

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year at Shepherd High School. We are excited about the new year and hope that each of you will have many positive, exciting, and educational experiences that will make this year a memorable one.

The Student/Parent Handbook has been prepared for you and your parents to inform you about Shepherd High School. This handbook contains information regarding graduation requirements, Montana University Systems requirements, regulations about the curriculum, attendance policy, tardy policy, and student behavior. **PLEASE READ THIS HANDBOOK CAREFULLY!** Failure to know is not an excuse. Read the handbook. You and your parent/guardian are responsible for understanding the content of this handbook and following the regulations set forth. This year's handbook has been reviewed and approved by the Shepherd Board of Trustees.

If you have any questions or do not understand, please contact me at the high school or talk with your teachers or counselor. The Student/Parent Handbook acknowledgement page must be signed by you and your parent/guardian and **returned to the high school office by Friday, September 11th, 2026.**

I am anticipating a school year in which students, staff, faculty, and administration strive to make our school an outstanding academic and social learning setting. The work accomplished in the classroom and in the many extracurricular activities is of the utmost importance. This develops pride in our school, community, and country. Throughout this school year, let all of us strive to contribute to making our school the best place for growth academically and socially.

We will focus on and work toward our district's mission statement:

We Are Shepherd: A safe, respectful, and positive community where our high expectations and emphasis on personal growth support all students in being successful, lifelong learners.

As well as our high school vision statement:

We Are Shepherd: Empowering students to achieve greatness.

Built Upon
RESPECT
LEADERSHIP
INTEGRITY
KINDNESS
ACHIEVEMENT

This will be a great year in which we can all contribute and be proud!

K.J. Poepping, Principal
Shepherd High School

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PREFACE

The purpose of this handbook is to help the students of Shepherd High School and their parents be aware of and understand the established rules, policies, and procedures of the school. This will, hopefully, make the time spent at school more enjoyable and beneficial to all. The contents have been developed by the school handbook committee and the school administration and approved by the Board of Education with input from the students and community. If you have any questions or concerns about its contents, you are encouraged to talk to the high school principal.

SHEPHERD HIGH SCHOOL STAFF

All certified staff are licensed by The Office of Public Instruction.

Communication Arts Dept.

Mrs. Alexandria Bohle
Miss Megan Logan
Mrs. Tana Luptak

Social Studies Dept.

Mr. Sam Sheets
Mrs. Mikaela Toegel

CTE Dept.

Mrs. Kylee Town
Mrs. Janessa Fisk
Mr. Monty Harrison
Mr. John Nydegger

Specialists

Mrs. Heather Davis
Ms. Tina Downing
Mrs. Heather Ekness
Mrs. Amy Peterson
Mrs. Alexis Rupe

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mrs. Josette Barthule
Mrs. Tenille Bomar
Mrs. Julie Hinkle (Vice-Chairwoman)
Mr. Carl Openshaw (Chairman)

ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. Drea O'Donnell—Superintendent
Mr. Richard Hash—SMS Principal

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Mrs. Vici Duran—SHS Admin. Asst.
Mrs. Lisa Rekdal—SMS Admin. Asst./A.D. Admin., Asst.

STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS

President – Hailey Hoffman
Vice-President – Julia Rossow
Secretary/Treasurer – Ainsley Warneke
Parliamentarian – Andee Heupel

Science Dept.

Miss Rachel Stratman
Miss Caitlynn Wilson

Mathematics Dept.

Mrs. Amy Farris
Mrs. Rachel Steiner
Mrs. Cindy Sundheim

Health Enhance. Dept.

Mrs. Katlyn Cumber
Mr. Dirk Vandenberg

Fine Arts Dept.

Mrs. Aspen LeVeque
Miss Kari Drange

Classified Staff

Mrs. Lorna Brennan
Mrs. Jasmin Schlotter
Mrs. Barbara Schultz
Mr. Scott Watson
Mrs. Natasha Zabel

Mr. Justin Peterson
Mr. Austin Schlosser
Mr. Taner Sorge
Mrs. Kinsey Szillat—District Clerk

Mrs. Callie Nicholson—SES Principal
Mr. K.J. Poepping—SHS Principal

GENERAL INFORMATION

BUILDING HOURS

With the implementation of metal detectors at our doors every morning, students should plan arrival so they can get through the safety process and get to class by 8:10AM. Students will be marked tardy if not in class by 8:10AM. Doors are generally unlocked at 7:40AM. Students are to be clear of the building by 4:00 PM on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday; and 3:00 on Wednesday and Friday, unless they are remaining for activities under the supervision of a teacher/coach/advisor.

BELL SCHEDULES

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday

1st Period	8:10 AM-9:01 AM
2nd Period	9:05 AM-9:56 AM
3rd Period	10:00 AM-10:51 AM
4th Period	10:55 AM-11:46 AM
Study Hall	11:50 AM-12:20 PM
Lunch	12:20 PM-12:50 PM
5th Period	12:54 PM-1:45 PM
6th Period	1:49 PM-2:40 PM
7 th Period	2:44 PM-3:35 PM

Wednesday and Friday

1st Period	8:10 AM-8:59 AM
2nd Period	9:03 AM-9:52 AM
3rd Period	9:56 AM-10:45 AM
4th Period	10:49 AM-11:38 AM
5th Period	11:42 AM-12:31 PM
Lunch	12:31 PM-1:01 PM
6th Period	1:05 PM-1:53 PM
7th Period	1:57 PM-2:45 PM

GUEST PASS PROCEDURE

Shepherd High School welcomes and encourages visits by parents, other adult residents, and interested educators at the discretion and approval of the principal. Due to safety concerns, all visitors must check into the main high school office. (District Board Policy #4302).

CLOSED CAMPUS POLICY

Shepherd High School operates under a closed campus policy. Once a student arrives at school, either by school transportation or by their own transportation they are to remain on campus until the end of the school day. Students that are to be dismissed from campus during the lunch time for appointments, etc., need to be excused by a parent/guardian 10 minutes prior to lunch beginning. Checking a student out so that they can run home for lunch is not permitted. Violation of this policy will result in a truancy consequence. All students must be checked out by a parent/guardian at all times, regardless of age.

EMERGENCIES and DRILL PROCEDURES

It is important that the school be able to contact parents in case of illness, emergency, or accident. Therefore, it is important that school records include current home phone number, the phone number of a designated relative or neighbor, and numbers where parents may be reached at work. It is also important to notify the school of a change of address and phone number to keep records current.

Emergency instructions are posted in each room and will be discussed with the students by the teacher. Drills must be orderly and quiet. Students are to remain with their class and walk to their assigned area during fire drills **if during a class**. They are to remain at their assigned area until the "all clear" is given. **If the fire alarm rings between periods or lunch, students are to use the nearest exit and report outside to the football field to their first period teacher.** During a Lock Down procedure, rooms will be secured, all individuals will be quiet and in a secure location in the room, lights will be turned off until notification of "all clear". During a Secure Your Room procedure, doors will be locked and teaching will continue as normal.

If a situation arises in which we need to evacuate the facility and bus students from the campus, this note serves as notice to parents that we will do so in an emergency situation (this includes drills when scheduled).

CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

Due to the growing concerns of confidentiality, all volunteers need to sign a confidentiality assurance form before volunteering at the school. All volunteers will be subject to a required background check. All proper paper work will be held in the administration building.

STUDENT RECORDS

Shepherd School District #37 complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and the regulations and policies regarding student records.

Shepherd School District #37 maintains those student records necessary for the educational guidance and/or welfare of our students, for the orderly and efficient operation of the school, and as required by law. All information related to individual students is treated in a confidential and professional manner. Students' records are the property of the school, but they will be made available in an orderly and timely manner to students and parents. A parent or an adult student (age 18) may challenge any information in a student record believed to be inaccurate, in violation of the privacy or other rights of the student. Student records are maintained by the Principal and/or Counselor. Requests to view student records should be directed to the Principal or Counselor.

When a student transfers from Shepherd School District #37 to another school district, student records are forwarded upon written request of the receiving school.

USE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT, LOCKERS, AND TEXTBOOKS

- 1) All school equipment is owned by the school district.
- 2) Equipment, books, etc. that are lost or damaged excessively must be paid for by the student.
- 3) Assigned lockers are not to be changed without permission of the principal. Locks are not to be removed from lockers. They are furnished at no cost to each student. School lockers may and will be searched in cases of necessity.

