

**Mount Pleasant Middle School  
2022-2023 Student and Parent Handbook**



**“Engaging Minds, Shaping Leaders”**

This Agenda Belongs To

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Period</b>	<b>First Semester</b>	<b>Second Semester</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>		
2 <sup>nd</sup>		
3 <sup>rd</sup>		
4 <sup>th</sup>		
5 <sup>th</sup>		
6 <sup>th</sup>		

Mount Pleasant Middle School General Information  
 Address: 466 Walker Road, Mount Pleasant, NC 28124  
 Phone Number: 704-260-6530 / Fax Number: 704-260-6549  
 Web Address: [www.cabarrus.k12.nc.us/mpms](http://www.cabarrus.k12.nc.us/mpms)

Mascot: Tigers	School Colors: Royal Blue and Vegas Gold		
Principal:	Richard Money	<a href="mailto:Richard.money@cabarrus.k12.nc.us">Richard.money@cabarrus.k12.nc.us</a>	704-260-6531
Assistant Principal:	Andy Maness	<a href="mailto:John.maness@cabarrus.k12.nc.us">John.maness@cabarrus.k12.nc.us</a>	704-260-6533
Assistant Principal:	Logan Barrier	<a href="mailto:Logan.barrier@cabarrus.k12.nc.us">Logan.barrier@cabarrus.k12.nc.us</a>	704-260-6532
MTSS Coach:	Misty Little	<a href="mailto:Misty.little@cabarrus.k12.nc.us">Misty.little@cabarrus.k12.nc.us</a>	704-260-6530
Athletic Director:	Christopher Shinn	<a href="mailto:Christopher.shinn@cabarrus.k12.nc.us">Christopher.shinn@cabarrus.k12.nc.us</a>	704-260-6609
School Resource Officer:	Deputy Thousand	<a href="mailto:Adthousand@cabarruscounty.us">Adthousand@cabarruscounty.us</a>	704-260-6530
School Nurse:	Kristin Benjamin	<a href="mailto:Kristin.benjamin@cabarrus.k12.nc.us">Kristin.benjamin@cabarrus.k12.nc.us</a>	704-260-6546
Cafeteria Manager:	Linda Earl	<a href="mailto:Linda.earl@cabarrus.k12.nc.us">Linda.earl@cabarrus.k12.nc.us</a>	704-260-6548
Technology Facilitator	Jan Holshouser	<a href="mailto:Janice.holshouser@cabarrus.k12.nc.us">Janice.holshouser@cabarrus.k12.nc.us</a>	
School Treasurer:	Shannon Huneycutt	<a href="mailto:Shannon.huneycutt@cabarrus.k12.nc.us">Shannon.huneycutt@cabarrus.k12.nc.us</a>	704-260-6536
Data Manager/Attendance:	Melinda Helmintoller	<a href="mailto:Melinda.helmintoller@cabarrus.k12.nc.us">Melinda.helmintoller@cabarrus.k12.nc.us</a>	704-260-6537
Media Specialist:	Caitlin Sirse	<a href="mailto:Caitlin.sirse@cabarrus.k12.nc.us">Caitlin.sirse@cabarrus.k12.nc.us</a>	704-260-6502

**School Hours**

Drop Off: 8:30 A.M.                      Homeroom: 9:00 A.M.                      Dismissal: 4:00 P.M.  
 Students may not be picked up between 3:40 P.M. and 4:00 P.M.

**Principal’s Message**

Welcome to Mount Pleasant Middle School! We are happy to have you as part of our family and look forward to a successful year. We have many exciting things going on at MPMS and hope you will become involved in as many activities as possible. Please read over the information in this student handbook and discuss it with your parents. It is essential that you know the details of this handbook in order to understand the rules and procedures at Mount Pleasant Middle School.

This agenda is an excellent tool to help you organize yourself. You can write down your homework assignments, use the calendar to remind you of assignment due dates and tests, write down friends’ phone numbers in the address book, keep track of your grades, and read through the numerous other resources this agenda contains. It is our belief that if you use this agenda as your planner it will serve as a great resource for you and will help you become a more successful student. We want you to have a wonderful year at Mount Pleasant Middle School! – Rick Money, MPMS Principal

**Our School Vision:** To prepare students for success and leadership in a changing world

**Our School Mission:** To empower students to build fulfilling futures

**Attendance, Check-In, and Check-Out**

Good attendance is critical for success in school. All absences will be coded unexcused unless a written note from the parent/guardian is received within 48 hours. Excuse notes may be turned into the front office or through electronic submission on the MPMS website. State law allows absences to be excused for the following reason: illness or injury, quarantine, death in the immediate family, medical or dental appointments, court or administrative proceedings, religious observance, or educational opportunity. All

other absences are coded as unexcused. Educational opportunities must be approved by administration before the educational absence. Please obtain a form from the office or via the MPMS website. Absences for personal trips are not excused according to state guidelines. If a student reaches six unexcused absences, an attendance letter will be sent home from school administration. If a student reaches ten unexcused absences, a 10-day conference will be held with the parent, administration, and the School Social Worker.

In order to be recorded present, a student must be in attendance at least one-half day. The half-day point is 12:30 p.m. Students who miss 20 days during the school year may receive no credit and may be retained or required to participate in some form of remediation. Students who have 10 absences must provide a doctor's note for each additional absence.

Parents needing to check-in or check-out their student during the school day must report to the office with their ID. Students will be called to the office after the parent has arrived for check-out. No check-outs will be allowed after 3:40 p.m. Check-outs accumulate on a quarterly basis and start over each nine weeks. In order for a check-out due to illness or injury to be excused, a doctor's note should be submitted from the medical/dental facility within 48 hours of returning to school. Notes should be given to the homeroom teacher the following day. Students will receive warnings for the first two unexcused check-outs each quarter. Students receiving a third or fourth unexcused check-out within a given quarter will be assigned after school detention. Further unexcused check-outs will result in an administrative referral and assigned in-school suspension.

