

Student / Parent Handbook 2019-20

Please keep this information readily available to assist in answering any questions you may have.

WELCOME!

**Grand County Middle School
439 South 100 East
Moab, Utah**

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www.grandschools.org

Within the tranquil setting of Grand County Middle School, faculty/staff, students, and parents, work hard to achieve the goals set forth in our Mission Statement:

Mission Statement

“Our mission at Grand County Middle School is to EDUCATE every student”

by means of evaluating, demonstrating, understanding, creating opportunities, advocating growth, transforming, and elevating each student to reach their greatest potential.

**Evaluate,
Demonstrate,
Understand,
Create opportunities,
Advocate growth,
Transform, and
Elevate**

This will be accomplished through the cooperative efforts of staff, students, parents, and community, in an environment of security, success, pride, and respect for all members of our school community.

**HANDBOOK
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Grand County Middle School is in session 180 days/ 990 hours on a traditional nine-month calendar.

School Hours:

Monday – Thursday 7:40 – 2:35 p.m.

Friday (early release every Friday) 7:40 – 1:50 p.m.

- Students are permitted to enter the building at 7:30 a.m. The first bell rings at 7:40 a.m. Class begins at 7:45 a.m. **Students should not arrive on school grounds and will not be permitted to enter the building before 7:30 a.m.**

After School:

- The building is secured 30 minutes after school ends. Students are expected to be picked up or have a transportation plan for after school hours. Students are NOT allowed on campus after school hours without supervision. Supervision is established through BEACON or a coach/practice schedule. BEACON runs from the time school is released until 5:00 pm. Students who choose to enroll in BEACON must follow the rules and guidelines established by BEACON and are aligned with school rules.
- Practice times for sports or other after school activities and clubs are determined by the coach. Many practices occur hours after school has been released. If your student has practice after school is released, he or she MAY NOT “hang around” school unsupervised. Students who are at school without adult supervision must attend and participate in BEACON or be picked up by a parent or guardian and may return to school grounds when practice begins.

GCMS Schedules 2019-2020

Monday - Thursday Schedule 50 Minute Classes/47 Minute 7th hour

Hour	7th and 8th Grades
Daily Announcements/1 st	7:45 -8:40
2 nd	8:43 – 9:33
3 rd	9:36 – 10:26
4 th	10:29 – 11:19
Walk to HS Cafe	11:19-11:22
7th and 8th Graders Eat Lunch	11:22 – 11:52
Walk Back to GCMS/Recess Time	11:52-12:00
5 th	12:03 – 12:53
6 th	12:56- 1:46
7 th	1:49 – 2:35

Friday Early Release 44 Minute Classes/41 Minute 7th Hour

Hour	7th and 8th Grades
Daily Announcements/1 st	7:45 – 8:34
2 nd	8:37 – 9:21
3 rd	9:24 – 10:08
4 th	10:11 – 10:55
Walk to HS Cafe	10:55-10:58
Eat Lunch	10:58 – 11:28
Walk Back to GCMS/Recess Time	11:28-11:32
5 th	11:35 – 12:19
6 th	12:22 – 1:06
7 th	1:09 – 1:50

District Wide 12:45 Early Out or GCMS Friday Activity Schedule

35 min Classes/30 Minute 7th Hour*

Hour	7th and 8th Grades
Daily Announcements/1 st	7:45 – 8:25
2 nd	8:28 – 9:03
3 rd	9:06 – 9:41
4 th	9:44 - 10:19
5 th	10:22 -10:57
Walk to Cafe	10:57 – 11:00
Eat Lunch	11:00 - 11:30
Walk Back to GCMS/Recess Time	11:30 – 11:34
6 th	11:37- 12:12
7 th	12:15 - 12:45
Friday Activity:Scheduled on School Cal.	12:48 - 1:50

***Please keep in mind assemblies, activities and other events may require modification of the school schedule from time to time. School start and end times will remain the same on those days.**

Grand County Middle School is located in the beautiful Moab Valley, incorporated in 1902. Nestled in the southeastern area of Utah, the long-established community radiates security. It is quiet and safe here.

- The school is in close proximity of Grand County High School and a short distance from the K-6 elementary school. Its boundaries extend throughout the entire county.
- Grand County Middle School serves seventh and eighth grade students and currently has an enrollment of approximately 250 students.
- The original structure was built in 1964, with the addition of the computer labs, media center and additional classrooms in the late sixties. In the 2019 school year, the board has approved the plan to begin construction of a new Grand County Middle School. This is both wonderful and exciting and will promote 21st Century Learning opportunities for GCMS students in an open and productive classroom environment.
- The current pupil/teacher ratio is 25:1, but actual class size varies.
- The faculty of Grand County Middle School is comprised of a blend of new and experienced “veteran” teachers. Each teacher is state certified and holds a minimum of a bachelor's degree in education or their field of expertise and a teaching certificate. Many faculty members have acquired or are in programs seeking advanced degrees.
- Students are expected to treat teachers, other students, personnel, and school property with the utmost respect. Teachers within the classroom utilize our school wide discipline system as a means of monitoring student’s behavior.
- Parents are encouraged to become involved with their children in school. Parents are afforded the opportunity to become involved with the School Community Council, as volunteers within the classrooms, and at school programs, activities, and presentations as outlined in our “Parent Involvement Plan”.

