2026-2027 RMHS

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

RATTLERS
RANCHO MIRAGE



PSUSD
PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Rancho Mirage High
31001 Rattler Rd.
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
https://rmhs.psusd.us/

RANCHO MIRAGE HIGH SCHOOL

STRIKE

OUR CORE VALUES

SERVICE

- Rattlers demonstrate their service by participating in school activities and community outreach.
- Rattlers are intrinsically motivated to serve their school and community.
- Rattlers serve as role models for underclassmen, future Rattlers, and each other.

TALENT

- Rattlers exhibit their talents by excelling in leadership and demonstrating knowledge through rigorous critical thinking and academic skills.
- Rattlers showcase their talents through Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Culinary Arts, AVID, athletics, and/or the use of technology.
- Rattlers work to develop their talents while respecting the talents of others.

RESPECT

- Rattlers appropriately express themselves through words and actions to positively represent the school and themselves at all times.
- Rattlers understand individual differences and value others.
- Rattlers understand that every choice has a specific outcome.

INTEGRITY

- Rattlers demonstrate integrity through academic honesty, sincerity, and recognition of their ethical responsibility.
- Rattlers live by the motto, "Do the right thing even when no one is watching."

KNOWLEDGE

- Rattlers demonstrate academic, community, and global awareness gained through learning and personal experiences.
- Rattlers graduate college and career ready.
- Rattlers exhibit a passion for lifelong learning and continued personal growth.

ENGAGEMENT

- Rattlers demonstrate personal drive and motivation by establishing meaningful connections with the school and the community through involvement in clubs, sports, ASB, performing arts, culinary arts, and/or other areas.
- Rattlers are active learners both in and out of the classroom by searching for answers, connecting to the content, persevering through difficulties, and synthesizing information from a variety of sources.

BE RESPECTFUL | BE RESPONSIBLE | BE ENGAGED

RANCHO MIRAGE HIGH SCHOOL

HOME OF THE RATTLERS

RMHS MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Rancho Mirage High School is to provide a high-quality, comprehensive, and meaningful education for all students. Each student will be expected to succeed within the bounds of their abilities and chosen education and career goals. Each student will be treated as an individual, given the tools to be a lifelong learner, and taught to function as a member of a group and as a productive and meaningful member of society. The RMHS mission aligns with the PSUSD mission, which states: Students will graduate from high school prepared and motivated to succeed in their chosen careers and higher education, ultimately contributing to the common good.

RMHS VISION

RMHS is a working partnership of students, parents, staff, and community members who effectively communicate to meet the educational needs of its students. RMHS provides students with a safe and secure learning environment characterized by responsible, respectful, and ethical behavior by the entire school community. RMHS is a professional learning community that ensures that all students learn at high levels through a collaborative culture and an ambitious vision for student success.

MASCOT

RATTLERS

MOTTO

Own it!

SCHOOL COLORS

Maroon, Gray, and Columbia Blue

PSUSD Board of Education

Karen Cornett	Board President
Charlie E. Ervin Jr.	Board Clerk
Sergio Espericueta	Board Member
John Gerardi	Board Member
Madonna Gerrell	Board Member

PSUSD Administration

Marcus Funchess, Ed.D.	Superintendent of Schools
Simone Kovats, Ed.D.	Asst. Supt., Educational Services
Clayton Hill	Asst. Supt., Human Resources
Jeff Simmons	Asst. Supt., Business Services

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Rancho Mirage High School Faculty

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Brian Hendra	Principal
Eddie Martinez	Assistant Principal / Athletic Director
Manuel Bayardo	Assistant Principal
TBD	Assistant Principal

CERTIFICATED STAFF

Alanis, Joshua	Science Teacher
Alvarado, Walter	World Language Teacher
Amador, Rachel	English Teacher
Aparicio, Abraham	Social Studies Teacher
Aragon, Maribel	Functional Life Skills/Special Education Teacher
Avina, Steven	Counselor
Belliveau, Brian	ASB/PLUS Director
Bennett, Kendra	English Teacher
Beyronneau, Robert	Math Teacher
Bodnar, William	Automotive Teacher
Bresson, Toby	Art Teacher
Bystrzycki, Tom	Math Teacher
Bystrzycki, Wendy	World Language/Theater Teacher
Capitulo, Marc	Math Teacher
Carmona, Don	Math Teacher
Cassady, Melissa	Media Production Teacher
Castillo, Mario	Social Studies Teacher
Coats, Thomas	Social Studies/Special Education Teacher
Contreras, Carlos	Social Studies Teacher
Furtado, Gennette	Registered Nurse
Garcia, Claudia	Counselor
Gaughan, Colleen	Functional Life Skills/Special Education Teacher
Gomez, Maria	Math Teacher
Gordy Jeskey, Constance	Music Teacher
Grey, Amy	English Teacher
Gutierrez, Erica	Science Teacher
Halter, Anthony	Math Teacher
Hanmer, Rob	Physical Education Teacher
Hernandez, Caesar	Social Studies Teacher
Hernandez, Robert	English Teacher
Hernandez, Vivian	Math/Special Education Teacher
Hicks, Laura	Social Studies Teacher
Hughes, Julie	World Language/ELL Teacher
Hurtado, Jose	English/Social Studies/Special Education Teacher

Jauregui, Ely	English Teacher
Jimenez, Jorge	Science Teacher
Jimenez, Linda	School Psychologist
Kabel, Jeff	Work-Based Learning Teacher
Lopez, Francisco	Science Teacher
Love, Rachel	Adaptive Physical Education Teacher
Mallory, Marshall	Social Studies Teacher
Martinez O'Grady, Athena	English Teacher
Matthews, Ana	Spanish Teacher
Matthews, Larry	Physical Education Teacher
McCarthy, Heather	Librarian
McCarthy, Kevin	Social Studies Teacher
Mejia, Diana	English Teacher
Mocete, Yvette	MTSS Coach
Moreno-Perez, Oscar	English Language Development Teacher
Myers, Megan	Physical Education Teacher
Newhouse, Kelly	Theater Arts Teacher
Orantes, Marginia	World Language Teacher
Papp, Carlos	Math Teacher
Pedrow, Cole	English Teacher
Quinn, Josie	Counselor
Robinson, Kimberly	Social Studies Teacher
Quintero, Sandra	World Language Teacher
Robles, Sarah	Science Teacher
Rodriguez, Sylvia	World Language Teacher
Rundhaug, Richard	English/Special Education Teacher
Sanchez Briones, Kimberly	Science Teacher
Sandoval, Taylor	Science Teacher
Shaw, David	Physical Education Teacher
Silva, Jesus	Counselor
Sinclair, Bennet	English Teacher
Solis, Eduardo	Counselor
Soto, Sally	Math Teacher
Stevenson, Marie	Math Teacher
Tapia, Nicholas	Math Teacher
Tovar, Lourdes	Math/Special Education Teacher
Trejo Quintanilla, Lizbeth	World Language Teacher
Valenzuela, Kim	Math/World Language Teacher
Van Loon, Jenna	Culinary Teacher
Vega, Felipe	Science Teacher
Watson, Lynn	Counselor

Wickstrand, Bridget	Social Studies Teacher
Wienand, Mark	Music Teacher
Zeihen, Andrew	Math Teacher

CLASSIFIED STAFF

Alvarez, Ray "Gus"	Nutrition Services
Ambriz, Ramiro	Paraprofessional-- SpEd Health
Avila, Gloria	Office Specialist
Benitez, Alejandro	Paraprofessional-- SpEd Health
Brumberg, Vicki	Speech Pathologist
Calderon, Kendra	Athletic Trainer
Carmago, Joseph	Athletic Custodian
Chavez, Giannina	IEP Support Specialist--Bilingual
Corona, Ricky	Lead Night Custodian
Dartis, DK	Campus Safety Officer
Diaz, Manny	Skilled Maintenance Worker
Dougherty, Michelle	Prevention Specialist
Felipe Dominguez, Pamela	Paraprofessional II
Felix, Alejandra	Campus Safety Officer
Flores, Laura	Nutrition Services
Fontaine, Sulam	Paraprofessional II
Gallardo, Rosario	Nutrition Services
Garcia Sandoval, Janet	Paraprofessional-- SpEd Health
Garcia, Cecilia	Custodial
Gonzalez, Isaac	Office Specialist--Bilingual
Henderson, Yvonne	College & Career Specialist
Hermosillo, Nora	Paraprofessional-- SpEd Health
Hernandez, Esther	Paraprofessional-- SpEd Health
Kirkpatrick, Debbie	Nutrition Services
Lopez Marivel	Licensed Vocational Nurse
Lopez, Matthew	Paraprofessional-- SpEd Health
Lopez-Torres, Israel	Lead Custodian
Lugo, Claudia	Office Specialist--Bilingual
Magaña, Mayra	Office Specialist--Bilingual
Merida, Alejandro	Grounds
Moncada, Vanessa	Registrar
Montes Bellows, Daniela	Library Technician
Ochoa, Sonia	Office Specialist--Athletics
Oros, Johnny	Paraprofessional-- SpEd Health
Peterson, Tyler	Paraprofessional II
Prieto, Sofia	Mental Health Therapist I
Provo, Arla	Kitchen Manager

