

Twin Falls School District
South Hills Middle School
School Wide Title 1
Parent/Student/School Compact

We want your child to be successful. In order for that to happen, we know that we must work together and support one another in that effort. Please read and sign this agreement, signifying your support.

Student Responsibility

Learning Effort

- Attain at least 90% attendance which includes tardiness and early pick-ups.
- Follow our core principles of personal responsibility, mutual respect, hard work, school pride and simple kindness
- Follow all school rules and procedures responsibly.
- Give best effort in school, even when it seems difficult.
- Pay attention in class, participate productively, and ask for help when needed.
- Fill out agenda book for each class period and complete all class work and homework assignments.
- Stay after school for extra help, or to retake tests or quizzes when necessary.

Parent Responsibility

Learning Support

- Ensure your child has at least 90% attendance which includes tardiness and early pick-ups
- Check daily agenda, homework and sign weekly progress reports.
- Provide a time and place to do homework, and check to see that it is being done.
- If online access is available, check PowerSchool to receive weekly progress reports.
- Expect your child to do his/her best in school with encouragement.

Home/School Communication

- Verify each absence of your child per school policy.
- Attend scheduled conferences and meetings with staff.
- Receive communications (phone call, e-mail, notes) and respond in a timely manner when necessary.
- Let the school know about any characteristics, problems, or medical concerns pertinent to your child.
- When you have a concern or problem, contact the persons involved first and the principal when necessary.

Mutual Support

- Volunteer and visit the school as often as possible.
- Attend organized events in support of your child and the school.
- Speak positively about the school and staff.
- Always listen to both sides of a problem before making judgment.

School Responsibility

Learning Support

- Provide a safe, respectful, and responsive school environment to allow all students to be successful.
- Teach the district curriculum as has been developed to provide a quality education.
- Use effective instructional strategies and classroom management techniques.

Encourage students to fill our agenda books for each class period.

Provide extra help and time to complete all class work and retakes until the end of the quarter.

When needed and when possible, students will have additional instructional time through extra help classes and summer school.

Communication

Communicate rules and expectations to home at the first of the year, both school-wide and classroom.

Provide academic progress reports weekly—formal reports at midterm and the end of the quarter.

Receive communications (phone class, e-mail, notes) and respond in a timely manner when necessary.

Send correspondence home in parents' home language if necessary and when possible.

Mutual Support

Inform PTSA of our needs for recruiting volunteers.

Make phone calls when there is a problem or concern, and to share student successes.

Provide programs, activities, and events that encourage learning and are of interest to students and families.

Parents will be provided training on the classroom subjects when requested.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Teacher Signature _____

The staff of South Hills Middle School believes a critical dimension of effective schooling is parental involvement. In order to promote parental involvement, the staff at South Hills Middle will assist in the following ways:

Teacher Goals and Responsibilities

- Develop sound educational policies
- Implement research based programs
- Establish an effective evaluation process for those programs
- Establish clear, concise expected learning results
- Monitor results
- Provide high quality instruction and resources
- Provide timely information to parents and students

Distribution Information

- The Parent Involvement Policy for South Hills Middle School will be written in the student handbook as well as on the school web site. A copy of this policy will be distributed in the fall during registration and/or Meet your Teacher Night in both Spanish and English.
- Information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities will be communicated in both English and Spanish to parents through the weekly notes and invitations sent home with students.
- Classroom teachers will provide achievement test information during conferences, meetings and printed information will be sent home.
- The teacher-student-parent compact outlines how teachers, students and the parents will share in the responsibility for improved student achievement. This will be communicated to each school family at parent-teacher conferences and/or meet your teacher night.

Parent Participation

- Parents will receive materials and have opportunities to participate in Literacy and Math nights planned throughout the year.
- Parents will have opportunities to participate in school decision making regarding the education of their children through our school improvement committee, the RTI process and parent-teacher conferences.
- Barriers to parental participation, e.g., transportation, childcare, etc., will be addressed based on individual needs and may be funded by Title 1.
- The school will provide opportunities for conferences, as requested by parents, to formulate suggestions and make decisions regarding the education of their children.
- Within established parameters, parents are encouraged to observe instruction and other school activities that involve his/her child.
- Parents are encouraged to volunteer and help at school in their child's classroom and on the School Improvement Committee.

Meetings

- Parents will be informed at Meet Your Teacher Night of the school's participation in the Title 1 program, the requirements of the program and their right to be involved
- Parent meetings and conferences will be held at various times to meet the needs of families. Interpreters will be provided as needed.

The school and family working together is a powerful force that can help students achieve the expected learning results of the school. We believe parental involvement has the greatest impact when parents, students and the school share responsibility for the growth and development of each student.

Dress Code

(TFSD Policy No. 3260)

It is the desire and intent of the Twin Falls School District to adopt a dress code to create an environment in our schools that is conducive to learning and free of potential distraction or danger. The Dress for Success code supports workplace norms for appropriate attire. Students are to observe the following guidelines regarding student attire: There may be exclusions to the dress code policy for religious or health reasons. Any violation of the dress code will result in a parent notification and the student will change his or her attire at home or at school. Any further incidents will be handled as a discipline problem.

