

Meadow Ridge Elementary School

Student and Family Handbook



15601 N Freya Street | Mead, WA 99021 | Main: 509-465-6600 | Attendance: 509-465-6670

<https://meadowridge.mead354.org/> | <https://www.facebook.com/MeadowRidgeElementaryMSD>

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WELCOME LETTER

Dear Meadow Ridge Families,

I am so excited to welcome you and your children to Meadow Ridge Elementary for another amazing year as part of our Jaguar family! Meadow Ridge is a special place because of the incredible partnership between our staff, students, and families. When we work together, we are truly stronger — and together, we make learning take flight.

At Meadow Ridge, we are committed to knowing, loving, and helping every single child grow. We build strong connections, believe in every student's potential, and empower them to take on challenges with confidence and curiosity. Our job is to remind our young students that they can do it — and that we are right here to help them succeed.

Every student matters here. We are committed to seeing and celebrating who they are and who they are becoming. As Maya Angelou reminds us, "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." That is exactly what we strive to cultivate — a school where every child is becoming a better version of themselves.

And I see you too, Meadow Ridge families! Your support, involvement, and trust mean the world to us. Thank you for choosing Meadow Ridge as your partner in this journey — we are honored to walk alongside you.

Let's go ALL IN and make this another incredible year for our Jaguars!

Most Sincerely,
Erin O'Connor



ABSENCES/ATTENDANCE

Please call the Attendance Hotline @ 465 -6670 or the office @ 465 -6600 when your child will be absent from school. This is most helpful to us and assures the school of your child's safety. Should we not hear from you, you will be called to verify the child's absence. If you anticipate an extended absence, please notify the office as soon as possible as prior authorization is needed to excuse your student. We are required by the State to report any unexcused absences as truancies. In general, the reasons for absence from school fall into one of two categories:

1. **Excused:** Absences due to illness, health condition, a religious observance, school-approved activities, family emergencies and, as required by law, disciplinary actions or short-term suspension.
2. **Unexcused:** Absences due to a student's failure to attend the majority of classes in an average school day and when a parent has not excused the absence by providing a note or informing the school by phone within 24 hours.

Under the Washington State Compulsory Attendance Law, parents or guardians have the primary responsibility for keeping their students in regular attendance. Children may be excused for medical and dental appointments during school hours. Parents should request in writing that their child be released at a specific time or phone the office and request a release. Parents are asked to sign their children in and out of school at the school office when picking up or returning children to school during the school day. If the office has not heard from the parent, a phone call will be made to the home or the emergency numbers we have for the student, to find out why the child is not in school. It is very important that parents call or write a note about the child's absence. Parents will be notified when their student is marked unexcused or has excessive tardies. If an attendance problem develops, the student, parent/guardian, and principal/social worker will meet to develop a plan to resolve the attendance issues.

BAD / INCLIMATE WEATHER

When the weather is severe, please be careful to ensure that your child arrives at the regularly scheduled time. When temperatures start to drop, the following is the general rule of thumb: Morning Arrival: If the temp. is 20 degrees or colder (including wind chill) students will line up inside. Recess: If the temp. is 15 degrees or colder (including wind chill) students will stay in for recess. Please listen to major radio and TV stations for school closure information. They generally begin broadcasting at 5:30 a.m. Closure and delay information may also be found on the District's website <https://www.mead354.org/>

BUS POLICY

Our buses in the Meadow Ridge area are operating at capacity. Extra seating is seldom available. We request that students make other transportation arrangements for visiting friends, or attending a party or non-school event that is outside his/her normal bus route. We appreciate your cooperation and support. Our goal is to transport your

child(ren) to and from school as safely and efficiently as possible. The transportation office phone number is 465 -6107.

CLOTHING

Our role as a school is to educate students for life and work in their future. Therefore, we want our environment to be conducive to such a focus. Any clothing that disrupts the educational process is not allowed. Clothing that advertises drugs, or alcohol, or has inappropriate messages for small children will not be allowed. Meadow Ridge parents exhibit great judgment in this area, and we want to continue to support that with our school dress code. Please have tennis shoes for PE class to help us preserve our wood floor.

CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

The YMCA provides a before-school and after-school daycare program to our Meadow Ridge families. Information, including how to register, may be found at [YMCA Registration](#).

PARKING LOT

Drivers - please use the main parking lot for parking and pickup. This is the lot off Freya Road that is closest to the office. Please pull into a space and avoid waiting by the curb as the exhaust fumes enter the classrooms, and please remember to drive only **5 M.P.H.** Please refrain from talking on cell phones while driving in our parking lot.

DRUG-FREE ENVIRONMENT

The Mead School District believes that the use of illicit drugs and unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful. This policy is in compliance with state law. All students in the district are held to the same standards. Compliance with these expectations is mandatory. Drug (alcohol and tobacco) advertisements on T-shirts and jackets are not permitted at school or school-sponsored activities.

EXTRA MONEY

Students should not bring any extra money to school. Lunch money should be brought and marked in an envelope with the student's name on it. If any student must bring more money to school, please leave it at the office during the day.

HOME ADDRESS and TELEPHONE NUMBER

It is very important that the school be kept informed at all times of the home address, email, telephone number, and emergency telephone numbers where a parent can be reached. Please notify us if there are any changes so that we may have authorization and information as to what we are to do in case of an emergency with your child.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORTS

Due to enrollment numbers in the Mead School District, Skyhawks has partnered with us. More information can be found at register.skyhawks.com – or on our website at the very bottom of our homepage by clicking on Peachjar.

FIRST AID

School personnel are trained to handle first aid for minor injuries. In case of serious injury or illness, parents will be contacted immediately. The child will be taken to a physician or hospital if the parents cannot be reached. Once again, it is imperative that we have multiple emergency phone numbers on file in the event that a parent cannot be reached.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING (HIB)

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender/sex, age, sexual orientation, or disability are prohibited. Acts that violate district policies and school rules and regulations shall be cause for disciplinary action, suspension, or expulsion.

"Harassment, intimidation, or bullying" means any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, including but not limited to one shown to be motivated by any characteristic in RCW 9A.365.080(3), (race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or mental or physical disability), or other distinguishing characteristics, including written, verbal, or physical acts.

Reprisal, retaliation, or false accusations against anyone reporting or thought to have reported harassment, intimidation, or bullying is prohibited and will be treated as a serious violation of policy, regardless of whether any harassment, intimidation, or bullying is substantiated. Persons engaged in reprisal, retaliation, or false accusations are subject to serious disciplinary and/or legal action.

For additional information see Mead School Board Policy 3207.

IMMUNIZATION

Washington State law requires all students, K-12, be immunized before they may attend the first day of school. All students must present or have on file documentation of their immunization status (Certificate of Immunization) with the month, day, and year of each dose of vaccine. When a student lacks full immunization or evidence of the immunization schedule, a signed certificate of exemption (COE) for medical or personal (signed by a physician and parents), or religious reasons based on religious membership (signed by parents) must be provided to the school. In the case of an outbreak of the disease, a child under exemption may be excluded from school until the disease outbreak is concluded.

Please check with the school office for information regarding immunizations.

LAP

The LAP (Learning Assistance Program) is a state-funded program that provides specialized academic assistance for students (grades K-5) who are having academic problems in the regular classroom. Students qualify based on multiple measures.

LEARNING IMPROVEMENT DAYS

The state legislature realizes that reforming education will not only take a great deal of effort, but time as well. Therefore, they fund teacher learning days in order to meet, plan, and continue the process of improvement. These days are not days removed from the student calendar, but added to the staff calendar. We appreciate your continued support of our efforts to constantly improve the learning for every student.

LIBRARY

In order to position our students for success, Meadow Ridge students have access to welcoming and Future Ready library spaces, staffed by a full-time certified teacher-librarian, which include updated, relevant resources along with programming that inspires creativity, collaboration, and interaction while supporting reading interests.

