

Minidoka Jr High School

Honesty, Accountability, strong Work ethic, and Kindness

Student/ Parent Handbook 2026-2027



School Day

8:05- 3:18

Phone Number

208-436-6252

E-mail

mspagnolo@minidokaschools.org

Introduction

School Staff

Principal	Maggi Spagnolo
Secretary	Lucero Navarrete
Language Arts/Math	Terri Bruns
Social Studies/Science	
Prep Provider	Laura Jackson
Special Education	Lisa Squire
School Counselor	Courtney White

Statement of Purpose

Minidoka Jr. High is a specialized school in the Minidoka County School District established to provide students with academic and social support. Our goal is to provide a safe, structured, consistent classroom environment so that each student gains the necessary skills needed to be successful in future educational and professional environments.

District Mission Statement

Minidoka School District is dedicated to fostering each student's academic, emotional and social growth through excellence, respect and shared responsibility.

Minidoka Jr. High Vision Statement

1. I advocate for myself.
2. My peers help me grow as a student and person.
3. I learn by solving problems and doing tasks and not by sitting and listening.

Minidoka Jr. High Mission Statement

Our mission is to be focused, eager to explore new ideas, and work as a team as we display: **Honesty**, **Accountability**, strong **Work ethic**, and **Kindness** in our quest for a successful life.

Admissions

Admission Guidelines

- Students can only be recommended for admission to Minidoka Jr. High by administrators from one of the middle schools in Minidoka County.
- A parent/guardian must register and participate in a parent/student/administrator intake meeting prior to new students attending school.





MINIDOKA JR HIGH QUICK REFERENCE

School Phone Number: 208-436-6252

Principal: Maggi Spagnolo

Counselor: Courtney White

Secretary: Lucero Navarrete

1. Student suspension/expulsion may be invoked in situations where district policy is violated.
2. Drugs, alcohol, e-cigarettes (vapes), tobacco, or open drink containers of any sort are not allowed.
3. Compliance to the district dress code is expected. The uniform is a requirement of attendance at Minidoka Jr. High. Students attending school without the appropriate uniform may not be allowed to attend class until a uniform has been provided. Students will not be allowed to wear hoodies or jackets covering the uniform in the classroom. NO cargos, baggy pants, jeans, or shredded pants, slides, slippers, sandals, blankets, bags, purses, or backpacks, NO red or blue layering or shoes.
4. If a student receives a bus citation, there may be a consequence of suspension from the bus and an additional consequence at school.
5. Parents must call the school when a student is absent. Office hours are from 7:30-4:00 daily.
6. ONLY Parents, guardians, or those on an emergency contact list may check a student out from school. They must do so in person and sign the student out through the office.
7. Minidoka Jr. High has a 90% attendance policy (students may miss a maximum of 6 days each trimester). Students in violation of this policy will have their attendance record referred to truancy court.
8. Cell phones and all distracting items will be turned in at the beginning of the day and picked up at the end of the day. If a student does not turn in his/her cell phone there will be graduated consequences. Inform the office of all cell phone changes for your student.
9. If there is reasonable suspicion that a student is violating district policy, students/personal items will be searched.
10. Bullying is defined as: repeated exposure over time to negative actions on the part of one or more students or when someone keeps doing or saying things to have power over another person (students or staff). Students who violate this policy will be subject to discipline and graduated consequences including: suspension, referral to law enforcement officials, and expulsion consistent with the Board's policy on student discipline.
11. Students are not allowed out of the designated areas of other schools in the district when they are riding a transfer bus.
12. If your child requires medication to be administered at school, you must sign a separate consent form. Please see the front office.
13. No items are allowed that may disrupt the learning process including but not limited to: makeup, electronics, toys, etc.
14. Updated contact information is required during the school year. Please contact the school office with any address or phone number changes as soon as possible.
15. 8th grade students attending Minidoka Jr. High will typically transition to Mt. Harrison High School.
16. Uninsured devices will not be checked out to students.
17. Students must have accessible emergency contacts during school hours. In the event that no emergency contact can be reached, the school may call law enforcement or health and welfare.

School Hours 8:05- 3:18

Office hours 7:30- 4:00

Does your student have a cell phone?
Students are required to hand their phones in every morning upon arrival.
They are picked up at the end of the day as they leave.

Student Name _____

What kind of phone? (i.e. Samsung/Apple) _____

Phone Description (color) _____

Other phone/technology student may have access at home? (i.e. old cell phones, ipod)

Please list _____

If your child does not have a phone, do you plan on getting them a phone throughout the year?