Students are to observe the following guidelines regarding student attire:

1. Shirts must have a modest neckline (no cleavage) and be long enough to cover the midriff (front and back). No spaghetti straps, tank tops, tube, off-the-shoulder, halter tops, or muscle shirts will be allowed. No backless, strapless, or half tops are to be worn.
2. Clothes must conceal undergarments (boxers, thongs, undergarment straps, etc.) at all times. No see-through, excessively tight or torn, or revealing attire is permitted.
3. Shorts and skirts must be no shorter than mid-thigh at the elementary level (K-5) and just above the knee at the secondary level (6-12).
4. Pants must be worn at hip-level or higher (no excessive bagging or sagging).
5. No pajamas, slippers, or sleepwear of any kind is allowed.
6. Hats or head coverings (including sunglasses) of any kind are not allowed.
7. Shoes must be worn at all times.

Students are prohibited from wearing or carrying clothing, accessories or jewelry, or displaying piercings or tattoos, which by picture, symbol, or word, depict or allude to any of the following:

1. Drug usage, including alcohol and tobacco;
 2. Controlled substances of any kind;
 3. Drug paraphernalia;
 4. Gangs;
 5. Violence, hate groups, racial separation;
 6. Sexually explicit, lewd, indecent, or offensive material; or
 7. Illegal acts.
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8. Visible body piercing or magnetic/glued jewelry on face, eyes, arms, hands, tongue, and feet is prohibited. Earrings and nose studs are allowed. Spikes, chains, wallet chains, studs,

bolts, dog collars, needles, pins, sharp objects, or other jewelry deemed unsafe is not allowed at school.

9. Excessive or extreme make-up is not allowed.

Disciplinary actions for violation of this policy may include suspension and/or expulsion.

The building administrator or designee may determine appropriate attire options for special activity days.

The Board of Trustees recognizes that it may be necessary for alternative placement schools, i.e., Bridge Academy, Magic Valley High School, Transition Center, or Freshman Academy, to have a different dress code. This is allowed; however, the dress code must be approved by the Board of Trustees.

****There may be exclusions to the dress code policy for religious or health reasons.

Consequences of Dress Code Violations:

Warning entered in PowerSchool, Parent Notification by note from administration, and student must change. Repeat offenders may receive additional consequences to include lunch detention, afterschool detention, and/or suspension.

**We understand that not all parents are available to bring a change of clothing to school in these circumstances. To better assist in the process with the least amount of educational time being disrupted, the front office has t-shirts, PE shorts, and sweats available for students to change into upon verification of Dress Code violation.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

(TFSD Policy No. 3020P)

Students are to remain in the cafeteria, gym area as open, or outside until the first bell rings. Please do not send students to school or drop them off before 8:10; as there is not proper campus supervision prior to this time. The first class begins at 8:40 a.m. and the last bell of the day rings at 3:50 p.m. Students should be out of the building and off campus by 4:00 p.m., unless involved in a school activity or in a teacher's classroom for supervised help. Students are not to leave the school during the regular school day without a parent/guardian signing the student out in the front office.

Written notices will be mailed home at 6, 7, and 8 absences during each semester. After the 8th absence, an attempt will be made to schedule a parent/guardian conference. A record of documentation will be developed. Concerned parties may establish a plan/ contract to address the attendance problem.

Failure to comply with the contract may result in the student failing his/her current grade level and may be referred to law enforcement and/or the court system. Students and/or parents/guardian may also be referred to law enforcement.

Reporting an Absence

Attendance is Key to Student Success

If a student misses any school time, the parents or guardians are to call the school and explain the student's absence. Parents may call the school at (208) 732-5160 or (208) 732-5161 for our Attendance Secretary. A secretary is on duty beginning at 8:00 a.m. We do request that calls be made prior to 10:00 a.m. on the day the student is absent. If a phone call is not possible, a written note will be expected on the morning the student returns to school. If the school is not notified by this 10:00 a.m., every effort will be made to contact parent/guardians at home or work to verify the student's absence. All absences must be verified within 48 hours or the absence will be considered a truancy.

DENIAL OF PROMOTION OR CREDIT' (TFSD policy No. 3041)

Students not meeting the ninety percent (90%) attendance requirements will not receive credit or be promoted even though they may have passing grades. The parent/guardian who has valid reasons to believe that all or part of the absences are the result of extraordinary circumstances may file a written request for review by the building attendance committee. Such request must be made within five (5) days of receiving notice of the denial. The building attendance committee will review the records and the circumstances and determine whether the student will receive credit or be promoted. The attendance committee will consist of the building principal, school counselor, and three (3) teachers designated by the principal.

Tardies

It is vital that students arrive to class on time. A student arriving late to class disrupts his/her learning as well as the learning of the rest of the class. A student who arrives late to a class will receive a detention to be served at the end of the following school day. The student will call home at the time of the tardy to inform parents of the detention. Students who are habitually late to class will be referred to administration for action.