The Meadow Ridge library is a place where students can discover their passion; it's an incubator of ideas, and an entrepreneurial zone where students have opportunities to investigate and create while developing their personal reading interests. The library fosters an environment of citizenship, creativity, and inquiry.

Meadow Ridge has a large elementary book collection with over 10,000 books. With the support from both our PTO and our district, we have been able to develop this collection to include a variety of non-book resources including technology hardware and software.

- All students receive 36 minutes of library instruction every three days.
- Students in kindergarten may check out one book at a time
- Students in grades 1-5 may check out up to three books at a time.

LOST and FOUND

Most personal items may be found in the cafeteria. Small personal items may be claimed at the office. Please check the lost and found frequently for lost items. You wouldn't believe how large our lost item collection becomes! To help keep our closet in better order, we're implementing a closet cleanout two times during the school year. Please mark your calendars for the following times:

- End of October after conference week
- Day before Winter Break
- End of February after conference week
- Day before spring break
- End of the day on the last day of school

All remaining items will be donated to a charitable organization Semi Annually.

LUNCH and BREAKFAST PROGRAM

A breakfast program is available approximately 15 minutes before the first bell rings. Hot lunches prepared in the Meadow Ridge kitchen are served daily. Please find complete child nutrition information, including menus [HERE](#).

Student breakfast and lunches are paid via a debit account system. Money is sent to the school in any amount and is deducted when breakfast or lunch is purchased. Parents with more than one child at Meadow Ridge can set up family accounts, enabling them to transfer meal money among sibling accounts. Students are informed when the account has a balance of one meal so money can be added. Please encourage your child to bring the "low account balance" notice home. Students may also use the debit account to purchase milk, or they may pay cash.

Applications for free and reduced-price meals are available online [HERE](#).

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

According to state law and district policy, if it is necessary for your child to receive medication during school hours, a Medication Request Form must be filled out. This form is available at the school office or on the Mead School District website (Our District - Mead School Nurses).

- The form must be signed by the attending physician and the parent.
- The medication must be in the original container and properly labeled.
- All medication will be kept in the health room office.

Please check with the physician regarding alternative times for administering medication such as before school, after school, and before bedtime.

This policy applies to both prescription and nonprescription medicines, i.e., cough drops, aspirin, and other over-the-counter medications.

NONDISCRIMINATION

Mead School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Grievances or concerns should be directed to Josh Westermann, Director of Student and Family Services at 509 -465-6045, or via email at josh.westermann@mead354.org.

You can report discrimination and discriminatory harassment to any school staff member or to the district's Civil Rights Coordinator, listed above. You also have the right to file a complaint (see below). For a copy of your district's nondiscrimination policy and procedure 3210, contact your school or district office or view it online here: <https://www.mead354.org/about-us/board-of-directors/board-policies>.

NURSING SERVICES

Meadow Ridge's school nurse oversees the health room and reviews health information and health care plans for students as needed. State law requires a health care plan for all life-threatening health conditions including asthma, anaphylaxis, diabetes and seizures.

The nurse conducts student vision and hearing screening at designated grade levels, helps with educating classrooms regarding issues pertinent to the grade level, or assists with special interest's teachers may inquire about. The nurse reviews medical information on each student, notifies parents to update needed immunizations or referrals for medical purposes, and keeps medication files in order and assists students' needs while at Meadow Ridge.

We encourage parents to call anytime with questions about their children's hearing, vision or general health. The school nurse serves as a liaison between school, home, medical and dental professions, community health, and welfare agencies. Please notify the school nurse/office if your child contracts any communicable illness (i.e. chicken pox, scabies, lice, ringworm, etc.). This enables us to maintain healthy classrooms.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is a required part of the curriculum unless your child has a doctor's excuse. We hope that each student will have appropriate clothing to wear for this class or for after-school sports. Tennis shoes are required.

