Skipper Freshman Handbook

Welcome Class of 2030



Mandeville High School

1 Skipper Drive

Mandeville, LA 70471

Front Office - (985) 626-5225

WELCOME SKIPPER FRESHMEN

Dear Class of 2030,

Welcome to Mandeville High School! The Freshman Academy is a group of teachers, counselors, and administrators dedicated to the well-being of our 9th Grade Skippers! Our Mandeville Freshman Academy is here to help you as you transition from Jr. High to High School.

An essential part of your freshman year is learning the culture and expectations of Mandeville High School. You will find that high school is very different from Jr. High school. You will have higher stakes, a little more freedom and independence (for example, you sit wherever you want at lunch and transition with your friends as you move to each class). You will also have far greater responsibilities. Your grade reflects which aspects of the curriculum you have mastered at Mandeville, and there are no "effort" grades. This means you take responsibility to complete all assignments (homework, projects, etc.) when they are due and that you study for all assessments. It also means that you actively participate in class, ask questions if something is unclear, and seek extra support if you find yourself falling behind. Your teachers will challenge and stretch you, but they will also work beside you to support you each step of the way.

On behalf of our principal, Christian Monson, welcome to Skipper Nation. Seas the Day!



With great appreciation,

Joni Landry

Joni Landry, M.Ed.
Assistant Principal
Mandeville High School
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Mandeville, LA 70471
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Block Scheduling?

On our block, students are enrolled in 4 courses a day which last approximately 90 minutes each. Students complete quarter 1 and 2 during the Fall semester and quarter 3 and 4 during the Spring semester.

- 1st 9 weeks Grading Period (1st 4x4 Term) - 8/06/26 - 10/9/26
- 2nd 9 weeks Grading Period (2nd 4x4 Term) - 10/10/26 - 12/18/26
- 3rd 9 weeks Grading Period (3rd 4x4 Term) - 1/06/27- 3/12/27
- 4th 9 weeks Grading Period (4th 4x4 Term) - 3/13/27 - 5/25/27

When do grades start "counting" toward college applications?

Ninth grade is not a "practice year" for academics. Your freshman grades count just as much as the grades you earn as a junior or senior, as college admissions offices will see your **complete** course history on your high school transcript. All high school grades are calculated into your cumulative grade point average (GPA). All grades in your academic classes count toward eligibility for the TOPS Scholarship program.

How can I make sure I perform well in my classes?

From the moment you walk into each class, you should actively engage in your learning. Ask questions, participate in class activities, do your homework, and study for your tests. Your teachers will give you all the materials you need to succeed in their class, but you must also do the work.
Refrain from making zeroes on any assignment. Zeroes will drop your grade significantly. Your teachers, counselors, assistant principals, and family will all be behind you and encourage you to do your best work from the first day, but most of your success in high school depends on you!

What things can I do at home to succeed during the freshman year?

All freshmen receive a free planner from the school. Use it to help stay organized and keep up with homework and projects. You should also study class notes to review what was taught in class, even when you do not have assigned homework or a test. It is also recommended to begin studying for a test several days in advance so that you can review the material and retain it.

If I am not doing well in a course, what should I do?

First, speak with your teacher and set up a time before or after school for extra help or tutoring. If you need additional suggestions or resources, you may also speak to your freshman counselor. **Free peer-tutoring is offered on Mondays and Wednesdays after school until 3:30pm.**

How do I make up a course if I fail?

Courses can be made up during summer school as well as potentially taking the course again next school year. Please see your grade level counselor for more information on the best option for your specific needs.

If a student fails a course and retakes it, is the first grade dropped?

For Mandeville High - We take the average of the two grades.
For TOPS - repeated classes are deleted and the highest grade is counted.
For College admissions - it varies per university policy.
*Required courses must be retaken if failed

How will the block schedule affect credit attainment?