TEXTBOOKS

The textbooks are carefully selected by our teachers and other professional educators. They are paid for by parents and other adults through tax funds with the hope that students may receive some of the best help possible in becoming a competent, successful citizen. These books deserve maximum use and reasonable care. After books are issued and their condition noted, they are the student's responsibility until the books are checked in at the end of the courses. Students are required to cover their textbooks. The cost of new textbooks range from \$50-\$150. Students are required to erase all pencil marks and remove covers from textbooks before checking them in. A fine may be assessed for other than normal wear or for lack of proper care of textbooks. Examples of fines include, but are not limited to: ink on pages (\$1.00); torn pages (\$1.00, unless irreplaceable); broken binding (\$3.00); recasing with old binding/cover (\$12.50); lost or damaged beyond repair (cost of book); lost planners (to be determined).

FEES/FINES

Certain classes have fees which must be paid to the high school office at the beginning of the semester. A receipt will be given for the money received. It is helpful to pay these fees in a timely fashion. At the end of each semester, all fees and fines must be paid before grades will be issued.

USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARKING

- 1) Students are not permitted to drive or be a passenger in a motor vehicle during the noon hour or at any other time during the school day. The parking lot is off limits to students during the school day.
- 2) Motor vehicles will be driven in accordance with all safety laws, violators will be reported to the proper authorities.
- 3) The driveway immediately in front of the high school is a fire lane and shall remain free of any parked vehicle.
- 4) When a motor vehicle is needed for emergency use, special permission will be granted by the principal.
- 5) Students will park within designated painted lines.
- 6) Visitor parking is provided for those individuals visiting the school. It is not meant for students arriving late. Students will be asked to move their vehicles to a non-visiting parking spot.
- 7) The office may suspend a student's privilege of driving/parking in the school parking lots if traffic rules are not followed.
- 8) Canine searches of vehicles in the parking lot will be done periodically to deter inappropriate activities. If a dog 'hits' on a particular car, the student will be brought to the office for further discussion and investigation.

SKI/ALTERNATE TRIP

In order to be eligible to attend the high school ski/alternate trip, the following criteria must be met: 1) GPA of 2.75 or higher for the 1st semester of the current school year; 2) Good Standing Status at the end of the 1st semester (no Ds or Fs); 3) Do not exceed the 10 day attendance rule; 4) No discipline referrals; 5) No ISS, OSS, and/or Friday School; 6)

No skipped detentions or Study Halls; and 7) No MIPs and/or DUIs. Numbers 3 through 7 will be in effect up to the date of the ski trip/alternate trip.

In order for this to be meaningful and successful, it is imperative that parents do not excuse their students on the Ski/Alternate Trip Day if they have not earned it. We are not teaching our students/your kids anything if they do not earn the trip but are permitted to go anyway. Please help us to make this a reward for those students who have earned it and an incentive for those that did not.

In years passed we permitted students to stay home if they earned the trip but did not feel like going on the trip. That will no longer be an option. Students who earn the trip have three choices...ski trip...alternate trip...or stay at school.

MOVIES

Movies shown at SHS must be tied to the curriculum and subsequent lesson plans. Movies will not be shown for entertainment purposes. PG and PG-13 rated films shown at SHS will require the student to have parent permission before the student will be allowed to view the movie. The instructor will provide the permission form. If a movie is being shown for a class related grade and the student does not acquire viewing permission from their parent/guardian, an alternative assignment will be provided. Principal discretion applies to whether a movie may or may not be shown at SHS.

TITLE IX

No person at Shepherd High School shall, on the basis on sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. The Title IX coordinator can be reached at 373-5300, ext. 172, Shepherd High School, 7842 Shepherd Road, PO Box 8, Shepherd, MT 59079-0008.

SEXUAL/RACIAL HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION POLICY STATEMENT

The Shepherd Public School is committed to a positive and productive working and learning environment free from discrimination. Discrimination adversely affects morale and interferes with employee and student ability to work and learn. The District prohibits sexual/racial harassment or intimidation of its employees or students, whether committed by a co-worker, supervisor, subordinate, contractor, volunteer, or students and finds such behavior just cause for disciplinary action. The District will not tolerate such behavior between members of the same or opposite sex. The District will take prompt, effective, and remedial action on complaints, grievances, and reports of sexual/racial harassment or intimidation (including informal reports of inappropriate sexual or gender-directed conduct), which come to the attention of the District. The District prohibits retaliation against any employee or student because he/she has made a report of alleged sexual/racial harassment or intimidation against any employee or student who testified, assisted, or participated in the investigation of a report. Retaliation is itself a violation of federal and state regulation prohibiting discrimination and will lead to disciplinary action against the offender. This policy applies to individuals attending any events on District property, whether or not District-sponsored, and to any school-sponsored events, regardless of location. A substantiated charge against a student shall subject that student to student disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion, consistent with the District's student discipline policy.

SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

Section 504 is an act which prohibits discrimination against a person with a handicap in any program receiving federal financial assistance. The act defines a person with a handicap as anyone who: 1) has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities (major life activities include activities such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working); 2) has a record of such an impairment; or 3) is regarded as having such an impairment.

In order to fulfill its obligation under Section 504, the Shepherd School District recognizes a responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel and students. No discrimination against any person with a handicap will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices in the school system.

The school district has specific responsibilities under the Act, which include the responsibility to identify, evaluate and if the child is determined to be eligible under Section 504, to afford access to appropriate educational services. If the parent or guardian disagrees with the determination made by the professional staff of the school district, he/she has a right to a hearing with an impartial hearing officer. The Section 504 Coordinator is Mr. K.J. Poepping. He can be reached at 373-5300, ext. 148, Shepherd High School, 7842 Shepherd Road, PO Box 8, Shepherd, MT 59079-0008.

SERVICES

NURSE

If you have health-related problems you would like to discuss with the school nurse, she would welcome the opportunity to be of service. A student may make an appointment directly with the nurse at his/her office through a teacher or counselor, or the nurse may be contacted by the parents or physician. If a student needs to see the nurse, the student should contact the high school office.

MEDICATIONS

The school does not dispense medicine of any kind, including aspirin. Any student who needs to take medication during school hours must notify the office of his/her needs. Medication Form needs to be filled out prior to school administration of medications. All medication is to be in its original container with the proper labeling to include the student's name, name of medication, strength of medication, prescribing doctor's name, and the dose to be given. Students are not allowed to carry medications unless pre-approved by the school nurse and only for life-saving medications. Students may carry inhalers provided the school nurse has been informed. At the conclusion of each year, any unused portion of the medication must be claimed by the parent/guardian in person. Any unclaimed medications will be destroyed by school personnel at the end of each school year. Documents will be kept on file in the school office or nurse's office. With the recommendation from the National Association of School Nurses, alternative medications, including "natural remedies, herbs, vitamins, dietary supplements, homeopathic medications or medications from other countries" should not be administered without a health care provider's authorization.

HEARING SCREENING

Pure tone screening is mandated for students in grades K, 1, and 10. Students in other grades will also be screened if they are new to the school, on the annual hearing recheck list, or referred by the school or parent/guardian. If your child is absent, unable to complete the pure tone screening, or does not pass the pure tone screening; they will be referred for a hearing rescreen. The Hearing Conservation Program audiologist will conduct the hearing rescreen and, in addition to the pure tone screening, may also conduct one or both of the following: Otoacoustic Emissions (OAEs) Screening, which is a measure of cochlear (inner ear) function that does not require the child to respond and/or Immittance Screening, which measures the movement of the eardrum by putting positive and negative pressure into the ear canal.

CAFETERIA

Students are expected to show good manners, consideration, and courtesy towards others in the cafeteria. They can be friendly and sociable as they talk with their friends but should avoid all boisterousness and loud talk. When students have finished eating, they should leave the table and floor area neat and clean. Trays are to be taken to the return area as soon as the student has finished eating. The refuse is to be placed in waste barrels provided for that purpose.

Students eating in the cafeteria may either buy their entire lunch, salad bar, or bring a lunch from home. Items bought from the vending machines are not considered lunches from home and will not be permitted in the cafeteria. Students are not allowed to share lunches. Students may be restricted from the cafeteria due to behavior or rules violations. Shepherd High School students will be allowed to charge up to three meals before lunch service is discontinued. Shepherd Schools does reserve the right to stop allowing students to charge at any given time if abused. No charging will be permitted during the last week of school.

