



*"The view is better when Mountaineers reach the top together."*

August 8, 2017

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Mt. Jordan Middle School! I am honored to be your principal, and I look forward to working with you throughout the school year. There will be many new faces of students and staff that are joining us for the first time. I assure you that we are all here to help you in whatever way we can to ensure your students are successful and college/career ready.

I have included below some important back-to-school dates and encourage you to attend all of the events. When school begins, all students receive an AVID binder with great resources. It is expected that ALL students have the binder in every class, every day. Please review the information in the binder together, including the schoolwide disclosure, and contact the administration if you have any questions.

On the next two pages, I have included important information about some of the additions/changes that will be part of Mount Jordan this year. Please look it over and contact the administration if you have questions.

Again, welcome to Mt. Jordan Middle School! I am happy to meet you and to work together to make this a great year.

Sincerely,  
Cindy Hanson  
Principal

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Wednesday, August 2 <sup>nd</sup> – September 8 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 AM- 3 PM	Bus Permits Available	Mt. Jordan Middle School
Thursday, August 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Wednesday, August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	8:00 AM	Online Registration opens for all students	Home or other location with computer
Wednesday/Thursday August 9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup>	12:00 PM-6:00 PM	Walk-In Registration (Assistance provided)	Mt. Jordan Middle School
Wednesday, August 16 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 AM (possibly earlier)	Student schedules are available online	Home or other location with computer
Tuesday, August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7:30 AM- 11:30 AM	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation (6 <sup>th</sup> graders only)	Mt. Jordan Middle School
Wednesday, August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7:30 AM- 2:30 PM	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL	Mt. Jordan Middle School
Thursday, August 24 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 PM- 8:00 PM	Hot Dog Hello Night (Back-to-school info)	Mt. Jordan Middle School
Tuesday, September 12 <sup>th</sup>	Throughout the day	School Picture Day	Mt. Jordan Middle School

### What's New at Mount Jordan Middle in 2017-2018?

We have been working hard this summer, looking at data and trying to create systems of support and learning for our school (CSIP) goals. Two primary areas of concern that arose were attendance (specifically problems with tardies), and student accountability for homework/in-class work completion. In order to address these concerns we have developed two systems that will be implemented in the 2017-2018 school year. (We asked for feedback from our School Community Council, PTSA, and Building Leadership Team during this process) We have also tried to create more opportunities for academic interventions and after school help for students.

**Tardy Policy: This system is based on rewards/consequences and is designed to get and keep students in class! Research shows that students with attendance issues are at higher risk to struggle in school and graduate from high school. We want Mount Jordan students to be prepared for success and to have good attendance habits before they leave us. The following chart indicates the rewards/consequences associated with tardies. We know that extenuating circumstances arise from time to time and will work with families on an individual basis, as needed.**

Rewards	Consequences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Monthly competitions/incentives for rewards (Possibilities include breakfast party, ice cream bars, perfect attendance prizes, go to lunch 5 minutes early, eat at the tables outside, etc.)</li> <li>-Start the year with a 2-week incentive to get students excited about the new opportunities/expectations.</li> <li>-Hold drawings at Peak Performer assemblies to reward good attendance.</li> <li>-Attendance certificates handed out each quarter for outstanding attendance.</li> <li>-Post student names (and possibly pictures) on the school TVs to celebrate great attendance</li> <li>-Reward teachers for being in the halls and helping get students to class on time.</li> </ul> <p><b>**Possible PBIS (Positive Behavior Systems of Support) activities related to attendance.</b></p>	<p><b>**These are reset each quarter—fresh start</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Tardies 1-3: Warning/re-teaching opportunity</li> <li>-Tardy 4: Contact parent</li> <li>-Tardies 5-8: 30 minute detention after school or during lunch</li> <li>-Tardy 9: Parent comes in to sign contract</li> <li>-Tardies 10+: In-school suspension or after school community service (The amount of time you need to spend gets longer based on the number of tardies you have. For example, 11 tardies is 40 minutes, 12 tardies, is 50 minutes, etc.)</li> </ul> <p><b>**An additional consequence may be the loss of participation in PBIS (Positive Behavior System of Supports) reward activities.</b></p>

**Climb Time: In-school and after school time to complete missing homework/in-class work. (We want students to understand that the work is an important part of building their learning and demonstrating proficiency to the academic standards for each class.)**

**What is Climb Time?** We have created a system of support for our students called “Climb Time.” Students who have not completed homework/in-class work will be given a ticket (by the teacher) to attend Climb Time during their lunch period.

**Will the students get to eat lunch?** The students will be able to take the ticket they receive from the teacher to the front of the lunch line to pick up lunch before going to the Climb Time classroom. All students will be able to eat lunch.

**What will the students do in Climb Time?** A paraprofessional will be supervising students during both lunches. This time is not designed for tutoring or re-teaching concepts, but to allow students additional time to complete important work.

**What happens if the students don't finish the work?** A student may be assigned Climb Time during lunch the next day, or he/she can attend after school Climb Time (supervised by a teacher) to complete the work. If after-school Climb Time is assigned, a phone call will be made to parents.

Ideally, the program is designed to reinforce the positive behavior of accountability. We will be training teachers regarding the process and feel this can help many of our students.

**Additional Items:**

- 1) **Backpack policy:** Students will be allowed to bring backpacks to school, but must keep them in their lockers. AVID binders are the only item that should be needed. As indicated in earlier communications, if there are extenuating circumstances and needs, please contact the administration.
- 2) **After-School Support Lab:** We are changing the focus to math and science after-school tutoring. Students can always get help from their individual teachers, but we will have a math or science teacher available at each grade level to offer specific tutoring help in math and science. We will be putting together a specific schedule and making it available to parents and students once all of our teachers are back! We will have after-school Climb Time for those students who didn't complete their work at lunchtime. We also want students to visit their regular teachers before and after school for help.
- 3) **Parent/Community Nights:** We are planning events (at least once a quarter) for parent/community fun! Look for additional information regarding these events and come be part of our great Mount Jordan Community.

Thank you for taking the time to read this lengthy newsletter. As an administrative team, we are committed to your children and to the quality of teaching and learning at Mount Jordan Middle School. Please contact us if you have questions or concerns. This is going to be a great year!

***“It's Always a Great Day to be a Mountaineer!”***