

# Valley School

## 2018-2019 Handbook

### CONTACT INFORMATION

2508 Blichmann Avenue  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81505  
<http://valley.d51schools.org/home>

Office: 970.255.2708

### OFFICE STAFF

Principal.....Sara Krick  
Principal's Secretary.....Cheryl Watters  
Counselor.....Lori Starr

Hours: 7:00 - 3:30

Si usted necesita traducción en español favor de llamar al 254-5339. Estamos para servirles.

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## CLASS SCHEDULES

### Morning Session

Period 2.....7:45 – 8:50  
Passing Period.....8:50 – 8:55  
Period 3.....8:55 – 11:00  
Passing Period.....9:55 – 10:00  
Period 4.....10:00 – 11:00

### Afternoon Session

Period 6.....11:40 – 12:30  
Period 7.....12:30 – 1:20  
Passing Period.....1:20 – 1:25  
Period 8.....1:25 – 2:15

Valley Lunch...11:00 – 11:40

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## **“The Wednesday Drive”**

Having the **drive** to persevere, to stoke your curiosity,  
to embrace life, learning, and service;  
and to build relationships through time spent together.

### **Wednesdays are for all Valley students!**

Students are scheduled to attend Valley School each Wednesday.

Once they meet or exceed their credit goals, Wednesday attendance becomes a choice for students.

However, we encourage all students to participate in our Wednesday activities throughout the school year.

### **Wednesdays are scheduled to spend time for what we value:**

Building relationships  
Exploring the Outdoor Classroom  
Learning in the Community Classroom  
Engaging in healthy, fun activities  
Extra time and support for Valley academic classes

## **EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL VALLEY STUDENTS**

- **Respect** others and yourself
- Strong work ethic
- Attend school consistently (both placements)
- Utilize this opportunity to learn and progress
- Strive to meet your goals
- Ask for help when you need it
- Have a second placement

Valley students are always expected to conduct themselves in a positive and mature manner in the classroom, on campus, and at any school sponsored function. Our respect also extends to the WCCC campus, as we are guests here.

## **FULL-TIME SCHEDULE**

Valley School is considered a half-day placement. Since our curriculum focuses on core subjects, all students must have a second placement in order to earn elective credits. A required second placement may be one of the following: their home school, a job (minimum of 20 documented hours weekly), Western Colorado Community College (WCCC), or the Career Center.

Students enrolled at Valley School will be issued a schedule based on evaluation of their transcripts or as otherwise requested by their home school. A student's schedule is based upon academic need and should be followed to achieve academic success at Valley School.

## **CREDITS AND UNITS EARNED**

Valley School offers core classes for students, grades 8 through 12. Middle School students earn units and high school students earn credits toward graduation. These are earned on an individual basis. Progress in meeting individual goals will be monitored throughout the school year. Students are a critical part of the monitoring process so they will always be informed about meeting their goals and if they are making adequate progress.

Students are expected to progress at a satisfactory rate which is determined by each student's own circumstances. Generally, students are expected to earn a minimum of 1.5 academic credits at Valley School during a semester. It is recommended that schoolwork also be done at home in order to maintain the requirements.

Students may earn elective credit through a job or volunteer work where time is documented. Students must fill out a work agreement with Valley School and their employer. Students earn .5 elective credit for every 60 hours worked. Work Experience and volunteer credit is limited to three credits per school year. Students may not be employed by a family member and volunteer work should be completed with a non-profit organization.

## **ACADEMIC SUCCESS**

Valley School teachers are committed to helping every student find success at Valley. They will work together with the student, family, and other staff members to support the student; however, if progress is not made in meeting the student's goals, the student may be transitioned back to their home school. This transition back to the home school gives the student an opportunity to explore other viable academic options in order for the student to make progress toward graduation.

## **COMPUTER CURRICULUM**

Computer curriculum is offered throughout the district. Students may utilize a computerized program to take a class, replace a grade, and work on basic skills.

