

Mountainside Middle School

11256 N 128th St, Scottsdale, AZ 85259
(480) 484-5500



IB MYP

Student Handbook

2025-2026



Mountainside Bell Schedules

Regular Bell Schedule

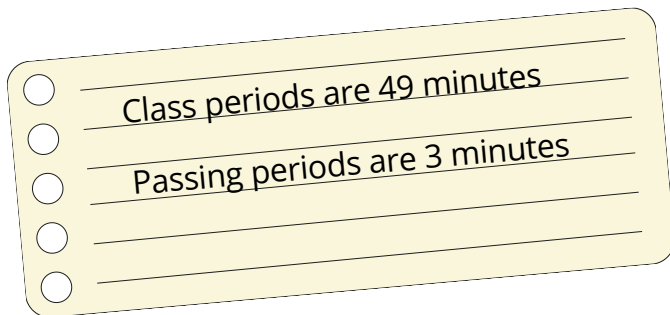
8:15 – 9:05	Period 1
9:08 – 9:57	Period 2
10:00 – 10:49	Period 3
10:52 – 11:41	Period 4
11:44 – 12:14	Period 5 (Lunch)
12:17 – 1:06	Period 6
1:09 – 1:58	Period 7
2:01 – 2:50	Period 8

Early Release Bell Schedule

8:15 – 8:52	Period 1
8:55 – 9:26	Period 2
9:29 – 10:00	Period 3
10:03 – 10:34	Period 4
10:37 – 11:08	Period 5 (Lunch)
11:11 – 11:42	Period 6
11:45 – 12:16	Period 7
12:19 – 12:50	Period 8

Assembly Bell Schedule

8:15 – 8:58	Period 1
9:01 – 9:44	Period 2
9:47 – 10:30	Period 3
10:33 – 11:16	Period 4
11:19 – 11:49	Period 5 (Lunch)
11:52 – 12:35	Period 6
12:38 – 1:21	Period 7
1:24 – 2:07	Period 8
2:10 – 2:50	Assembly



Fight Song

We're the mighty, mighty Cougars,
We're the leaders of the pack.
So give a Cougar cheer for Mountainside,
Home of the red and the black.
Now if you really are a Cougar
You can feel that Cougar pride.
The red and black attack is showin';
We've got Cougar spirit
Stand up and cheer for Mountainside!





My IBMYP School Schedule



Semester 1	Semester 2
Period 1:	Period 1:
Period 2:	Period 2:
Period 3:	Period 3:
Period 4:	Period 4:
Period 5	Period 5
Period 6:	Period 6:
Period 7:	Period 7:
Period 8:	Period 8:



Clubs & Activities:

- ☐ Art Club
- ☐ Homework Club
- ☐ Jazz Band
- ☐ Math Olympiad
- ☐ NJHS
- ☐ Robotics
- ☐ Science Olympiad
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

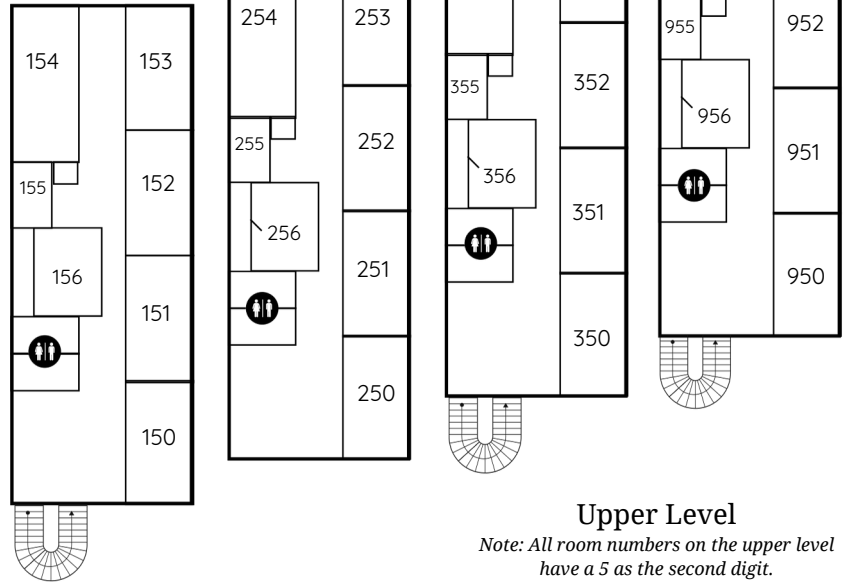
Athletics:

- ☐ Volleyball
- ☐ Baseball
- ☐ Softball
- ☐ Basketball
- ☐ Soccer
- ☐ Football
- ☐ Cross Country
- ☐ Track

