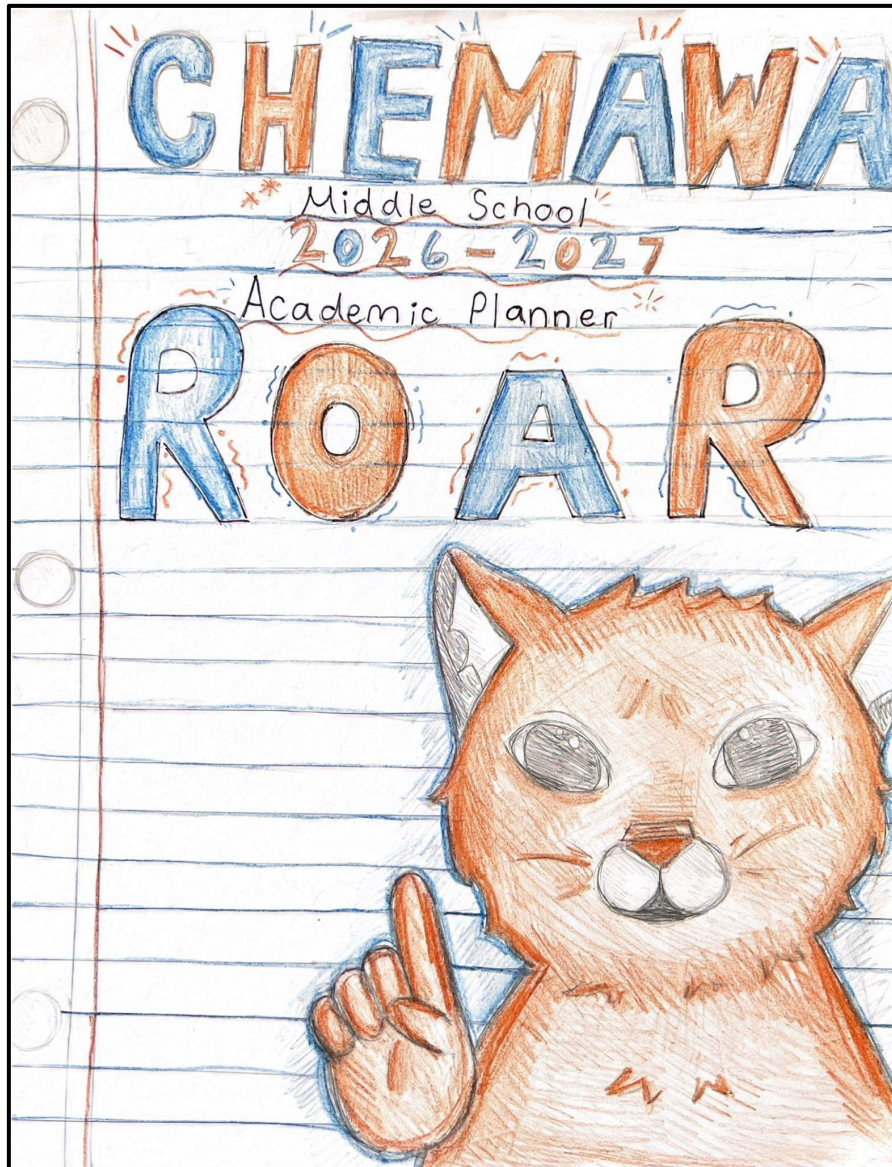


2026-2027 School Year Chemawa Parent Handbook



Art by Helena Zambrano

Chemawa Cougars are...
**RESPECTFUL • ORGANIZED •
ACCOUNTABLE • READY TO LEARN**

CHEMAWA

MIDDLE SCHOOL

MISSION

Chemawa's mission is to educate and empower students to positively impact our community and to be college and career-ready.

VISION

Transform Lives!