Students will receive a first term report card in October with an average for each class and in December with an average for the second term. Instead of earning half credits (per semester) like we have done in the past, **students will earn full credits only per term -August to December and January to May.** The only exceptions are PE II and Health. Those credits will be half credits. Students in PE II in the first nine weeks will move to Health in the second nine weeks and vice versa.

When are final exams?

Final exams/LEAP are counted as **15% of the final course grade**. Final exams are given in the last few days of the fall and spring semester (last week of December and then the last week of May) Students take two exams per day with the last day being identified as a make-up day.

Where can I find an item that was lost?

Our lost and found is located in Student Services. To avoid someone from picking up your item thinking it is theirs, **PLEASE write your name on ALL your items.** Additionally, students should not bring large sums of money to school to prevent theft.



How important is it to be involved in extracurricular activities, such as clubs, sports, and volunteer projects?

School leaders encourage all high school students to join at least one extracurricular activity because involvement fosters school connectedness and friendships, demonstrates leadership, and strengthens college and scholarship applications by showing students are well-rounded beyond academics.

How are grades calculated?

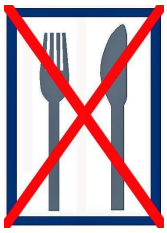
STPPS 10 Point Grading Scale

- A= 90% and Above / 4.0 CGPA
- B= 89%-80% / 3.0 CGPA
- C= 79%-70% / 2.0 CGPA
- D= 69%-60% / 1.0 CGPA
- F= 59% & Below / 0.0 CGPA

Carnegie Credit Requirements:

Freshmen	Must earn **more than 5 credits** to advance
Sophomores	Must earn **more than 11 credits** to advance
Juniors	Must earn **more than 17 credits** to advance
Seniors	Must earn **23 credits** to complete the **Tops Tech pathway** and **24 credits** to complete the **Tops University pathway**.

Food deliveries:



Students are **not** permitted to order and/or receive Door dash, Uber eats, or any other food delivery services while at school. Deliveries made during the school day will result in confiscation and disposal.

What electronic devices are allowed on campus?

According to State Law*, ALL electronic devices must be **turned off and stored** in the child's belongings/bookbag. Wired earbuds are allowed for Chromebook usage.



State Law/ACT 313

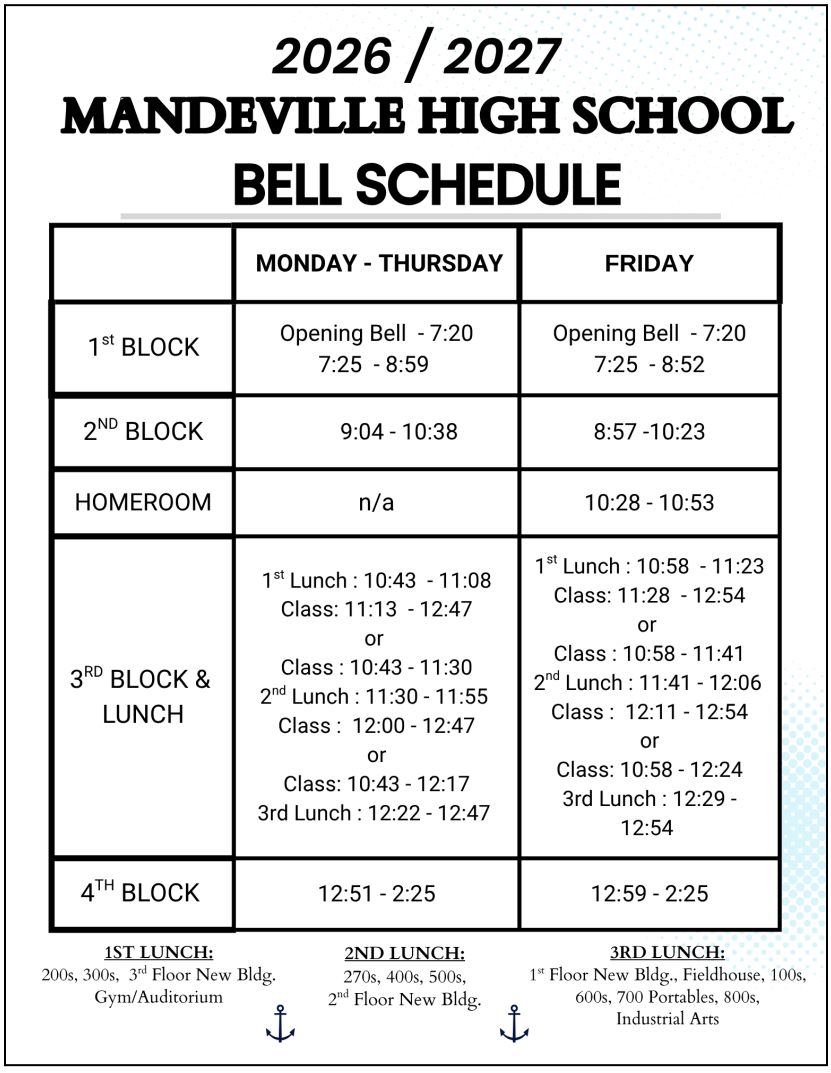
Chromebooks:

Grade 9 students receive a device to use through grade 12. Device damage coverage ($25, due by October 31st) provides a loaner from old inventory while repairs are made; without coverage, parents must pay for replacement parts. Coverage **excludes** chargers, cases, intentional/negligent damage, and lost or stolen devices (which require a police report).

Preparing for the ACT:

It's helpful to start thinking about the ACT in freshman year. Students should not take the ACT until they've completed Geometry — typically their first official ACT is the June after sophomore year. Schools administer a free pre-ACT in March of both freshman and sophomore years to familiarize students with the test format and timing. Parents can create an account at www.myact.org (save the username, password, and ACT ID for future use). A practice test is also available on the ACT website.

What does the schedule look like?



2026 / 2027

MANDEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

BELL SCHEDULE

	MONDAY - THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1st BLOCK	Opening Bell - 7:20 7:25 - 8:59	Opening Bell - 7:20 7:25 - 8:52
2ND BLOCK	9:04 - 10:38	8:57 -10:23
HOMEROOM	n/a	10:28 - 10:53
3RD BLOCK & LUNCH	1st Lunch : 10:43 - 11:08 Class: 11:13 - 12:47 or Class : 10:43 - 11:30 2nd Lunch : 11:30 - 11:55 Class : 12:00 - 12:47 or Class: 10:43 - 12:17 3rd Lunch : 12:22 - 12:47	1st Lunch : 10:58 - 11:23 Class: 11:28 - 12:54 or Class : 10:58 - 11:41 2nd Lunch : 11:41 - 12:06 Class : 12:11 - 12:54 or Class: 10:58 - 12:24 3rd Lunch : 12:29 - 12:54
4TH BLOCK	12:51 - 2:25	12:59 - 2:25

1ST LUNCH: 200s, 300s, 3rd Floor New Bldg. Gym/Auditorium

2ND LUNCH: 270s, 400s, 500s, 2nd Floor New Bldg.

3RD LUNCH: 1st Floor New Bldg., Fieldhouse, 100s, 600s, 700 Portables, 800s, Industrial Arts

Lunch shifts are listed on the bottom of the bell schedule.

Lunch shift is determined by a student's third block teacher location.

How can my student stay informed about all the freshman events?

Each grade level has their own respective Google Classroom that the grade level sponsors update. Be sure that your child has joined the classroom.

- 9th Grade Students Google Classroom Code: **tiw6r7fh**

How does the "Waymaker" mentorship program work?

Each freshman will receive an upperclassman mentor to help them navigate their high school journey. The mentors connect with their assigned freshmen during homeroom twice a month. They set academic goals, work through social situations, manage conflicts, help establish good study habits and motivate the freshmen to be involved on campus.