### **Tardies**

Promptness is very important at MPMS. Students who are tardy are unable to enter homeroom without a pass. Students who are late to school (after 9:00 a.m.) should report directly to the main office and provide a written note from a parent or guardian. In order for a tardy due to illness or injury to be excused, a doctor's note should be submitted from the medical/dental facility within 48 hours of returning to school. This is a county policy.

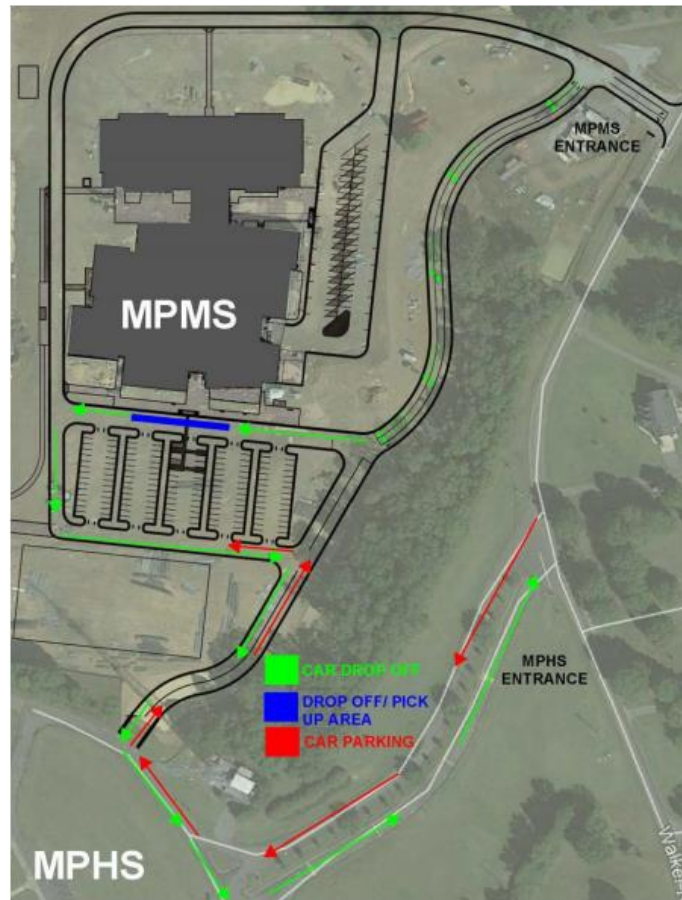
It is essential that students report to class on time. Students will receive the following consequences for being tardy to class:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Tardy: Warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tardy: Parent Contact
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tardy: After School Detention
- 4<sup>th</sup> Tardy: Referral to Administration
- 5<sup>th</sup> Tardy: Administrative Decision

### **MPMS Morning and Afternoon Car Rider Instructions**

**Morning Drop Off:** Mt. Pleasant Middle doors will open every school day morning at 8:30 A.M. Therefore, car riders should not be dropped off prior to 8:30 A.M. All cars must enter our school at the 466 Walker Rd. entrance. Cars will not be permitted to enter at the high school access road. Follow the appropriate flow of the arrows on the map below. Please drop your student off only in the designated drop off zone area. All adults and students should cross parent drive only at the designated cross walk. Be sure to follow all directions by school personnel. And, as always, yield to all pedestrians crossing the road.

**Afternoon Pick Up:** Our school dismisses at 4:00 P.M. Students are not permitted to be picked up at school from 3:40 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Please follow the same traffic pattern as the morning drop off. Cars may be doubled stacked in the car rider pick up line as needed. We will only use triple stack for special days or events and as directed by School Resource Officer. You may enter through the Mt. Pleasant High entrance and park in the lot and wait for you child. Parents are not permitted to use the service road access around the back of the school. Students will only be allowed to enter 4 cars in the designated student Drop Off/ Pick up zone area. All cars will exit by the Mt. Pleasant High School exit. Be sure to follow all directions by school personnel. And, as always, yield to all pedestrians crossing the road. All car riders should be picked up by 4:15 P.M.



### **Educational Opportunity**

When it is demonstrated that the purpose of an absence is to take advantage of a valid educational opportunity, the absence(s) may be considered valid/lawful. Approval for such an absence(s), however, must be granted by the principal prior to the absence(s). An Educational Opportunity form must be completed and submitted to the principal and approval notification returned to the student prior to the absence for the absences to be considered as valid/lawful. Students must submit a written educational opportunity journal summarizing the educational experiences and what they learned to the principal upon their return. It is recommended that requests be turned in as early as possible to ensure adequate time for processing and return notification which must occur prior to the absence. Students can be excused for up to five (5) school days per school year for approved educational opportunities.

## **MAKE-UP WORK**

When a student is absent for any reason, the responsibility for completing all make-up work rests with the student. Students are encouraged to check with their teacher for missed assignments. Parents without access to the Internet can request make-up work by calling the main office in order to pick up a hardcopy during normal office hours (8:30am-5:00pm). Make-up work should be completed within three days upon return to school unless prior arrangements have been made with the subject teacher. Failure to complete make-up work will lower a student's grade and may lead to failure for that subject.

## **GRADING SCALE**

The following scale can be used in comparing numerical grades to letter equivalents:

Superior	90-100	A
Above Average	80-89	B
Average	70-79	C
Below Average	60-69	D
Unsatisfactory	Below 60	F

## **Middle School Grading Expectations**

We Believe the Purpose of Grading is to:

Communicate mastery of grade level standards to students, parents, and other stakeholders

- Provide feedback that students can use for self-evaluation and reflection
- Evaluate the effectiveness of instructional programs
- Use for instructional purposes – clarify learning goals, indicate student strengths & weaknesses, and for student remediation or enrichment.

