

Valley School

2019-2020 Handbook

CONTACT INFORMATION

2508 Blichmann Avenue
Grand Junction, Colorado 81505
<http://valley.d51schools.org/home>

Office: 970.254.5501

OFFICE STAFF

Principal.....Sara Krick
Counselor.....Lori Starr
Principal’s Secretary.....Cheryl Watters

Hours: 7:30 – 4:00

Si usted necesita traducción en español favor de llamar al 254-5339. Estamos para servirles.

CLASS SCHEDULES

Morning (AM) Session

Period 2.....8:20 – 9:25
Passing Period.....9:25 – 9:33
Period 3.....9:33 – 10:38
Passing Period.....10:38 – 10:45
Period 4.....10:45 – 11:40

Afternoon (PM) Session

Period 6.....12:10 – 1:10
Passing Period.....1:10 – 1:15
Period 7.....1:15 – 2:15
Period 8.....2:15 – 2:55

Valley Lunch.....11:40 – 12:10

“The Wednesday Drive”

Having the drive to persevere, to stoke your curiosity,
to embrace life, learning and service,
and to build relationships through time spent together.

Wednesdays are for all Valley students!

Students are scheduled to attend Valley School every Wednesday. When a student meets or exceeds a Target Date credit goal, Wednesday attendance becomes a choice for the student. Choice Wednesdays are only for dates listed on the Wednesday Drive card that students receive to recognize their hard work.

We always encourage *all* students to participate in our Wednesday activities throughout the school year.

Wednesdays are scheduled to spend time for what we value:

Building relationships
Exploring the outdoors
Learning and serving within the community
Engaging in healthy, fun activities
Extra time and support for Valley academic classes

EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL VALLEY STUDENTS

- Respect others and yourself
- Strong work ethic
- Attend school consistently (both placements)
- Utilize this opportunity to learn and progress
- Strive to meet your goals
- Ask for help when you need it
- Have a second placement

Valley students are always expected to conduct themselves in a positive and mature manner in the classroom, on campus, and at any school sponsored function. Our respect also extends to the Western Colorado Community College, as we are guests on their campus. So as not to disturb WCCC classes, students are to only be in the front commons area of Building B and to use the front restrooms in Building B. At no time should students be in the back of Building B, inside or outside.

FULL-TIME SCHEDULE

Valley School is considered a half-day placement. Since our curriculum focuses on core subjects, all students must have a second placement in order to earn elective credits. A required second placement may be one of the following: their home school, a job or volunteering (minimum of 20 documented hours weekly), Western Colorado Community College (WCCC), or the Career Center.

Students enrolled at Valley School will have a class schedule created after review of their transcripts, or as otherwise requested by their home school. A student's schedule is based upon academic need and should be followed to achieve academic success at Valley School.

CREDITS AND UNITS EARNED

Valley School offers core classes for students, grades 8 through 12. Middle school students earn units and high school students earn credits toward graduation. These are earned on an individual basis. Progress in meeting individual goals will be monitored throughout the school year. Students are a critical part of the monitoring process so they will always be informed about meeting their goals and if they are making adequate progress.

Students are expected to progress at a satisfactory rate which is determined by each student's own circumstances. Generally, students are expected to earn a minimum of 2.0 academic credits at Valley School during a semester. It is recommended that schoolwork also be done at home in order to meet the requirements.

Students may earn elective credit through a job or volunteer work where time is documented. Students must fill out a work agreement with Valley School and their employer. Students earn .5 elective credit for every 60 hours worked. Work credit and volunteer credit is limited to three credits per school year. Students may not be supervised by a family member and volunteer work should be completed with a non-profit organization or for career exploration.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Valley School staff is committed to helping every student find success at Valley. Staff members work together with the student and family to support the student. However, if the student is not making progress in meeting his/her goals, the student may be transitioned back to their home school. This transition back to the home school gives the student an opportunity to explore other viable academic options in order for the student to make progress toward graduation.

COMPUTER CURRICULUM

Computer curriculum is offered throughout the district. Students may utilize a computerized program at Valley to take a class, replace a grade, or work on basic skills.