Ramirez, Karinna	Custodial
Ramirez, Sandra	Assistant Principal Secretary
Ramirez, Teresa	Paraprofessional-- SpEd Health
Rivas, Eric	Mental Health Therapist I
Rivera, Gabrielle	Certified Wellness Coach
Romero, Alberto	Campus Safety Officer
Ruiz, Valerie	Instructional Aide
Siegand, Christine	Office Specialist
Silva, Nathan	Paraprofessional-- SpEd Health
Spiegel, Nile	Paraprofessional--Automotive
Steele, Giselle	Custodial
Stratton, Daniel	School Resource Officer
Thomas, Lisa	Accounting Assistant
Valadez, Albert	Campus Safety Officer
Valdez, Cecilia	Administrative Assistant
VandeSteeg, Steven	Paraprofessional--Culinary
Vasquez, Donna	Custodian--Day
Wilbanks, Amber	Paraprofessional-- SpEd Health

SECTION I: GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

SCHOOLWIDE LEARNER OUTCOMES

At Rancho Mirage High School, every Rattler is expected to live the S.T.R.I.K.E. values: Service, Talent, Respect, Integrity, Knowledge, and Engagement. These values guide learning, behavior, leadership, and school pride.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The Board of Education believes that academic honesty and personal integrity are fundamental components of a student's education and character development. The Board expects that students will not cheat, lie, plagiarize, or commit other acts of academic dishonesty. *(BP 5131.9)*

Students are expected to demonstrate honesty and integrity while in attendance at Rancho Mirage High School. All students are expected to do their own work. This includes but is not limited to test-taking, class assignments, homework, essays, compositions, term papers, and research. All work submitted by students is to be a true reflection of their own effort and ability. If submitted work is found to be otherwise, the student has shown unacceptable academic behavior warranting consequences. Engagement in any of the following is considered cheating:

- Claiming credit for work not the product of one's own honest effort.
- Providing access to materials or information so that others may dishonestly claim credit.
- Knowing and/or tolerating either or both above

Any of these identified behaviors represents a violation of mutual trust and respect essential to the education at Rancho Mirage High School. Students who demonstrate these behaviors should expect the following consequences:

- 'Zero' on the assignment
- Parent/Guardian Notification
- Disciplinary Action

ATTENDANCE POLICY & PROCEDURE

It is recommended that dental and medical appointments be made for non-school hours. Because of the need to interpret California School Attendance laws, the district determines whether an absence was excused or not. Excessive tardiness, excused absences, and/or unexcused absences may lead to further consequences. Because poor attendance negatively affects academic achievement, parents are encouraged to monitor and clear their students' attendance through ParentVue (**access to ParentVue is available in the Registrar's office**).
Student attendance is mandated by the State of California. Parents are responsible for their student's punctual, regular attendance. **(Education Code 48200)** State law requires that:

- Students aged 6-15 must attend school full time.
- Students aged 16-17 must attend a comprehensive school, continuation school, or another district alternative program.
- Students aged 18+ with unsatisfactory academic progress, citizenship, and/or attendance will be counseled about their options.

RMHS is required to verify all student absences. Please follow the steps to clear a school absence from school:

- Parent/ legal guardian should clear absences in the ParentVue app or call the Attendance office by 9:45 AM each day of the absence to avoid an auto-dialer call from the school.
- Parent/legal guardians may also clear the absence through ParentVue.
- ***Parent/legal guardians are allowed 3 school days to change unverified/unexcused absences.***

Absence - Excused

Absences may be excused for the following: illness, court, doctor or dentist visits, religious holiday, family bereavement, vacation with prior administrative approval, or other emergencies.

Absence – School-related Business/Sports

- Student attendance for extra-curricular and school-related activities are subject to specifications stipulated by PSUSD Board Policy. *(BP 6145)*
- **Participation in games, activities, or events requires the student to be present in classes on the day of the event.**
- Students who miss class due to athletics will have their attendance cleared through the Athletic Office. This procedure may take up to three (3) school days. *If you have any questions regarding athletic-related absences, please contact the Athletic Office at (760) 202-6455 opt. 3, then opt. 1.*

Chronic Absence

Students who miss 10% or more of total class time (excused and/or unexcused) will have a meeting with administration to discuss the truancy law, chronic absences, SART/SARB process.

Student Sign-Out Procedure

A parent/guardian must sign a student out in the Attendance Office if a student is leaving campus during regular school hours. Emergency contacts are **ONLY** for use when a parent/legal guardian cannot be reached in case of an emergency. Students **will not** be released to emergency contacts **WITHOUT** parent/guardian's authorization. **Students must be signed out prior to 3:25 PM** or must wait until the end of the school day**.** Any student leaving without the *required permission* cannot clear their attendance, and the absence will be noted as truant, with the student being subject to legal action.*<u>*A student who is 18 years of age may sign themselves out and excuse their absence with parent authorization on file.*</u>

Tardiness

Students are expected to be on time for all classes in order to benefit from the instructional program and to develop habits of punctuality, self-discipline, and responsibility.

1. **Truant -** Students arriving late to class by ***30 minutes or more*** are considered truant. Students who are habitually tardy or truant are subject to consequences through the PSUSD SART & SARB process and may result in a truancy fine and referral to the district attorney's office.
2. **Tardy - Excused**: A tardy is excused only by a written note from a teacher, nurse, guidance counselor, or administration official.

3. **Tardy - Unexcused**: An unexcused tardy is considered being late to class without the proper authorization.

Truancy
Truancy includes, but is not limited to, oversleeping, family work, transportation issues, studying, period cuts, unauthorized field trips/excursions, unauthorized program change, arriving late beyond the tardy window, leaving early without a "hall pass," and other trips.

The Truancy Ordinance prohibits students from loitering, wandering, or roaming in public areas during the hours of 8:45 to 3:40 pm on official school days without proof of proper out-of-class permission. Truancy is subject to disciplinary consequences.

Lateness Policy			
Infraction	**1st Offense**	**2nd Offense**	**3rd Offense**
Unexcused Tardy - Under 30 minutes **Excessive lateness may warrant further consequences.	Teacher notes tardy in attendance and assigns disciplinary consequences.	Teacher notes tardy in Attendance and assigns disciplinary consequences. Teacher makes parent contact (phone or email)	Teacher notes tardy in attendance and assigns disciplinary consequences. Teacher makes parent contact (phone or email) If excessive tardy continues beyond 3rd offense, the teacher will write a referral which will result in administrative disciplinary consequences.
Truancy More than 30 minutes late to 1st - 6th period	Teacher writes referrals Teacher contacts discipline office Discipline/Attendance will mark students as Truant in Synergy. Students will be marked as a "L" or "Q".		
When student arrives late to school			
Student is 30 or more minutes late to school	Students must stop by the attendance office to check in after 9:15am. They will receive a pass from the attendance office and have their attendance marked as "L", "TEX" or "EX". If a student does not have a pass nor attendance marked in synergy, they did not check in with attendance.		

ACCIDENTS, HEALTH OFFICE & EMERGENCY INFORMATION

- School-related injuries should be reported immediately to the Health Office. ***Families must keep current emergency contacts, phone numbers, and address information on file so the school can respond quickly when needed.***

- Medication at school must follow district procedures and be managed through the Health Office with required forms.
- Families should notify the school of any medical needs, health plans, or conditions that may affect the student during the school day.
- When address or telephone number changes occur, at any time during the school year, the parent or guardian must notify the Registrar's Office at (760) 202-6455.

CAMPUS SAFETY, CLOSED CAMPUS & STUDENT ID

- RMHS is committed to a safe, respectful, and orderly learning environment. Students are expected to follow all campus procedures that support safety for everyone.
- **RMHS is a closed campus**. Once students arrive at school, they may not leave until dismissal unless they are officially signed out or have administrative permission.
- **Students must present their RMHS ID upon entry and whenever requested by staff.**
    - **See the ID Policy**
- Students must adhere to all campus and hallway procedures to ensure safety.
    - **See Elevator Clearance**
    - **See Phone Policy**
- All visitors must check in through the front office, follow school procedures, and wear a visitor pass while on campus.
- **Searches and safety checks** may be conducted when necessary to protect students, staff, and school property.
    - A health and safety (H & S) search will be conducted when there is reasonable suspicion involving controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, stolen property, weapons, or other prohibited objects, or which constitute a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of the occupants of the school facility or in conjunction with a school-sponsored activity. In accordance with California and Federal law, PSUSD reserves the right to conduct random searches of students, persons, and property. *(Ed. Code 48921, 44806, 44014*. When an H & S is conducted, school officials may confiscate cell phones to ensure the safety of students.