OFFICE STAFF

Principal: Ms. Brown
Assistant Principal: Ms. Schippell
Secretary: Mrs. Crumble, Mrs. Solis
Registrar: Mrs. Qaqish
Attendance: Mrs. Sobek
Translator: Ms. Cisneros
Health Assistant: Ms. Vego

Library: Ms. Wallace, Ms. Carlos
School Counselors: Ms. Hanson, Ms. Bruner
MTSS Counselor: Ms. Gomez
SAP Counselor: Ms. Alvarado
Campus Supervisors: Mr. Jermaine, Ms. Ashley, Ms. Jana, Ms. Shannon

School Address

8830 Magnolia Avenue
Riverside, CA 92503

Contact Information

Phone: (951) 352-8244
Español - Extensión #52108

Riverside Unified School District Website: www.riversideunified.org
Chemawa Website: chemawa.riversideunified.org

Download the
ParentSquare
mobile app

Send and receive school
communications on the go



RUSD SCHOOL CALENDAR

S M T W T F S JULY 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S AUGUST 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S SEPTEMBER 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S OCTOBER 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
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LEGAL & LOCAL HOLIDAYS

JUL	3	- Independence Day
SEP	7	- Labor Day
NOV	11	- Veterans Day
	26	- Thanksgiving Day
	27	- All Facilities Closed
DEC	24	- All Facilities Closed
	25	- Christmas Holiday
	31	- In Lieu of Admissions Day
JAN	1	- New Year's Holiday
	18	- Martin Luther King's Day
FEB	12	- Lincoln's Day
	15	- Presidents' Day
MAR	31	- César Chávez Day
MAY	31	- Memorial Day
JUNE	18	- Juneteenth Day

November 23 - 27 All Facilities Closed

December 21- January 1 All Facilities Closed

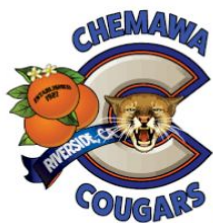
Board Approved 10/10/24

Board Approved Revision 05/08/25

IMPORTANT DATES

AUG	5	- New Employee Welcome
AUG	6-7	- All Teachers on Duty
AUG	7	- First Day for 7th Grade
AUG	10	- Classes Begin
SEP	18	- Non Student Day
OCT	9	- End of First MS/HS Quarter (MS Not in Session)
OCT	30	- Elementary Minimum Day
NOV	5-6	- Parent/Teacher Conferences (Elementary Not in Session)
NOV	6	- End of First Trimester (Elementary sites only)
NOV	23-27	- Thanksgiving Recess
DEC	18	- End of First MS/HS Semester (MS/HS Not in Session)
DEC	21 thru Jan 1	- Winter Recess
JAN	4	- Classes Resume
FEB	19	- Elementary Minimum Day
FEB	26	- End of Second Trimester (Elementary sites only)
MAR	12	- End of Third MS/HS Quarter (MS Not in Session)
MAR	29 thru Apr 2	- Spring Recess
APR	5	- Classes Resume
MAY	14	- Elementary Minimum Day
MAY	26	- End of High School & 7th Grade
MAY	27	- End of Elem & 8th Grade
MAY	27	- Last Day for Elem/MS/HS Teachers





Important Dates

Semester 1

2026-2027

Semester 2

DATE EVENT

August 7th	7th grade First Day
August 10th	First Day of School For All
September 2nd	AVID Parent Night
September 11th	Back to School Pep Rally
September 16th	Back to School Night
September 14th	Picture Day
September 24th	Family Bingo Night
September 25th	Back to School Dance
October 8th	Family Fall Festival
October 14th	Make Up Picture Day
November 6th	Tentative Parent Teacher Conference
November 13th	8th Grade Hearing and Vision
Nov 1st - Nov 20th	Holiday Toy Drive
December 9th	Winter Band Concert
December 11th	Winter Dance
December 16th	Chemawa Winter Showcase

DATE EVENT

January 26th	First Semester Awards
February 19th	Spring Dance
April 19th - April 23rd	ELA CAASPP
April 23rd	Dance Spectacular
April 26th - April 30th	Math CAASPP
April 28th	Chemawa Spring Showcase
April 29th	AVID Banquet
April 30th	Sports Banquet
May 3rd - May 7th	Science CAASPP
May 7th	8th Grade Dance (Tentitive)
May 10th - May 21st	Positive Prevention
May 10th	8th Grade Awards Night
May 12th	Spring Band Concert
May 14th	8th Grade Field Trip (Tentitive)
May 19th	Chemawa Fest
May 25th	ASB Banquet
May 25th	8th Grade Promotion Practice
May 26th	7th Grade last day of school
May 27th	8th Grade Promotion @AHS 9am

TO REPORT AN ABSENCE:



CALL (951) 352-8244



SCAN THE QR



* All dates are subject to change.