Mountainside Middle School

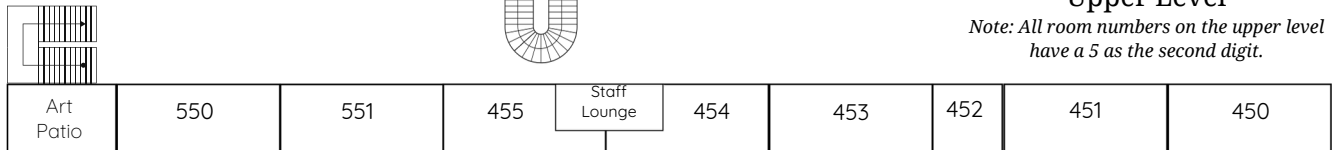


11256 N 128th Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85259

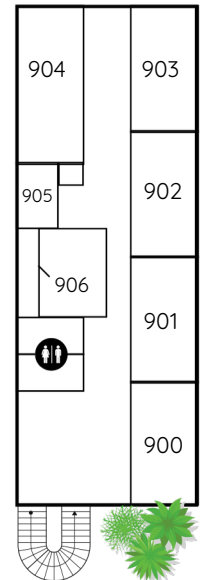
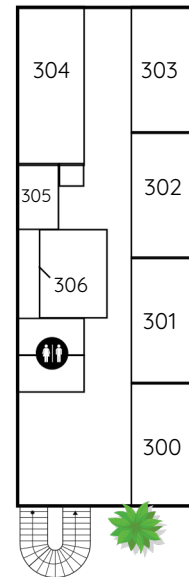
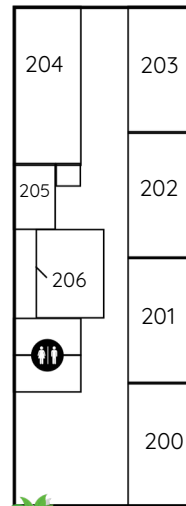
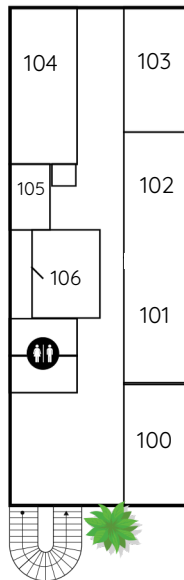
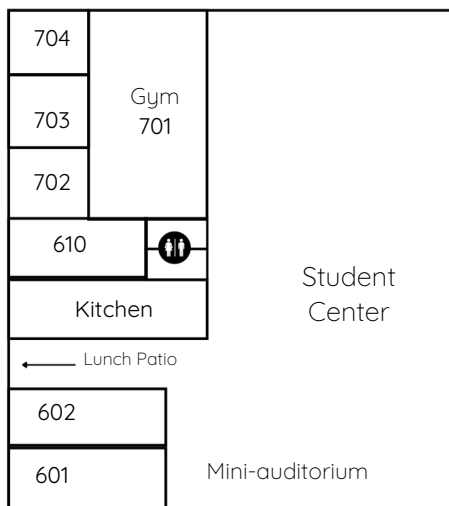


Upper Level

Note: All room numbers on the upper level have a 5 as the second digit.

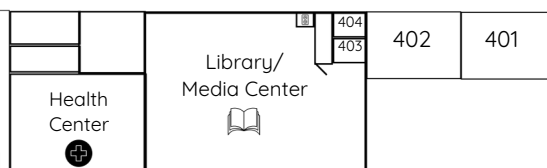
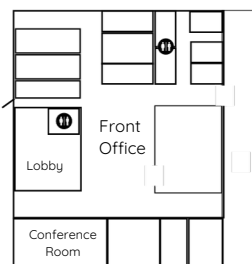
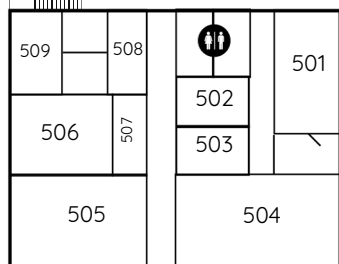


Student Entrance
(coming from DM Parking Lot)



Courtyard

Student Entrance
(coming from buses)

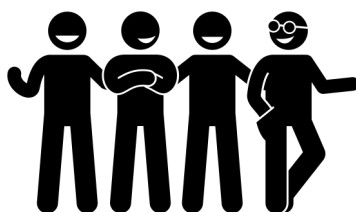


Student Entrance
(coming from front of school)



Lower Level

Mountainside Front Office Directory



Principal: Mrs. Hardy

Assistant Principal: Mr. Giovino

Office Manager: Mrs. Graham

Student Activities: Mrs. Richardson

Registrar: Ms. Pociask

MYP Coordinator: Mrs. Gillespie

Nurse: Mrs. Nelson

Student Resource Officer: TBA

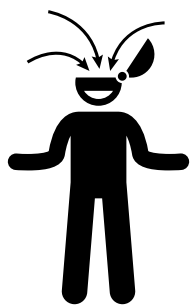
Campus Security: Mr. Salus

Guidance Counselor: Mrs. Stieglitz

Guidance Counselor: Ms. Wagner

Athletic Director: Mrs. Millholland

Facilities Coordinator: Mr. Peres and
Mr. Haumann



Stay Social!

