



Scholar Handbook

SCHOOL COLORS

Blue and White

SCHOOL MASCOT

Mighty Mustangs

George White, Interim Principal

Vision:

Morningside Middle School is a place where all stakeholders feel safe, valued and inspired to achieve personal and academic excellence; a place where diversity is embraced.

Mission:

Through dedication and commitment to a growth mindset, we will support scholars, families and communities socially, emotionally and academically with excellence.



As an MMS Mustang I am...

Proactive
Respectful
Integrity
Determined

Empathetic

I will show Respect for...

Myself by:

- Attending school regularly and being on time.
- Following rules and directions of adults.
- Trying my best to complete my school work.
- Exhibiting impulse control and controlling my behavior.
- Remaining on school grounds unless I have permission to leave school.
- Accepting consequences for my actions.
- Choosing not to bring inappropriate or unlawful items to school.

Others by:

- Showing empathy when speaking to others and behaving towards others.
- Treating others as I would like to be treated.
- Saying positive things to others.
- Being honest.
- Cooperating with others.
- Dressing in a way that is appropriate for the learning environment.
- Using language that is appropriate for school.
- Using problem-solving and anger management skills to solve problems peacefully.
- Staying out of others' personal business.
- Staying out of others' personal space.

Learning by:

- Cooperating with others.
- Behaving in a way that helps others and me.
- Working quietly.
- Staying in my assigned area.
- Keeping focused on my work.
- Following school rules and procedures.
- Participating in class activities and discussions.
- Completing my own school work and homework.
- Following rules and directions of adults.

- Keeping my eyes on my own paper when taking quizzes and tests.

Property by:

- Taking care of things in my school.
- Leaving dangerous or distracting things at home.
- Using school materials for their intended purposes.
- Following rules about safety

MORNINGSIDE SCHOOL WIDE EXPECTATIONS

1. Scholars are expected to be on time to class and must have a pass to leave any class.
2. Scholars may not leave campus without permission.
3. Scholars may not bring contraband items to school. (see list below)
4. Forgery, stealing, gambling, cheating, or any unethical behavior is unacceptable.
5. Scholars will follow the dress code policy.
6. Scholars will not be allowed to disrupt the learning process and environment of others.
7. Scholars will follow the Charleston County Code of Conduct.



In School Tardy Policy

	Consequence
1st Unexcused Tardy	Verbal Warning
2nd Unexcused Tardy	Parent Conference
3rd Unexcused Tardy	Classroom referral (administrative consequence)
4th Unexcused Tardy	Office referral (ISS)

After 4th unexcused tardy, referrals will be written for each additional tardy.

- **Internet Use/Acceptable Use Policy:** Use of technology at school is a privilege. The use of the school's/district's computer network must be in support of education and research that is consistent with the mission of the school and district. Each scholar who wants to utilize technology, internet, etc., must read and agree to the terms of the CCSD's Technology Acceptable Use Policy as outlined in the CCSD Student Code of Conduct.

- **Cell Phone Usage:**

Cell phones are not to be used during the school day. The school adopted a no cell phone policy that allows for more attention to instruction and lesson focus on opportunity that takes away from scholars' academic achievement. To this end, Morningside is a Yonder school. The Yondr pouches are given to

each scholar at the start of the year. Each scholar is expected to place their cell phone in the pouches and lock them up until they dismiss for the day. Any phone found not within their Yonder pouch will be confiscated by administration and secured in the front office until the end of the school day. If there is a repeated offense, the phone will be confiscated and secured and the parent would be required to come to the school to retrieve the device.

The school is not responsible for any cell phone lost or damaged by the scholar. Scholars are expected to store them appropriately in the Yonder.

Violating the policy, or participating in any form of cyberbullying, can result in consequences being imposed by the administration.

The following items should not be brought to school. School officials will confiscate these items.