TRANSPORTATION, PARKING & STUDENT DROP-OFF

- Students should arrive and depart safely and follow all traffic expectations on campus.
- Student drivers must have a valid RMHS parking permit, park only in approved student spaces, and follow all posted traffic rules, including the 15 MPH speed limit.
- Bicycles, skateboards, and scooters may not be ridden on campus or in parking lots and must be secured in designated areas.

Parking Lot Policies

- Students are to enter and leave school through the student entrance adjacent to the student parking lot.
- Students are *not* to be dropped off in the faculty parking lot or south parking lot (Staff Lot).
- Vehicles must be pulled headfirst into the parking spot, not backed into the spot. Cars must occupy one space only.

- **All vehicles parked in the student parking lot must display a valid RMHS parking permit. Any vehicle not displaying a school permit may be towed at the owner's expense. Parking permits are obtained from the Security office and cost $5. Damaged or lost permits will need to be replaced at a cost of $5.**
- Students should not be hanging out in cars or loitering in the parking lots before school, during lunch, after school, or during a school function event.
- **Vehicles are subject to search, based upon safety and security regulations.**

PSUSD and RMHS assume no liability for damage, theft, vandalism, injury, or other negative consequences associated with use or ownership of motor vehicles, bikes, skateboards, scooters, or other related items.

MEALS, LUNCH & DELIVERIES

- School meal procedures and lunch expectations are designed to keep students safe and the campus orderly.
- District nutrition services provide student meal access according to current PSUSD procedures and nutritional laws and guidelines.
- Food, gifts, and personal item deliveries for students during the school day are not permitted and will not be accepted by the school.
- Seniors with approved off-campus lunch privileges must follow all school rules and may lose that privilege if expectations are not met. See Lunch Pass Guidelines.

ACTIVITIES, ATHLETICS & STUDENT PARTICIPATION

- Students are encouraged to get involved in athletics, performing arts, clubs, leadership, AVID, CAFE, RACE, TTECHS, and other programs that build connection and pride.
- Athletics and many extracurricular activities require students to meet eligibility standards, including academic expectations and good standing.
- Students must be present in school on the day of an event in order to participate unless prior approval is granted.
- Participation in school events is a privilege and depends on responsible behavior and completion of school obligations.

	Fall	Winter	Spring
Boys	Cross Country Football Water Polo	Basketball Soccer Traditional Competitive Cheer (coed) Wrestling	Baseball Golf Swimming Tennis Track & Field
Girls	Cross Country Flag Football Golf Tennis Volleyball	Basketball Soccer Traditional Competitive Cheer (coed) Water Polo Wrestling	Softball Swimming Track & Field

Athletic Eligibility (PSUSD BP6145)
Palm Springs Unified School District Board policy requires that all high school students participating in extracurricular athletics must maintain a 2.0 grade point average, with no more than two "F's" for each grading period. If the student is at risk academically, the student will be placed on academic probation. Athletic eligibility also includes completion of the athletic packet, proof of insurance, and a yearly physical.

We encourage all students to try out regardless of their ability or talent. Students are encouraged to talk to the coaches of the sport, PE teachers, or the Athletic Director at any time during the year, if interested in participating in athletics. Students participating in the sports programs must ride the bus to and from all athletic activities**. A student must be present in school on the day of an event if they wish to participate.**

If you are planning on playing sports at the college level, your counselor and the College & Career Specialist will help you complete information on the National College Athletic Association's requirements for athletic scholarships. For further information, see the NCAA Website (www.ncaa.org). ***For NCAA and NAIA accounts, please contact your counselor.***

RMHS Athletic Event Attendance Policy
(Click on the link to view attachment)

CIVILITY POLICY

Any individual who disrupts or threatens to disrupt District /School office/classroom operations; threatens the health and safety of students or staff; willfully causes property damage; uses loud and/or offensive language which could provoke a violent reaction; or who has otherwise established a continued pattern of unauthorized entry on school district property shall be directed to leave school or school district property. If any member of the public uses obscenities or speaks in a demanding, loud, insulting and/or demeaning manner, the employee to whom the remarks are directed shall calmly and politely admonish the speaker to communicate civilly. If the abusing party does not take corrective action, the District employee shall verbally notify the abusing party that the meeting, conference or telephone conversation is terminated and, if the meeting or conference is on District premises, the offending person shall be directed to leave.

COMMUNICATION, RECORDS & SCHOOL BUSINESS

Families are encouraged to stay connected to student progress and school information.
ParentVue should be used regularly to monitor attendance, grades, and other school updates.
Official and unofficial transcripts can be requested through Parchment.
Address or contact changes should be reported promptly to the school so records remain current.
Students are responsible for books, devices, equipment, fines, and other school-related obligations.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Any person or organization wishing to file a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination or failure to comply with state or federal law in an adult basic education, consolidated categorical aid programs, migrant education, vocational education, child care/development programs, child nutrition programs, or special education programs, should contact the State & Federal Programs Coordinator of the Palm Springs Unified School District, 150 District Center Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262, (760) 883-2700. A copy of the district's complaint procedures *(BP 1312.3; AR 1312.3, a-b)* will be

made available upon request. Under some circumstances, specified under sections 4650-4651 of Title V (District Exhibit 1312.3), complaints may ask for direct intervention by the California Department of Education. Furthermore, complaints have the right to appeal any decision made by the district concerning a complaint to the California Department of Education. Information on procedures and timelines for appeals are included in the above-listed district documents.

DANCE POLICY

All dances are closed activities. They are open only to students currently enrolled at RMHS and their guests/dates, who may not be younger than fourteen (14) or older than twenty (20) years of age and have been previously approved by RMHS administration. Dance dress codes are publicized and strictly enforced.

In order to provide dances at Rancho Mirage High School, the following procedures must be followed:

- **All dance participants must arrive within one hour of the starting time of the dance and must be picked up within 30 minutes of the ending time of the dance.** *Late arrivals will not be granted admission to the dance.*
- *Students who are not picked up within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the dance may not be allowed to participate in the next dance.*
- Alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and/or any weapon of any kind or the use of are NOT permitted prior to or during the dance and are subject to disciplinary consequences. See RMHS Discipline Matrix.
- Once a student enters the dance, they will be expected to remain. Upon request, a sponsor may accompany the student to their car, but the student will be required to return immediately.
- Only students presently enrolled and in good standing at RMHS are allowed to attend. A student bringing a guest from outside RMHS must complete a Guest Pass for that dance and get it approved by administration before purchasing a ticket. Guest Passes **WILL NOT** be issued at the dance. Not all dances allow for Guest Passes.
- Misconduct will not be tolerated. Any participant displaying inappropriate conduct will be instructed to leave the dance. Parents will be informed as soon as possible. Proper consequences will be enforced the next school day.

POLICE CONTACT

A Riverside County Sheriff Deputy will be available on campus (SRO). **Peace Officers are allowed to interview student(s) without the permission or presence of a parent/legal guardian. *(E.C. 48906).***

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

The Board of Education is committed to maintaining an educational environment that is free from harassment and discrimination. The Board prohibits sexual harassment of students by other students, employees, or other persons, at school or at school-sponsored or school-related activities. The Board also prohibits retaliatory behavior or action against persons who complain, testify, assist or otherwise participate in the complaint process established pursuant to this policy and the administrative regulation.

The Board strongly encourages any student who feels that he/she is being or has been sexually harassed on school grounds or at school-sponsored or school-related activities or who has experienced off-campus sexual harassment that has a continuing effect on campus, to immediately contact his/her teacher, the principal, or any other available school employee.

The Board is committed to complying with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq. and its implementing regulations, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities operated by federal financial assistance recipients. Sexual harassment, including sexual violence, is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX.

The Coordinator or designee shall ensure that all district students receive age-appropriate instruction and information on sexual harassment. Such instruction and information shall include:

1. What acts and behavior constitute sexual harassment, including the fact that sexual harassment could occur between people of the same gender
2. A clear message that students do not have to endure sexual harassment
3. Encouragement to report observed instances of sexual harassment, even where the victim of the harassment has not complained
4. A clear message that student safety is the district's primary concern, and that any separate rule violation involving an alleged victim or any other person reporting a sexual harassment incident will be addressed separately and will not affect the manner in which the sexual harassment complaint will be received, investigated, or resolved
5. Information about the district's procedure for investigating complaints and the person(s) to whom a report of sexual harassment should be made
6. Information about the rights of students and parents/guardians to file a civil or criminal complaint, as applicable
7. A clear message that, when needed, the district will take interim measures to ensure a safe school environment for a student who is the complainant or victim of sexual harassment and/or other students during an investigation and that, to the extent possible, when such interim measures are taken, they shall not disadvantage the complainant or victim of the alleged harassment.