	<u>Lunch</u>	<u>Breakfast</u>
1 Meal (student/adult)	\$3.50/\$4.75	\$1.75/\$2.35

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

The mission statement of the library is to provide materials that supplement the curriculum and to provide recreational reading and materials. Instruction is also provided in information skills using a variety of resources.

Student responsibilities as library users include appropriate behavior in the library, appropriate use of resources, and returning materials on time. The circulation period for books is one month. Students may check out eBooks and audiobooks through the Montana Shared Digital Catalog on SORA. Students can check their library records using the Alexandria Library Catalog through the Shepherd Schoolwires web site. Fines are \$.25 per day per item. There is a three day grace period after the due date to return materials without accruing a fine. If the item is returned after the grace period, the fine will then start at \$1 (with a maximum of \$5). Choices for fine payments include: working in the school library, donating books and other items that the library may be able to use, or paying cash. A student may not

donate books for a lost book unless it is the same title and same binding. There will be fines assessed for items returned damaged. At the end of each semester, all fees and fines must be paid before grades will be issued.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING SERVICES

The guidance counselor offers assistance to students in three major areas: vocational, educational, and personal-social. The vocational assistance provides information about vocational education, job outlook, career information, and job-seeking skills. In the educational area, information and assistance are provided in selecting high school classes, college preparation, scholarship and financial aid information, and college selection and entrance. Personal-social assistance may include individual/group counseling, referral services, decision-making, or coping skills. The counselor is there no matter how large or small the problem. Students are encouraged to become familiar with, and take advantage of, the services the counselor can provide.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

When a child loses permanent housing and is determined to be homeless as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act, enrollment action in the best interest of the child shall be taken, pursuant to federal guidelines and Shepherd School Board Policy #3125. The parent or guardian of the homeless student has the option to:

1. Continue the child's education in the school of origin for as long as the child remains homeless or, if the child becomes permanently housed, until the end of the academic year during which the housing is acquired; or
2. Enrolling the child in any school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

Assistance and support for homeless families in the Shepherd School District can be found at <http://montana211.org/> or by calling 2-1-1. Montana 2-1-1 is a free, anonymous service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

CURRICULUM/GRADING

PROGRESS REPORTS AND REPORT CARDS

Progress Reports/Grades will be pulled at 8AM on the following days for the purpose of eligibility:

Monday, Oct. 12	Monday, Mar. 1
Monday, Nov. 16	Monday, April 5
Monday, Dec. 14	Monday, May 3
Monday, Jan. 25	Monday, June 1

GRADING

The following grading system is used to tabulate students' academic standings:

Grading Scale

A+	98-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A	94-97	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-93	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62
						F	00-59

Regular Education Class GPA (4.000 point scale)

A+	4.000	B+	3.333	C+	2.333	D+	1.333
A	4.000	B	3.000	C	2.000	D	1.000
A-	3.667	B-	2.667	C-	1.667	D-	0.667
						F	0.000

Honors Classes and Adv. Placement Class GPA (5.000 point scale)

A+	5.000	B+	4.333	C+	3.333	D+	2.333
A	5.000	B	4.000	C	3.000	D	2.000
A-	4.667	B-	3.667	C-	2.667	D-	1.667
						F	0.000

REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE CURRICULUM

- 1) Each student must carry a minimum of ~~four (4)~~ **five (5)** regulation credit-awarding classes while in attendance at Shepherd High School in order to be counted as a full-time student.
- 2) Dropping and adding classes will be reviewed on an individual basis. The dropping and adding of classes without penalty of a withdrawal/failure (W/F) must be done within the first five pupil instruction days of the academic semester. Under certain circumstances, this time frame may be extended at the discretion of the principal.
- 3) Incomplete grades must be made up within one week after the grading period. Time extensions may be granted based upon attendance and satisfactory progress. See section on "Eligibility Rules".
- 4) In order to be on the semester honor roll, a student must be enrolled in high school on a full-time basis and earn a 3.0 GPA or higher. In order to be on the semester high honor roll, a student must earn a 3.5 GPA or higher.
- 5) Health Enhancement 9 will be required of all freshmen. During the course of their remaining three years in high school, each student must also complete one more year of Physical Education (see curriculum guide for options). It is highly recommended to complete the second year as a sophomore. Athletic participation will not count for PE credit. The Health Enhancement requirements will be waived only on presenting a doctor's affidavit stating that a student is physically unable to participate in P.E. or if it's written into a Special Education Individualized Education Plan or 504 plan.
- 6) All SHS students will take a minimum of three years of math during their four years of high school. Thus, math will be taken through your junior year regardless of any high school math classes taken in middle school.
- 7) All students participating in extra-curricular activities (this includes all activities, not just athletics) will be required to purchase an activity ticket. The price for an activity ticket is \$35.00. There will be a \$50.00 participation fee for all activities, except football which will be \$75.00. Fees must be paid one week prior to the first contest. Missing this deadline will result in not participating in the first event and subsequent events until the fee is paid.
- 8) All high school band and choir members will be required to purchase whatever uniform units are required, such as long-sleeved shirts, black dress pants (plain, no cords or jeans), black socks, and dark shoes (no athletic shoes).
- 9) Parents are encouraged to contact their student's instructor(s) or the counselor at any time during the school year regarding their child's performance or progress in any of his/her classes.
- 10) If there is vandalism to property, lost book, and/or fines owed to the school, a student's grades, report card, and/or transcript will be held until restitution has been made.
- 11) Students may attend part-time ONLY if they participate in the College Connect Classes through an institution of higher learning, or have a medical condition that prohibits regular full-time attendance. This does not include seniors' late-in/early release times.
- 12) Student Aide Policy: Aide positions will be based on need by the teacher/office/library and the student's previous semester grades. A student must be in academic good standing during the previous semester (no Ds or Fs). One-half (1/2) credit per year will be earned for successful completion of the aide position. Freshmen are excluded from being an aide. A student may NOT aide more than one period per day. **Before signing up for an aide position, students should look at credits and possible effects on their GPAs.**

STUDY HALL

Study Hall is a built-in time for every student to get assistance from their teachers. The structure will be as follows:

- 1) The time will be 1150AM-1220PM on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.
- 2) This time is mandatory for ALL ~~Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors~~ **grade levels** regardless of grades or GPA. You are not permitted to leave. You will check in with your mentor teacher and stay there unless otherwise scheduled to be with another teacher.
- 3) ~~All seniors will maintain their schedules 'as is'. It is your responsibility to take care of your business!~~

Students, this is your education. Take charge of it and be responsible for it.

At this age, students need to be responsible for their education. It is the obligation of the student to be concerned enough about their grades to utilize this time effectively and efficiently.

LATE-IN/EARLY-OUT for SENIORS

Seniors do have the option of utilizing a shortened schedule (**minimum of five class periods**) if certain requirements are met. Those requirements include: 1) having a minimum of 20 credits after junior year; and 2) having shown improvement and/or proficiency on MAPS Assessments throughout high school.

If a senior routinely winds up on the weekly D/F list, this privilege will be revoked and the student will be required to stay for the remainder of the day until all grades are at least at a C level. If there are random meetings (eg. class meetings) during the Study Hall time frame, the expectation is that all seniors will be in attendance regardless of after school commitments.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

Graduation activities are defined as, the graduation ceremony and any other school sponsored graduation activity.

- 1) Each student at Shepherd High School must meet the state graduation requirements as well as the Shepherd School District graduation requirements. Please check the **bold print** below to determine the amount of credits required to graduate.
- 2) In order to participate in any school sponsored graduation activity, each student must have successfully completed all graduation courses and credit requirements as set by School District #37 and be in attendance at least part-time.
- 3) Shepherd High School does not currently permit early (January) graduation from high school.

Shepherd High School Graduation Requirements (**Classes of 2027, 2028, 2029, and 2030**)

Standard Diploma

4 credits of English

3 credits of Math

2 credits of Science (required 1 year of Physical Science and 1 year of Biology)

3 credits of Social Studies (required 1 year of Amer. History, 1 semester of Amer. Government; 1 semester of Civics; highly recommended—World History I and II)

1 ½ credits of CTE

½ credit of Personal Finance/Financial Literacy

1 credit of Fine Arts

2 credits of Health Enhancement

7 credits of electives

= for a total of **24** credits

HONORS DIPLOMA

This diploma option must be decided upon when entering as a freshman due to needing certain classes. If it is decided to not continue towards the honors diploma at a later date, that can be done. You will not be able to go from the general diploma to the honors diploma at a later date.