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

No physical violence is allowed at school or when traveling to and from school. Any students involved in altercations will be progressively disciplined. Students are to walk away from altercations and notify adults if a student becomes aggressive towards them.

RECESS

Unrestricted play time is an important time for students to practice being good citizens and to just "be kids." Therefore, we encourage students to dress appropriately during inclement weather as they will be expected to go outside during recess.

RESOURCE ROOM

The Resource Room staff provides specially designed instruction and intervention for children in grades kindergarten through fifth grade who have been formally identified as needing special education services. To be eligible, students must be referred, tested, and qualified based on current Washington State Law. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any further questions about such assistance.

SAFETY

At Meadow Ridge Elementary School, the safety and well-being of our students is our highest priority. We have implemented a robust set of safety measures and programs to ensure a secure and nurturing learning environment. These include:

- Focused Engagement: Comprehensive club and sport programs to actively involve students.
- Responsible Citizenship Education: Classroom discussions emphasizing the importance of being a responsible and engaged student.
- Social and Emotional Learning (SEL): Targeted initiatives to foster emotional intelligence, empathy, and interpersonal skills, supporting students' mental and emotional well-being.
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS): A comprehensive plan to proactively promote positive behavior through recognition, rewards, and consistent expectations. This approach encourages a positive school culture and reduces behavioral issues.
- Staff Collaboration: Ongoing staff discussions and planning dedicated to maintaining a safe school environment.
- Counseling Support: A full-time school counselor is available to assist students.
- Discipline Strategy: A discipline plan to address behavioral issues in a fair and consistent manner.
- Visitor Management: A visitor sign-in procedure to monitor and control access to the school.
- Secure Access: A single point of entry with all exterior doors remaining locked during school hours, ensuring controlled access to the campus.
- Preparedness Training: Regular Safety Drills (including HOLD!, SECURE!, LOCKDOWN!, EVACUATE!, and SHELTER!) to ensure readiness for various emergency situations.
- Pet Policy: No pets are allowed to visit the school at any time when students are present, to ensure a distraction-free environment.

We deeply value your support in keeping our students engaged, connected, and above all, safe within our campus. By working together, we can create a nurturing and secure space where our children can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Be Safe

- Walk to and from all areas
- Stay on the right in the halls
- Use school equipment and materials appropriately
- No chewing gum
- "Four on the floor"

Be Responsible

- Do what's asked; Stay on task!
- Use appropriate voice, language, and gestures inside and out
- Eat in designated areas
- Use good manners

Be Positive & Kind

- Treat others the way you would like to be treated
- Follow directions
- Have self and materials ready on time
- Own up to your part in problems with others
- Pick-up, clean-up, help-out, and recycle
- Talk, walk, and squawk

Throughout the year, we emphasize our guidelines for success. These efforts make Meadow Ridge a warm and exciting place where new learning occurs each and every day. Our discipline plan at Meadow Ridge is designed to reinforce, or to teach, appropriate behaviors. Classroom teachers address most instances of misbehavior, referring only a small percentage to the office. Our consequences are progressive and parents are informed of recurring or major concerns. Consequences range from a simple "Time Out" & problem-solving session with the teacher to expulsion from school, depending upon the infraction. Please contact your child's teacher or the office if you have any behavioral concerns.

SCHOOL HOURS

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| → GRADES K - 5 | 9:00 - 3:20 pm | M, T, Th, F |
| → GRADES K - 5 | 9:40 - 3:20 pm | W |

Student arrival is designated for 9:00 a.m. Notice of any before-school activities will be sent home for your information well in advance of any activity. For the safety of our children, *please do not have students arrive earlier than 8:45 a.m. as supervision is unavailable.*

Please, if at all possible, pick your child up after their bell rings as our teachers and students are busy working up until the bell rings. If a student needs to leave school earlier than dismissal our school policy is to have parents wait at the office as your student is called down to meet you by our office staff. This is to ensure the safety of all of our students.