Complaint Process (UCP, Title IX - BP/AR 1312.3)

Any student who feels that he/she is being or has been subjected to sexual harassment shall immediately contact his/her teacher or any other employee. A school employee to whom a complaint is made shall, within one school day of receiving the complaint, report it to the principal or the District Director.

Any school employee who observes any incident of sexual harassment involving a student shall take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so and report this observation to the Director, whether or not the victim files a complaint.

In any case of sexual harassment involving the Director or any other district employee to whom the complaint would ordinarily be made, the employee who receives the student's report or who observes the incident shall report to the Superintendent.

Antonia Hunt, Ed.D. , Director–Title IX & Compliance
Educational Services Department
150 District Center Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92264

760-883-2703

Regardless of whether the student files a complaint, the Director or designee shall contact the student (or parent, depending on the student's age) and explain that the district is responsible for investigating the allegation of sexual harassment and taking corrective action, and explain the informal and formal procedures for filing a complaint, including how the procedures work.

Upon receiving the complaint, the Director or designee shall immediately initiate the complaint investigation procedures in accordance with AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures. Where the Director or designee finds that sexual harassment occurred, he/she shall take prompt, appropriate, effective action to end the harassment and address its effects on the victim. The Director or designee shall also advise the victim of any other remedies that may be available and take steps to prevent further harassment. The Director or designee shall file a report with the Superintendent or designee and refer the matter to law enforcement authorities, where required.

Disciplinary Measures

Any student who engages in sexual harassment of anyone at school or at school-sponsored or school-related activity is in violation of this policy and shall be subject to disciplinary action. For students in grades 4 through 12, disciplinary action may include suspension and/or expulsion, provided that in imposing such discipline the entire circumstances of the incident(s) shall be considered.

Response Pending Investigation

When an incident of sexual harassment is reported, the principal or designee, in consultation with the Director, shall determine whether interim measures are necessary pending the results of the investigation. Such measures shall be those necessary to stop the harassment, if still ongoing, and to ensure a safe school environment for a student who is the complainant or victim of sexual harassment and/or other students during an investigation. To the extent possible, when such interim measures are taken, they shall not disadvantage the complainant or victim of the alleged harassment.

All complaints and allegations of sexual harassment shall be kept confidential except as necessary to carry out the investigation or take other subsequent necessary action. The Director or designee will discuss confidentiality standards with the student when the complaint is initiated.

SECTION II: INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM, GUIDANCE & COUNSELING

COUNSELING, STUDENT SUPPORT & ACADEMIC PLANNING

- Every RMHS student is assigned a counselor who helps monitor graduation progress and supports academic, college, career, and personal planning.
- Counselors assist with credit checks, course selection, schedule questions, college and career planning, and referrals for additional support.
- Students and families are encouraged to connect with counselors early when concerns arise about grades, attendance, class placement, or graduation progress.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

- **Distinguished Scholar -** This recognizes students who have earned a 4.0+ GPA and were enrolled in a minimum of 5 classes at the end of each semester, 3 or more of which are at the Honors or AP level.
- **Principal's Honor Roll -** This recognizes students who have earned a 4.0+ GPA and were enrolled in a minimum of 5 classes at the end of each semester.
- **Honor Roll -** This recognizes students who have earned a 3.5-3.99 GPA and were enrolled in a minimum of 5 classes at the end of each semester.

Valedictorian/Salutatorian (through Class of 2028)–These recognitions shall be awarded consistent with Board Policy 5127. Awards are calculated based on the transcript grades which factor into the weighted GPA from Semester One of Freshman year through Semester One transcript grades of Senior year.

Transition to Latin Honors System (Class of 2029)

Beginning with the graduating class of 2029, Palm Springs Unified School District will implement the Latin Honors System to recognize academic excellence. This system replaces the valedictorian and salutatorian distinctions, aiming to celebrate a broader range of student achievements and foster a more inclusive academic environment. Under this system, students will be honored as follows:

- *Summa Cum Laude*: GPA of 4.0 and above
- *Magna Cum Laude*: GPA of 3.75–3.99
- *Cum Laude:* GPA of 3.5–3.74

Academic Awards Recognition

Throughout the year, students have opportunities to be recognized for achievement in academics, athletics, attendance, and extracurricular activities. Some presentations are during the day for students, and some are at night for family participation.

California Scholarship Federation (CSF)

California Scholarship Federation (CSF) is an honorary academic organization that also functions as a service club. Students must meet statewide qualifications set by the California Scholarship Federation. Applications are necessary each semester students qualify; membership is not automatic. To become a Life Member, students must qualify for CSF in 4 out of the last 6 semesters of high school, including 1 semester of their senior year. Scholarships from various colleges are available for Life Members.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS(BP 6146.1)

- To earn a Rancho Mirage High School diploma, students must meet district graduation requirements and stay on track each year.
- Students must earn at least 225 credits, maintain a minimum GPA of 1.51, and pass Integrated Math I or an equivalent course.
- Graduation requirements include English, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, and visual/performing arts, world language, or approved career technical education coursework.
- Students planning to attend a four-year college should also complete the A-G sequence with grades of C or higher.

A-G REQUIREMENTS

Rancho Mirage High School's College Prep courses have been approved by the University of California, A-G system. This means that students, who successfully complete these courses with grades of C or above, meet the course requirement to be accepted at a University of California or California State University school. University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU), private colleges, and other universities require specific grade point averages for admission, as well as other entrance criteria.

A. History - 2 years required (U.S. History, World History)
B. English - 4 years required (College Preparatory)
C. Mathematics - 3 years required, 4 years recommended (Integrated Math I, II, and III)
D. Laboratory Science - 2 years required, 3 recommended (i.e., Biology, Chemistry)
E. Language other than English - 2 years required, 3 recommended (Same language, consecutive years)
F. Visual or Performing Arts - 1 year required.
G. College Prep Elective – 1 year required.

COURSEWORK, A-G & ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

- RMHS offers courses that support graduation, college readiness, career exploration, and student growth.
- Honors and Advanced Placement courses provide additional rigor and may carry weighted grade points when applicable.
    - Students should choose courses thoughtfully and remain committed to the classes selected during registration, except when a schedule change is educationally necessary.
    - Students who want an academic challenge to better prepare them for their education beyond high school should strongly consider taking Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. AP classes prepare students to take the AP College Exam(s) in May of each year. If an AP exam is passed with a score of 3, 4, or 5, most institutions of higher education will award the passing score as the equivalent of coursework completed and give college units (check your intended college for specifics). There is a fee for AP exam(s). Students must adhere to the AP/Honors Agreement.
- Work permits for students under 18 depend on satisfactory academic progress and attendance.

WORK PERMITS

Students needing a work permit should see the Work-Based Learning Teacher. Any student who is employed and is under the legal age of 18 must have a permit to work *(Education Code 12765)*. State law requires that minors who are employed will be in regular attendance at school for a minimum of four hours each day.

- All work permits expire five days after the school year begins. A new work permit application must be completed after each grading period even if continuing at the same place of employment**. Students must have a "C" average with good attendance.** Grades received from the previous semester must meet the standard or no work permit will be issued in the next enrollment session.
- No employer shall employ a minor for more than 4 hours on any day in which such minor is required to attend school except in approved Work Experience Education Programs (Education Code 12774).
- Minors 16-17 years of age shall not be permitted to work before 5 am or after 10 pm, but a minor may work until 12:30 am on any day preceding a non-school day (Labor Code 1391).
- **Work permits may be revoked at any time for poor academic performance and/or poor attendance at school.**
- Students are expected to enroll in a 1 quarter class (2.5 elective credits), General Work Experience, during the first year of receiving a work permit.

CLASS CHANGES

Change of classes may only be done during the registration/validation time prior to the start of school. Students are required to enroll in a minimum of six periods per day, subject to administrative review in their senior year.

Dropping a Class

All withdrawals are subject to administrative approval using the following timelines and policies:

- 0-2 weeks - Change of class for academic educational purposes and with parent/teacher conference.
- 0-6 weeks - Change of class because of inappropriate student placement. No penalty.
- 7-9 weeks - Change of class will result in a "Withdraw Fail" (F) or withdrawal with no credit (with administrative approval).
- 9+ weeks - Change of class will result in a "Withdraw Fail" (F)

Repeating a Class

1. Credit is awarded only once when an academic course is repeated to improve a student's grade. The higher grade earns grade point credit.
2. Courses in Performing Arts, Physical Education, and special programs such as Yearbook may be repeated for credit with the approval of the department chairperson, counselor and administrator.
3. Students may enroll as Teacher/Office Aides only once during high school either during junior or senior year.