Sport	Tryout date (season beginning)	Season (total weeks)	Practice Days	Tournament tentative date (End of season)	PARENT MEETING DATES		
					PTSA	SSC	ELAC
Basketball (Ms. Belote)	September 1	6 weeks	Tues and Thurs	JV - Oct 17 Varsity - Oct 24	09/16 10/12 11/9 12/14 1/11 2/8 3/8 4/12 5/10	10/3 11/05 12/03 02/04 03/04 04/08	9/24 10/22 11/19 1/21 2/18
Cross Country (Mr. Hutcheson)	September 22	6 weeks	Tues and Thurs	November 7			
Volleyball (Mr. Lam)	December 7	6 weeks	Mon and Thurs	JV - Jan 30 Varsity - Feb 6			
Soccer (Mrs. Alldredge)	January 19	6 weeks	Tues and Thurs - starting in January	JV - March 13 Varsity - March 20			
Track and Field (Mr. Lane)	March 22	6 Weeks	Monday & Thurs	April 24			
Spirit Crew (Mrs. Vargas)	October (hiphop)	Year long	Tuesday and Thursday	May			
Folklorico (Ms. Leiva)	End of the school year (for the next school year)	Year long	Thursdays & Fridays	May			
Football (Mrs. Shaw)	Oct and March	2 seasons	Tues & Thurs	TBD			

Join PTSA



NO SCHOOL DATES

September 7 - Labor Day
 September 18- Non Student Day
 October 9- End of first quarter
 November 11- Veterans Day
 November 23-27- Thanksgiving Break
 December 18- End of first semester
 December 21-January 1- Winter Break
 January 18- Martin Luther King's Day
 February 12- Lincoln's Day
 February 15- Presidents' Day
 March 12- End of third quarter
 March 29- April 2- Spring Break

MINIMUM SCHOOL DATES

12:35 Dismissal EVERY Wednesday and
 9/4, 9/17, 10/08, 10/30, 11/21, 1/4, 1/15, 2/11,
 3/11, 4/19, 4/20, 4/26, 4/27, 5/7, 5/24,
 5/25

11:30 Dismissal (Grab and Go Lunch)
 8/7, 11/6, 11/20, 12/17, 3/26, 5/26,

* All dates are subject to change.



CHEMAWA MIDDLE SCHOOL

BELL SCHEDULE - REGULAR DAY

	SSR/ELD	
1	8:00 - 8:32	(32)
2	8:36 - 9:25	(49)
3	9:29 - 10:18	(49)
4	10:22 - 11:11	(49)
1st Lunch	11:11-11:46	(35)
5A	11:15 - 12:04	(49)
5B	11:50 - 12:39	(49)
2nd Lunch	12:04-12:39	(35)
6	12:43 - 1:32	(49)
7	1:36 - 2:25	(49)



CHEMAWA MIDDLE SCHOOL

BELL SCHEDULE - WEDNESDAY

COLLABORATION DAY

	SSR/ELD	
1	8:00 - 8:31	(31)
2	8:35 - 9:05	(30)
3	9:09 - 9:39	(30)
4	9:43 - 10:13	(30)
5	10:17 - 10:47	(30)
1st Lunch	10:47 - 11:22	(35)
6a	10:51 - 11:26	(35)
6b	11:26 - 12:06	(35)
2nd Lunch	11:26 - 12:01	(35)
7	12:05 - 12:35	(30)

SCHOOLWIDE GUIDELINES & POLICIES

CHROMEBOOKS

All students will receive Chromebooks to support 21st-century learning. Technology is an essential tool for research, communication, and problem-solving in today's world. Be responsible—take care of your device and charge it nightly! Visit the Library Information & Policies page (Pg. 7) for more details.

PLANNERS

All students will receive a Chemawa planner. Planners should be used to help keep track of homework, projects, and important school events. Students are expected to write their classwork and/or homework into their planners on a daily basis.

HALL PASS

- Students must always use classroom pass to leave class (bathroom, office, health office).
- Students must sign out using Minga before leaving class. Minga will keep a log of student bathroom/hallway use.
- Only one (1) student at a time should be out with a pass.
- “No Fly” Zone: No hall pass the first 10 minutes or last 10 minutes of each class period.

