

MESCALERO APACHE SCHOOLS

Student-Parent Policy Handbook

School Year 2026-2027



HOME OF THE CHIEFS

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Adopted and Approved by Resolution No. 26-34 on March 10, 2026

Welcome to Mescalero Apache Schools

On behalf of the faculty and staff, welcome to Mescalero Apache Schools (MAS). Our goal is to make this a safe, productive, and rewarding academic year. We recognize the worth and value of every student as individuals and as members of our community. Classroom instruction, athletic activities, and cultural programs are designed to encourage students to pursue academic excellence, personal growth, and leadership. This Student-Parent Handbook serves as a 'quick reference' summarizing key provisions of our school policies and procedures. We encourage students and parents to read through these policies together to establish a strong partnership for success. Have an excellent school year!

CORE VALUES

RESPECT (Hndejiłchii) — Having concern for harmonious relationships; honoring yourself, your peers, your family, your elders, your ancestors, your teachers, your school, your community, and your tribe; having courteous regard for others' feelings and values.

RESPONSIBILITY — Being responsible to our People—past, present, and future—as well as our environment and other living things. Responsibility is a form of trustworthiness, being accountable for your words, actions, and conduct in all you do.

COMMUNITY/SERVICE — We belong to the Mescalero Apache School community, as well as the communities of our neighborhoods, reservation, and nation. We hold a responsibility to provide service to make our community a better place for all.

CULTURE — We honor and value our own cultures and those of others. We recognize we are influenced by many cultures, including Indigenous, youth, and contemporary western cultures, and remain mindful of how this affects identity development.

PERSEVERANCE — Indigenous people have endured because of the perseverance and determination of those who came before us. We make our ancestors proud by remaining constant to a purpose, idea, or task in spite of obstacles.

REFLECTION — Indigenous thinking and learning is a reflective process involving a deliberate looking inward, self-awareness, and contemplation of deeper meanings to encourage thoughtfulness, personal growth, and meaningful change.

Mission & Vision Statements

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Mescalero Apache Schools is to equip each student with the knowledge and skills necessary to be a confident, cooperative, critical decision maker and ethical contributor to a competitive and ever-changing world. This purpose is accomplished by providing an academically rigorous curriculum, diverse co-curricular opportunities, and effective instructional strategies which challenge all students to reach their highest levels of achievement.

Traditional Apache Core Quadrants of Learning

Self-Actualization & Journey	Knowledge & Empowerment	Diversity & Teamwork	Respect & Choices
'Be strong in your journey!' We aspire to live a good life. <i>Hnzhuu natsedziikes/hnzhuu indaa'i yéguch'i</i>	'We gain knowledge to empower us.' <i>Nahi át'e'i shi nahi zaa'i bee danl dzil</i>	'We have diversity and teamwork to engage.' <i>Lila daajije i bee hnzhu daal ji ch'ii</i>	'We have respect to make good choices.' <i>Hndejiilch'i bee hnzhu ya ajinda</i>

OUR VISION STATEMENT

Every Mescalero Apache School student will commit to the following path:

- **Respect the Past (Hndejiilchii)** — Honoring the teachings, struggles, and traditions of ancestors.
- **Value Culture and Language** — Developing fluency in Apache language, values, and ceremonies.
- **Prepare for a Life Path of Learning** — Acquiring modern knowledge and academic skills for lifelong growth.

Academic Guidelines & Grading Policies

Academic grades are computed on a nine-week basis. Semester grades are calculated using a strict **40/40/20 weighted split**: 40% from the first nine-weeks, 40% from the second nine-weeks, and 20% from the compulsory semester examination. A minimum of two (2) grades per week must be recorded in the teacher's grade book to support the quarter and semester grades.