Yes _____ No _____

If so, please let the office or mentor teacher know.

Academics

Grading Policy

Minidoka Junior High students earn credit for any core class that has a grade of 60% or higher at the end of the grading period. Students earn either a pass or fail in elective classes.

Extenuating Circumstances

Any student who does not earn a grade of at least 60% during the grading period due to extenuating circumstances such as (but not limited to) frequent moves, medical concerns, homelessness, or legal issues.

Grading Alternatives for Extenuating Circumstances:

Students at Minidoka Junior High may earn credit with:

- Proficient or Advanced Scores on ISAT for the student's enrolled grade level at the time of ISAT Testing for Math, English, and/or 8th grade Science
- Completion of required coursework sufficient to bring a student's grade to a 60% or higher following the end of the grading period if agreed upon with the teacher and administrator.

Staff Leadership Team may determine students have earned credit based on, but not limited to, the following alternative criteria:

- Math or English
 - Proficient (blue) or advanced (green) score on STAR Test using the **State benchmark**
 - A class grade of at least 50% **AND** earning blue or green on STAR Test using the **District benchmark**
- End of Unit Assessments Scores of 60% or higher
- State ISAT Scores
- Social Studies - a class grade of at least 50% **AND** passing the United States Civics Test

Attendance

When a student is absent for any reason, a parent or guardian must call the school for each day of absence. A student is required to check in at the office before going to class if he/she arrives after 7:55 am (unless it is a late school bus). The student will receive a tardy, even if a parent excuses it. If a student is more than 15 minutes late for a class, he/she will be marked absent for that period. Four missed periods equal a day of absence. Parents/guardians who are picking students up before dismissal are required to check their child out by signing a sheet in the office.

Excused Absences

Excused absences will include:

- JDC
- In-School Suspension
- Funerals
- Absences with a doctor's note (All notes verifying absences for doctor, court, and counseling appointments must be emailed or faxed from the doctor's office or delivered to the school by a parent within 5 school days of returning to school in order to be accepted as an excused absence.).
- Court/Counseling **with note**
- Voluntary staff excused and sporting events.

Unexcused Absences

Unexcused absences may include:

- Illness/sickness without a doctor's note
- Out-of-school suspensions
- Vacations
- Court/Counseling without a note
- Unrelated school activities

Truancy

Unexcused absences or attendance below the State's 90% attendance per reporting period will constitute grounds for habitual truancy petition (any time after 6 days of absence in a single trimester). Attendance letters will be sent home; attendance/truancy court may be contacted.

Truancies occur when:

- Students leave school without permission from staff/checking out at the office.
- Students are absent from school without the knowledge or permission of their parents, guardians, or school personnel.
- There is an absence from any class that is not authorized.
- Students not in designated areas of the premises.

Student Health and Safety

Student Drug, Alcohol & Tobacco Use

The District may take whatever action is deemed appropriate, including but not limited to, notifying the parent/legal guardian and notifying local law enforcement, suspension, and/or expulsion.

Backpacks/Bags

Backpacks and bags of any kind such as grocery bags, makeup bags, and purses, are not allowed at Minidoka Jr. High. Parents/Guardians may seek previous approval from Dr. Spagnolo for students to bring a bag.

Freedom of Speech and Expression

Vulgar, profane, or abusive language will not be tolerated on campus or at any school activities.

Distribution and Consumption of Medication

If medication is required during school hours, parents must fill a medical release form. Medications must be brought to school in a container appropriately labeled by the pharmacy or physician and is to include only that medication to be given during school hours. All prescription medications dispensed at school shall be kept in a locked cabinet or drawer. Should your child need any non-prescription medication during school hours, parents must notify the school and provide these medications for their student as well as signing a medical permission slip for non-prescription medication. Students are not to carry any medication (prescription or over-the-counter) on their person.

Student Illness

If the parents cannot be reached by phone, the emergency contact person(s) listed in the student file will be called to pick up the child. Minidoka Jr. High will not enroll students who do not have accessible emergency contacts during school hours on file with the school.

Harassment/Bullying

The Board of Trustees is committed to providing a positive and productive learning and working environment. Hazing, harassment, intimidation, cyber bullying, or bullying by students or third parties is strictly prohibited and shall not be tolerated in the District. This includes actions on school grounds, school property, school buses, at school bus stops, at school sponsored events and activities. It also applies to the use of electronic

technology or electronic communication equipment on school computers, networks, forums, or mailing lists. It shall include actions at locations outside of those listed above that can be reasonably expected to materially and substantially interfere with or disrupt the educational environment of the school or impinge on the rights of other students or staff at school.