LUNCH TIME EXPECTATIONS

- Students are required to sit for the first 15 minutes of lunch while they eat. We will dismiss tables once their **area is clean** to join in the lunchtime activities.
- Running, horseplay, fighting, and students purposely bothering and/or bullying other students will be disciplined by administration.
- Food delivery services such as Doordash, Grubhub, Postmates etc. are not permitted.



PHONE POLICY

Chemawa Middle School is strictly a NO PHONE ZONE. Phones must be turned off and in backpacks from gate to gate. This includes AirPods or other wireless headphones. (If you need to contact parents/guardians, you may go to the office to give them a call.)

If a student is caught using their phone or their phone is seen outside of their backpack (i.e. in their jeans or hoodie pocket), **the consequences include:**

1. Turn in phone for the day
2. Turn in phone for the day, lunch detention
3. Turn in phone, parent/guardian pickup, Wednesday School
4. Turn in phone, parent/guardian pickup, turn in cell phone every morning for the rest of the quarter, Saturday School

TARDY POLICY

Chemawa students are expected to go to each of their classes on time, before the tardy bell rings. Being punctual ensures you don't miss important instructions, discussions, or activities that help you succeed.

A student is considered tardy if they are NOT seated by the time the tardy bell rings.

Consequences include:

- **Tardies #1-3:** Warning
- **Tardies #4-6:** Lunch Detention
- **Tardies #7-9:** After School Detention

Tardies will be tracked through Minga throughout the day. **After 10+ tardies,** student will rotate between lunch detentions and after school detentions indefinitely. Warnings will no longer be given.

AERIES & GRADING SCALES

Students are expected to check Aeries regularly and stay up to date with their grades in every class.

Features For Students:

- **Check grades:** Students can see their grades, test scores, and assessment standards
- **Check attendance:** Students can see their attendance records
- **Access grade transcripts:** Students can access their grade transcripts

Aeries Gradebook Key:

- RED box = Missing Assignment (Score of 0)
- Blank box = Not Yet Graded
- N/A = Excused; Not Yet Graded



How to Log In to Aeries:

bit.ly/3EK8ZLZ

A	Mastery of Standard
B	Proficient (Met Standard)
C	Developing (Near Standard)
D	Approaching (Below Standard) OR No Attempt or Understanding
F	

MATH/SCIENCE GRADING SCALE	
4	Mastery of Standard
3	Proficient (Met Standard)
2	Developing (Near Standard)
1	Approaching (Below Standard)
0	No Attempt or Understanding of Standard

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

PLAGIARISM

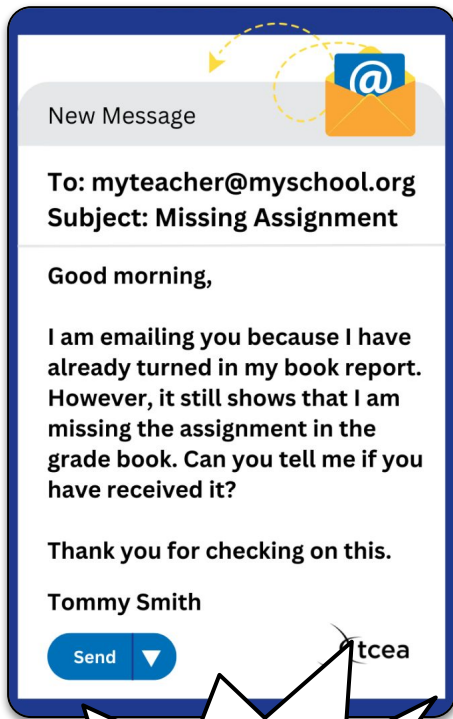
The Board of Education believes academic dishonesty/cheating is the most destructive action within the learning process (Regulation 5131.9). Plagiarism is taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own, including AI-generated work. **Consequences include:**

1. Discipline referral, a zero on the assignment, call home
2. Discipline referral, a zero on the assignment, call home, Saturday School
3. Discipline referral, a zero on the assignment, call home, Parent Conference, and other consequences such as suspension or removal from leadership positions and extracurricular activities



Please check each **class syllabus** for specific **AI Policy** details.

