

# NEW (and returning) Parents/Caregivers

For more detailed information on these topics and many more, see the **Families tab** on our website.

<https://www.mhasd.k12.wi.us/schools/middle/>



## The Truth about Houses at MHMS

As you may be aware, students at Mount Horeb Middle School are assigned to an academic **interdisciplinary house**. Our social studies, science, language arts, and math teachers meet several times a week to plan instruction, as well as special events/activities. Teachers also handle student/family issues collectively for their team/house of students. This is one way of making our school feel a little smaller for students and parents alike.

Like anything, there may be some misconceptions about our housing structure:

- ✓ It doesn't matter if your child is in the Tree, Club, Light, Harbor, Discovery, or Adventure House; the designation has nothing to do with a student's ability. Students are **NOT** placed in a house by academic ability. Actually, with few exceptions, students are placed in classes through the use of Infinite Campus.
- ✓ Teachers all teach the same curriculum, no matter which house they're in. It's the same course with the same outcomes for all students no matter which house or teacher your student has... and yes, all of our teachers are **great** - no matter which house they're in!
- ✓ Some Houses may do different activities than others, but school operations and expectations are the same for everyone.

## Google Classroom

What is included: Class notes, slides, assigned work, due dates, class announcements, etc.

## Infinite Campus

Infinite Campus is a tool that will help your child and you keep up with what's happening in his/her classes, as well as how things look in the gradebook. More information as well as secure login information will head your way early in the fall, so keep an eye out! The parent portal login can be found [here](#).

**Attendance:** If your child will be absent from school or needs to leave early, simply call the Main Office at 608.437.7306

**Personal Communication Devices:** In an effort to increase student engagement and address the growing student mental-health needs the use of personal communication devices and headphones are not allowed during instructional times at the middle and high school. More information can be found under the Families tab - newsletters on our website.

## Newsletters/Student Services :

Middle school-aged children go through dramatic changes and desperately need their parents' support. Our newsletters, as well as student services team members, help families:

- build respect, responsibility, empathy, and more
- support homework and study skills
- stay involved—middle-school style
- set age-appropriate rules and expectations
- promote health and safety
- emphasize the importance of education

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to us directly if you have any questions. 608.437.7306

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# School Lunch Deposits & Balances

If your child needs to add money to his/he/their lunch account:

- Checks and money can be deposited in the Main Office. Please contact the School Nutrition Program with any lunch questions from the website <https://www.mhasd.k12.wi.us/domain/37>
- Credit card payments and all other lunch program information can be found on the School Nutrition Program web page linked from our website. <https://www.mhasd.k12.wi.us/domain/13>
- Breakfast is available from 7:45-8:00. Breakfast includes three to four items and one must be a fruit or vegetable. Breakfast is free if a student qualifies for free or reduced meals. A la carte items are also available for purchase at this time. If you do not want your child to make a la carte purchases at breakfast, please contact us to put a limit on their account.
- Students in middle school and high school are allowed to make a la carte purchases during lunch. They may purchase extra portions of the main entree for \$2.10, PBJ Uncrustables for \$1.25, or extra milk for \$0.40. Additionally, we may have other items available for purchase. If you do not want your child to make these purchases, or would like to limit them, please contact Michelle Denk. Students will not be denied lunch, but they can be denied a la carte purchases if they do not have money in their account.
- If you feel like you may qualify for free or reduced price lunches, please be sure to apply. You can find the applications [on our website](#).

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**MISSION (OUR WHY):** Our mission is to ensure high levels of academic and social/emotional learning for all Mount Horeb Middle School students and staff.

**VISION (OUR WHAT):** The preparation and practices of our middle school reflect our commitment to successfully develop students' skills for high school.

**COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS (OUR HOW):** In an effort to reach our mission, we as a middle school aspire towards a culture of learning, a positive climate, collaborative professional learning communities, the social/emotional development of students, and relationships with middle school families through the following collective commitments:

- Culture of Learning
  - We will hold high academic and behavioral expectations for all students.
  - We will explicitly teach a challenging and developmentally appropriate curriculum, where we address student needs and focus on learning.
  - We will explicitly teach students to make responsible, respectful, and ready decisions for their learning and behaviors.
  - We will provide a wide variety of educational opportunities and experiences to support the development of well-rounded individuals.
- Positive climate
  - We will come to school each day with a positive mindset.
  - We will foster positive relationships with students and each other.
  - We will share and acknowledge our successes, and those of our students.
- PLC model around collaboration
  - We will work collaboratively to grow as professionals.
  - We will create and administer common assessments as teams, and use the results to improve our individual and collective practices.
  - We will monitor student achievement, through the use of data, to drive instruction and develop interventions.
  - We will use data to learn, not to judge.
- Social/Emotional development of students
  - We will honor the whole child by treating them with respect and care, and attend to their social/emotional needs.
  - We will address the cultural, linguistic, artistic, and physical needs of our students.
  - We will help students learn strategies to cope with the stressors of middle school.
- Relationships with families
  - We will listen to the concerns of our students' families, address their needs to the best extent possible, and make them feel welcome in the middle school.
  - We will provide parents and guardians with resources, strategies, and information to help all students find success in middle school.