expectations. At every school, students are provided behavioral instruction and support to be successful so that they will achieve both academically and socially.

#### Refocus/Buddy Room

A student who chooses not to follow an expected behavior, will be asked to REFOCUS. A student in REFOCUS is seated in a quiet area either in the classroom, another teacher's classroom, or the office to think about the inappropriate behavior and write a positive alternative on a REFOCUS form. The student is then positively welcomed back into the classroom by the teacher who has checked the REFOCUS form for student accuracy and completeness. A student who has been to REFOCUS does not necessarily mean that the student has been "bad". REFOCUS is an opportunity to identify behaviors that may begin to affect the academic environment.

After extensive teaching of expected behaviors and practice with the REFOCUS procedure, the lunchtime Student Responsibility Center (SRC) will be assigned. REFOCUS is very effective as a response to most low-level problem behavior. We do find, though, that a few students choose to continue to behave inappropriately and therefore these students will be required to attend lunchtime in SRC. In SRC, students will work on unfinished school work in the quiet setting of a supervised classroom. Parents will be notified if their child has chosen to consistently break rules requiring time served in SRC through ConnectEd and by an assigned teacher.

#### Restorative Justice

Middle schools use a restorative justice approach, which has proven to be an effective alternative to punitive responses to wrongdoing/misunderstandings. This model brings together persons harmed with persons responsible for harm in a safe and respectful space, promoting dialogue, accountability, and a stronger sense of community. The counselors, safety officers, some teachers, and the site administrative teams normally facilitate our restorative justice conferences. All students and their teachers are asked to participate in this type of conference if students have received 3 or more refocuses with any teacher. Students may also elect to initiate a restorative justice conference with peers when misunderstandings happen.

#### Time to Teach (specific to DMS, MLK & MadTEC)

Our school uses the Time to Teach program, which promotes the following goals:

1. To provide a safe and orderly learning environment for all students.
2. To help students become responsible and cooperate (not just compliant).
3. To help students manage themselves and be reflective of their behavior.
4. To develop a positive proactive culture for dealing with discipline.

Students are taught the expected schoolwide behaviors and are held accountable for their actions. Teachers will teach, model, and allow students multiple opportunities to practice expected classroom behaviors. Teachers will make every effort to build positive and healthy relationships with students.

#### School Incentives/Rewards

Our staff believes it is important to recognize students for demonstrating our PBIS behavioral expectations. Assemblies and rallies are designed to publicly recognize individuals for their positive contributions to our school culture and community as well as promote school spirit. When students display these actions, a teacher, counselor, administrator, security or other staff member may acknowledge their behavior with an incentive ticket. Students may then use their tickets at their home sites to redeem items on Fridays during lunch.

### **Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion**

Suspension means the removal of a student from ongoing instruction for adjustment purposes. Expulsion means removal of a student from the immediate supervision and control, or the general supervision, of school personnel. Students may be suspended or recommended for expulsion whenever the principal/designee of the school determines the student has committed an act in violation of Education Code 48900, as listed below, and EC 48900.2, 48900.3, 48900.4, and 48900.7 in any of the schools of the District or in another district, and the act is related to a school activity or school attendance which occurs at any time including, but not limited to, any of the following:

1. While on school grounds.
2. While going to or returning from school.
3. During lunch period whether on or off campus.
4. During or while going to or coming from a school sponsored activity.

The following are grounds for which a student may be suspended or expelled:

- (a)(1) Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.
  - (a)(2) Willfully used force or violence upon another person, except in self-defense.
  - (b) Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object.
  - (c) Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of any controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.
  - (d) Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered, or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid, substance, or material and represented the same as such controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant.
  - (e) Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
  - (f) Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property.
  - (g) Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property.
  - (h) Possessed or used tobacco, or products containing tobacco or nicotine products.
  - (i) Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
  - (j) Unlawfully possessed, offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia.
  - (k) Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, other school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties. (Grades 9-12 only when suspended from school. Cannot be used solely as grounds for recommendation for expulsion for students at any grade level.)
  - (l) Knowingly received stolen school property or private property.
  - (m) Possessed an imitation firearm. Imitation firearm means a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm.
  - (n) Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault or committed a sexual battery.
  - (o) Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that student from being a witness and/or retaliating against that student for being a witness.
  - (p) Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.
  - (q) Engaged in, or attempted to engage in, hazing. Hazing means a method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective student.
  - (r) Engaged in an act of bullying. Bullying means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, directed toward one or more students that has or can reasonably be predicted to have the effect of placing a reasonable student in fear of harm to themselves or their property; cause the student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on their physical or mental health; or cause the student to experience substantial interferences with their academic performance or ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school. Bullying also includes an act of cyber sexual bullying by a student through the dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual recording that depicts a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or other visual recording of an identifiable minor, when such dissemination is to another student or to school personnel by means of an electronic act and has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the effects of bullying described above. Cyber sexual bullying does not include a depiction, portrayal, or image that has any serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value or that involves athletic events or school-sanctioned activities.
  - (t) Aided or abetted the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury on another person.
- EC 48900.2. Committed sexual harassment. Sexual harassment means conduct which, when considered from the perspective of a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim, is sufficiently severe or pervasive as to have a negative impact

upon the victim's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. (Grades 4-12 only)

EC 48900.3. Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause, or participated in an act of hate violence. Hate violence includes injuring or intimidating a victim, interfering with the exercise of a victim's civil rights, or damaging a victim's property because of the victim's race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation; a perception of the presence of any of those characteristics in the victim; or the victim's association with a person or group with one or more of those actual or perceived characteristics. (Grades 4-12 only)

EC 48900.4. Intentionally engaged in harassment, threats, or intimidation against district personnel or students that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to have the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting classwork, creating substantial disorder, and invading the rights of school personnel or students by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment. (Grades 4-12 only)

EC 48900.7. Made terrorist threats against school officials and/or school property. A terrorist threat includes any written or oral statement by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death or great bodily injury to another person or property damage in excess of \$1,000, with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out.

### **Discrimination, Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying**

The Madera Unified School District prohibits discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on the actual or perceived characteristics set forth in PC 422.55, including immigration status, and EC 220, and disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. All school personnel who witness an act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying must take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so. Any student who engages in acts of discrimination, harassment, violence, intimidation, or bullying related to school activity or school attendance occurring within a District school may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Any student, parent, or other individual may report an incident to a teacher, the principal, a compliance officer, or any other available school employee. The complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying against any student, employee, or other person participating in District programs and activities must be filed no later than six months from the date of the alleged conduct or the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged conduct. Complaints will be investigated and resolved through AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP). Information regarding the UCP can be found on the District's website at <https://www.madera.k12.ca.us/Page/13865>.

### **Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment of students at school or at school-sponsored or school-related activities is prohibited. Retaliatory behavior or action against any person who reports, files a complaint, or testifies about, or otherwise supports a complainant in alleging sexual harassment is also prohibited. Any student who engages in sexual harassment or sexual violence at school or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity will be subject to disciplinary action. For students in grades 4 through 12, disciplinary action may include suspension and/or expulsion, provided that in imposing such discipline the entire circumstances of the incident(s) will be taken into account.

#### Instructional Program

As a preventative measure, students will receive age-appropriate instruction and information on sexual harassment, including:

1. What acts and behavior constitute sexual harassment, including the fact that sexual harassment could occur between people of the same sex and could involve sexual violence.
2. A clear message that students do not have to endure sexual harassment under any circumstance.
3. Encouragement to report observed instances of sexual harassment even when the victim of the harassment has not complained.
4. A clear message that student safety is the District's primary concern, and that any separate rule violation involving an alleged victim or any other person reporting a sexual harassment incident will be addressed separately and will not affect the manner in which the sexual harassment complaint will be received, investigated, or resolved.
5. A clear message that, regardless of a complainant's noncompliance with the writing, timeline, or other formal filing requirements, every sexual harassment allegation that involves a student, whether as the complainant, respondent, or victim of the harassment, will be investigated and action will be taken to respond to harassment, prevent recurrence,

- and address any continuing effect on students.
6. Information about the District's procedure for investigating complaints and the person(s) to whom a report of sexual harassment should be made.
  7. Information about the rights of students and parents to file a civil or criminal complaint, as applicable, including the right to file a civil or criminal complaint while the District investigation of a sexual harassment complaint continues.
  8. A clear message that, when needed, the District will implement supportive measures to ensure a safe school environment for a student who is the complainant or victim of sexual harassment and/or other students during an investigation.

