

Magruder Middle School

“Home of the mustangs” 2014-2015

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WWW.MAGRUDER.TUSD.ORG

Vision Statement

Magruder Middle School is the gateway where students gain self-awareness, learn to set goals and make positive choices, and apply their knowledge and skills to become empowered to recognize and take advantage of opportunities that lead them to personal success in a global society.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to create and maintain an environment that ensures all students reach a level of academic proficiency as determined by State and National standards. Teachers have a right to teach, students have a right to learn, and no one has a right to interfere with this process because failure is not an option.

Academic Integrity

The following principles will serve to support Magruder’s philosophy of “100% Student Engagement, 100% of the time” and our standards for Academic Integrity:

- 1. Affirm the importance of learning.** Magruder Middle School is dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and truth. Students must come to school prepared to learn and take advantage of every learning opportunity. Teachers affirm that learning and academic truth is grounded in certain core values including perseverance, diligence, civility, and honesty. Students will daily strive towards their pursuit of knowledge and academic truth.
- 2. Foster a love of learning.** A commitment to academic integrity is re-enforced by high academic standards. Most students will thrive in an atmosphere where academic work is seen as challenging (rigorous) and relevant. Every student will engage their quest for “knowledge and truth”, even if it involves a struggle.
- 3. Encourage student responsibility for academic integrity.** Students will be given significant responsibility to help protect and promote the highest standards of academic integrity. Students will work in classrooms where integrity is respected.
- 4. Students commitment to learning.** Students will respect the best values of learning and their teachers, including a commitment to the acquisition of knowledge and academic integrity.
- 6. Clarify expectations for students.** Teachers will communicate their expectations regarding honesty in academic work, including the nature and scope of student learning and collaboration.
- 7. Help define and support campus-wide academic integrity standards.** Responsibility for defining, promoting, and protecting academic integrity must be a school-wide concern (including students, parents), and affirm the shared values that make our school a true learning-community. Students should refrain from being drawn into acts of academic dishonesty by other students including plagiarism, copying, or allowing others to copy completed assignments and/or tests and quizzes.

(As adapted from College Administration Publications 2008)

Our expectation is that ALL students will read, understand, and synthesize the principles set forth. In the unlikely event that any one of our students is caught compromising our Academic Integrity Principles, Magruder will defer to TUSD Board Policy: (Excerpt from ADMINISTRATIVE RULE 5144 - DISCIPLINE POLICY FOR GRADES 6-12) Magruder Middle School has a zero-tolerance policy concerning cheating. If students violate this policy, consequences may include loss of credit, a lower citizenship grade, detention,

Saturday School, suspension, and/or adjustment to another school depending on the severity and/or number of violations.

Academic Accountability (PSA)

Our goal is to provide an environment where students experience a school-wide commitment to high standards of academic excellence and personal behavior. Recognition of superior performance is essential to student growth and development. Equally important is a need for a program to hold students accountable for unsatisfactory performance that will help them gain self-direction and a sense of responsibility.

Teachers and administration are actively involved in the development of consistent procedures that will be called the "Program for Student Accountability (PSA)."

Students are expected to:

- * maintain satisfactory grades of at least a "C" (2.0 GPA) average in achievement.
- * earn at least "Satisfactory" citizenship grades and maintain Above Average effort grades

Features of this student accountability program are:

1. Achievement and citizenship grades are used as criteria for identification.
2. Quarter and semester grades in core subjects will determine eligibility for placement
3. Unsatisfactory grades are defined as:
 - a. Less than a 2.0 grade point average for achievement grades on a 4.0 scale.
 - b. Two or more U's in citizenship.
4. Grades earned at the high school do not affect placement in the accountability program.
5. Students and parents are notified about the possibility of placement through school Progress Reports.
6. Students are identified for our accountability program at the end of each quarter.
Consequences for that identification are in effect for the subsequent quarter.

Consequences may include (but are not limited to):

- Restriction of school activities (e.g., School dances, Awards assemblies, Class competitions)
- A modified student schedule
- Adjustment transfer to another school
- Restriction of some or all promotion activities

Attendance

Absences

Students are required by state law to attend school full time until age 18. Studies show that there is a direct correlation between good school attendance and achievement; therefore, we encourage parents to help their children achieve the habit of daily attendance. Teachers are not required to provide make-up work for unexcused absences, for example babysitting, vacations, outings, family business, lack of proper clothing, private lessons, etc. If you find it necessary to keep your children out of school for reasons other than illness, we encourage you to send them to school for at least part of the day so that they will not be counted absent. This will also help them to keep up with assignments.