<b>Grading Principle</b>	<b>Expectations and Practices</b>
Grades represent what students know, understand, and can do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assignments must be aligned to standard(s)</li><li>• Students should be able to articulate the purpose of their work</li><li>• The numerical grade should reflect student mastery of the standard.</li><li>• Assignments are purposeful and meaningful</li></ul>
Grading procedures minimize the impact of behaviors, work habits, effort, and late assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Points are not deducted from a student's grade for behaviors reflecting responsibility</li><li>• Behaviors (late assignments, no submission of assignments) are addressed through other consequences (working lunch, missing a fun activity)</li></ul>
Grading procedures allow students to recover from initial failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allow for retesting, resubmitting, and correcting of work</li><li>• Allow students the opportunity to submit late assignments without penalty with reasonable deadlines</li><li>• Allow for parents to see 0's or non-completed work in Power School to allow students the opportunity to submit work</li></ul>
Grades make mathematical sense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The lowest grade recorded in PowerSchool for a student is a 50 for any given assignment. (The principal will determine when 0's are to be recorded as 50's in PowerSchool)</li><li>• Assignments are weighted appropriately with a reasonable number of assignments in each category.</li><li>• Students should neither fail nor pass courses based on completion alone. Grading scales should be set up to weigh heavily towards mastery-learning (assessments,</li></ul>

	performance-based tasks, etc.) and less so on homework and assignment completion only. Content PLCs should be aligned in the number of assignments and weights for each category.
Grading is credible and defensible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grades are only given when multiple opportunities for practice have been given</li> <li>• Homework given for the purpose of practice of new learning is not graded</li> <li>• Homework assigned for activities and projects can be graded if students have had multiple opportunities to learn content or master skills and/or standards</li> </ul>

**PROGRESS REPORTS/ REPORT CARDS**

Progress reports and report cards will NOT be sent home with students. Parents may access PowerSchool to check on your child’s progress. You may request a paper copy of your child’s progress report or report card.

1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	Progress Reports	September 27, 2022
	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	October 28, 2022
	Student Reports Available	November 4, 2022
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	Progress Reports	December 5, 2022
	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	January 20, 2023
	Student Reports Available	January 30, 2023
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	Progress Reports	February 21, 2023
	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	March 24, 2023
	Student Reports Available	March 31, 2023
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	Progress Reports	May 1, 2023
	End of 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	June 8, 2023
	Student Reports Available	June 15, 2023

**ACADEMIC RECOGNITION**

MPMS encourages and rewards academic excellence. Students who excel and maintain a specific grade point average will be named to the honor roll.

“A” Honor Roll: All students who maintain a 90 or higher in all subjects for a grading period.

“A/B” Honor Roll: All students who maintain an 80 or higher in all subjects for a grading period.

**PROMOTION GUIDELINES**

Students who pass 4 of 6 subjects will be considered for promotion. Three of these subjects must be in the core academics of math, science, social studies, and ELA. Cabarrus County Schools’ guidelines require that students be absent no more than 20 school days to be promoted.

**AFTER SCHOOL HELP**

Students wishing to receive additional instruction before or after school may make arrangements with the subject teacher using the following guidelines:

- ◆ Help is available per teacher’s schedule
- ◆ Students should prepare a list of areas of difficulty or questions beforehand.
- ◆ Students should be picked up in a timely manner. (Information on long-term tutoring is available on website.)

## **HELPFUL HINTS**

1. Do not bring excessive amounts of money or valuable personal property to school. The school is not responsible for any loss incurred. Students are expected to store items of value in their lockers.
2. Valuables or money should not be taken to PE classes.
3. Make wise choices. Think for yourself. You will be held responsible for your own words and actions.
4. Bookbags are not to be brought into the classroom. Bookbags must fit in school lockers.
5. With the exception of school-approved fundraisers, selling items is not allowed at school.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Students are expected to participate in physical education classes unless prohibited for medical reasons. These reasons must be confirmed through a physician's written statement. Parent medical excuses are accepted for two days only, and a note must be written for each day. A doctor's excuse is required if more than two days of physical education classes will be missed.

Physical education uniforms are not required, but highly encouraged. Uniforms can be purchased through the PE department for \$20.00. Students are not allowed to wear jewelry during PE class and are advised to leave expensive jewelry and electronic devices at home. Additional written information will be given to students on the first day of PE class. All students will be issued lockers in the locker room area and are not allowed to share lockers. Also, no gum or candy is allowed in the gymnasium or auxiliary gymnasium at any time.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

It is the student's responsibility to keep textbooks in their possession and to keep them in good condition. Students are required to pay for lost books and for damage greater than that of normal use. Any lost book must be paid for before another one will be issued. New textbooks now cost the school up to \$70.00 each.

## **STUDENT FEES**

Fees charged for consumable items are CCS Board of Education approved fees, and the amount charged is a set amount which is reviewed and approved each year by the Board. Art, Band, Chorus, Life Skills and P.E. and other encore classes may charge fees. Electronic payments are preferred. Electronic payment information can be found on the school website.

## **STUDENT ID CARDS**

All students are expected to always have their school ID card. Cards are used for security, Internet access, cafeteria purchases, library checkouts, athletic events, and all incentive/dance events. Cards may not be covered or defaced in any way. Replacement cards will be made after a \$5.00 payment is received. Students will also receive an ID card to be placed in the front cover of the bag that contains their assigned computer.

## **LOCKERS**

Each student is assigned a locker and lock for books and personal items. Students may only use their assigned locker and must use a lock assigned by the school. All students are required to always keep a school lock on their locker. If lost, students will be charged \$5.00 to replace the lock. Lockers are school property and are subject to inspection at any time. Students are encouraged to keep lockers clean always.

## **STUDENT AGENDA**

At the beginning of each school year, a planner/agenda is provided for all students to help them with organization and the recording of assignments. Parents are encouraged to check this planner on a regular basis. Replacement planners will cost \$5.00.

## **VENTURE PROGRAM**

Each student at MPMS will be a member of a Venture group. Students will gain a sense of membership in a small group and a close relationship with a faculty member. The focus of Venture time will include experiences around remediation and enrichment in core subjects.