#### Defining Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, unwanted requests for sexual favors or other unwanted verbal, visual or physical conduct of a sexual nature made against another person of the same or opposite sex, in the educational setting, under any of the following conditions:

1. Submission to the conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or condition of a student's academic status or progress.
2. Submission to or rejection of the conduct by a student is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting the student.
3. The conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact on the student's academic performance or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.
4. Submission to or rejection of the conduct by the student is used as the basis for any decision affecting the student regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through any district program or activity.

Any prohibited conduct that occurs off campus or outside of school-related or school-sponsored programs or activities will be regarded as sexual harassment in violation of District policy if it has a continuing effect on or creates a hostile school environment for the complainant or victim of the conduct.

For purposes of applying the complaint procedures specified in Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, sexual harassment is defined as any of the following forms of conduct that occurs in an education program or activity in which a district school exercises substantial control over the context and respondent:

1. A district employee conditioning the provision of a district aid, benefit, or service on the student'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 student equal access to the District's education program or activity.
3. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking as defined in 20 USC 1092 or 34 USC 12291.

#### Examples of Sexual Harassment

Examples of types of conduct which are prohibited and which may constitute sexual harassment under state and/or federal law, in accordance with the definitions above, include, but are not limited to:

1. Unwelcome leering, sexual flirtations, or propositions
2. Unwelcome sexual slurs, epithets, threats, verbal abuse, derogatory comments, or sexually degrading descriptions
3. Graphic verbal comments about an individual's body or overly personal conversation
4. Sexual jokes, derogatory posters, notes, stories, cartoons, drawings, pictures, obscene gestures, or computer-generated images of a sexual nature
5. Spreading sexual rumors
6. Teasing or sexual remarks about students enrolled in a predominantly single-sex class
7. Massaging, grabbing, fondling, stroking, or brushing the body
8. Touching an individual's body or clothes in a sexual way
9. Impeding or blocking movements or any physical interference with school activities when directed at an individual on the basis of sex
10. Displaying sexually suggestive objects
11. Sexual assault, sexual battery, or sexual coercion
12. Electronic communications containing comments, words, or images described above

Any prohibited conduct that occurs off campus or outside of school-related or school-sponsored programs or activities will be regarded as sexual harassment in violation of District policy if it has a continuing effect on or creates a hostile school environment for the complainant or victim of the conduct.

#### Reporting and Investigating Allegations of Sexual Harassment

Students who feel that they are being or have been sexually harassed on school grounds or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity by another student, an employee, or a third party or who have experienced off-campus sexual harassment that has a continuing effect on campus are strongly encouraged to report the incident to their teacher, the principal, the District's Title IX Coordinator, or any other available school employee. Any employee who receives a report or observes

an incident of sexual harassment must notify the Title IX Coordinator within one school day. The report must be made whether the alleged victim files a formal complaint or requests confidentiality.

Once notified, the Title IX Coordinator will determine whether the complaint or allegation is to be addressed through AR 5145.71 – Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures or BP/AR 1323.3 – Uniform Complaint Procedures. Because a complaint or allegation that is dismissed or denied under the Title IX complaint procedure may still be subject to consideration under state law, the Title IX Coordinator will ensure that any implementation of AR 5145.71 concurrently meets the requirements of BP/AR 1312.3. The Title IX Coordinator will offer supportive measures to the complainant and respondent, as deemed appropriate under the circumstances. If, upon the conclusion of an investigation, sexual harassment is determined to have occurred, the Title IX Coordinator, or designee in consultation with the Coordinator, will take prompt action to stop the sexual harassment, prevent recurrence, implement remedies, and address any continuing effects.