Principal: Cari Caylor

Secretarial Staff

Celeste Farnsworth

Custodial Staff

David Lance

David Olsen

Library/Media Staff

Tracy Renn

Teachers

Dina Lance

Kari Barnard

Natalie Grout

Gerlit Buffington

Tina Martin

TBA

Brook Shumway

Hannah Baggs

Alina Murdock

Dina Lance

Erik Secrist

Natalie Grout

Gerlit Buffington

Michael Estenson

TBA

Kenny Lindsay

Kelly Wilson

Robert Sokolowski

Curriculum Area

CTE/CCA

English/Language Arts

Language Arts: SPED

ESL

Mathematics

Mathematics: SPED

Physical Ed./Health

Science

Utah History/Art

Digital Literacy

English/Language Arts

Language Arts: SPED

ESL

Mathematics

Mathematics: SPED

Physical Ed./Health

Science

U.S. History

Grade Level

7th Grade

7th Grade

7th Grade

7th Grade

7th Grade

7th Grade

7th Grade

7th Grade

7th Grade

8th Grade

8th Grade

8th Grade

8th Grade

8th Grade

8th Grade

8th Grade

8th Grade

8th Grade

Elective Instructors

Joshua Jensen

Carolyn Stiles

Music: Band

Music: Strings and Choir

7th & 8th Grades

7th & 8th Grades

Counselors:

Marva Lewis

Stefanie Biron

School Guidance Counselor

School Based Therapist

7th & 8th Grades

7th & 8th Grades

Special Education T.A.s

Michael McCue

Kylie Thomas

Raquel Schultz



Traditions:

Grand County Middle School has many traditions that help to make it unique with a focus on being a good human-being and promoting school spirit.

SCHOOL MASCOT: GCMS's mascot is a THUNDERBIRD. The legend of the Thunderbird is known throughout many ancient cultures. It speaks of bravery, honor, persistence, and faith. The legendary Thunderbird is described as a huge, bird-shaped creature larger than any other. Its wings, from tip to tip are twice as long as a war canoe. Its feathers are as long as a canoe paddle. When he flaps his wings, he makes thunder and the great winds. It has a huge, curved beak, and its eyes glow like fire. When he opens and shuts his eyes, he makes lightning. It is believed that the "Thunderbird" comes from the place of the setting sun, the hunting grounds of the Great Spirit. This legendary creature is respected for helping those who help themselves.

CODE OF CONDUCT: Respect for yourselves and for others, in all places, and at all times.

SCHOOL COLORS: GCMS's colors are red, white, and black. Students are encouraged to wear school colors, especially on designated Spirit Days.

ADVISORY: Every student is assigned to an "Advisor". Advisors are the students first hour teachers who work with students within their grade level assignment. Several days throughout the school year, on Friday afternoon there will be a Reward Activity or Assistance Time. Students who have maintained C- or above in all classes are invited to participate in the Reward Activity. Students who are struggling academically with below C- grades are invited to work with teachers during Assistance Time to bring their grades to a better standing. The Reward Activities vary; school-wide barbecues/picnics, movies, athletic competitions, competitions between students and staff, dances, group games, etc.

STUDENT COUNCIL: Student Body officers are elected within the group of student council representatives chosen from each classroom. The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Historian are selected among seventh and eighth graders. The council meets on an average of once a month.

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY: Identification of qualifying students begins at the beginning of third term each school year. Specific criterion is set and all areas must be met in order to qualify as a GCMS:NJHS participant. This group of students participates in various community service projects; for example: assistance for the elderly, caroling at Christmas, food drives and tutoring for the GCMS Homework Club after school. In addition, they work with the Student Council to coordinate school based activities such as: student vs. teacher basketball games, dances, etc.

HISTORY/SCIENCE FAIR: All seventh and eighth grade students are invited to participate in these events when offered. They are organized to allow students to take an in-depth study of something within their interest. Students gain greater knowledge not only in the content but also in the strategies of using the scientific method and most current research tools.

FIELD DAY: Held in the last few weeks of school, teachers and students spend a wonderful day participating in outside activities, games, and contests.

HONORS ASSEMBLY: This school-wide assembly is held sometime within the last few weeks of school. Families and friends are invited to see our students honored for their hard work and special achievements.

EIGHTH GRADE PROMOTION: Eighth grade students are honored and awarded a certificate for their perseverance and hard work through the 7th & 8th grade school years. Held the last day of school, parents are invited and encouraged to attend. Students with outstanding F's will not be invited to participate in the promotion ceremony.

SCHOOL-WIDE EXPECTATIONS: During the first week of school, all students will have a chance to look over the rules and discuss school-wide rules and expectations with their teachers and to ask questions that pertain to their success in Middle School.