Grade	Range	GP Point (General)	GP Point (Advanced)
A	90% - 100%	4.0	5.0
B	80% - 89%	3.0	4.0
C	70% - 79%	2.0	3.0
D	60% - 69%	1.0	2.0
F	59% and Below	0.0	0.0

Grade Floor & Averaging Rules

Academic Recovery Grade Floor (50% & 40% Rules): High school students who receive failing quarter grades will not be given a grade less than **50%** for their report card. However, if a student fails both the first and third nine-week quarters, their grade floor for those quarters will be capped at no less than **40%**. During the second and fourth quarters, their earned grade will be averaged with 50% to ensure academic recovery remains viable.

Two-Semester Course Grade Averaging: High school students can earn full credit for a full-year, two-semester course if they fail the first semester but pass the second semester, provided the combined average of both semesters is **60% or above**. Note: A passing first semester and failing second semester cannot be averaged, and credit will not be granted for the second semester.

Progress Reports & Homework Policy

Progress Reports & Report Cards: Written progress reports are mailed home at the fifth (5th) week of each nine-week grading period. Report cards are mailed at the completion of each nine-week cycle. When a student is failing a course, teachers must immediately notify the counselor/principal and document a parent contact (via phone, mail, or visit).

Homework Policies: Homework is assigned to extend classroom instruction. If a student is absent, one (1) day of make-up time is granted per excused daily absence. Work missed due to unexcused absences may still be submitted for credit. If a student fails to submit homework on time, a score of zero (0) will initially be recorded, triggering advisory support.

High School Graduation & Special Programs

Graduation Requirement: High school graduation requires a minimum of **24.5 credits**. Course offerings remain subject to change in alignment with state, federal, and BIE guidelines. Students must complete all required subjects to receive a high school diploma.

Required Subject Area	Credits	Special Course Requirements & Guidelines
English	4.0 credits	Comprehensive English composition, literature, and analysis.
Mathematics	4.0 credits	Algebra I, II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, or Financial Literacy.
Science	3.0 credits	Lab sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, etc., including 2 w/lab).
Social Science	3.0 credits	World History, US History, Geography, and Government/Economics.
Apache Language	2.0 credits	Apache I and Apache II are mandatory for all graduates.
Physical Education	1.0 credit	Physical development and health-oriented activities.
Health Education	0.5 credit	Mandatory state and BIE health curriculum.
Computer Education	0.5 credit	Digital literacy, computer applications, or programming.
New Mexico History	0.5 credit	Comprehensive study of NM cultural and political history.
Dual Credit	0.5 credit	Earn at least half (0.5) credit through college-level courses.
Electives & Service	6.5 credits	Includes vocational, fine arts, and 80 hours Community Service .

Special Academic Programs & Classifications

Academic ICU — 'No Zeros!': The Academic ICU program provides a structured intervention environment (Intervention for Completion and Understanding) during advisory or RII periods. Students with missing or poor-quality assignments are assigned to ICU and must remain on the list until they earn a score of 50% or better for their assignments.

High School Grade Classification: Progress towards promotion is based strictly on credits earned:

- **Freshman:** 0 to 6.0 credits | • **Sophomore:** 6.5 to 12.0 credits
- **Junior:** 12.5 to 18.0 credits | • **Senior:** 18.5+ credits. All 8th graders must develop an annual graduation plan.

Honor Societies: MAS hosts chapters for the National Honor Society (NHS, GPA 3.5+ for grades 10-12), National Art Honor Society (NAHS, GPA 2.5+), Science National Honor Society (3.0+ GPA in science), and International Robotics Honor Society (outstanding STEM scholarship).

Attendance, Truancy, & K-5 School Hours

Regular attendance is critical to school achievement. In order to receive the maximum benefit of classroom instruction, students must arrive on time and be prepared to learn. To curb educational neglect, the Mescalero Apache Tribal Council passed **Tribal Ordinance 08-05 (Truancy Code)**, establishing compulsory attendance and judicial procedures for extreme truancy. Non-court interventions will be utilized first by the school Attendance Committee (composed of certified/non-certified community members).