HOW TO EMAIL A TEACHER



STEPS	EXAMPLE
1) SUBJECT LINE Short title of what your email is about	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Missing Work</i> • <i>Absence</i> • <i>Tutoring Help</i>
2) GREETING Greet and say hello like you would do in person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Good morning...</i> • <i>Hello...</i> • <i>Dear...</i>
3) WHY Tell your teacher why you are emailing them with details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I'm emailing you because...</i> • <i>I need help with...</i>
4) CLOSE Close with a simple goodbye	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Thank you!</i> • <i>Have a nice day.</i> • <i>See you in class.</i>
5) SIGNATURE Include your FULL NAME and CLASS PERIOD	<i>Sincerely, Peter Parker Period 2</i>

LIBRARY INFORMATION & POLICIES

Students are encouraged to come in and do homework, check out books, read, or use the computers for class work. Chromebook support (damages, malfunction, sign-in help, etc.) is located in the library. Please follow our expected school rules of behavior. Talking in the library is limited. **Gum, food, and/or drinks are not permitted inside.**

Library Hours: 7:30-7:55 am Before School | During Lunch | After School until 3:00 pm

How to Borrow Books:

- Students must have their ID card
- Students are allowed to check out two books at a time
- Students will not be allowed to check out books if they owe overdue books or owe to another library

Chromebook Device Expectations:

- Students are responsible for the Chromebook that's specifically assigned to them.
- Do not eat or drink while using or near school issued Chromebook.
- If any damages occur, students are responsible for damage costs and replacement fees.

ROAR: SCHOOLWIDE EXPECTATIONS

	What does it mean?	✓ Examples	✗ Non-Examples
RESPECTFUL 	<p>"I make the room better just by being in it."</p> <p>Treat the people, the equipment, and the space around you like they matter. It's about being the kind of person who makes the room better just by being in it, rather than making others feel small or ignored.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Using "Please/Thank you" with cafeteria and custodial staff. - Keeping hands, feet, and objects to yourself in the halls. - Validating others' ideas during group work (e.g., "I like that point, but..."). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Using "inside jokes" to exclude or mock a classmate. - Rolling eyes or sighing loudly when a teacher gives a direction. - Leaving "remnants" (wrappers/crumbs) at your desk or table.
ORGANIZED 	<p>"I own my space so I don't waste my time."</p> <p>Have a system so you don't spend half your life looking for a pencil or a lost assignment. It's about keeping your "stuff" in a spot where you can find it in five seconds or less so you can actually get your work done and get on with your day.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Filing papers in the correct subject tab daily. - Checking your school email or Google Classroom or updates. - Using your planner to track assignments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shoving graded papers into the bottom of a backpack - Searching for a pencil for 5 minutes after the lesson has started. - Asking "What are we doing?" because materials aren't out.
ACCOUNTABLE 	<p>"I'm the boss of my actions & my outcomes."</p> <p>Be the boss of your own actions. If you do something great, take the win! If you mess up or forget something, own it instead of blaming your Wi-Fi, your partner, or your dog. It's about being someone others can actually count on.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accepting a correction or consequence without arguing or blaming others. - Completing your specific role in a group project. - Reporting a problem (like a spill or broken equipment) to an adult. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saying "He started it" as a justification for breaking a rule. - Copying/pasting answers from the internet and calling it your own work. - Saying "I didn't know" when the instructions were posted.
READY TO LEARN 	<p>"I've got the tools, the charge, and the focus."</p> <p>Show up with your "battery" at 100%. This means your Chromebook is charged, your brain is tuned in to what's happening now (not what happened at lunch), and you've got the tools you need to finish the mission.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bringing a charged device and necessary chargers every day. - Starting the "Bell Ringer" or "Do Now" task immediately upon entry. - Asking clarifying questions when you are genuinely stuck. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walking around aimlessly in the classroom or to talk to friends - Putting your head down as soon as you sit. - Wearing headphones while the teacher is giving instructions.