Records of all reported cases of sexual harassment are maintained in accordance with law and District policies and regulations to enable the District to monitor, address and prevent repetitive harassing behavior in its schools.

The following individual has been designated as the District’s Title IX Coordinator: Prince Marshall, Executive Director of Student and Family Support Services, 1820 Howard Road, Madera, CA 93637, [princemarshall@maderausd.org](mailto:princemarshall@maderausd.org), (559) 416-5826. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the District’s efforts to comply with Title IX sexual harassment complaint procedures, as well as to oversee, investigate, and/or resolve sexual harassment complaints processed under the Uniform Complaint Procedures.

To review the full text of MUSD board policy and administrative regulation on sexual harassment, please click on the following links: [BP 5145.7](#) and [AR 5145.7](#).

### **Public Display of Affection**

The school recognizes that genuine feelings of affection may exist between students; however, students should refrain from inappropriate intimate behaviors on campus or at school-related events. Repeated or especially inappropriate behavior in this regard may result in disciplinary action. Public displays of affection deemed inappropriate include: kissing, fondling, lewd or other inappropriate conduct.

### **Dangerous Objects**

Often, students like to bring objects, such as a collector’s item, to school to show their friends. Examples of these objects include, but are not limited to, laser pointers, mini baseball bats, martial arts weapons (*e.g.*, nunchaku, throwing stars), or any other sharp, pointy objects. Students should refrain from bringing objects that have the potential to inflict serious bodily injury to others, which could then lead to disciplinary consequences.

### **Property Damage**

Parents may be held financially liable if their child willfully cuts, defaces, or otherwise injures any property, real or personal, of the District or school employee, or willfully does not return District property loaned to the child upon demand of an authorized school employee. School property includes, but is not limited to, electronic files and databases. The school may further withhold the grades, diploma, and transcript of the student until the parent has paid for the damages.

Payments must be paid by cash, cashier’s check or online via Aeries. No personal checks are accepted. If the student or the parent are unable to pay for the damages, or return the property, a program of voluntary work will be assigned to the student in lieu of the payment of monetary damages.

### **Disrespectful, Unacceptable Language**

The use of any disrespectful, unacceptable language is not conducive to a safe and secure learning environment. Students are expected to refrain from such use while on school grounds and at school-sponsored activities, just as they would be expected to do so at their place of employment in the future.

The following are types of speech/language that are considered disrespectful and unacceptable, whether spoken or written:

- Habitual Profanity – The regular and/or frequent use of expletives and/or language which is profane.
- Verbal Abuse – Also called verbal attack or reviling, is a form of abusive behavior involving the use of language. It includes, but is not limited to, language that is: countering, withholding, discounting, blocking & diverting, accusing & blaming, judging & criticizing, trivializing, undermining, threatening, name-calling, chronic forgetting, controlling, or punishing.

- Racial or Religious Slurs – Offensive words used to describe individuals of a race, a particular color, country or faith.
- Hate Speech – Language which degrades, intimidates, or incites violence or prejudicial action against another person based on that person’s real or perceived ethnicity, national origin, immigrant status, sex, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, age, disability, or any other physical or cultural characteristic.
- Misogynistic Speech – Language which promotes the hatred of or violence towards women.
- Misandry Speech – Language which promotes the hatred of or violence towards men.
- Homophobic Speech – Language which promotes the hatred of or violence towards homosexuals.
- Vulgarity – Language which offends good taste and manners and is deemed to be raunchy, gross, offensive, crude, rude and/or suggestive.
- Obscene Language – Language which is abhorrent to morality or virtue, specifically designed to incite lust or depravity; considered to be taboo in polite situations; repulsive by reason of crass disregard of moral or ethical principles.
- Roasting – Language used in a joking manner to degrade another student.