4 credits of English—all honors English and AP options offered

4 credits of Math—including Trig/Pre-Calc, Calc, AP Calc, and/or Stats (depends what is offered and what class was started as a freshman...speak with the counselor)

4 credits of Science

3 credits of Social Studies (required 1 year of Amer. History, 1 semester of Amer. Government; 1 semester of Civics; highly recommended—World History I and II)

1 ½ credits of CTE

½ credit of Personal Finance/Financial Literacy

1 credit of Fine Arts

2 credits of Health Enhancement

6 credits of electives

= for a total of **26** credits

NOTE: the mandated requirements of ½ credit of Civics and ½ credit of Personal Finance/Financial Literacy begins with the Class of 2026.

Senior class members who have not completed the requirements for graduation and who do not qualify for a regular academic diploma or honors diploma cannot participate in the graduation ceremonies for that year. The valedictorian and salutatorian are selected based upon the highest cumulative grade point averages at the end of the 1st semester their senior year. To be eligible, the student must be in attendance four (4) consecutive semesters at Shepherd High School and be enrolled on a full-time basis. In the event of a tie for valedictorian, the student(s) with the next highest GPA(s) will be named salutatorian(s). See curriculum guide for updated valedictorian/salutatorian requirements that began with the Class of 2025, including determination at the 1/10,000 decimal place.

MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Montana high school graduates entering the University System will be required to meet the following standards:

Achieve one of the following:

- 1) Earn at least a 2.5 high school GPA; or
- 2) Rank in the top half of the school's graduating class; or
- 3) Earn an ACT composite score of 22 or higher, or SAT total score of 1120 or higher (exception: MSU-Northern...ACT score of 20 or SAT score of 1050)

Complete either the Regents' College Preparatory Program or the Rigorous Core College Preparatory Program

College Preparatory Program

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of Math (which must be Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II)
- 3 years of Social Studies (Government, US History, World History, Psychology, Sociology)
- 2 years of laboratory Science (Physical Science, Biology)
- 2 years chosen from the following: Foreign Language, Computer Science, Fine Arts, Practical Arts which consists of Vocational Education, Consumer Science, Business/Computer Science

Complete the Rigorous Core College Preparatory Program

- 4 years of English
- 4 years of Math
- 3 years of Social Studies
- 3 years of laboratory Science
- 3 years of college prep electives which include world language, computer science, visual and performing arts, and career/technical education units that meet the Office of Public Instruction guidelines.

High school students who successfully complete the Rigorous Core are eligible for the MUS Honor Scholarship.

Demonstrate Mathematics Proficiency via one of the following methods:

Earn an ACT math score of 22, SAT math test score of 27.5, or complete the Rigorous Core

Demonstrate Writing Proficiency via one of the following methods:

Earn an ACT ELA score of 18 (average of the English, reading and writing scores) or score a 7 on the ACT essay; or earn an SAT writing and language test score of 25 or higher.

***Note: The courses listed above in the College Preparatory Program are a guideline and may not be the only courses that would fulfill the College Preparatory Program requirements. Please see the school counselor for any questions about courses that are not listed, as they may/may not be acceptable for the requirements of the College Preparatory Program.

***Note: These are Montana University System requirements. Many out-of-state schools require foreign language credits for entrance. If you are interested in a college or university out-of-state, please see the school counselor. University requirements vary greatly. Please contact the university or college for additional information.

***Note: Admissions Requirements and College Preparatory Programs can, will, and do change. PLEASE double check the above listed requirements with our school counselor before you make any major college decisions or decisions about your course selections at SHS based upon your future college aspirations. The counselor will be able to obtain/or has the most up to date information regarding Admissions Requirements and the College Preparatory Program.

ALTERNATIVE MEANS FOR EARNING HIGH SCHOOL GRAD. CREDIT

It is recognized that the best possible means for earning credit for graduation from SHS is to do so while attending regular classes during the day. However, circumstances may arise that are necessary for students to make up missed work or enrich the current curriculum. Correspondence courses, evening high school courses, summer school courses, and satellite courses may be used as remediation or as a supplement to the education offered at SHS. Opportunities for earning credit by an alternative method will be reviewed on an individual basis. The following criteria will be used by the principal and guidance counselor as a guideline in students taking credit through alternative means:

- 1) If the student is in a 'failed course situation', the first option is to retake the class (with another teacher if possible). Other options will not be considered until the retake option has been exhausted. If the retake option has been attempted, then other alternatives will be considered (eg. Montana Digital Academy).
- 2) SHS students may find themselves in the position to take a University Connection/College Connect class for dual credit. The program is for enrichment and to supplement a student's education. The intent is not to replace a core course from SHS. However, there are times when situations arise that would facilitate the need

for a particular class in the University Connection/College Connect program. If the student is in line to take a class such as this, the following steps must be completed:

- The student shall discuss his/her plan with the high school counselor.
- The student shall go to the registrar's office to start the registration procedure and receive appropriate approval from the institution of higher learning.
- All expenses will be covered by the student/parent at the appropriate time.
- The student shall provide evidence to the counselor of course registration(s).
- The student must be in good standing with academics, attendance, and discipline.
- Deadlines and timeframes for grades must meet SHS requirements.
- College/University class grade(s) will be placed on your high school transcript if time has been provided by SHS for the student to take the class (thus it could affect your high school grade point average and class ranking).
- Note: If the class is taken on the student's own time (eg. summer, night, etc.), then SHS dual credit will not be given, nor will it be figured into the high school GPA nor shown on the SHS transcript.
- Note: It is also suggested that this program be for juniors and seniors, with the possibility of some sophomores when deemed appropriate.

ACELLUS

~~In the event of a peculiar situation with classes/credits, the Acellus Program may be utilized if appropriate and approved by the Principal. Note: Any Acellus classes signed up for after July 2024 will earn a maximum of 2.0 grade points toward a student's GPA and transcript. Transcripts and GPAs will reflect that 2.0 maximum.~~

MONTANA DIGITAL ACADEMY

The Montana Digital Academy may be utilized if other options are not available at the discretion of the building principal and counselor. Timelines for completion must be met in order for credit to be granted. For example, if the system is being used for summer school, then the work must be completed before the next school year begins; and likewise for each semester of the regular school year. If deadlines are not met, the student will return to the regular classroom to complete the actual class. All eligibility requirements do apply with the Montana Digital Academy and Credit Recovery System (eg. grade check dates and incompletes will be utilized). Currently, the school district is covering the cost of class registrations if we do not offer the class onsite. However, if a student fails a class, they will need to reimburse the school district for the cost of the class (approximately \$125 per class). Montana Digital Academy is not intended to replace our classes. However, if a student utilizes a MTDA class to replace one of our given classes, the student will incur the cost of the class.

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORT (MTSS)

MTSS is an intervention process that: 1) utilizes a team approach to make data-based decisions to improve student learning; 2) utilizes universal screeners and assessments for progress monitoring purposes; 3) assures all students be taught necessary skills for success; 4) combines the school and community for the good of the students; 5) provides on-going professional development for staff; 6) utilizes state resources for support; and 7) intertwined with all of the other programs that we currently run within SHS.

SHEPHERD HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

LEE RAY BERNDT CHAPTER

The SHS National Honor Society exists to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership and to encourage the development of character in all students of SHS. Membership can be obtained by having a minimum GPA of 3.25 and submission of an application along with service hour documentation and faculty evaluations. Based on the student's GPA, leadership, service hours and character, a selection rubric is used, by the confidential faculty council, to score each student. Selection and induction will take place in the fall of the school year.

A minimum score must be obtained to gain membership into the SHS Honor Society. The faculty council will use the applicant's application, attendance/tardy file, discipline file and faculty evaluations as criteria for the selection rubric. If you would like to obtain more information on how to become part of the SHS Honor Society, please speak to the current NHS advisor.

COLLEGE VISITATION DAYS

Seniors are given two days to use for the purpose of visiting college campuses in order to help them make college decisions. The days must be scheduled through the guidance office. Documentation from the college/university will need to be presented to the guidance office upon return. This documentation would include, but not limited to, the completion of the form that the student will receive from the guidance counselor for their visit. These days will be counted as school-sponsored activities and will not count toward the ten-day absence rule. If students do not schedule these visits through the guidance office, regular attendance rules will apply.

TRANSFERS

Students leaving before the end of a semester will not receive a report card or credits. Then, as they enter another school, that school will request the student's records and combine them with new ones earned in that school.

