

Mount Pleasant Elementary
Parent and Student Handbook
2021-2022



Mount Pleasant Elementary School
8555 North Drive
Mount Pleasant, NC 28124

Principal: Rick Money
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Webpage: <https://www.cabarrus.k12.nc.us/Domain/16>

Mount Pleasant Elementary Mission Statement

The mission of Mt. Pleasant Elementary is to develop respectful and responsible life-long learners with the partnership of parents and community.

Mount Pleasant Elementary Core Values

We value these things about children:

- They are eager to learn.
- They welcome diversity.
- Their feelings about being safe, feeling welcomed, and their own feelings that they can learn are to be encouraged.
- They should be treated with respect and treat others with respect.
- They all can and will learn.

We value these things about parents:

- They love and want the best for their children.
- Their input regarding their children is important.
- Their academic and behavioral support is important.
- Their presence and participation is welcome and beneficial.

We value these things about school staff:

- They care for children.
- They care for one another.
- They are dedicated.
- They are professional.
- They are energetic.
- They are life-long learners.
- They are supportive of the school.

We value cooperation between students, staff, parents, the community, and grade levels.

We value student and staff attitudes that are positive, respectful, caring, and fun.

We value building trusting relationships between all members of the school community.

Daily Schedule

7:45 a.m. Students begin arriving

8:00 a.m. Students begin reporting to classrooms

8:15 a.m. Tardy Bell-instructional day begins

3:00 p.m. School dismissal

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are valuable both to the parent and the teacher. It is an effective method of monitoring student progress. Individual parent-teacher conferences are held for students in all grade levels at the end of the first grading period. Parents or teachers may request additional conferences. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher at any time for a conference.

Attendance

- It is important that your child attend school each day unless the child has a contagious disease or is otherwise too sick to attend. The state Compulsory Attendance Law (G.S. 115-116) requires that all children between the ages of seven (7) and sixteen (16) years of age attend school.
- It is important that parents establish good patterns of school attendance for their children. Regular attendance is crucial for a beneficial school experience. Please do not keep your child at home unnecessarily.
- Excused absences for Educational Opportunities, such as family vacations or trips, must be obtained from the principal **prior** to the vacation. No more than 5 days can be approved for Educational Opportunities each school year.
- When a student must miss school, a written excuse or absence excuse form on our school web page from a parent or guardian must be presented to the teacher within two school days of the student's return after an absence or the absence will be coded as unexcused. Written excuses submitted beyond two school days will be subject to principal approval.
- A child must be present at least one-half of the school day to be recorded present for that day.

Attendance Interventions

Five Absences	Teacher Phone Call or Letter
Six Unexcused Absences	Letter from School
Ten Lawful Absences	Letter from School
Ten Unlawful Absences	Conference with Principal and School Social Worker
Fifteen Absences	Letter or Call from School
Twenty Absences	Retention Conference with Principal, Teacher, and School Social Worker

Tardy and Early Check-out

- Cabarrus County Schools has a policy regarding tardiness and early check-outs. A student is considered tardy when he/she is not in his/her classroom when the final tardy bell rings (8:15 a.m. at MPES) the only exception to this is those students who ride a bus that is late. Parents will receive a Connect-Ed. call with each instance of late arrival. If a student has missed more than 4 hours of instructional time due to tardies he/she will not be eligible for perfect attendance. When a student has 10 tardies, you will be contacted by administration. Upon the 12th tardy, a referral for school social work/counseling services will be made.
- Beginning August 2019, CCS has established a new policy regarding tardies. A student will be given one (1) unexcused absence when the student has accumulated a combined total of five unexcused tardies (example: 3 late check-ins + 2 early check outs will count as one unexcused absence).
- Parents must sign out a child in the office before he/she leaves school early during the school day. A valid driver's license is required to check out a child. Students should not be checked out between 2:30 and 3:00 pm.
- Parents should not go to the classroom to pick up a child. Students will be called to the office when they are checked out.

Report Cards

- Report cards will be given out several days after the end of each grading period.
- No report cards will be given out before half of the day on the last day of school.