FEES

There is a \$25 per semester fee for students to attend Valley School. There is also a science fee of \$15 per year. Student fees will be waived for those students who have been approved for Free/Reduced Lunches.

ATTENDANCE POLICY AND GUIDELINES

Our high expectations for class attendance include punctuality and preparation. Valley students are expected to attend class daily and to arrive on time. Students must sign in at the front office if they arrive late. Students arriving after class has started will be marked tardy. If they are more than 20 minutes late for class, they will be marked absent.

Attendance is crucial to success at Valley School. Attendance with credit/unit earned means steady progress towards an individual's goals and a high school diploma.

Valley School is responsible to know a student's whereabouts during Valley School hours. Students must check out in the main office with parent/guardian permission prior to leaving campus.

If you are absent due to illness, family emergencies, religious observances, injury, medical appointment, etc., we ask that a parent/guardian please call to notify us of the absence before 1:00 PM that day. You may also bring a signed note from your parent/guardian. Any absences in which your parent/guardian has not contacted the office before the end of the day will be considered unexcused. Attendance is mandatory for students under the age of 17. Valley attendance is documented at the student's home school, as well as Valley School. The home school may call the parent/guardian's phone with a recorded message noting the Valley School absence.

TARDY POLICY

If you are late to class after a scheduled break:

AM students:

Students will make up the lost time due to tardies by staying in their last class an additional 5 minutes (11:40 – 11:45). They may use that time to continue working in the class.

PM students:

Students will make up the time lost due to tardies by staying in during their break the next day that they attend Valley.

WITHDRAWAL FROM VALLEY SCHOOL

If you move or voluntarily withdraw from Valley school, please notify the main office at Valley, return all books, and pay any outstanding fees. You will also need to notify your home school.

RESTROOM BREAKS

Students must sign out in the classroom prior to leaving. Only one student at a time may leave. Students are to use the front restrooms at WCCC, Building B, only. Students are to go directly to the restroom and back to class.

PHONE USE

To maintain focus on academics and not interrupt the learning environment, students are expected to keep their phones put away during class time. Students may use their phones before and after their classes at Valley and on breaks. If a student chooses to use his/her phone outside of Phone Policy guidelines, the following will occur:

- 1st – Student is given reminder to put phone away
- 2nd – Student is asked to have the teacher hold the phone until the end of class
- 3rd – Student is asked to go to the office to have the principal hold the phone until the end of the session
- 4th – Parent is asked to come pick up the phone at the parent’s convenience

SNACKS/SCHOOL MEALS

Valley School does not serve lunch or breakfast, however, students may get meals from their home school cafeteria or bring their own meal to Valley. A refrigerator and microwave are available for student use.

Valley School store offers a limited number of snack and food options for purchase by students at the following times:

8:00 - 8:20

9:25 – 9:33

11:40 – 12:00

DRESS GUIDELINES

It is the intent of the student dress guidelines to promote a positive and focused learning climate. All clothing worn by students should exhibit respect and responsibility for themselves and others. It is the goal of Valley School to prepare students for the workforce. Maintaining expectations for appropriate attire in school supports that goal.

- Clothing that identifies or refers to illegal substances; alcohol/tobacco/drug/group/gang identifications (including but not limited to bandanas, hairnets); obscenities; sexual themes; violence; or degrade any race, creed, or gender may not be worn to school.
- The following are considered inappropriate attire: clothing that exposes undergarments or is transparent, strapless tops, spaghetti straps, halter tops, one shoulder or off the shoulder tops, tube tops, low cut tops that expose cleavage, clothing that exposes the torso (side, back, or front) and muscle tops.
- Shorts and skirts may not be shorter than fist length (arms extended down and the hand is making a fist).
- Dangerous clothing (chains and apparel with pointed studs) is not allowed. This also applies to wallet chains.
- Clothing with holes in inappropriate places is not allowed.
- Shoes must be worn at all times.
- Hats, caps, visors, hoods on hoodies, gloves, and sunglasses may be worn to school, but must be taken off while in the building.
- The items listed above are examples of what attire is inappropriate but is not considered exhaustive.