K-5 Attendance Policy & AM/PM Timing Rules

Elementary school students (Grades K-5) are subject to a maximum allowance of **ten (10) absences per semester** for any reason. Attendance warning notices are mailed to the home on a progressive schedule: the **5th, 7th, 10th, 15th, and 18th** cumulative absences.

To maintain accurate tracking, school hours are divided into strict AM and PM accounting periods. Three (3) tardies count as one (1) full absence. The following times apply to elementary attendance:

Time Range	Attendance Status	Rules & Consequences
8:00 AM	Instruction Begins	Students must be in classrooms prepared to learn.
8:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Tardy for AM	Arriving during this window is a tardy. 3 tardies = 1 absence.
After 9:45 AM	Absent for AM	Student is marked absent for the entire morning session.
12:15 PM - 1:15 PM	Early Checkout	Checking a student out during this hour counts as a PM absence.
12:45 PM	PM Roll Call	PM attendance is verified at this exact hour.
12:45 PM - 1:15 PM	Tardy for PM	Late arrivals for the afternoon session count as a PM tardy.
After 1:15 PM	Absent for PM	Late arrivals after 1:15 PM count as a full PM absence.

Risk of Retention Notification: Parents of elementary students will receive a formal notification by mail on the student's **20th absence** stating that the student will be retained at their current grade level. Parents have the right to appeal this decision to the Attendance Committee, as detailed on Page 7.

Middle/High School Attendance & Tribal Leaves

Middle School (Grades 6-8) Attendance Policies

Middle school students are permitted a maximum of **ten (10) absences per semester** for any reason (including OSS). Roll call is taken every period. If a student is late by less than fifteen (15) minutes, they are marked tardy. If they are late by more than fifteen (15) minutes, they are marked absent. Warning notices are mailed home on the **3rd, 6th, and 15th absences**. Notification of the risk of retention is sent at the 15th absence, and a final retention letter is sent on the **20th absence**.

High School (Grades 9-12) Attendance Policies

High school students are permitted a maximum of **ten (10) absences per class per semester**. Roll call is taken each class period. Tardiness of 15 minutes or less is a tardy (three tardies = one absence); lateness of more than 15 minutes is an absence. Warning notices are sent on the **5th, 7th, and 10th absences**. Notification of credit loss is sent prior to the 10th absence, and a final loss of credit notice is sent on the **13th absence**.

Contesting Retention/Loss of Credit Hearings

Parents may contest retention or credit loss by writing to the Attendance Committee within **two (2) weeks** of the notice. **Appeals are strictly barred if a K-8 student has more than twenty (20) absences, or if a 9-12 student has more than thirteen (13) absences**. The parent must attend the hearing in person. The Committee may waive absences for extraordinary circumstances like hospitalization or death in the immediate family (not to exceed 5 days).

Coming of Age and Other Tribal Ceremonies

Coming of Age Ceremony (Apache Feast): Female students participating in their Coming of Age Ceremony are granted excused absences that do not count toward the semester limits. This includes the **four (4) days prior to the ceremony, the four (4) days of the ceremony, and the four (4) days following the ceremony (12 days total)**. A parent's written request must be submitted to the Superintendent at least one (1) month in advance. Absences for preparation (wood gathering, teepee poles, buckskin fittings) and absences of siblings or relatives *will count* toward regular attendance limits.

Other Tribal Ceremonials: School days falling during the Tribe's Annual 4th of July Ceremonial or other officially sponsored tribal ceremonies do not count toward absence limits. Absences during tribal dividend days are unexcused unless supported by a licensed physician's note.

Student Discipline & On-Campus Restorative Support

Good discipline creates a safe, productive teaching and learning environment. Discipline at MAS is intended to teach students self-responsibility, respect for authority, and positive behavior. In most cases, discipline should be progressive, treating the first violation less strictly than repeated ones. Severe disruptions, however, warrant immediate or heightened punishment to protect other students and school personnel.