Follow MMS at:



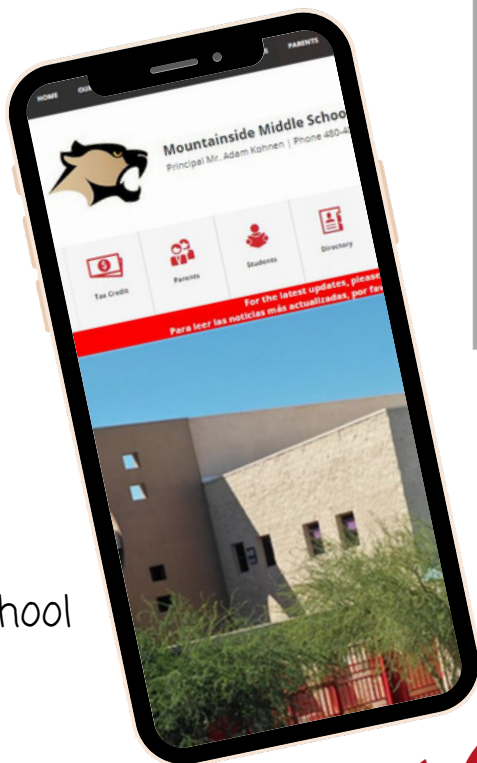
@mtnsdms



@mmssusd

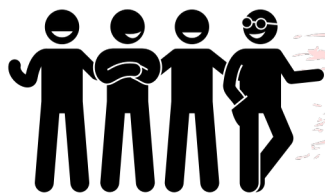


Mountainside Middle School



Be sure to check out
the Mountainside
website and
StudentVue to stay up
to date on all the
latest information
about MMS and IB
MYP!





Faculty & Staff Directory

Arts

Robbins, Lisa	llapedesrobbins@susd.org
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Forbes, Jessie	jforbes@susd.org

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Chan, Mei Hsiu	meihsiuchan@susd.org

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Naum, Haley	hnaum@susd.org

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Hamilton, Mark	mhamilton@susd.org
Vernezze, Richard	rvernezzee@susd.org
Lenhart, Kimberly	klenhart@susd.org

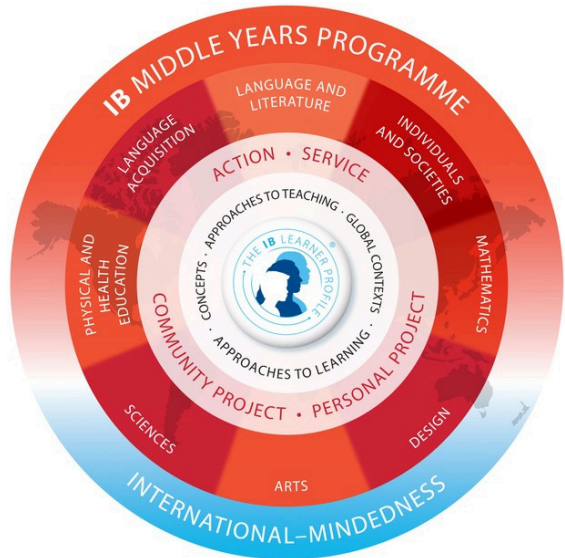
IB MYP @ MMS

That's a lot of letters, what do they all mean?

IB=

MYP=

MMS=



Why MMS chose IB and why you should too:

IB learning is not confined within the walls of the school. As students in an IB MYP school, you are encouraged to take what you learn in the classroom and use it in your home, community, and world.

IB learning is great because it allows you to use your knowledge in your communities. You don't just get information and take a test. You can make and encourage change!

At MMS you are encouraged to creatively express yourself through your studies and endeavors.

When you leave MMS we hope that you will take with you the ability to empathize with others, the ability to think carefully and critically, and a desire to learn for the rest of your life.

Your journey awaits!

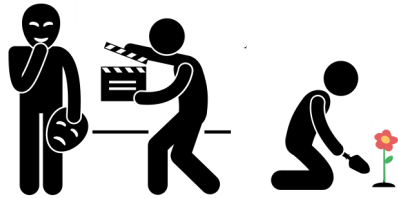
WHAT DOES LOOK LIKE?



Participating in
Group Work &
Group Projects



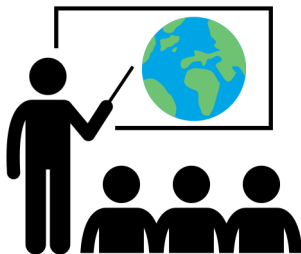
Learning a
New Language



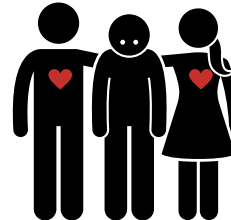
Completing
Real-World
Projects & Tests



Taking Two
Connection
Classes



Learning about
People All Around the
World & Celebrating
Our Differences



Helping
Others



Learning Life Skills
and
Academic Skills



Asking
Questions
and
Being Excited
to Learn



IS NOT:



Endless
Worksheets



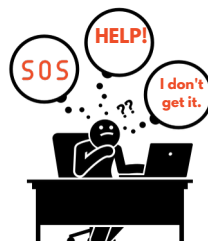
Lotsof Reading
and Piles of
Work from
Textbooks.