SCHOOL-WIDE ANTI-BULLYING: The Grand County School Board is committed to protecting its students, employees and guests from bullying or harassment of any type, for any reason. The School Board believes that all students, employees or guests are entitled to a safe, equitable and harassment free school experience. Bullying or harassment in any form will not be tolerated and shall be just cause for disciplinary action. Conduct that

constitutes bullying or harassment and remediation procedures are outlined by Board Policy **FGAD: BULLYING, CYBERBULLYING, HAZING, AND ABUSIVE CONDUCT.**

Promotion Requirements

In accordance with Utah Administrative Code R277-700-5, <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r277/r277-700.htm&sa=D&ust=1559757243394000&usg=AFQjCNFEF4 ffWm3Vw5i BghteXsDsGPrg;> students in Grades 7 and 8 shall participate in courses to be properly prepared for instruction in grades 9-12.

To ensure greater preparation in Science, Health, and Physical Education, GCSD requires additional credit.

General Requirements for Skill Set Acquisition and Promotion:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| (a) Language Arts | (2.0 units of credit) |
| (b) Mathematics | (2.0 units of credit) |
| (c) Science | (2.0 units of credit) |
| (d) Social Studies | (1.5 units of credit) |
| (e) Visual or Performing Arts | (1.0 units of credit) |
| (f) Physical Education | (2.0 units of credit) |
| (g) Health Education | (1.0 units of credit) |
| (h) Career and Technical Education, Life, and Careers | (1.5 units of credit) |
| (i) Electives vary | (8.0 units of credit) |

“Helping Students to Help Themselves”

Remediation Opportunities for Grand County Middle School Students

The following information outlines a variety of opportunities for students to receive additional academic assistance if they are struggling in any content area. Most of these opportunities are free of charge. Grand County Middle School teachers and staff are working very hard to help students be successful at little or no expense to the families.

Library Study Options: 7:30 – 7:40 Students who need additional time to complete assignments or have other last minute needs may be in the library for 10 minutes before school Monday - Friday. They will have the opportunity to access research materials, computers, and ask the librarian or teachers available for assistance.

Teachers are available before and after school: Several teachers spend additional time (beyond contract time) at the school to specifically assist students. ***Students or parents can ask the individual teachers when they are available.***

BEACON After-School Program Tutoring/Homework Club:

Adult tutors are available to all students after-school in the library from 1:50 p.m.–5:00 p.m. on Fridays, and from 2:35 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday- Thursday as part of our Academic Assistance Program. Snacks are provided.

Mandatory After- School Credit Recovery Program:

Any student who has received an F on end of term report card will be **expected** to attend.

1. If a student does not attend as required they will be considered **truant**.
2. Online site licenses and/or packets are available for every core area that a student has failed.
3. **Cost per failed course is \$75.00** / checks payable to Grand County Middle School.
4. **Offered Second and Third Trimester**, beginning approximately the third week of November.
5. Classes are **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday**, from 2:45 – 4:15 p.m.
6. If a student does not use this opportunity he/she **will be required to attend Summer School** in order to be promoted to the next grade level upon completion of coursework to recover failed units of credit.

Instructor: Dina Lance

Summer School:

1. Mandatory attendance for students who have failed any course required by the State of Utah.
2. On-line site licenses and/or packets are available for every core area that a student has failed
3. **Cost per failed course is \$75.00.**
4. The fees must be paid in advance, payable to Grand County Middle School.
5. Summer school begins one week after school is dismissed and continues for 4-6 weeks.
6. Hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Monday – Thursday.
7. Students will be excused from the class when they finish their assigned coursework at 100% accuracy.
8. If a student does not attend summer school they will maintain the failing grade for the course failed and will not be promoted to the next grade.

Instructor: Dina Lance

**Attendance,
Pre-arranged Absence
& Tardy Policies**

Regular school attendance (**180 days / 990 hours**) is required by Utah State Law Compulsory Attendance Law (Utah Code Section 53A-11-101.5). GCMS students are expected to follow the guidelines set forth by Grand County School Board Policy: FBB ADMISSIONS AND ATTENDANCE: COMPULSORY EDUCATION, but more importantly, it should be remembered that learning is an ongoing process with each concept solidly attached to those that precede and those that follow. Therefore, to ensure that concepts and skills are consistently learned, ***regular school attendance is necessary.***

During School Hours: It is imperative that students stay on the school grounds from the time of their arrival until dismissed. No child is to leave the school grounds during regular school hours for any reason unless he/she is excused from school by his/her parents through the main office. When it is necessary for a student to be dismissed early from school, parents are required to come into the office and sign their student out.

Attendance: It is important to note that unlike elementary school, every individual hour counts as one absence, since attendance is taken every hour and not just once in the morning. At GCMS and as your child moves up in this district, every hour is tracked individually. Therefore, if you receive a phone call stating that your child was tardy or absent from one or more classes; it would be beneficial to check their attendance online to understand what they missed or to which class they were tardy or late and have a conversation with them about missing class. Absences for school based activities are coded as such and should not be confused with lack of attendance in a specific class.

In the event of an absence, parents are requested to notify the school and indicate the reason for the absence. Whenever the school is not notified, ***parents may be contacted*** to determine why the student has not arrived at school. If the parent is also not aware of the students whereabouts, law enforcement may be notified to assist in finding the student and ensuring student safety; school disciplinary action may apply to absences of this nature.

Following a legitimate absence, **a written excuse** explaining the reason for the absence should be addressed to the office within 5 days of the student's return to school. Absences are **not excusable by telephone.** All information will be kept on record for future reference.