## Student Conflicts

All students are expected to seek out resources and support if they are having a conflict with another student and or adult. When conflicts are not addressed early on, they may interfere with students’ mental health which could negatively impact their academic performance, attendance, and behavior. In severe cases, these conflicts may lead to unsafe and violent behaviors. To prevent conflicts from escalating and to help maintain a positive school climate and culture in our schools, students strongly encouraged to take the following steps:

- Let staff know when feeling unsafe, threatened, or harassed. Incidents can also be filed by completing and submitting a [Constituent Concern](#) form, or reported anonymously through [STOPit](#), using the access code (all in lowercase): maderausd.
- Avoid listening to and spreading gossip. The only thing that comes from gossip is hurt feelings and anger. Adopt the attitude, “If I did not hear it with my own ears, it is not worth being hurt or angry about it.”
- Do not confront another student when angry. The other person may react defensively, unsure of what you might do. Ask for help from a teacher or staff member, if you are not able to forget about or ignore what the other student is doing that makes you angry.
- Make an appointment with the school counselor. The counselor can provide additional suggestions, meet with the other student, or arrange a meeting for all the students involved in order to solve the problem in a safe and non-confrontational manner.
- Do not encourage violence by using words or actions to instigate a fight, or aiding or abetting another student during the fight.
- Move away from an ongoing verbal or physical conflict so as not to interfere with staff efforts to prevent or stop the conflict. Recording, moving towards a conflict, and/or encircling the participants prevent staff from maintaining a safe environment and poses a risk to student safety which may result in a disciplinary response.

## Loss of Privileges

In order to encourage high standards of student conduct and behavior in conformity with applicable state laws, District policies and regulations, and school rules, the principal may deny a student participation in privileged activities, placing them on a “Loss of Privilege” list. Generally, loss of privileges could be the result of the student’s unsatisfactory academic performance, repeated or severe misconduct, excessive absences/tardies, and/or failure to return school/district property loaned to the student. Privileged activities include, but are not limited to, any extracurricular activity that is not related to the regular classroom, does not occur during class time, is not graded, and is not offered for credit. Specifically, for purposes of the current school year, privileged activities include dances, rallies, recreational trips, reward trips, fundraising events and graduation/promotion ceremonies or activities.

Unless otherwise expressly stated in BP 5127 – Graduation Ceremonies and Other Privileged Activities, eligibility for and loss of the privilege of participating in District extracurricular and cocurricular activities is governed by BP 6145 – Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities.

Refer to the MUSD Annual Notification of the Rights and Responsibilities of Parent and Students for more details regarding loss of privileges under the following areas:

- Suspensions, Recommendations for Expulsion, and Suspended Expulsion Orders
- Failure to Return District Property
- Failure to Pay a Lawfully Imposed and/or Agreed Upon Financial Obligation
- Notice of Privilege Revocation



- Appeal of Decision to Revoke Privileges

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

### Home-School Communication

It is a goal of the District to engage parents in meaningful interactions with the school as it supports a partnership among staff, parents, students, and the community to improve student academic achievement. Parents will be informed of student- and school-related matters through parent-staff conferences; individualized and/or automated phone calls, emails and text messages; postings on the district or school websites and social media accounts; and/or letters. To ensure that information is provided to parents in a timely manner, please make sure that the school has the most current phone number(s), email address, and mailing address on file. Students and parents may also monitor up-to-date student progress, attendance, and other important information through AERIES, the District's student data system.

Parents may communicate with staff by phone, via email, or in person by appointment. Please note that phone calls will not be transferred to the classroom during instructional time. Any messages sent to staff or left on voicemail will receive a response within a 48-hour period. Messages for students from their parents will only be delivered during instructional time if the matter is of EXTREME emergency or great urgency.

Parents who have concerns regarding student- or school-related matters are asked to take the following steps until they are satisfied with the resolution:

1. Address the concern directly with the student's teacher, or appropriate staff member
2. Bring the concern back to the student's teacher, or appropriate staff member
3. Bring the concern to the attention of the site administrator
4. Refer to the appropriate complaint procedure provided on the District's website at <https://www.madera.k12.ca.us/Page/13865>

### Classroom Observations and Parent-Teacher Conferences

It is important for parents and family members to be involved in, and to support, the education of their students. The following guidelines are for parents who would like to observe their student in the classroom and/or to request a meeting with their student's teacher(s).

