



9100 SE 42nd Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040
Phone: (206) 236-3350
Fax: (206) 236-3358
College Board Code: 480698
Website: www.mercerislandschools.org

Nick Wold, Principal
Lisa Deen, Associate Principal
Erica Hill, Associate Principal

Mercer Island High School

Student Handbook

Table Of Contents
(Click a topic to jump to it in the document)

VISION	5
VALUES	5
PURPOSE	5
MOTTO	5
USEFUL WEBSITES & PHONE NUMBERS	7
ANNOUNCEMENTS	8
BICYCLES, SKATEBOARDS, SCOOTERS, ROLLERBLADES	8
BUILDING HOURS	8
CAREER CENTER	8
CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES	8
CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS	9
COLLEGE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION – TEACHER AND COUNSELOR ROLES	9
COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES	10
COUNSELING SERVICES	11
COURSE EXPECTATIONS	11
CREDIT FOR OFF CAMPUS COURSES	12
CREDIT FOR OUTSIDE-OF-THE-SCHOOL DAY ACTIVITIES	12
CREDIT FOR ONLINE LEARNING	14
CREDIT FOR COMPLETION OF HIGH SCHOOL COURSES PRIOR TO 9th GRADE	14
DAILY BULLETIN	14
DANCES	14
DELIVERY SERVICE / MESSAGES	15
DRESS CODE	15
EMERGENCY PROCEDURES	14
FEES (may be subject to change due to remote learning)	18
FINES	19
GRADING	20
HEALTH, MEDICINE & MEDICAL EMERGENCIES	23
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS	24
INSURANCE	24

LIBRARY - MEDIA CENTER	24
LOST AND FOUND	24
OPEN PERIODS: AREAS FOR OPEN STUDY	23
PARKING	25
PROGRAM OF STUDIES	27
REGISTRATION / COURSE SELECTION	27
SIGNS/POSTERS/DISPLAYS	28
STOLEN ITEMS	29
TESTING	29
TRANSCRIPTS	29
VISITORS	29
WEBSITE	29
EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION	30
Academic Integrity Code	32
Attendance Procedures	35
Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) of Student Prohibited	39
Links to Mercer Island School District Policies and Procedures	45
ATHLETIC AND ACTIVITY CODE	45
DISCIPLINE AND PROCEDURE	45
ELECTRONIC RESOURCES AND INTERNET SAFETY PROCEDURE	45
http://go.boarddocs.com/wa/misd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=9YTTDS76DE70	45
NONDISCRIMINATION	45
http://go.boarddocs.com/wa/misd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=9U4RGX6DF16C	45
PROHIBITION OF HARASSMENT, HAZING, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING AND PROCEDURE	45
SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF STUDENTS PROHIBITED PROCEDURE	45
STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES	45
STUDENT USE, POSSESSION, OR SALE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS	45
USE AND POSSESSION OF TOBACCO, NICOTINE PRODUCTS AND DELIVERY DEVICES WITHIN THE MERCER ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT	45



Nondiscrimination Notification:

The Mercer Island School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society.

The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

HIB (Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying) Coordinator:

Erin Battersby, Senior Director of Compliance and Legal Affairs
Phone: (206) 230-6227 Email: erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org

Title IX Compliance Coordinator:

Erin Battersby, Senior Director of Compliance and Legal Affairs
Phone: (206) 230-6227 Email: erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org

Section 504 & ADA Coordinator:

Dr. Sue Ann Bube, Director of Student Services
Phone: (206) 236-3326 Email: sueann.bube@mercerislandschools.org

Civil Rights Coordinator:

Erin Battersby, Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator
Phone: (206) 230-6227 Email: erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org

Disclaimer:

The information contained in this handbook is accurate as of the time of publication (May 6, 2024) and is subject to change. Changes to Policies & Procedures will be posted on the Mercer Island School District website, the Mercer Island High School website, and pushed to student computers. For the most up-to-date student handbook policies and procedures please refer to www.mercerislandschools.org and mihs.mercerislandschools.org

Mercer Island High School
9100 SE 42nd Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040
206-236-3350
206-236-3358 Fax
www.mercerislandschools.org

MIHS MAIN LINE: 206-236-3350

VISION

Mercer Island High School provides a respectful, healthy, and supportive learning community committed to preparing students for their future.

VALUES

The administration, staff, students, and parents of Mercer Island High School value:

- A love of learning
- Effective instructional and assessment practices
- Enriching and challenging opportunities for learning
- Exceptional preparation for success in college, work, and future endeavors
- Support for student success
- A healthy learning environment
- Community service and active citizenship
- Effective communication, respect, and integrity
- Positive relationships
- Participation in extracurricular activities
- Respect for and appreciation of diversity
- A nurturing and fulfilling high school experience

PURPOSE

The purpose of Mercer Island High School is to provide students with challenging educational activities and experiences that encourage students to reach their individual potential.

MOTTO



ADMINISTRATORS

Principal (J-R)	Nick Wold	206-236-3386
Associate Principal (A-I)	Erica Hill	206-230-6226
Associate Principal (S-Z)	Lisa Deen	206-236-3387

COUNSELORS

Last Names: A-D	Susie Brown	206-236-3340
Last Names: E-J	Maddie LaPorte	206-230-6013
Last Names: K-M	Laura Karson	206-236-3364
Last Names: N-Si	Molly Smith	206-236-3365
Last Names: Sj-Z	Katy Johnson	206-236-3355
MIYFS Counselor	Caleb Visser	206-236-3290
MIYFS Drug & Alcohol Counselor	Chris Harnish	206-236-3363

SUPPORT STAFF & SCHOOL RESOURCES

Activities Coordinator	Toby Swanson	206-230-6357
ASB Bookkeeper & Accounting Secretary	Valerie Perine	206-236-3361
Athletics Coordinator	Lindsey Blaine	206-236-3312
Facilities Coordinator	Rachel Hood	206-230-6182
Athletics & Facilities Assistant	Becky LeMaster	206-230-6345
Attendance Manager	Kate Halter	206-236-3346
Attendance Liaison	DJ Mims	206-236-3313
Islander Hour Program	Shannon Tapp	206 230-6344
Counseling Secretary	Amanda Thrall	206-236-3354
Counseling Secretary	Robin Moore	206-230-6350
Main Office Administrative Assistant	Kristin Brintnall	206-236-3351
Main Office Secretary	Amy Connoley	206-236-3349
Nurse	Shelley Sage	206-236-3377
Registrar-Transcripts & Student Records	Monica Moline	206-236-4513
School Security Liaisons	Kelly John-Lewis	206-236-4523
	Courtney Taylor (CT)	206-236-6052

FAX NUMBERS

Counseling Office	206-230-6352
Main Office	206-236-3358

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Mercer Island Boys & Girls Club	206-232-4548
Mercer Island Police	206-232-3500
Mary Wayte Pool	425-351-6401
Mercer Island Youth & Family Services	206-236-3525

USEFUL WEBSITES & PHONE NUMBERS

Mercer Island School District: www.mercerislandschools.org
Mercer Island High School: mihs.mercerislandschools.org
School Closures/Emergency ListServe: Sign up at flashalert.net
MIHS PTSA: www.mihspsta.org
MIHS PTSA President: Tsering Yuthok Short, Nancy Weil
Announcement ListServe: Subscribe by sending parent first and last name, the current grade level(s) of your high school student(s), and any email addresses you would like added to mihsnewsletter@hotmail.com

Qmlativ Login / Password: Jiovanna Koceski 206-230-6361,
jiovanna.koceski@mercerislandschools.org

Qmlativ: Students check grades [here](#)
Clubs & Activity: [ASB Clubs & Activities List](#)
Clubs & Activities Coordinator: Toby Swanson, toby.swanson@mercerislandschools.org
Sports List: [Sports by Season](#)

GENERAL INFORMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements will be limited to new or urgent information not listed in our Daily Bulletin. Announcements must be submitted to the Main Office in writing, one day in advance. Once approved by an Administrator, they will be shared with the larger school community.

BICYCLES, SKATEBOARDS, SCOOTERS, ROLLERBLADES

Students are not allowed to use bicycles, skateboards, scooters or rollerblades on campus.

BUILDING HOURS

The building is open for student use from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (when outside doors are unlocked) Monday through Friday.

CAREER HUB

Located in the Counseling Office, the Career HUB is a resource center for post high school planning. Materials available for students include; college catalogs, vocational technology schools' information, scholarship information, military programs, study abroad, testing information and summer programs.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

To foster the learning environments we desire and promote healthy social and emotional development, Mercer Island School District is implementing [MI Phone-Free Schools](#) during the school day in 2024-25 for students at Mercer Island High School (MIHS).

To read the MISD Phone-Free Schools Policy [click here](#). A MIHS Phone-Free School flier can also be [viewed here](#)

Consequences for Violations

MIHS has worked to develop consequences for students who are found to not have their cell phone, smartwatch, and AirPods/EarBuds in a Yondr pouch.

- **First offense** - Teachers or staff will immediately confiscate the devices and put them in a pouch which will not be returned to the student until the end of the school day. The family will be contacted and a restorative conversation will be held with the student.
- **Second offense** - Teachers or staff will immediately confiscate the devices, put them in a pouch and send the pouch to the school's main office to be stored securely. The pouch will only be returned to a parent or guardian,

who will be notified that they need to come to the school office to pick up the devices. Another restorative conversation with the student and possibly a parent will be held.

- Special Note - MIHS dismisses at 3pm Monday through Friday. School office and administrative staff will not wait after school for a parent to pick up a confiscated device.
- Any further offenses will be handled on a case by case basis which could include future discipline up to and including bag searches, community service, and/or other disciplinary action including after school or Saturday detention or even suspension from school.