The procedure for transfer or withdrawal is as follows: 1) Bring authorization of transfer or withdrawal note from parent/guardian; 2) Obtain a check-out sheet from the office; 3) Have a check-out sheet signed by the teachers, counselor, librarian, coaches, sponsors, and principal; 4) Return all books and property and make sure all fees are paid; and 5) Take completed form to the office for final clearance.

The steps must be complete

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE PHILOSOPHY AND POLICY

- 1) **Philosophy:** Members of the school board, administration, and faculty of Shepherd High School believe that the regular attendance and class participation by all students is very important. The entire process of education requires a regular continuity of instruction, classroom participation, learning experiences, and study in order to reach the ultimate goal of maximum educational benefits for each student. The regular contact of the students with one another in the classroom and their participation in instructional activities under the tutelage of a competent teacher are vital to this process.

Attendance reflects a student's dependability and is a significant factor on his/her permanent record. Future employers are as much concerned about punctuality and dependability as they are about academic record. School success, scholarships, and job opportunity are greatly affected by a good attendance record.

Having established the importance of regular attendance as a base for a good education, we must also consider the rights and responsibilities of students, parents, and teachers in regard to this attendance philosophy.

Students: Students have a right to be involved in a meaningful program in attendance at school. They will be able to make-up work missed because of an absence for a valid reason. At the same time, students have a responsibility to comply with the school attendance rules and to make a reasonable effort to progress in the school program.

"Missing Children Act": House Bill 358, enacted by the 1985 legislature became effective October 1, 1985. It is called the "Missing Children's Bill." This law states that parents should take the responsibility to inform the school when their children will not be in attendance at school. The school must make an attempt to contact the parent/guardian or legal custodian to make sure they are aware of the student's absence from school. Documentation will be kept of the contact or attempted contacts.

Parents: Parents are to keep the school informed about their child's absence. They also have a right to keep the student out of school for illness or other valid reasons. Parents are expected to comply with state and local school laws and rules regarding school attendance.

Teachers: Teachers have a right to expect regular attendance from their students. Teachers should not be expected to perform burdensome work as a result of unjustifiable student absences. Teachers should assist students with make-up work whenever absences have been excused.

- 2) **Definition:** Absences due to temporary illness or injury, or any one of the following: exposure to contagious disease, sickness of a family member, extremely inclement weather, religious holidays, or other absences that are excused by a parent/guardian either by phone or written notice, will still count against our ten-day policy. The absences listed below will not count against the ten-day policy with approval from principal.
 - Medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic (with a doctor's note upon return)
 - Death in the family (must be approved by the principal)
 - Attendance at a funeral service (must be approved by the principal)
 - Family vacations (must be approved by principal prior to going on trip; work must be gathered before leaving and turned in upon return to school and done appropriately, or it

will be considered an unexcused absence; students who have excessive number of absences, will not be approved by the principal)

If a parent/guardian does not contact the school by phone or written notice, the absences will be considered unexcused and will also count against our ten-day policy.

The following codes will be used in Power School and attendance letters that are sent home:

U=Unexcused Absence

An absence from school, without any parent contact. These absences will count toward the ten-day policy.

E=Excused Absence

An absence that is excused by the parent. These absences will count toward the ten-day policy.

I=In-School-Suspension

In-School-Suspension is a result of a disciplinary action. The student will attend school in an alternative learning setting and this action will not count toward the ten-day policy.

O=Out-of-School-Suspension

Out-of-School-Suspension is a result of disciplinary action. The student will not attend school, is not to be on school grounds during the duration of the suspension, and this action will count toward the ten-day policy.

M=Medical

Any absence for medical reason. Medical appointments will be permitted three hours of absence. Student will provide the school with official written verification from the doctor or dentist within three days of absence. If proper verification is submitted, it will not count toward the ten-day policy. If not provided within the three days, the absence will count against the ten-day policy.

F=Family Funeral

An absence to attend an immediate family member's funeral. Please contact the school with written or verbal notice. If principal excuses the absence, it will not count toward the ten-day policy.

P=Principal Approved

Principal Approved is at the discretion of the building principal in cases of family vacations, etc. This may be provided on a limited basis of one time per year, up to three days. This also needs to be done prior to the absence(s). These absences will not count toward the ten-day policy.

S=School/Student Sponsored Activity

An absence due to the student participating in a student sponsored activity will not count toward the ten-day policy as long as the advanced make-up form protocol is followed. Note: A student attending a high school activity will only be marked 'S' if their sibling is participating.

NOTE: if there are excessive absences, a report may be filed with Child Protective Services indicating a lack of mandatory school attendance.

3) **Attendance Policy:**

- The State of Montana has made education compulsory for all children from ages 7 to 16. Therefore, absence from school without adequate reason is illegal and parents are in violation of the law.
- Attendance in all classes, unless excused, is mandatory and students are responsible for being in class on time and prepared to participate. If a student misses more than 10 minutes of a class, they will be considered absent.
- Any student who has been absent more than ten days or more than seventy class periods, per semester is in grave danger of losing credit. Parents/Guardians will be informed by reports sent home when their student reaches the 4th, 8th, and 10th day absences. See list above for absences that count against the ten-day policy.

If a student has been absent more than ten days or more than seventy class periods, per semester, the student and his/her parent/guardian will have to appear before the Faculty Attendance Committee consisting of the principal, guidance counselor, and SHS faculty members. If the Faculty Attendance Committee denies the student credit, the student/parent can appeal to the Superintendent and/or to the School Board to review the Faculty Attendance Committee's decision through the District Grievance Procedure. If the student's appeal has been denied by the Faculty Attendance Committee, the Superintendent, and/or the School Board, the student will be issued an 'NC' (No Credit) for the letter grade.

- When a student is absent (with days that do not count against the ten-day policy) the student will have equal the time he/she was absent in which to make up the school work missed. Equal time does not apply to the make-up of tests. Students will be given a make-up test if applicable, and the time for the test will be set at the discretion of the teacher. It is the responsibility of the student to check with the teacher to get make-up work when they have missed class. Assignments may also be found at the school website.

- When an absence is unexcused, the student will receive a zero for any work required or test missed during the classes when unexcused. This work may not be made up.
- Truancy will result in Friday School and/or suspension. Repeated offenses may result in long-term suspensions or expulsion.

4) **Procedures to be Followed for Absences:**

For Known General Absences...1) parent should notify the school by note or phone call in advance when they know their child will not be in school the next day; 2) student must pick up advanced make-up form from the office; 3) have assignments, due dates, and teacher initials written on the form; 4) return copy to office; 5) complete work by written date on make-up form.

For Unknown Absences...1) parent should notify the school by 9:30AM; 2) upon return, student must pick up make-up form from the office; 3) get it filled out by their teachers; 4) return copy to office; 5) complete work by written date on make-up form.

If absence is due to a known or unknown medical appointment, the student has three days to provide a doctor's note verifying the appointment, at which point the absence will be listed as medically excused and assignments will be graded and placed into PowerSchool. If a medical note is not provided, the absence will count as unexcused and assignments will not be graded and will count as a zero in PowerSchool.

For School Sponsored Absences...1) student must pick up advanced make-up form from the office; 2) get it filled out by their teachers; 3) return copy to office and show a copy to coach/advisor before getting on the bus to leave; 4) complete work by written date on make-up form. Note: No one will be excused from classes on the day of night games if they have not obtained assignment make-up forms. Everyone is expected to be in school on time the day following night games.

The expectation is that Advanced Make-Up forms will be utilized for ALL trips.

TARDY POLICY

If a student is not in their respective classroom preparing for instruction as the bell rings, they will be identified as tardy for that class. Students are considered tardy if they are less than 10 minutes late for a class. After 10 minutes, they will be counted as absent. If a student needs to utilize the restroom between classes and pass time is dwindling, they must get permission from their teacher prior to the bell ringing. Consequences for tardies are as follows:

- 1) Every 3 tardies (all classes included) will result in a 25 minute detention.
- 2) Every 3 tardies in a particular class will result in one (1) unexcused absence for that particular class.
- 3) Once 10 absences (excused and/or unexcused) have been reached for a particular class, an attendance meeting will be set up for the student, parent, counselor, panel of teachers, and principal to determine a direction that needs to occur to alleviate the situation. Possible result from meeting could be loss of credit. All attendance meetings will be held after school and must be attended by the student, parent, and appropriate staff.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND EXPECTATIONS

Student Behavior (State Law 20-5-201): All student behavior at Shepherd Schools is based on respect and consideration for the rights of others. Pleasant relationships are desirable for learning; however, order must be maintained. The responsibility for directing the learning program is delegated to school district personnel. Since they have the responsibility, they also have the authority to act. Students shall have the right to receive annually at the opening of school a publication listing the rules and regulations to which they are subject. Students have a responsibility to know and respect the rules and regulations of the school. Students have further responsibility to act in a manner appropriate to good citizenship everywhere.