Never having
a chance to
share your
thoughts.



Stressful Multiple
Choice Tests



Feeling Alone
and Confused

Need some help??
Your IB MYP
Coordinator is always
here for you! Find
Mrs. Gillespie in the
front office.

How to be a balanced MYP Student:



1

Be in the know:

Learn the policies and rules of the school and do your best to follow them at all times!

Here are a couple school rules that you should always adhere to:

-Phones must be turned off and in backpacks during the school day.

-Chewing gum is not permitted on campus.

-Wear your ID all day every day! The ID should be visible and you must not do anything to alter your photo on your ID.

2

Get Involved:

It's great that you go to all of your classes, but school is about so much more than that!

Consider trying one of the following:

-Join a club

-Start a club with a teacher sponsor

-Join a sport

-Volunteer with a local organization

-Complete a research project

-Complete an independent study

Your time at Mountainside is whatever YOU make it...Make it amazing!

3

Take Risks:

The following things are some worth-while risks that you could take while you are at Mountainside.

Check off any that you have already done!

- ☐ Ask your teachers big questions.
- ☐ Be the first to raise your hand
- ☐ Volunteer to present your work
- ☐ Invite a new student to sit with you
- ☐ Start a conversation with someone you've never talked to before
- ☐ Say "Hello" in the hallways

This is your time to be both a risk-taker and caring.

4

Reflect on your Progress:

You are going to grow a lot this year! And not just physically. It's important to reflect at where you started and give yourself credit for what you have done. Make sure you are taking time to think about how well you are learning and growing as a person frequently.

Try asking yourself these two questions right now:

How do I want this year to be different from last?

What are my five greatest strengths?

MMS Mission Statement

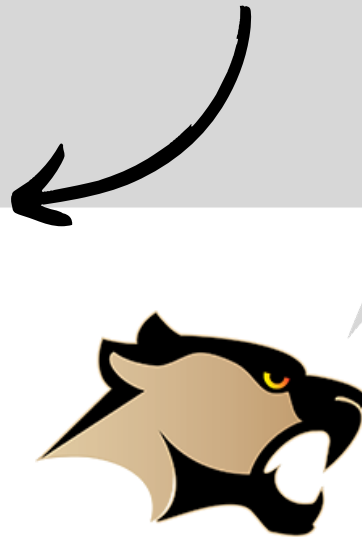
Let's learn what the goal of Mountainside is...
Before you start, ask your teacher what makes MMS special to them!

**Mountainside Middle School
strives to develop principled,
caring, and inquisitive
learners in order to prepare
them to be knowledgeable
and respectful global citizens.**

Where have you seen the
word principled before?

What are you going to
inquire about this year?

What do you think it means to
be a "global citizen"?



Break it down: Try writing the MMS Mission statement in
your own words!

Develop Your Learner Profile:



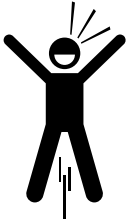
Knowledgeable:

We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.



Communicators:

We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.



Risk-Takers:

We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.



Open-minded:

We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.



Reflective:

We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.



Balanced:

We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical, and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.



Principled:

We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.



Inquirers:

We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.



Thinkers:

We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyze and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.



Caring:

We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.

Which is your strongest profile?

Which profile presents the greatest challenge for you?