BEHAVIOR/STUDENT CONDUCT

One of the most important lessons education should teach is discipline. While it does not appear as a subject, it underlies the whole educational structure. It is the training that develops self-control, character, orderliness and efficiency. It is one of the keys to a happy and successful life. Good behavior in school is a necessary ingredient for conducting school in a safe and orderly environment. Students are asked to display positive and cooperative behaviors while at school and during school activities. The following are some examples of behavior which will help you to be successful in school:

1. Be on time.
2. Show respect to your teachers and classmates, and follow your class guidelines.
3. Have supplies, agenda book, and other appropriate materials for each class.
4. Respect the rights of others.
5. Be cooperative, concerned, and caring.

The following are some of the behaviors which will result in disciplinary consequences:

1. The possession of dangerous weapons.
2. Disrespect and insubordination.
3. The use of improper language/profanity.
4. Fighting, intimidating, hassling, bullying and/or harassing other students.
5. Inappropriate displays of affection.
6. Rowdy, roughhousing behavior, running, pushing, shoving, throwing snow, yelling, and whistling.
7. Tardiness or truancy, leaving class or school without permission.
8. Vandalizing, damaging, or theft of property.
9. Being in possession of or using any illegal substance, tobacco, and related paraphernalia such as lighters, matches, pipes, etc.
10. Cheating and/or dishonesty.
11. Disruption of the educational process.

BACKPACKS

Students are not allowed to bring backpacks into the classroom, library, cafeteria, or gym. Students should store their backpacks in their lockers.

DRUGS/ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

(TFSD Policy No. 3321)

Possession of or use of illegal drugs or controlled substances is a violation of school policy and state law. Any student who is in violation will be disciplined according to school district

policy mailed to parents in the August newsletter, and the laws of the State of Idaho. In all cases, law enforcement officials will be notified and citations issued.

FIREWORKS, WEAPONS, AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS

Prohibition of Weapons

(TFSD Policy No. 3730)

The district is committed to providing a safe environment for all students and staff when they are at school, on a school bus, or at any school-sponsored activity. The district's commitment includes the

prohibition against any weapons or other objects/ substances which may pose a threat to the health and safety of other students, staff members, or visitors, or could be used to disrupt the educational process.

Definition: "Possess" is defined as bringing an object, or causing it to be brought, onto the property of a school, or onto a vehicle being used for school-provided transportation, or exercising dominion and control over

an object located anywhere on such property or vehicle.

A student will be determined to possess a weapon when the item is found to be in any of the following locations:

1. On a student's person;
2. In the student's personal property, including, but not limited to, the student's clothing, backpack, purse, or any other item the student transports or carries and/or causes to be transported or carried to school;
3. A vehicle parked in the school parking lot which the student drives and/or is transported in;
4. The student's locker; or
5. Any other school-related or school-sponsored event, regardless of location.

"Deadly or dangerous weapon" means a weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2½ inches in length as defined in 18 U.S.C. Section 930. "Weapon" additionally includes a knife with a blade of any length.

"Firearm" shall mean any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; any destructive device, including any explosive, incendiary or poisonous gas, bomb, grenade, or rocket, missile, mine, or similar device, as defined in 18 U.S.C. Section 921, and air rifles or other weapons that propel a projectile with air, or pellet guns, or paint ball guns. Antique firearms are specifically excluded.

Causing or attempting to cause physical injury with a weapon or dangerous implement as defined in the aforementioned paragraph, or behaving in a way that could cause physical injury to any person will result in School District Policy NO. 3200 & 3740 (suspension or expulsion) being followed.

HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION & BULLYING

(TFSD Policy No. 3290 & 3295)

It is the policy of this district to maintain a safe school environment for all students while attending school, riding the school bus, and attending district-sponsored activities on school premises or at other locations. Harassment, intimidation, and bullying, regardless of the specific nature of the students' behavior, are disruptive to safe school environment and will not be tolerated.

Definition: (TFSD Policy No. 3295P)

Harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying is defined as misconduct by a student(s), which is characterized by the aggressor(s) repeatedly engaging in negative actions against another student(s) in an attempt to exercise control over the victim. Harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying is generally characterized by aggressive or intentionally harmful behavior, which is carried out repeatedly over time.

Prohibitive Behavior:

Students attending district schools are prohibited from engaging in the following behaviors:

1. Physical abuse against a student, including, but not limited to, hitting, pushing, tripping, kicking, blocking, or restraining another's movement; sexual misconduct; causing damage to another's clothing or possessions; and taking another's belongings.
2. Verbal abuse against a student, including, but not limited to, name calling, threatening, sexual misconduct, taunting, and malicious teasing.
3. Psychological abuse against a student, including, but not limited to, spreading harmful or inappropriate rumors regarding another, drawing inappropriate pictures or writing inappropriate statements regarding another, and intentionally excluding another from groups, or similar activities.
4. Cyberbullying, including, but not limited to, using any electronic communication device to convey a message in any format (audio or video, text, graphics, photographs, or any combination thereof) that intimidates, harasses, or is otherwise intended to harm another individual.
5. Harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, including any intentional gesture or any intentional written, verbal, or physical acts or threats, against another student that:
 - a. A reasonable person under the circumstances should know will have the effect of: (1) Harming a student; or (2) Damaging a student's property; or (3) Placing a

student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person; or (4) Placing a student in reasonable fear of damage to his or her property; or

b. Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.