- Cameras
- Cigarettes (e-cigs) and/or lighters/matches
- Drugs (street and/or over-the-counter)
- Electronic games
- Fireworks
- Food (including gum, candy, etc.)
- Games (including playing cards)
- Magazines (at the discretion of teachers and administrators)
- Pornographic material
- Sunglasses
- Tobacco products
- Weapons
- Materials used for gambling
- Gang paraphernalia

MORNINGSIDE MIDDLE DRESS CODE

The dress code creates a respectful and safe environment

Students are responsible for dressing in an appropriate manner at all times while on a school campus or while involved in a school or district sponsored event/activity. Wearing appropriate attire promotes a positive influence on the school climate.

Uniform Policy

The Dress Code at Morningside is about SAFETY and SELF-RESPECT. Uniforms allow us to identify any visitor or trespasser very quickly. Additionally, uniforms help create an environment of professionalism and respect in preparation for an education and eventually a career.

Grade Level	Shirt Color	Pants
6 th Grade	Blue	Blue, Black, Khaki, or Jeans (without holes that expose skin)

7 th Grade	Green	Blue, Black, Khaki, or Jeans (without holes without holes that expose skin)
8 th Grade	Gray	Blue, Black, Khaki, or Jeans (without holes without holes that expose skin)

- **Pants:** Scholars may wear short or long cotton/polyester pants – **Khaki, black, blue, or jeans without holes that show skin.**

Note: The pants should fit: not too big; not too tight. NO jeans with holes that expose skin, spandex, leggings, jeggings, sweat pants etc. “Pants-sagging” is not acceptable.

- **Shorts:** The standard for wearing shorts is that when standing with arms hanging down to the side, the area on the leg where fingers touch should be the hemline of the shorts. Young ladies may wear “skorts”, but they must be the appropriate length.
- **Shirts:** You may wear a T-shirt, House shirt (HOUSE DAYS), golf shirt, collared shirt, or turtleneck. No shirts with spaghetti straps or low cut necklines will be allowed. Keep your shirt neatly tucked into your pants. Undergarments worn under the shirts must be white or the appropriate grade level color.
- **Shoes:** Shoes should be securely fastened to your feet. Gladiator sandals or sandals with the back or toes out are prohibited. Slides, bedroom slippers, slip on shoes, and thong flip flops are not allowed. Solid color Crocs, with straps, are allowed.
- **Sweatshirts/Sweaters:** Wear the appropriate solid color for your grade level. They can be pulled over, zip-up, button-up, and short sleeve or long sleeve. Hooded sweatshirts are not to be worn at school.
- **Jackets** – unless you are instructed otherwise, leave your jacket/coat/windbreaker in your homeroom. Wear an **appropriate** sweatshirt if you are cold. Jackets **MAY NOT** be worn around the waist.
- **Miscellaneous:** Hats, scarves, etc. will not be worn during the school day. Scarves, bandanas (of any kind) are not allowed at school. (Safety) Shoes should be securely fastened to your feet. Scholars should not display combs, brushes. Book bags and backpacks should be placed in lockers at the beginning of the school day. Scholars are not allowed to wear book bags or backpacks in the classrooms or hallways. Purses should be moderate size and not serve as book bags.
- **Jewelry:** anything distracting should not be brought to school – large/flashy jewelry of any type, facial piercing, anything drug/gang or violence related.
- **For Health and Safety Reasons the following items are FORBIDDEN:**
 - Face jewelry (facial piercing, “grills” or other dental coverings unless prescribed by a doctor)
 - Hoop earrings (larger than a quarter)
 - Dangle earrings (longer than one inch)
 - Oversized belt buckles
 - Scarves, bandanas, hats, wave caps, sweat bands, head bands

- Oversized bags or purses
- Hats worn during the school day without permission will be confiscated

NOTE: Administration has the discretion to determine appropriate or inappropriate attire. Students who are found to be in violation of the dress code are subject to disciplinary action.

Appropriate dress, appearance, proper behavior, and cleanliness are vital to each member of the school community. For this reason, young people enrolled at MMS are to strive to be neat, clean, and professional in their dress.



SCHOOL BUSINESS

SCHOOL HOURS

Morningside Middle School hours are 8:30am - 3:30pm Monday through Friday. In the mornings, the front doors will be open at 8:00am to allow students in the building. Breakfast will be served to students beginning at 8:00am. In the afternoons, all students must be off campus by 3:45pm unless they are

involved in after school or extra-curricular activities. Scholars are not allowed to be on campus until 7:45am.