## **SCHOOL NURSE**

Students who are sick should report to the nurse's office after receiving a note from their classroom teacher. Any calls to parents will be made by the school nurse. Please be sure to contact the school nurse if your child's health status changes during the school year. Events to report include, but are not limited to, a new medical diagnosis, starting new medications or treatments that may affect behavior at school, injuries such as sprains, fractures or concussions, and any time your child will miss or has missed more than 3-days in a row due to illness or injury.

## **MEDICATION**

Students who need to take medicine on a regular basis must have a completed Physician's Authorization Form for Cabarrus County Schools on file at the school signed by his/her parent/guardian and doctor before any medication (prescription or nonprescription) can be administered by school personnel. Medicine must be in the original container. Other medications, such as Tylenol and aspirin, cannot be administered by school staff without the above documentation. Each student will be given a form detailing medication policies at the beginning of the year.

## **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER**

MPMS is assigned a full-time resource officer through the Cabarrus County Sheriff's Department. Our officer's priority is the safety and security of students, teachers, and visitors to our campus. In working with the administration to establish and maintain a safe environment, she/he assists with investigations, patrols the campus grounds, makes contacts with students and parents, teaches classes, and advises students.

## **TELEPHONE USE / CELL PHONE POLICY**

During the instructional day, the school telephone is for office use only. Students may not use the school phones during this time unless there has been an unexpected change of a scheduled school function. Students shall not use or display cellular phones or personal music devices after arriving at school. All personal cell phones should be placed in the student's locker during the school day. Cell phones should not be carried during the school day or found with the student during the academic school day unless directly permitted by a teacher for a particular class. Students are not permitted to make calls or texts during the school day without the permission of a teacher or the administration.

**Devices used or displayed between arrival at school and before exiting the building at the end of the day will be confiscated and held for parent pick up. Repeated violations may result in further administrative action.**



### **ELECTRONIC READERS**

The use of e-Reader devices (Kindle, Nook, etc.) is permitted for instructional purposes if a student has completed the e-Reader User Agreement and has a signed copy in their possession, as well as, on file in the media center. This document is available in the media center. These devices are permitted for use only as indicated in the e-Reader User Agreement. Inappropriate use of e-Readers is subject to disciplinary consequences as indicated in the cell phone/electronic devices discipline policy.

### **MESSAGE BOARD**

Parents may call the office when it is necessary to leave a short message for their child. An announcement at the end of the day will notify students that they need to check the office message board before leaving school. We ask that you make arrangements before school to reduce the number of incoming calls with our limited office staff. To protect the integrity of our instructional time, messages and/or items will not be delivered during the instructional day.

### **SPIRIT ROCK**

The school spirit rocks are not monitored by school personnel. We ask that you be courteous and thoughtful in announcing your child's birthday and messages about athletics. No other messages will be allowed on the rocks, and we reserve the right to cover any messages or images.

### **LOST AND FOUND**

Students who find lost articles are asked to turn them in at the office. Lost articles not claimed within a reasonable time will be given to charitable organizations. The lost and found items are located in racks next to the cafeteria.

### **STUDENT DRESS**

Appropriate hair and dress styles are essential to maintain a proper atmosphere for the educational process and will be required of all students in Cabarrus County Schools. Extreme hairstyles and modes of dress deemed by the school principal to be clearly inappropriate, which tend to disrupt or detract from the normal school atmosphere, will not be permitted within school. The school dress code will be changed as needed to remain in compliance with school board guidelines. Students found out of compliance will be asked to call a parent for a change of clothing. Repeated violations will result in disciplinary consequences. CCS Board Policies pertaining to the student dress code can be found in *CCS Board Policy 4316 Student Dress Code*.

#### **What to Wear...**

- ✓ **Skirts and Shorts:** Garment must come to mid-thigh (regardless of undergarments, such as leggings)
- ✓ **Shirts and Blouses:** Must cover the student's midriff – no plunging necklines or exposed cleavage.
- ✓ **Pants:** Fitted at the waist
- ✓ **Shoes:** Shoes, tennis shoes, sneakers or sandals
- ✓ **Straps:** At least the width of the student's ID card (two inches or greater)

#### **What NOT to Wear...**

- \* Tank tops (with straps less than 2"), muscle shirts, mesh shirts
- \* Clothing advocating drug, alcohol, or tobacco use
- \* Clothing with inappropriate or suggestive language (i.e. profanity, pornography)
- \* Clothing advocating products or services illegal to minors (i.e. weapons, alcohol, drugs, etc.)

- \* Clothing that discriminates against particular groups
- \* Symbols that may be used to intimidate, create a hostile environment, or to discriminate
- \* See-through or excessively short, tight, baggy or revealing clothing. Tight clothing includes biker/spandex shorts, except when required as part of an athletic uniform.
- \* Clothing with holes or slashes above the knee. If a hole or opening appears above the knee, there should be full coverage of that area above mid-thigh.
- \* Bedroom slippers or pajamas
- \* Excessively long or oversized shirts, coats or jackets
- \* Sunglasses, hats, caps, stocking caps, toboggans, skull caps, bandannas, headbands or any other headgear while on campus
- \* Any apparel or accessories including jewelry, emblems, tattoos or body markings, that promote or depict gang affiliation
- \* Face painting
- \* Clothing deemed as costuming (i.e. capes, animal tails and/or ears)
- \* Chains, spikes or other accessories that could be perceived as or used as a weapon
- \* Hooded sweatshirts and jackets are permitted to be worn, but hoods should not be worn inside the school building.

### **ITEMS NOT ALLOWED AT SCHOOL**

Articles that interfere in any way with school procedures, disrupt instruction, or become hazards to the safety of others are not allowed. Personal music devices may not be used once students arrive at school. Prohibited items include toys, fidget spinners, laser pointers, electronic devices, balls, skateboards, fireworks, any spraying device, White Out, glass containers, permanent markers, zip ties and any other items deemed inappropriate for school. Students are discouraged from bringing personal digital devices, large amounts of cash, or other valuables to school. Staff members are under no obligation to try to recover these items if lost or stolen.