MEDIA CENTER / LIBRARY

The Media Center plays an important role in student success. Students are invited and encouraged to use the Media Center for fulfillment of class assignments, research, and recreational reading and browsing. The Media Center staff will assist you with research problems or in locating desired materials. There are computer stations available for student research and work, as well as a growing inventory of books and magazines. This facility is a place for quiet study and minimal-noise group work. The Work-Based Learning Teacher has an office located in the Media Center to support students with career opportunities. Students are expected to control behavior and voices so that others may concentrate on their work.

Any registered student or staff member may borrow from the resource collection. Students must use their student ID card to check out books and materials. Students are responsible for all materials issued to them. It is the student's responsibility to protect all materials and maintain them in good condition. Charges will be levied for lost or damaged books or devices.

If a textbook or Chromebook device is damaged when issued, the student should report this immediately. Materials not returned by the deadline will be considered lost and the students will be charged.

TEXTBOOK OR TECHNOLOGY DEVICE LEFT IN A CLASSROOM

The majority of lost or stolen items occur when materials are left unattended in the classroom or elsewhere on campus. Students are responsible for making sure they do not leave textbooks or any technology devices (school issued Chromebooks, calculators, etc) left in a classroom or elsewhere on campus. Students are responsible for advising their teacher(s) and the school librarian in the Media Center of the damaged textbooks and/or technology.

OFF CAMPUS COURSEWORK

Students may take summer courses from public and private institutions with advance counselor and administrative approval. If the course is taken from a public or private institution that is not meeting a graduation requirement, it will be noted on the transcript, but not figured into the GPA. If a course is taken to meet a graduation requirement and is taken at a private institution, the student must get administrative approval to do so, in advance.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The counselors will provide a list of scholarships and post them on the RMHS Grade Level Google Classrooms and website. All students, grades 9-12 are encouraged to look for and apply for scholarships on a consistent, regular basis. Please contact the Counseling office or the Career Guidance Specialist in the Career Center if you have any questions.

Money for your college education or additional career training is available in a variety of forms and from a variety of sources. Financial aid may take the form of scholarships, grants, or loans. Some are awarded through private clubs and organizations. In addition, certain local clubs and organizations offer awards and scholarships to graduating seniors of Rancho Mirage High School. Major sources include:

1. Cal Grant A, B, C - A state grant providing financial assistance at two and four-year post-secondary institutions colleges and vocational schools. "A" is granted based on financial need and grade point average. "B" and "C" are granted based on financial need and potential for success. The FAFSA and GPA verification must be filed between January 1st and March 2nd.
2. College Scholarships - Scholarships provided by colleges based on need and/or achievement. Application is made through each individual college.
3. Local Scholarships - Local city organizations give scholarships for use at two and four-year colleges and career programs.
4. Pell Grant - A government grant based on financial need. This is a part of FAFSA and must be filed between January 1st and March 2nd beginning October 1 of senior year.
5. Specific Program Scholarships - Scholarships given by national organizations, unions, companies, etc. for use at two- and four-year colleges and vocational schools. Requirements vary.

SHORT-TERM INDEPENDENT STUDY

Credit for work in Short Term Independent Study (STIS) may be granted following an **administrative approval process** along with meeting the following conditions:

1. **A Short-Term Independent Study (STIS) contract may be initiated if it is necessary for a student to be absent from school for a minimum of one (1) school day and no more than fourteen (15) school days in one school year.**
2. **STIS are not issued for the first (10 days) or for the last ten (10) days of a school year.**
3. Parents/Guardians are responsible for initiating a petition for short-term independent study enrollment with their student's counselor and administration at least five days prior to their departure.
4. Each individual teacher is responsible for providing class assignments.
5. It is understood that lab sciences will not be provided in an independent study contract.
6. Work not completed during STIS, will result in unexcused absences and students will receive no credit for their missed work.

SPORTS / P.E. CREDIT

Rancho Mirage High School recognizes the value of participating in sports, particularly on the interscholastic level. Athletics, along with other extra-curricular activities, teaches students such values as self-discipline, self-confidence, teamwork, sacrifice, dedication, and leadership. **Students who are members of athletic teams and complete the season in good standing may receive P.E. credit. Students may earn 5 credits per sport or a maximum of 10 credits per year.**

Exemption from Physical Education will be permitted for students in their 10-12th grade years when the student is engaged in a regular school sponsored interscholastic athletic program scheduled after school hours. The student athlete must complete the entire season in good standing to receive PE credit.

TEACHER'S ASSISTANTS (TA)

Requirements to be a Teacher's Assistant (in the classroom or the office)

1. Must be a senior or junior.

2. Must be on track to graduate.
3. Must not have discipline issues.
4. Must have good attendance.
5. Teachers are allowed only one TA per period.
6. May only serve as a TA for one year during high school.

TESTING INFORMATION

- **CAASPP:** *California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress*. 11th Grade English Language Arts and Mathematics.
- **CAST** - *California Science Test. 10-12th Grade*
- **ELPAC:** *English Language Proficiency Exam* of California – students whose primary language is a language other than English who have not yet shown proficiency in English.
- **PFT:** *Physical Fitness Test.* All 9th grade students must participate in this exam.

Optional Tests

Advanced Placement (AP)-The Advanced Placement (AP) test(s) given in the areas of English, Social Studies, Math, Science, World Language, Computer Science, and Psychology. Students may receive college credit based on score received and college acceptance. This is an excellent way to learn a subject more thoroughly and save on college expenses. Exam fee is required. Not all exams are offered at RMHS.

Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)-The PSAT test that is administered every October across the nation and offered to 10th and 11th grade students at RMHS. The PSAT measures students' verbal, writing and mathematical skills that are important for success in college. The results are given in an easy-to-understand format that is an excellent tool for students, parents and guidance counselors to use in examining the student's academic strengths and areas of weakness or concerns. When the PSAT is taken as an 11th grader, the results of the test are also used to nominate outstanding students in the nation for scholarship awards. Exam fee is required.

Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT Reasoning & SAT Subject) –The SAT tests are offered seven times during the year. However, the SAT is offered at RMHS only two times each year. They are tests that will be taken by the students during their 11th and 12th grade years of high school. These tests are taken to assess and provide scores in a student's verbal and math abilities, as well as specific subject areas, to the college of their choice. The PSAT helps students prepare for these tests. Testing occurs on a Saturday and an exam fee is required.

American College Test (ACT)-The ACT is offered six times during the year, but not offered at RMHS. It is a college entrance test that is taken by 11th and 12th grade students to provide the colleges of their choice with an overview of their present academic skills and abilities when they are being considered for admission.

Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)-The ASVAB is offered to students (free of charge) who are interested in learning more about their possible future occupation choices. This test measures 10 areas of a student's aptitude of achievement, such as coding speed, math knowledge and reasoning, mechanical comprehension, etc. The results offer a variety of information to assist the student in investigating possible career choices for the future in the Armed Forces.

SECTION III: SCHOOL CONDUCT

The Board of Education desires to prepare students for responsible citizenship by fostering self-discipline and personal responsibility. The Board believes that high expectations for student behavior, effective classroom management and parent involvement can minimize the need for discipline. Staff shall use preventative measures and positive conflict resolution techniques whenever possible. *(BP 5144)*

BEHAVIOR PLAN

All students are expected to act appropriately by respecting the rights of other students and staff and demonstrate appropriate behavior on campus. Rancho Mirage High School **does not** tolerate student behavior that disrupts the educational process or negatively impacts the positive school environment.

CLASSROOM POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Classroom teachers develop policies and procedures consistent with PSUSD and RMHS guidelines and expectations. Students understand that they are to respect classroom expectations so that instruction can continue in a positive and productive environment. When students do not choose to follow classroom policies and procedures, the appropriate consequences will ensue. Teachers will work to solve situations with students unless the student's behavior necessitates immediate action by Administration. Teachers or other school officials will make an effort to contact parents whenever a behavior warrants. Parents and/or legal guardians are encouraged to email or call the teacher if they have questions or concerns.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Student achievement is one of the main goals of Rancho Mirage High School. The staff is dedicated to achieving this goal and to maintaining a safe and secure campus environment that encourages students to strive for their chosen educational and career goals. To this end, it is important that all students carefully read and understand the following information. All students should be aware of the consequences for violating State, District, and RMHS school rules of conduct.

The following RMHS policies are in addition to those identified by the PSUSD suspension and expulsion infractions.

7. Courteously cooperate at all times with the authority of all teachers, staff, and administrators.
8. Respectfully adhere to campus and classroom policies and procedures.
9. Littering, damaging, destroying, or stealing personal or public property is prohibited.
10. Abuse of others through words, writings, gestures, or physical acts is prohibited.
11. Graffiti and/or graffiti contraband (markers, spray paint, etc.) is strictly prohibited. All confiscated materials, photos, images, etc. related to graffiti will be turned over to the appropriate authorities.
12. Sales of food and other items by staff or students outside of a school approved fundraiser are strictly prohibited. All items sold must meet current state or federal nutrition standards. (PSUSD Student Wellness Plan; Ed Code SB12965, 490).