The Accountability School (Alternative to Suspension)

On-Campus Accountability School

In our efforts to eliminate learning gaps, MAS has established an on-campus Accountability School as an alternative to Out-of-School Suspension (OSS). This supervised environment ensures students stay current with their regular curriculum and receive support. Key guidelines include:

- **Certified Teacher-Led:** Led by a certified Accountability Teacher who gathers regular assignments from the student's teachers.
- **Full-Day Placement:** Students are segregated from the general student population during lunch and breaks.
- **Special Education:** Students in Special Education continue to receive all IEP services and accommodations as scheduled.
- **Absence Make-Up:** Any absences from the Accountability School must be made up. Students remain in placement until all assigned days are served.

Classroom Rules & Parent Notification

Due Process: Prior to receiving any discipline, students will be made aware of the alleged violations, informed of the factual basis, and given the opportunity to admit, deny, or present their side of the situation.

Immediate Parent Notification: Except for minor verbal warnings, parents must be notified of any disciplinary action in writing or by telephone within twenty-four (24) hours. Staff must document all notification attempts in writing in the student's file, noting the date, time, and whether contact was correct.

Discipline Carrying Over: Although regular discipline records reset annually and do not carry forward from year to year, any Accountability School placement or expulsion issued near the end of the school year will carry forward into the next school year. (e.g., if 20 days remain on the last day of school, the student serves the remaining 20 days upon return).

Violations Matrix: Ditching, Fighting, & Self-Defense

Ditching & Out-of-Class Progressive Penalties

Ditching is defined as being present on school property but not in your scheduled class or ISS. Violations result in immediate placement in In-School Suspension (ISS) or referral to the Accountability School:

Grade Band	1st Violation	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Grades K-5	1 - 3 days ISS	3 days ISS	1 day OSS	3 days OSS	4 days OSS	Accountability School
Grades 6-12	1 - 3 days ISS	3 days ISS	4 days ISS	3 days OSS	4 days OSS	Accountability School

Fighting & Progressive Disciplinary Matrix

Fighting includes any non-consensual, violent physical attack on another student or school personnel. **Fighting is strictly prohibited and law enforcement is notified for each violation.** The previous Zero-Tolerance automatic 70-day suspension is replaced with the following progressive matrix:

Grade Band	1st Violation	2nd Violation	3rd Violation	4th Violation
Grades K-5	OSS up to 3 school days	OSS up to 4 days, police, parent meeting, 2 counselor mtgs	Referral to Accountability School	OSS up to 8 days, police, parent meeting, 2 counselor mtgs
Grades 6-12	6 days OSS, police, parent meeting, 2 counselor mtgs (within 30 days)	8 days OSS, parent meeting, 2 counselor mtgs (within 30 days)	Referral to Accountability School for remainder of year	8 days OSS, parent meeting, Superintendent recommendation for expulsion

Fighting Severity Enhancers: A student is immediately treated as having committed a 2nd or 3rd violation on their first offense if: (1) there is more than one perpetrator, (2) the fight results in physical injury (bruising, bloody nose, cuts, black eye, etc.), or (3) there is evidence that the fight was planned or gang-related.

Self-Defense Administrative Holds & Matrix

MAS recognizes the right to self-protection. Students claiming self-defense may be placed on a **temporary administrative hold (up to 24 hours)** while video and witness evidence are reviewed. To qualify as self-defense: (1) student must not have initiated the conflict, (2) force was necessary to escape, and (3) force stopped as soon as the threat ended. Lighter consequences apply:

Grade Band	1st Self-Defense Violation	2nd Self-Defense Violation	3rd Self-Defense Violation
Grades K-5	Mandatory meeting with school counselor	Referral to Accountability School	1 day ISS and parent meeting
Grades 6-12	1 to 2 days In-School Suspension (ISS)	Referral to Accountability School	1 to 2 days OSS and counselor meeting