6. Conspiring with another individual to commit any act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying against another student.

The prohibition extends not only to actions taking place on school grounds but also actions originating at a remote location and carried out via any technology, including, but not limited to, the use of a landline, car phone, or wireless telephone, or through the use of data or computer software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, or computer network.

Investigation:

The school administrator or designee will investigate any allegations of misconduct that are reasonably characterized as harassment, intimidation, or bullying. At the discretion of the school principal and/or superintendent, the alleged perpetrator(s) may be suspended pending the outcome of the investigation.

Disciplinary Action:

Students who engage in harassment, intimidation, or bullying will be disciplined as determined to be appropriate, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

Report to Law Enforcement:

The school administrator will refer allegations of bullying to law enforcement if he/she reasonably believes that the student has engaged in conduct, including harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, in violation of Idaho Code Section 18-917A.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

(TFSD Policy No. 4400 & 9500)

The resource officer will be available to students and staff on an as-needed basis. An officer is assigned to the school and has an office in the administrative office area. The officer is an employee of the Twin Falls Police Department as well as the school district. The resource officer's role is to serve as a resource for interventions, investigations, and as a law enforcement official when needed.

STUDENT DRUG, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO USE POLICY

—SELF-REPORTING (TFSD Policy No. 3321)

The following is a brief description of the district substance abuse policy. Any student who voluntarily discloses using or being under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substances before he or she is reasonably suspected to be in violation of the law and this policy will be provided anonymity to the extent that:

1. Disclosure is held confidential on a faculty need to know basis; and
2. Notification of the disclosure and availability of counseling is provided to the student's parent/ guardian.

Disciplinary Procedure for Substance Abuse:

First offense – If a student is under the influence and/or in possession of alcohol, tobacco products or controlled or dangerous substances while on or near district property during school hours or at a school-sponsored activity:

- A legal citation will be issued by a law enforcement official.
- Parents/guardians will be notified by phone or in writing.
- The student will receive a minimum two-day in-school suspension.
- The student's name will be referred to the building Student Assistance Specialist or intervention trained professional which is responsible for implementing a plan to offer assistance to the student.

A second and/or subsequent offense will result in a citation, suspension and possible expulsion by the Board of Trustees. If a student is involved in transmitting, trafficking in or distributing alcohol or controlled dangerous substance on school grounds or at any school sponsored function, law enforcement official(s) will be asked to intervene. If it is determined that the presence of said student is a detriment to the safety of the student body or self, there shall be a mandatory recommendation made by the school administrator to the Superintendent and the Board of Trustees for expulsion.

COMPUTER & TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOL

All students must sign a computer use agreement before they will be allowed to use the district network (including Internet). All users will be issued an account (name and password) which will allow access to the network. (see form on our website) Computer misuse or abuse may result in loss of school computer use for one calendar year, removal from computer classes, expulsion from school, and even criminal prosecution.

Electronic Network Use Rules

(TFSD Policy No. 2960)

Using the network is a privilege, not a right, and a privilege may be revoked at any time for unacceptable conduct. Unacceptable conduct includes the following:

- Using the computing devices or network for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts.

- Using the computing devices or network for financial or commercial gain, including the development of Intellectual Property owned by the user.
- Attempting to circumvent any security, content filtering, or traffic management measures implemented by the school district.
- Using the computing devices or network while access privileges are revoked or suspended.
- Gaining unauthorized access to resources or invading the privacy of an individual or organization.
- Vandalizing the data of an individual or organization.
- Misappropriating or plagiarizing data.
- Unauthorized downloading of software or media.
- Willfully and knowingly sending, accessing, or attempting to access obscene or other inappropriate material.
- Using an account owned by another user without authorization.
- Publicly posting personal communications without the author's consent.
- Placing unlawful or unlicensed information on a system.
- Using abusive, vulgar, or otherwise objectionable language in either public or private messages.
- Using the network, any Internet site, network service, or messaging system to harass, threaten, intimidate, or otherwise bully another individual.
- Using the network wastefully in a manner that would cause degradation or disruption of system performance, waste resources, or otherwise interfere with the productivity of others.

Technology

TFSD shall uphold laws pertaining to the use of technology equipment and the information contained therein and/or generated by its use. Anyone found to be violating such laws shall be subject to suit for civil damages as well as prosecution by TFSD to the full extent of the law. It is possible for all users of the Internet (including your child) to access information that is intended for adults. Although TFSD has taken all reasonable steps to ensure the Internet connection is used only for purposes consistent with the curriculum, the district or the school cannot prevent the availability of – nor even begin to identify inappropriate material elsewhere on the Internet. Computer security cannot be made perfect and it is likely that a determined student could make use of computer resources for inappropriate purposes. There is a need for full disclosure and understanding for the partnership between parents, children and the school district in regard to technology and its use. An Electronic Network Use Agreement has been created to inform and provide knowledge of Internet access and to

ensure that all parties understand the areas of responsibility identified. Each child will need to have an agreement form signed and on file for use of the Internet.

POWERSCHOOL

The Twin Falls School District uses PowerSchool as an easy way for students and parents to keep up-to-date online. Once you have activated your account and your school has posted information, you can use PowerSchool to check grades, see homework, verify attendance, view teams and activities, and more. Contact your student's teacher for your activation code.

CELL PHONE/ELECTRONIC EXPECTATIONS

Cell phones should be turned off and placed in their lockers, unless given explicit instructions by their teacher to have in class for an educational purpose. Students may use them before or after school. Other electronic devices are not to be used during the school day (8:40 am – 3:50 pm). Such devices include, but are not limited to CD players, iPods, mp3 players, video games, laser pointers, etc. Any inappropriate use or disruption of cell phones or electronics during the learning day will result in the confiscation of the device. All confiscated devices will be sent to the office for parent pick up. Repeat offenders may receive in or out of school suspensions, lose the privilege of bringing a phone to school, or have their phone confiscated for an extended time period.

ATHLETIC & EXTRACURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY

All students who participate in the athletic program at South Hills Middle School must maintain passing grades. To participate in the athletic program, students must have a current physical on file (dated after May 2017) by a licensed physician. All student athletes must also sign and adhere to the athletic code. A student must be in attendance at least one-half day the day of a contest to participate.

However, any student who has been truant or suspended will not be allowed to participate in any contest on those days.

Grade checks and Academic Probation:

a. Middle School participation standards and grade checks will be as follows:

Eligibility for participation in Fall Activities will be determined by the student's GPA in the 3rd week from the start of school. Grades will be checked by coaches and Activities Director weekly with the first progress report at 3 weeks. All students with an I, D, or an F will be placed on Academic Probation

Eligibility for participation in Winter Activities will be based on the student's GPA at the start of the season. Grades will be checked by coaches and Activities Director when tryouts begin, as well as

weekly after the first 3 weeks of the season. All students with an I, D, or an F will be placed on Academic Probation.

Eligibility for participation in Spring Activities will be based on the student's GPA at the start of the season. Grades will also be checked by coaches and the Activities Director when tryouts begin, as well as weekly after the first 3 weeks of the season. All students with an I, D, or an F will be placed on Academic Probation.

Attendance: Student athletes must have a 90% attendance rate for all classes in order to remain eligible to participate in middle school athletics. A student must also be in school at least one-half (1/2) day in order to participate in an activity that day.

The Twin Falls School District has adopted the following Sportsmanship Resolutions:

The Spectator. . . 1. Never boos a player or official. 2. Appreciates a good play, no matter who makes it. 3. Exercises self-control and displays good judgment in every action. 4. Gains an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the contest. 5. Respects officials and accepts their decisions without question.

The Player/Student. . . 1. Lives clean and plays hard. Plays for the love of the game. 2. Wins without boasting, loses without excuses and never quits.

3. Respects officials and accepts their decisions without question.

4. Never forgets that they represent their school.

5. Excused for school activities must get their class work ahead of time and hand it in when or before it is due.

The Coach. . . 1. Inspires in athletes a love for the game and the desire to do their best. 2. Teaches them that it is better to lose fairly than to win unfairly. 3. Leads players and spectators to respect officials by setting a good example. 4. Demonstrates the principles of integrity and dignity of the sport at all times.

GENERAL INFORMATION ACADEMIC HONESTY & TEST MISCONDUCT

(TFSD Policy No. 3335)

Academic Honesty: Cheating is considered to be a serious offense at South Hills Middle School. Students are expected to do their own homework, to test without using unauthorized help and to submit original work for all assignments. Plagiarizing, copying or allowing others to copy, using a "cheat sheet", giving answers, or using unauthorized materials, are all forms of academic dishonesty. Students involved in academic dishonesty are subject to a referral which may result in no credit for the assignment, completion of an alternative assignment, and/or other forms of school discipline as deemed necessary by school administration.

ACTIVITIES

(TFSD Policy No. 3410)

Various activities take place after regularly scheduled school hours and during. Sporting events, music concerts, community service projects, dances, and special programs are a few of these activities. Whether these activities take place at South Hills Middle School or during any school sponsored activity, the regular discipline and dress code policy of Twin Falls School District is still in force. Students are encouraged to do their best in these activities and to remember they are representing South Hills Middle School and themselves....make us proud of you!

FEES

(TFSD Policy No. 3440)

Within the concept of free public education, the District shall provide an educational program for the students as free of costs as possible. A student may be charged a reasonable fee for activities not reasonably related to a recognized academic and educational goal of the District.

Fees

Activity Card—required for all Athletes (optional for other students) - \$15.00
PE Uniforms (optional) (\$20.00 with tax)
Replacement activity card \$5.00
Yearbook \$35.00

Lockers

All students are assigned a locker. It is the student's responsibility to keep the locker orderly and clean. No writing or stickers are allowed. Students are not to trade or share lockers. Do NOT give your combination to anyone. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

1. Lockers are school property and remain in the possession and control of the school at all times.
2. Students are permitted to use lockers for the limited purpose of temporarily storing items needed for classes and other school activities.
3. Students are prohibited from storing weapons, drugs, or other contraband in their lockers.
4. Lockers are subject to random or periodic searches by school officials, with or without notice; to ensure that the lockers are not used for improper purposes.

ID CARD

Students will receive a photo identification card within the first month of school. The identification card will be used as a library card to check out books. The ID card and an entrance fee will be required for all school dances.

MEDIA RELEASE

Throughout the course of the school year, the media may be in our schools or at school sanctioned events to cover our activities. The majority of the media coverage featuring students is considered human interest stories that do not contain sensitive subject matter or are not controversial in nature. Often, reporters are present at our request to showcase our students and teachers engaged in exciting educational activities.

The Twin Falls School District includes in its classification of directory information student names and photographic images of students participating in regular classroom or school-authorized events. This simply means that the media may publish and/or broadcast the names and photographs of students participating in school-related activities without prior parental consent.

If you do not wish to have your child featured in any form of media, please sign the media portion of the FERPA Opt-Out Form, and we will exclude them from any media photos or publications. If you have not completed an Opt-Out Form, your student will be allowed to participate in human interest stories.

The TFSD Student Opt-Out Form is located on the TFSD website at www.tfsd.k12.id.us under quick links for parents and students.

In instances where the building administrator has a concern about maintaining student confidentiality or the sensitive nature of media related stories, parental permission will be sought prior to allowing the student to participate.

Dances

There will be approximately four dances held during the school year. Dances may be cancelled by the principal due to poor student behavior. They will last between one and two hours and will be held immediately after school. Guests are not permitted. All SHMS students are allowed to attend provided they have not been placed on the ineligible list due to referrals, and are in attendance the entire day of the dance. Students that go home sick during the day of the dance are ineligible to attend. Students who leave the dance will not be allowed to return. All school guidelines apply for school dances. School dress code also applies for all dances. Arrangements for getting home once the dance is finished should be made before the day of the dance.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Bus transportation is provided to the school district by a private contractor. Students must be registered to ride the bus on the regular routes. Rules for the bus are provided to each registered student. Failure to observe bus rules may result in denial of transportation. Busing will be provided for students who reside within the South Hills Middle School boundaries only. Students who attend

South Hills on an approved transfer request are required to provide their own transportation to and from school. For information on bus routes or concerns call Western States Bus at 733-8003.

Closed Campus

South Hills Middle School is a closed campus. A closed campus means that students are required to remain on the school grounds from the time of arrival until school is dismissed. While on a school outing, students must receive permission from the teacher to leave the group or class.

COMMONS / LUNCHROOM

The commons/lunchroom area is used as a dining hall as well as a classroom and place for general meetings. Help keep this area clean for all to use.

The lunch periods are divided into three periods of 30 minutes. All food and drink must be consumed in the commons or patio area except when approved for special occasions. Students may bring lunches, but they are to be eaten in this area.

Each student is expected to follow the basic rules of good manners which are:

- 1) Observe good dining habits at the tables;
- 2) Leave the surrounding areas clean and orderly;
- 3) Return your tray to the proper area and put trash into containers;
- 4) Remain seated during the lunch hour.
- 5) Students will be released by tables to return to class.

Violation of these rules may result in students being assigned various clean-up duties.

Middle School Credit System

(TFSD Policy #2860 & 2860P)

Credit System: The following classes and credits are required for each grade level.

6th Grade:

Social Studies: 2 Credits

English: 2 Credits

Reading: 2 Credits

Science: 2 Credits

Math: 2 Credits

PE: 2 Credits

Electives: 2 Credits

***Students must receive 11 of the 14 possible credits and may not fail both semesters of English, Reading, or Math. Students must be in attendance 90% of the time each semester.

7th Grade:

Social Studies: 2 Credits

English/Reading: 2 Credits

Science: 2 Credits

Math: 2 Credits

PE: 1 Credit

Online Learning: 1 Credit

Elective: 4 Credits

***Students must receive 11 of the 14 possible credits and may not fail both semesters of English, Reading, or Math. Students must be in attendance 90% of the time each semester.

8th Grade:

Social Studies: 2 Credits

English/Reading: 2 Credits

Science: 2 Credits

Math: 2 Credits

Online Learning: 1 Credit

Health: 1 Credit

Electives: 4 Credits

***Students must receive 11 of the 14 possible credits and may not fail both semesters of English, Reading, or Math. Students must be in attendance 90% of the time each semester

FOOD

No food or drink will be allowed out of the commons area unless special permission has been obtained. Food deliveries from local restaurants will not be accepted at SHMS. Parents may bring food to students and drop it off at the front office.

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

Counselors help with vocational and academic planning, program planning, solving problems, and aid the students in talking about their ideas, feelings, or ambitions.

GYM CLOTHES

Students will be required to wear PE clothes for physical education. Students will be asked to provide gym shoes (a non-marking lace-up athletic shoe), shorts, and a t-shirt to be used for PE only. Students who are not dressed in proper attire will not be allowed to participate and, in return, their grade will be affected by losing points each day they do not dress down.

All PE clothing must meet SHMS dress code requirements.

HALL PASS

Students must have a pass to be out of any class at any time. Students must use the hall pass provided by their teacher.

HEALTH / ILLNESS DURING SCHOOL

If a student needs to go home, the parent or emergency contact is notified by the school. When a student is injured or becomes sick at school, it should be reported to the teacher and the office as soon as possible. Every effort will be made to contact the parent immediately. If a student is too ill to stay in class, the parent will need to pick up his/her child. School policy prohibits staff or teachers from giving medication to students, including over-the-counter medication. Written permission from the parents and a medication form (which can be obtained in the office) signed by the physician who prescribed the medicine must be on file. Medicine is kept in the school safe. Students are not allowed to keep prescription or non-prescription medicine in their possession. All meds will be administered through the front office when proper forms are obtained.

HOMEWORK REQUESTS

Parent requests for homework may be made at any time on the day of your child's absence. Please call the attendance office, or e-mail your child's teachers to request homework.

Homework may be picked up in the front office.

Please call the school before you come to make sure there is work to be picked up.

Students will have two days to complete and hand in homework for each day they were absent.

If materials are needed from a locker, the parents need to check in with the front office for assistance. Another option when your child is absent is to e-mail their teachers and request assignments from the teacher.

INSURANCE

School insurance will be available early in the school year at a reasonable fee. Parents whose students involved in activities will be required to have a signed release and activities participation form on file indicating that they have insurance or the ability to pay for any injuries to their student.

LIBRARY / MEDIA CENTER

The library is available for students during the school day from 8:40 to 3:50 pm for the purpose of reading, using a computer, or using materials in the center. Books can be checked out during classes, between classes, and before or after school. ID cards or activity cards are required for library books to be checked out. Student use of the library is encouraged and promptness and cooperation in the return of the materials is essential to the effective use of the books and materials. Library books can be checked out for 3 weeks. A 10¢ fine is assessed per day for overdue books.

MAKE-UP TIME REQUIREMENT

Staff and administration reserves the right to request that any student who chooses not to participate during assignments, lectures, or other class activities stay after school to make-up time not spent learning. Parental support in this effort is encouraged and appreciated.

MEDICATION

(TFSD Policy No. 3510 & 34510P)

The office does not administer aspirin, Tylenol or any other OTC (over the counter) medication. No medications, prescription or non-prescription will be dispensed to a student by a teacher, secretary or other personnel without written permission from parent/ guardian. Prescription medications will not be dispensed to students without a physician's approval form on file.

MID-TERM PROGRESS REPORTS

A mid-term grade update will be given to all of our students at the halfway point of each quarter. Parents are to review these mid-term reports with their student, and a parent signature is required on all midterm reports. Please check with your child for their mid-terms since they will be coming home with them. We provide you with this update to ensure that you are aware of your student's progress at a time in the quarter when significant progress can be made. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your student's Advisory teacher.

You can also stay updated on your student's grades through the use of the PowerSchool program. Please contact your student's Advisory teacher for more information.

PARENT CONFERENCES

(TFSD Policy No. 2625)

Parents who wish to discuss the progress of their child with teachers or counselors are encouraged to do so. Please call the school to arrange a conference with the teacher(s) or counselor. Please see email or voice mail page to contact the appropriate teacher or counselor.

PARENTAL HELP

1. Encourage your child to be in school on time.
2. Please do not take your child out of school unless it is an emergency.
3. Encourage your child to be responsible for his/her own belongings and school supplies.
4. Be supportive and positive with your child, teachers, and the school staff.
5. Do call the school if you have a concern or a question.
6. Join and be active in the school parent organizations.
7. Notify school the day your child is absent from school.

SAFETY DRILLS

Safety drills will be conducted by school officials, police, and/or the fire department. For fire drills, students are to exit the building quietly and quickly according to the plan in each classroom. Students are to remain outside, and away from the building, until a signal is given to return to class. Teachers will take roll in their assigned area. Lockdown procedures will be taught to students at the beginning of the school year. Anyone found causing a “false alarm,” a “bomb threat,” or “dialing 911 from a school phone” will be disciplined and will be subject to legal prosecution. A false alarm is not a prank. It puts the lives of responding firemen and policemen in danger as they rush to get to school and students could be hurt needlessly.

TELEPHONES

Telephones in the school are for business, illness, and emergency use only. Messages to indicate rides home, medical/dental/ortho appointments, etc. are not deemed as emergencies. Please take care of personal issues before your student leaves for school.

The front office phone can be used with permission after 4:00 p.m. for emergency use only. All emergency calls and/or messages will only be accepted from parents/legal guardians.

TEXTBOOKS

All textbooks are loaned to students for their use during the school year. It is the student’s responsibility to maintain and care for the books and to return them at the end of the year in the same condition as they were received. Students will be assessed damage/ replacement costs for lost or damaged books.

TRANSFERS

Parents/legal guardians who reside outside South Hills boundaries who would like to request that their student attend South Hills Middle School, or parents/legal guardians who move to another attendance area and wish to have their student remain at South Hills, must complete a student transfer request or non-resident enrollment application. Student transfers can be revoked or denied at any time if: pupil-teacher ratios or contact hours exceed maximum allowed by governing regulations, the student fails to maintain satisfactory attendance, scholarship, citizenship, or the parent/legal guardian fails to provide needed transportation and information on the student transfer form is found to be erroneous and/or fallacious will also be reason to have the transfer revoked.

WITHDRAWALS/TRANSFERS

Students planning to withdraw from South Hills Middle School to transfer to another school need to begin the withdrawal process in the office. All books and materials checked out to a student must be returned to the school. All lunch charges, library and school fines need to

be taken care of in order to complete the withdrawal process. Grades and transcripts will not be sent if money is owed

VISITORS

(TFSD Policy No. 4140)

All visitors to school must check-in at the administrative office and get a visitor's pass. Students are not permitted to have guests during school. Visitor's include all parents, volunteers, invited speakers, maintenance persons, news media, former students, and other visitors. Parents wishing to visit are required to check-in at the main office and obtain a visitor's pass.

Twin Falls School District is using the Raptor system to check in all visitors. Visitors must present their state issued ID to the receptionist to obtain a visitors pass.

WEAPONS

(TFSD Policy No. 3730)

A student caught at school with a weapon falls under the zero tolerance policy and will be recommended for expulsion. See policy under Fireworks, Weapons, and Dangerous Instruments previous stated.

YEARBOOK

(optional)

Yearbooks will be sold at registration and throughout the school year from the front office. Students may purchase a yearbook anytime during the school year. They are handed out the last week of school.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

(TFSD Policy No. 3560)

Video cameras are used at South Hills Middle School to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students, and visitors. Video recording may be used as additional information in determining appropriate disciplinary action. All video recordings are considered to be data elements of a student's educational record and are treated with the same confidentiality. The district will comply with all applicable state and federal laws related to record maintenance and retention.

Twin Falls School District 2016-17 Notification of Rights under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the school receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the school to amend a record should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the school who performs an institutional service of function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school

official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the [School] to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office

U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

FERPA Notice for Directory Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that the Twin Falls School District, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, the Twin Falls School District may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Twin Falls School District to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications.

Examples include:

A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;

The annual yearbook;

Honor roll or other recognition lists;

Graduation programs; and

Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with the following information – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not wish to have your child's directory information released, please indicate so on the TFSD Student Opt-Out Form, located on our website at www.tfsd.k12.id.us. Please understand that signing this form would exclude your child's directory information from any documents that are typically made public or relating to school-related organizations and activities such as:

- ☐ Yearbooks
- ☐ Alumni Directories
- ☐ Graduation Programs
- ☐ Honor Roll and other recognition lists
- ☐ Sports activity programs

- ☐ Theatrical programs
- ☐ District productions/publications
- ☐ Classroom or student pictures

If you do not want the Twin Falls School District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must complete the Opt Out form by September 30, 2014 or two weeks from the date you receive this notice. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the Twin Falls School District Office at 733-6900 and forms can be mailed to you. Please submit Opt-Out Forms to:

Twin Falls School District
Attn: Public Relations Director
201 Main Ave. W
Twin Falls, ID 83301

The Twin Falls School District has designated the following information as directory information:

- ☐ Student's name
- ☐ Address
- ☐ Telephone listing
- ☐ Electronic mail address (e-mail)
- ☐ Photograph of the student used by the district for recognition of student achievement and community relations, including, but not limited to, publication in the district's or school's newsletters, in the school setting and on the district's or school's web site;
- ☐ Major field of study
- ☐ Date and place of birth
- ☐ Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- ☐ Weight and height of members of athletic team
- ☐ Dates of attendance, degrees and awards received Most recent previous school or school district

(For more information on Media Release, see the electronic section)

PPRA

PPRA affords parents and eligible students certain rights regarding the district's conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to inspect and consent or opt out of:

1. The administration of surveys that contain questions from one or more of eight protected areas:

- ☐ Political affiliations;
- ☐ Mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student and his/her family;
- ☐ Sex behavior and attitudes;
- ☐ Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating and demeaning behavior;
- ☐ Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- ☐ Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians and ministers;
- ☐ Religious practices, affiliations or beliefs; or Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

2. Activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing.
 3. Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening.
- If you have any questions regarding the information provided in this notice, please contact Public Relations at 733-6900. Thank you!