

SUSITNA VALLEY JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL



**Student/Parent Handbook
2021-2022**

“Home of the RAMS”

Revised 08-17-21

Students and Families,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Susitna Valley Jr/Sr High School this year. We are pleased to have you as a part of our school family. At Su Valley, we want every student to succeed, and we are committed to working with you and your family to ensure that you can learn and grow in a safe and supportive environment.

As a Su Valley student, you will undergo many changes during your years here. There will be new friends, new teachers, new knowledge, and a variety of opportunities. Get involved! **This is YOUR SCHOOL.** Su Valley offers many exciting academic and extra-curricular opportunities. We encourage you to take advantage of all Su Valley has to offer and to accept the many challenges you will face with interest and enthusiasm. Throughout your years at Su Valley, expectations of responsibility and leadership will increase. We hope that with clear expectations, a strong instructional program, and the support of your family and teachers, you will make the most of your Su Valley experience.

This handbook has been written to inform our students and their families about Su Valley's and the Matsu Borough School District's policies and procedures. It contains important information that will allow you to better understand how your school operates. **The information included in this handbook is specific to Su Valley and all policies included here are in addition to the policies stated in the [Matanuska Susitna Borough School District's Handbook for Students and Parents](#).** If you have any questions about Su Valley or our policies, please do not hesitate to give us a call. We look forward to working with each of you and to this year being our best year yet! Go Rams!

Sincerely,

Lisa Shelby
Principal, Susitna Valley Jr/Sr High School

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IMPORTANT DATES





August 18	First Day of School
September 6	Labor Day Holiday
September 17	Mid-Quarter Progress Reports
October 1	Professional Development Day
October 15	End of Quarter 1
October 19	Report Cards Mailed Home
October 28	Parent/Teacher Conferences
October 29	Professional Development Day
November 11	Professional Development Day
November 18	Mid-Quarter Progress Reports
November 25 & 26	Thanksgiving Vacation
December 16	End of Quarter 2
December 17	Teacher Work Day
December 20 - 30	Winter Vacation
December 24	Christmas Holiday
December 31	New Years Day Holiday
January 4	Report Cards Mailed Home
January 17	Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday
February 2	Mid-Quarter Progress Reports
February 24	Parent/Teacher Conferences
February 25	Professional Development
March 3	End of Quarter 3
March 4	Teacher Work Day
March 7 - 11	Spring Break
March 15	Report Cards Mailed Home
April 18	Mid-Quarter Progress Reports
TBD	Prom
May 6	Professional Development Day
TBD	Graduation
May 2	AP Government Exam (8 AM)
May 3	AP Environmental Science Exam (8 AM)
May 5	AP Seminar Exam (8 AM)
May 6	AP US History Exam (8 AM)
May 9	AP Calculus A/B Exam (8 AM)
May 12	AP Physics 1 Exam (12 PM)
May 20	School Closes, End of Quarter 4
May 23	Teacher Work Day
May 25	Report Cards Mailed Home

* SVS & District calendars also available online:
www.matsuk12.us/svs & www.matsuk12.us

Susitna Valley Jr / Sr High School

School Calendar

2021-2022

-  A DAY (MONDAY-THURSDAY SCHEDULE)
-  B DAY (MONDAY-THURSDAY SCHEDULE)
-  A DAY (FRIDAY SCHEDULE)
-  B DAY (FRIDAY SCHEDULE)

*See Reverse Side for Daily Schedules

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
JULY						
				1	2	3
4	H	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August

- 11 Work Day for Teachers (WD)*
- 12-16 Professional Development Days (PD)*
- 17 Work Day for Teachers (WD)*
- 18 School Opens for Grades 1-12 (SO)
- 25 First Day for Kindergarten

September

- 6 Labor Day Holiday (H)*

October

- 1 Professional Development Day (PD)*
- 15 Quarter 1 Ends (41 Days)
- 28 Parent Conference Day (PC)*
- 29 Professional Development Day (PD)*

November

- 11 Professional Development Day (PD)*
- 25-26 Thanksgiving Holiday (H)*

December

- 16 Quarter 2 Ends (39 Days)
- 17 Work Day for Teachers (WD)*
- 20-30 Winter Vacation (V)*
- 24 Christmas Holiday (H)*
- 31 New Years Day (H)*

January

- 17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (H)*

February

- 24 Parent Conference Day (PC)*
- 25 Professional Development Day (PD)*

March

- 3 Quarter 3 Ends (41 Days)
- 4 Work Day for Teachers (WD)*
- 7-11 Spring Vacation (V)*

May

- 6 Professional Development Day (PD)*
- 20 School Closes (SC)/Quarter 4 Ends (49 Days)
- 23 Work Day for Teachers (WD)*

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
JANUARY						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	H	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
FEBRUARY						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	PC	PD	26
27	28					

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
MARCH						
		1	2	3	Q3	WD
6	V	V	V	V	V	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
APRIL						
						1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
MAY						
1	2	3	4	5	PD	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	SC	21
22	WD	24	25	26	27	28
29	H	31				

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
AUGUST						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	WD	PD	PD	14
15	PD	WD	SO	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
SEPTEMBER						
		1	2	3	4	
5	H	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
OCTOBER						
					PD	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	Q1	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	PC	PD	30
31						

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
NOVEMBER						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	PD	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	H	H	27
28	29	30				

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
DECEMBER						
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	Q2	WD	18
19	V	V	V	V	H	25
26	V	V	V	V	H	

*Indicates no school for students

[Click here to link to a printable A/E](#)

Susitna Valley Jr / Sr High School 2021-2022: Daily Schedules

MONDAY - THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
A Day	B Day	A Day	B Day
MS Period 1 (40) 8:30-9:10	MS Period 4 (40) 8:30-9:10	Breakfast 8:16 - 8:26	Breakfast 8:16 - 8:26
MS Breakfast (10) 9:10-9:20	MS Breakfast (10) 9:10-9:20	Period 1 (42) 8:30 - 9:12	Period 4 (42) 8:30 - 9:12
MS Passing 9:20 - 9:24	MS Passing 9:20 - 9:24	Passing 9:12-9:16	Passing 9:12-9:16
MS Period 1 (56) 9:24-10:20	MS Period 4 (56) 9:24-10:20	Period 2 (42) 9:16 - 9:58	Period 5 (42) 9:16 - 9:58
Passing 10:20-10:24	Passing 10:20-10:24	Passing 9:58 - 10:02	Passing 9:58 - 10:02
MS Period 2 (40) 10:24-11:04	MS Period 5 (40) 10:24-11:04	Period 3 (42) 10:02 - 10:44	Period 6 (42) 10:02 - 10:44
MS Lunch 1 (16) 11:04-11:20	MS Lunch 1 (16) 11:04-11:20	(Grab and Go Lunch - MSHS) - Dismissal	(Grab and Go Lunch - MSHS) - Dismissal
MS Lunch 2 (16) 11:20-11:36	MS Lunch 2 (16) 11:20-11:36		
MS Passing 11:36-11:40	MS Passing 11:36-11:40	Teacher/Lunch 10:45-11:15	Teacher/Lunch 10:45-11:15
MS Period 2 (66) 11:40-12:36	MS Period 5 (66) 11:40-12:36	Staff Meeting 11:15-11:45	Staff Meeting 11:15-11:45
Passing 12:36-12:40	Passing 12:36-12:40	Student Remote (Independent) Learning or Community Work, Community Volunteer, College Course Work, Credit Recovery 11:30 - 3:00	Student Remote (Independent) Learning or Community Work, Community Volunteer, College Course Work, Credit Recovery 11:30 - 3:00
Period 3 (96) 12:40-2:16	Period 6 (96) 12:40-2:16		
Passing 2:16-2:20	Passing 2:16-2:20	Teacher Common Prep 11:45 - 3:30	Teacher Common Prep 11:45 - 3:30
Period 7 - 4 C's (40) 2:20-3:00	Period 7 - 4 C's (40) 2:20-3:00		

SVS STAFF

Support

Lisa Shelby	Principal
Tamra Harrison	Counselor
Jimmy Sickler	Activities Director/Business Applications
Romy Byrd	School Nurse
Tanya Korta	Behavioral Health Support
Mindy Knapp	Administrative Secretary
Heather D'Andrea Fish	Secretary/Registrar
Joanne Cassidy	Day Custodian
Tyler Miller	Night Custodian
Tamara Helms	Kitchen

Instructional

Nicole Burcar	Special Services/MS Math/HS Science
Alana Burke	Special Services Assistant
Katrina Deyoung	Special Services Assistant
Shawn Dick	HS Social Studies/Drama
Lisa Drumm	MS English/Social Studies
Greta Froelich	Special Services Assistant
Dan Harrell	Special Services Assistant
Katie Harrison	MS Social Studies/Media/Spanish/Yearbook
Steve Harrison	MS/HS Physical Education
Tom Harrison	HS Science/Math
Jennifer Keenan	HS English/Art
Bryan Kirby	Vocational Education
Kathleen MacLean	MS/HS Music
Mike Matthews	HS Mathematics / MS/HS Science
Misty Miller	Special Services Assistant
Ed O'Connor	MS/HS Science
Jennifer Panucci	Special Services
Allison Reppel	Special Services
Melissa Sipes	Tutor Advisor
Joshua Sandifer	MS Math/Science
Tanya Shear	Special Services Assistant
Noelle Valentine	Apex/Technology

* Staff member emails are provided on the school website:

www.matsuk12.us/svs

Welcome to Susitna Valley!

Mission Statement

In collaboration with family and community, we will build strong relationships and share challenging, innovative instruction to inspire student passions, potential, and the ability to think critically and creatively.

Vision Statement

We aim to provide students with the necessary tools to achieve their full potential.

The information included in this handbook is specific to Su Valley and all policies included here are in addition to the policies stated in the [Matanuska Susitna Borough School District's Handbook for Students and Parents](#).

GENERAL INFORMATION

COVID MITIGATION

Instead of rewriting all of the policies in this handbook, you will find links here to our SVS Mitigation Plan outlining the various policies in place as we navigate Low, Medium, and High risk environments. Any policies in this handbook that are affected by our Mitigation Plan will be notated with an asterisk. In all cases, policies and procedures found in the Mitigation Plan will override usual policies. Thank you for remaining resilient and calm amidst our ever-shifting reality.

SVS Mitigation Plan*

In addition to district-wide Covid policies such as personal screening, social distancing, and enhanced cleaning; each school has a unique plan for what mitigation will look like within their building. Here is a link to the [District COVID information page](#), which includes a link to the [SVS Mitigation Plan](#). Please familiarize yourself with this plan. Should you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out to the front office.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

We run a block schedule, with an early release on Fridays. Here is a link to our [Master Schedule for 2021-2022](#) to view the courses we offer at SVS. Here is a link to our [2021-2022 Class Calendar & Daily Schedule](#) to see our daily, weekly, and overall year bell schedule.

Student Rights

Susitna Valley students have the right to an environment that:

- 1) Ensures learning without interference
- 2) Is free of threats and harassment
- 3) Ensures the physical safety of all persons and their property
- 4) Is free of obscenities, offensive language and gestures, racial and ethnic slurs, and public displays of affection
- 5) Is cooperative and respectful of all

Visitors*

Please refer to the [SVS Mitigation Plan](#) for our COVID-19 risk level specific policies regarding visitors & volunteers.

All visitors to Susitna Valley School must report immediately to the office and sign in. Student visitors are not permitted at school during the instructional day; this includes during lunch. Alumnus visiting staff members must have an appointment with the teacher.

Lockers

Per the [SVS Mitigation Plan](#), there will be no congregating at lockers during passing periods or arrival/dismissal. Switching or sharing lockers and sharing locker combinations is prohibited. Students are responsible for any damage to the locker. Students are encouraged to leave all valuables at home as lockers tend not to be secure. Students should keep lockers closed and locked at all times when not in use. Lockers are school property and are therefore subject to search at any time. No items are to be on the front of lockers without prior permission from the principal.

Computers

Susitna Valley maintains a 1:1 environment (1 computer for every student). Computers are available for student use during the school day, and all students are expected to take their chromebook home with

them each evening. Students must follow all criteria established in the MSBSD Technology Use Agreement. Failure to do so will result in revocation of their computer, or loss of technology privileges.

PARENT/COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION

ParentVUE

ParentVUE is a program that provides parents with web-based access to student information including attendance, scheduling, discipline, course syllabi, teacher contact information, and grades. ParentVUE is accessible through the MSBSD Parent Quicklinks at: www.matsuk12.us/parents/quicklinks. If you have not used ParentVUE before, feel free to contact Heather Fish at 733-9300 and she can coach you through it!

Contacting Teachers

Our teachers are actively engaged in their classrooms during the school day and are not generally available for telephone calls. If you would like to contact a teacher, email is generally the best approach. Teachers check their email throughout the day. Teacher email addresses can be found at www.matsuk12.us/svs under the STAFF tab. You may also contact the office and we will put a message in their mailbox.

Open House/Back to School BBQ

The purpose of the Open House/Back to School BBQ is to provide parents, students, and teachers with an opportunity to discuss classroom expectations and to celebrate the beginning of a new school year. It is not designed to be a time for an in-depth conference. If you would like to schedule a more in-depth conference, please discuss this with the teacher and schedule for a later date.

PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association)

The Susitna Valley Parent/Teacher/Student Association is very active at our school. It offers significant financial and volunteer assistance to our school, including various clubs, sports & activities. If you are interested in joining the PTSA, visit the [school website](#) for more information.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled twice each school year fol-

lowing the 1st and 3rd quarter report cards. Parents are encouraged to contact the school to schedule a conference, but are also welcome to come to the school at their convenience on those days.

Conferences for the 2021/22 school year are scheduled for October 28 and February 24. Parents are also encouraged to contact the school anytime throughout the school year to schedule a conference.

Closed Campus

The School Board establishes a closed campus at district schools. The requirement to keep students on campus is part of the Board’s efforts to maintain a safe school climate and to reduce afternoon absenteeism. Students are not permitted to leave the building during school hours without supervision. The east and west ends of the school building, the back of the gym, including athletic fields, and parking lots are off limits to unsupervised students during the school day. Violation of the closed campus policy will result in disciplinary action. At the conclusion of the school day, the campus is no longer closed and students are free to leave campus. Students are not supervised during this time.

Open Campus Option for Juniors & Seniors

Juniors and Seniors are afforded the opportunity to participate in an open campus during the lunch break with the following criteria:

- 3.0 GPA for the semester prior to application
- No tobacco, alcohol or drug infractions the previous school year
- No in or out of school suspensions in the previous semester
- Parent permission (provided in presence of school staff)
- Students check in and out with the front office as they enter and leave campus, showing their Open Campus pass
- A completed SVS Open Campus Privilege Application

Remaining on Campus

Once students arrive at school, they must remain on campus until the end of the school day unless they have brought written authorization from their parents/guardians. Students that are ill may contact their parents to obtain permission to sign out. Students who leave campus without permission will be considered truant and will receive disciplinary action.

Bus Passes

Bus passes may be obtained from the front office. Passes will only be given to students who have a written note or a phone call (after verification) from a parent or guardian. Asking for a bus pass less than 30 minutes prior to dismissal may result in missing the bus.

Boundary Exemption

Many students attend SVS on a boundary waiver. Waivers are applied for annually and approved by the principal at their discretion. Boundary exempt status may be revoked at any time. Common causes for revocation include excessive absences, tardies, and office referrals.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Scheduling Process

Each spring semester, students and their parents complete a schedule request form indicating the electives that they are interested in, as well as the core classes that are necessary for graduation. This information is used to develop the schedule for the following school year. Schedule changes are possible for the first two weeks of the semester, for administration approved, reasonable academic reasons. Online classes may be added to the schedule after that time in extenuating circumstances.

Grades

In accordance with Mat-Su Borough School District policy, Susitna Valley complies with the following grading scale:

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 0-59

Incomplete grades must be made up within two weeks of the end of the quarter. Any incomplete grade after two weeks will become an F.

Pre-Arranged Absences

In order to receive proper credit for work missed during a planned

absence, students will be asked to check their google classrooms and complete work remotely. It is the student’s responsibility to communicate with their teachers prior to leaving for a pre-arranged absence.

Make-Up Work

It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements to keep up with school work when he or she is absent from school. Policy allows for a “day-for-day” plus one day makeup time for each absence. For example, a student who misses three days will have four days to submit all make-up assignments without penalty.

Graduation Requirements*

Per the [MSBSD Mitigation Plan](#), diploma requirements for the Class of 2022 will be 23.5 credits.

Below are the links to Graduation Requirements for each of the following graduation years:

[2022](#)

2023-2024 (under review)

[2025](#)

[2026](#)

Please contact the counselor, Tamra Harrison, or principal Lisa Shelby if you have questions about graduation requirements.

After-School Study Hall

Study hall is available to students after school Monday-Thursday from 3:00-4:30 PM with parent permission. Permission from a parent must be granted to the office prior to 2:30 pm, if at all possible. A permission slip signed by a parent and/or guardian must be on file if the student plans to attend at will or for more than one day.

Students also have access to their teachers Monday-Thursday from 3:00-3:30 with a pass from the study hall teacher. Teachers are available for students for thirty minutes before and after school, but students must have transportation home after that time. Limited supervision is available for students after school dismissal.

National Honor Society

High school students (10-12th grade) who maintain a 3.5 cumulative grade point average may be offered an invitation to apply for membership in the SVS National Honor Society. Students must submit an application, as well as, an essay detailing how they exemplify excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service and character. Invitations are extended in the Spring of each school year and applications are reviewed by a faculty council.

Academic Honesty

It is expected that all academic work reflects a student's individual efforts. Our faculty agrees that while they encourage good grades; no grade is worth compromising personal integrity. The purpose of education is to encourage people to use their own resources while promoting the values of honesty and integrity. Students who engage in academic dishonesty will receive a "0" on the assignment.

Violations include:

- Using another person's work or ideas as your own without citing the original author (plagiarism). This also includes electronic information.
- Copying information from another student's test, paper, or notebook or furnishing another student with information to do so.
- Conspiring to cheat: such as having, seeing, or being briefed about a test prior to its administration; using unsanctioned aides such as notes or calculators.
- Conspicuous testing behavior such as talking, passing notes, or signing to another during testing or an assignment where such aides are prohibited.
- Withholding personal knowledge of dishonesty from school officials. You have a responsibility to report violations just as a citizen is obliged to report a crime.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Attendance*

The MSBSD believes that there is a positive correlation between class attendance and academic achievement. Students who have good attendance habits generally achieve higher grades, enjoy school more, and are more employable after leaving school. The responsibility for

regular attendance of a student lies with the family and the student. It is, however, the obligation of the school to assist the family and student to assure that regular attendance does occur. Each day a student absent (unexcused) an automated telephone call will be made to the parents/guardians. In the case of a habitually truant student, a referral may be made to the Office of Children's Services. Students will not be counted absent if the bus does not run.

*Under COVID-19, the following policy is in place:

PERSONAL DAILY MEDICAL SCREENING*

Please refer to [Keeping Schools Open and Safe](#) for information about school attendance amid COVID-19, including a list of symptoms for daily personal medical screening. Any student who is ill and experiencing any COVID symptoms must stay home from school. Please call and excuse your child until they can be tested and determined their symptoms are not due to COVID-19.

If your student becomes sick at school, a school nurse or designee is available to conduct an evaluation. If we are able to conduct a COVID test and the parents/guardians have given permission, your child can be tested for COVID. If they test negative, and have minor symptoms, they may return to class. If they test positive, we will have a safe and secure area for students to wait for their family to pick them up. Families will then be contacted by Public Health for quarantine requirements, including testing and returning to school timelines.

How does my student keep up with school while they are out?

It is the student's responsibility to keep up with their schoolwork remotely while they are out. Students need to check google classroom in order to find their assignments they are to work on.

If your student is too sick to do schoolwork while they are home, or they cannot do the work without instruction and help from a teacher, then our absence policy will cover them. The policy allows for a day-for-day plus one day makeup time for each absence. For example, if a student misses three days, they will have four days to submit all missed assignments without penalty.

Tardy Policy

A tardy is defined as reporting to class any time after the bell rings. A student showing up more than five minutes late without a pass will be considered truant and may be referred to the office.

1st & 2nd Tardy = Warning

3rd - 5th Tardy = Detention

6th Tardy = Intervention meeting and further consequences up to suspension

Hall Passes

Students are provided three hall passes per semester in each of their classes. These can be used to visit the restroom, gather forgotten materials, etc. Once students utilize all three passes, they may serve a lunch detention in exchange for an additional hall pass. Students may provide a note from a physician if there are medical issues that require additional flexibility.

Parking on Campus

Driving a vehicle of any kind to school is a privilege—not a right! Students may drive licensed and insured vehicles to and from school. When a student drives on a school campus, they are consenting to a potential search of the vehicle by school officials with reasonable suspicion that the vehicle may contain drugs, alcohol, weapons, or evidence of any activity which is illegal or in violation of school or district policy. In the interest of safety, improper student driving practices may subject the offending student to discipline. Students driving off road vehicles must have the prior permission of the principal.

Cell Phones & Electronic Devices

Cell phones at school are a personal choice. Students do not have the right to have a cell phone at school, they are afforded the privilege to have and use a cell phone at school responsibly. SVS students may utilize their electronic devices before school, after school, during breakfast, and during lunch. Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off or in a safe place during class. Cell phones & electronic devices that are utilized or ring in class may be confiscated and will be turned over to the principal. The first offense will result in a warning. Confiscated phones and other electronic devices will be returned only

to the parent/guardian after the first incident. Failure to turn over an electronic device will result in disciplinary action. Earbuds and headphones may not be used during class without permission from the teacher.

The most stolen items on high school campuses are cell phones and other electronic devices. Students choosing to bring cell phones or other electronic devices to school do so at their own risk and with the understanding that investigation of loss or theft of these items will be a low administrative priority.

Dances*

Susitna Valley school dances are for Susitna Valley students. A guest must have prior approval from the principal. Guest forms are available in the office and must be filled out and submitted to the principal by the deadline provided by the front office. Guests will only be considered for high school Prom and Homecoming. Middle school students may not invite guests to dances.

High school students may not attend middle school dances or vice versa. Students may not return to a dance once they leave. School dress code applies with the exception of Homecoming and Prom. Middle school students must be picked up within 15 minutes after the dance concludes or they will be excluded from future dances.

Formal Dance Dress (Prom & Homecoming)

Students are expected to adhere to the school's dress code during formal and semi-formal dances, as well as, dress in a manner that is appropriate for the event. Use this [link](#) to access MSBSD guidelines for formal and semi-formal attire as detailed in the Co-Curricular Handbook.

Dress Code

Student dress and general appearance is a shared responsibility among students, parents/guardians, and the school. The Board of Education believes that appropriate dress and grooming contribute to a productive and safe learning environment. The Board expects students to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to wear clothes that are suitable for school activities, including industry requirements

at the work site in which they participate. Students have the right to make individual choices from a wide range of clothing and grooming styles, but they must not present a health, safety hazard, or a distraction which would interfere with the educational process. Attire bearing expression or insignia which is obscene, libelous, or which advocates racial, religious, or other prejudice is prohibited. Attire which advertises illegal substances for school age students is prohibited, as are items which suggest sex, alcohol, or tobacco products. Clothing which does not cover undergarments is prohibited. Students wearing prohibited attire will be asked to cover it, change it, or go home until proper attire is worn.

The following minimum standards will be enforced:

Clothing and accessories, e.g., notebooks, patches, tattoos, and jewelry must not display racial or ethnic slurs or symbols, gang affiliations, vulgar, subversive, sexually suggestive, or otherwise inappropriate language or images; promotion of products that students may not legally buy such as alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs; or anything that promotes harm to another or to one's self.

Prohibited items include studded jewelry, chains, sunglasses (unless medically required), and sleepwear or clothing resembling sleepwear.

Failure to follow dress code or be respectful upon reasonable request to correct dress will result in disciplinary action.

Health Information

Prescription drugs must be brought to the office to be dispensed by the school nurse, per district procedure. Over the counter drugs & medicines are treated the same way as prescription drugs. Prescribed medication and/or over-the-counter drugs & medicines may not be shared with others. This includes aspirin, diet pills, cough drops, etc. Please contact Nurse Romy Byrd with questions, 733-9300.

Students that become ill at school should ask for permission to see the nurse. The nurse will assess the student's condition and determine what course of action to take. Under no circumstances should a student fail to go to class or leave class without telling a teacher, particularly when they are not feeling well.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

MSBSD believes and research supports that it is essential to the physical and mental well-being of students to return to physical activity and athletic competition. We recognize that all students may be unable to return to--and sustain--athletic activity at the same time across the state. There will likely be variations in what sports and activities are allowed to take place. This may lead to inequities, however MSBSD endorses the idea of returning students to school-based athletics and activities in any and all situations where it can be done safely.

For additional information, visit the [MSBSD Co-Curricular Handbook](#). Please refer to our [SVS Mitigation Plan](#) for risk-level specific policies regarding practice, competition, participant screening, and face coverings.

Athletic Fees

Fees for activities are due prior to the first competition. Fees may be paid for with credit card via [SchoolPay](#) or by submitting check (preferred) or cash via the front office.

High School Sports Fee**	\$200 per activity
Middle School Sports Fee**	\$100 per activity

**Students qualifying for free/reduced lunch may pay ½ the fee. Fee waivers are available at the front office.

Note: Maximum sports fee per High School student is \$500 per year. Maximum sports fee per Middle School student is \$250 per year.

Attendance Rule

A student must be in attendance for at least half the school day to participate in that day's practice or meeting. For games, competition, or travel, a student must be in full attendance on the day of an activity. If an event is held on a weekend, the student must be in full attendance the day prior to the activity. Students must be in full attendance the day following an activity. Exceptions would apply to students attending school-related events, having received prior administrative approval, or when unusual circumstances occur to authorize an absence. Students not in attendance for at least ½ day are not permitted to at-

tend or participate in after school activities.

Semester Eligibility

In order to be eligible to participate in interscholastic activities during any semester a student must:

Pass the required number of courses the preceding semester (freshmen exempt until 2nd semester);

Maintain a 2.0 GPA during the previous grading period (based on grades at the end of 1st & 3rd quarters, and 1st & 2nd semesters);

Be enrolled in at least four semester units (seniors included). Please see link to the ASAA eligibility rules, found on the [ASAA website](#).

Weekly Eligibility

Each week, SVS student athletes are required to complete an Eligibility Form. Students are required to check their grades on StudentVUE and enter them on the form. They must acquire signatures from each of their teachers, their parent/guardian**, and the principal.

**If students have all A's/B's, that week's parent signature is optional.

Students must have a passing grade in all classes, and have met citizenship expectations. Eligibility forms must be turned in by the end of the day on Thursday and results will impact eligibility for the following week. Failure to turn in a form may result in not participating in an event or traveling with the team.

Travel*

Travel for athletics, field trips, national or international trips is permitted under certain restrictions. See the District Co-Curricular Handbook for additional information. The principal will inform staff, students and families of changes to travel as conditions warrant.

Travel Expectations

Susitna Valley activity participants are constantly representing our school and community. Students' behavior in and out of school directly reflects on their fellow students, coaches, advisors, and on Susitna Valley Jr/Sr High School. Students are expected to be well behaved and proactively seek opportunities to be positive representatives of our school. Teams that win a sportsmanship award at any meet or

tournament will be provided a team pizza party to celebrate their outstanding representation.

Students involved in Susitna Valley athletics or clubs are considered to be under the school's jurisdiction at all times and are subject to the rules of conduct of ASAA, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District, and Susitna Valley Jr/Sr High School.

Physical Exams, PlanetHS Registration*

All students must have a current physical on file annually in order to participate in a sport. All students must have a registration through [Planet HS](#) in order to attend practice or participate in athletics in any capacity. Information on athletic registration can be found at this site.

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Bus Transportation

Per the [MSBSD Student Handbook](#) (pg.40), school bus transportation is provided as a courtesy and is a privilege, not a right. If a student's conduct is such that the health, safety, comfort, or the wellbeing of others is jeopardized, on or off the bus, a school district official may deny the privilege of riding the bus. The school bus driver is in charge of the bus and its passengers and has total authority and responsibility. Only designated school officials are authorized to suspend transportation privileges.

School bus write-ups will result in appropriate disciplinary action at school, up to and including suspension of bus riding privileges.

After School Policy

Students must leave school at the conclusion of the school day unless they are in study hall, working directly with a classroom teacher, or immediately involved in a sport or club. The building is unsupervised after 3:00 PM so it is necessary for all students to leave the building unless immediately involved in a school sponsored activity. Students who remain after school without supervision will be subject to disciplinary action and parents will be called. In the case of extenuating circumstances regarding transportation, please notify the front office.

Bullying/Harassment

All types of harassment are prohibited. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, abusive language, sexual harassment, inappropriate physical contact, racial or ethnic slurs and comments, hazing and other similar provocative actions. Bullying and harassment are not tolerated at Susitna Valley and will result in immediate disciplinary action.

Public Display of Affection

Public displays of affection are not permitted in the hallways or any areas of the school. This includes close body contact, hugging, kissing, and any excessive display of affection. Students are permitted to hold hands. Repeated PDA after a polite reminder will result in disciplinary action.

Weapons

Students may not possess firearms or explosive devices on school property. Look-a-like weapons or replicas are included in this definition. Pocket knives, Leatherman tools, hunting knives or any other type of knife may not be brought onto school property.

Alcohol/Drug Paraphernalia

The possession or sale of alcohol, drugs and/or paraphernalia is prohibited. Possession of these items may result in law enforcement contact and a minimum ten day out-of-school suspension for a first offense. Distribution of these items will result in a recommendation for expulsion.

Tobacco/Smoking

Students shall not smoke any substance or otherwise use or possess tobacco or tobacco products anywhere on school property or at school activities. This includes electronic cigarettes.

Disruptive Behavior

Disruptive behavior is student conduct that materially and substantially interferes with the educational process or school activities. Examples of disruptive behavior include insubordinately talking out, moving around the classroom without permission, uncomplimentary gestures/speech, threatening, non-compliance with school/classroom rules, refusing to acknowledge a school employee's direction, and behavior that jeopardizes the welfare, and/or safety of other students

and staff. This type of behavior is not allowed and will result in an office referral and disciplinary action.

Respect/Insubordination

Students are expected to comply with the reasonable requests of school adults. When a student fails to do as reasonably requested, it is considered willful disobedience.

Food and Drink

Food and drink are not allowed, without permission, in any classroom including the library and gymnasium during the school day.

Offensive Language

The use of profane or obscene language is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Swearing directed toward a staff member will result in disciplinary action, including suspension.

Fighting and Assault

All fighting will be deemed mutual assault, unless a participant in the fight clearly shows that his/her conduct was justified self-defense in the absence of a reasonable opportunity to retreat from the fight. Fighting and assault will result in disciplinary action, including out-of-school suspension.

Vandalism

Vandalism is the intentional and malicious destruction of or damage to the property of another. Students found to be guilty of vandalism will be required to pay full restitution for repair or replacement of items. In addition, students will be referred to the office for disciplinary action.

Lunch Detention

Lunch detentions are assigned to students by staff members for minor infractions. They may also be assigned by the administration when students are referred to the office.

The following guidelines govern lunch detentions:

- The teacher that assigns the detention is responsible for informing the student and the front office that a detention has been assigned.
- The student must report to lunch detention during the next lunch

period. If there is a conflict, the student is responsible for letting the office know the issue.

- Students will complete a Reflection Form during detention.

The following process will be followed to address students who fail to attend assigned lunch detention:

1st Skip Conference with the principal and phone call home.
Further Skips Disciplinary action beyond a lunch detention.

COMMON AREA EXPECTATIONS

Class Meetings/Assemblies*

Students are expected to demonstrate appropriate and cooperative behavior during assemblies and class meetings. Students who fail to cooperate will be removed and forfeit their privilege to attend after-school activities (dances, games, etc.). All students are expected to attend assemblies and demonstrate appropriate behavior. Assemblies are an opportunity for students to gather to recognize achievements of the student body and to participate in presentations.

All staff members are expected to attend and chaperone assemblies. They are also required to seat themselves in the bleachers with the students when the assembly is in the gym and in seats amongst the students. On the day of an assembly, teachers will remind students about appropriate behavior.

Assembly expectations are as follows:

Stay in the assembly unless a teacher permits you to leave.
Be positive and supportive of assembly activity participants.
Phones should be put away (not visible/shared, or used for texting).
Do not wear headphones or earbuds during the assembly.

Lunch Time*

As part of our [SVS Mitigation Plan](#), middle school lunch will have two rotating groups. These cohorts will stay static for contact tracing, if necessary. High school lunch will remain one cohort.

Susitna Valley Jr./Sr. High provides both a middle school and a high

school lunch break. Students have the opportunity to eat lunch, relax with friends, and engage in physical activity in the gymnasium. We have a closed campus for middle school students, freshmen, and sophomores. Juniors and Seniors who meet the criteria for open campus eligibility (see page 8) will be allowed to leave campus at lunch. Students must adhere to the following guidelines in order to ensure safety and a positive learning environment for students in classrooms.

Common Areas:

Students may only be in the Commons, Library, or Gymnasium during lunch, unless an adult is taking them outside.

Students may not be in the hallways as classes are in session.

All food items must remain in the cafeteria area.

Students are expected to clean up after themselves and push their chairs under the tables when finished eating.

No food or drink is allowed in the foosball area.

Gymnasium

Staff will make the gym accessible to students as long as students follow the appropriate protocols.

- No food or drinks in the gymnasium during lunch.
- Basketballs/volleyballs are made available at the beginning of each lunch.
- Students may not kick or recklessly throw basketballs/volleyballs.
- Basketball Shots must be at three point range or closer to the basket. Half-court shots are prohibited.
- Students are expected to return basketballs/volleyballs to the appropriate place after the bell indicating the end of lunch break.
- Students asked to leave the gym must do so immediately. Failure to do so will result in a loss of lunch break gym privileges.
- Athletic shoes must be worn at all times. Socks or bare feet are not acceptable.

Hallways*

In order to provide the best education possible and optimal supervision, it is crucial that students arrive to class on time and that the hallways are quiet in recognition of the learning taking place in classrooms.

- Students have four minutes between each class to go to their lockers, visit the restroom, get water, and visit with friends.
- Students should not engage in horseplay and must maintain a conversational tone and volume level when in the hallways.
- When the bell rings, students are expected to be in their classroom prepared to work.
- Students that feel ill must let their classroom teacher know that they are proceeding to the nurse. For safety reasons, it is crucial that we know where students are at all times, particularly when they feel ill.
- Personal items that are left in the hallway between classes will be taken to the lost and found immediately.
- We request students not sit on tables in hallways or common areas.
- Students that are tardy to class are subject to the Tardy Policy detailed on page 13 of the handbook.

MSBSD Vision

Mat-Su Borough School District will be a model of excellence in teaching, learning, and engaging all students.

MSBSD Mission

Mat-Su Borough School District prepares all students for success.

MSBSD Beliefs

- We believe that the needs and best interests of students drive all decisions.
- All students can and want to learn.
- Educational choices and community participation are essential to student success.

MSBSD Goals

- 1) Improve student success, achievement, and performance.
- 2) Develop excellent educators and leaders.
- 3) Use innovative practices to improve the education system.
- 4) Include families and community members in the education of our students.
- 5) Promote safe and healthy environments for all.



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