All students shall: 1) Comply with the policies of the trustees and rules and regulations of the school in which he/she attends; 2) Pursue the required course of instruction; 3) Be subject to the control and authority of the teacher, principal, and district superintendent while he/she is in school or on school premises, on his/her way to and from school, or during his/her intermission or recess. School Board Policies that relate to student behavior include, but are not limited to: 3224, 3226, 3260, 3310, and 3311.

Student Behavior Rules and Consequences: The rules of SHS are intended to provide a safe and orderly environment conducive to a quality education for each student. If a student is found in violation of a classroom rule, generally speaking, the misbehavior will be handled by the classroom teacher. If deemed necessary, the teacher may write up the inappropriate behavior on our Google Doc Discipline Form. The write-up will then be directed to the principal for a determination of the consequence. The write-up will also be documented on PowerSchool so that a

record is kept, a copy of the write-up will be given to the student, and a copy of the write-up will be sent to the parent/guardian via mail.

General rules of misconduct include, but are not limited to: (in no particular order)

Cell Phone not kept in locker	Defiance/Disrespect/Insubordination/Non-Compliant	Dress Code
Vandalism	Inappropriate Language	Inappropriate Gestures
Fighting/Physical Aggression	Intimate Contact (PDA)	Unprepared for Class
Bullying/Harassment (physical, sexual)/Teasing	Unsafe or Inappropriate Conduct/Behavior	Not Following Directions/Off-Task
Cheating/Plagiarism (copying/duplicating or allowing to copy/duplicate; or use of Artificial Intelligence (AI))	Tobacco/Drugs/Alcohol (includes all vapor products and alternative nicotine products)	Inappropriate Use of School Equipment (eg. chromebook)
Parking Lot Infractions	Inappropriate Lunchroom Behavior	Disrupting Class
Hallway Infractions	Weapons	Truancy
Stealing/Theft	No Show for Detention/Friday School	Other Infractions Not Listed
No Pouches of any kind (caffeine, nicotine, tobacco, etc.)		

The above guidelines and expectations apply to all students at all times, at all school functions. Inappropriate actions of a student at school functions, either at Shepherd or away is prohibited.

Definitions of Possible Consequences for Behavior:

Detention: Students will serve the detention with the instructor, if it was assigned by the instructor. The student and instructor are to make arrangements to serve the assigned detention. Failure to serve the assigned detention in a reasonable amount of time will result in further disciplinary action (eg. Friday School). Detention for tardies and minor discipline issues will be in a weekly scheduled classroom from 3:40-4:05 on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

Basic Rules for detention include but may not be limited to:

- 1) Students must arrive on time—3:40. If late, student will then serve a Friday School.
- 2) Students are required to come prepared to do school work or read a book.
- 3) Students are not to talk or move about the room.
- 4) Food, drink, noise, musical devices, phones will not be permitted.
- 5) If rules are not followed, student will be requested to leave and serve Friday School in place of Detention.

If a student fails to serve their scheduled detention, a day of Friday School will result. Detention will not be rescheduled, please do not ask.

Friday School: Students assigned to Friday School will be those students who otherwise would have served some type of suspension for disciplinary reasons. This is an alternative that could be used in place of ISS or OSS. The Friday School will be held in a designated location and will run from 2:50 PM to 4:00 PM. Principal's discretion will apply in the date assigned for Friday School. Students will have at least two days to make arrangements for Friday School. Parents will receive notice via mail. Friday Schools will not be rescheduled, please do not ask.

Students who do not report to Friday School as assigned, will be assigned one day of OSS or ISS on the following Tuesday. A phone call will be made to the parent/guardian to notify of the OSS/ISS and what precipitated it as well. Should this be a reoccurring problem, the possibility of being taken to the Board of Trustees for expulsion is a strong probability.

If a student is assigned a Friday School on the day of an activity or a school event and the bus leaves before the student is dismissed from Friday School, the student is not allowed to travel or participate in the activity or the school event. A student is not allowed to skip a Friday School to attend an activity or school event. If the activity or school event is at Shepherd and the student is assigned a Friday School and the activity or event starts before the student has completed their assigned Friday School, the student will not be allowed to participate. This will be monitored by all school staff and coaches.

Basic Rules for Friday School include but may not be limited to the following:

- 1) Arrive on time. If late by five or more minutes, it will count as a missed Friday School and result in ISS or OSS on the next Tuesday. Principal discretion as to which and when.
- 2) Arrive with school work to work on or a book to read.
- 3) Students are not to be moving around the room.

- 4) No electronic devices will be permitted.
- 5) No sleeping. No talking.
- 6) No food or drink is permitted.
- 7) Use of restroom will be permitted on limited basis at teacher discretion.
- 8) If rules are not followed, student will be requested to leave and serve same consequences as #1 above.

Suspension Procedure: 1) Students will be orally notified of the charge; 2) Opportunity to deny or tell their side of the story will be accorded; 3) Evidence for or against the student shall be presented; 4) Decision will be rendered by the principal; and 5) Written notice of the intention to suspend will be given to the student and parent/guardian (this notice will include the reasons for suspension and statement of the student and parent/guardian right to appeal the decision to the superintendent and represented at the appeal. Due process will be afforded to all students.

In-School-Suspension: ISS is completed at the school. Students assigned ISS will be required to get their assignments from all teachers, report to ISS, and spend the entire time in ISS working on school-related work. Work completed in ISS must be turned into the instructor upon returning to class to earn full credit. Any work not turned in upon returning to class will receive a zero. All school work due the day of ISS should be handed in before the start of the suspension. Any tests/labs that are given during the day the student is serving ISS should be taken after school or arranged to be taken at a time that is convenient for the instructor. If a student is assigned an ISS on the day of an activity or school event and the bus leaves before school is dismissed, the student is not allowed to travel or participate in the activity or school event. If a student is assigned an ISS on the day of an activity or school event that is at Shepherd and the event starts before school is dismissed, the student will not be allowed to participate. This will be monitored by all school staff and coaches.

Out-of-School-Suspension: OSS is completed out of the school. Students assigned OSS will be required to get their assignments from all teachers and complete their work at home. Work completed in OSS must be turned into the teacher upon returning to school to earn full credit. Any work not turned in upon returning will be a zero. Students serving OSS must stay off school premises and may not participate in any school activities during the duration of the suspension. Students who receive OSS are not eligible for Perfect Attendance incentives during the semester the OSS is received/served. OSS will count against the ten-day policy.

Expulsion: Expelling a student is a right of the Board of Trustees only. Whenever the principal feels a student has broken one or more rules or regulations, that student may be brought before the Superintendent and Board of Trustees to consider expulsion from school. Students being brought before the Board will be suspended until a special board meeting is called. Due process will be afforded to all students. Procedure for formal expulsion will be: 1) Notice of charge in writing; 2) Counsel may be present (optional); and 3) Decision will be rendered by the Shepherd Board of Trustees.

*ALL SUSPENSIONS: Emergency, Short-Term, Long-Term, and Expulsion are described in detail in Board Policy 3300.

Definition of Bullying: "Bully behavior occurs when there is a deliberate intent to harm, dominate, inflict pain, exclude or otherwise cause distress to the person being targeted. The person who bullies purposefully misuses his/her power (eg. size, age, popularity, confidence, verbal ability, etc.), usually repeatedly. The balance of power between the bully and target is not equal." This supports Shepherd School Board Policy #3226.

The School Board will strive to provide a positive and productive learning and working environment. Bullying, harassment, intimidation, or hazing by students, staff, or third parties is strictly prohibited and shall not be tolerated. This includes bullying, harassment, or intimidation via electronic communication devices (eg. cyber bullying).

The following procedure will be used to handle repeated bullying issues:

- When a student reports harassment or bullying to a school official, the administrator will meet with the student accused of bullying.
- After the administrator investigates the allegations, he/she will determine if it is a bullying issue.
- If it is determined by the administrator to be a bullying offense, the person doing the bullying will be assigned OSS for one day. Parents of the victim will be notified. Parents and student doing the bullying will need to meet with the administrator before coming back to school.
- The student will be placed on a behavior contract and work with the school counselor to address the issue of bullying.
- If the student breaks his/her behavior contract and bullies again, the student will be assigned two days of OSS. The same procedure will be followed to return to school.
- Third offense of bullying, the student will go before the Board of Trustees for long-term suspension or expulsion.