Schools are required by law to account for absences. When students return to school following full or partial-day absences, they must bring a note signed by a parent or guardian stating the exact dates and reasons to the Attendance Office before attending class.

If students forget their note, they must still check in at the Attendance Office. Students who serve 3 or more detentions for failing to bring in a note will not be allowed to attend any school activities for that semester. Students must check in at the Attendance Office by 8:00 a.m. daily to submit a note to verify any excused absences.

Tardies

If students are less than 20 minutes late to school, they must report directly to class. If students are more than 20 minutes late to school, they must report to the Attendance Office. If students have a note signed by a parent /

guardian indicating they are late due to doctor's appointment or confirmed illness by a physician, the tardy will count as excused. ALL other tardies are unexcused. (Please also see section marked "Tardy Policy" for school consequences associated with tardies).

Conduct at School (TUSD Board Policy 5131 (a), (b) and (c))

Students will . . .

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| ... treat everyone with respect. | ... keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves. |
| ... respect everyone's privacy and property. | ... have good citizenship and conduct. |
| ... attend class on time prepared to work. | ... use appropriate language. |
| ... remain on campus all day. | ... keep backpacks in lockers. |

Students will not . . .

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| ... fight or threaten others while at school. | ... distract from the learning process. |
| ... fight or threaten others on the way to school. | ... take backpacks to class. |
| ... fight or threaten others on the way home. | ... chew gum at school. |
| ... buy, sell, or trade food, gum, candy, cards, etc. | ... play roughly. |

Students come to school to learn. Teachers come to school to teach. Everything that prevents this from happening is inappropriate. Infractions of school rules will result in consequences that may include:

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| • Warning | • Out-of-school suspension |
| • Detention - before or after school; recess; lunchtime | • Parent visitation to school to monitor student |
| • Saturday School | • Adjustment transfer to another school |
| • In-school suspension | • Expulsion |

Students may be suspended* or expelled** for any of the following:

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| • Causing, attempting to cause, or threatening to cause physical injury to another person. | • Committing an obscene act or engaging in habitual profanity or vulgarity. |
| • Possessing, selling, or furnishing any firearm, knife, explosive, or other dangerous object. | • Unlawfully offering, arranging, or negotiating to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Section 11364 of the Health and Safety Code. |
| • Unlawfully possessing, using, selling, or otherwise furnishing or being under the influence of any controlled substance, as defined in Section 11007 of the Health and Safety Code, an alcoholic beverage or an intoxicant of any kind. | • Unlawfully offering, arranging, or negotiating to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Section 11364 of the Health and Safety Code. |
| • Unlawfully offering, arranging, or negotiating to sell any controlled substance, as defined in Section 11007 of the Health and Safety Code, an alcoholic beverage, any "look alike" controlled substance, or an intoxicant of any kind. | • Disrupting school activities or otherwise willfully defying the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, administrators, school officials, or other school personnel engaged in the performance of their duties. |
| • Committing robbery or extortion. | • Knowingly receiving stolen school or private property. |
| • Causing or attempting to cause damage to school property or private property. | • Harassment (sexual or otherwise) of another student. |
| • Stealing or attempting to steal school or private property. | |
| • Possessing or using tobacco or any products containing tobacco or nicotine. | |

Due process shall be afforded each student suspended or expelled. All such action will be taken in strict conformity with the procedures and limitations set forth in the Education Code.

Education Code 49079 requires that teachers be informed of a pupil's suspension and the infraction specific to the case, as described in Education Code 48900, except for smoking. This information shall be provided confidentially to teacher for the previous three school years.

* Suspension: Removal of a student from school for a specified length of time.

** Expulsion: The dismissal of a student from all Torrance Unified School District schools.

Dress and Grooming (TUSD Board Policy 5132)

In keeping with Board policy, students are expected to dress in a manner that is supportive of a positive learning environment that is free of distractions and disruptions. If it is determined that a student's dress is inappropriate or distracts others from learning, that student will be required to change their attire. Upon multiple infractions, students may receive consequences including detention, Saturday detention, or suspension.