## **FEES**

There is a \$25 per semester fee for students to attend Valley School. There is also a science fee of \$15 per year. Student fees will be waived for those students who have been approved for Free/Reduced Lunches.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY AND GUIDELINES**

Our high expectations for class attendance include punctuality and preparation. Valley students are expected to attend class daily and to arrive on time. If you arrive late, please sign in at the main office. You will be marked tardy. Unless prior arrangements have been made, students arriving more than 20 minutes late for class will be marked absent, unexcused.

*Attendance is crucial to your success at Valley School.* Attendance with credit/unit earned means steady progress towards individual goals and a high school diploma.

Valley School is legally responsible to know your whereabouts during school hours. Students will check out in the main office prior to leaving campus. A parent/guardian will be contacted to obtain permission for the student to leave campus.

If you are absent due to illness, family emergencies, religious observances, injury, medical appointment, etc., we ask that your parent/guardian please call to notify us of the absence before 1:00 PM that day. You may also bring a signed note from your parent/guardian. Any absences in which your parent/guardian has not contacted the office before the end of the day will be considered unexcused. Attendance is mandatory for students under the age of 17.

## **TARDY POLICY**

If you are late to class after a scheduled break:

### **AM students:**

You will make up the time lost due to tardies by staying in your last class an additional 5 minutes (11:00 – 11:05). You may use that time to continue working on your class.

### **PM students:**

You will make up the time lost due to tardies by staying in during your break the next day that you attend Valley.

## **WITHDRAWAL FROM VALLEY SCHOOL**

If you move or voluntarily withdraw from school, please notify the main office, return all books, and pay any outstanding fees.

## **RESTROOM BREAKS**

Students must sign out in the classroom prior to leaving. Only one student at a time may leave. Students are to use the restroom at WCCC, Building B only. All Valley students are to go directly to the restroom and back to class.

## **PHONE USE**

To maintain focus on academics and not interrupt the learning environment, students are expected to keep their phones put away during class time. Students may use their phones before and after their classes at Valley and on breaks.

If a student chooses to use his/her phone outside of Phone Policy guidelines, the following will occur:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Student is given reminder to put the phone away
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Student is asked to have the teacher hold the phone until the end of class
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Student is asked to go to the office to have the principal hold the phone until the end of the day
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Parent is asked to come pick up the phone at the parent's convenience

## **SNACKS/SCHOOL MEALS**

Valley School does not serve lunch or breakfast, however, students may get meals from their home school cafeteria or bring their own meal to Valley. A refrigerator and microwave are available for student use.

Valley School store offers a limited number of snack and food options for purchase by students at the following times:

**7:00 -7:40**

**8:45 – 8:50**

**11:00 – 11:35**

## **DRESS GUIDELINES**

It is the intent of the student dress guidelines to promote a positive and focused learning climate. All clothing worn by students should exhibit respect and responsibility for themselves and others. It is the goal of Valley School to prepare students for the workforce. Maintaining expectations for appropriate attire in school supports that goal.

- Clothing that identifies or refers to illegal substances; alcohol/tobacco/drug/group/gang identifications e.g. (including but not limited to bandanas, hairnets); obscenities; sexual themes; violence; or degrade any race, creed, or gender may not be worn to school.
- The following are considered inappropriate attire: clothing that exposes undergarments or is transparent, strapless tops, spaghetti straps, halter tops, one shoulder or off the shoulder tops, tube tops, low cut tops that expose cleavage, clothing that exposes the torso (side, back, or front) and muscle tops.
- Shorts and skirts may not be shorter than fist length (arms extended down and the hand is making a fist). ○ Dangerous clothing (chains and apparel with pointed studs) is not allowed. This also applies to wallet chains. ○ Clothing with holes in inappropriate places is not allowed. ○ Shoes must be worn at all times.
- Hats, caps, visors, hoods on hoodies, gloves, and sunglasses may be worn to school, but must be taken off while in the building.
- The items listed above are examples of what attire is inappropriate but is not considered exhaustive.

**\*\* If it is determined that a student's dress does not meet the guidelines, the student shall be required to change or modify his/her clothing or he/she will be sent home. The building administration will have the final authority to impose reasonable regulations concerning dress.**

## **DISPLAY OF AFFECTION**

Handholding is an example of appropriate behavior. Kissing and embracing of a personal nature between students is not acceptable.