Violations Matrix: Substance Abuse, Theft, & Disrespect

Cigarettes, Tobacco, Vape, & Illegal Drugs

Possession or use of cigarettes, vapes, tobacco products, or illegal drugs is strictly prohibited. Abused or misused prescription drugs are treated as illegal drugs. Random and suspicion drug testing rules apply:

Grade Band	1st Violation	2nd Violation	3rd Violation	4th Violation
Grades K-5	OSS up to 3 days, parent meeting, 2 counselor mtgs	OSS up to 4 days, police, parent meeting, 2 counselor mtgs	Referral to Accountability School	OSS up to 8 days, police, parent meeting, 2 counselor mtgs
Grades 6-12	OSS up to 3 days, parent meeting, 1 counselor meeting upon return	6 days OSS, parent meeting, 2 counselor meetings upon return	Referral to Accountability School for remainder of year	8 days OSS, parent meeting, 3 counselor mtgs, police, expulsion recommendation

Verbal Abuse & Disrespect of Staff/Students

Verbal abuse and disrespect toward school personnel or other students will not be tolerated. The previous automatic OSS policy is replaced with this progressive structure:

Grade Band	1st Violation	2nd Violation	3rd Violation	4th Violation
Grades K-5	Lunch detention	1 day In-School Suspension (ISS)	Up to 3 days ISS	1 day Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
Grades 6-12	3 days In-School Suspension (ISS)	4 days Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)	Referral to Accountability School	8 days OSS and expulsion recommendation

Theft & Financial Accountability

Theft is the intentional taking of another's property by force or threat. **The stolen property or its exact value must be returned/paid within thirty (30) days.** Depending on value, law enforcement may be called immediately. The administration reserves the right to impose higher penalties on a 1st offense if property value is significant:

Grade Band	1st Violation	2nd Violation	3rd Violation	4th Violation
Grades K-5	Lunch detention	1 to 3 days In-School Suspension (ISS)	3 days In-School Suspension (ISS)	N/A — Escalate to Principal Action
Grades 6-12	ISS for up to 3 days	OSS for a period of 4 days	Referral to Accountability School	8 days OSS and expulsion recommendation

Violations Matrix: Property Damage, Devices, & Dress Code

School Property Damage & Vandalism

Intentional property damage (vandalism, arson) requires parent/guardian payment within thirty (30) days. MAS may seek court restitution or **withhold the student's diploma or transcripts** until the balance is fully paid.

Grade Band	1st Violation	2nd Violation	3rd	4th	5th
Grades K-5	1 day ISS	ISS up to 3 days	1 day OSS	OSS up to 4 days	OSS up to 8 days
Grades 6-12	ISS up to 3 days	3 days OSS and Accountability School	8 days OSS	8 days OSS and expulsion	N/A

Personal Electronic Devices in Classrooms

Personal devices (cell phones, earbuds, players) are banned in classrooms and must be kept in lockers (except at lunch). Students are prohibited from taking photos or recordings on campus. Refusal to turn over a device results in an automatic three (3) days of ISS. If a student in ISS refuses to surrender a device, they are sent home.

Grade	1st Violation	2nd Violation	3rd Violation	4th	5th	6th
Grades K-5	Taken; student picks up after school	Taken; parent picks up next school day	Taken; parent picks up after 4 days	Referral to Accountability	Taken; up to 3 days OSS, parent picks up	Banned from use for semester
Grades 6-12	Taken; student picks up after school	Taken; parent picks up at end of school day	Taken; parent picks up after 4 days; or AS	Taken; 3 days OSS	Banned from use for semester & 4d OSS	N/A

Student Dress Code & Visual Appearance Guidelines

Student dress must be neat, clean, and appropriate. Banned items: see-through shirts, skirts/shorts stopping more than 3 inches above the kneecap, mini-shorts under 10 inches from waist, tank tops, sagging pants (waistband over 4 inches below hip bone), belts extending over 8 inches, sunglasses, and hats/beanies inside buildings. No gang-affiliated clothing or bandanas (except cultural bandanas approved by Coordinator).