- Note: Offenses carry over from middle school and year to year.

Firearms and Weapons: For the purpose of the firearms section of this policy, the term “firearm” means (A) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (B) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (C) any firearm muffler or silencer; or (D) any destructive device pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 921 (4). Such term does not include an antique firearm pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 921 (16).

The District does not allow firearms or weapons on school property. Any student found to have possessed, used or transferred a weapon on school property will be subject to discipline in accordance with the District’s discipline policy. For purposes of this section, “weapon” means any object, device or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm or which may be used to inflict self-injury, including but not limited to air guns, pellet guns, BB guns, fake (facsimile) weapons; **all knives and blades (regardless of length)**, clubs, metal knuckles, numchucks (also known as nunchucks), throwing stars, explosives, fireworks, mace or other propellants, stun guns, ammunition, poisons, chains, arrows, and objects that have been modified to serve as a weapon. Any of these offenses will be handled according to Board Policy 3311.

Cell Phone/Electronic Devices: Due to excessive neglect of the cell phone and electronic device rules in the past few years and the drama that is created with the use of social media, the following rules for such devices will apply: Students are instructed to keep their cell phones, headphones/smartwatches/ear buds/air pods or other electronic devices within their provided lockers at all times. At no time are electronic devices to be within the classrooms. Students are permitted to use their phones at lunch.

1st Offense: Parent notification and phone/electronic device returned to parent/guardian with discussion regarding future consequences.

2nd Offense: Friday School will be issued; Parent notification and phone/electronic device returned to parent/guardian with discussion regarding future consequences.

3rd Offense: One day of OSS; Parent notification and phone/electronic device returned to parent/guardian; and upon return student will turn in phone to principal on a daily basis.

Repeated Violations: Any series of behavioral violations that create a pattern of misconduct will result in further disciplinary action.

At no time will any student operate a cell phone or other electronic device in a locker room, bathroom, or other location that may violate the privacy rights of another person. Violation of this will result in an automatic suspension.

Cell phones or electronic devices may be seized from a student by any school official or school staff member. Failure to turn phone over to school staff member results in insubordination and an automatic day of OSS.

Dress Code and Grooming Policies: Parents, as well as the student, assume responsibility for appropriate apparel to be worn at school. A well-groomed personal appearance will be mandatory for all students. Principal discretion will be used to determine if apparel is inappropriate. As a visual, the following figure will be referred to in determining appropriate clothing coverage.



Dress Code: The shaded portion of this figure represents the front and back views. These parts of the body must be covered in all positions (sitting, standing, reaching) while attending school.

Unacceptable apparel includes but is not limited to:

➤ Bathing Suits ➤ Tank tops, muscle shirts, spaghetti straps ➤ Hats, bandannas, hoodies, or any head covering ➤ Biking or spandex shorts (unless wearing shorts over the top) ➤ Hats (to be taken off upon entering the building and not to be placed back on again until after exiting)	➤ Gang-related items ➤ Exposed undergarments ➤ No bare midriff shirt or blouse ➤ See-through leggings ➤ Off-the-shoulder shirts ➤ Any clothing that has printing or pictures that are offensive, derogatory, sexually, or inappropriately suggestive (ie. Hooters shirts)	➤ Sunglasses during school hours ➤ Clothing with alcohol, drug, and/or tobacco insignias ➤ Healties (shoes with roller skate wheels on the bottom) ➤ Coats in the classroom ➤ Backpacks; gym bags; handbags; fanny packs in classrooms ➤ Blankets
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PE clothes are not to be worn during the course of the day. For example, if a student has 6th period PE, they must change back to regular clothes for 7th period. This is also true for those that have PE 7th period and the following Study Hall.

Excessively revealing clothing is unacceptable. No under-garments/underwear is to be showing. Shoes must be worn at all times. Hats are to be kept in lockers during school hours. Athletic uniforms are excluded, but must meet National Federation standards and Board approval.

A teacher or principal shall be allowed to further restrict the manner of dress when it could interfere with education, health, or safety of a student in the teacher's specific area.

This policy remains in effect until the administration or school board determines it is being abused by the student body.

Consequences for coming to school in unacceptable dress or improper grooming will result in the following:

- Student will be asked to change into appropriate clothing that they may have in their locker/car.
- Student will contact parent/guardian to bring proper clothing to the school, and the student will change immediately before being allowed to return to class. If appropriate clothing cannot be brought to the school, the school may provide clothes from the Lost and Found. If disagreeable, the student will be issued a discipline referral for insubordination.

- If inappropriate clothing is a reoccurring issue for a student, further disciplinary action will occur at the discretion of the principal.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

In order to participate in any extra-curricular activity or student government, a student must be enrolled as a full-time student carrying at least five credit-awarding classes. Students with fewer than five classes may not participate.

All students participating in extra-curricular activities, sports, and club activities are expected to exemplify the highest standards of conduct at all times. Students participating in any extra-curricular activity will be required to follow the rules and regulations established by the district as well as by the coach, sponsors, and director. The district feels that students must adhere closely to clean habits of living if they are to give the best possible account of themselves and their school, while keeping in mind that they are students first and participants second. Any student who feels that participation in extra-curricular activities is detrimental to his/her academic achievement should drop the extra-curricular activity. Extra-curricular activities should not be used as an excuse for poor classroom performance.

- 1) Suspension from curricular activities will also mean suspension from extra-curricular activities (Home and Away events).
- 2) Students will be expected to ride to and from an activity on the activity bus. Students may be released to their parent/guardian upon presentation of written notice to the coach/sponsor/director. A note turned in to the office, prior to departure, is highly recommended.
- 3) Students who have been absent from school; excused or unexcused during any part of the school day shall not be eligible to participate in any after-school or evening extra-curricular activity that day or the next day if the team leaves before school begins (ball practice, play practice, games, etc.). Students who miss school due to medical appointments, will be allowed to practice or participate in activities if they provide a note for their medical absence. If the student misses any part of the school day of the last day of the week, he/she is ineligible to participate in the next extra-curricular event scheduled. (Example; If a student misses school on Friday, he/she would not be able to practice or play that night. If there was a game on Friday, they would miss that game, but would be able to participate on Saturday. If there wasn't a contest or event scheduled before the next school day, they would be able to participate if they attended school that day). Students that do not dress out/participate in P.E. may not participate in an extracurricular activity that day. Permission must be granted prior to the absence. Special cases will be reviewed by the activities director and principal.
- 4) If a student is assigned an ISS on the day of an activity or school event and the bus leaves before school is dismissed, the student is not allowed to travel or participate in the activity or school event. If a student is assigned Friday School on the day of an activity or a school event and the bus leaves before the student is dismissed from Friday School, the student is not allowed to travel or participate in the activity or the school event. A student is not allowed to skip a Friday School to attend an activity or school event.
- 5) Each sponsor/coach/director will be responsible to see that students are dressed appropriately for the activity. Refer to training rules for each activity for specifics.
- 6) Each participant must meet eligibility requirements.
- 7) Each participant must adhere to the activity training rules.
- 8) All students participating in extra-curricular activities will be required to purchase an activity ticket. The activity ticket price is \$35.00 for students and senior citizens. Adult activity cards will be \$50.00. There will be a \$50.00 participation fee in all high school athletics and MHSA sanctioned activities. There will be a \$75.00 fee for football. Managers will also be responsible for a participation fee of \$50.00.

MHSA HOMESCHOOL POLICY

Non-public or home school students who meet the requirements of 20-5-109 can participate in MHSA member school extra-curricular activities with the following stipulations: 1) The same standards for participation must be met as those required of full-time students enrolled in the school (besides enrollment). 2) The same rules of the MHSA apply including age, semesters, and academics (see #3). 3) The academic eligibility for extracurricular participation for a student attending a nonpublic school must be attested by the head administrator of the nonpublic school. The academic eligibility for extracurricular participation for students attending a home school must be attested in writing by the educator providing the student instruction with verification by the MHSA school principal. Academic eligibility includes provisions 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4. 4) The student may only participate in the school in the student's attendance area and cannot transfer. Exception – Home school or nonpublic school students who resides in a school district with more than one high school can participate in extracurricular activities at any high school in their district if approved by the school district. Districts that enforce attendance area restrictions may enforce those restrictions with home and nonpublic school students. Once a student participates in any extracurricular activity in a particular school, that is the only school that student may participate at during the student's high school activities career. There is no transfer in district after the initial approval.