CLOSED CAMPUS (FRESHMEN) – References Policy 3242

All students are expected to attend classes daily except in the case of excused absences as per Administrative Policy 3122P Mercer Island High School Attendance Policy.

Mercer Island High School has a closed campus for the Freshman Class. Freshman students are expected to carry a class load of a minimum of six classes each semester and are required to remain on campus during their scheduled school day.

The high school has an open campus for the Sophomore, Junior and Senior Classes. Students are expected to carry a class load of a minimum of five classes each semester. Juniors and Seniors with parking permits are permitted to park their cars on campus.

ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY

[ASB CLASS OFFICERS FOR 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR](#)

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

There are many clubs and organizations that students can become involved in. Students can find out more about these and other clubs by contacting our Activities Coordinator or the Main Office.

Examples of current club offerings: Chess Club, Computer Club, CSE, D&D Club, Green Team, International Club, Key Club, Kids Corps, Math Club, Mock Trial, National Honor Society, Natural Helpers, S.A.V.E., Senior Service Club, Ultimate Frisbee etc.

COLLEGE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION – TEACHER AND COUNSELOR ROLES

Seniors who need a letter of recommendation from a teacher and forms completed by a counselor as part of the private college/university admission application process should follow the following steps:

1. During the second semester of junior year, students request letters of recommendation from teachers.

Teachers limit their total number of letters so students must receive assurance their letter will be written. It is the student's responsibility to research how many letters are required of each college/university. Colleges/universities rarely ask for more than two teacher letters. If the student is unsure of their future course of study, colleges/universities often suggest one letter from the Math/Science subjects and one from the English/Social Studies subjects.

2. At least one month prior to students' first application deadline, or whatever deadline the teacher determines, give the teacher writing the letter all the documents they request.

Teachers may need a student resume, unofficial transcript or request to have a conversation with you about writing a letter of recommendation.

3. Students request their teachers on their Naviance Account and add their list of colleges and application deadlines.

Once invited by the student via Naviance, teachers are able to upload letters of recommendations to most colleges. For colleges that require letters of recommendation that are not on the Common App or that can be uploaded to Naviance it is up to the student to inform the teacher of how the college will accept his/her letter of recommendation. After the teacher's letters of recommendation have been written and submitted to colleges/universities, it is the student's responsibility to check that all of their application materials have been submitted to each college he/she is applying to. If the colleges/universities do not digitally receive such documents, students must provide business size envelopes, stamped and addressed to their colleges/universities. The teacher/counselor will provide the return address. Please refer to the Counseling Department website later in September for an updated video overview of this process.

4. Student requests for recommendation forms to be completed by counselors should follow the same steps outlined above.

Private colleges/universities applications also require a form, commonly called "Secondary School Report", "Counselor Report" or "School Report." These reports typically require a counselor to upload an official transcript, school profile, and complete a recommendation form (not a formal letter of recommendation) on behalf of the student.

Detailed information about the College Application Process will be presented to seniors in September of their senior year. Dates and times will be available in Counseling Newsletters and on the Counseling Department website.

COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

- Be respectful.
- Keep an open mind. Be positive. Ask questions before reaching conclusions.
- Search for solutions, not blame. Be flexible.

Talk to your teacher(s) sooner rather than later if you feel you need help, a clarification, or a recommendation. Try to take care of as much as you can directly with your teacher. If you still feel a situation is not resolved, (and you are entitled to feel this way), ask for help

from your counselor, an administrator or your parents. Do not wait until it is too late; you are your own best advocate!

Pay attention to the Daily Bulletin and all announcements. Take an active role in finding out the things you need to know, such as application deadlines, making appointments with counselors, and test dates. Follow through; do not give up if you have to ask more than once.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Counseling Office (206) 236-3354

The Counseling Department assists students and their parents in high school planning and decision-making. They work closely with administrators to ensure that all students are as successful as possible. Some of the programs and services they oversee include:

- High School, College, Career planning/counseling
- Technical/Vocational Programs -Voc-Tech Institutes, and Tech-Prep
- Advanced Placement, SAT and ACT Testing
- Personal Issues and Crisis Intervention
- Alternative Education Programs and Resources
- Special seminars and workshops
- Parent Consultation
- Community Referrals and Resources

Please check the Counseling Department website for resources and answers to commonly asked questions. Counselors are also available for consultation via the Counselor of the Day Table for students and parents during the school day. Otherwise questions or inquiries for appointments can be directed to the student's counseling office or the counselor.

Resource and Referral Center (R & R Place) (206) 236-3290

The Resource and Referral Place (R and R Place) is a school-based satellite office of Mercer Island Youth and Family Services. The two full-time R and R counselors are available to provide individual and family counseling as well as substance abuse services. Students can drop in or make an appointment for confidential help with personal issues. If needed, the R and R staff can help with referrals to local agencies that provide more specialized services for young people and their families. Students are encouraged to visit the R and R before or after school, during a free period and at lunchtime.

Drug and Alcohol Counselor (206) 236-3363

A drug and alcohol counselor is responsible for running recovery classes; for ongoing student counseling, advice and support; and for student assessments. In addition, this counselor initiates and supports programs, workshops, and other activities that promote a healthy, drug free lifestyle.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

In order to encourage students to resolve differences they have with a teacher's policies or decisions, all teachers are required to state their class expectations in writing and provide

each student with a copy. Open lines of communication are necessary to ensure maximum learning and understanding. Students are expected to understand the course expectations for each of their classes.

CREDIT FOR APPROVED OFF CAMPUS ACCREDITED COURSES

Students may take courses for credit from accredited off-campus institutions. Credit requests must be approved prior to the start of the course by submitting a *Request for Off-Campus Course Credit* form to the Registrar. Forms and directions are online on the Counseling Department website. Credit earned for off-campus courses will be indicated on the MIHS transcript as “CR” (credit). The grade earned at the off campus institution will not be included on the MIHS transcript or computed in the MIHS GPA. A list of all courses from outside accredited institutions for which MIHS has syllabi on file is available on the MIHS Counseling Department webpage via: www.mercerislandschools.org and in the Counseling Department. The mark “No Pass” or NP indicates that the student has not met the minimum learning objectives of a course taken off campus.

CREDIT FOR OUTSIDE-OF-THE-SCHOOL DAY ACTIVITIES

Directed Athletics

- Maximum of 1 credit total may be earned for Directed Athletics/Off-Campus Athletics or combination of the two.
- Students participating in the MIHS supervised competitive sports program may receive a maximum of one year PE credit toward the two years required for graduation.
- Documentation of participation is monitored by the Head Coach and the Athletic Director.

Directed Athletics will be entered as a class on the students' transcript. 1 season = 1 semester (.5) credit; maximum 2 semester (1.0). Graded Pass/No Pass.

Off-Campus Athletics

- 1.0 of the 1.5 total PE credits needed to graduate can be earned through Directed Athletics (.5 per season). All students must earn at least 0.5 credits in an on-campus course.
- Students who wish to receive credit for participation in a physical education program not under the supervision of the school must fill out an *Off-Campus Athletics* form (available in Counseling Center) and submit it to the Athletic Director for pre-approval.

Section A: WIAA Sports offered at MIHS

- Must confirm at least 85% participation for practices across the season via attendance record submission via Final Forms
- There must be a responsible adult who agrees in advance to monitor and record the student's attendance and participation and certify credit requirements were met.
- Upon completion of the activity the form must be submitted again to the Athletic Director for his signature.

Section B: MIHS Non-WIAA & Club Sports

- Criteria that must be met with “Yes” to qualify for PE credit
 - Activity has a dedicated season with beginning and end dates
 - Activity has a governing body
 - All practices and competition involves continuous moderate to vigorous physical activity
 - Activity meets for a minimum (practice or competition) of at least 5x per week & 2.0 hours per day (100 hours)
 - Coaches must confirm active participation in 85% of the season via attendance record submission via Final Forms or alternatively approved attendance record
 - Activity requires 10+ consecutive weeks of practice/competition with no more than a single 2-week break in participation
 - Activity takes place during the school calendar year
 - Activity occurs outside of school time
- As with Directed Athletics, a maximum of one year physical education credit toward the two year graduation requirement may be earned. 75 hours = 1 semester credit (.5); maximum 2 semesters (1.0). Pass/No Pass. Not counted in GPA. The transcript will reflect that this was an off-campus credit.

Section C: Off-Campus Directed Athletics

**Only 0.5 credits can be earned per semester (1.0 maximum during 4 years)*

**Application must be submitted prior to the commencement of the sport/activity*

**Application must be submitted prior to the semester for which they intend to receive credit*

- Criteria that must be met with “Yes” to qualify for PE credit
 - Activity has a governing body
 - Activity/Sport is not offered at MIHS
 - Flexibility if you were cut from an MIHS sports team during same school year
 - Activity meets at least 3x/week
 - Activity takes place outside of the school day
 - Activity provides at least 100 hours of participation
 - Coaches must verify hours via attendance records (cannot be family members)
 - Activity requires 10+ consecutive weeks of practice/competition with no more than a single 2-week break in participation

- Must be signed off by Athletic Director prior to commencement of activity

Off-Campus Fine Arts

- Students who wish to receive credit for Fine Arts instruction outside of school must fill out an *Off-Campus Fine Arts* form (available in the Counseling Center) and submit it to the Fine Arts Director for approval before credit may be earned.
- There must be a responsible adult who agrees in advance to monitor and record the student's attendance and participation and certify that credit requirements were met.
- A maximum of one semester (.5) or half the one full year Fine Arts graduation credit may be earned. 75 hours = one semester credit. Pass/No Pass. Not counted in GPA. The transcript will reflect that this was off-campus credit.