REWARDS & RECOGNITION

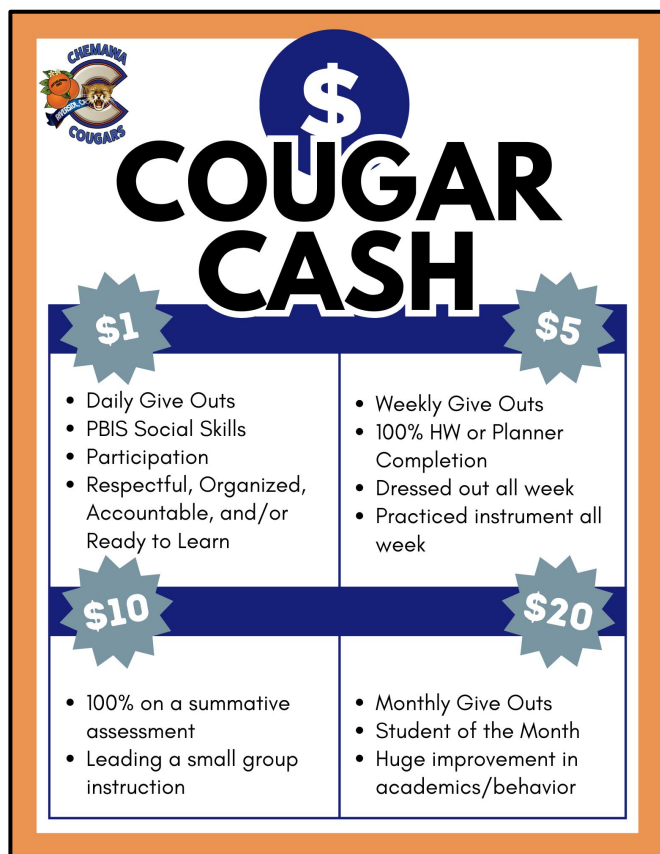
WHAT IS COUGAR CASH?

Chemawa teachers, staff, and administrators will award Cougar Cash to students who exhibit positive behavior. **Cougar Cash can be used in a variety of ways, such as:**

- Purchase items at the student store (school supplies, apparel, treats, gifts, class passes, etc.).
- Purchase entry tickets (dances, activity nights, yearbooks).
- Earn invites for special assemblies, field trips, and lunchtime activities.

COUGAR CASH IS AWARDED FOR...

- **Class expectations:** completed homework, proper behavior, on task behavior, improved behavior, collaboration with peers, grades, next day return and sign (progress reports,) and period points (teacher's discretion).
- **Chemawa behavior expectations:** respectful, organized, accountable, ready to learn
- **Prosocial behavior:** helping others, positive social interactions, conflict resolution, etc.
- **Getting involved:** attending school events, membership in any club, activity, sport, and volunteering.



STUDENT of the MONTH

Every month, teachers select the top students in each department. They attend a special luncheon, receive an award, and have photos posted.

COUNSELOR AWARDS

Every quarter, Chemawa counselors award students who worked towards academic success in all classes. They receive a certificate and small treat.

SEMESTER AWARDS NIGHT

Students with 4.0 to 3.5 and 3.49 to 3.0 grade point averages are recognized at an awards ceremony after the first semester.

8th GRADE END OF YEAR EVENTS & PROMOTION

At the end of the school year, 8th grade students are rewarded for having positive attendance, passing classes, exhibiting good behavior, and being on time to classes every day. 8th grade end of the year events include:

- 8th Grade Awards Night (invite only)
- 8th Grade Dance
- 8th Grade Field Trip
- 8th Grade Promotion

Please check Participation Criteria and Promotion Requirements (Pg. 11).

BEHAVIOR & DISCIPLINE

Inappropriate classroom behaviors that do not align to the Schoolwide Expectations (ROAR) such as excessive talking, class disruption, and obscene language detract from the teacher's ability to engage all students in learning. Refer to the **Behavior Consequences** image below for behavior & discipline consequences.



BEHAVIOR CONSEQUENCES:

- 1 **Warning/Intervention**
- 2 **Consequence/Call Home**
- 3 **Refocus Sheet/Call Home**
- 4 **Office Referral**



These are recorded as **Pre-Referrals** & may affect whether or not you are able to participate in school events and field trips.

Warnings, Interventions, and Consequences from a teacher can look like...