Also, messages to students will be delivered by 3:00 p.m. NO ANNOUNCEMENTS will be made to classes after that time (except for a serious emergency). Please try to make arrangements before school with your child so as not to interrupt the learning process.

OUR SCHOOLS PROTECT STUDENTS FROM HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING (HIB)

Schools are meant to be safe and inclusive environments where all students are protected from Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB), including in the classroom, on the school bus, in school sports, and during other school activities. This section defines HIB, explains what to do when you see or experience it, and our school's process for responding to it.

What is HIB?

HIB is any intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical act of a student that:

- Physically harms another student or damages their property;
- Has the effect of greatly interfering with another student's education; or,
- Is so severe, persistent, or significant that it creates an intimidating or threatening education environment for other students.

HIB generally involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated. HIB is not allowed, by law, in our schools.

How can I make a report or complaint about HIB?

Talk to any school staff member (consider starting with whoever you are most comfortable with!). You may use our district's reporting form to share concerns about HIB (forms can be found in your school office or the district website) but reports about HIB can be made in writing or verbally. Your report can be made anonymously, if you are uncomfortable revealing your identity, or confidentially if you prefer it not be shared with other students involved with the report. No disciplinary action will be taken against another student based **solely** on an anonymous or confidential report.

If a staff member is notified of, observes, overhears, or otherwise witnesses HIB, they must take prompt and appropriate action to stop the HIB behavior and to prevent it from happening again. Our district also has a HIB Compliance Officer **Josh Westermann, Director of Student & Family Services**, josh.westermann@mead354.org, (509) 465-6045, that supports prevention and response to HIB.

What happens after I make a report about HIB?

If you report HIB, school staff must attempt to resolve the concerns. If the concerns are resolved, then no further action may be necessary. However, if you feel that you or

someone you know is the victim of unresolved, severe, or persistent HIB that requires further investigation and action, then you should request an official HIB investigation.

Also, the school must take actions to ensure that those who report HIB don't experience retaliation.

What is the investigation process?

When you report a complaint, the HIB Compliance Officer or staff member leading the investigation must notify the families of the students involved with the complaint and must make sure a prompt and thorough investigation takes place. The investigation must be completed within 5 school days, unless you agree on a different timeline. If your complaint involves circumstances that require a longer investigation, the district will notify you with the anticipated date for their response.

When the investigation is complete, the HIB Compliance Officer or the staff member leading the investigation must provide you with the outcomes of the investigation within 2 school days. This response should include:

- A summary of the results of the investigation
- A determination of whether the HIB is substantiated
- Any corrective measures or remedies needed
- Clear information about how you can appeal the decision

What are the next steps if I disagree with the outcome?

For the student designated as the “targeted student” in a complaint: If you do not agree with the school district's decision, you may appeal the decision and include any additional information regarding the complaint to the superintendent, or the person assigned to lead the appeal, and then to the school board.

For the student designated as the “aggressor” in a complaint: A student found to be an “aggressor” in a HIB complaint may not appeal the decision of a HIB investigation. They can, however, appeal corrective actions that result from the findings of the HIB investigation.

For more information about the HIB complaint process, including important timelines, please see the district's [HIB webpage](#) or the district's *HIB Policy 3207 and Procedure 3207P*.

Our School Stands Against Discrimination

Discrimination can happen when someone is treated differently or unfairly because they are part of a **protected class**, including their race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, religion, creed, disability, use of a service animal, or veteran or military status.

What is discriminatory harassment?

Discriminatory harassment can include teasing and name-calling; graphic and written statements; or other conduct that may be physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating. Discriminatory harassment happens when the conduct is based on a student's protected class and is serious enough to create a hostile environment. A **hostile environment** is created when conduct is so severe, pervasive, or persistent that it limits a student's

ability to participate in, or benefit from, the school's services, activities, or opportunities.

To review the district's Nondiscrimination Policy 3210 and Procedure 3210P, visit mead354.org.