Grade Band	1st Violation	2nd Violation	3rd Violation	4th	5th	6th
Grades K-5	Verbal warning & turn clothing inside out	Lunch detention & change clothing	Up to 3 days ISS & change	Referral to Accountability	Up to 3 days OSS & change	4d OSS & parent mtg
Grades 6-12	Verbal warning & turn clothing inside out	Up to 3 days ISS	3 days ISS	4 days ISS	Referral to Accountability	3 days OSS

Section 6 Student Dress Code

6.1 General

MAS believes that student appearance can but should not interfere or distract from the educational process. Student appearance affects the self-image of students. In addition, MAS students represent MAS and the Mescalero Apache Tribe to visitors, the community, other schools, and outsiders. Therefore, students' dress should be neat, clean, and appropriate.

6.2 Clothing & Non-Clothing Items

The following clothing and non-clothing items are not allowed:

- Sexually provocative or clothing that does not provide reasonable coverage of the body. This includes: see-through clothing, skirts/shorts whose hems stop more than three (3) inches above the top of the kneecap, mini shorts that do not extend more than ten (10) inches from the waist, tank tops, muscle shirts, over the shoulder or low cut blouses, tops that do not reach the waistband of pants or skirts, clothing worn in such a way that underclothing is exposed, shredded or holey jeans.
- Clothing and tattoos that display phrases, names, graphics, or slogans that promote the use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco, are sexually suggestive, or are obscene, vulgar, romanticize death, or are abusive in nature.
- Clothing and tattoos that identify a person as gang affiliated, promotes gang membership, or contains gang references. The Superintendent shall have the sole authority to declare whether or not clothing and/or tattoos identifies, promotes or refers to gang membership or affiliation or is otherwise inappropriate. Inappropriate tattoos must be covered.
- Clothing that "sags" or which is worn with the waistband more than four (4) inches below the top of the hip bone, belts that extend more than eight (8) inches beyond the buckle.
- Sunglasses without a prescription (however, lightly tinted glasses used for UV protection or sensitive eyes are allowed even without a prescription).
- Jewelry or chains that can be used as weapons or which can inflict injury.
- Except as provided herein, hats, caps, hoods, and hairnets. Caps or hats are allowed on MAS premises outside of any building. Bandanas are allowed where it is being worn for cultural purposes. As determined by the Building Principal and Cultural Coordinator.

6.3 Shoes

Each student shall wear his or her shoes at all times except where required or authorized by the student's teacher or athletic coach. For example, a student may not have the appropriate shoes for the gymnasium and therefore, may be required to remove his or her shoes. The following types of shoes are prohibited at all times: slippers, sandals (without a back strap), and flip flops.

Violations Matrix: Bullying, Gangs, & Serious Threats

Bullying (Verbal, Written, Cyber, & Physical)

Bullying is any repeated, pervasive written, verbal, electronic, or physical act intended to cause distress. All cyber-bullying (on campus or substantially affecting the school) results in device confiscation and computer ban:

Type & Grade Band	1st Violation	2nd Violation	3rd Violation	4th Violation	5th / 6th
Verbal/Written (K-5)	Written warning, lunch det	Lunch det, 1 counselor meeting	Up to 3d ISS, 1 counselor mtg	4d ISS, parent meeting	5th: AS 6th: 4d OSS
Verbal/Written (6-12)	3 days ISS	Accountability School & 3d OSS	4 days OSS	4 days OSS or expulsion	N/A
Cyber-Bullying (K-12)	3 days ISS	Referral to Accountability School	3 days OSS	4 days OSS	5th: 4 days OSS
Physical Intimidation	Written warning, parent contact	3 days ISS, parent contact	1 day OSS, Principal meeting	N/A	N/A

Gang Affiliation and Prohibited Activities

Gangs and gang-affiliated activities are prohibited. No student may wear, possess, use, display, or sell clothing, jewelry, badges, bandanas, scarves, colored sweatbands, or symbols identifying gang membership. Staff will offer an opportunity to change; refusal triggers the following progressive discipline & police referral:

Grade Band	1st Violation	2nd Violation	3rd Violation	4th Violation
Grades K-5	Parent/student meeting, warning	4 days Out-of-School Suspension	Referral to Accountability School	N/A — Escalate to Board Action
Grades 6-12	3 days OSS, parent/student meeting	4 days OSS, parent/student meeting	Referral to Accountability School	8 days OSS, police referral, expulsion recommendation

Weapons & Threats of Mass Violence

Weapons Possession: Firearm or object that can inflict serious injury. Mandatory 10 days OSS, immediate confiscation, immediate police notification, and Superintendent review for Board expulsion.

Threats or Attacks with a Weapon: Mandatory 8 days OSS, immediate confiscation, immediate police, and Superintendent mandatory recommendation for expulsion. Student placed on OSS pending Board hearing.

Threats of Mass Violence or Killings: Strictly prohibited whether in jest or not. Reports investigated by Principal and documented by Superintendent. Credible threats result in immediate BIA custody and mandatory school board hearing for expulsion or permanent exclusion. If permitted to return, strict conditions apply (daily search, parent escort, licensed professional clearance, restricted campus movements).

Daily Life, Chromebook Liability, & Logistics

Chromebook Issuance & Financial Liability

To support digital learning, MAS provides Chromebooks and chargers. Prior to issuance, both parent and student must sign a Chromebook Agreement. Parents are strictly liable for any damage beyond normal wear and tear. **The IT Department determines the fine amount, and no replacement device is issued until the fine is paid in full.** Devices must be returned at the end of the school year.

Student Medication Administration & Sickness

Prescription Medication: MAS has no authority to administer medications without a licensed physician's written order detailing specific administration times and a parent-signed Authorization Form. Prescribed medication is stored in a locked vault in the nurse's office. Students are responsible for reporting to the nurse's office. High school students may carry a single prescribed pill for the day with prior approval.

Non-Prescription (OTC) Medication: PreK-8 students require a doctor's order and parent authorization to receive OTC medicine at school. 9-12 students may carry a single day's dose on their person with signed parent authorization on file in the nurse's office.

Head Lice & Illness Exclusion: Periodic head lice checks are conducted by the school nurse. Students with active infestations are excluded from school, and parent/guardian must submit the treatment slip before re-admittance. Students suffering from fever, diarrhea, or vomiting must be **fever-free without medication for twenty-four (24) hours** before returning to classrooms.

Student Field Trips & Extracurricular Eligibility

Field trips must cause minimal classroom loss. Each grade level is limited to one (1) full day and two (2) half-day trips. Participation is based strictly on attendance, academic standing, and behavioral history, with final approval determined by the Building Principal. **Cultural trips are open to all students regardless of academic standing or attendance.** Chaperone ratios: 1:25 for single-gender, 1:15 for co-ed. Airbnb lodging is strictly prohibited.

Daily Logistics, Schedules, & Operations

Middle & High School Daily Bell Schedules

Period	Middle School	High School	2-Hour Delay MS	2-Hour Delay HS	Early Release MS/HS
First Bell	7:55 AM	7:55 AM	9:55 AM	9:55 AM	7:55 AM
1st Period	8:00 - 8:56	8:00 - 8:56	10:00 - 10:37	10:00 - 10:37	8:00 - 8:31 AM
2nd Period	9:00 - 9:56	9:00 - 9:56	10:41 - 11:18	10:41 - 11:18	8:35 - 9:06 AM
3rd Period	10:00 - 10:56	10:00 - 10:56	11:22 - 12:00	11:22 - 12:00	9:10 - 9:41 AM
4th Period	11:00 - 11:56	11:00 - 11:56	12:04 - 12:30	12:04 - 12:30	9:45 - 10:16 AM
Advisory / L	12:00 - 12:26	11:00 - 11:56 (CI)	L: 12:30 - 1:00	L: 12:00 - 12:30	5th: 10:20 - 10:51 AM
Lunch / ICU	12:30 - 12:56	L: 12:00 - 12:26	5th: 1:04 - 2:00	5th: 12:34 - 1:15	6th: 10:55 - 11:26 AM
5th Period	1:00 - 1:56	12:30 - 1:26	6th: 2:04 - 3:00	5th: 1:19 - 2:00	7th: 11:30 - 12:00 PM
6th Period	2:00 - 2:56	ICU: 1:30 - 1:56	6th: 2:04 - 3:00	6th: 2:04 - 3:00	Lunch: 12:00 - 12:30 PM
7th Period	3:00 - 4:00	3:00 - 4:00	7th: 3:04 - 4:00	7th: 3:04 - 4:00	Dismissal at 12:30 PM