CREDIT FOR ONLINE LEARNING

Mercer Island High School has a special partnership with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction that allows students to enroll in selected online courses for MIHS credit. For more information or to register for a Digital Learning Department course, please visit the Counseling Center webpage via: www.mercerislandschools.org or talk with your counselor.

Additional online learning opportunities are available through other online providers. These are considered off-campus courses (see above for additional information regarding credit). Information about these opportunities is available on the Counseling Center webpage via: www.mercerislandschools.org and in the Counseling Center.

CREDIT FOR COMPLETION OF HIGH SCHOOL COURSES PRIOR TO 9TH GRADE

Some core high school courses completed prior to 9th grade may be eligible for inclusion on the high school transcript. During their junior year students will be informed of the process to elect this option.

DAILY BULLETIN

Daily Bulletins are created by Amy Connoley. They are available to access on the school website. The Bulletin is read over the intercom during the first 5 minutes of 3rd period on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and during Islander Hour on Wednesdays.

Anyone wishing to submit an item for the bulletin must email Amy Connoley (amy.conneleyt@mercerislandschools.org) no later than one day before the bulletin needs to be read. Any item added to the bulletin may stay in the bulletin for a longer period of time, but will only be read during announcements up to 3 days in a row, or on a weekly basis (depending on the nature of the item). Student announcements must be approved by an Administrator or a faculty advisor.

DANCES

During the school year students are invited to attend the three major dances as well as any planned dances after Athletic Events. Major dances are the Homecoming Dance, Winter Tolo, and the Senior Prom. Dance dress guidelines for the major dances, with the exception of Prom, are semi formal. Tuxedos and long dresses are not appropriate for the informal dances, and, although they are acceptable at Prom, they are not necessary for the Tolo. ASB cardholders will benefit from a reduced price to all dances. Guest Passes must be picked up in advance from the Main Office. All school rules including use of tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs will be upheld at our dances. Once a student has entered a dance, he/she is expected to stay within the facility. Those who elect to leave the dance will not be readmitted.

DOORS CLOSE AT 10:30 PM.

NO ONE WILL BE ADMITTED AFTER THE DOORS CLOSE WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE ADMINISTRATORS IN ATTENDANCE.

DELIVERY SERVICE / MESSAGES

Special delivery requests (messages, lunches, supplies, homework, flowers, food, birthday gifts, etc.) will not be allowed due to the overwhelming number of requests. Items may be brought to the Attendance Office for pick-up, but will not be delivered to classrooms.

DRESS CODE

Consistent with Administrative Policy 3240, students are expected to conform to reasonable standards of acceptable behavior and are expected to preserve the degree of order necessary for a positive climate for learning.

Core Values: In relation to student dress, the MIHS's core values are the following:

Our first priority is to create safe environments for all students

- Students have the right to dress and style their hair for school in a manner that expresses their individuality without fear of unnecessary discipline or body shaming;
- Students have the right to be treated equitably. Dress code enforcement will not create disparities, reinforce or increase marginalization of any group, nor will it be more strictly enforced against students because of racial identity, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, gender nonconformity, sexual orientation, cultural or religious identity, household income, body size/type, body maturity or socio economic/class differences;
- Students and staff are responsible for managing their personal distraction;
- Students should not face unnecessary barriers to school attendance;
- Students are allowed to focus on their learning environment protected from any clothing that references: hate speech/alcohol/drugs/violence/sexual innuendos/obscenities;

No-Shame Dress Code:

Students must wear:

- Bottoms.
- Tops.
- Shoes.
- Clothing that covers genitals, buttocks and areolae/nipples with opaque material.

Students may wear:

- Hats, including religious headwear.
- Hoodie sweatshirts (overhead is allowed, classroom discretion applies).
- Fitted pants, including leggings, yoga pants, and "skinny jeans."
- Sweatpants, shorts, skirts, dresses, pants.
- Midriff-baring shirts.
- Pajamas.
- Ripped jeans, as long as underwear is not exposed.
- Tank tops, including spaghetti straps, halter tops and "tube" (strapless) tops.
- Athletic attire.

Students cannot wear:

- Violent language, images.
- Images or language depicting drugs or alcohol (or any illegal item or activity) or the use of the same.
- Hate speech, profanity, pornography.
- Images and/or language that create a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class.

- Visible undergarments that show genitalia, lingerie of any kind, or bathing suits of similar design - visible waistbands or straps on undergarments worn under other clothing are not a violation.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Each classroom contains an "Emergency Response Guide." Staff members are familiar with its contents. In general, there are three 3 school-wide emergency responses that students should be aware of:

1) Evacuation

Emergency Bell: Steady sound; every person should evacuate the building. Evacuation routes and reporting zones are posted in each classroom and are to be followed as directed by staff members. In the event of an actual emergency, everyone will proceed to the stadium after direction is given to the Hall Captains via Administrative direction.

2) Lock Down

This will be communicated through the loudspeaker system. Staff Members will lock doors, close shades, move away from doors and windows and wait for instructions.

3) Drop – Cover - Hold

If a life-threatening situation arises (i.e. earthquake) students should take cover and wait until it is safe to evacuate or the Emergency Bell activates.

Extreme Weather Conditions

During the winter season, weather conditions may require a change in bus and school schedules, or possibly the cancellation of bus transportation. Whenever any such change is advisable, notice will be given to the Seattle radio stations for announcement on the morning newscasts starting at approximately 5:30 a.m. Parents and students are urged to listen to the radio broadcasts during extreme weather conditions. Please do not telephone radio stations, school officials or weather bureaus for information. Such calls slow communication. School schedule changes will also be put on the district information telephone line (206) 236-3366 and on the district website: www.mercerislandschools.org

*****THERE WILL BE SCHOOL AS USUAL UNLESS OTHERWISE ANNOUNCED*****

Radio announcements covering other than normal operations shall be interpreted to mean "for one day only" unless otherwise specified. If no announcement is made, schools will operate normally. Upon return to school after a closure, the seven (7) period day schedule will be followed regardless of the day that the return falls upon. Therefore, students should be prepared with all work and materials necessary to pick up from where they left off from the previous class when school was in session.

Emergency Information/Student Registration Form

At MIHS we are committed to being prepared in the event of any emergency and accurate emergency information is an important part of this task. Please provide the Registrar your parent/guardian's accurate work phone numbers, including pager and cell phone numbers, hospital/physician phone numbers, and emergency contact phone numbers. If those numbers change, let the Registrar know immediately. Remember that an "emergency contact" should be someone local, who is willing to pick you up if your parent/guardian is unavailable. Also, new students must complete the "Health Information" section of the *Registration Form*, and be sure to have parent/guardian sign it. This allows and assists us to secure medical care for you in case of an emergency.

Emergency Listserv (FlashAlert)

The new Emergency Listserv is housed by a different organization and is tied directly to the school closure and late start media broadcast system. All messages of an emergency or safety related nature would be broadcast using this system.

To activate your account, please go to www.flashalert.net and follow these instructions:

1. On the flashalert.net home page, select "Seattle" on the map
2. Select "King Co. Schools" from the Organization Categories
3. Select "Mercer Island SD"
4. Enter your email address and click "Subscribe"

5. Confirm your email address, select a password and click “Create your Account”
6. You may then enter up to two additional email addresses
7. Email addresses must be validated. Be sure to click the link “Click here to send validation message” and then enter the code from the message. You must do this for every email account you wish to receive notifications.
8. FlashAlert has an app that will allow you to receive & view push notifications on your tablet or smartphone. Push notifications are faster and more reliable than text messaging. The app is free and available on Google Play and in the iTunes app store.

Announcement Listserv (Constant Contact)

The Announcement Listserv is divided by class and will be used to communicate timely announcements and event reminders. This will augment the PTSA newsletter.

To subscribe, send an email to: mihsnewsletter@hotmail.com with parent first and last name, any email addresses you would like to add and the current grade level(s) of your student(s).

FEES

InTouch is a national credit card payment processor that provides a secure site for making payments of student fees and fines. [Please visit our InTouch website to pay a fee or a fine.](#)

The assessment of fees must be consistent with the following stipulations:

- **ASB Cards:** Associated Student Body cards are available for purchase by students at the beginning of each school year on Fees/Photos Days or in the ASB Office. Cost of the ASB card is \$75 per year. All students who participate in athletics, music, debate or any other student activity funded by the ASB Budget **must** purchase these cards. ASB cardholders receive a reduced price to school dances and athletic events.
- **Athletic Participation:** A \$350 fee shall be required each sports season for participation in interscholastic athletics. This fee shall be credited to the high school's Associated Student Body fund to help cover athletic costs.
- **Music Fees:** Fees may not be charged for use of district-owned uniforms in classes for which credit is given. Students are required to maintain and return uniforms in a clean and pressed condition at their own expense. A fee may be charged to defray transportation costs when ensembles travel to and from performances and competitions. For school owned musical Instruments, an annual non-refundable fee shall be required of all students checking out and using school musical instruments. This fee will be used for general upkeep and maintenance of the instruments due to normal wear and tear.
- **Graduation Fees:** No fee may be charged for graduation. Cap and gown are purchased outside of school (Jostens), but no student shall be prevented from

graduation participation by reason of failure to make this purchase. Four complimentary tickets are given to each graduate. There is a charge for each additional ticket.

- **Materials Fees:** Fees for take-home projects may be charged in certain classes. These materials shall be sold to students at cost.
- **Parking Permits:** senior students may purchase a \$150.00 fee per year for a student-parking permit and \$100 for a carpool parking permit. Assigned parking spots will be issued with the parking permit. Students must have all fines and materials paid and returned in order to be eligible for parking.
- **Student Activity Fees:** Fees may be charged in those areas where student participation is not required and credit is not given.
- **Art Fees:** All art classes have a \$45 lab fee, Photography has a \$45 lab fee plus material charges, and AP studio art is \$45.
- **Yearbook:** Each year MIHS publishes an annual yearbook, which may be purchased for \$65. Students wishing to purchase the yearbook should do so online. Yearbooks are not available for sale at the end of the school year.
- **Laptop Insurance Fee:** An optional \$25 insurance fee covering accidental damage to the MISD student laptop is available. More information is available on our [MIHS 1:1 laptop program website](#).