What is sexual harassment?

Sexual harassment is any unwelcome conduct or communication that is sexual in nature and substantially interferes with a student's educational performance or creates an intimidating or hostile environment. Sexual harassment can also occur when a student is led to believe they must submit to unwelcome sexual conduct or communication to gain something in return, such as a grade or a place on a sports team.

Examples of sexual harassment can include pressuring a person for sexual actions or favors; unwelcome touching of a sexual nature; graphic or written statements of a sexual nature; distributing sexually explicit texts, e-mails, or pictures; making sexual jokes, rumors, or suggestive remarks; and physical violence, including rape and sexual assault.

Our schools do not discriminate based on sex and prohibit sex discrimination in all of our education programs and employment, as required by Title IX and state law.

To review the district's Sexual Harassment Policy 3205 and Procedure 3205P, visit mead354.org.

What should my school do about discriminatory and sexual harassment?

When a school becomes aware of possible discriminatory or sexual harassment, it must investigate and stop the harassment. The school must address any effects the harassment had on the student at school, including eliminating the hostile environment, and make sure that the harassment does not happen again.

What can I do if I'm concerned about discrimination or harassment?

Talk to a Coordinator or submit a written complaint. You may contact the following school district staff members to report your concerns, ask questions, or learn more about how to resolve your concerns.

Concerns about discrimination, sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, disability discrimination, and concerns about discrimination based on disability or gender identity please contact

Civil Rights Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, Section 504 Coordinator, and Gender-Inclusive Schools Coordinator:

Josh Westermann, Director of Student and Family Services:

josh.westermann@mead354.org, (509)465-6045.

To **submit a written complaint**, describe the conduct or incident that may be discriminatory and send it by mail, fax, email, or hand deliver to the school principal, district superintendent, or civil rights coordinator. Submit the complaint as soon as possible for a prompt investigation, and within one year of the conduct or incident.

What happens after I file a discrimination complaint?

The Civil Rights Coordinator will give you a copy of the school district's discrimination complaint procedure. The Civil Rights Coordinator must make sure a prompt and thorough investigation takes place. The investigation must be completed within 30 calendar days unless you agree to a different timeline. If your complaint involves exceptional circumstances that require a longer investigation, the Civil Rights Coordinator will notify you in writing with the anticipated date for their response.

When the investigation is complete, the school district superintendent or the staff member leading the investigation will send you a written response. This response will include:

- A summary of the results of the investigation
- A determination of whether the school district failed to comply with civil rights laws
- Any corrective measures or remedies needed
- Notice about how you can appeal the decision

What are the next steps if I disagree with the outcome?

If you do not agree with the outcome of your complaint, you may appeal the decision to the Mead School District Board of Directors and then to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). More information about this process, including important timelines, is included in the district's Nondiscrimination Procedure 3210P and Sexual Harassment Procedure 3205P.

I already submitted an HIB complaint – what will my school do?

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying (HIB) can also be discrimination if it's related to a protected class. If you give your school a written report of HIB that involves discrimination or sexual harassment, your school will notify the Civil Rights Coordinator. The school district will investigate the complaint using both the Nondiscrimination Procedure 3210P and the HIB Procedure 3207P to fully resolve your complaint.

Who else can help with HIB or Discrimination Concerns?

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

All reports must start locally at the school or district level. However, OSPI can assist students, families, communities, and school staff with questions about state law, the HIB complaint process, and the discrimination and sexual harassment complaint processes.

OSPI School Safety Center (For questions about harassment, intimidation, and bullying):

- Website: ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/health-safety/school-safety-center
- Email: schoolsafety@k12.wa.us
- Phone: 360-725-6068

OSPI Equity and Civil Rights Office (For questions about discrimination and sexual harassment):

- Website: ospi.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/equity-and-civil-rights

- Email: equity@k12.wa.us
- Phone: 360-725-6162

Washington State Governor's Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO)

The Washington State Governor's Office of the Education Ombuds works with families, communities, and schools to address problems together so every student can fully participate and thrive in Washington's K-12 public schools. OEO provides informal conflict resolution tools, coaching, facilitation, and training about family, community engagement, and systems advocacy.