1. Clothes shall conceal underwear at all times. Each individual piece of clothing must meet a **2-inch minimum** per strap / shoulder width. "Sagging" pants are not permitted.
2. Neckline of shirts, and low-cut or off the shoulder-type tops, **may not exceed more than 3 inches below collar bone**. Sheer or fishnet fabrics, halter-tops, and bare midriffs are prohibited.
3. Short and skirt length must be **no shorter** than the longest point of fingertips when arms are relaxed at side.
4. Closed toed shoes and socks must be worn at all times. **Tennis or athletic shoes are required for physical education.**
5. Clothing, jewelry and personal items (backpacks, gym bags, water bottles, etc.) shall be free from writing, pictures, or any other insignia which are vulgar, profane, or which advocate racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, or religious prejudice.
6. Hats and beanies are not allowed unless they display the Magruder or North High logo. Other hats may be worn only in medical / religious events as approved by the principal in advance. Students may not wear hoods. Sun-protective clothing must comply with District and school site dress and grooming standards.
6. Swimwear, pajamas, nightgowns, and oversized clothing are not appropriate school wear.

The principal and staff may establish reasonable dress and grooming regulations for times when students are engaged in certain sports and/or classes, extracurricular or other special school activities.

Electronics- TUSD Board Policy 5131 (d)

Students may possess or use personal electronic signaling devices, including but not limited to pagers, cellular / digital telephones, as well as other mobile communications devices including, but not limited to, digital media players, and personal digital assistants, compact disc players, portable game consoles, cameras, digital scanners, and laptop computers.

Permitted devices shall:

1. Be turned off during class time, and at any other time as directed by a District employee
2. Not disrupt the educational program or school activity
3. Not be used for illegal or unethical activities such as cheating on assignments or tests.

If a disruption occurs or a student uses any mobile communications device for improper activities, the employee shall direct the student to turn off the device and/or confiscate it. If a school employee finds it necessary to confiscate a device, he/she may either return it at the end of the class period or school day or keep it until the principal or designee has consulted with the student's parent/guardian and in accordance with TUSD AR 5144.

In accordance with the Board of Education's policy and administrative regulation on search and seizure, a school official may search a student's mobile communications device, including, but not limited to, reviewing messages or viewing pictures. (*cf. 5145.12 – Search and Seizure*) A student who violates this policy may be prohibited from

possessing a personal electronic signaling device at school or school-related events and/or may be subject to further discipline in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulation. Students are not allowed to possess laser beam pointers on school grounds (California Penal Code 417.27 (a), (b), (c), and (d)).

Homework

Current research studies point to the value of regular homework as part of the instructional program. Some benefits of homework are:

- * Growth in academic achievement.
- * Opportunities for developing responsibility, self-discipline, and organizational skills.
- * Extending the school experience or enriching a learning activity.

To secure the benefits of regular homework for students, the following guidelines for homework assignments have been established by the Board of Education:

An average of one hour should be devoted to homework nightly, Monday through Friday. There may be long-term assignments requiring budgeting of time. Parent responsibility is not in the area of teaching, but in reinforcing our position that homework is done promptly and with care.

Parents may request homework for students who are absent three or more days. Please call the school before 10:00 am. for same day 3:00pm pick-up in the school office.

Honor Roll Standards

A minimum 3.50 grade point average (GPA) based on the achievement grade is required for Honor Roll membership. Grade point averages are not rounded off (a 3.49 is not rounded off to a 3.50.) All grades must be "A," "B," or "C." All classes, including those taken at North High School, are used to determine eligibility.

All citizenship grades must be "E" or "S." Any student who earns a GPA of 3.5 or higher, but has a "U" or "N" on his report card is not eligible for the Honor Roll.

Notebook Policy (including Backpacks and Bookbags)

Students should come to school prepared with a 3-ring binder along with paper, dividers for each subject, and pens and pencils every day. These items along with a school agenda, help students keep track of papers and assignments needed for daily schoolwork. All students must keep backpacks / book bags in their lockers during school hours (backpacks / book bags in classrooms create safety hazards and occasionally lead to theft). Purses / personal bags smaller than 12" x 8" will be allowed in the classroom. Students should plan adequate locker time before school, at recess, at lunch, and after school. Students are not allowed to go to their lockers during class time or between class periods.

Personal Property

Students are discouraged from bringing valuable items to school. Personal items brought to school are the sole responsibility of the student and the school is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen items. Students should bring only enough money to school each day to purchase lunch.

Public Displays of Affection (PDA)

Public Displays of Affection (PDA) of any type are not allowed **on school grounds** before, during or after school. This includes, but is not limited to, hugging, holding hands, and kissing. Students engaged in PDA will be subject to disciplinary action.

Student ID Cards

Students will be issued a Magruder ID card, which should remain with them at all times while in school.

The ID card is used for the purchase of cafeteria lunches, to checkout library books and for school activities. Student ID card must be shown to school personnel upon request. Students may also use their ID cards to obtain discounts at certain local businesses.