ELIGIBILITY RULES

- 1) Students who are not academically eligible for activities would be able to participate in activities that are class-related and do not miss class to participate. These activities must occur at our school. No traveling privileges will be allowed. Examples would include Industrial Arts Club on Tuesday night; Chorus and/or Band performing at our own concerts; Pep Band that performs at home games but would not travel.
- 2) Extra-Curricular Eligibility will be based upon progress reports, semester grades, and MHSA requirements. Eligibility will be checked at 8AM on the following dates:

Monday, October 12	Monday, March 1
Monday, November 16	Monday, April 5
Monday, December 14	Monday, May 3
Monday, January 25	Monday, June 1

To be eligible, students must have a 2.0 GPA and no Fs when grades are checked at the above dates.
- 3) Entering freshmen students who received one or more Fs during their fourth quarter of their 8th grade year will be eligible through the first grade check of their freshman year.
- 4) Every first day of the school week, coaches and advisors will be given weekly grade checks that cover their participants.
- 5) Transfer students enrolling at SHS must meet the above eligibility requirements.
- 6) If a student is assigned an 'Incomplete' for a grade check period, he/she has NOT received a passing grade and is, therefore, not eligible for any extra-curricular activities until a regular passing grade is given. The student has one week to make up the work.
- 7) Eligibility cannot be reestablished by taking summer school, on-line classes, etc.
- 8) Eligibility for the Honor Band will be based upon the grade check report prior to the trip(s) occurring.
- 9) A student in an HPE class must participate in class on the day of practice or event in order to participate in the practice or event. If the student opts to sit out of class, they will not be permitted to participate that day/evening.

ACTIVITY TRAINING RULES

- 1) The Administration, Activities Director, and/or Coaches reserve the right to investigate accusations made against an athlete or activity participant.
- 2) All team members must go and return on the team bus unless arrangements have been made with the athlete's/participant's parents or guardians. Only parents or legal guardians can remove a participant from the team bus.
- 3) Hours for each activity will be determined and penalties will be enforced by the coach/sponsor/director of that activity.
- 4) You, as a participant, are representing the school and the community. We expect your conduct to reflect in a positive manner at home and away events.
- 5) A student and parent MUST attend one Code of Conduct Meeting. There will be a meeting at the beginning of each season. If a student or parent fails to attend the meeting, the student/parent must make arrangements with the activity director for a private meeting to cover the code of conduct rules. Students will be allowed to compete only after the meeting.

HEALTH AND SAFETY RULES

The health and safety of each participant shall be the first consideration of the coaching/advisor staff at all times. Students who are injured, or who do not appear to be well, should be excused from participation until the coach, and parents or physician, if the injury is serious, judge the student to be well enough to again participate. Coaches will review the emergency consent form and physical form.

Students who are participating in extra-curricular activities, except student council and yearbook, are required to take a concussion test that will be administered by Athletic Medicine Performance trainers at ~~the~~ Shepherd Schools. The test is free of charge to our athletes. This test is a baseline test that will help our trainers as well as doctors make a better diagnosis when it comes to concussions. If a student suffers a concussion, the following steps will be taken before the student is allowed to participate in the activity again.

- 1) The student will be required to see a doctor to monitor recover.
- 2) A doctor's release will be required to return to the activity.
- 3) Coaches and students will follow the doctor's recommendations for returning to the activity.

We will utilize the Code of Conduct meeting that is required for all parents, to educate the community on the signs of a concussion as well as the dangers of not treating a concussion properly.

POLICY PURPOSE

It is the position of the Shepherd Public Schools that participation in extra- and co-curricular activities is a privilege extended to the students who are willing to make the commitment to adhere to the rules that govern the program. It is the District's belief that participation in organized activities can contribute to the all-around development of young men and women and that implementation of these rules will serve the following purposes.

1. To emphasize concern for the health and well-being of students while participating in activities.
2. To provide a chemical-free environment that will encourage healthy development.
3. To promote a sense of self-discipline among students.
4. To confirm and support existing state laws which prohibit the use of mood-altering chemicals.
5. To emphasize standards of conduct for those students who through their participation are leaders and role models for their peers and the younger students.
6. To assist students who desire to resist peer pressure, which often directs them towards the use of chemicals.

POLICY COVERAGE

This policy states that a student shall not (1) use, have in possession, sell or distribute alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs **including** e-cigarettes and vaping products, and (2) abuse prescription or non-prescription drugs. This policy is not intended to apply to the use of prescribed drugs, under a doctor's supervision, when those drugs are used in the prescribed manner. Possession is defined as the use of a prohibited substance, having a prohibited substance in personal possession, or knowingly (as defined as a reasonable prudent person would know) being present at a function or gathering at which a prohibited substance is illegally used.

This policy applies to middle and high school students who are involved in the extra- and co-curricular activities program.

Extra-curricular Activities: Activities under the supervision of the AD
(Examples: Athletics, Cheerleading, Speech)

Co-Curricular Activities

District administrators have the responsibility to update and implement this policy for extra-curricular activities. The involved staff have the responsibility of student awareness and implementation of this policy. Students who elect to participate in extra-curricular activities, and parents or guardians are responsible for understanding this policy and recognizing it in written form.

Policy Duration

This policy is in effect each school year for the date of the first practice for fall activities (August) until the last day of school (June), or the last day of the spring sport season, whichever comes last.

Violations are cumulative through the student's period of attendance in middle or high school. Violations DO CARRY OVER from middle to high school.

First Violation (in and out of season)

After confirmation of the first offense, the student will be suspended from all extra-curricular activities for a period of 30 school days. During the 30 day period (pupil instruction days), the student will:

1. Continue his/her involvement in the activity, with no guarantee of position placement upon return. It will be at the coach's discretion.
2. Practice and attend meetings, but not participate in any game or similar activity.

If the student chooses not to follow this procedure, he/she will be dropped from the activity immediately.

Second Violation (in and out of season)

After the confirmation of the second offense, the student will be dropped from all extra-curricular activities for 60 school days.

Third Violation (in and out of season)

The student will be dropped from all extra-curricular activities for ONE CALENDAR YEAR from the time of the third offense.

Student and Parent Due Process

If determination is made that a student has violated this policy, the student, parents and/or guardians shall be notified of the violation by telephone where possible and also by mail. Also at this time, the student, parents and/or guardians shall be notified of the type of discipline that will be administered.

APPEAL PROCESS

Appeals to enforcement of this policy's rules may be found in Board Policy #3314, Appeal Process for Disciplinary Action. During the appeals process, the student remains suspended from participation in extra- or co-curricular activities as defined by this policy.

DEFINITIONS

Terms used in this policy shall be given their ordinary and reasonable meaning except as defined below.

SCHOOL YEAR: Means the period of time from the first day of regularly schedule practices (usually in August or September) to the last day of regularly scheduled practices or contests (usually in the following May or June).

SPORTS SEASON: Means the time period for those activities which the MHSA establishes a starting and ending date, including MHSA sanctioned pre-season activities and post-season competitions. For these activities that are not defined by a MHSA starting and ending date, the time period for starting and ending dates will be the established including pre-season practices and post-season competition.

Parental and Family Engagement

Shepherd School collaborates with parents and guardians to promote the mutual goal of student achievement. To ensure parents are aware of their rights and the opportunity to engage with the School District, specific policies and procedures are available on the School District's website at <https://www.shepherd.k12.mt.us/Page/895> and are available to be printed upon request. Please consult the following policies to learn more about methods to be an active part of your student's education:

Uniform Grievance Procedure – Policy 1700

Student and Family Privacy Rights – Policy 2132

Parent/Family Engagement and Involvement in Education – Policy 2158

Student Health Instruction – Policy 2335

School Activities and Clubs – Policy 3233, Policy 3510, Policy 3550

Student Health – Policy 3410

Student Immunization – Policy 3413

Student Records and Confidentiality – Policy 3600

“ONWARD SHEPHERD”

Onward Shepherd, Onward Shepherd,
Fighting for our fame.

We will always stand beside you,
‘til we win this game.

Rah! Rah! Rah!

Onward Shepherd, Onward Shepherd
Glorify our name,
Fight, Mustangs/Fillies,
Fight, fight, fight,
and win this game.