FINES

The assessment of fines must be consistent with the following stipulations:

Overdue library books, paperback materials: The following fines will be assessed for library materials:

Most books	2 weeks check-out	\$.10/day late fee
Reference books	Overnight check-out	\$.10/day late fee
Magazines/SIRS	3 days check-out	\$.10/day late fee
Vertical files/materials	3 days check-out	\$.10/day late fee

Students may not check out textbooks for the new academic year until textbooks checked out for the previous year(s) are returned or paid for.

- **Late Textbooks:** Students will be assessed a fine of \$5.00 for all textbooks turned in after the due date established by the teacher. If a student drops a class, a late fine or assessment cost for the textbook will be assessed after one week.
- **Lost Textbooks/Library Materials:** Students will be assessed the replacement cost for all lost textbooks and library materials.
- **Damage to Textbooks/Equipment/Buildings:** Actual repair or replacement costs shall be charged for all damage to school textbooks, equipment or buildings.
- **Lost School-Owned Equipment:** The replacement cost of all lost school equipment will be assessed to students including but not limited to: sports uniforms, music uniforms, and music instruments.
- **Parking Fines:** [Please visit the MIHS Parking webpage](#).
- **Laptop Fines:** Students will be assessed a fine for missing chargers, stylii, laptop or laptop damage. MISD offers an optional insurance program that will provide

coverage for accidental damage, but lost cables and stylus are not covered. For more information, please visit our [MIHS 1:1 laptop program website](#).

GRADING

Mercer Island High School students taking credit-bearing high school level work during the 2024-25 school year will be assigned a letter grade based on the percentile range outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1 MIHS Grading Scale and Grade Point Average Equivalents

Letter Grade	% Range in Course	Standard Level Class GPA
A	93.0-100.0	4.00
A-	90.0-92.9	3.70
B+	87.0-89.9	3.30
B	83.0-86.9	3.00
B-	80.0-82.9	2.70
C+	77.0-79.9	2.30
C	73.0-76.9	2.00
C-	70.0-72.9	1.70
D+	67.0-69.9	1.30
D	60.0-66.9	1.00
F	Below 60.0	0.00

Mercer Island High School also offers Pass/**No Pass** and Incomplete grading options for students. These non-graded opportunities offer flexible options to students and support them in navigating unique circumstances they may encounter during remote learning.

Pass/No Pass Options for the 2024-25 School Year

- Students and/or teachers can request to convert letter grades to Pass/No Pass or P/NP for 0.5 credits per semester.
- Parent permission is required to convert letter grades to Pass/No Pass or P/NP. (Ask your counselor for a Pass/No Pass Form).

Table 2: Request for P/NP Grading Timeline for the 2024-25 School Year

Dates to Remember	Last Day to Request P/NP Grading Option
1st Semester End Date & Report Card	Last day of Week 12 prior to end of 1st semester
2nd Semester End Date & Report Card	Last day of Week 12 prior to end of 2nd semester

- The Pass/No Pass or P/NP limitation of 0.5 credits per semester shall *not* apply to identified special education students, ELL students, and students with special circumstances as determined by the principal.
 - Students with special circumstances are required to secure permission from the teacher of record and academic counselor prior to requesting P/NP.
- Pass (P) - The mark which indicates that the student has met the minimum learning objectives of the course or program. Students can elect to take a course on a pass option when they meet the minimum requirements for credit and have a percentile grade greater than 60.0% (>60.0%).
- No Pass (NP) - The mark that indicates that the student has not met the minimum learning objectives or the course or program and the student has a percentile grade less than 60.0% (<60.0%).
 - A student earning an NC grade will need to repeat the course in order to earn credit.
- P and NP grades shall be excluded from the calculation of the grade point average.

Incompletes for the 2024-25 School Year

- The use of Incompletes or “Inc” are in alignment with our guiding beliefs which are identified on page 4.
- Teachers, at their professional discretion, can assign an Incomplete or an “Inc” grade for a course when students have missed class for an extended excused absence during a grading period and/or have fallen behind in meeting the minimum course requirements in order to earn credit.
 - In order for a teacher to consider an Incomplete grade, a student must have less than a 60% percentile grade in the course at the time and have demonstrated a commitment to the course over the semester.

- o All Incomplete grades will be accompanied by an intervention plan that will be developed by the teacher in collaboration with the student.
- o Teachers will determine and define the make-up work requirements of the plan and a timeline for the work to be completed (not to exceed two weeks).
 - o Any intervention plan that is longer than two weeks or extends into the summer will require administrator approval.
- o If the minimum make-up work requirements identified in the plan are met within the specified time frame (see Table 3 below) the Incomplete (Inc) grade will be changed to a P (Pass) or a letter grade, whichever the student requests.
- o If these requirements are not met within the established time period, the “Inc” mark will be converted to an “F” or an “NP”. *(NOTE: In order for a student to have an Inc converted to NP, the student must have requested P/NP within the timeline stipulated in Table 2 above.)*
- o A student earning an “F” or “NP” grade will have to repeat the semester course in order to ultimately earn credit.
- o “Inc” and “NP” grades shall be excluded from the calculation of the grade point average. “F” grades are included in the calculation of the grade point average.

Table 3: Intervention Plan Timelines

Dates to Remember	Last Date for the Minimum Requirements in the Intervention Plan to be Submitted to Instructor
1st Semester End Date & Report Card -	14-calendar days after the end of 1st semester
2nd Semester End Date & Report Card -	14-calendar days after the end of 2nd semester

Grade Point Average (GPA)

Each student's "grade point average" shall be the sum of the point values, as defined previously, of all the marks/grades received for all courses attempted divided by the sum of the credits for all courses attempted.

The grade point value shall be rounded by multiplying the numerical value of the mark/grade earned by the number of credits assigned to the course.

Grade point averages shall be calculated to two decimal places and reported for each trimester/semester or other term and for the cumulative credits earned for all courses attempted.

All marks/grades for all courses taken shall be included in the calculation of grade point averages except for:

1. Non-numerical marks/grades shall be excluded from the calculation of grade point averages; and
2. The lowest mark/grade earned for a class/course taken more than once to improve a mark/grade shall be excluded from the calculation of grade point averages.

This exception shall not apply to recurring courses. Recurring courses are not considered repeated courses taken for the purpose of improving a mark/grade. Recurring courses are those taken by a student to further develop their understanding and skills in the subject (e.g., journalism, advanced art or drama, concert band, etc.), or is taken by the student more than once to satisfy different credit requirements (e.g., advanced drama taken three times to meet an elective requirement, an art requirement, and the occupational education requirement).

In Progress Grades

- **“IP” In Progress**

Courses in progress but not completed by the end of current grading period (restricted use for Crest, Vocational Programs, Community Colleges, Sales/Marketing Lab). If a teacher in the general classroom converts a student to the SWOW (Schools Without Walls) program, the IP can be used until the contract is completed or broken.

HEALTH, MEDICINE & MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

- The health room is located in the Counseling Center. Sign in and out with a School Nurse, or Health Room Aide. The School Nurse is available for in person or phone consultation 5 days a week.
- No medication is available except as prescribed (see below MEDICATIONS). Any student taking prescription medication and/or over the counter (OTC) medications during school hours must have a signed medication authorization form on file in the health room. The form may be accessed here: [Medication Authorization Form](#) or see school nurse Shelley Sage.
- In general, no more than 1 hour of class time should be spent in the health room. When a student needs to spend time in the health room he/she needs to sign in and out.
- If a student becomes ill at school, he/she should contact a parent to arrange to go home and sign out in the nurse's office located in the Counseling Center. If a student cannot make these appropriate arrangements, he/she can stay in the health room until such arrangements can be made.
- All accidents and injuries must be reported to the Health Room. The nurse will be contacted, if present, otherwise the parents, guardian and/or the family doctor will be consulted for assistance.

Health Concerns

Health information is confidential. Staff members are notified only if the student health concern may affect their performance in class. To report changes, leave the school nurse a confidential message, 206-236-3377. If you have a life-threatening medical condition such as severe allergies, severe asthma, diabetes or epilepsy, please notify the school nurse as soon as possible to work out a plan of action.

Medications

If you must take any medications at school (including prescribed or over-the-counter), your parent or guardian and health care provider must first complete a district-approved *Medication Authorization Form*. This is for your protection. To request a copy of this form be mailed to you, call 206-236-3377, and leave your address or print forms from the district website, www.mercerislandschools.org

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Students are responsible for the proper care and return of loaned materials. If a student has not returned a school textbook, the missing textbook must be paid for or returned before another textbook in that department will be issued. When supplemental books or equipment are required for a course, students have the option to purchase the items or to borrow them from the library or from their classroom teacher.

INSURANCE

Any MIHS student may purchase insurance coverage provided by the Schools Insurance Association of Washington. Information on this coverage may be obtained in the Main Office.

LIBRARY - MEDIA CENTER

The library is a quiet place for study, research and reading. The librarian and staff are anxious to help you with your information needs. Library hours are 7:30 am until 3:30 pm. No food or drinks are permitted. A copy machine is located in the library (15 cents a copy) A complete list of rules and procedures can be found on the Library's website at: www.mercerislandschools.org

LOST AND FOUND

Lost and found boxes are in the Athletic Office. If items are not claimed after one month, they are donated to Mercer Island Family and Youth Services.