Please try to schedule appointments, lessons, haircuts, etc. after school hours.

We discourage students from missing school for pleasure outings or babysitting activities. Habitual absences may require additional meetings with school administration or their representation and may also cause the school to report such absences to Utah Juvenile Court System as outlined in Utah Code 53A-11-101.5.

Excusing Absence(s): There are many different ways to ensure absences are appropriately tracked. Absences may be excused for the following reasons: Illness/doctor visit, death of a family member, school activity, or other extenuating or principal approved circumstances (the final excuse must be pre-arranged and approved at least 48 hours prior to absence). Doctor's notes are not required, but they are accepted in lieu of parent excuse note and may be required if excessive or extended absences occur due to illness.

Excuse Note: The information/note of excuse can be located on the Grand County School District website or in GCMS Main Office. Students must return these notes within 5 days of their return to school. Failure to provide a note results in attendance being considered unexcused. Excuse notes may be brought into the main office by the parent or student or emailed to the main office secretary.

Pre-Arranged Absence: A parent/guardian may obtain permission from the Principal for a "pre-arranged absence" for his/her student. Pre-arranged absences may be approved for educational trips or extenuating family need. The information/note for a prearranged absence can be found in the kiosk by GCMS Main Office. A student must fill out the form and have teachers from each class and parent/guardian sign it, then hand the form into the office for principal approval. This must be handed in 48 hours prior to the absence. Absences will only be excused if the form is returned within the appropriate amount of time and if the student is in good academic and attendance standing.

The pre-arranged notification protects the student and parent from being subject to consequences set forth by the Compulsory Attendance Laws. It does not excuse students from completing and turning in required assignments during their days of absence.

Activity Excused Absence: When a student participates in a school based activities such as Quiz Bowl, Sporting event, Honors Society or Musical event, they will be considered activity excused. Students are required to ensure they obtain the work they will miss when they miss school, even for a school based activity. The information/note for an activity excused absence can be found in the kiosk by GCMS Main Office.

Tardiness

Promptness is crucial to a smooth start of each school day and each class within that school day. When students are tardy it is disruptive to the teacher's teaching and the other students' learning time. It is also discouraging to the student who arrives late as they are behind in instruction and have to make up the lost time by having additional homework or missing out on other preferred activity time. **Please arrive to school, and each class, on time.** All tardies are recorded. ***Excessive tardies will be subject to GCMS Disciplinary Action.*** Parents will be notified regarding excessive tardies and disciplinary action taken.

Tardy Policy

- Students are tardy if not seated in class at the 7:45 a.m. bell and each bell between classes including after lunch.
- A written note from parent/guardian explaining **legitimate** reason for tardy is required to count as an excused tardy. All notes must be checked in at the office.
- Sleeping in late, couldn't get child to leave for school, babysitting, missed the bus, etc. **are not** considered legitimate excuses for being tardy. Doctor's appointments are an example of an excused tardy.
- Any student who is tardy (not in his/her seat when the bell rings (for each class), unless he/she is excused by parent note, teacher or an administrator) **will be required to stay in In-School Suspension for up to fifteen minutes after school on the day of the tardy to complete an "Accountability Assignment"**. If the student does not stay as required, he / she will be considered **truant**.
- We realize that special occasions such as a doctor or dentist appointment must be considered. Special arrangements can be made to meet specific problems.
- Accountability for **unexcused** tardy:
 - First tardy: 15 minutes after school, minimum, to complete an "Accountability" assignment.
 - Second tardy: 15 minutes after school or during lunch time, minimum, to complete a second "Accountability" assignment.
 - Third tardy: Will result in a Staff Intervention (S.I.) and the consequences that go along with the S.I.-depending on prior offenses and S.I.'s received; Accountability assignment and possible recommendation for early morning detention.
 - Fourth and any following tardies may result in loss of privileges during morning, lunch and/or afterschool or require pre or post school hour attendance.

Staying After School

- Students who have to serve time after school for their tardy will notify their parents if they are required to remain after school for more than 15 minutes and /or they are bus students. Release to a parent or guardian will be required after the 3rd and subsequent tardies within each term. Tardies will reset each term.

Conduct Expectations and School Wide Discipline Plan:

Classroom Management:

- Every teacher is expected to have a highly effective classroom management plan which is presented very clearly to the students. Each classroom management plan will be organized based on a “**3 Strikes Rule**”. Students will be afforded 3 of prompts to follow teacher direction. After three prompts, with proper wait time, if a student fails to comply; the student may be asked to participate in the steps outlined in the teacher’s classroom management plan.
- The necessity to issue one or more prompts will result in the teacher recording the behavior in the school’s electronically based behavior tracking system. Recording behaviors and need for redirection will assist the teacher in tracking how much time they spend on which student and what behaviors these students are participating in. This will also assist the teacher in deciding how to proceed should further behavioral assistance and intervention be needed.
- Teachers will work with disciplinary issues within their classrooms FIRST and will contact parents if and when disciplinary action becomes a repeated offense.
- If continuous disciplinary action is required, the student will be subject to the GCMS Disciplinary Management Procedure and/or may be referred to the Academic and Behavioral Support Center for further assistance.

School Wide Discipline and Management:

- Hallway and outside inappropriate behaviors observed by any staff member will be recorded in the electronic behavioral tracking system. GCMS Disciplinary Management Procedure will be applied.

Note: *If a student is blatantly disrespectful OR the behavior is severe an Office Referral will be*

issued and processed immediately. Perpetually disruptive students may be considered for Court Referral after three severe offenses that result in suspension. The Perpetually Disruptive Student Information can be found in the District Discipline Guide on the Grand County School District website. Three office referrals may result in a Court Referral.

Educator Handbook Discipline Log:

- The documentation of disciplinary action is helpful in (1) grade-level meetings if teachers feel the need to discuss particular students (2) discussions with parents/guardians regarding accuracy of information when contacted by teacher (3) ensuring who may/may not attend reward activities.

Academic and Behavioral Support (ABS):

- The Academic and Behavioral Support Center is a space within the school that has multiple functions: 1) To provide a safe space for students and teachers to report inappropriate

behavior and ensure that accused students have a safe place and space for due process; 2) To provide a space for students to work in an alternative setting to mitigate behaviors and ensure work completion; 3) To provide a space for skill set acquisition when the student is unable to be successful in the regular classroom environment.

Staff Intervention (S.I.) or Office Referral:

- A S.I. or office referral is in direct alignment with Grand County School District Discipline Matrix and GCMS Disciplinary Management Procedure.
- They may be issued by any staff member who observes inappropriate behavior.
- They must be completely filled out before processed by the Principal or designee.
- The parent will be requested to sign the referral as acknowledgement of the incident and possible consequences.

There is an overall expectation that all staff and students will conduct themselves with pride, respect, and compassion.

R277-613-4 LEA Responsibility to Create Bullying, Cyber-bullying, Hazing and Harassment Policies and Training: The purpose of the rule is to require LEAs to implement bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing and harassment policies district and school wide; to provide for the regular and meaningful training of school employees and students; to provide for enforcement of the policies in schools, at the state level and in public school athletic programs; to require LEAs to notify parent of specific bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, harassment and suicide threat incident; and to require LEAs to maintain documentation as required by law consistent with Section 53A-11a-301.

- ▶ In the hallways
 - Walk – it is neither necessary nor appropriate to run, skip, etc.
 - Stay on the right side of the hall unless crossing over to go to class – it helps with the flow of traffic
 - Keep your hands, feet, etc. to yourself - this is a maturity effort
- ▶ In the classrooms
 - Enter and seat yourself quickly & quietly
 - Follow your teachers / teacher’s assistant instructions
 - Complete all assigned work to the best of your ability
 - Maintain appropriate behavior at all times
 - **Never show disrespect to a teacher, staff member, fellow classmates, peers or any other visitor in or outside the classroom of GCMS!**

- ▶ In the bathrooms
 - It is believed that middle school students are old enough to use the restroom facilities independently. Please help maintain a clean environment by treating the restroom with respect and reporting when there is a concern in a restroom.
- ▶ In the lunchroom/cafeteria
 - Follow the protocol = enter, line-up (do not save places in line), get your meal, eat, clean up after yourself. Wait to be excused or dismissed, and enjoy the few minutes you have left outside visiting with friends or making new friends.
- ▶ On the grounds
 - Stay within the boundaries where you can be seen.
 - Sports equipment is to be used appropriately.
 - Tackle sports or other physical contact are prohibited on school grounds.
 - Do not kick balls against the building.
 - Personal equipment brought to school should be well marked with the student's name and is the responsibility of the owner. .
 - No hard balls/baseballs/or bats are allowed.
 - Throwing, kicking, or otherwise distributing snow or snowballs, pine cones or anything else on school grounds is not allowed.
 - Goalposts are for specific sports events, not for climbing.
 - Work together and watch over each other so that no harm occurs.
- ▶ In assemblies and during presentations
 - Be considerate of how hard the presenters have worked.
 - Concert manners are expected (feet on the floor, sit up, attentive; NO CELL PHONES)

Dress Code

The purpose of public education is to provide a successful learning environment for all students. The goal of the dress code is to focus on modesty in dress and good grooming. To support this goal, the Board of Education and GCMS are implementing dress code described below for all students and employees. A student who is wearing something that is in violation of the dress code may be asked by the teacher to call home and obtain appropriate attire; go to an appropriate place and turn clothing inside out or change into an alternative article of clothing, or go to the office. The student may not be able to remain in class while waiting for appropriate clothing, it all depends on the severity of the violation, so we ask that you discuss and address this policy with your students before they arrive to school. (Teachers, coaches, and advisors may impose additional dress requirements that reflect the needs of the particular sport or class.)

Dress guidelines are as follows:

- Clothing must be neat, clean, in good repair and include shoes. Tops, bottoms and shoes must be worn when on school property or when participating in a school sponsored activity.
- Clothing and personal appearance must be neither provocative nor a distraction.
- Hair color or style is up to the individual student; neither may distract from the education of the student or persons around them.
- Clothing and other articles of attire may not display anything which is illegal for student use (such as drugs, tobacco, alcohol), be sexually oriented, be vulgar/degrading, or imitate or copy dress or behavior associated with violence.
- **Undergarments will not be exposed.**
- Midriffs will be covered.
- A shirt or dress with deep-scooped front, shoulder straps less than one inch wide, deep-cut back and/or deep cut armholes is inappropriate.
- Shorts, skirts, dresses must be approximately **finger-tip length** (including pre-mutilated pants, shorts, skirts)
 - Students will not be allowed to wear clothes that are mutilated or immodest, such as short shorts, mini-skirts, halter-tops, or other similar attire.
- Students may wear caps or hats, outside, but **MUST** remove them upon entering the building. Bandannas on the head, body or in a pocket are prohibited. Other related headgear will be the decision of the staff in each classroom.
 - Hats, visors, and bandanas are not permitted inside the school building.
- Any student wearing or carrying overt gang paraphernalia will be referred to the administration for appropriate disciplinary action.
- Dress and grooming will be clean and in keeping with health, sanitation, and safety requirements.
- Dress and grooming will not be disruptive to the teaching-learning process.
- Parents may be contacted to bring appropriate clothing to the school for their child.
- Students who are continuously dressed in soiled clothing or clothes that are too small may be referred for assistance through state programs.

General Questions Or Concerns:

▶ **Backpacks**

- Must be kept in your lockers. This is (1) a safety precaution (2) backpacks are bulky and take up a lot of space and can become a safety hazard in the classrooms.

▶ **Hats**

- Hats, visors, bandanas, etc. are not allowed to be worn in the building (1) safety reasons (2) matters of respect. Hats and visors are allowed outside to protect your head and eyes. Bandanas are considered gang-like attire – so are prohibited.

▶ **Gum**

- Gum **may** be allowed at school. At any time gum becomes an issue; chewed gum spit onto the sidewalk, on the carpet, in textbooks, under desks & chairs, smeared on lockers, etc. We will move to a “No gum in school rule”. So, please make sure that you dispose of your gum in a mature and sanitary fashion.
- ▶ **Cell Phones/Phone Usage (See: 8000 Technology Policy: Student Use of Cellphones)**
- There is a landline phone in the GCMS Main Office and with permission, any student may use this at any time during the school day to contact a parent/guardian.
 - In addition, a student who is trying to call a parent/guardian may do so with permission, on their cell phone, from the main office.
 - District Policy notes that cellphones are OFF and AWAY during the day. At GCMS, you may carry your cell phone. However, it **must be turned (powered) off** before you enter the building and before 7:45 a.m. It must remain off until after the last bell 2:35 p.m. If your cell phone “goes off,” even by mistake, or if it is out, even if it is off, it may be confiscated. If your cell phone is taken away, there will be a fine implemented that can either be paid or worked off at rate of minimum wage for the state for that year, Utah’s rate for 2019 is \$7.25/hour, usually with the custodial staff during lunch or after school hours. The phone will be brought to the office and the office staff and student will notify the parent/guardian of the phone confiscation and consequences. Parents are asked to come and pick the phone up, if and when possible.
 - The following will be enforced for the confiscation of a cell phone: ***First offense:*** The phone is confiscated, must be picked up by a parent/guardian, and a fine of \$25.00 must be paid to receive the phone; ***Second offense:*** The phone is confiscated, must be picked up by a parent/guardian, and a fine of \$50.00 must be paid to receive the phone. At the second offense, and any cell phone violations after, the student may receive an Office Referral and/or the student may be required to hand the cellphone in each day to the office for a specified or undetermined amount of time, up to and including the remainder of the school year. The student may pick up the phone at the end of the school day if this plan is implemented.
- Bicycles, Scooters, Skateboards, etc.**
- ▶ **POSTED: Rollerblades, roller shoes, bikes, scooters, and skateboards are not to be used on school property.**
- Bicycle racks for parking and locking bikes are available on school grounds.

- The bicycle area **is not secured**. Bikes should be placed in the bike racks and securely locked with personal locks. It is strongly suggested you DO NOT leave bikes on rack overnight, even if they are locked up.
- Scooters, skateboards and other transportation devices may be stored in a central location determined by the school, but MAY NOT be secure.

► **Bringing Items from Home**

Please do not bring the following items to school:

- Weapons of any kind **including facsimiles**.
- Electronic games, cameras, iPods, or any other electronic devices.
- Baseballs, fireworks or caps, toys, etc.

These items are a distraction in the learning environment and become a nuisance for the teachers and other staff to deal with. Also, every year there are reports of theft and accidents involving these items. The school is not liable for theft or harm regarding personal items brought to school. **These items will be confiscated and not returned except to parents at the end of the school year.**

► **Food and Drinks**

- Food and drinks are to be consumed **in the lunch room only**, in order to maintain clean hallways and lockers. Food consumed anywhere else on campus is only allowable with teacher permission, or during special events sponsored by the school or a specific teacher.
- Energy drinks are discouraged because of the intense and unhealthy effects they have on middle school-age students. Energy drinks will be confiscated and can be retrieved by a parent or guardian for consumption at home if desired. If they are not picked up, these drinks will be discarded.

School Nutrition Program:

- **To pay school lunch fees please visit:**
<http://www.grandschools.org/donutrition> and look for the “Piggy Bank”
- *Breakfast is served beginning at 7:25 a.m. Cost is \$1.75*
- *7th and 8th Grade Lunch is served at the Grand County High School Cafeteria, please see school schedules for times.*
- *Parents are encouraged to come in and have lunch with their student anytime. The cost is \$4.00 for an adult lunch.*

Utah State Office of Education Child Nutrition Program Charges Model Policy

B.(3) “Collection Efforts” means a collection agency or other means that Grand County School District uses to collect delinquent lunch balances or contacts to parents by phone, mail, or other efforts to recoup unpaid meal balances. Schools may not withhold student records for unpaid school meal balances.

B. (4) “Delinquent Account” means a student’s meal fund account that does not have adequate funds to cover the meal charges by student/parent. School nutrition programs are

responsible for the collection of funds in advance of the meal being served, but the school has the responsibility for the collection of delinquent accounts, if they are allowed.

****Please see additional information regarding nutrition and policies on www.grandschools.org***

Safety

Visitors

For safety and liability reasons **ALL visitors MUST check-in in the office** after they enter the school prior to visiting students or teachers. This will allow us to acknowledge who is in the building. Parents are welcome and encouraged to visit the school. If you wish to do so, please contact your child's teacher(s) in advance, as visits or interruptions during school hours without prior arrangements can be disruptive to classroom activities. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Students may not attend classes unless they are enrolled as full-time students in Grand County Middle School. Occasionally a student asks to bring a cousin or friend to spend the day with him/her. We are unable to grant permission to visit due to school liability reasons.

Emergency Drills and Information

- Fire and disaster drill rules and procedures are reviewed with students each August/September. At least 1 drill per month is conducted each year.
- In case of an imminent storm or tornado forecast occurring around dismissal time, students are not released until the danger is passed. Parents may come to school to pick up their own children at such times. Students will not be released unless their parents / guardians are listed on the student's enrollment form.
- Every student should know the steps they would need to take in case the school had to be closed. **EVERY STUDENT SHOULD:**
 1. Know that we cannot count on telephone service in any emergency that would involve closing the school.
 2. They should know the prearranged family member or neighbor's name that is authorized (on the emergency/registration card) who may come for them.
 3. Know their responsibility with regard to brothers or sisters. It is suggested that the oldest child in the family be responsible for picking up younger brothers and sisters from the designated pick up areas.
 4. Know the most direct route home.
 5. Know the location of an extra key to the house.
 6. Know what your family's instructions and policies are that apply when a child is in the house alone.
 7. Know their parents'/guardians' phone numbers and address.
- In the event of an evacuation a "Family Reunification Plan" is located below:

Family reunification plan:

In the event that there is ever a need for reunification, Grand County Middle School and Grand County School District request two things:

- 1) Parents: Please ensure that your contact and emergency contact information are kept up to date with Grand County School District at the school(s) that your child/children attend. This will assist in ensuring that an appropriate person can be reached and you and your child/children can be reunited as quickly as possible.
- 2) Parents: Please refer to Facebook and the Grand County School District Website for up to date information as an event unfolds-this will help to ensure that you are receiving information.

Student Medication

If a student should require medication during school hours, the student can contact the parent or guardian to come to school and administer the medication. Should the medication be needed more frequently than is possible for the parent or guardian to get to the school, the parent or guardian must complete a Health Care Plan with the school nurse located at the Southeastern Utah Health Department on behalf of the student. School nurse contact information can be obtained in GCMS Main Office. This applies to ANY medication, prescription or over the counter medications may not be given by school staff without proper direction which is provided in the Health Care Plan. Students MAY NOT carry medications around school with them. Only students with a specified plan and coordinating Health Care Plan from the Health Department are allowed to have medications on them throughout the school day.

Contagious Diseases

Contagious diseases should be reported as soon as possible to the school to provide for timely notification to health authorities and to parents of classmates. Exclusion from school is necessary for the period of contagion.

Vision and Hearing Screening

Students in middle school are tested annually for vision and hearing (7th grade). If difficulties are discovered, parents are notified via a notice from the district office. This notice may be taken to a doctor to complete a more extensive eye examination.

Insurance

As independent sources for accident insurance are made available to the school, forms and information are available in the school office or at the district office.

<p style="text-align: center;">Student Services & School to Home Communication</p>

School Based Guidance and Counseling Services

Grand County Middle has a comprehensive counseling and guidance department. This department includes a school counselor to assist with College and Career Readiness planning meetings, class selection and career and college exploration. There is a school based therapist to assist individuals who are struggling as well as overall group-work, therapy and support.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences are conducted at mid-term each trimester, giving students the opportunity to advance their final grades or citizen marks before the end-of-term report cards are filed. Additional conferences can be scheduled throughout the school year as necessary or requested by teacher or parent. Should you desire a conference with your child's teacher(s) prior to the designated times, please contact those teachers. We encourage parent involvement and frequent communication.

Written Reports of Progress

Report Cards – Computer generated progress reports, based on a student's growth in relation to ability, are sent to parents at the end of each term, three per year. The report form reflects all areas of the curriculum. The expectation for each student is determined through a systematic program of school ability testing and through the professional judgment of teachers.

Midterms – In addition to report cards, a midterm report is generated during the middle of each trimester. Other reports are sent home from the teacher when necessary or appropriate to indicate problems or to relate special achievements.

School Website: <http://www.grandschools.org/middleschool>

School Community Council

The School Community Council has equal representation from the school employee and parent/guardian groups. The purpose of this council is to improve student achievement by developing a plan based on district goals. School profile data is compiled and the school trust lands plan is developed based on the overall academic needs of the student population.

Educational Talent Search (ETS)- Career & College Planning Program / TRIO

Educational Talent Search (ETS) is an educational program funded by the U.S. Department of Education. It is designed to motivate and support students in grades 6-12 to graduate from high school and pursue the post-secondary school of their choice. ETS will cover costs for your ACTs in high school and allow you the opportunity to tour different colleges.

You may be eligible if:

- You are a U.S. Citizen; and
- You are in 6th-12th grade; and
- You meet the federal income guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Education; and/or you are a potential first-generation college student (meaning neither parent nor legal guardian has received a Bachelor's degree); and/or you are considered to be an at-risk student.

To join, you must fill out a TRIO In-Take application. Contact the ETS Advisor (Cindy Brewer) at your school for more information and an application.

Equal Education Opportunities

It is the policy of the Grand County School District Board of Education to not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation or disability, in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices as required by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1974, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Equal Opportunity is a priority of the GCSB. Persons alleging educational program discrimination or other related violation of civil rights, including discrimination carried out by employees, students, or third parties, are directed to review and utilize Board Policy 1700 Equal Education and Civil Rights Grievance Procedures.

Reasonable Accommodation of Parent/Guardian Rights

A student's parent or guardian is the primary person responsible for the education of their student. A parent or guardian has the right to request reasonable student accommodations, in writing, as delineated by Utah Code 53A-15-1403

**Rewards and
Activities**

Recognition Cards

Thunderbucks - Behavior / Character Development

- 1. Will be issued for behavior/compliance with classroom or hallway expectations or any act of kindness or respect above and beyond what is expected.
- 2. Will be issued randomly by any staff member during the week.
- 3. Students and the issuing staff members write their name on the card. Students bring the Thunderbucks award to the office and place it in the Thunderbucks Chest.
- 4. Three student names will be randomly selected each school day. These students may come to the office to collect a treat of their choice.

Thunderbird Tickets (Monthly) - Behavior & Academic

- 1. Will be issued at the end of each month
- 2. Will be issued for "C or above" and no N or U Citizenship grades on progress report
- 3. Will be issued for having no office referrals.
- 4. This reward card is supported by at least one local merchant and offers seven additional items by the school.



Platinum Cards (End of Term) - Behavior & Academic

- 1. Students who have **achieved or maintained straight A's**.
- 2. They will be issued at the end of each term.
- 3. Will be issued for earning all "A" grades, no office referrals or N/U Citizenship grades.
- 4. This reward card is supported by five local merchants and offers twelve items by the school.



100% Attendance Awards

Students who attend school every day without an absence for the school year will be recognized for their dedication and perfect attendance.

Presidential Awards

Awards signed by the President of the United States are presented to students for both Academic Excellence and Academic Achievement.

Specific Curriculum Awards

Certificates are awarded to those students who go above and beyond the normal expectations of performance in each grade-level content area.

Student of the Month Award

Students are selected for their “Perseverance and Citizenship” in school based on recommendations from their teachers every month. The students selected receive a certificate, an invitation to lunch with the Principal, recognition in the local newspaper, and presented an award by the Mayor during City Council meetings each month.

No Tardy Party

All students who arrive to school and to their classes on time every day, or have “made up” their tardies, are invited to celebrate with each other at the end-of-term “*No Tardy Party*”. The last hour of the last day of each term is arranged with music, snacks, and free social time as a “thank you for being responsible by being on-time” celebration.

Activities

Every other Friday is Advisory Activity Day. All students who have maintained C- or higher grades in all of their classes are invited to celebrate together. A list of celebrations includes but is not limited to; ***barbecues, picnics, ice cream socials, athletic competitions, movies, field experiences, concerts, assemblies, etc.***

B.E.A.C.O.N.

Building Essential Assets through Community Outreach and Networking

Welcome to **BEACON Afterschool Program!** Our program mission is: Empowering students to discover their innate ability to succeed.

The afterschool program is designed to provide Grand County Middle School students with a safe, nurturing and educational environment. In addition, the program strives to instill in youth a passion for learning, to develop character and social skills and to help students become responsible citizens in a global community.

We encourage parents to be involved in program activities by volunteering as a tutor or activity leader and coming to BEACON sponsored family nights. Parents are encouraged to visit the program site at any time [www.moabbeacon.net]. We welcome your phone calls and input! (435) 260-7001

BEACON has two areas of focus:

1. **Enrichment Clubs:** Hands-on learning for the core concepts taught during the school-day. These incorporate life skills, service learning, and career exploration.
 - Examples of clubs: Debate Club, Robotics Club, Spanish Club, Mad Science Club, Girls on the Run
2. **Academic Assistance:** To help those who are failing or struggling with academics
 - **Homework Space:** For those students needing a place and a little help with their studies
 - **Tutoring:** Individual and group tutoring for those students identified by school personnel or parents who need rigorous assistance