Can freshmen participate in school dances?

Yes, homecoming dances are open to all grade levels however PROM is open to Juniors and Seniors only. Homecoming dances are held at the Castine Center and begin at 7pm. More details will be provided as the event approaches.

How can my child get a new ID or lanyard?

All students must wear their current school year ID to school each day. It must be visible and on their neck attached to their blue lanyard provided by the office. Daily temporary IDs can be purchased for $1.00 before school begins at ID tables stationed throughout campus to avoid an ID violation.



If a student does not have their current ID visible and on their neck when school begins at 7:25am, that student will be in violation that will warrant a school consequence. Student IDs are strictly enforced for school safety purposes. **It's a good practice to keep a Ziploc bag of a few dollars in your bookbag for times when you need to purchase a temporary ID.**

For the 2026/27 school year, each freshman will be issued a yellow lanyard and a plastic sleeve for their ID provided by Mandeville High School. The lanyard shall be worn with the current school year ID everyday. Failure to wear the yellow lanyard, will result in a violation.

Students do not wear uniforms on our campus therefore, to ensure school safety, every student must have on their current student ID.

How can parents and guardians volunteer and/or be involved with the school?

We see families as our partners. We welcome and appreciate when families want to work with us to improve our student's high school experience. Please email Mrs. Landry to express your area of interest at joni.landry@stpsb.org.

We also have a schoolwide PTSA and you are encouraged to visit their site to learn more about the work they do and a list of PTSA officers for contact purposes.
Website: https://mandevillehigh.stpsb.org/our-school/pta

How do I email my child's teacher(s)?

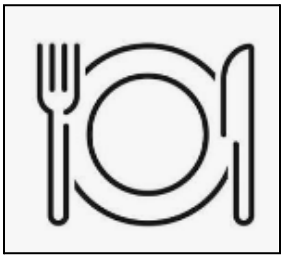
We use a common protocol for teacher email accounts: (*firstname.lastname*@stpsb.org)
If your child's teacher goes by a different first name, please contact our front office to identify the proper email address. We are happy to help you.

How do I know what events are happening at school?

We have two calendars on our school webpage. One for General Information and the other for Athletics.

- General Calendar - https://mandevillehigh.stpsb.org/connect/calendar
- Athletics Calendar - https://mandevillehigh.stpsb.org/connect/calendar
    - Be sure to toggle between them to identify the logistics of our school events.

Where can I find more information about school meals?



The breakfast and the lunch calendars on our school website are updated by the district and its guidelines.

School Meals Website -
https://mandevillehigh.stpsb.org/our-school/school-meals

School meals are **free** for all students during the 2026-2027 school year through a program called the Community Eligibility Provision. Free and reduced meal applications do **not** need to be submitted.

No outside food or drink is allowed to be dropped off to students or sent to students using a mobile food service or carrier service. Students are more than welcome to bring their own lunch in a lunch bag/lunch box to school.

There are three lunch shifts each day. Students will go to the appropriate lunch shift according to their third block teacher's schedule.

What is the Dress Code policy?



***IMPORTANT** - Our school does not require uniforms but students must follow the school and district dress code policy.

Violations are addressed as an attempt to enhance the learning environment. Final interpretation of the dress code rests solely with the administration. The Principal maintains the right to determine extremes in styles of dress and grooming. Extremes in style and fit in student dress and extremes in style of grooming will not be permitted. Refer to the Handbook on Attendance, Discipline, and Student Records for additional information regarding dress code.

1. Students are not allowed to wear tank tops, muscle shirts, and/or plain white undershirts as outer garments.

2. **Headwear-** All hats, caps, bandannas, bonnets, stocking caps, etc. are not to be worn during regular school hours. Students may wear a scarf, but a scarf or any other type of apparel cannot cover all of the hair/head. The hood of hoodies may not be worn inside of the school building.