### **WATER BOTTLES**

Water bottles are permitted in the school building and in classrooms at the teacher's discretion. Water bottles should be transparent/clear. Metal, stainless steel, aluminum and plastic water bottles that are not transparent/clear should stay at home. Students are not to have sports drinks, soda, tea or coffee inside their water bottle. Food and drinks/water bottles are not to be opened/consumed on the school bus.

### **CHECK POLICY**

Mt. Pleasant Middle School will gladly accept checks. When a check is used as payment, the check writer authorizes us either to use information from the check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from the check writer's account or to process the payment as a check transaction. The check writer authorizes us to collect a fee through an electronic fund transfer from the check writer's account if the payment is returned unpaid. If a second check is returned within the same school year, we will no longer be able to accept personal checks from that student. We can only accept checks that have both the address and phone number printed on them.

### **K12 PAYMENT CENTER**

Mt. Pleasant Middle can accept payment for fees through the K12 Payment Center. The instructional supply fee, lunches, and other school items can be paid by visiting [www.K12paymentcenter.com](http://www.K12paymentcenter.com) .

## **HOMEWORK**

Homework is an important part of a student's academic achievement. Doing one's homework in a timely fashion reflects responsibility, self-discipline, and maturity. Failing to complete homework assignments will result in the lowering of one's grades. The amount of homework may vary somewhat from night to night. Longer assignments may require several evenings' work. A conscientious student will not put off his/her work until the last minute. By setting aside a certain time each evening to go over your work for the day and do your homework, you will probably find that your grades are higher and that your understanding of the subject is greater. The student planner should be used for recording assignments each day.

## **BUS PROCEDURES**

Buses are provided so students can be transported safely to and from school; riding the bus is a privilege, not a right. Misbehavior on the bus endangers the lives of all who ride and will not be tolerated. Students who do not cooperate with bus drivers or who violate bus conduct rules will be subject to disciplinary action and/or reimbursement of any damages. Misbehavior on the bus may result in a temporary removal from the bus as well as a permanent removal of bus privileges for the year for recurrent or extreme behavior which disrupts or distracts the driver or endangers the well-being of students on the bus. Students should keep in mind that the bus and the bus stop are an extension of the school campus...therefore, all Cabarrus County School and Mt. Pleasant Middle School policies are in effect.

To be assigned to a bus, parents/students must complete a transportation request form. Please note that because the transportation office, and not Mount Pleasant Middle School, designates bus assignments, this request may take one to ten school days. All bus stops and assignments are made based on state bus guidelines. Students are expected to ride at least once a week to retain their seat on the bus and students who do not ride the bus ten consecutive days in a row may lose their bus seat and must be reassigned by the transportation department. Only the transportation office can change a student's bus assignment. The transportation office notifies the bus supervisor/AP at the school of changes made and the bus supervisor/AP at the school notifies parents/students of the changes. Any changes in bus assignment or stops should be directed to the bus coordinator as soon as possible; please allow a **minimum of 10 days** to process.

**Cabarrus County Policy does not allow for students to ride a bus they are not assigned. State law prohibits parents from entering a school bus or delaying the scheduled route.**

## **BUS RULES**

Be Safe at all times.

1. Remain seated, facing forward in your assigned seat. Keep legs out of aisles. Do not move out of your seat while bus is in motion.
2. No eating or drinking.
3. Keep your body and all other objects to yourself and inside the bus.
4. Use appropriate noise levels. Be Respectful at all times.
5. Follow the School Bus Driver and/or Monitor's directions the first time given.
6. Be respectful with words and actions. Be Responsible at all times.
7. Ride only on your assigned bus; get on and off at your assigned stop.
8. Maintain cleanliness and appearance of the bus. Do not damage the bus in any way.

9. Middle and High School Students – May use personal electronic devices responsibly. However, if bus driver determines that electronic devices are becoming a distraction on the bus the bus driver can request that these devices be put away. Ear buds must be always used while listening to your cell phone or any electronic device.

Violations of the state, county, or school bus policies or procedures may result in a referral to the bus supervisor. Consequences could include suspension of riding privileges and/or school consequences (after-school detention, ISS OSS, level reviews). Insurance and county policies require that students only ride their assigned bus and are only allowed to get on or off the bus at the assigned bus stop. Parents are reminded to contact the bus supervisor at school or the county transportation office with any concerns or questions. State law prohibits parents from entering a school bus or delaying the scheduled route.

### **CAFETERIA**

The school cafeteria is maintained as a vital part of the health program at our school. To encourage good nutrition, a well-balanced breakfast and lunch are offered at a reasonable price. The cafeteria staff appreciates your cooperation in the following:

1. Deposit all litter in the proper trash can and return all trays/dishes to the proper area.
2. Leave the table and floor around you clean.
3. Take no food or drinks from the cafeteria without teacher permission.
4. Keep noise to a minimum, and do not break in line.
5. Purchase all food in one trip through the serving line; all items must be selected from the same serving bar.
6. Have money and ID card ready when approaching the cashier.
7. Lunches should not be charged. \*
8. Glass containers and/or sodas may not be brought into the cafeteria.
9. Students are to remain seated until dismissed by their supervising teacher.
10. Once seated, students should remain seated and not move about in the cafeteria. Students should face forward in their seats and refrain from talking to students at other tables. Students should talk to others seated at the same table and should use a conversational tone and volume when talking with others. No yelling is permitted.
11. Parents wishing to join their student for lunch should check-in at the main office to receive a visitor's pass. Friends and other relatives are not permitted.

\* Each student is expected to have money in his/her account or to have money in hand for each meal. All checks for cafeteria accounts should be made out to C.N.P. Please put student's name or student ID number on checks for accurate accounting. Lunch charges will be capped at \$5.00. Students must clear outstanding charges to attend field trips and quarterly incentives.

