



WOOD RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL
FAMILYHANDBOOK
2023-2024

900 2nd Ave No.
Hailey, ID 83333
208-578-5030
blaineschools.org/wrms



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GENERAL INFORMATION

District Philosophy

Mission

The mission of Blaine County School District is to inspire, engage, educate and empower every student.

Values

Balancing rigorous, evidence-based instruction with an environment of collaboration, compassion, humility and inclusion to help every student succeed at the highest level.

School Philosophy

Mission

Wood River Middle School empowers students to embrace challenge, respect diversity, seek understanding, communicate effectively, and contribute positively to our changing world.

Beliefs

WRMS believes that student learning is the priority in our school. Students will communicate effectively, be literate, and prepared for their next level of education.

WRMS has a commitment to create a safe, nurturing environment where diversity is understood, appreciated, and valued.

WRMS believes that mastery of basic curriculum, technology competency, visual arts, performing arts, and extracurricular activities are necessary for a well-rounded education.

WRMS believes with supportive interaction among home, school, and community; students can become contributing workers and responsible citizens.

WRMS believes that all staff, parents, and community members share in the responsibility for providing a supportive environment that incorporates the basic values of honesty, integrity, self-discipline, and responsibility within the school.

WRMS believes students are valued as individuals and their worth is separate from their performance as they mature socially, intellectually, physically, and emotionally.

Grades: 6th - 8th Grade

Mascot: Wolverines



Contact Information

Mailing Address	900 2nd Avenue North, Hailey, ID 83333
School Office Phone	(208) 578-5030
School Office Fax	(208) 578-5130
District Website	https://www.blaineschools.org
School Website	https://www.blaineschools.org/wrms

NAME	POSITION	PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS
Donna Pierson	Principal	(208) 578-5031	dpierson@blaineschools.org
Christopher Koch	Vice Principal	(208) 578-5032	ckoch@blaineschools.org
Cheryl Kramer	Administrative Assistant	(208) 578-2300	ckramer@blaineschools.org
Jodi Olsen	Administrative Assistant	(208) 578-2302	jolsen@blaineschools.org
Danielle Wilson	Athletic Director	(208) 578-5030	dwilson@blaineschools.org
Shawna Wallace	School Resource Officer	(208) 578-5037	swallace@blaineschools.org
Kamryn Carlson	Social Worker	(208) 578-5035	kcarlson@blaineschools.org
Hailey O'Reilly	Guidance Counselor	(208) 578-5034	horeilly@blaineschools.org
Alexandra Weihe	Guidance Counselor	(208) 578-5033	aweihe@blaineschools.org
	Transportation	(208) 578-5420	

OUR SCHOOL

Wood River Middle School has high expectations and academic standards to prepare our students for high school. All of us working together can successfully achieve these goals. It takes hard work, self-discipline, good citizenship, respect for others and a willingness to put forth the effort.

We are depending on you to extend the Wolverine's tradition of achieving excellence in academics, citizenship, extracurricular activities and athletics!

This organizer has important information that can help you be successful. Please fill in your daily schedule on the next page.

Parents, we ask you to review the information contained in this School Handbook and the District Handbook with your child to understand our school's policies and procedures.



DAILY SCHEDULE

Period	Time (Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri)	Time (Wed)
Advisory	Advisory/ DEAR 8:25-8:48 (23)	1 8:25 - 9:01 (36) 33 + news
1	8:52 - 9:39 (47)	9:05 - 9:38 (33)
2	9:43 - 10:30 (47)	9:42 - 10:15 (33)
3	10:34 - 11:21 (47)	10:19 - 10:52 (33)
4	Lunch A: 11:21-11:51 (30) Core 1: 11:55 - 12:42 (47) Core 2: 11:25 - 12:12 (47) Lunch B: 12:12 - 12:42 (30)	Lunch 1: 10:52 - 11:22 (30) Core 1: 11:26 - 12:00 (34) Core 2: 10:56 - 11:30 (34) Lunch 2: 11:30 - 12:00 (30)
5	12:46 - 1:33 (47)	
6	1:37 - 2:24 (47)	12:04 - 12:37 (33)
7	2:28 - 3:15 (47)	12:41 - 1:15 (34)





STUDENT LEARNING

Student Services & Scheduling

The school counselors are available for scheduling, new student registration, mediation, referral for educational support, and parent concerns. The school social worker and counselors are available to confer on social or emotional issues, to network with community resources, and to provide family support.



Schedules are created based on the student requests made during pre-registration in the spring. Changes in schedules require an administrator's approval and will only be made for inappropriate academic placement, technical error, or medical excuses.

Appointments & Early Departures

Wood River Middle School has been designated a "CLOSED CAMPUS" by the Blaine County School Board. When students are dropped off at school, they are not permitted to leave the school grounds without the principal's permission or a formal checkout from the office. Students will not be released to anyone other than parents/legal guardians without written permission.

If at all possible, please schedule visits to the dentist, doctor, orthodontist, etc. outside of school hours so as not to disrupt the classroom and the student's education. Whenever possible use holiday vacations, three day weekends, and summer to schedule appointments. When appointments are scheduled ahead of time, please inform the classroom teacher and office as soon as possible. Parents are discouraged from picking up their children and interrupting classes the last 20 minutes of school unless an emergency arises.

To ensure students miss as little instruction as possible, students will not be called to the office until a parent/guardian arrives to sign them out. Students returning the same day must be signed back in by their parent/guardian. See Board [Policy 529 - Open/Closed Campus](#) for details.

Grading Periods & Student Progress

Final report cards will be sent home at the end of each school year. WRMS does not send hard copies of report cards at the end of each trimester. Parents may access daily "real time" grade reports, attendance, discipline, and the student's personal information on PowerSchool at any time. Parents can also request a hard copy of their student's report card through the office at any time.

Homework



Homework is part of middle school life. There is strong evidence that students' understanding increases through the completion of homework. Middle school teachers assign homework to practice the skills learned in class.

Students can access assignments and homework through Schoology. Students who are absent are expected to make up any work they miss.

Middle School Academics

Beginning in seventh grade, students are required to obtain the minimum credit requirements, or achieve the standards via an alternate mechanism, and comply with the District's attendance requirements to be eligible for promotion to the next grade. See Minimum Credit Requirements in Blaine County School District Handbook, p. 21.

Honor Roll

Honor Roll is published each trimester for the 6th, 7th and 8th grades. To make the honor roll, a student must have a minimum 3.50 grade average.

Academic Support

Academic supports are strategies and programs that are available to students at Wood River Middle School to help students succeed academically— particularly students who may not be making the same academic progress as their peers. Wood River Middle School uses a variety of strategies to provide extra support to students. If you are concerned about your child's academic performance, please email the appropriate teacher, your child's counselor, or a school administrator.

Chromebooks

Chromebooks are school property and having a Chromebook is a privilege. We expect every student to take good care of them. If a Chromebook is damaged/lost, it may result in charges for the cost of repairs/replacement.

- Students are expected to leave name tags and school tags on the Chromebooks and chargers. Students should not add stickers or write on the Chromebooks.
- Students are expected to have Chromebooks fully charged when they arrive at school.
- Chromebooks are intended for school activities only.

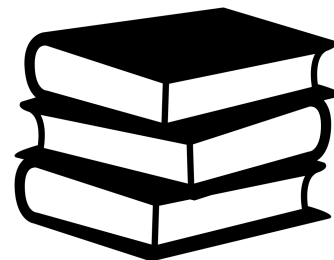




If a student forgets their chromebook or charger they can check out one additional Chromebook or charger for the day. If a student already has two Chromebooks or chargers checked out, no more additional Chromebooks or chargers will be issued.

WRMS Library

The Library is open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:50 p.m. (Monday through Friday). Students can access the library catalog and place holds on books via the library's page on our school website. Students can check out up to three books at a time for up to three weeks. Magazines are available for overnight checkout. Audio and eBooks are available digitally through the Sora app, which can be accessed with Chromebooks, smartphones, or tablets. Students will be assigned a fee to cover the replacement of lost or damaged books.



Textbooks & Library Materials

Students check out required textbooks from their teachers. Each student is responsible for returning any books checked out to them in the same condition as they were received.



STUDENT CONDUCT

We promote positive behavior at WRMS so all teachers can teach and all students can learn. We realize that children occasionally use poor judgment and require intervention as they learn from their mistakes.



To maintain positive behavior among our student body, the school has adopted a Positive Behavior Intervention and Support system (PBIS). This system is designed to: create a safe, predictable environment for students and foster a school-wide culture of appropriate behaviors and citizenship.

There are six important elements of Wood River Middle School's PBIS system:

1. Positive teacher / student relationships
2. Active Supervision
3. Clear expectations
4. Recognition of positive student behavior
5. Student Discipline
6. Systematic Supports

Positive Teacher/Student Relationships

WRMS teachers endeavor to know their students personally, express a caring attitude, and form positive relationships with students. The goal is to create a classroom climate that enhances students' success by motivating them to succeed and adapting to the needs of diverse learners.

Active Supervision

Supervision of students is a fundamental duty of every adult. When staff members are visible the likelihood of rule violations and negative social behavior decreases significantly.

Clear Expectations

Wood River Middle School students are expected to be:

- **Respectful** – Students are to be respectful to all staff members, other students, and guests at all times.
- **Responsible** – Students are expected to do their schoolwork and come to class prepared and on time.
- **Ready to Learn** – Being ready to learn means, students have a positive and productive student mindset.



Behavior Expectations for All WRMS Students

Specific Context	Respect	Responsible	Ready
Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Use good manners-Be kind.-Follow directions.-Use school-appropriate language-Listen when others are speaking-Wait your turn to speak.-Participate-Leave it alone if it is not yours.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Be on time.-Work hard and complete your work.-Make up missing work.-Work hard-Clean up after yourself.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Bring all of your materials with you to class (i.e., pencils, notebook, reading book, agenda)-Have your homework done when you come to class.Keep your cell phone in your locker.
Hallway	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Walk!-Use good manners.-Be kind.-Use school-appropriate language.-Keep your hands and feet to self-Move to the side to talk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Use your locker only.-Keep your notebooks with you.-Get to class on time.-Clean up after yourself.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Leave your cell phone in your locker.-Leave your bags in your locker.
Cafeteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Walk-Use good manners-Be kind. Include others.-Join the line at the end-even if your friends say you can "cut."-Keep your hands and feet to yourself.-Use school-appropriate language.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Clean up after yourself-Keep food in designated areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Leave books in your locker.-Leave your cell phone in your locker.-Bring what you need with you.



Specific Context	Respect	Responsible	Ready
Locker Room /Bathrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Respect each other's privacy.-Leave when you are done.-Keep your hands and feet to yourself.-Use school appropriate language.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Clean up after yourself.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Keep your cell phone in your locker.-Take care of your business and go back to class. This is not a place to play around.
Assemblies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Listen when others are speaking-Participate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Sit with your class	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Leave books / notebooks in locker
Outside	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Play safe-Use good manners.-Follow directions-Be kind. Include others-Stay in your own space.-Use school-appropriate language.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Pick up and return equipment-Keep food in designated areas-Clean up after yourself.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Wear appropriate clothing.
Bus area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Follow directions-Join the line at the end of the line (even if your friends say you can "cut").-Keep your hands and feet to yourself.-Use school appropriate language-Give each other space-Stay out of trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Walk!-Keep off concrete posts-Cross at crosswalk-Keep leaves, snow, flowers on the ground.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Stay behind the yellow line in your bus's loading area until the bus comes..-Enter the bus calmly.

All rules in the student handbook apply including dress code.

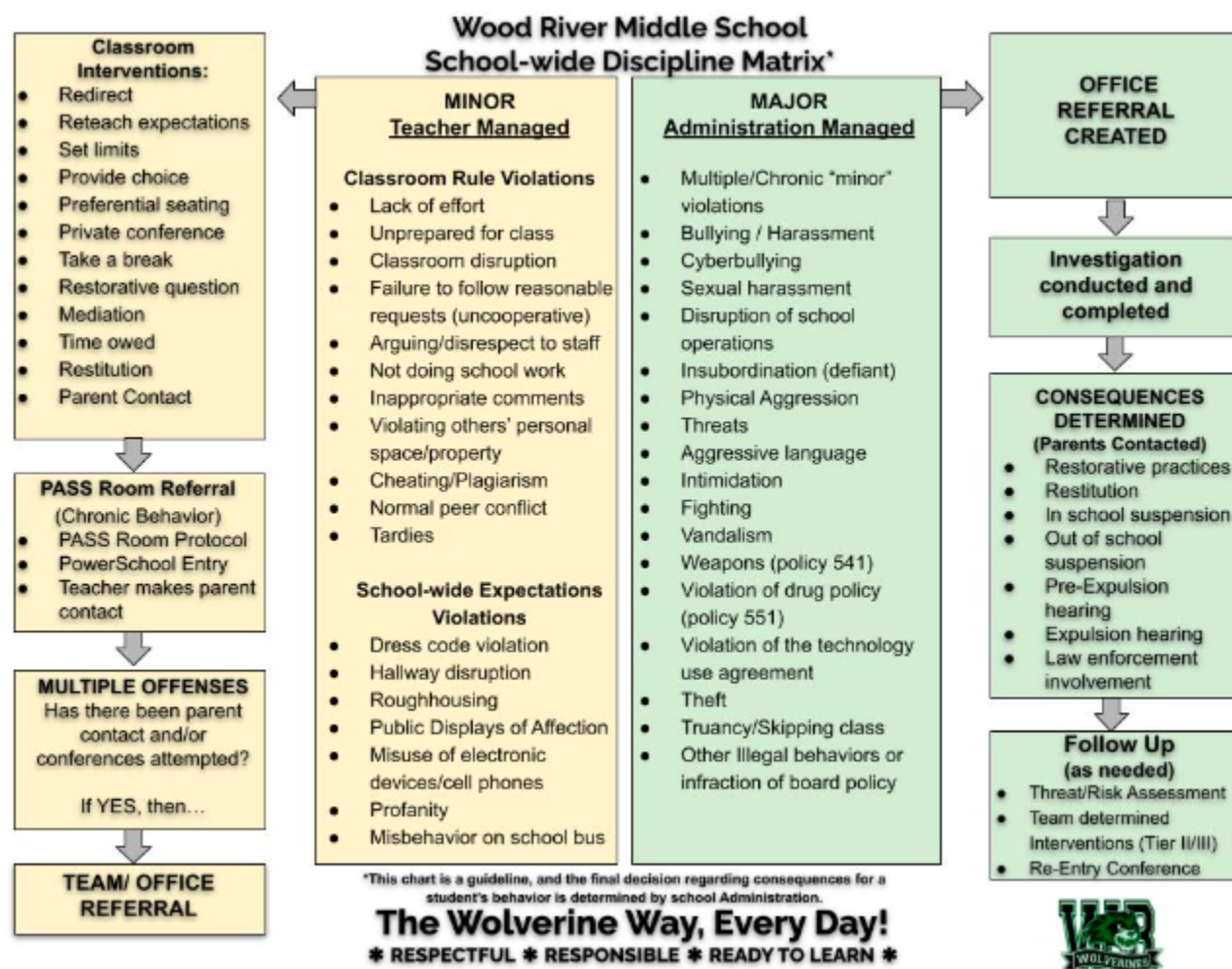


Recognition of Positive Student Behavior

Every staff member is encouraged to frequently recognize positive student behavior through the Way to Go Wolverine program. When positive behaviors are observed, students are presented with a ticket which can be turned in for a chance to win a prize. Grade levels collect the tickets and the grade level with the most tickets is recognized with a special event. Adults strive to achieve a ratio of four positive interactions with students to any one negative interaction.

Student Discipline

The WRMS DISCIPLINE MATRIX is used to determine appropriate consequences for student misbehavior that interferes with safe and orderly operation of the school. This table is a guideline. The final decision regarding consequences for a student's behavior is determined by the school Administrator. All students are guaranteed due process.





Systematic Supports¹

Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) is an evidence-based, tiered framework used at Wood River Middle school to support students' behavioral, academic, social, emotional, and mental health. The ultimate goal of implementing PBIS data, systems, and practices is to improve student outcomes. PBIS uses a tiered approach to address student needs.

Tier 1: Universal, Primary Prevention (All)

Tier 1 systems, data, and practices support everyone – students, educators, and staff – across all school settings. They establish a foundation for positive and proactive support. Tier 1 support is differentiated and enables most (80% or more) students to experience success.

Tier 2: Targeted, Secondary Prevention (Some)

In addition to your Tier 1 foundation, some students will need additional Tier 2 support targeting their specific needs. On average, about 10-15% of your students will need some type of Tier 2 support. The support that WRMS provides at Tier 2 is more focused than at Tier 1.

Tier 3: Intensive & Individualized, Tertiary Prevention (Few)

In most schools, there are a small number (1-5%) of students for whom Tier 1 and Tier 2 support is not sufficient. Students receiving Tier 3 support require more intensive, individualized support to improve their outcomes. Tier 3 supports are available to any student with intensive need, whether they receive special education services or not.

¹ PBIS System adapted from the Center on PBIS <https://www.pbis.org/pbis/what-is-pbis>



ATHLETICS & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Athletic Eligibility

Student athletes are required to maintain C or better in all of their classes to ensure eligibility for competition.

See **Required Paperwork** in the Blaine County School District Handbook, p. 44.





ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Student Drop Off – Pick Up

ALL DOORS WILL REMAIN LOCKED UNTIL 8:00 A.M. Please do not drop off students before 7:45 a.m.

Once a student is dropped off or arrives at school, they must stay at school.

Parents, please use the **south entrance for picking up and dropping off your child**. The north entrance to the school is for teacher parking, bus loading and unloading, and activity parking. **PLEASE DO NOT USE THIS AREA FOR STUDENT DROP OFF OR PICK UP!** See the directions for pick-up and drop-off in your student's first day folder or the WRMS website.

Only students involved in school-sponsored activities with appropriate staff supervision may stay after school. This includes:

- After-school clubs/Individual work with a teacher or staff member
- WRMS Athletics
- WRMS organized and **school-sponsored** activities

Students may not stay at school without proper supervision while waiting for later community events or club sports.

Visitors

The safety of the students and staff at Wood River Middle School comes first. Our doors remain locked during school hours and all visitors must enter at the South Entrance to the school via a "buzz in" system. All visitors must check in at the office and wear a visitor's badge.

Parents who wish to visit the school **MUST** check in at the office. Student visitors are not allowed, unless they have pre-arranged a plan with the Principal. Parents must request prior approval from the Principal at least one day in advance before bringing guests or siblings to visit the school or attend events (including assemblies). Student visitors who show up without pre-arranged plans may be sent home.



Cell Phones

There is a growing body of evidence that suggests student access to cell phones and other electronic communication devices may be detrimental to student emotional wellbeing and academic growth. Therefore, the possession and use of electronic communication devices is prohibited during school hours.

From the official school start time to end of the day school dismissal, including class periods, passing periods, and lunch period electronic communication devices must be kept powered-off and in students' lockers unless:

- a. Permission is granted by an administrator, teacher or school staff member;
- b. Use of the device is provided in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 education plan;

Parents should not expect to communicate directly with their children using their devices during designated school time. Parents who need to communicate with their child in the case of an emergency should call the school office and communicate with school personnel about the nature of their emergency, who will then communicate as appropriate with the student impacted by the emergency.

WRMS is not responsible for the loss, theft or damage of any cell phones or electronic communication devices brought to school.