- reteaching expectations
- changing seats
- redirecting/warning
- giving think time/breaks
- student/parent conference
- teacher detention
- verbal praise
- behavior reflection
- providing choices
- positive incentives (Cougar Cash)

PARTICIPATION CRITERIA

CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Criteria	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter
Attendance	More than 85%	More than 85%	More than 85%
Tardies	Less than 5	Less than 10	Less than 15
Referrals (Assertive & Pre-Referrals)	Less than 2	Less than 4	Less than 8
Suspended Days	Less than 1	Less than 3	Less than 5
GPA	2.0 or above	2.0 or above	2.0 or above
Unserved Consequences	0 Unserved Consequences	0 Unserved Consequences	0 Unserved Consequences
<i>*Any student involved in a <u>physical altercation</u> or in <u>possession of a controlled substance</u> will not be able to participate for the remainder of the quarter and possibly the next quarter.</i>			

8th GRADE PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

In order to participate in the middle school Promotion Ceremony, middle school students must meet the following criteria, which includes passing a specific number of classes:

1. Pass 20 classes out of the possible 24 semester classes attempted over two years to participate in the promotion ceremony.
2. Passing a class is defined as earning a semester grade "A, B, C, D"
3. Students receiving a 'F' semester grade will be allowed the opportunity to remain eligible for the student promotion ceremony by participating in academic interventions available at the school site.
4. A 7th grade student who earned an "F" semester grade in math or language arts may remain eligible by meeting or exceeding the standard on the CAASPP in math or language arts.



Chemawa Middle School
PROMOTION CEREMONY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to participate in the 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony, you must earn 100 out of 120 credits.

You earn credits with each class you pass with a D or better.

Each class is worth 5 credits.
Each semester, you should earn 30 credits.
Each school year, you should earn 60 credits.

Questions? Contact your School Counselor.

COLLEGE & CAREER READY

COLLEGE AND CAREER READY COUGARS



3.0 GPA



**NO D/F
GRADES**



**AVID
ELECTIVE
CLASS**



**HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS IN
MIDDLE SCHOOL**



**STATE TEST
STANDARD MET**



**MULTILINGUAL
RECLASSIFICATION**



**PSAT 8/9
SCORE OF MIN.
900**



**CTE ELECTIVE
CLASS**



**HONORS CLASS
IN 7TH OR 8TH**



PREPARED FOR HIGH SCHOOL: STUDENTS WHO MEET TWO CRITERIA

APPROACHING PREPARED FOR HIGH SCHOOL: STUDENTS WHO MEET ONE CRITERIA

NOT PREPARED FOR HIGH SCHOOL: STUDENTS WHO DO NOT MEET ANY OF THE CRITERIA

AVID WICOR

WICOR stands for Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading. It is a powerful set of learning tools designed to help you take control of your own education. By using WICOR strategies every day, you aren't just memorizing facts for a test—you are training your brain to think critically, work effectively with others, stay organized, and build the ultimate toolkit for success in middle school, high school, and college!

	What It Means	Why It's Important	Examples
W Writing 	Writing isn't just about spelling or essays; it's thinking on paper . It helps you sort through your thoughts, remember what you learn, and share your ideas with the world.	When you write things down in your own words, your brain locks that information into your long-term memory. It moves you from just <i>hearing</i> a lesson to actually <i>owning</i> it!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused Notes • Quick Writes • Learning Logs & Reflections
I Inquiry 	Inquiry is a fancy word for asking great questions and being a detective. Instead of just accepting a simple answer, you dig deeper to find out why and how.	Curiosity is a superpower! Asking questions keeps your brain active, helps you understand tough topics, and stops you from just memorizing things for a test and immediately forgetting them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socratic Seminars & Fishbowl Discussions • Philosophical Chairs • Thinking Maps
C Collaboration 	Collaboration means working together as a team . It's about listening to others, sharing the workload, and combining different brains to solve a single problem.	No one can do everything alone. When you work with others, you hear new perspectives you might have never thought of, and you learn how to be a great teammate—a skill you'll need for the rest of your life!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think-Pair- Share • Gallery Walk • Peer Editing
O Organization 	Organization is managing your time, your space, and your mind . It means knowing where your assignments are, planning out your week, and setting clear targets.	Middle school is busy! Being organized cuts down on stress, prevents that "oh no, I forgot my homework!" panic, and gives you more free time because you aren't wasting hours looking for lost papers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planners • SMART Goals • Binder Checks & Interactive Notebooks
R Reading 	Reading is connecting with the text . It's not just looking at words on a page; it's talking back to the text, building your vocabulary, and figuring out the big picture.	Reading is the key to unlocking every single subject—even math and science! The more you read and understand, the smarter your brain becomes and the easier it is to learn new concepts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking the Text • KWL Charts • Summarizing