OPEN PERIODS: AREAS FOR OPEN STUDY

If a student has an open period in his/her schedule the expectation is that the student will be in one of the following areas:

- Library - open access for quiet study
- Commons - conversation, study, snacks, refreshments
- Outside - courtyard/amphitheater
- Counseling Center - to see counselors
- Career Center – open access for quiet study
- With a teacher, if the teacher has a free period.

PARKING

Mercer Island High School operates supervised parking lots for staff and students. There are a limited number of spaces that can be provided to students, staff and visitors. The school administration has the final authority on all parking matters. The owner/driver of the vehicle shall be solely responsible for the cost of any infractions, fines, or for the cost of towing.

Parking on campus is a privilege, not a right, and may be disallowed if abused or for other reasons determined by the school security officer or administration. *See details in the Parking Violation section.*

Procedure for Allocating Spaces in the Parking Lot

The administrator responsible for the Parking Lot will develop the application process and communicate this to all students. The administrator will work with a Review Group that includes the other administrators and the Security Officer to identify those who need a specific parking spot & students who are not “in good standing”*. Applications from students not in good standing will not be accepted; the administrator will discuss this with these students and their parents if necessary.

*Reasons for a student to be considered “**not in good standing**” include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Has 3 or more Parking violations
- Has unpaid ASB fees or parking fines
- Has demonstrated conduct detrimental to the safety of the school
- Are discourteous in the neighborhood – littering, excessive noise, disobeying no parking

If a student feels that a parking space is a reasonable accommodation for a disability, that student should contact their alpha-Administrator to ascertain what, if any, accommodations are appropriate.

Security and Enforcement

- The School Security Officer is responsible for security and enforcement in the parking lots. Vehicle information and allocated parking lots will be kept on file in the Security Office. The Security Officer is also part of the Review Group that includes all administrators when parking spots are finalized.

- The lots will be monitored by the School Security Officer and any parking violations will receive a fine. Tickets will be placed on the windshield or handed to the student. All tickets will be paid in full by the end of the semester.
- ***See Parking Violations and Fines for more detail.***

Mercer Island Police Department

MIPD officers routinely monitor the roads and parking lots on campus and may impose fines and sanctions, in addition to those imposed by the school.

Staff and Visitor Parking:

- All visitors must park in designated visitor spaces, numbered 1-17, located in front of the school and must register their vehicle in the Main Office. Visitors AND STUDENTS should NOT PARK in numbered staff parking spots.
- Electric Car Charging Stations are available in spaces 18 and 19.
- Administrator parking spots are reserved for administration 24/7, seven days a week.
- Any student who parks in the Visitors spots or illegally may be ticketed and/or towed.
- There will be no students parking in the band lot.

Student Parking:

Student Parking spots are by Parking Permit only from 7:30 am-3:00 pm Monday through Friday

Carpool Parking:

Carpools consist of at least 3 different households. Three households in a car will be prioritized over two, and these households need to be Seniors and Juniors.

Falsifying on a carpool application will result in the applicant losing the privilege of a parking permit for the entire year.

Parking Violations:

The following Parking violations will result in a ticket:

A student's parking pass is NON-TRANSFERABLE. Students have a pass to park in their allocated parking lot only. The seniors with a parking pass will be the only students allowed to park inside of all of the student parking lots. Juniors with parking passes will be the only students allowed to park in the Northwood parking lot.

- Only that parking assignment may be used by the student.
- A student's Parking Permit must be displayed anytime the car is in the parking lot.
- Parking in unauthorized areas-fire lanes, bus zones, numbered staff, handicapped spots, visitors' spots, curb, etc.

- Speeding or unsafe driving in the Parking Lots will result in a fine and/or loss of parking privileges.

Parking Fines: [Please visit the MIHS Parking webpage.](#)

PROGRAM OF STUDIES

The Mercer Island High School *Program of Studies* is a valuable tool to help students plan their four-year educational program. It describes the academic rigor and diversity of our curriculum. The many options allow you to individualize your course of study to meet individual objectives, learning needs and interests. In addition to describing courses, the *Program of Studies* provides information about graduation requirements, credits, grades, career options, Advanced Placement courses and special programs. Please consult with your parent/guardian and counselor as you use this guide to design your high school program.

REGISTRATION / COURSE SELECTION

Student registration takes place in the spring for the following school year. A full course load is 6 classes or course equivalent. The courses students register for determine the number of sections needed for each subject. Students receive their schedules in mid-August. Counselors are available during scheduled days in late August to review schedule changes requested for academic reasons.

Typically, only the following technical problems will be considered an academic reason for schedule change:

- Course out of sequence
- Course prerequisite not yet met
- Course needed to fulfill graduation requirements

Students who meet the schedule change criteria are asked to:

1. Fill out an *Add/Drop Form* for each course change and submit it to the Counseling Center.
2. Understand that their entire schedule may change as a result of their request.
3. Follow the original schedule until informed of the official change to schedule.
4. Students who request an Add/Drop in late August will find out if their request was granted when all students receive their new schedule on the first day of school.
5. All schedule changes must be completed by the 5th class day of the first semester or the 3rd class day of the second semester.

Five Course Minimum

All students are expected to be enrolled in a minimum five (5) courses or credit equivalents during any semester. All athletes/drill team members/cheerleaders must be enrolled in and passing 5 classes or course equivalents to be eligible to participate in activities. Freshmen are required to be enrolled in six courses.

Adding/Dropping a Class

- Students will be allowed to add a class during the first five (5) class days of the first semester or first three (3) days of second semester.
- If a student withdraws from a class within the first five (5) weeks of a semester class, no record will appear on the transcript. If a student withdraws after the fifth week, a “W” is posted to the transcript. The “W” grade will be a matter of record on the transcript and will not be computed in the grade point average. To drop a class, students need to complete an *Add/Drop Form* from the counseling office and obtain parent and teacher signatures.
- No student will be dropped from a class within ten school days of the final exam.
- After the first five weeks, if a student changes levels (i.e. drops Spanish 2 and adds Spanish 1 or drops Algebra 2 and adds Geometry), the dropped course will appear on the transcript with a “W” grade. This will remain on the transcript even if the student retakes the course at a later date.
- After the first five weeks, if a student changes from an AP version of a course to a non-AP version of the course (i.e. drops AP US History and adds regular US History) the dropped course will appear on the transcript with a “W” grade. AP courses have very specific syllabi, so moving from AP to non-AP constitutes a course change that must be recorded on the transcript. This “W” will remain on the transcript even if the student retakes the course at a later date.

New Student Registration

Registration papers can be downloaded from the Mercer Island District website; www.mercerislandschools.org or by picking up a Registration Packet from the Main Office. Completed packets are returned to the Main Office. Once the paperwork has been reviewed, a counselor appointment for the new student and his/her parent/guardian will be made.

SIGNS/POSTERS/DISPLAYS

All posters should adhere to appropriate standards of decency and respect. Staples or tape of any type may not be used on plasterboard walls or any painted surface. Please use tack strips. Tacks are available in the Main Office. Posters should be removed once they are out of date. Posters must be reviewed by an administrator. Posters without approval will be removed. Community announcements may be placed on the Community Service Bulletin Board with administrative approval.

STOLEN ITEMS

1. Report theft immediately to the Security and Main Offices.
2. Complete a *Theft Report Form* with the Security Office.
3. Notify the Security Office if your locker is damaged.
4. Report theft to police if the item is of significant value.
5. If you suspect or have any vital information concerning an individual(s) relative to the missing item(s), notify an administrator.

TESTING

The Counseling Center provides information on many tests and administers others.

- SAT I and II are not administered at MIHS, but are available several times during the year at [various test centers](#).
- ACT is not administered at MIHS, but is available during the year at [various test centers](#).
- [PSAT/NMSQT](#) – is SAT practice and the scores are used by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation to determine eligibility for scholarships and provide recognition to those who do well on the test. It is offered at MIHS to all juniors in Fall. [Here is the schedule for the October MISH PSAT](#).
- [ADVANCE PLACEMENT \(AP\) EXAMS](#) – are given in May. AP tests are offered in a variety of subject areas. Students who score well may receive college credit.
- [STATE ASSESSMENTS](#) – 10th, 11th & 12th grade students take state proficiency exams for Math and Language Arts (Smarter Balanced Assessments) during May. 11th grade students in the state take the WCAS (Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science) in May/June.

TRANSCRIPTS

[Visit our registrar's website for information about transcript requests.](#)

VISITORS

All student visitors need to be approved by the administration and the *Pre-Arranged Student Visitor Authorization Form* ensures this happens. Forms are available in the Main Office. Our policy is student visitors are not permitted to visit if they live in the Puget Sound area, unless they are considering transferring to MIHS.

All visitors must show ID when entering the building during school hours. Visitors may only park in the **designated visitor's parking spaces**. If visitors park in numbered spaces in any lot, they may be ticketed, fined and/or blocked in by student or staff vehicles.

WEBSITE

This handbook can be found online at: www.mercerislandschools.org

Up-to-date schedules, bulletins, school and PTSA details can be also found on the MIHS website.

Mercer Island School District
EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION
Board Policy 4217

The Mercer Island School District is committed to non-discrimination and ensuring its District-sponsored programs, activities, meetings, and services will be accessible to individuals with disabilities, including persons with hearing, vision, and/or speech

disabilities. The District will, in the previous contexts, take appropriate steps to communicate with persons with disabilities and their companions with disabilities effectively and in accordance with applicable state and federal laws. Such steps may include timely furnishing of appropriate auxiliary aids and services when necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in, and enjoy the benefits of, programs, activities, meetings, or services conducted or sponsored by the District.