- Website: www.oeo.wa.gov
- Email: oeoinfo@gov.wa.gov
- Phone: 1-866-297-2597

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR)

The U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) enforces federal nondiscrimination laws in public schools, including those that prohibit discrimination based on sex, race, color, national origin, disability, and age. OCR also has a discrimination complaint process.

- Website: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html>
- Email: orc@ed.gov
- Phone: 800-421-3481

Our School is Gender -Inclusive

In Washington, all students have the right to be treated consistent with their gender identity at school. Our school will protect students from teasing, bullying, or harassment based on their gender or gender identity.

To review the district's Gender -Inclusive Schools Policy 3211 and Procedure 3211P, visit mead354.org. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Gender -Inclusive Schools Coordinator: **Josh Westermann, Director of Student & Family Services:** josh.westermann@mead354.org, (509) 465-6008.

For concerns about discrimination or discriminatory harassment based on gender identity or gender expression, please see the information above.

SNACKS

Students may bring nutritional, store-bought snacks to school to eat individually in the classroom at the teachers' discretion. No eating is allowed on the school bus or on the playground. With regards to Birthday celebrations, it is a building decision to have no sweet treats sent to the classrooms, even if they are store bought. Exceptions will be made for Holiday celebrations.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND ATTITUDES

All staff and students at Meadow Ridge Elementary School work together to help each other reach their fullest potential. Everyone is treated with respect and dignity. Any behavior or action that helps someone grow and mature will be encouraged. Staff will keep students focused on our school guidelines. PAWS behavior is taught throughout the school year.

P - Practice responsibility

A - Always do your best

W - We are respectful

S - Safety first

TOBACCO -FREE ENVIRONMENT

District policy prohibits the use of any and all tobacco and/or nicotine products in or on all school property, including all buildings and grounds (playing fields, parking lots, etc.).

TOYS & ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Toys and electronics are a wonderful part of childhood but they can be very disruptive at school. Also, they can be attractive to thieves. No toys or electronics (cell phones, watches that can send/receive texts and calls, game boys, CD or DVD players, iPods, video cameras, cameras, etc.) are to be visible or audible at school. **Cell phones and Apple-type watches may only be utilized before or after school.** Under special circumstances, with prior arrangement from the teacher, these items may be brought at your own risk.

VOLUNTEERS/VISITORS

When visiting Meadow Ridge, please check in and pick up a visitor pass at the office. Part of our security system requires you to "scan" your driver's license upon check-in. For the safety of our students, we will be enforcing this for ALL visitors wishing access to the school beyond the front office. Volunteers are required to be vetted through the District Office annually. Click [HERE](#) to access the process.

WEAPONS

Our school district staff is dedicated to working with parents, police, and lawmakers to create the safest possible environment. Washington State law mandates that any student bringing a firearm to school, onto a school bus, or to any school-sponsored activity be expelled from all Washington State schools. The firearm need not be loaded or even in operating condition. In a similar law, a tougher stand against dangerous weapons is now in effect. The dangerous weapon list includes objects such as slingshots, air rifles, knives, and anything that propels a projectile such as a rubber dart gun, etc. Even a young child bringing such an object to school for "show and tell" faces serious consequences. Toy weapons should not be brought to school under any circumstances. Thank you for your support in helping us protect our students and staff and keep everyone safe.

WALKING and BICYCLING TO and FROM SCHOOL

At times, when the weather permits, students enjoy walking or bicycling to school. Bicycles must be walked across patrolled crossings and on the school grounds. Skateboards/roller blades/skates are never to be ridden on the school grounds. Bicycles should be secured at the school as the school cannot be responsible in case of loss. Helmets are required to be worn. For safety reasons, we request that all children ride the bus across busy intersections.