MPES PTO

- The Mount Pleasant Parent Teacher Organization exists to promote the education and welfare of our children. Parents are encouraged to join and participate in the activities of the PTO. Please contact the school for more information or go to the MPES PTO webpage at: <https://www.cabarrus.k12.nc.us/domain/1177>

Retention

- A parent-teacher conference will be held to inform parents of unsatisfactory performance by the end of February. The principal will be informed of the conference.
- A second parent-teacher conference will be held by the end of school to discuss retention of children who the teacher feels should be retained.
- If there is a disagreement at the conclusion of this parent-teacher conference, there will be a parent-teacher-principal conference to make a final decision. The final decision for promotion or retention is, by law, the responsibility of the principal.
- Parents will be notified of the decision by the end of school.

Student Behavior

- Students are expected to abide by all student rules and policies of both Mt. Pleasant Elementary School and the Cabarrus County Board of Education. Copies of policies are sent home to all parents at the beginning of the school year. Teaching respect, responsibility, perseverance, and integrity along with good behavior is part of our job as educators and caretakers of children. Our school-wide character education and discipline plans are designed to teach students to become successful at managing their own behavior.

Students at MPES ROAR:

- * Respect
- * Obedience
- * Awesome Attitude
- * Responsibility

Parent Involvement in School Discipline

- Parents are notified daily of their child's behavior through the child's ROAR (behavior) card. We ask that the ROAR card be signed nightly to establish prompt and effective communication. Communication between parents and the school is important in helping students learn to manage themselves. Parents need to be involved and will be kept informed of special strategies and interventions necessary in teaching good behavior to their child.

School Bus Conduct and Safety

- School bus passengers have the same responsibility for good behavior on the bus as they do in the classroom. School bus rules are for the safety of our children. The bus driver, subject to the direction of the principal and the bus supervisor, has complete authority to maintain good order and good conduct on the bus (G.S. 115-185). Students receive a copy of school/activity bus conduct safety rules and responsibilities. Riding the bus is a privilege. Improper conduct on the bus will result in that privilege being denied. Please always talk to your children about maintaining good behavior and staying in their assigned seats.

- Parents are not to step onto school buses at any time. Conferences with bus drivers should be scheduled and they should occur at school.

- Children can only ride a school bus on which they have an assigned seat.

Cabarrus County Schools Bullying Policy

- Bullying and/or harassing are strictly prohibited. The repeated pattern of intimidation may be real or threatened. There are 3 types of bullying: physical, emotional, and relational. Bullying may include, but is not limited to verbal taunts, name-calling, implied or stated threats, and exclusion from peer groups. Bullying can occur in person, or through social networking sites, texting, blogging, and the Internet. Students who feel bullied, harassed or intimidated at school by an adult or another student should report the concern to a teacher, administrator or other staff member at school. Bullying and Harassment Reporting Forms are available on the CCS website and from a school counselor at school.

PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND BULLYING *Policy*

Code: 1710/4021/7230

STUDENT USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES, BLOGGING, AND THE

INTERNET *Policy Code: 4312*

DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND BULLYING COMPLAINT PROCEDURE *Policy*

Code: 1720/4015/7225

Parent Drive/Cochran Way

- We encourage all parents to allow their students to ride the bus at Mount Pleasant Elementary School. If parents must bring or pick up students in private vehicles, it is imperative that they use Parent Drive. Only buses are allowed in the bus parking lot (located in front of the school) during morning and afternoon drop off/pick up times. Drop off/pick up times are 7:45 am-8:15 am and

2:45 pm-3:15 pm. Adult supervision will be provided each morning and afternoon to ensure the safety of your children. In the afternoons, if you must pick your child up on Parent Drive, you will not be able to line up on school property or North Drive until 2:45 pm. When 2:45 pm arrives, parents will be allowed on school property and will wait on Parent Drive until 3:00 pm. Parents are not allowed to park and walk up to Parent Drive and ask for their children. If your child is on Parent Drive, you must wait in the Parent Drive line to pick them up. At no point in time are parents allowed to pass on the double yellow line on North Drive to enter the school. If Parent Drive does back up onto North Drive and you need to enter the school, please use Pine Street (located in the neighborhood directly across from Parent Drive) so that no traffic laws are violated. Please remember that no tobacco and/or smoking are allowed on campus even when dropping off/picking up your children on Parent Drive. Please help us by following this policy to ensure that all staff and children are safe.