Primary consideration, as described more fully in the procedures implementing this policy, will be given to the choice of aid or service requested by a person with a communication disability

Though the District will honor requests for aides and services to the extent possible and in a manner consistent with state and federal laws, the District may require reasonable advance notice from a person requesting accommodation so the District has sufficient time to acquire or implement the requested aid or service. If a last-minute request for aids or services cannot be fully addressed by the District, the District will honor the request to the fullest extent possible.

The District will take steps to make its website accessible to individuals with disabilities.

When an IDEA-eligible or a Section 504-eligible student's disability impacts his/her hearing, vision or speech, the school will apply both a FAPE (free and appropriate public education) analysis and the effective communication requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Title II) in determining how to meet the student's communication needs and how to formulate the student's individual education program (IEP).

The District's website will provide information on how to request auxiliary aids and services, ask related questions, or raise concerns. When necessary and upon request, such information will also be provided in an accessible format for the requestor at no cost. A form for requesting auxiliary aids and services will be available on the District website, at the District office and attached as an appendix to the implementing procedure for this policy. When determining an appropriate auxiliary aid or service, the District or school will give primary consideration to the auxiliary aid or service specifically requested by a person with a communication disability.

For purposes of this policy, "auxiliary aids and services" includes a wide range of services, devices, technologies, and methods that promote effective communication with persons with disabilities. Examples of such auxiliary aids and are:

- qualified interpreters (on-site or through video remote interpreting services),
- real-time computer-aided transcription services ("CART"),
- written materials,
- open and closed captioning, including real-time captioning,
- voice, text, and video-based telecommunications products and systems, including text telephones (TTYs), videophones, and captioned telephones, or equally

- effective telecommunications devices,
- qualified readers,
- braille,
- screen reader software, or electronic versions of information

The types of auxiliary aids and services necessary will depend on the length and complexity of the communication, the circumstances, and the needs and desires of the needs of the individual requesting accommodation.

Auxiliary aids and services will be provided for any school-initiated program, activity, meeting, or service, which may include:

- 1 Parent/teacher conferences
- 2 ESE/IEP/504 meetings
- 3 Conferences or hearings involving student corrective action
- 4 Planning meetings
- 5 Interviews for District employment
- 6 Interactive meetings regarding accommodations
- 7 Graduation ceremonies
- 8 Field Trips
- 9 School Performances or Sporting Events
- 10 Board Meetings
- 11 Website information, including on-line information regarding curriculum, policies, and Board materials and agendas
- 12 Reports of student grades and academic progress
- 13 Parental alerts regarding school closures or events

The Superintendent is granted the authority to develop procedures in order to implement this policy.

MIHS Policies and Procedures

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY CODE

Mercer Island High School is committed to providing an atmosphere which values truth, integrity, personal accountability, and respect for the rights of others. To this end, academic dishonesty is strictly prohibited. Academic dishonesty occurs when students obtain or assist others in obtaining credit for work which is not their own.

To help students achieve their maximum academic potential, the Mercer Island High School community will promote an environment, which fosters integrity and honorable conduct. Administrators, faculty, students and parents share the responsibility for maintaining an atmosphere in which personal accountability is valued. The constant theme must be honest evaluation of student progress demands honest work by each learner and students must be fully responsible and accountable.

Procedures:

- During the first week of classes, teachers will clearly define honest and dishonest academic work in all of their classes by discussing expectations and the importance of honest effort.
- Teachers will inform students of procedures and practices relating to examinations, homework and class work.
- Teachers will advocate the importance of honesty by employing teaching and testing strategies that reduce the opportunities for dishonest behavior.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty occurs when students obtain or assist others in obtaining credit for work which is not their own.

Student Expectations for Academic Honesty

- Students must conduct themselves according to the highest standards of personal integrity.
- Students will not use dishonest methods to fulfill academic expectations and responsibilities.
- Whenever students have a question about this code, they should ask their teachers.
- Study or homework collaboration is not considered academic dishonesty unless prohibited or limited by procedures/expectations established by the teacher.

Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Communicating with another student during an examination or quiz;
- Copying material during an examination or quiz;
- Allowing a student to copy from one's examination or quiz;
- Using unauthorized notes or devices;
- Submitting falsified information for grading purposes;
- Obtaining a copy of and/or information about an examination or quiz without the knowledge and consent of the teacher;
- Submitting a paper or project which is not the student's work;
- Copying another person's assignments;
- Allowing another student to copy one's assignment;
- Removing examinations or parts of examinations without the knowledge and consent of the teacher;
- Impersonating a student to assist the student academically;
- Having another student impersonate the student to assist academically;

- Stealing or accepting stolen copies of tests or answer sheets keys;
- Changing answers and seeking credit on an assignment or examination after the work has been graded and returned;
- Altering a teacher's grade book;
- Falsifying information on applications (e.g., college scholarships);
- Using computers, programmable calculators, or other electronic devices in violation of guidelines established by the teacher;
- Using professional help such as an author, expert, or purchased service in violation of guidelines established by the teacher;
- Unlawfully copying computer software or data as created by others;
- Misusing school computer systems which are used for student, staff or administrative purposes; and
- Any other violation intended to obtain credit for work which is not one's own.

Plagiarism Definition

- Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional, but is academically dishonest regardless.
- Some obvious forms of intentional plagiarism include submitting a current or former student's paper as your own, purchasing or finding a paper on-line and submitting it as our own, or cutting and pasting chunks of "research" from another source and inserting it into your paper without proper citation and quotation.
- Perhaps the offense most students seem to think is NOT plagiarism, but in fact constitutes plagiarism, is rephrasing an encyclopedia article without proper citations. Even if rephrased, the student is still passing off the ideas of another person as their own—this IS plagiarism.
- Students also commit plagiarism when they submit assignments that were not assigned as group or collaborative assignments, but were worked on with other students. Again, this can be intentional or unintentional, but still constitutes plagiarism. Unless specified by the teacher, assignments, including homework, papers, projects, and other assessments, are supposed to reflect the student's own ideas. If two students submit a similar assignment, such as a paper with similar structure, order of evidence, and/or the same choices of quotations, that are highly unlikely to have occurred by accident, they have committed plagiarism. If one student wrote the paper and the other copied it, both students are equally guilty of plagiarism. This is equally true of homework—if one student copies another student's homework, both are guilty of plagiarism.
- It is every student's responsibility to safeguard their work. It is every student's responsibility to make sure their own ideas, not ideas arrived at collaboratively on non-collaborative assignments, are submitted as their work. Students can have peers proofread and edit their work, but must submit their own ideas and only their own ideas.

Reporting Plagiarism:

- Teachers must report and document plagiarism. The standard punishment for plagiarism is a zero on the plagiarized assignment, regardless of whether

intentional or unintentional plagiarism was committed. Teachers may require students who have plagiarized to redo the assignment for no credit. If the teacher deems it appropriate in a specific situation, a student may be allowed to redo a plagiarized assignment for full or partial credit.

Consequences for Academic Dishonesty and/or Plagiarism

The following consequences for academic dishonesty, and/or plagiarism, will be applied and implemented by all teachers.

1. The teacher shall investigate and report any incident of academic dishonesty to the student's Associate Principal.
2. If it is determined that the student engaged in academic dishonesty, the teacher shall assign the student no credit for the academic work or examination involved.
3. The teacher is not required to provide the student with an opportunity to re-submit the assignment or allow for a make-up of any kind.

Upon notification by teachers, school administrators may impose, but not be limited to imposing, the following consequences for a first offense:

1. Notifying parents of the code infraction.
2. In-school suspension not to exceed three days.

Additional or more serious violations of the Academic Integrity Code shall be dealt with more severely. Consequences for any offense beyond the first offense, or a more serious first offense will include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Meeting with the parent(s)
2. Out-of-school suspension not to exceed three days.
3. Notification of the student's college counselor and any faculty members writing a college/university letter of recommendation;
4. No public recognition of the student in any senior awards function;
5. Removal from the National Honor Society (if applicable);

Consequences for any offense beyond the first offense or a more serious nature may also include removal from the class without credit in which the additional offense occurred. College or universities to which the student has applied or been accepted to may also be informed of the offense.

Mercer Island High School

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

Position

In addition to Mercer Island School District [Board Policy 3122 A](#), it is the position of the Mercer Island High School community that regular attendance leads to optimum academic progress, prepares students for college and career readiness, and prepares students for active participation in our society. The purpose of this vision is to maximize instructional

time and encourage student responsibility. Overall, contact with teachers, students, and the wider community is an irreplaceable and necessary aspect of the learning process.

Attendance

Regular attendance, as defined by Washington state and the United States Department of Education as being present for 90% of all your classes, will be rewarded with open campus and on-campus parking privileges.

- Families are responsible for understanding the potential consequences of class absences, excused or not. Parents are expected to respect the published school calendar and schedule class absences to occur while school is not in session.
- Once students have arrived on campus, they are expected to attend all classes on time. When instruction is via remote learning, students are expected to log into their assigned class sessions at the designated start time of the class and remain present throughout the period.
- Daily attendance is taken for all classes including Islander Hour.
 - Students who are fewer than ten (10) minutes late logging in to the start of class but otherwise present will be marked “late.”
 - Students who are 10 or more minutes late will be considered “tardy-absent-unexcused.”
 - Students who do not log-in to their class or who are otherwise not present during the entire class period will be marked “absent-unexcused” until a parent or guardian excuses the absence.
 - Students are expected to sign in and out at the attendance window at the Main Campus, the Front Desk at Crest Learning Center (CLC), or combination thereof as circumstances dictate. When instruction is in remote learning, contact the Attendance Office.
- Students are responsible for completing prearranged class absence forms and coordinating with staff, teachers, counselors, and administrators prior to any planned class absence. When instruction is in remote learning, contact the Attendance Office.
- Habitual “skipping” and tardiness may result in interventions such as Saturday School, Lunch Detention, or other interventions as deemed appropriate.
- For attendance purposes, block classes (eg. English/History, Crest Block) are treated as separate periods and have attendance recorded independently.
- Mercer Island High School does not recognize nor approve “skip days”. Students outside of their scheduled class without an approved pre-arranged class absence form excusing them will be considered truant and subject to interventions and/or further interventions.
- Students and families are empowered to check and report inaccurate attendance records to the Attendance Office.