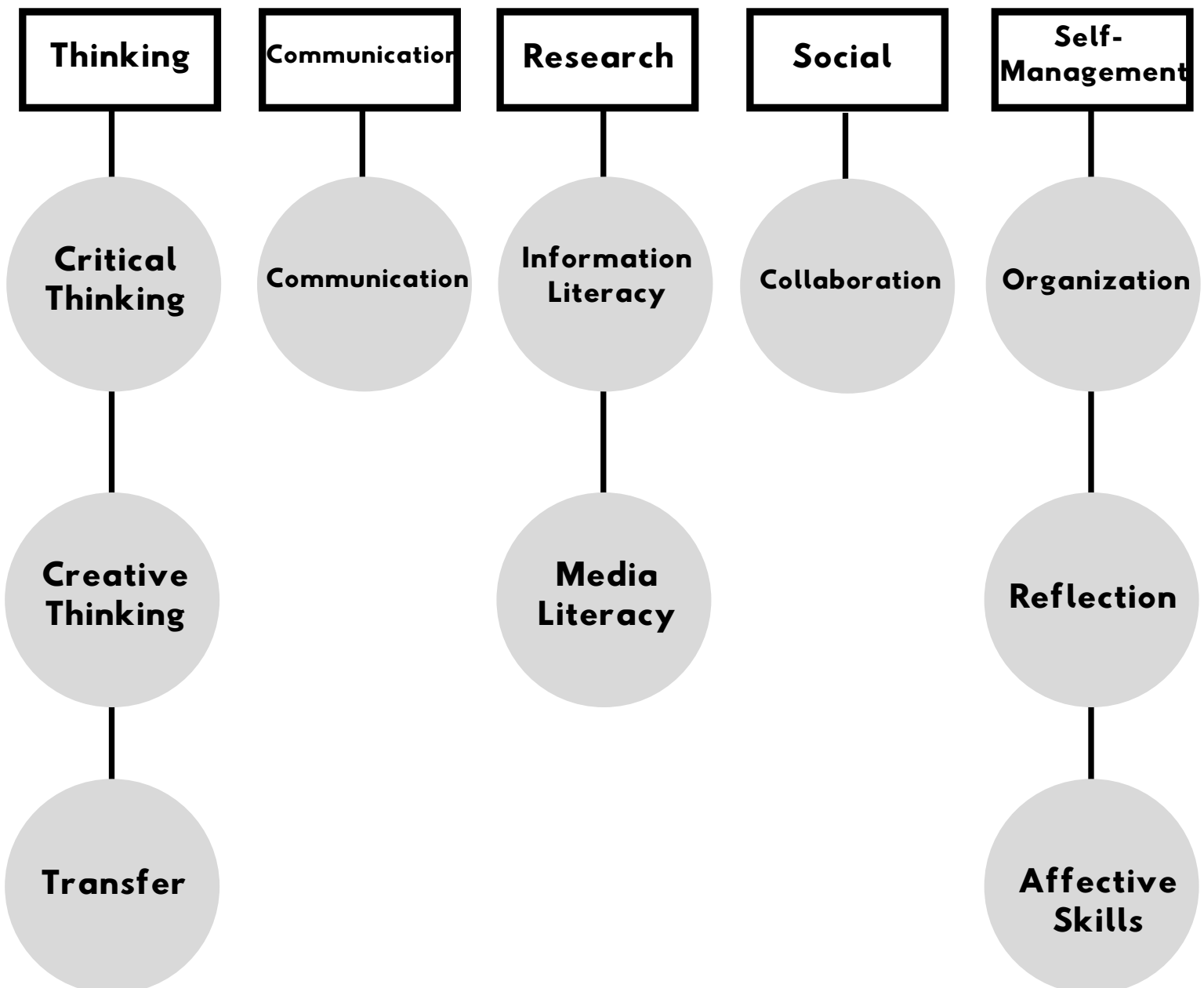
Why is learning more than just academic skills important at school?

APPROACHES to LEARNING



This seems great, but how will I learn it all?

To help you not only excel at academic skills, but also at becoming a well-rounded community member, your teachers will use what IB calls "Approaches to Learning"!



What is a "Global Context"?

During your time participating in IB MYP, you will be learning about yourself, your academics, and your role in the global community through explorations of:



- identities and relationships
- personal and cultural expression
- orientations in space and time
- scientific and technical innovation
- fairness and development
- globalization and sustainability