If it is determined that a student’s dress does not meet the guidelines, it is expected that the student will change or modify his/her clothing to comply with policy. There are available items of clothing at Valley to help the student make the adjustment, if necessary. If the student refuses, a parent will be contacted. Valley School administration will have the final authority to impose reasonable regulations concerning dress.

DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

Handholding is an example of appropriate behavior on school grounds. Kissing and embracing of a personal nature between students is not appropriate behavior at school.

PARKING

It is considered a privilege to park on school grounds. Students are expected to drive safely in the parking lot and obey all traffic laws. The parking lot is for vehicles, not a place for students to congregate. Students are to go directly to their destination once they park on campus and are not to go to the parking lot during school hours.

The school is not responsible for the automobile or its contents. Student vehicles may be subject to search if there are reasonable grounds to believe that drugs, alcohol, stolen property or other contraband might be present in that vehicle.

VISITORS

Parents or guardians are always welcome. All visitors must sign-in/out at the front office upon arriving on or leaving campus.

BOARD POLICY STATEMENT

Student conduct and discipline are addressed in School Board Policy. The following are just a few of our School Board Policies. Please refer to the district website for a list of all policies.

BULLYING

Valley School embraces a culture of respect for all people. We, therefore, have a no tolerance policy on bullying. Bullying is defined as the use of physical or verbal coercion to obtain control over others or to be habitually cruel to others who are weaker. (Board policy JICDE)

ELECTRONIC MEDIA

All programs and computer equipment are the property of Mesa County Valley School District #51. Before being granted privileges to use the District's technology, all students must sign the Responsible Use Agreement (RUA). If the student is under the age of 18, a parent/guardian must also sign the RUA. (Board Policy JS-R)

ILLEGAL USE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS/TOBACCO ON CAMPUS

School policy prohibits use, possession, distribution or being under the influence of alcohol, drugs or other controlled substances on school premises or at school activities. Entering or being upon school premises or being in a school-related activity while using, possessing or under the influence of alcohol, drugs or intoxicants are serious violations of school rules and shall be grounds for appropriate discipline. (Policy JICH-R)

In order to promote the general health, welfare and well-being of students and staff, smoking, chewing, vaping or any other use of any tobacco products by staff, students or members of the public is prohibited on all school property. Possession of any tobacco product by a student is also prohibited on school property. (Board Policy ADC)

THEFT

Students are cautioned not to bring large amounts of money or valuables to school or school activities. It is the students' responsibility to lock their bicycles, automobiles, and any valuables. In the event of theft on school grounds, the school does not accept responsibility for personal articles or property. (Board Policy JICDA)

SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF SCHOOL RULES

The following serious violations will result in automatic suspension, possible recommendation to the Superintendent for expulsion, and prompt reporting to the appropriate law enforcement officials:

- Assaulting a staff member or a student
- Possessing or using a dangerous weapon, fireworks, or explosives
- Using any object as a weapon in a threatening manner
- Threatening or menacing with harmful intent

DUE PROCESS STUDENT RIGHTS

Due process is a procedure that the courts of law recognize as a necessary responsibility of the school for all students. Due process is of primary importance because it recognizes the right of individuals to have recourse within a decision making process. Due process assures the student of the following steps:

- Regulations and penalties are available in writing.
- The student has the right to be informed of specific reasons for action.
- All members are obligated to work out difficulties at the level at which they occur, if possible. The first step is to privately and respectfully speak with the staff member to attempt to resolve conflict.
- The student has the right to present a defense against charges and to produce information in his/her parents/guardians' presence.
- The student, administrator, and/or teacher has the right to request the presence of the parent/guardians.
- Proper consideration should be given to the student's right to privacy.
- Disciplinary action shall be reasonable and related to the infraction.
- Restorative Practices should be implemented whenever appropriate.

**Above all else, Valley School seeks to create a culture
of respect for all members of our school community.
We work to maintain a safe environment where students
want to come to learn, to feel cared about, and welcomed.
We appreciate your help in making Valley School that kind of place.**