#### Classroom Observations

Arrangements for classroom observations must be made with the teacher at least 24 hours in advance – no unannounced visits will be permitted. To minimize interruptions and distractions during instructional time, and to ensure the health and safety of students, classroom observations may not last longer than 20 minutes per visit unless prior agreement has been made with site administration. The teacher or principal may also limit the number of observations that a parent can make.

During a classroom observation, the parent may not interact with any student or the teacher unless the interaction is initiated by the teacher. The principal or designee may be present in the observed setting in order to accommodate follow-up discussion or clarify questions that may arise. A follow-up meeting with the teacher or principal may be scheduled as needed to address any questions or concerns.

On the day of the observation, the parent must follow the rules and procedures for visiting the school campus, including signing in at the front office and providing proof of identification. The use of any electronic listening or recording device in the classroom without the prior consent of the teacher and the principal is prohibited as it disrupts and impairs the teaching process and discipline in the schools. Any person, other than the student, willfully in violation is guilty of a misdemeanor.

#### Parent-Teacher Conferences

There are several scheduled opportunities where parents may speak with teachers and other staff regarding their child's progress in school – such as Back-to-School Night and Open House. However, to schedule a parent-teacher conference outside of those events (whether in-person, virtually, or via the phone), parents must make the arrangements with the teacher by contacting them directly, sending a note with their student to give to the teacher, or leaving a message for the teacher with the main office. Please allow the teacher 48 hours to respond to a request. Parents requiring an interpreter for the meeting should also give the teacher reasonable notice to make the appropriate arrangements with the principal or designee.

Parent-teacher conferences are typically held before or after school to prevent interruptions to instructional time and learning. Parents should not simply show up at the school with the expectation to meet with the teacher, especially on early

release days since teachers are required to attend meetings and engage in professional development activities during that time. In order to make the meeting as productive as possible, it is recommended that siblings do not attend conferences.

## **Volunteers**

Volunteer assistance in schools can enrich the educational program, increase supervision of students, and contribute to school safety while strengthening the schools' relationships with the community. Parents and other members of the community are encouraged to share their time, knowledge, and abilities with students. Volunteers must act in accordance with District policies, regulations, and school rules. Volunteers may not bring siblings and other younger children, who are not enrolled in school, into the classrooms.

In order to volunteer at school, a volunteer must have on file with the school a certificate showing that they have submitted to a tuberculosis risk assessment and, if tuberculosis risk factors were identified, was examined and found to be free of infectious tuberculosis. If a volunteer is to work directly with students while not under the direct supervision of a credentialed employee, they must obtain fingerprint clearance through the Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation. Contact the principal for more information on how to serve as a volunteer at the school.

## **Parent Committees**

Parents are encouraged to become involved in activities at the school and can support the school a number of ways. We have parent clubs, School Site Councils, and English Language Advisory Committees. Please attend a parent club meeting to learn more about involvement. If your child's school does not have a parent club, please contact your child's teacher. Please note that a volunteer that is on campus on a recurring basis requires fingerprinting to be completed.

### Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

The PTA is made up of parents, teachers and other staff members who are interested in enhancing and supporting the educational experience for all stakeholders. It aims to keep parents informed of school and District news, encourage parent and community involvement through activities planned throughout the year, provide volunteers at school-related events, and raise funds through membership dues and fundraising activities for programs and activities that benefit students. Everyone is encouraged to become a PTA member and get involved! For more information, contact the school office.

### School Site Council

The SSC is a decision-making group consisting of the principal, parents, students, teachers, and other staff. Members of the SSC are elected by their peers, and there must be parity in numbers between school members and parent members. The goal of the committee is to develop and approve the school plan and budget, as well as evaluate the effectiveness of the instructional program. Meetings are open to everyone, but only the elected members of the SSC may vote on agenda items. Contact the principal for more information.

### English Language Advisory Committee

Each California public school with 21 or more English learners must form an English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC), and those with 51 or more English learners must form a District English Language Advisory Committee (DELAC).

The ELAC is comprised of elected parents, staff, and community members, and is responsible for the following tasks:

- Advising the principal and staff in the development of a site plan for English learners and submitting the plan to the School Site Council for consideration of inclusion in the School Plan for Student Achievement.
- Assisting in the development of the schoolwide needs assessment.
- Increasing parents' awareness of the importance of regular school attendance.
- Electing at least one member to the DELAC. (Districts with 31 or more ELACs may use a system of proportional or regional representation.)

The DELAC is comprised of elected parent representatives from each school site who advise the Governing Board on at least the following tasks:

- Development of a district master plan for education programs and services for English learners. The district master plan will take into consideration the school site master plans.
- Conducting a district wide needs assessment on a school-by-school basis.
- Establishment of district program, goals, and objectives for programs and services for English learners.
- Development of a plan to ensure compliance with any applicable teacher and/or teacher aide requirements.
- Review and comment on the school district reclassification procedures.
- Review and comment on the written notifications required to be sent to parents.

- If the DELAC acts as the English learner parent advisory committee under EC 52063(b)(1) and 52062(a)(2), review and comment on the development or annual update of the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).

## **Parent Workshops**

The school may provide informational workshops for parents that support student success throughout the year.

## **Title I Parent Involvement Policy**

A written Title I parental involvement policy has been developed with input from parent surveys, school site council, and parent teacher association. The policy, including the School-Parent Compact, is distributed to parents of Title I students through enrollment packets and in this document. The policy describes the means for carrying out the following Title I parental involvement requirements.

### *Involvement of Parents in the Title I Program*

The following practices have been established to involve parents in the Title I program:

- The school convenes an annual meeting to inform parents of Title I students about Title I requirements and about the right of parents to be involved in the Title I program. The Principal gives a presentation on the background of Title I and how the school will use it. (Programs, supplies, technology, parent resources, and staff)
- The school offers a flexible number of meetings for Title I parents, such as meetings in the mornings or evenings. Parents are sent a ConnectEd and a flyer advising them of the different Title I meetings that are available for them to attend. School Site Council meetings are in the evening and ELAC meetings are in the morning.
- The school involves parents of Title I students in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Title I programs and the Title I parental involvement policy. This is a standing item in all of the SSC, ELAC, and Booster Club meetings.
- The school provides parents of Title I students with timely information about Title I programs. Information about Title I programs is provided to parents through ConnectEd messages, letters sent home, during parent meetings (SSC, ELAC, and Booster Club) and during parent teacher conferences.
- The school provides parents of Title I students with an explanation of the curriculum used at the school, the assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. The administration, and teaching staff provide parents this information during Back-to-School Night, Parent/Teacher Conferences, Open house, and in the Parent/Student Handbook. They cover these areas: state and local assessments, state and federal achievement standards, attendance requirements, grading policy, promotion, and retention.
- If requested by parents of Title I students, the school provides opportunities for regular meetings that allow the parents to participate in decisions relating to the education of their children. If a parent requests additional information and input, the school is always ready to accommodate the parent's needs. These meetings can be one-to-one, small groups, or in a large group setting.

The parental involvement policy review is included in the annual review of the Single Plan for Student Achievement. It is updated annually to meet the changing needs of parents and the school. SSC, ELAC, and Booster Club meetings are used to obtain input, review, and approve the school's parent involvement policy.

### *School-Parent Compact*

The school distributes to parents of Title I students a School-Parent Compact. The compact, which has been jointly developed with parents, outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. It describes specific ways the school and families will partner to help children achieve the State's high academic standards. It addresses the following legally required items, as well as other items suggested by parents of Title I students.

- The school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction
- The ways parents will be responsible for supporting their children's learning
- The importance of ongoing communication between parents and teachers through, at a minimum, annual parent-teacher conferences; frequent reports on student progress; access to staff; opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate in their child's class; and opportunities to observe classroom activities

Input from parent surveys, school site council, and parent teacher association were used to give feedback to this policy. The School-Parent Compact, along with the Title I parental involvement policy, is distributed to parents of Title I students through enrollment packets and in this document.