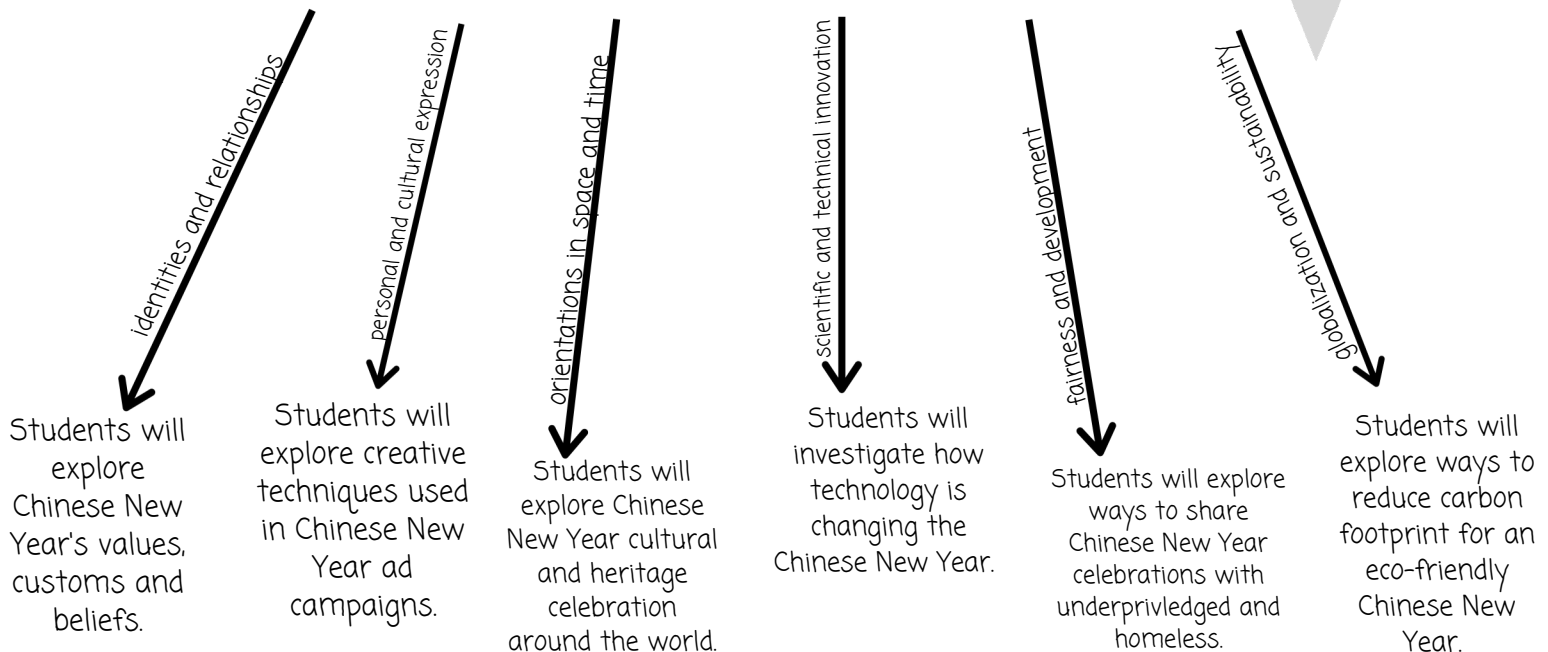


You can think of these Global Contexts the same way you think of filters that you apply to photos. Just like a filter focuses what you see in a photo, a Global Context helps us to focus on and enhance the quality and understanding of our lessons.

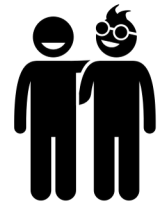
Global Contexts in ACTION

The Topic: Chinese New Year

How do our classroom lessons change when we change the global context?



Community Engagement



Community projects and service learning are integral parts of the IB MYP curriculum. As a student at MMS, you will expand your experiences as an agent of change through community action. There will be lessons throughout your units of study to investigate and learn about the challenges that people face. You will have the opportunity to take action and make a positive difference in peoples' lives by participating in service learning. Each Mountainside project will be designed to move our world forward in a beneficial way.

In your third year at MMS, you will apply and evaluate the skills and knowledge you have acquired by engaging with our community to make it a better place. You will complete an in-depth investigation and action plan to gain a deeper understanding of service learning and present your findings and reflections to the MMS community. **The 8th Grade Community Project is a year-long undertaking, beginning in August and culminating with a presentation in March.**

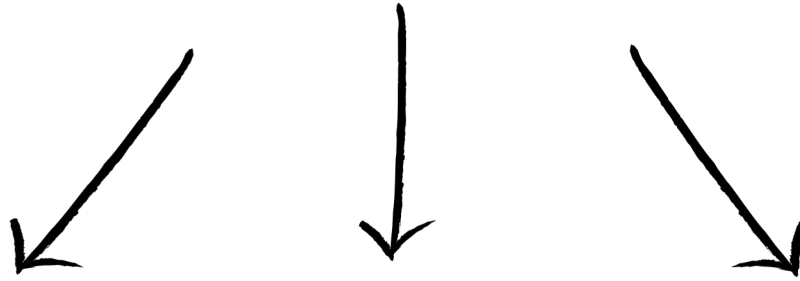
What areas of need can you see at our school? In Arizona? In the world?

How have you been able to help a community in the past? What was the outcome?



Caring is Crucial

At MMS, empathy, compassion, and respect are key components of our community.



Empathy

The ability to understand and share the feelings of others

Compassion

Sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others.

Respect

Due regard for the feelings, wishes, rights, and traditions of others.

How do we do it?

Empathy:

- Listening to others and putting yourself in their shoes
- Imagine circumstances beyond your own

Compassion:

- Don't add insult to injury
- Try to cheer people up when they are down
- Greet people
- Be inclusive, not exclusive
- Listen to your friends when they feel hurt or upset.

Respect:

- Following the wishes of others.
- Let others express themselves without interrupting
- Be aware of and follow classroom rules & procedures

Being a caring, empathetic, and compassionate person comes with intrinsic rewards that can last a lifetime. However, teachers at MMS LOVE to recognize and reward students who demonstrate these characteristics along with the other learner profiles.





MMS Cougar Cards

Doing your best is worth rewarding!



Be a Decent Human! Get Cougar Cards! Win cool stuff! Go on a Quest!

At MMS you have the unique opportunity to earn **Cougar Cards**!

Wait...I can earn what??

A Cougar Card is a small token you receive when you are caught displaying one of the 10 learner profiles attributes. You will have lots of opportunities to earn Cougar Cards each and every day in all settings around the school. Turn in your Cougar Cards to be entered in the regular raffle drawings. Also be on the lookout for special quests from your teachers and the administration to earn personalized prizes.