General Operations & Safety Programs

Metal Detectors & Backpacks: For the safety of our students and staff, MAS operates walking metal detectors every morning. All students and employees must pass through screening. Backpacks, bags, and vehicles on campus are subject to search at any time upon probable cause.

Visitors (Parents & Public): All visitors must report directly to the main Administration Office to sign in and obtain a visitor ID badge. To limit classroom disruptions, parent-student meetings will be held in the main office instead of classrooms. Disruptive individuals will be removed from campus immediately.

Cafeteria & Lunch: MAS participates in the National School Lunch Program, providing free breakfast and lunch to all students. Outside deliveries during lunch are restricted to reduce administrative disruption. Students are prohibited from having birthday parties on school grounds during instruction.

Home-School Partnership: Compact Agreements

Strong partnerships between the home and the school are essential to increase student achievement and develop positive student attitudes. This four-way compact represents our shared commitment:

Parent/Guardian Agreement

I will encourage and support my child's learning by: ensuring my child gets plenty of rest, attends school regularly, and arrives on time; establishing a daily time and place for homework; encouraging my child to be respectful at all times; attending parent conferences; and creating an environment at home that values education.

Student Agreement

I will strive to do the following: show a positive, cooperative attitude toward school daily; respect all persons and school property; arrive to all classes on time and prepared to learn; complete all assignments on time; observe the school dress code; and take full responsibility for my own actions and grades.

Teacher Agreement

I will demonstrate respect and commitment to all my students by: creating a safe and conducive learning environment; planning and implementing rigorous academic lessons; providing appropriate homework and timely feedback; communicating frequently with parents regarding student progress; and being prepared on a daily basis.

School Administration Agreement

We will support this partnership by: providing a safe, nurturing environment; ensuring all students and parents are treated with respect; enforcing academic standards; providing teachers with development opportunities; providing parents with reasonable access to staff; and hosting annual parent-teacher conferences.

Section 14: Student Vehicles & Traffic Rules

Driving on campus is a privilege. Student vehicles must display a permit issued by the High School Principal. Permits require a copy of registration, proof of insurance, and a valid driver's license. All tribal traffic laws apply on campus. **Campus speed limit is 5 MPH.** No more than three (3) front-seat occupants. No passengers riding in pickup beds. Any traffic citation on campus results in immediate permit revocation.

Parent-Student Handbook Acknowledgement

Each school year, the Mescalero Apache Schools Student-Parent Handbook must be reviewed by all students and their parents/guardians. It is the responsibility of both to become thoroughly familiar with the policies, rules, and student behavioral expectations outlined in this document.

Parent-Student Acknowledgement & Agreement

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received, read, and understood the Mescalero Apache Schools Student-Parent Handbook for the 2026-2027 school year. I agree to abide by the policies, guidelines, attendance regulations, and student behavior expectations established herein. I understand that where there is any conflict between this Handbook and the complete Student Policies and Procedures Manual, the Manual governs.

Student Name (Print): _____

Grade: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

ELA Teacher Name: _____

Class Period: _____

Please sign, date, and return this page to your child's ELA Teacher.
ELA Teachers will retain this page in their classroom student files for documentation.