The following California Education Code infractions are grounds for **expulsion** from Rancho Mirage High School and the Palm Springs Unified School District regardless of whether the infraction occurs at school, on the way to school, on the way home from school or at a school sponsored or related activity.

4. Causing serious physical injury to another person, except in self-defense.
5. Possession of any knife or other dangerous object of no reasonable use to the pupil. This will include a gun or replica, explosive, or other weapon.
6. Unlawful possession, probable intention of selling, distributing, sharing, or under the influence of any controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or replica of a controlled substance in chapter 2 of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, except for the first offense for the possession of not more than one avoirdupois ounce of marijuana, other than concentrated cannabis.
7. Robbery or extortion.
8. Assault or battery, as defined in Sections 240 and 242 of the Penal Code.
9. Terrorist threats against school officials or school property.

In addition to the above, the following California Education Code infractions are grounds for **suspension and possible expulsion** from RMHS and the PSUSD regardless of whether the infraction occurs at school, on the way to school, on the way home from school or at a school-sponsored or related activity.

1. Causing, attempting to cause, or threatening to cause physical injury to another person.
2. Willfully used force or violence upon the person of another, except in self-defense.
3. Causing or attempting to cause damage to school property or private property.
4. Stealing, attempting to steal, or knowingly receiving stolen school property or private property.
5. Use and/or possession of tobacco products.
6. Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
7. Possession or offered, arranged or negotiated to sell of drug paraphernalia.
8. Disrupted school activities or otherwise willful defiance of school personnel.
9. Sexual harassment.
10. Harassing, threatening, or intimidating a pupil who is a witness.
11. Offering, arranging to sell, or selling the prescription drug Soma, or any other prescription drug.
12. Engaged in, or attempted to engage in, hazing.
13. Engaged in an act of bullying.
14. Electronic act, transmission of a communication (text, social network, Internet Website, etc.)
15. Possession or under the influence of alcohol or controlled substance, or replica thereof.
16. Intentional harassment or hate crimes.
17. Aiding or abetting the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another student.

CONSEQUENCES

Students who choose to violate the Code of Conduct are subject to one or more of the following consequences, depending upon the nature and severity of the infraction: other means of correction,

detention, parent conference, referral, ISSS, Saturday school, out-of-school suspension, transfer, or expulsion.

Rancho Mirage High School - Discipline Matrix

Students may be suspended or expelled if the act is related to a school activity or school attendance, including but not limited to the following: (a) while on school grounds; (b) while going to or coming from school; (c) during a school lunch period, whether on or off campus; or (d) during or while going to or coming from a school sponsored activity.

The following discipline matrix indicates the types of disciplinary action that may apply to each offense. These actions may be applied to a first-time or repeated incident. Progressive consequences, when applicable, are listed for each subsequent offense within the respective Education Code (EC) violation.

OFFENSE	CONSEQUENCE
Possessing, selling or otherwise furnishing a firearm at school or at a school activity EC 48915 (C)(*1) **Brandishing a knife** EC 48915 (C)(*2) **Unlawfully selling a controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code** EC 48915 (C)(*3) EC 48900 (p) **Committing/attempting to commit a sexual assault/battery, as defined by EC48900(n).** EC 48915 (C)(*4) **Possession of an explosive, as defined by EC48915(h).** EC 48915 (C)(*5)	Parent conference Referral to police department Mandatory out of school suspension and recommendation for expulsion without exception (calendar year).
Caused, attempted to cause, or threatening to cause physical injury to another person; Fighting; Mutual Combat E.C. 48900 a(1) **Wilfully used forced or violence upon a person of another; except in self-defense** **Assault / Physical Injury** E.C. 48900 a(2)	**1st offense**-Parent conference; other means of correction; in school suspension or out of school suspension; 30 day exclusion; participation and completion of an intervention program (BMS-referral); possible school resource officer (SRO) referral. **2nd offense**-Parent conference; other means of correction; out of school suspension; 30 day

	exclusion; school resource officer (SRO) referral. **3rd+ offense**-parent conference; other means of correction; out of school suspension; 30 day exclusion; school resource officer (SRO) referral; possible transfer; expulsion referral due to the nature of the act and/or the presence of the pupil causes a continuing danger to the physical safety of others.

Caused serious physical injury to another person, except in self defense. E.C. 48915 (A)(1) **Possessed any knife, explosive, or other dangerous object of no reasonable use to the student.** EC 48915 (A)(2) **Unlawful possession of any controlled substance listed in Chapter 2 (Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, except for the first offense for the possession of not more than one avoirdupois ounce of marijuana, other than concentrated cannabis.** EC 48915 (A)(3) **Robbery or extortion** EC 48915 (A)(4) **Assault or battery upon any school employee; defined by Sections 240 and 242 of the Penal Code.** E.C. 48915 (A)(5)	Parent conference Referral to police department Mandatory out of school suspension and recommendation for expulsion with Principal's exception. Parent conference; out of school suspension; 30 day exclusion; school resource officer (SRO) referral; possible recommendation to expel due to the nature of the act and/or the presence of the pupil causes a continuing danger to the physical safety of others.

Aiding or abetting the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to a person E.C. 48900 (t); Recording/videotaping a fight. **Harassing, threatening, or intimidating a pupil who is a complaining witness or a witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of either preventing that pupil from being a witness or retaliating against that pupil** E.C. 48900 (o) **Bullying: Including, but not limited to, bullying**	**1st offense**-parent conference; other means of correction; in school suspension or out of school suspension; 30 day exclusion; school resource officer (SRO) referral. **2nd offense**-parent conference; other means of correction; out of school suspension; 30 day exclusion; school resource officer (SRO) referral. **3rd+ offense**-Parent conference; other means of correction; out of school suspension; 30 day

committed by means of an electronic act, as defined in subdivision (f) and (g) of Section 32261, directed specifically toward a pupil or school personnel. E.C. 48900 (r) **Engaged in, or attempted to engage in hazing as defined in Section 325050.** E.C. 48900 (q)	exclusion; school resource officer (SRO) referral; CPS referral; Title IX referral; Recommendation to expel due to the nature of the act and/or the presence of the pupil causes a continuing danger to the physical safety of others.

Committed, sexual harassment as defined by EC 212.5. E.C. 48900.2 **Sexual Harassment** Unwelcoming sexual advances that create a hostile learning environment. **Caused, attempted to cause/threatened to cause or participated in an act of Hate Violence as defined by EC 233(e).** E.C. 48900.3 **Hate Violence** Harassment, teasing, threats, intimidation, or bullying including but not limited to a physical or mental disability, gender, nationality, race, religion, or sexual orientation. E.C. 48900.3 **Engaged in harassment threat/intimidation against student(s) or employee(s) which disrupted classwork, created substantial disorder, invaded rights of student(s) or employee(s) by creating an intimidating or hostile environment.** E.C. 48900.4 **Made Terrorist threats against school officials or property, or both.** E.C. 48900.7	

Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion. E.C. 48900 (e) E.C. 48915 (A)(4) **Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property.** E.C. 48900 (f)	**1st offense**-parent conference; other means of correction; in school suspension; 30 day exclusion; school resource officer (SRO) referral. **2nd offense**-parent conference; other means of correction; out of school suspension; 30 day exclusion; school resource officer (SRO) referral. **3rd offense**-parent conference; other means of

Knowingly received stolen property or private property. E.C. 48900 (l)	correction; out of school suspension; 30 day exclusion; school resource officer (SRO) referral; possible change of placement; expulsion referral.

Possession, sold, use of, or otherwise furnished of any firearm of imitation firearms, imitation explosives, tear gas/pepper spray/laser pointers or scopes, or other dangerous weapons or objects or any item capable of causing death or great bodily harm. E.C. 48900 (b)	**1st offense**-parent conference; other means of correction; in school suspension or out of school suspension; 30 day exclusion; school resource officer (SRO) referral. **2nd offense**-parent conference; other means of correction; out of school suspension; 30 day exclusion; school resource officer (SRO) referral. **3rd offense**-parent conference; other means of correction; out of school suspension; 30 day exclusion; school resource officer (SRO) referral; possible change of placement; expulsion referral.

Under the influence of controlled substance; Unlawfully possessed, used, sold, or otherwise furnished or been under the influence of any controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind. E.C. 48900 (c)	**1st offense**-parent conference; other means of correction; in school suspension; 30 day exclusion; school resource officer (SRO) referral; participation and completion of an intervention program (Insight Referral). **2nd offense**-parent conference; other means of correction; In school suspension; 30 day exclusion; participation and completion of an intervention program (Bridges/IPS referral). **3rd+ offense**-parent conference; out of school suspension; 30 day exclusion; possible change of placement; expulsion referral due to the nature of the act and/or the presence of the pupil causes a continuing danger to the physical safety of others.

Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant or any kind, and then either sold, delivered or otherwise furnished anything in lieu of it and represented the replacement as a controlled substance,	Parent conference; out of school suspension; 30 day exclusion; school resource officer (SRO) referral; recommendation to expel due to the nature of the act and/or the presence of the pupil causes a continuing danger to the physical safety of others.

alcoholic beverage or intoxicant. EC 48900 (d)	

Use and/or possession of tobacco or any products containing tobacco or nicotine products or paraphernalia including lighters, matches, Vape pen cartridge, etc. EC 48900 (h) **Possession of or otherwise furnished any "look alike" controlled substance or alcohol or had unlawful possession of, unlawfully offered, arranged or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia** EC 48900 (j)	**1st offense**-Parent conference; other means of correction; in school suspension; 30 day exclusion; school resource officer (SRO) referral. **2nd offense**-Parent conference; other means of correction; out of school suspension; 30 day exclusion; school resource officer (SRO) referral. **3rd offense**-parent conference; other means of correction; out of school suspension; 30 day exclusion; school resource officer (SRO) referral.

Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property; Vandalism, graffiti, defacing school property or property of others including but not limited to books, computers, desks, electronic files, databases and email. E.C. 48900 (f)	**1st offense**-Parent conference; other means of correction; in school suspension; 30 day exclusion; school resource officer (SRO) referral. **2nd offense**-Parent conference; other means of correction; out of school suspension; 30 day exclusion; school resource officer (SRO) referral. **3rd offense**-parent conference; other means of correction; out of school suspension; 30 day exclusion; school resource officer (SRO) referral.

Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property. EC 48900 (g) **-** **Stealing school or private property** EC 48900 (l) **-** **Receiving stolen property**	Parent/Student conference; other means of correction; in school suspension and/or out of school suspension; 30 day exclusion; possible school resource officer (SRO) referral.

Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity; inappropriate language, attire and/or ethnic slur to another person including offensive materials on clothing and personal/school items; Gestures- including gang signs and/or ethnic slurs E.C. 48900 (i)	**1st offense**-Parent conference; other means of correction; in school suspension; 30 day exclusion; possible school resource officer (SRO) referral. **2nd offense**-Parent conference; other means of correction; out of school suspension; 30 day

	exclusion; school resource officer (SRO) referral. **3rd offense**-parent conference; other means of correction; out of school suspension; 30 day exclusion; school resource officer (SRO) referral.

Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous objects; lighting of fire crackers or any substance; starting fires. E.C. 48900 (b) **Possessed an imitation firearm.** E.C. 48900 (m)	Parent conference; out of school suspension; 30 day exclusion; school resource officer (SRO) referral; Fire Department referral; restitution; possible recommendation to expel due to the nature of the act and/or the presence of the pupil causes a continuing danger to the physical safety of others.

VIOLATION	CONSEQUENCE
Excessive unexcused tardiness, excessive absences, truancy, or class cuts/ditching; Daytime loitering (truancy) E.C. 48900 (k)	**1st offense**- Review with student attendance policy; other means of correction. Lunch detention. **2nd offense** - Student/Parent meeting to review student attendance policy; other means of correction; lunch detention. SART Referral; District Attorney Referral. **3rd offense** - Student/Parent/Counselor meeting; other means of correction. AM, Lunch and/or PM detention; SARB referral; CPS Referral; Police Referral.

Inappropriate use of technology **Violation of district policy for use of technology, i.e. computer, laptops, cameras, ipods, MP3 players, cellular phones, pagers/beepers, and other electronic devices** E.C. 48900 (k)	**1st offense**- Student conference; review use of technology policy; other means of correction; lunch detention. **2nd offense**-Student/parent conference; review use of technology policy; other means of correction; AM, lunch, or PM detention. 30 day suspension using school issued technology. **3rd offense**-Student/parent conference; review use of technology policy; other means of correction; AM, lunch, or PM detention.

	semester suspension using school issued technology; IT suspension referral; depending on severity, Police and CPS referral.

Dress Code Violation E.C. 48900 (k)	**1st offense**-Student meeting to review dress code policy. Parent contact; Change or cover clothing. Other means of correction. AM, Lunch and/or PM detention. **2nd offense**-Student and parent meeting. AM, Lunch and/or PM detention. Other means of correction. Change or cover clothing. **3rd offense**-Student and parent meeting. In school suspension. Change or cover clothing.

Student I.D. Violation E.C. 48900 (k)	**1st offense**-Student meeting to review I.D. policy. Parent contact; lunch detention. **2nd offense**-Student and parent meeting. AM, Lunch and/or PM detention. Other means of correction. **3rd offense**-Student and parent meeting. In school suspension.

Hat Policy Violation E.C. 48900 (k)	**1st offense**-Student meeting to review hat policy. Lunch detention. Parent contact; pick up hat at the end of the school day. **2nd offense**-Student and parent meeting. AM, Lunch and/or PM detention. Other means of correction. Parents pick up hat at the end of day. **3rd offense**-Student and parent meeting. In school suspension. Parents pick up hat at the end of the semester.

Bike / Skateboard / Scooter Violation E.C. 48900 (k)	**1st offense**-Warning. Review of Bike / Skateboard / Scooter Violation Policy; Other means of correction. **2nd offense**-Student and parent meeting.

	AM, Lunch and/or PM detention. Other means of correction. Confiscation of item (to be returned at parent/student conference with Administration). **3rd offense**-Item to be returned at the end of the semester and/or school year. Possible referral to School Resource Officer (SRO).

Gum Violation E.C. 48900 (k)	Rancho Mirage High School has a NO Gum policy. Students may NOT possess gum on campus at any time. Repeated violations will result in disciplinary referral.

Audio and/or Video Recording Violation E.C. 48900 (k) *See Cal. Penal Code § 632* **California's wiretapping law is a "two-party consent" law. California makes it a crime to record or eavesdrop on any confidential communication, including a private conversation or telephone call, without the consent of all parties to the conversation.**	Student / Parent Meeting to review wiretapping law. Other means of correction. AM, Lunch, and/or PM detention. In school suspension and/or out of school suspension. SRO referral.

Plagiarism / Cheating E.C. 48900 (k) (See Academic Honesty) *All determinations of scores and credits are at teacher discretion.*	**1st offense**-Review plagiarism/cheating policy. Parent contact. Other means of correction; lunch detention. **2nd offense**-Meeting with student and parent to review plagiarism/cheating policy. AM, Lunch, and/or PM detention. Other means of correction; lunch detention. **3rd offense**- In school suspension; Other means of correction; AM, lunch and/or PM detention.

Disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority of school officials or other school personnel E.C. 48900 (k) Classroom/Campus Disruption Violation of classroom/school Rules; Ex. setting off fire alarm	**1st offense**-Student and parent meeting; Other means of correction. **2nd offense**-Student and parent meeting. AM, Lunch, and/or PM detention **3rd offense**- In school suspension.

Students who choose to violate any of the Education Code or RMHS school policies face appropriate consequences depending upon severity and/or frequency. Other consequences may include but are not limited to the following:

1. **Activities**: Loss of privilege to participate in any school-related activities, including dances, assemblies, competitions, concerts, contests, debates, excursions, performances, etc. Membership in co-curricular programs (ASB, Band, Choir, etc.) and clubs or events which represent the program, club, school, or district in contests, performances, etc.
2. **Athletics**: Loss of privilege to participate in sports games (resulting in being dropped from the team/squad) or even try out for a new season.

Second and subsequent conduct violations will, without question, cause the removal of the offending students from extracurricular activities/programs.

DETENTION

RMHS administration may assign mandatory detention in response to student misbehavior. Detentions are served during lunch, before and/or after school and time is assigned at staff discretion. Individual teachers may also assign mandatory class detentions to modify inappropriate student behavior.

DRESS CODE

Students shall dress in accordance with good standards of health and safety. Students not meeting these standards may be sent home to change their attire before re-entering school. Rancho Mirage High School reserves the right to determine if particular styles of clothing disrupt the education environment. No clothing or accessories which, in the opinion of school officials, threaten the physical and/or psychological well-being of any person on campus will be tolerated.

(BP 5132)

The Board of Education believes that appropriate dress and grooming contribute to a productive learning environment. The Board expects students to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to wear clothes that are suitable for the school activities in which they participate. Students' clothing must not present a health or safety hazard or a distraction which would interfere with the educational process.