Food options and prices are as follows (prices subject to change):

Breakfast (Paid)	\$1.45
Breakfast (Reduced)	No Charge
Regular Lunch (Paid)	\$2.85
Regular Lunch (Reduced)	\$0.40

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

The purpose of the Student Service department is to help each individual student achieve his/her highest growth mentally, emotionally and socially.

Counselors try to achieve this goal through:

- Individual conferences
- Small groups
- Classroom lessons
- Assisting parents, teachers, and students to help each student succeed

Students who wish to see a counselor must have a written referral from the classroom teacher. Should a counselor not be available, the student should place a referral in the counselor's box and return to class immediately. The counselor will make arrangements to see the student as soon as possible.

## **LIBRARY/ MEDIA CENTER POLICIES**

1. The library is open to students from 9:00am to 4:00pm Monday through Friday. Students who wish to use the media center before or after these hours should make arrangements with the librarian at least one day in advance.
2. Students are required to show their ID cards to checkout materials. Students may not check out materials for friends.
3. If a student does not have his/her ID card, or if all copies of a book are checked out, students may place a hold on the title. Holds are kept for up to ten school days.
4. Students can check out two books at a time, except for the following groups, which are allowed three checkouts: • ESL students • Battle of the Books team members.
5. Most books may be checked out for two weeks at a time. Students may renew books one time, unless there is a hold pending.
6. Audio books (books on tape) may be checked out for two weeks but may not be renewed. Students may only check out one audio book at a time.
7. Reference materials and magazines may be checked out overnight.
8. Students who lose or damage books will be expected to pay fines, up to the replacement cost of the book. Students with fines will not be able to check out material until such fines are paid.
9. Students must have written permission to come to the Media Center except when coming with a teacher.
10. The classroom teacher must check out AV materials and equipment.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

School field trips are scheduled as educational opportunities. Eligibility for field trips is defined in the section describing the student management program. All school rules apply while on school sponsored field trips. Students must have cleared all outstanding fees to participate in field trips.

## **ATHLETICS**

Athletic teams are available for 7th and 8th-grade students. The MPMS athletic handbook can be found on our school webpage. A physical is required for all students trying out for and participating in any sport. The sports include basketball, cheerleading, football, baseball, girls' volleyball, girls' softball, track, boys' and girls' soccer, and wrestling. To be eligible to participate in any sport, all of the following requirements must be met:

1. Grades: A student must have passed a minimum of 3 out of 4 core courses during the previous semester. All rising seventh graders are eligible for the fall semester.
2. Age: A student may not participate if he/she becomes 15 on or before October 16 of the school year.
3. Attendance: A player must have been in attendance at least 85% of the previous semester.
4. Physical: A student must receive a complete physical each year.
5. Insurance: A student must have proper insurance coverage.
6. Conduct: Students who have been assigned ISS will not be able to play in games or participate in practice on the days they are assigned to ISS. Students who have made a team and then received OSS while on the team, will immediately be dismissed from the team.
7. Parent Conduct: Parents must follow the Parent Code of Conduct guidelines while at Mt. Pleasant Middle.
8. It is the coach's responsibility to make decisions regarding player selection, playing time, and enforcement of team rules.
9. Domicile - Each student must have a Certificate of Domicile for the current school year on file in the Athletic Department to be eligible. Any student changing domiciles during the school year must immediately notify the Enrollment Liaison and Athletic Director and complete a new Certificate of Domicile to reflect their address change.

### **ATHLETIC EVENTS**

- Students must make all arrangements for transportation before the day of the game. Students will not be allowed to use the office phone to call and make those arrangements.
- Students should report directly to the appropriate area in a safe and orderly manner upon leaving the classroom.
- Students should always use the main ticket entrance.
- Students should sit in designated areas.
- Students will not be permitted to return to the game once they leave.
- Dress code will be in effect always (Shoes and shirts must be worn always).
- Students who attend sporting events as support for our teams are expected to watch and participate appropriately. School rules remain in effect and must be followed. This includes appropriate language as well as proper sportsmanship toward athletes and fans.
- Fighting will not be tolerated. Anyone involved in a fight will be escorted from the game and may not be allowed to attend ANY future athletic events. Additionally, students involved in fights may face disciplinary action.

### **CLUBS/STUDENT COUNCIL**

Faculty members sponsor various clubs based on students' interests. Individual faculty advisors establish membership requirements. Examples of clubs currently operating are FFA, Stagecrafters, Student Council, Battle of the Books Club, and Beta Club. Other clubs are being developed by the staff and will be available for the fall semester.

### **DANCES**

The Student Council Sponsors several school dances during the school year. Tickets for these dances may be purchased the day of the dance during designated times. Most dances will begin after school and last to 6:00 P.M. The music for these dances is selected from only age-appropriate material. All dances are always chaperoned by staff and teachers.

## **YEARBOOK**

A yearbook is published each year. Orders are taken by the publishing company through an online purchasing platform. Students who order by the designated deadline are guaranteed a yearbook.

## **HONOR CODE**

Students who cheat risk a great deal as far as grades, learning, and integrity are concerned. This behavior will result in the notification of the student's parent/guardian, in-school suspension, and completion of an alternative assignment. It is not acceptable for any Mount Pleasant Middle School student to be dishonest. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying another student's work
- Copying any printed material from a book, magazine, or computer (Internet) and presenting it as your own
- Allowing another student to copy school assignments
- Forging another person's signature
- Stealing another person's property or that of the school
- Lying or misrepresenting the truth
- Cheating, or intent to do so
- Falsification of information

## **SAFETY DRILLS**

Your teachers will discuss with you very thoroughly the directions you must follow during fire drills and other safety related drills. For your own safety, and that of your fellow students, follow all instructions carefully. Obey the following simple rules during all drills:

1. Do not talk from the time the alarm is sounded until you have returned to your room or place of instruction.
2. Listen for instructions from your teacher and follow them explicitly.
3. Cell phone use during safety situations is a violation of Cabarrus County School policy and can lead to long-term suspension.