## **ELECTRONIC MEDIA**

All programs and computer equipment are the property of Mesa County Valley School District #51 and any tampering, altering, attempted modification, or deliberate damage will result in an immediate suspension and/or restitution. Only the teacher is allowed to change background, colors, screen savers, names or icons, delete or add programs, and/or work in non-permitted areas. If a student chooses to alter a program, machine, or not to work in an assigned area in a program, that student may not be allowed to use the electronic media and other consequences may result. All students will sign MCVSD#51 electronic media agreement form.

## **PARKING**

It is considered a privilege to park on school grounds. Students are expected to drive safely in the parking lot and obey all traffic laws. The parking lot is for vehicles, not a place for students to congregate. Students are to go directly to their destination once they park on campus and are not to go to the parking lot during school hours.

The school is not responsible for the automobile or its contents. Student vehicles may be subject to search if there are reasonable grounds to believe that drugs, alcohol, stolen property or other contraband might be present in that vehicle.

## **VISITORS**

Parents or guardians are always welcome. Visitors must register in the office upon arriving on campus.

## **BOARD POLICY STATEMENT**

Student conduct and discipline are addressed in School Board Policy. The following are just a few of our School Board Policies. Please refer to the district website for a list of all policies.

## **THEFT**

Students are cautioned not to bring large amounts of money or valuables to school or school activities. It is the students' responsibility to lock their bicycles, automobiles, and any valuables. In the event of theft on school grounds, the school does not accept responsibility for personal articles or property.

## **BULLYING**

Valley School embraces a culture of respect for all people. We, therefore, have a no tolerance policy on bullying. Bullying is defined as: the use of physical or verbal coercion to obtain control over others or to be habitually cruel to others who are weaker.

## **GANG BEHAVIOR**

The Board of Education feels that the presence of gangs and gang activities can cause a substantial disruption of school. Valley School will not tolerate any substantiated gang involvement or affiliation. Wearing of gang related apparel, once warned, will be considered gang related behavior. See Board policy.

## **ILLEGAL USE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS/TOBACCO ON CAMPUS**

Use or possession of drugs, paraphernalia, or being under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol at school or at school functions is prohibited by Mesa County Valley School District #51 School Board Policy, city ordinance and state law; therefore, it will result in disciplinary action, suspension, and involvement of parents and police. Second offense during a student's school career may result in a recommendation for expulsion.

Students who smoke or possess tobacco on the campus may be suspended from school. This includes the use of vape pens, e-cigarettes, jules, etc.

## **SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF SCHOOL RULES**

The following serious violations will result in automatic suspension, possible recommendation to the Superintendent for expulsion, and prompt reporting to the appropriate law enforcement officials:

1. Assaulting a staff member or a student
2. Possessing, distributing, buying, selling or using drugs and/or alcohol.
3. Possessing or using a dangerous weapon, fireworks, or explosives.
4. Using any object as a weapon in a threatening manner.
5. Threatening or menacing with harmful intent.

## **DUE PROCESS STUDENT RIGHTS**

Due process is a procedure that the courts of law recognize as a necessary responsibility of the school for all students. Due process is of primary importance because it recognizes the right of individuals to have recourse within a decision making process. Due process assures the student of the following steps:

1. Regulations and penalties are available in writing.
2. The student has the right to be informed of specific reasons for action.
3. All members are obligated to work out difficulties at the level at which they occur, if possible. The first step is to privately and respectfully speak with the staff member to attempt to solve conflict.
4. The student has the right to present a defense against charges and to produce information in his/her parents' presence.
5. The student, administrator, and/or teacher has the right to request the presence of the parents.

6. Proper consideration should be given to the student's right to privacy.
7. Disciplinary action shall be reasonable and related to the infraction.

Above all else, Valley School seeks to create a culture of respect for all members of our school community. We work to maintain a safe environment where students want to come to learn, to feel cared about, and welcomed. We appreciate your help in making Valley School that kind of place.