School News

Students are responsible for knowing academic progress, assignments and school news. This can be done via our Daily Bulletin (announced each day), and on-line via our Magruder School website (www.magruder.tusd.org) and School App (for both iPhone and Android platforms) and “Student Connect”. Parents may also access student progress, academics and school news via “ParentConnect” using their assigned log-in username and password.

Tardy Policy

Students are expected to arrive on time to all classes, including first period. Students and parents share this responsibility. The following consequences are issued to students who arrive late to class, as directed by school attendance policy (Please note that we adhere to a Progressive Discipline policy):

Three tardies = After-School detention

Six tardies = Student Referral and After-School detention

Nine tardies = Saturday school

Twelve tardies = In-House suspension

Teachers will also assign classroom consequences that may include lower citizenship grades. Please note that tardies are reset to zero (0) at the end of each quarter.

Textbooks

Individual textbooks are issued to students. It is their responsibility to cover them and treat them with care. Book covers can easily be made at home. Students are responsible for textbooks that are damaged, lost, or stolen. It is the student’s responsibility to pay for all missing or lost textbooks. Student report card (and promotion certificate, if in 8th grade) will be held until reimbursement is made. If the textbook is later found and returned, any fees paid will be refunded.

Traffic Safety

To assure safety while traveling to and from school, students crossing Prairie must do so by accessing the pedestrian bridge located near the south Prairie gate. Furthermore, bicycle, skateboard, and scooter riding are Not Allowed on the school grounds at any time and will result in school consequences and/or confiscation. Due to safety reasons, skateboarding and scooters as a means of transportation to and from school is strongly discouraged.

Zero Tolerance Policy

The staff and students at our school actively protect the safety of this campus. We enforce a policy of Zero Tolerance. The following violations may result in immediate suspension and/or expulsion from the Torrance Unified School District:

- Possession of a firearm
- Brandishing a knife
- Sale of a controlled substance
- Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or battery
- Harassing, threatening, or intimidating a witness

In addition, the following violations will result in immediate suspension and a determination of further action that may result in expulsion proceedings:

- Serious physical injury to others
- Assault or battery upon any school employee
- Possession of knives, explosives or other dangerous objects
- Possession of a controlled substance
- Robbery or extortion

Anyone with information regarding the above violations is encouraged to inform school personnel. You may call this number anonymously for the same purpose. 1-800-78-CRIME.

Creating A College Going Culture

College-going culture refers to the environment, attitudes, and practices in schools and communities that encourage students and their families to obtain the information, tools, and perspective to enhance access to and success in post-secondary education. Three necessary elements are:

1. Students learn about options for their future, careers and the education they require, as early as elementary school, with a specific focus beginning in middle school.
2. Schools convey the expectation that all students can prepare for the opportunity to attend and be successful in post-secondary education.
3. Schools, families, and communities give students the same message of high expectations for their future.

COMPARISON OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION / COLLEGE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

SUBJECT	TUSD/ HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (UC) CALIF STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU) PRIVATE/INDEPENDENT COLLEGES (RECOMMENDED)
A. History and Social Science	3 years: 1 year World History 1 year U.S. History 1 semester U.S. Government 1 semester Economics	UC: 1 year World History and 1 year U.S. History or one-half year U.S. History and one-half year Government. CSU: 2 years Social Science, including 1 year U.S. History or one-half year U.S. History and one-half year Government
B. English	4 years	4 years college prep
C. Mathematics	2 years	3 years required Algebra 1; Geometry; Algebra 2 (UC/Private recommend 4 years):
D. Science	2 years: 1 year Biological 1 Year Physical	2 years Lab Science required taken from at least two of these areas: Biology; Chemistry; Physics UC/Private recommend 3 years)
E. Foreign Language	1 year Foreign Language or 1 year Fine Arts	2 years of same Foreign Language (UC/Private recommend 3 years)
F. Fine Arts	1 year Foreign Language or 1 year Fine Arts	1 year of Visual and Performing Arts
G. Additional Requirements	1 semester Health 2 years Physical Education – must take PE in 9 th & 10 th grades Pass California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) 6 semesters of satisfactory citizenship	1 year of an additional college prep elective from English, advanced math, history, social science, science, foreign language, or visual and performing arts.

In addition to college-going, the broad goal is for students to believe they can have a great future, and that they can Plan and prepare for many options leading to a creative and productive life after high school. Students may think they know what they want, but we know their interests and career aspirations may and most likely will change, and they need to be prepared for those possibilities. Students need to know that there are many paths they can take to have a successful life journey. (Excerpts from “*College Tools for Schools*” collegetools@lists.berkeley.edu).