

## MSMS Frequently Asked Questions

If you have additional questions, call the school office  
after August 4, 2008 at 707.792.4800

### Bell Schedule

Students must be at school by 7:55 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. It would be best if students were here by **7:50 a.m.** When your child is tardy, it disrupts your child's learning and the classmates of your child. It is imperative that all students arrive at school on time and prepared. When students arrive late, they must report to the school office. Late students will be given consequences for being tardy. On Thursdays, MSMS students need to be on campus by **8:40 a.m.** All students who are on campus between 7:30 - 8:25 a.m. must go to the Multi-use room for morning study hall. Students are expected to do homework, study or read during this time. School gets out at the same time each day at 2:20 p.m.

### Dress Code

As most of you may be taking advantage of the Back-To-School sales offered by local stores, I feel it is important to remind you about the Mountain Shadows dress code. While today's fashions reflect the MTV culture and other popular media, many of these fashions are not suitable for a learning environment. School is a place of learning and work, students must dress accordingly.

Remember, a Mountain Shadows student's appearance cannot be disruptive to the learning process. This applies to the ratio of skin to clothing. There must be more clothing than skin. Skimpy, see through, revealing clothing items must be left at home. Additionally, clothing cannot display inappropriate or offensive language (watch out for "cutesy" statements that are sarcastic or mean-spirited), depict violence or vulgar subject matter, not mention controlled substances (drugs, tobacco, or alcohol) or gang-related items (South Park, Nor Cal). All pants or shorts need to be the appropriate size; pants or shorts that are too large or too small are not allowed.

The school dress code is important and helps maintains the physical and emotional safety of our school environment. I know one parent concern about their child's school is, "Is it safe?" By helping us monitor what your child wears to school, all children will benefit. We know it is difficult to keep the larger world with all of its problems away from your child. So, help us keep our learning environment safe and focused on learning by following our dress code. There will be more information about the dress code in your child's student handbook that is handed out the first week of school. It lists the consequences of not following the dress code. Be sure to read it with your child. Our Dress code helps keep the focus on learning. We ask for your assistance in helping make MSMS a great place to learn.

### Late Start Thursdays Bell Schedule

	First Bell	Last Bell
Monday	7:55 a.m.	2:20 p.m.
Tuesday	7:55 a.m.	2:20 p.m.
Wednesday	7:55 a.m.	2:20 p.m.
Friday	7:55 a.m.	2:20 p.m.
<b>**Thursday (late start)</b>	<b>8:45 p.m.</b>	<b>2:20 p.m.**</b>

#### **note time change**

*All students arriving on campus before 8:25a.m. on Thursdays MUST report to the MSMS Multi-Use room. This morning study time and tutoring is supervised by the RP Boys and Girls Club*

### Thursday Morning Bus Transportation

The Sonoma County Transit has worked with MSMS to provide morning bus service for our students. The afternoon bus service schedule remains the same. The following routes will get MSMS students to school in the morning:

Route 10	Starts at Hunter Drive at 8:15 a.m. serves Cotati, Lancaster, Camino Colegio, "M" section, Rancho Cotate, Alternative Education Center, MSMS
Route 48	Will arrive at Rancho Verde, Adrian, Southwest, MSMS

### P.E. Clothes and Lock

- Purchase your P.E. clothes from InnovativeB2B. Their website is [www.CRPclothes.com](http://www.CRPclothes.com). Click on Mountain Shadows and place your order. You can also call (707) 585-8511. The shirts are \$11, shorts are \$14, sweatshirts are \$26 and sweatpants are \$19. A clothes carry bag is \$11.00 plus tax. Cloths must be ordered by Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> in order to be ready for pickup at the MSMS August 27<sup>th</sup> Jump Start. For a nominal fee, you can have the clothes shipped to your house.
- If students wish to wear last year's uniform, they may do so.
- Sweatpants and sweatshirt for PE **must** be gray. However, sweat clothes that have a MSMS or academy logo are allowed.
- Students' P.E. locker is only to store their clothing and belongings during their physical education class. Each student must supply her or his own combination lock. Keyed locks are not acceptable.