### Building Capacity for Involvement

The school engages Title I parents in meaningful interactions with the school. It supports a partnership among staff, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. To help reach these goals, the school has established the following practices.

- The school provides Title I parents with assistance in understanding the State’s academic content standards, assessments, and how to monitor and improve the achievement of their children. Content standards, assessments and student progress are discussed with parents at Back-to-School Night, Open House, and parent/teacher conferences.
- The school provides materials and training to assist Title I parents in working with their children to improve academic achievement.
- With the assistance of Title I parents, the school educates staff members about the value of parent contributions, and on how to work with parents as equal partners.
- The school coordinates and integrates the Title I parental involvement program with other programs, and conducts other activities, such as parent resource centers, to encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children. Parents are invited to participate in the following educational and informational workshops: Back to School Night, Parent Literacy/Health & Wellness Night, Parent Math Night, Science Fair, Accessing Grades, and various Make and Take Workshops.
- The school distributes information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to Title I parents in a format and language that the parents understand. Information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities are distributed to Title I parents. SSC and ELAC meetings are held regularly throughout the year. Information related to Title 1 and other school programs is shared and input is solicited. Numerous opportunities are provided for parents to learn how to help their children be successful learners. All information shared with parents is provided in English and Spanish. Translators are used as needed for parent/teacher conferences, ELAC and SSC meetings, and IEPs.
- The school provides support for parental involvement activities requested by Title I parents. SSC and ELAC meetings are held 4-5 times throughout the year. Parents are notified in their language via monthly calendar and school flyers. Parents are encouraged to attend meetings and workshops to learn how to assist their children in being successful in school. All information shared with parents is provided in English and Spanish.

### Accessibility

The school provides opportunities for the participation of all Title I parents, including parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory students. Information and school reports are provided in a format and language that parents understand. Parents of the aforementioned groups are invited and encouraged to attend every event the school offers. Monthly calendars, ConnectEd messages, school flyers, marquee postings, and agenda postings are a few of the methods used by the school to extend an invitation to attend. Translators are provided for parent/teacher conferences, SSC and ELAC meetings, SST’s, and IEPs as needed.

### **School-Parent Compact**

It is important that families and schools work together to help students achieve high academic standards. Through a process that includes teachers, families, students and community representatives, the following are agreed upon roles and responsibilities that we as partners will carry out to support student success in school and in life.

#### **STAFF PLEDGE:**

I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability:

- Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction.
- Endeavor to motivate my students to learn.
- Have high expectations and help every child to develop a love of learning.
- Communicate regularly with families about student progress.
- Provide a warm, safe, and caring learning environment.
- Provide meaningful, daily homework assignments to reinforce and extend learning.
- Participate in professional development opportunities that improve teaching and learning and support the formation of partnerships with families and the community.
- Actively participate in collaborative decision-making and consistently work with families and my school colleagues to make schools accessible and welcoming places for families to help each student achieve the school’s academic standards.
- Respect the school, students, staff, and families.

#### STUDENT PLEDGE:

I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability:

- Come to school ready to learn and work hard.
- Bring necessary materials, completed assignments and homework.
- Know and follow school and class rules.
- Ask for help when I need it.
- Communicate regularly with my parents and teachers about school experiences so that they can help me to be successful in school.
- Limit my TV/video game time and instead study or read every day after school.
- Respect my classmates, the school, staff, and families.

#### FAMILY/PARENT PLEDGE:

I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability:

- Provide a quiet time, place for homework, and monitor TV/video game access.
- Read to my child or encourage my child to read every day.
- Communicate with the teacher or the school when I have a concern.
- Ensure that my child attends school every day, gets adequate sleep, regular medical attention, and proper nutrition.
- Regularly monitor my child's progress in school.
- Participate at school in activities such as decision-making, volunteering and or attending school outreach meetings and parent-teacher conferences.
- Communicate the importance of education and learning to my child.
- Respect the school, staff, students, and families.

The School-Student-Parent Compact is distributed through the Parent/Student Handbook issued to every student at the beginning of the school year or at the time of enrollment. The Compact is reviewed and edited at the end of every school year to reflect parent input and revisions.