(AR 5132)

In cooperation with teachers, students and parents/guardians, the principal or designee shall establish school rules governing student dress and grooming which are consistent with law, Board policy and administrative regulations. These school dress codes shall be regularly reviewed.
Each school shall allow students to wear sun-protective clothing, including but not limited to hats, for outdoor use during the school day.

(E.C. 35183/35183.5) - All pupils have the responsibility to themselves and to other members of the student body to attend school appropriately dressed. Each student shall dress in accordance with the good standards of health and safety, and any students not meeting these standards may be sent home to prepare themselves before re-entering school. Students should come to school properly prepared for participation in the education process.

1. No student on or about school property shall wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign or other items which are potentially disruptive to the learning environment and a positive school climate.
2. Shoes must be worn at all times.
3. Clothing, hats, jewelry, and personal items shall be free of writing, pictures or any other insignia which are crude, vulgar, profane or sexually suggestive, which promote the use of drug, alcohol or tobacco or other illegal activity, or which advocate racial, ethnic or religious prejudice.
4. Hats may be plain or RMHS logos only. All other hats and headwear are prohibited.
    a. No additional logos, images, embroidered or words may be displayed.
    b. See dress code regulations and gang related apparel sections for further information.
5. See-through clothing and bare abdomens are prohibited.
    a. The gap between the bottom of a shirt/top cannot be more than 2 inches from the pants/skirt/bottom.
    b. All tops must have a full front and a full back with no cutouts (no lace, strings, etc.).

Coaches and teachers may impose more stringent dress requirements to accommodate the special needs of certain sports and/or classes.

The dress code shall be modified as appropriate to accommodate a student's religious or cultural observance, health condition, or other circumstance deemed necessary by the principal or designee. In addition, the principal or designee may impose dress requirements to accommodate the needs of special school activities, physical education classes, athletic activities, and other extracurricular and cocurricular activities.

All of these rules apply not only to school, but to school-related functions as well. Violation of the above dress code may warrant students being sent home and parents or guardians notified.

Gang-Related Apparel

1. Definition: A street gang is defined as a group having three or more members who socialize on a continuous basis, who have a name and claim a territory or neighborhood and whose members engage in criminal activities. (*Source – Riverside County District Attorney's Office*)
2. Students shall be encouraged by staff to avoid affiliations or involvement in all street gangs.
3. Articles of attire, clothing and hats or the display of symbols, emblems, or signs related to gang affiliation are strictly prohibited on all campuses of the Palm Springs Unified School District.
4. Local school rules shall include a statement that gang symbols, signs, and attire which may cause rival gang members to be openly hostile to each other or create an atmosphere of intimidation, encourage the commission of illegal acts, or disrupt the educational process are prohibited.
5. School officials may take articles related to gang affiliations from students and retain the

article to be given to the parent/guardian or to a police officer if the article is illegal for the student to possess or if the article is known to be evidence in a criminal act.

6. The principal/designee shall notify the parent/guardian of taking of the article from the student, the disposition of the article, and if the article is not illegal for the student to possess or evidence in a crime shall request the parent/guardian to retrieve the article and remove it from the school.
7. Students whose attire is inappropriate shall be sent home to change into appropriate clothing if necessary.
8. Parents/guardians may be requested to take the student home to be prepared for school if necessary by the school principal/designee.
9. Continued acts of defiance and disruption of the educational process may result in disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion.

The principal, staff and parents/guardians may establish a reasonable dress code that prohibits students from wearing "gang-related apparel" and shall limit this definition to apparel that reasonably could be determined to threaten the health and safety of the school environment if it were worn or displayed on a school campus. Because gang-related symbols are constantly changing, definitions of gang-related apparel shall be reviewed and updated whenever related information is received.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones must be turned off and put away during class time unless the teacher has specifically given permission allowing the student to use the device to complete a specific curriculum-related assignment**.** All cameras, including cell phone or device cameras, are prohibited in locker rooms, classrooms, and restrooms.

It is against the law for student(s) to videotape and/or record any staff member and/or student through an electronic device (cell phone, Chromebook, etc.) without the staff member and/or student consent. Violators will be disciplined and forwarded to law enforcement. Students must remove headphones and earbuds when directed by staff, and must be able to hear staff instructions and directions at all times on campus.

A parent or guardian must come to the office to sign & pick up any electronic device that is confiscated from the student. The device will be returned to the student's parent or guardian **ONLY.** ***Rancho Mirage High School and Palm Springs Unified School District assume no responsibility for lost, damaged, or stolen personal property.*** If a student chooses not to adhere to this policy the following steps will be taken:

Step	Consequence
1st offense	Teacher warns student that device will be confiscated and records the offense
2nd offense	Teacher confiscates the device for the duration of the class period and records the offense
3rd & subsequent offenses	Teacher confiscates the device and delivers it to the Administrative Office. Office records offense: device must be picked up by a parent/guardian.

	Note: *A student who displays a repeated pattern of disregard for this policy will be subject to further review and consequence by the Administrative Office staff for defiance of school authority and disruption of the educational process*

Use of any electronic device and/or media to bully, harass, or threaten another person will result in school suspension and/or out-of-school suspension, and may result in recommendation for expulsion.

AUDIO / VIDEO RECORDING POLICY

California's wiretapping law is a "two-party consent" law. California makes it a crime to record or eavesdrop on any confidential communication, including a private conversation or telephone call, without the consent of all parties to the conversation. See Cal. Penal Code § 632.

ASSEMBLY BILL 3216 (9/23/24) - Phone-Free Schools Act

Mandates that school districts develop policies to either limit or ban smartphone use during school hours by July 1, 2026. The law aims to reduce distractions, address mental health concerns associated with social media, and create a more focused learning environment. While it allows for some flexibility in how policies are implemented, it emphasizes the need to prioritize student well-being and academic success.

GUM POLICY

Rancho Mirage High School has a NO Gum policy. Students may NOT possess gum on campus at any time. Repeated violations will result in disciplinary referral.

IN SCHOOL SUPERVISED STUDY (ISSS)/OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN (OTL)

The Administrative Office staff will assign students to either ISSS or OTL for inappropriate behavior or failure to serve assigned detention. OTL will be used if a student is to be removed from class for up to three (3) periods. ISSS will be used if a student is to be removed from class for more than three (3) periods. As a step short of off-campus suspension, OTL and ISSS provide students with a place to reflect about behavior choice, complete required correction activity, and study or complete assignments while being excluded from class.

SEVERITY CLAUSE

Immediate disciplinary action will be taken by school officials in all cases of severe or flagrant infractions of any of the rules. Consequences include parent conferences, law enforcement referrals, and school suspensions or expulsions. Severe offenses include but are not limited to: willful harm or intent to do bodily harm to someone, willful destruction of property, drug possession/use, refusal to comply with authority, and behavior that disrupts/endangers the safety of students and others and/or the safe conduct of the school.

SUSPENSION / EXPULSION

Suspended or expelled students shall be denied the privilege of participation in all extracurricular activities during the period of suspension or expulsion. Except where suspension for a first offense is warranted in accordance with law, suspension shall be imposed only when other means of correction fail to bring about proper conduct. *(BP 5144.1)*

Students will be suspended from school for repeated inappropriate behavior, or any major infractions as outlined by the Education Code and District Code of Conduct. Length of suspension will be commensurate with the infraction, ranging from one to five school days. Students on suspension may not enter any school campus or participate in any school-related activity.

VISITOR POLICY

- All visitors to our school must have a scheduled appointment and must remain in the front office areas unless authorized by the Principal and/or principal designee.

VOLUNTEER POLICY

- **Please complete the PSUSD on-line application at https://www.psusd.us/Page/6363**
- As a Mandated Reporter, it is your duty to act when a child shares information that may indicate they are in danger or experiencing personal problems. If a student confides in you about family matters or personal issues and you believe there is a safety concern, it is important to take immediate action.
- If you need assistance with the Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse Procedures, contact the child's teacher, counselor, and/or administration.

Parent Classroom Visit/Observation

- A parent can observe their child in their classroom/campus for a maximum of 30 minutes per week. Teachers and administration need 48 hours advance notice of the visit.
- Teacher discretion of day/time of parent visit. To ensure minimum interruption of the instructional program, parent visits will take place during regular school days. Visits during school hours should be first arranged with the teacher and administration. Visitors will be accompanied by school staff (BP1250).
- No electronic listening or recording device may be used by students or visitors in a classroom visit without the teacher and principal's permission (Ed. Code 51512).

DISTRICT POLICIES & LEGAL NOTICES

For additional information on districtwide policies, legal rights, and Board of Education regulations, including those related to attendance, discipline, student privacy, health services, and complaint procedures. Please refer to the Palm Springs Unified School District Parent/Student Information Booklet, available on the district website at www.psusd.us.

PSUSD-Bullying & Harassment Policy *(Click on the link to view attachment).*

PSUSD Anti-Bullying Information