**Orientation**—Jump Start—will be held on Wednesday, August 27, 2008. (See enclosed flyer)

- **All sixth graders will be at school from 8-12:30 for our new orientation process.** Starting in the mini-gym (between the tennis court area and the MU) at 8:00 a.m. to turn in the emergency card (complete both sides) that is enclosed and pick up a class schedule. Then students are to report to the main gym (behind the tennis court area) at 8:30 a.m. and parents are to report to the MU. Sixth grade students will participate in our *WEB* or *Where Everybody Belongs* activities until 12:30. This is for sixth grade students only—sorry no parents.
- **New and returning seventh and eighth graders and their parents** are to report to the mini gym between 1:00-2:00 p.m. to turn in the emergency card (complete both sides), pick up a class schedule. New seventh and eighth graders and parents will be given a campus tour during this time.

**Planners**—a well-organized student is a successful student

Our School Site Council provides a school planner to every student. The planners are given out the first day of school. (Sixth graders may receive their planners during the 8/27/08 WEB activity). Our school planners provide students with a variety of reference information, weekly and monthly calendars, assignment sections and a very important feature that facilitates communication between home and school. Replacements for lost planners are \$6.00.

### School Supplies

In addition to a planner, you can help your child be prepared for school by making sure that she or he has the following supplies:

- 4 spiral notebooks with different covers (one for each core subject)-get the ones that tear evenly out of the notebook and does not leave a ragged edge
- a pouch with pencils and pens (black and blue),
- colored pencils (**no permanent markers or Sharpies**)

- a sturdy backpack to carry their school items

We do not provide lockers for storing books. While we have made every attempt to purchase enough textbooks so that students can have a set of schoolbooks at home, there may be occasions where they will need to carry books back and forth to school. Textbooks are available for use in the library before and after school as well as during lunchtime. Remember, a prepared student is a successful student. Please help us have every Mountain Shadows student be well prepared for the start of school and throughout the school year. As you shop for your school supplies and clothes, you can help support Mountain Shadows by shopping at local store such as, Office Depot (use the following number 70013164 to credit MSMS) and Target (identify MSMS on your Target credit card). Your contributions do add up and help support MSMS. Our school community thanks you in advance.

### **Small Learning Communities**

Each MSMS student will belong to grade level Small Learning Community or SLC. Students are randomly assigned to a SLC. The SLC is comprised of a team of core (English, History, Math and Science) teachers. This structure provides students and parents a smaller community within the school. Each SLC will work to integrate curriculum, provide school-home communication and coordinate tests and projects. Students also have an elective and a PE class. In addition, we have GATE clusters in all SLC. We also provide additional support with ELD classes and math or reading intervention support classes. If your child needs additional support, they will be placed into a support/intervention class instead of an elective. This system needs a great deal of planning, so in order to provide teachers with important common planning time, MSMS implemented Late Start Thursdays.

### **Sports-(Sports starting in September are Girls Basketball and Wrestling)**

If your 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade student is interested in participating in after-school sports, they must have a physical exam and turn in a completed sports application. All interested students must have a 2.0 G.P.A. **PLEASE NOTE:** All physicals are good for one year, so any physical given during summer will be good for the entire 2007-08 school year. All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls interested in playing Basketball, need to complete a sports application that is available at <http://msms.schoolengine.com> or from the school office after August 1, 2008. Announcements for Boys Basketball and Volleyball and Track and Field will be made during the school year and listed in the monthly school update.

### **Student Privacy**

**Camera phones, cameras, or any recording device are not allowed at school.** Non-camera cell phones may be brought to school but must be TURNED OFF until the end of school. Unfortunately, schools nationwide experienced pictures of their students posted on the Internet, especially MySpace, FaceBook, and YouTube. In an attempt to protect the privacy of MSMS students, any recording device will not be allowed at school. Students who wish to use a recording device for a school project must get a written permission from signed by a school administrator.

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