## **PTSO MEMBERSHIP**

The Mt. Pleasant Middle School Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO) provides valuable volunteer time, financial support, and advice for the overall improvement of our school. School effectiveness is positively impacted by quality parent participation. You will receive an invitation to join our PTSO. We encourage you to participate in any way that you are comfortable. PTSO information can be found on the MPMS website. You can contact our PTSO at [mpmiddleptso@gmail.com](mailto:mpmiddleptso@gmail.com) if you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help.

## **PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

To ensure the safety of our students, all visitors are required to sign-in through the office and obtain a visitor's pass. Parents of students can join their child during lunch. We encourage our parents to buy lunch through the cafeteria. Outside food must be in nondescript packaging free of any logos or labeling. Due to limited space, we must limit our visitors to parents only. We have a special seating arrangement in the cafeteria for guests. Our teachers always appreciate being notified in advance of lunch visits.

Teachers communicate with parents about student progress in a variety of ways. These include individual parent conferences, telephone calls, notes, e-mail, and progress reports. In addition, parents

are encouraged to inform school personnel about significant changes in the home environment that may affect the student's school performance. Parent/teacher conferences can be scheduled by calling Tonya Taylor, the school receptionist (704-260-6530).

## **STUDENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

**“Being a student at MPMS means having respect for yourself and others at all times.”**

All class rules should reflect our school rule. We intend to help students develop a sense of responsibility and change inappropriate behavior. Our approach is intended to demonstrate to students that they must always consider the consequences of their behavior. Students showing responsible behavior will be rewarded with additional freedoms and privileges through our incentive program.

## **SILENT LUNCH**

Teachers may assign students to silent lunch. Students assigned to silent lunch will be notified of the date for silent lunch and the reason for the assignment. Students who violate rules in silent lunch will be assigned additional days of silent lunch.

## **AFTER SCHOOL DETENTION**

After school detention is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:05 to 5:00pm. Students are to report directly to the Choices room and bring something to work on while they are in detention. Any student missing on the assigned Tuesday is expected to stay Thursday afternoon. Failure to report to either session will result in one day of ISS.

## **CHOICES ROOM**

Recovery, ISS, and OSS: Placing a student in the Recovery Room or ISS are all situations where students are removed from class. Teachers have the option to send any student out of class when that student's behavior is preventing them from conducting their class in a normal manner. In these cases, students are sent to the Recovery Room inside of the Choices Room for the remainder of the period during which their behavior was a problem; we refer to this as a period Recovery Room Referral. Students sent to the Recovery Room will meet with the Choices Room Coordinator to discuss the behavior and identify ways they could have better handled the situation that resulted in the referral. Any misbehavior while in Choices/ISS will result in a referral to the administration with possible further consequences to be assigned. Teachers can also write classroom referrals that will go directly to administrators. Administrators may assign a consequence ranging from a verbal warning, after school detention, or for more serious or repeated infractions, In School Suspension (ISS). For even more serious, flagrant, or repeated violations students will be given Out of School Suspensions (OSS) for one to ten days. Also, students with even more serious, flagrant and/or repeated violations may be referred to the Opportunity School at the Glenn Center. The Opportunity School is an alternative learning program that provides an option for a student with behavior management needs and/or academic performance needs which cannot be met in a regular education setting.

## **WEAPONS**

General Statute 14-269.2 states that it is a Class I felony to possess or carry a firearm or explosive on educational property or to aid a minor to possess or carry a firearm or explosive on educational property, it is a misdemeanor to aid a minor to possess any other type of weapon on educational property, it is a



misdemeanor to fail to store firearms in a reasonable manner for the protection of minors and to fail to warn a person of this law upon the sale or transfer of a firearm. The law also makes it a misdemeanor for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any BB gun, air rifle, air pistol, bowie knife, blackjack, dirk, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, switchblade supplies, altered nail files and clips. Tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction and maintenance on educational property are permissible. Students who violate this law shall be suspended from school for a period up to 10 days or possibly for the remainder of the year depending on individual circumstances. Also, in compliance with the law, the Cabarrus County Sheriff's Department will be notified, and a deputy will come to investigate and file a report with juvenile authorities.

### **HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION**

Mount Pleasant Middle School does not tolerate any harassment on the school premises, buses, or at school functions. If a student feels that he/she is being harassed by another student or school employee, school officials should be notified immediately and descriptions of said offenses should be specific. Some examples of harassment include and are not limited to any:

- "unwelcome" contact with one's body.
- suggestive or inappropriate comments, propositions, or gestures.
- sexually provocative commentaries about the body.
- "unwelcome" suggestive writings, artworks, or notes.
- "unwelcome" slurs or innuendos.

Bullying is a form of harassment. Bullying is the intimidation of others by the real or threatened infliction of physical, verbal, written, electronically transmitted or emotional abuse including attacks on the property of a person or peer group. Bullying may include, but is not limited to, verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs, extortion of money or possessions, implied or stated threats, and exclusion from peer groups.

When such harassment is reported, Mount Pleasant Middle School will make a good faith effort to investigate all such reports in close consultation with the Cabarrus County Board of Education. Disciplinary action in such cases depends upon the said offense, findings of the investigation, and recommendation of the school administration and/or appropriate central office personnel.

The NC General Assembly recently adopted the School Violence Prevention Act which includes specific stipulations about Internet use. The Board respects the right of students to use social networking sites (e.g., Instagram, Facebook), personal Web sites, Weblogs, Wikis and other web tools (collectively "Internet Postings") as a medium of self-expression. However, inappropriate Internet Postings by students can cause substantial disruptions to the school environment. Accordingly, the Board requires that students observe specific guidelines when posting to social networking sites. Example: Students shall not use profane, pornographic, obscene, indecent, lewd, vulgar or sexually offensive language, pictures or graphics in Internet Postings that could cause a substantial disruption to the school environment. Links to additional information about this topic and harassment/bullying in general can be found on the MPMS website.

The Cabarrus County Board of Education has adopted a policy dealing with sexual harassment as it applies in the workplace and among students. This policy reflects the law. Some examples that could involve students are 1) making telephone calls and sending notes, letters, or materials of a sexual nature

or content; 2) touching and initiating physical closeness of a sexual nature; 3) making obscene or sexually suggestive looks, gestures, sounds, advances or propositions; 4) making sexually provocative or graphic comments about another person's body; 5) pressuring for dates or sexual activity; 6) engaging in sexual banter or teasing; making jokes or remarks or asking questions of a sexual nature; 7) displaying sexually suggestive pictures, cartoons, or other related items. A student may report any such incident to his or her advisor, principal, or teacher. All reports will be reported to the superintendent of schools or his/her designee within 24 hours.

### **POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION SUPPORT (PBIS)**

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a proactive approach to establishing the behavioral supports and a social culture needed for all students in a school to achieve social, emotional and academic success. Here at Mount Pleasant Middle School, we create opportunities for students to be recognized and rewarded for proper behavior. The foundation for our discipline begins with a behavior level system which provides reinforcement for students maintaining positive behavior. Videos created by our students and staff are also presented during Venture time. In addition, teachers are encouraged to write up positive behavior referrals focusing on positive behavior traits. Academic achievement is also reinforced by honor roll lunches and assemblies given for each academic quarter. Posters are visible in the hallways, bathrooms, classroom, cafeteria, media center, and gym reinforcing the behavior that is expected throughout the school. Students will have the opportunity to earn both weekly and quarterly rewards based on positive behaviors, passing grades, and good attendance.

### **VOICE LEVELS**

Students are expected to respond to indicated voice levels when signaled by staff members:

- **Voice Level 0** Complete silence.
- **Voice Level 1** Whisper
- **Voice Level 2** Speaking quietly to the person immediately beside him/her
- **Voice Level 3** Speaking within a group
- **Voice Level 4** Outside voice

## Mount Pleasant Middle School PBIS P.A.W.S. Expectation Matrix

Expectations	<i>Location</i>						
	<i>Classroom</i>	<i>Transitions</i>	<i>Restrooms, Locker Rooms</i>	<i>Cafeteria</i>	<i>Buses</i>	<i>Gym Auditorium</i>	<i>Media Center</i>
<b><u>P</u>ut Safety First</b>							
<b><u>A</u>ct Responsible</b>							
<b><u>W</u>ork for Success</b>							
<b><u>S</u>how Respect</b>							
<p>I am a Mount Pleasant Tiger.</p> <p>My behavior at school and in the community keeps myself and others <b>SAFE</b>.</p> <p>My behavior at school and in the community show I am <b>RESPECTFUL</b> of my peers, my family, my teachers, others, and myself.</p> <p>My behavior at school and in the community show I am <b>RESPONSIBLE</b> for my education, my actions, and I am a positive example for all to see.</p> <p>My behavior at school and in the community show I am working for my <b>SUCCESS</b>.</p>							

## Quarter 1 Behavior/Incentive Tracker

8/29 – 9/2	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
9/6 – 9/9	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
9/12 – 9/16	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
9/19 – 9/23	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
9/27 – 9/30	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
10/3 – 10/7	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
10/10 – 10/14	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
10/17 – 10/21	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
10/24 – 10/27	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	

### Quarter 1 Grades

1 <sup>st</sup> Period	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	4 <sup>th</sup> Period	5 <sup>th</sup> Period	6 <sup>th</sup> Period

Total Number of Unexcused Absences: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Weekly Rewards Earned for Quarter: \_\_\_\_\_

Quarter 1 Incentive Earned: YES    NO

## Quarter 2 Behavior/Incentive Tracker

10/31 – 11/4	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
11/9 – 11/10	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
11/14 – 11/22	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
11/28 – 12/2	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
12/5 – 12/9	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
12/12 – 12/20	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
1/4 – 1/6	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
1/9 – 1/13	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
1/9 – 1/13	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	

### Quarter 2 Grades

1 <sup>st</sup> Period	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	4 <sup>th</sup> Period	5 <sup>th</sup> Period	6 <sup>th</sup> Period

Total Number of Unexcused Absences: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Weekly Rewards Earned for Quarter: \_\_\_\_\_

Quarter 2 Incentive Earned: YES    NO

## Quarter 3 Behavior/Incentive Tracker

1/24 – 1/27	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
1/30 – 2/3	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
2/6 – 2/10	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
2/13 – 2/17	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
2/21 – 2/24	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
2/27 – 3/3	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
3/6 – 3/10	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
3/13 – 3/17	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
3/20 – 3/24	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	

### Quarter 3 Grades

1 <sup>st</sup> Period	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	4 <sup>th</sup> Period	5 <sup>th</sup> Period	6 <sup>th</sup> Period

Total Number of Unexcused Absences: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Weekly Rewards Earned for Quarter: \_\_\_\_\_

Quarter 3 Incentive Earned: YES    NO

## Quarter 4 Behavior/Incentive Tracker

3/28 – 3/31	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
4/3 – 4/6	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
4/17 – 4/21	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
4/24 – 4/28	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
5/1 – 5/5	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
5/9 – 5/12	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
5/15 – 5/19	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
5/22 – 5/26	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	
5/30 – 6/2	Weekly Reward Earned?	Yes	No	Comments:
Teacher Signature:			Parent Signature:	

### Quarter 4 Grades

1 <sup>st</sup> Period	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	4 <sup>th</sup> Period	5 <sup>th</sup> Period	6 <sup>th</sup> Period

Total Number of Unexcused Absences: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Weekly Rewards Earned for Quarter: \_\_\_\_\_

Quarter 4 Incentive Earned: YES    No

Vocabulary Adventure

#	Word	Definition	Illustration/Connection
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#	Word	Definition	Illustration/Connection
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