Gang Activity

All gangs and gang activities are prohibited on all school premises and at any school sponsored activity, regardless of location. This includes but is not limited to: creating intimidation or fear; graffiti; or wearing, possessing, using, distributing, displaying or selling any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign, gesture, code, or other evidence of membership or affiliation with any gang.

Student Dress and Grooming

The Board and administration expect that all students will dress in a way that is appropriate for the school day or for any school-sponsored event. Attire or grooming depicting or advocating violence, criminal activity, use of alcohol or drugs, pornography, are obscene, lewd, indecent or offensive are prohibited.

Expectations at **Minidoka Jr. High** are as follows:

1. Students must be wearing the required uniform upon entrance of school transportation and school grounds.
2. All students wear solid color pants or knee length skirts without patterns, words, logos, or any other markings. NO capris, leggings, spandex pants, shorts, or cargo pants including modified or sewn pockets are allowed. Pants will not be baggy (as determined by staff), frayed, have holes, or have any words or graphics and must be worn at the waist level (without undergarments showing) at all times.
3. NO layering pants under pants. ONE pair of pants.
4. Uniforms are to be clean.
5. Shoes must be worn at all times. No slippers, slides or flip flops. Crocs are acceptable.
6. All uniform clothing and accessory layer clothing must be in good repair. Any part of the school uniform that is torn, faded, or altered, must be replaced.
7. Belts must be the appropriate length without excessive length hanging outside the loops. Belt buckle designs, emblems, insignias, monograms must be school appropriate.
8. Accessory layering of clothing under the uniform shirt will include: a crew neck or t-shirt style in a solid color. No words or graphics. **Hoodies are not allowed for layering purposes.**
9. No hats, bandanas, headbands, or other head coverings will be worn in the building or as an accessory.
10. No blankets
11. Students who do not comply with the Minidoka Jr. High Uniform Policy may be sent home. Repeated infractions may result in further disciplinary actions.
12. Administrators shall use reasonableness and have discretion to determine the appropriateness of attire.

Polo shirts and layering shirts are available for purchase from Top Stitch Embroidery through the Minidoka Jr. High district webpage.

Student Discipline

Suspension (Out of School)

Out of school suspension is used when the student violates district policy. Some of the following may be applicable infractions:

- Incurrigibility
- Violence or unsafe behavior
- Bullying
- Theft
- Simple assault
- Simple battery
- Trespass on school property
- Violation of weapons policy
- Sexual harassment
- Gang Activity or dress
- Disruption of the educational process
- Alcohol, drugs, tobacco (including vapes) (law enforcement will be contacted)

Student Searches

Search of a student's person or possessions are limited to situations in which there is a reasonable suspicion that the student is secreting evidence of a district or school rule violation, including, but not limited to possession of weapons, controlled substances, etc. Any time a search of a student is conducted, a second adult shall be present and parents contacted.

Behavior on School Buses

Students are expected to conduct themselves on school buses in a manner that is consistent with appropriate classroom behavior. Students not following bus rules may be subject to disciplinary action from the director of transportation, school administrators, and/or teachers.

General and Miscellaneous Information

School and Business Office Hours

School begins at 8:05 a.m. and dismisses at 3:18 p.m. **Students arriving before 7:30 will not be allowed entry to the building.** Students will be placed on their assigned bus after school unless parent or guardian contact has been made with the school as early as possible. Students walking home must vacate school premises immediately and others must be picked up no later than 3:30 p.m.

All school business should be conducted during the regular business hours of 8:00am and 4:00 p.m.

Electronic Devices

Students may bring electronic devices (such as cellphones) to school, but they will be turned in each morning and picked up at the end of the day as students exit the building. Students who conceal phones or other electronic devices will receive consequences. **Students are not allowed to bring any headphones to school-they may purchase authorized headphones directly from the school.**

The district will provide each student a computer to be used at school. Students at MJH do not take their computers home unless there is an extenuating circumstance and they have paid the mandatory insurance fee. Intentional damage is not covered by insurance. Students are responsible for all fees associated with any lost or damaged devices.

Any materials unrelated to the educational process may be confiscated and returned to parents/guardians.

Internet Policy for Students

Individual users of the internet have the ultimate responsibility to use internet resources appropriately. Students are required to sign the "Appropriate Use Agreement" during registration. All internet users are expected to always access the network for purposes appropriate to the educational environment. Users must refrain from any use that is inconsistent with the policies, purposes, or objectives of the Minidoka County School District.

Students not following policy will lose computer access for an indeterminate amount of time.