DAILY DISMISSAL

It is expected that students leave campus by 3:45pm unless under the direct supervision of a teacher, coach or administrator. Students may not return to campus after dismissal unless they are participating in an authorized school function. All transportation arrangements are the responsibility of the students and their parents and must be made before the end of the school day. Failure to do so will result in administrative action.

SIGNING OUT

1. To receive a day's credit for being present in class, a student must be in attendance for at least 2/3 of the class period.
2. Students are permitted to leave school before their regular dismissal with the written request of a parent or guardian. Early dismissals must be obtained through the secretary in the main office. A student must have a dismissal slip and be signed out by the main office or a parent in order to leave the school building. The main office must be given a telephone number where the parent can be reached.
3. Students must bring a written request for early dismissal to the attendance office at the beginning of the school day (before 8:30am). If the note is approved by an administrator, the student will be allowed to sign out in the main office.
4. Students must also sign back in the main office if they return to school.
5. Only those individuals listed on the students' emergency card will be allowed to sign a student out. No emails, phone calls or faxes will be accepted.



TARDINESS

The MMS faculty is focused on putting an end to tardiness to school in the morning and to classes during the school day. Tardy students disrupt the teaching and learning environment for teachers and students when they enter a classroom. Tardiness causes a valuable loss of time, is a lack of self-discipline, and should never be tolerated as habitual behavior.

Please be advised of tardiness due to morning security screenings/searches, traffic, over-sleeping, being caught behind construction vehicles, transporting siblings to school, etc... are not excused tardies. The

only excused tardies to appointments, court bereavements. Those the attendance office documentation.

At MMS, teachers are lock their doors after the and to

immediately begin instruction. This promotes high-quality teaching and learning from “bell to bell.”

Students arriving to any class after the late bell are considered tardy to class, unless they have an authorized pass. In order to prevent classroom disruptions, these students are escorted by the grade level student concern specialist and will receive consequences as stated in the MMS Tardy Policy.

It is critical to discuss the importance of timeliness with your children. Our mission is to develop confident, responsible, life-long learners. Please share with them our expectations to arrive at class on-time, prepared, and ready to learn.



school are doctor appearances, and students should report to with the proper

instructed to close and ringing of the late bell

I.

SLT (Silent Lunch Time)

If the student's behavior is the cause of needing lunch detention, the teacher should document this in Review360 with this consequence (teacher-managed referral). The teacher is also expected to contact the parent to inform of the behavior and consequence. If the student does not attend the lunch detention, the teacher should write an administrative referral for Detention Violation.

STUDENT BEHAVIORS POSSIBLE INTERVENTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

When students behave in positive ways, they will be successful. Students are responsible for treating each other fairly and for acting in compliance with school policies and directions from school staff.

Since students spend the majority of their time in classroom environments where behavior must conform to high standards, most discipline matters are managed by the classroom teacher.

Behaviors resulting in Disruptive or Criminal Conduct are managed by the school administration through an office referral. Interventions and consequences are based on the severity of the infraction as addressed in Levels 2 and 3. Any one of the consequences listed under each level, pertaining to the incident, may be implemented by the administrator.

The CCSD Code of Conduct applies to all students at all times while:

- In school buildings
- On school grounds
- On school vehicles
- At all school related activities

If students do not behave in positive ways, consequences will follow.

CCSD PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE PLAN

The CCSD Progressive Discipline Plan is a guide for all administrators to use when processing office discipline referrals. Administrators may elect to provide additional interventions or assign a lesser consequence based on extenuating circumstances. In addition, administrators may assign a more exclusionary practice with approval from the principal.

The infraction title and codes listed in the CCSD Progressive Discipline Plan are assigned by the state.

The majority of the behavior levels are directed by the state, however behaviors considered more egregious towards adults, may have been placed in a higher level (for example, profanity is a Level 1 offense based on the state's code, but profanity towards an adult is considered a Level 2 infraction for CCSD). For more information on codes, infractions and their definitions, and possible consequences, please refer to pages 30-38 in the CCSD Student Code of Conduct.