Excused Class Absences

Class absences may be excused for the following reasons if there is timely verification (prior to class absence or within 5 school days upon return) of such reasons provided to the school:

1. Illness, mental health or health condition;
2. Pre-arrange medical appointment for the student or person for whom the student is legally responsible*;
3. Family emergency;
4. Religious or cultural holiday or participation in religious or cultural instruction*;
5. Pre-arranged participation in a school-approved activity or instructional program*;
and
6. An approved pre-arranged activity that is consistent with district policy and is mutually agreed upon by the principal or designee and a parent, guardian, or emancipated youth*. Vacations are not considered activities consistent with district or state policy.
7. As of August 2020 OSPI has outlined several new reasons that a student's absence would be considered excused due to COVID circumstances, including an ill family member, lack of access to necessary instructional tools, parents' work schedule, or a student's obligations to their family. The [expanded list of excused reasons](#) is intended to be responsive to the unprecedented situations families and students find themselves in due to COVID-19.
8. Post-secondary, technical school or apprenticeship program visitation, or scholarship interview; students get: Two College Visits Junior year and two College Visits Senior year.

Please see [Board Policy 3122 A](#) for additional reasons a student's class absence may be excused. Any student who is absent without a legitimate reason as described above will be marked unexcused.

*These types of class absences are considered pre-arranged and students are responsible for communicating with the school prior to their class absence.

Tardies

Teachers are expected to take attendance at the start of class. For in-person instruction, students arriving late must sign-in at the Attendance Office.

Reminder: students and families are empowered to check and report inaccurate attendance records.

A tardy will be recorded as follows:

1. A student is marked "tardy" if they are less than 10 minutes late for a class; and
2. A student is marked "tardy-absent" if they are 10 or more minutes late for a class.

Unexcused Class Absences and Tardies

Unexcused class absences and tardies occur when:

1. The parent, guardian or adult student submits an excuse that does not meet the definition of an excused class absence as defined above (including vacations);
2. The parent, guardian or adult student fails to submit any type of excuse statement for a class absence; or
3. The parent, guardian, or adult student does not submit a signed Attendance Slip with excuse within 5 days of the student's return; or
4. Parents or students fail to follow proper procedure in any other way.
5. Students who accrue 3 or more unexcused absences will result in Saturday School.

Expectations and Procedures

1. **Parent/Guardian Communication:** The parent/guardian is expected to notify the school Attendance Office of the reason for the absence within five (5) school days of the student's return to school via signed note, email, phone call or face to face interaction with the attendance office administrative assistant. For pre-arranged class absences, communication is the responsibility of the student and must be done at least one (1) day prior to class absence through a WHAMMO. NOTE: While instruction is via remote learning, WHAMMO forms will not be used. Instead, students must notify their teachers via e-mail at least one (1) day prior to a pre-arranged absence. Parents must e-mail the Attendance Office to confirm the pre-arranged absence.
2. **Class absences due to pre-arranged appointments:** Parents and guardians are expected to schedule appointments, when possible, during a student's off-period or outside of school hours to diminish the impact of their student's class absence on their learning. MIHS understands that this may not always be possible due to scheduling conflicts.
3. **Student Communication:** A student is responsible for observing established classroom routines when communicating with the teachers about work missed prior and/or after a class absence.
4. **Parental/Guardian-Approved Activities during School Sessions:** Prior to a student leaving school for a parental/guardian-approved activity, the parent or guardian of the student must seek approval from the principal or designee to have said class absence(s) excused. A class absence may not be approved if it causes a serious adverse effect on the student's educational progress, is not a valid educational opportunity, or is inconsistent with our list of acceptable excuses.
5. **Make-up Work:** If an absence is excused, the student will be permitted to make up all missed assignments outside of class under reasonable conditions and time limits established by the appropriate teacher; where reasonable, if a student misses a participation-type class, they can request an alternative assignment that aligns with the learning goals of the activity missed.

6. **Leaving During Class or School Day:** Students leaving the building before the end of or coming in after the start of their day **for any reason** must sign in and out as appropriate at either CLC, the Attendance Window, or combination thereof.
 - a. If a student needs to leave school due to illness, the student must first check in at the Health Room.
 - b. Students planning to leave during class **must present a signed note with the dismissal time to the teacher on the day of to be released from class.** When instruction is via remote learning, parents must contact the Attendance Office in advance if a student must leave a class session prior to the end of the period.
 - c. Class absences that take place during the day cannot be excused after the fact. For example, an appointment happening during one class period must be excused prior to departing the building or when in remote learning, after the scheduled class session.
7. **Pre-Arranged Class Absence Form:** Students are expected to complete a Pre-arranged Class Absence form/WHAMMO for any and all scheduled activities or events that occur during a regularly scheduled class. The form should be submitted to the Attendance Window no fewer than three days before the class absence. Students are expected to take care of attendance business during their own time such as before or after school, during break, or during lunch. NOTE: While instruction is via remote learning, WHAMMO forms will not be used. Instead, students must notify their teachers via e-mail at least one (1) day prior to a pre-arranged absence. Parents must e-mail the Attendance Office to confirm the pre-arranged absence.
8. **Attendance Correction:** In the event that an error has been made, attendance correction forms are available at the Attendance Office and on the MIHS website. While instruction is in remote learning, contact the Attendance Office directly for correction inquiries.

Extra / Co-Curricular Activities

Students participating in a co-curricular activity (i.e. athletic practices, club events/meetings, rehearsals) must attend at least 60% of their assigned class periods in a given day to be eligible for participation in the activity or event. Exceptions may be granted by an administrator or designee in advance.

Health-Related Class Absences

1. **Extended illness or health condition:** If a student is confined to home or hospital for an extended period, the school will arrange for the accomplishment of assignments at the place of confinement whenever practical.
2. **Excused class absence for chronic health condition:** Students with a chronic health condition that interrupts regular attendance may qualify for placement in a limited attendance and participation program.

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) of Student Prohibited

*****Newly updated*****

[3207 A Prohibition of Harassment, Hazing, Intimidation and Bullying](#)

[3207 P Prohibition of Harassment, Hazing, Intimidation and Bullying Procedures](#)

Promoting safe and healthy learning environments is a core value of the District. Schools are meant to be safe and inclusive environments where all students are protected from Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB), including in the classroom, on the school bus, in school sports, and during other school activities.

What is HIB?

District [Policy 3207](#) and its associated [procedures, 3207P](#), defines HIB as any electronic, written, verbal, or physical intentional act of a student that physically harms a student or damages their property, severely interferes with education, or fosters an intimidating or threatening educational environment for students. Often, though not always, HIB incidents involve an observed or perceived power imbalance and are repeated multiple times or are highly likely to be repeated HIB is not allowed, by law, in our schools.

Reporting HIB:

If you feel your child has experienced or observed a HIB, please speak up as soon as possible so we can begin to address it but in no event later than one year. We encourage our students to do the same. All school staff are committed to preventing and addressing HIB so feel free to raise your concerns with whoever you feel most comfortable, be it an administrator, teacher, paraeducator, nurse, counselor, etc.

Reports about HIB can be made in writing or verbally. You may use our District's [HIB Reporting Form \(3207F\)](#). This form should be submitted to an administrator, HIB compliance officer, or a trusted adult staff member. The HIB reporting form is designed to help you think and write down the key information the school will need to look into your concerns.

Your report can be made anonymously, if you are uncomfortable revealing your identity, or confidentially if you prefer it not be shared with other students involved with the report.

Reports can be made anonymously 24/7, 365 days a year using [Say Something Anonymous Reporting System](#) accessible via an App installed on District-provided student devices, online via web-browser, and by phone (**1-844-5-SayNow**).

No disciplinary action will be taken against another student based **solely** on an anonymous or confidential report.

Submit the complaint as soon as possible for a prompt investigation, and within one year of the conduct or incident.

Staff Handling of HIB:

If a staff member is notified of, observes, overhears, or otherwise witnesses HIB, they must take prompt and appropriate action to stop the HIB behavior and to prevent it from happening again. Our District has a ***HIB Compliance Officer*** - Erin Battersby, Executive Director (206.230.6227 & erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org) - who supports prevention and response to HIB.

What happens after I make a report about HIB?

If you report HIB, school staff must attempt to resolve the concerns. If the concerns are resolved, then no further action may be necessary. However, if you feel that you or someone you know is the victim of unresolved, severe, or persistent HIB that requires further investigation and action, then you should request an official HIB investigation.

Under [District Policy](#), retaliation against those who report HIB is strictly prohibited. Our staff are committed to enforcing this Policy and taking actions designed to protect reporters from retaliation.

What is the investigation process?

When you submit a complaint, either the administrator leading the investigation or our HIB Compliance Officer will promptly notify the families of all students involved and initiate a thorough investigation. This process is typically completed within five school days, unless you agree to or circumstances necessitate a different timeline, in which case we will communicate with you to set a mutually agreeable deadline. If the complexity of a HIB requires extended time, you will be kept informed of the anticipated completion date.

Upon concluding the investigation, the responsible administrator or the HIB Compliance Officer will, within two days, inform the person who reported the incident about the outcomes. The response from the district will include:

- A summary of the investigation findings,
- A determination of whether the allegations of HIB were substantiated,
- Any necessary corrective measures or remedies, and
- Detailed information on how to appeal the decision, should you find it necessary.

This process, which is outlined in greater detail in [Policy 3207P](#), ensures that each case is handled with the seriousness it deserves and keeps you informed every step of the way.