3. **Facial Hair** - Male students in grades 9-12 may wear a neatly trimmed mustache, beard, or goatee. Handlebar style mustaches are prohibited. Sideburns may be worn to the base of the earlobe.

4. **Shirts/Sweaters**- Open-back, sheer, see through, crochet, lace-like clothing, or low cut shirts/tops are not allowed. Shirts/sweaters must be long enough so that no skin may be seen between the pants/skirt/shorts and shirt. This rule includes any position including sitting. Students must wear tops that cover most of the top of the shoulders. Most tops with “straps” are not allowed as an outer garment and no top should allow under garments to be seen. Off-the-shoulder shirts/sweaters are not allowed.

5. **Shorts/Skirts/Skorts/Dresses**- While standing erect with arms extended down, the length of shorts/skirts/dresses must meet the following requirement:
    - Come to the tip of fingers or below

6. **Pants (Jeans, Joggers and Sweatpants)**- All pants/jeans must be secured at the waist at all times and may not reveal undergarments or the stomach area. Clothing that contains excessive/multiple breaks, holes or rips will be considered extreme in style and will **not** be permitted. This includes clothing purchased with excessive/multiple breaks, holes or rips. Also clothing with a hole (or holes) in inappropriate places will be considered an extreme in style. Pants/jeans **with** holes are **NOT** permitted.

Leggings/Yoga pants are not permitted starting in the 2026/2027 school year - *garments that are stretchy, body hugging and contouring are* ***not*** *allowed during the school day unless specifically approved for athletic, dance, or spirit-related programs.*

- *Leggings of any style or length*
- *Yoga pants or tights, including flared or bootcut styles*
- *Compression pants or shorts*
- *Spandex or bike shorts*
- *Any tight-fitting, body-contouring, stretchy, or exercise-style garments made from athletic, compression, knit, spandex, lycra, or similar materials.*

7. **Piercings -** The wearing of body piercings is **limited to the ear and nose**. Larger "gauge" earrings are not allowed. Students in grades 9-12 are allowed to have one nose piercing.

8. **Sleepwear** -Pajamas and robes are **not** appropriate attire for school and therefore are not permitted. Pants that have the appearance of pajama bottoms will be considered pajamas and are not permitted. Slippers worn as footwear are **not** allowed**.** It is not appropriate to bring pillows and blankets to school.

9. **Hair** - Sculptured hair styles that include pictures, symbols, letters, numbers, or hair in curlers, rollers, excessively teased, or extreme in style etc., will not be permitted.

10. **Suggestive clothing** - Any article of clothing with suggestive symbols, words or advertisements of products or substances prohibited by St. Tammany School Board policy shall be prohibited. Sexual innuendos and uncontrolled substances are strictly forbidden (i.e. "Cookies").

11. **Student IDs** - All students must wear their current school year ID to school each day. It must be visible and on their neck attached to their blue lanyard provided by the office. Daily temporary IDs can be purchased for $1.00 before school begins at ID tables stationed throughout campus to avoid an ID violation. If a student does not have their current ID visible and on their neck when school begins at 7:25am, that student will be in violation that will warrant a school consequence. Student IDs are strictly enforced for school safety purposes. It's a good practice to keep a Ziploc bag of a few dollars in your bookbag for times that you need to purchase a temporary ID.

For the 2026/27 school year, each **freshman** will be issued a **yellow lanyard** for their ID provided by MHS. This lanyard shall be worn with the current school year ID everyday. Failure to wear the respective lanyard will result in a violation.

***The principal maintains the right to use discretion when determining dress code violations. For additional questions, please contact the school at (985) 626-5225.**

Freshman Counselor - Scott Hallila - joshua.hallila@stpsb.org - 985-626-5225 ext.2160
Asst. Principal (Discipline) - Scott Cave - scott.cave@stpsb.org - 985-626-5225 ext. 2173