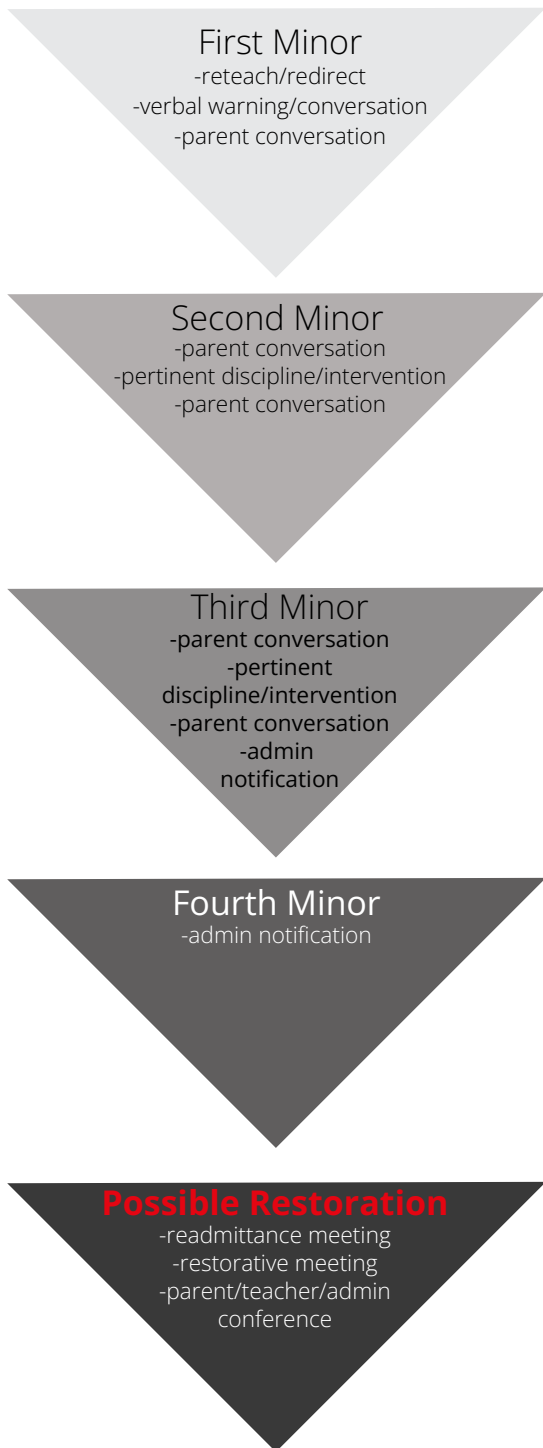
What could I win with my Cougar Cards?

- A MMS Yearbook
- Homework Passes
- Mountainside Gear
- School Supplies
- A chance to be the DJ at lunch
- A monthly raffle
- A class party
- Front of the lunch line passes and more!

What reward would you like to earn first?

What is something you would be excited to win for your Cougar Cards for?

What happens if I mess up?



Mountainside Middle School follow all regulations within the District's Code of Conduct. It is our belief that people should treat other people and property with respect. In addition to teaching academics, we like to teach you how to take ownership of your actions, and reflect upon and improve your behavior.

Students at MMS will have chances to learn from and improve their behavior. If you receive a minor, the flowchart on the left will be implemented.

Note to Self:
Mistakes are okay as long as you learn from them!

Complete the sentence:

On the ____ minor an email goes home.

On the ____ minor you will be sent to the office for a referral.

MMS Academic Integrity Policy

This is the first policy that you need to know as an MYP Student.
Integrity is very important for all MMS students, let's find out what it means...

IB Learners are honest learners!
Being dishonest hurts the learner and our MMS community.



What are the consequences of being academically dishonest?

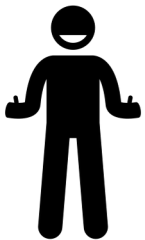
Student responsibilities:

Students shall:

- Not engage in any form of academic dishonesty at any time; including collusion, copying, plagiarism, or any other forms of cheating.
- Learn and practice correct methods of citing sources, and ask teachers for guidance when they are not sure.
- Ensure that all of the work they submit is their own.
- Inform a staff member when they are aware that another student or students have demonstrated academic dishonesty.
- Work collaboratively only in appropriate circumstances and when their teachers have explicitly stated so.

Students are encouraged to form study groups, but they should always ask their teachers for clarification if they are unsure if they can work collaboratively. This looks different from collusion, in which work is submitted by more than one person, and only one person has done the work. Collusion may be intentional or unintentional but is not acceptable.

Honest



- Using technology as a resource- i.e. using a dictionary to look up a word.
- Letting your teacher know about any dishonesty.
- Working in a group- each person doing their fair share.
- Using text evidence and **citing your sources using MLA format.**

Dishonest



- Copying and or/ asking for answers.
- Using technology to give you answers.
- Plagiarism- using someone else's words/research as your own.
- Not reporting dishonesty if you see it.
- Copying work for credit (collusion).
- Letting your friends do the group work and taking the credit.

MMS Assessment Policy

This is the second policy that you need to know as an MYP Student. Grading is a little different at Mountainside, see if you can figure out how!

Assessment Policy: At MMS, we believe that assessment and grading should indicate student progress on learning criteria. You will be assessed with both formative and summative assessments. Formative assessments are smaller, more frequent checks of understanding while summative assessments are larger more involved demonstrations of learning.

What are grades for anyway?

Grades are for you! They are meant to show you how much progress you have made on a particular skill. If you have just started learning the skill, you should expect a limited or basic score, meaning that you have room to learn and grow. The goal is to spend more time practicing and then to try again so your teacher can see how much you've improved. In an IB MYP school, you should never stop refining your skills!

What if I score...

...a 1 or 2 (Limited)?

You still have a lot of learning to do before you're there. Lots of opportunity to grow!

... a 3 or 4 (Basic) ?

You kind of get it but you have space to grow and gain more understanding. Not there yet- keep trying!

... a 5 or 6 (Proficient)?

You've got this! You clearly understand what you're doing and can show it when asked. Good job!

... a 7 or 8 (Advanced)?

You're practically an expert! You could teach your friends, and your mama, and your friend's mama, and her sister!

Conventional Grading Says:

~~A+~~

A = 100% – 90%
B = less than 90%- 80%
C = less than 80% - 70%
D = less than 70% - 60%
F = below 60%



IB MYP Says:

✓7

Advanced 7-8
Proficient 5-6
Basic 3-4
Limited 1-2
Keep Learning!

MMS Language Policy

This is the third policy that you need to know as an MYP Student.
At MMS we value language and know the power of words, the more you know, the better!

Hola

We at Mountainside understand the power of language and realize that what we say and how we say it directly affects our perceptions of one another. Language lessons not only provide a medium for language acquisition; they also allow for holistic development of individuals.

Ni hao

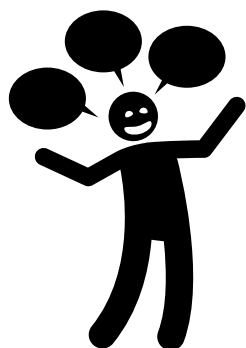
Bonjour

Throughout their language studies, students address relevant issues and make links across subject areas, allowing opportunities to learn a new language and further understanding of their own mother tongue, as well as foster a spirit of international-mindedness that inspires the characteristics of the IB MYP Learner Profile Attributes.

Alo!

All students will develop English fluency as well as competency in multiple languages. At Mountainside we value diverse perspectives and provide opportunities for all students to develop understanding and appreciation of different cultures and languages.

Salut



**How many world languages
can you list?**



Making an agreement:

Knowing we have these policies is very important, even more important is agreeing that you will follow them!

Read the bullet points below with your family. Then, sign and return this page to your Individuals and Societies teacher acknowledging that you will be the best IB MYP student you can be this year.



ACADEMIC HONESTY

- Plagiarism includes copying another person's work (intentionally or unintentionally).
- Using apps such as "PhotoMath", or sharing answers through text messages, group messages, or Snapchat IS academic dishonesty and will result in consequences.
- Working together on an assignment that is meant to be individual work is also academic dishonesty.

If you understand, please initial here: _____

TECHNOLOGY

- Cell phones, smart watches, Airpods, headphones and earbuds are to be off and in your backpack at all times.
- If technology is out during school hours, it will be taken to the office for the remainder of the day. If this happens a second time, your parent will need to pick your phone/technology up. A third time means you may no longer bring your phone/technology on MMS campus.
- You may not take photos or videos of ANYONE during the school day using your personal technology.

If you understand, please initial here: _____

USE OF LANGUAGE

- Academic language is to be used on the Mountainside campus at all times.
- Inappropriate language that targets a person or group's: race, color, national origin or ancestry, religion, creed, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental disability WILL NOT BE TOLERATED on our campus.
- Use of language that negatively targets a group or individual will result in suspension.

If you understand, please initial here: _____

CAMPUS RULES

- All Mountainside students are to wear their school-issued IDs at all time for campus safety.
- Selling of items at school (such as candy, gum, toys, etc.) is not permitted.
- All students and staff are to be treated with dignity and allowed to learn in a space that feels safe.
- The purpose of Mountainside Middle School is to provide meaningful opportunities for all learners to explore and develop skills and attributes needed to reach their highest potential as contributors to creating a better and more peaceful world. You are an important part of achieving this goal!

If you understand, please initial here: _____

Please read the following and sign below:

- I have read all four sections and understand what each section means.
- I am aware that my actions on campus not only impact my learning, but the education of those around me.
- I am making a commitment to follow the rules stated above so that Mountainside can be a safe and welcoming learning environment for all people.

Student Name: _____ Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____