What are the next steps if I disagree with the outcome?

For the student designated as the “targeted student” in a complaint:

If you do not agree with the school district’s decision, you may appeal the decision and include any additional information regarding the complaint to the Superintendent, or the person assigned to lead the appeal, and then to the school board.

For the student designated as the “aggressor” in a complaint:

A student found to be an “aggressor” in a HIB complaint may not appeal the decision of a HIB investigation. They can, however, appeal corrective actions that result from the findings of the HIB investigation.

For more information about the HIB complaint process, including important timelines, please review the District’s policies and [HIB webpage](#) or the District’s [Prohibition of HIB Policy 3207](#) and implementing procedure, [3207P](#),

We Stand Against Discrimination in All Forms

Our District upholds the principle that all students, staff, and community members have the right to a safe and equitable environment. Discrimination, which includes any unfair treatment based on membership in a protected class, is strictly prohibited under [Policy 3210](#). Protected classes include race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, religion, creed, disability, use of a service animal, veteran, or military status. We are committed to promoting inclusivity and taking decisive actions against discrimination within our educational community.

What is discriminatory harassment?

Discriminatory harassment includes behaviors like teasing, name-calling, threatening physical harm, or other actions that may be harmful or humiliating. This type of harassment creates a hostile environment when it is so severe, pervasive, or persistent that it interferes with or limits a student’s ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by the school.

What happens after I file a discrimination complaint?

If you file a discrimination complaint, a school administrator will discuss your concerns with you directly to understand and address the situation effectively. Complaints can be addressed informally at the building level or formally through the District’s Civil Rights Compliance Officer or designee. Discrimination complaints can be handled informally, meaning at the building level, or formally with the District’s Civil Rights Compliance Officer or designee. At any time, a complainant can request that their complaint be handled formally.

Regardless of how a discrimination complaint is handled, you will receive a copy of the District’s discrimination complaint [procedure](#) which outlines the process, timelines, and appeal process.

To review the district’s Nondiscrimination [Policy 3210](#) and Procedure [3210P](#), visit our [Website](#) and navigate to our Non-Discrimination Resources.

What is sexual harassment?

Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome conduct or communication of a sexual nature that substantially disrupts a student’s education or creates an intimidating, hostile environment. This could involve pressuring someone for sexual favors, unwanted physical or sexual contact, rumors, sexually explicit materials, or sexual assault or rape. Like other forms of harassment, sexual harassment is not tolerated under any circumstances.

Our schools do not discriminate based on sex and prohibit sex discrimination in all of our education programs and employment, as required by Title IX and state law.

To review the District’s Sexual Harassment [Policy 3205](#) and [Procedure 3205P](#).

What should my school do about discriminatory and sexual harassment?

When a school becomes aware of possible discriminatory or sexual harassment, an administrator or designee must promptly investigate the matter and take effective steps to stop the harassment, remedy its effects, and prevent its recurrence.

What can I do if I'm concerned about discrimination or harassment?

Raise your concerns with a school staff member, administrator, or coordinator as soon as possible so that the concerning behavior can be promptly addressed. You can always submit a written complaint to a school principal.

You may also contact the following people who are designated points of contact to whom you may report your concerns, ask questions, or learn more about how to resolve your concerns.

- **Harassment, Hazing, Intimidation or Bullying (HIB):**
HIB Compliance Officer: Erin Battersby, Executive Director (206.230.6227 & erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org)
- **Discrimination:**
Civil Rights Coordinator: Erin Battersby, Executive Director (206.230.6227 & erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org)
- **Sexual harassment/Discrimination:**
Title IX Coordinator: Erin Battersby, Executive Director (206.230.6227 & erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org)
- **Disability Discrimination:**
Section 504 Coordinator: Melissa Robertson, Director (206.236.3329 & melissa.robertson@mercerislandschools.org)
- **Gender Identity Discrimination:**
Gender-Inclusive Schools Coordinator: Erin Battersby, Executive Director (206.230.6227 & erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org)

What happens after I file a discrimination complaint?

If you file a discrimination complaint, a school administrator will discuss your concerns with you directly to understand and address the situation effectively. Complaints can be addressed informally at the building level or formally through the District's Civil Rights Compliance Officer or designee. At any time, a complainant can request that their complaint be handled formally.

An investigation into discrimination must be completed within 30 calendar days unless you agree to a different timeline. If your complaint involves exceptional circumstances that require a longer investigation, you will be notified in writing with the anticipated date for a response.

When a formal investigation is complete, the school Superintendent or the staff member leading the investigation will send you a written response. This response will include:

- A summary of the results of the investigation
- A determination of whether the school district failed to comply with civil rights laws
- Any corrective measures or remedies needed
- Notice about how you can appeal the decision

Regardless of how a discrimination complaint is handled, you will receive a copy of the District's discrimination complaint [procedure](#) which outlines the process, timelines, and appeal process.

What are the next steps if I disagree with the outcome?

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your complaint, you have the right to appeal. The administrator who handled your case will provide information on how to proceed with an appeal. This could be to the School Board. Once the School Board renders a decision on appeal, you can further appeal that decision to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

More information about this process, including important timelines, is included in the District's Nondiscrimination Procedure ([3210P](#)) and Sexual Harassment Procedure ([3205P](#)).

I already submitted an HIB complaint – what will my school do?

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying (HIB) can also be discrimination if it's related to a protected class. If you give your school a written report of HIB that involves discrimination or sexual harassment, your school will notify the Civil Rights Coordinator. The school district will investigate the complaint using both the Nondiscrimination Procedure ([3210P](#)) and the HIB Procedure ([3207P](#)) so as to address all aspects of your complaint.

Our Schools are Gender-Inclusive

In Washington, all students have the right to be treated consistent with their gender identity at school. Our school will:

- Address students by their requested name and pronouns, with or without a legal name change
- Change a student's gender designation and have their gender accurately reflected in school records
- Allow students to use restrooms and locker rooms that align with their gender identity
- Allow students to participate in sports, physical education courses, field trips, and overnight trips in accordance with their gender identity
- Keep health and education information confidential and private
- Allow students to wear clothing that reflects their gender identity and apply dress codes without regard to a student's gender or perceived gender
- Protect students from teasing, bullying, or harassment based on their gender or gender identity

Please follow the following links to access the District's Gender-Inclusive Schools Policy [3211](#) and procedure, [3211P](#). If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Gender-Inclusive Schools Coordinator, Erin Battersby, at 206.230.6227 or erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org.

Who else can help with HIB or Discrimination Concerns?

- *Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)*

All reports must start locally at the school or district level. However, OSPI can assist students, families, communities, and school staff with questions about state law, the HIB complaint process, and the discrimination and sexual harassment complaint processes.

OSPI School Safety Center (For questions about harassment, intimidation, and bullying)

- Website: ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/health-safety/school-safety-center
- Email: schoolsafety@k12.wa.us
- Phone: 360-725-6068

- *OSPI Equity and Civil Rights Office* (For questions about discrimination and sexual harassment)
 - Website: ospi.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/equity-and-civil-rights
 - Email: equity@k12.wa.us
 - Phone: 360-725-6162

- *Washington State Governor's Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO)*
 The Washington State Governor's Office of the Education Ombuds works with families, communities, and schools to address problems together so every student can fully participate and thrive in Washington's K- 12 public schools. OEO provides informal conflict resolution tools, coaching, facilitation, and training about family, community engagement, and systems advocacy.
 - Website: www.oeo.wa.gov
 - Email: oeoinfo@gov.wa.gov
 - Phone: 1-866-297-2597

- *U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR)*
 The U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) enforces federal nondiscrimination laws in public schools, including those that prohibit discrimination based on sex, race, color, national origin, disability, and age. OCR also has a discrimination complaint process.
 - Website: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html>
 - Email: orc@ed.gov
 - Phone: 800-421-3481

LINKS TO MERCER ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ATHLETIC AND ACTIVITY CODE

<https://www.mercerislandschools.org/cms/lib/WA01001855/Centricity/Domain/92/Student%20Athletic%20Eligibility%20Handbook%202019-2020.pdf>

DISCIPLINE AND PROCEDURE

<http://go.boarddocs.com/wa/misd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=9QRFJ414AB02>

<http://go.boarddocs.com/wa/misd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=9QRFJ614AFE6>

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES AND INTERNET SAFETY PROCEDURE

<HTTP://GO.BOARDDOCS.COM/WA/MISD/BOARD.NSF/GOTO?OPEN&ID=9YTTDS76DE70>

NONDISCRIMINATION

<HTTP://GO.BOARDDOCS.COM/WA/MISD/BOARD.NSF/GOTO?OPEN&ID=9U4RGX6DF16C>

PROHIBITION OF HARASSMENT, HAZING, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING AND PROCEDURE

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NciyVOIWXQ8bP2ao43ox7b6Vsd9JaXklaC3JIUvvi2c/edit>

<http://go.boarddocs.com/wa/misd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=9UJLTN581130>

<http://go.boarddocs.com/wa/misd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=9UJMAQ59D606>

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF STUDENTS PROHIBITED PROCEDURE

<http://go.boarddocs.com/wa/misd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=A48NU8619695>

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

<http://go.boarddocs.com/wa/misd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=9QRFHB145E98>

STUDENT USE, POSSESSION, OR SALE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

<http://go.boarddocs.com/wa/misd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=9QRFJL14CF56>

USE AND POSSESSION OF TOBACCO, NICOTINE PRODUCTS AND DELIVERY DEVICES WITHIN THE MERCER ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

<http://go.boarddocs.com/wa/misd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=9QRJWE4C417E>

PLEASE REFER TO THE [MISD BOARD POLICIES](#) TO VIEW THE COMPLETE LIST OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES