



# Mountain Community School

## Parent's Guide to Student Achievement

The objective of Mountain Community School is to offer parents and guardians access to information regarding student achievement via the school's Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA). Should you wish to obtain paper copies of this document and its contents, you can make a request through the main office.

State Requirements	Answers
How can my child be promoted to the next grade level?	<p>At the end of the school year, the Student Academic Committee, which may include the principal, assistant principal(s), counselor(s), and teacher(s) of the failing subject(s), will review each student's case and make a recommendation. The committee will include parent(s) in the retention discussions before making the recommendation. Final decisions on student promotion or retention are at the discretion of the Executive Director.</p> <p>Students' academic performance, age, emotional and social development, national, state, and local assessment results, overall performance, and teacher recommendation are all considered when making retention decisions. Every effort will be made to work with the student and parents in a timely manner to remediate the student's difficulties before he/she is retained.</p> <p><b>Middle School</b></p> <p>It is expected that students pass all core classes (Math, ELA, Science, and Social Studies) in order to be promoted to the next grade level, and retention will be considered in the following cases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any middle school student failing three (3) or more core classes for an academic year is automatically retained at that grade level.</li> <li>If a middle school student fails one (1) or two (2) core classes, the Student Academic Committee will review the situation on a case by case basis.</li> <li>Any student who has absences, excused or unexcused, of more than twenty (20) days of the required school attendance days may be retained.</li> <li>If a parent requests retention.</li> </ol> <p><b>Grades K-5</b></p> <p>It is expected that students make adequate progress in three key area: Academic achievement, attendance, and social and emotional development.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Achievement:</b> Students must demonstrate accomplishment of the standards in reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies adopted by the State Board of Education.</li> <li><b>Attendance:</b> Students who are absent twenty (20) days or more (excused or unexcused, may need to be retained. Extenuating circumstances will be considered on an individual basis.</li> <li><b>Social &amp; Emotional Development:</b> The student's academic achievement level and cognitive ability are important, but physical and social characteristics are also determining factors.</li> </ol>
What is my child learning at school? How can a parent review these materials?	<p>Parents are encouraged to be an active part of their student's educational career. This can begin by attending Open House to learn about curriculum and expectations. Beyond that, TMCS offers parents access to an on-line learning management system (LMS; Campus Learning, Infinite Campus). Campus Learning provides access to upcoming assignments, classroom calendar, reminders of upcoming events, etc. This platform also provides access to student assignments and classroom materials for parent review.</p>
How will a parent learn about my child's progress in school or with a class?	<p>Campus Learning through Infinite Campus (TMCS's learning management system) is available for families to engage and monitor their student's learning progress, including grades. Teachers will also post important messages to families about expectations and upcoming assignments utilizing the tool. The school utilizes Constant Contact to communicate</p>

<p>How can I support my student's learning?</p>	<p>with families. Additionally, by partnering with the school on the following learning habits, students will be best set up to be successful.</p> <p><b>Establish a Consistent Routine:</b> Create a daily schedule that includes dedicated time for homework, reading, and other learning activities. Consistency helps children feel secure and develop good study habits.</p> <p><b>Create a Quiet and Organized Study Space:</b> Designate a quiet area where your child can focus on their schoolwork without distractions. Keep essential supplies, such as pens, pencils, and notebooks, readily available.</p> <p><b>Encourage Regular Reading:</b> Foster a love for reading by providing a variety of age-appropriate books. Set aside time for family reading and discuss the stories with your child to enhance comprehension and critical thinking skills.</p> <p><b>Engage in Conversations:</b> Regularly talk with your child about their school day. Ask open-ended questions to encourage them to share their experiences, challenges, and successes. This helps build strong communication skills.</p> <p><b>Support Homework Efforts:</b> Be available to assist with homework when needed. Offer guidance but allow your child to work independently as much as possible. This helps build self-confidence and problem-solving skills.</p> <p><b>Embrace Technology as a Learning Tool, but Cultivate Balance:</b> Utilize educational apps, online resources, and interactive tools to enhance your child's learning experience. Be involved in exploring these tools together.</p> <p><b>Promote a Healthy Lifestyle:</b> Encourage regular exercise, a balanced diet, and adequate sleep. Physical well-being directly impacts cognitive function and concentration.</p> <p><b>Partner with Teachers:</b> Stay informed about your child's progress by tuning in to teacher communications. Reach out to teachers when you have a concern. Support the teacher when the teacher reaches out regarding behavioral or academic concerns.</p> <p><b>Foster a Growth Mindset:</b> Encourage a positive attitude toward challenges and learning from mistakes. Emphasize the importance of perseverance and resilience in the face of difficulties.</p> <p><b>Cultivate Curiosity:</b> Explore your child's interests and engage in activities that spark their curiosity. This helps create a passion for learning and broadens their educational horizons.</p>
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<p>What are the qualifications of my child's teachers?</p>	<p>The State of North Carolina requires charter schools to have more than 50% of teachers certified. To become a certified teacher, individuals typically need to meet certain qualifications and follow a set of steps. Please note that certification requirements may change, and it's always a good idea to check with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) for the most up-to-date information.</p> <p>Education Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earn a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. The degree should be related to the subject area or grade level the individual intends to teach.</li> </ul> <p>Teacher Preparation Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete an approved teacher preparation program. This program is often part of the bachelor's degree in education.</li> </ul> <p>Student Teaching Experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gain practical classroom experience through student teaching. This is typically a required component of the teacher preparation program.</li> </ul> <p>Testing Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pass the required exams. In North Carolina, this often includes the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (CORE) tests and specific Praxis Subject Assessments for the desired teaching area.</li> </ul> <p>Background Check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undergo a criminal background check. A clean background is usually a requirement for teacher certification.</li> </ul> <p>At TMCS, more than 80% of our staff is certified and others are working towards that certification.</p>
<p>What are the requirements for school enrollment?</p>	<p>As mandated by our Charter from the State of North Carolina, open slots are filled through a lottery. Any applications received after the lottery application deadline (March 31st) will be placed at the end of the waitlist of the grade applied, in the order of receipt. Once a child is accepted through the lottery process, they will receive a communication from the school about registration (birth certificate, two proofs of residency, immunization, school documents (EOG/EOC, grades, etc.) and any special education information, if applicable.)</p>
<p>How can a parent help their child develop citizenship, social skills and respect for others?</p>	<p>We believe that education extends beyond academics, and as partners in your child's growth, we are committed to fostering not only intellectual development but also essential life &amp; durable skills. Together, we play a crucial role in shaping responsible citizens with strong social skills and a deep respect for others.</p> <p><b>Citizenship Development:</b></p> <p>At TMCS, we strive to instill a sense of civic responsibility in our students. Through various projects and activities, we encourage them to understand the importance of community engagement, environmental stewardship, and global awareness. By participating in community service initiatives, your child will learn the value of giving back and making a positive impact on the world around them.</p> <p><b>Social Skills Building:</b></p> <p>Social skills are fundamental for success in life, especially in an ever-changing world where technology will play a bigger role in the work environment so personal interactions will be the key to success. Our school provides a supportive environment where students learn effective communication, teamwork, and problem-solving. Through group projects, collaborative activities, and interactive learning experiences, your child will develop the interpersonal skills necessary for navigating the complexities of relationships and working collaboratively with others.</p> <p><b>Respect for Others:</b></p> <p>Respect is a core value at TMCS. We emphasize the importance of treating everyone with dignity and kindness. Through a culture of inclusivity and tolerance, we create an atmosphere where students appreciate and celebrate diversity. Our curriculum integrates and incorporates lessons on empathy, cultural understanding,</p>

	<p>and conflict resolution to ensure that your child grows up with a deep respect for the perspectives and backgrounds of others.</p> <p>As parents, your involvement in reinforcing these principles at home is invaluable. Encourage open conversations with your child about their experiences, instill a sense of responsibility towards the community, and model the respect and kindness you wish to see in them.</p> <p>Together, let's empower the next generation to not only excel academically but also to become compassionate, socially adept, and respectful individuals who contribute positively to society.</p>
How can a parent strengthen communication with the school/teacher?	Read communications, regularly check Campus Learning, attend Open House, Curriculum Events, and Parent Teacher Conferences
What services are available for parents and their children?	<p>Mountain Community School offers several services to all students and additional services to those who have been identified with specific needs.</p> <p>The following services are available on campus for those students that qualify: Speech, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Visually Impaired (VI), Multi Language Learners (ML). To learn more, please reach out to your students' counselor.</p>
What are opportunities for parents to participate with school?	<p>We believe that parent involvement plays a crucial role in fostering a positive and supportive educational environment for our students. Your participation not only enhances your child's learning experience but also strengthens the school community as a whole. Here are some exciting ways you can get involved at your child's school:</p> <p><b>Volunteer Opportunities:</b> We welcome your assistance in various school activities and events. Whether it's helping out during field trips, organizing school functions, or contributing your skills in the classroom, your involvement is valued and appreciated.</p> <p><b>Guest Career Speaker Program:</b> Share your expertise and experiences with our students by becoming a guest speaker. If you have a profession or hobby that aligns with our curriculum, we'd love to have you inspire our students through informative and engaging sessions.</p> <p><b>School Events and Celebrations:</b> Join us in celebrating special occasions and achievements. Your active participation in school events creates a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere for our students.</p> <p>Getting involved at your child's school is a rewarding experience that not only strengthens the bond between home and school but also positively impacts the overall educational journey. We look forward to welcoming you as valued members of our school community.</p> <p>For more information on how to get involved, please watch Parent Square for regular postings from our PTO and the different schools.</p>
What are the rigorous academic programs available to my child? How can I learn more about them?	<p>In addition to these resources, families are encouraged to discuss their individual child's needs with their instructor(s) as differentiation and recommendations can be made on a per student basis. The Student/Parent Handbook is also linked here to provide guidance on academic policies.</p> <p>Student / Parent Handbook</p>

<p>What rights do students with disabilities have based on the law?</p>	<p>Section 504 defines a person with a disability as anyone who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. has a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working;</li> <li>2. has a record of such impairment; <b>or</b></li> <li>3. is regarded as having such an impairment</li> </ol> <p>To learn more about TMCS's support program, contact the school's EC Coordinator.</p>
<p>What is the contact information for the schools and district office?</p>	<p>Mountain Community School 613 Glover St Hendersonville, NC (828) 696-8480</p> <p>Assistant Director Mr. Brad Hallmark</p> <p>Student Success Coordinator Mrs. Coire Nelson</p> <p>Operations Manager Mrs. Bethel Dirks</p> <p>Executive Director Mr. Jeff Morris</p>
<p>What are some resources to support my child's health and wellbeing? What immunizations are required and when should they be scheduled?</p>	<p>NC student required immunizations and the schedule of the recommended times to administer can be found by clicking the link below: <a href="https://immunization.dph.ncdhhs.gov/schools/k-12.htm">https://immunization.dph.ncdhhs.gov/schools/k-12.htm</a></p> <p>TMCS offers the following services to support student health and well being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Responders throughout the building (First Aid, CPR, AED and NARCAN)</li> <li>• AED's in main building &amp; Athletic Field</li> <li>• EpiPen in main building</li> <li>• Narcan on main campus</li> <li>• Collaborate with Henderson County Health Department to stay up to date with community health issues and resources</li> <li>• Student educational instruction on personal hygiene</li> <li>• Personal hygiene, hand washing, oral care education</li> <li>• Case management of individual health care needs, including administering Individual Health Care plans when necessary</li> <li>• Open, approachable, confidential communication with families regarding health needs, medication management</li> </ul> <p>If you have any questions regarding immunizations and/or health questions, please contact either the School Nurse or the school office.</p>