Parent Transportation Reminders

- Daily/Temporary change in normal afternoon transportation plans will only be accepted in the following two ways:

1. Complete Online Afternoon Transportation Change Form – the form is located under Quick Links on the MPES homepage.
2. Send a written note to the teacher the morning of the change.

Students on Parent Drive should be picked up by 3:15 pm.

Early Arrivals at School

- Children who arrive between 7:45 am and 8:00 am should go to their designated area. They remain there until the first bell rings and they will then go directly to their classroom. Students are not allowed to arrive before 7:45 am unless they are enrolled in the Kids Plus Program.

Early Dismissal for Inclement Weather

- In case of early dismissal, your child will be transported in the usual manner to the same location unless otherwise instructed.
- It is recommended that parents listen to the radio or TV for current information rather than calling school officials.
- Cabarrus County Schools will send a Connect-Ed telephone call to inform parents of any early dismissal.

Releasing Children to Parents

- A child must be released by the school to either parent unless legal papers have been presented to the principal showing otherwise. This applies even if a child is living with only one parent. If you have custody of your child and do not wish him/her to be taken from school by his/her other parent(s), you must present your legal papers to the principal. Please review your legal papers on file in the office at the beginning of each school year to make sure they reflect the most recent court decision.

Lunch

- Balanced lunches are served daily in the cafeteria. Occasionally these menus have to be changed because of late deliveries or snow days. However, most of them are served as listed.
- Parents are invited to join their children for lunch any day.
- Because of the limited amount of time we have for breakfast and lunch, students will not be

allowed to heat any items they bring for breakfast and lunch.

- Due to Cabarrus County Schools Nutritional Guidelines, fast food cannot be brought into our school cafeteria in its original bags, cups, and wrappers. If fast food items are brought in the original containers, you will need to eat with your child in another area of the school. We request that you purchase food from our school cafeteria when you come to eat with your child.
- Charges over \$5.00 will result in students receiving a sandwich and milk for lunch.

For the 2021-22 School Year, all students we receive a free lunch option.

Breakfast

- All students who wish to eat breakfast are to report directly to the cafeteria upon arrival at school. If their bus is late, the children will be served.
- If school is delayed an hour or more due to weather conditions, breakfast will not be served.
- The cafeteria will stop serving breakfast five minutes prior to the tardy bell. If your child is dropped off at Parent Drive and intends to eat breakfast, please make sure they are at school early enough to have time to eat.

For the 2021-22 School Year, all students will receive a free breakfast option.

Applications for Free or Reduced-Price Meals

- Free or reduced-price meal applications are located on the Cabarrus County Schools webpage at <https://www.cabarrus.k12.nc.us/Page/24426> . If you want to apply for free or reduced-price meals, please complete the application as soon as possible. (1 per family)
- If a family's financial situation changes during the school year, an application may be submitted as the need arises.

Asbestos

- In compliance with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), MPES was inspected in the fall of 1988 for asbestos-containing building materials. Additionally, asbestos materials in MPES are re-inspected every six months to determine the condition and potential of disturbance. The asbestos materials in the school are in good condition and will continue to be managed in place. Results of the initial inspection and re-inspections are on file in the school administrative office. Everyone is welcome to view these anytime during normal school hours.

Birthdays, Balloons, Gifts

- Administrative Guidelines strongly discourage the delivery of balloons, gifts, flowers, etc. to school. No items will be delivered to students during the school day.
- Birthdays may be recognized by the family sending a small store-bought food item (cookie, cupcake, etc.) for each member of the class. No products containing peanuts, peanut butter, or any other nuts can be distributed to students. These items will usually be distributed at lunch to the entire class.
- Administrative guidelines prohibit children or parents from bringing invitations to parties, etc. to hand out at school.

Food Policy for Student Parties or Treats

- All foods provided for students are to be pre-wrapped or packaged. These foods may come from a supermarket, bakery, or caterer. Homemade items are not allowed for student consumption. This precautionary guideline assures the school staff that foods are sanitary. It also provides school personnel with a contents label to protect students with specific food allergies and/or diabetes. Additionally, no products containing peanuts, peanut butter, or other nuts should be distributed to students or used in craft-making activities.

Clubs

- Student-initiated “clubs,” such as a fashion club, cheer club, or sport club, are not allowed at school. Any “club” which has certain members and excludes others is a form of bullying and goes against our anti-bullying policy.

Dress Code

What to Wear:

- * Skirts and shorts no more than three inches above the knee
- * Shirts and blouses that cover the student’s midriff. No plunging necklines or exposed cleavage.
- * Straps must be the width of the student’s ID card.
- * Pants fitted at the waist
- * Shoes or sandals (no bedroom slippers).

What Not to Wear:

- * Tank tops, muscle, mesh, or see-through shirts or blouses
- * Clothing advocating drug, alcohol, or tobacco use.
- * Clothing with inappropriate or suggestive language
- * Clothing that discriminates against particular groups.
- * Excessive tight or baggy clothing
- * Clothing with rips, tears, or holes more than three inches above the knee
- * Bedroom slippers or pajamas
- * Excessively long or oversized shirts, coats, or jackets
- * Sunglasses, hats, caps, stocking caps, toboggans, bandannas, headbands, or any other headgear while in the school building
- * Any apparel or accessories that depict gang affiliation
- * Excessive face painting

The Cabarrus County Board of Education specifies that each student must come to school appropriately dressed in clothing that is not disruptive to the educational process and does not endanger the health and safety of others.

Fidget Spinners

- Fidget spinners, fidget cubes, and similar items are not allowed at school unless there is a medical or behavioral necessity. Permission to use these items at school must be obtained from the Principal by a student’s parents or guardian. All approvals will be reviewed after a two-week period to make sure they are being used as appropriate.

Field Trips

- All grade levels have planned field trips that are educational and appropriate for the age of the child. School buses and activity buses are used for these trips. Children will not be transported in private vehicles on field trips.
- Costs for field trips are kept to a minimum. Lunches for field trips may be brought from home or provided by the cafeteria at the regular cost.

Kids Plus Day Care

- The Kids Plus Day Care Center is organized and operated by Cabarrus County Schools.
- The purpose of the program is to provide before and after school childcare for children in grades K-5 who are enrolled in Cabarrus County Schools. The Kids Plus Program consists of supervised enrichment and recreational activities suitable to the children's age group.
- During the regular school year, Kids Plus operates each school day, beginning on the first day of school and ending on the last day of school, from the time school is dismissed until 6:00 p.m. Before school care is offered from 6:20 a.m. until the start of school.
- For further information or for information about charges, contact the Mt. Pleasant Elementary School Kids Plus Office at 704 260-6227 or the main Cabarrus County Schools Kids Plus office at 704-260-5820.

Money at School

- It is requested that children not bring money to school in excess of what they will need for lunches, ice cream, etc. Lunch and breakfast money may be paid weekly or monthly to the cafeteria or on-line. Parents of kindergarten students are requested to put lunch money, fees, etc. in an envelope with the child's name, the amount of money enclosed, and what the money is for written on the outside. Students will not be given change in the cafeteria without a written note from their parent.

Non-Discrimination Notice

- Cabarrus County Schools provides equal access and does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies: 504 Coordinator – Nancy Jones, 704-262-6106, Nancy.Jones@Cabarrus.k12.nc.us/Title IX Coordinator – Brian Schultz, 704-260-5609, Brian.Schultz@Cabarrus.k12.nc.us
- If anyone needs a reasonable accommodation or requires any written materials to be printed in an alternate format, please contact Rick Money at Mt. Pleasant Elementary School within 48 hours of the event.
- Inquiries regarding compliance with this policy should be directed to the principal.

Parties at School

- Classes are allowed to have two (2) parties a year at school. All parties where food is served need to take place after the school cafeteria has stopped serving for the day. Due to safety concerns, transportation costs, and time restrictions, all parties are restricted to school grounds.

Personal Selling and Fundraising

- Selling and fund-raising activities at school are limited. Sale of items by children for any organization or individual outside the school is prohibited during the school day. Students are not allowed to buy from or sell items to other students at school for personal gain.

Playground Safety

- The playground areas at Mt. Pleasant Elementary School are unsupervised after school hours. Do not allow children to return to playground areas without adult supervision. Please report any existing playground safety concerns to the school office.

School Technology Usage

**Students will begin the 2021-2022 school year with an assigned CCS Chromebook. When receiving a CCS Chromebook device, families agree to the terms of the CCS Equipment Agreement Form. Families will receive a copy of this form when picking up their device **

- Mt. Pleasant Elementary School is fortunate to have multiple technology devices in all educational areas. Student expectations and consequences for device usage are:

1. I understand that the use of technology resources (ex: Chromebooks, laptops, desktops, SMART Boards, TVs and Internet) is a privilege and not a right.
2. I will use school computers in ways that are appropriate and educational.
3. I will not use technology to make mean, hurtful or derogatory comments about/towards others.
4. I will report any inappropriate activity or content that shows up on my computer to my teacher immediately.
5. I will not disassemble any part of any computer or remove labels.
6. I will carry my assigned device with two hands, while walking carefully.
7. I will keep food and beverages away from any computers because they may cause damage to the technology.

- Expected wear and tear will be the responsibility of the school; however, parents could be held liable for any intentional damage to the student's assigned device as reported by an adult. (Ex: Throwing device, picking keys off of the keyboard, screen breakage due to mishandling, rough handling of equipment resulting in damage.) Consequences for damage may include loss of technology privileges, school discipline, and/or restitution to pay for damages or a new device. Using a computer for noneducational purposes during instructional time is considered off-task behavior. Consequences are at the discretion of the teacher. Unlawful computer usage includes, but is not limited to threats, cyber bullying, accessing social media sites where the minimum age limit is 13 and/or logging into other students' accounts. These consequences are at the discretion of the administrators. Incidents of cyber bullying will be referred to administration.

Spirit Rock Guidelines

- We have a Spirit Rock on the campus of Mt. Pleasant Elementary School. While we DO not organize the use of the Spirit Rock, we are asking all of our families to follow several general guidelines.

1. No offensive or inflammatory words or paintings.

2. No Spirit Rock painting during school hours – 7:45 am-3:30 pm.
3. There are two rock faces that can be clearly seen from the road. Please just use one of these two faces to allow someone else to use the other face.
4. Do not paint the rock more than one week before the event you are recognizing.
5. Include the date of the event you are recognizing.
6. Do not paint over someone else’s message until the date of their message has passed.

Toys and Personal Items

- Students are asked not to bring toys to school except for special activities planned by the teacher (such as Show-and-Tell or class projects). Students are not allowed to swap toys or other personal items at school. Students are not to bring toy guns or toy knives to school.

Visitors

- Parents are welcome to visit the school and are encouraged to do so. Visitors are required to present a valid driver’s license, sign in at the office, and get a visitor’s pass.
- Siblings or friends of MPES students who are not enrolled at MPES are not allowed to visit during the school day without parental supervision.

Volunteers

- School volunteers are an important source of assistance to teachers and our school program. If you have expertise in areas that would be of interest to teachers and students or if you would just like to volunteer your time, please contact the school at 704-260-6210. Volunteers are required to sign in at the office with a valid driver’s license and get a badge to wear while at school. Regular volunteers are required to undergo a criminal background check.

Student Health

**During the 2021-2022 School Year, families will adhere to the Cabarrus County Health Alliance guidelines on checking their child for COVID 19 symptoms before sending their child to school. **

- The Cabarrus Health Alliance works closely with the public schools. A public health nurse is at our school daily. The nurse sees individual children as they are referred by the teachers. Regular health programs include:

1. Vision screening
2. Dental health services
3. Hearing screening

- The spread of contagious diseases, such as colds, viruses, sore throats and other common childhood diseases is a problem at school. Parents are asked to keep children at home when they have symptoms of contagious illnesses such as sore throats, fever (temperature of 100.4 or higher), upset stomach, chicken pox, fifth’s disease, etc. Please contact the school if your child has been diagnosed with chicken pox or fifth’s disease, as these conditions can cause possible complications for pregnant staff members.

- Parents will be contacted in case of illness or injury. Sick children should be picked up within

one hour. It is very important that we have current information in the office concerning how parents can be contacted during the day. Please notify our Data Manager and your child's teacher immediately of changes in address, telephone numbers, or employment.

- Parents should notify the principal/ school nurse if their child is subject to unusual health hazards, such as allergy to bee stings, food allergies, and/or requires special medical interventions (asthma, diabetes, etc.).

- All information provided to the principal and school nurse regarding the student's medical condition shall be protected as confidential medical information and shall be provided to other school personnel only on a need to know basis as determined by the principal and school nurse.

- The following guidelines governing the administering of medication to children are based on NC law and policies of the Cabarrus County Board of Education. If a child must have medication of any type during school hours, parents have the following choices:

1. Parents may come to the school and give the medication at the appropriate time(s).
2. Parents may request that the school nurse administer medication. However, the following guidelines must be followed for any prescription or nonprescription medicines to be given to students by the school nurse:
 - a. Have your physician complete the medical form ("Medication Authorization for Students") and bring the form to school. A copy of this form may be obtained from the nurse. Also, the "Parent Authorization" section of this form must be signed and dated by the parents.
 - b. Prescription medicines must be brought to school by a parent and given to the nurse in a pharmacy labeled bottle.
 - c. Over the counter drugs must be brought to school in the original container.
 - d. Both of the above must be labeled with instructions on how and when the medication is to be given and labeled with the child's name. The over the counter medication will be administered according to the doctor's written instructions.
 - e. At the conclusion of a student's treatment, the unused medication must be removed from the school by the parent.
 - f. Parents may want to discuss with their child's doctor an alternative schedule for administering medication (ex. outside of school hours).

* Mount Pleasant Elementary School prefers students to not self-administer medication. Parents wishing their child to self-medicate should contact the school nurse to make sure all appropriate procedures are followed.

- The following procedures are used at Mount Pleasant Elementary regarding lice and nits:

1. If a child is found to have lice, parents will be asked to take the child home for treatment and show "proof" of treatment (box or bottle of lice treatment) before returning to school.
2. The maximum number of excused days for lice treatment will be two. (First day is treatment; second day is work on freeing the hair of nits and treating the home environment). Follow all instructions on the "14 Day Check List to Stop Head Lice" (given to you by the school nurse).
3. A shampoo or rinse specifically for the treatment of lice must be used.

4. If nits or lice are found while the child is home, parents should notify the school. This will help the school in locating a possible source of the problem. Names will be held in confidence.
5. Spot checks may be made at any time school staff find evidence of the need to check a child's head for lice.
6. With any occurrence of lice or nits, an inspection will be required from the school nurse, a school staff member, or your child's doctor stating the student is lice free and may return to school. Students cannot use school transportation until declared to be lice free.

CCS Multi-Tiered System of Support

- North Carolina is implementing an MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) framework that promotes school improvement through academic, behavioral, and social emotional practices to ensure growth and success for all students.

- In Cabarrus County Schools, we believe that all children are able to grow and learn in classrooms that foster understanding and provide effective instruction tailored to meet the needs of each learner. Our mission is to improve schools through a systematic, data-driven, problem-solving approach.

- The use of a multi-tiered framework for academics, behavior and social emotional needs helps to foster student engagement, positive social interactions, and academic achievement for all students. Effective implementation of MTSS requires school staff to review and analyze available sources of data to support increased student performance and school success. Your child may receive the following screenings as well as a review of their academic, behavioral, and social emotional progress:

Report Cards/Transcripts	Classroom Observations
Behavioral Screenings	Review of Records
Health Screenings (vision, motor, hearing, speech)	Parent/Guardian Conferences
Student Conferences	Office Discipline Referrals
Attendance Records	Mastery Connect
DIBELS Next	i-Ready Diagnostic
Istation Diagnostic	End of Grade Test Scores

- Your knowledge of your child's strengths and needs is so important to us; therefore, your continued collaboration and support is essential to his/her success. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.