



MESQUITE HIGH SCHOOL

Office: 760-499-1810

Fax: 760-446-3328

WASC Accreditation
Model Continuation High School Award



Motto: Freedom Through Responsibility

Vision: Mesquite High School is a place where student, staff, and administration demonstrate responsibility for self development, education, and campus/community pride

Staff

Chad Houck, Principal

Carol Zdeba, Counselor

Leslie Banks, Office Manager

Holly Bergevin, Mathematics

Marla Cosner, History and Music

Erik Duncan, Government, Economics, PE

Darcy Kirkpatrick, Clerk/Campus Security

Saxon Johnson, English

Karen McDonald, Art and PE

Tami McKenzie, Assessment/Remediation Paraprofessional

Dorothy Mgebhoff, Custodian

Mike Sernett, Science and Health

Welcome to Mesquite High School where we have a model continuation program. Mesquite offers students a variety of opportunities to earn a high school diploma in a small and supportive setting.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM MESQUITE HIGH SCHOOL?

- Acceptance and belonging
- A chance to earn credits based on individual circumstances
- Individualized/small group instruction
- A family atmosphere that supports individual student needs
- Help and guidance in learning how to be successful
- A school that encourages student/parent input and involvement
- Completion of graduation requirements (230 credits) anytime during the school year

WHAT DOES MESQUITE EXPECT FROM YOU?

- Daily attendance and punctuality
- A desire to learn and improve yourself
- Respect for yourself and all others at this school
- A sincere effort to earn credits and complete graduation requirements in a timely manner
- Positive and constructive school/career behaviors
- Cooperation
- Self-discipline and responsibility

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO SUCCEED AT MESQUITE?

Do what is expected of you as listed above. Have a good positive attitude. Accept the fact that the attitude which you express will determine how well you do. Be respectful to all. Communicate with the teachers and staff, we are here to help you. Be prepared and open to working individually and in small groups.

WHO IS YOUR ADVISOR?

When you enter Mesquite High School your first period teacher becomes your advisor. Your advisor is the person you should contact for questions, advice, problems and guidance. Your advisor will work with you to monitor your progress, attendance and productive behaviors; however, every adult at Mesquite is available at any time during the school day to help.

INFORMATION TO HELP YOU HAVE A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE AT MESQUITE HIGH SCHOOL

1. **ATTENDANCE:** Being at school every day is very important and the law! Credit cannot be earned unless you are physically present at school. Continued unexcused absences result in a student being referred to the School Attendance Review Board and probation, as well as possibly contacting Welfare and ISS if applicable. Failure to attend classes for the required amount of time may cause students to have legal action taken against them and their parents. Students who need to leave campus after they have arrived at school must have permission from their parents and/or principal and they must sign out in the office before leaving school. This applies to all students.

Excessive excused absences (10 days or more) are considered truancy as well and truancy consequences will be implemented.

Only the school can excuse an absence.

Parents may call the school (499-1810) at any time to inform us of the reason for an absence as there is a 24 hour answering machine available.

2. **TARDIES:** Excessive tardies are also considered truancy by law and 8 will result in parent notification, possible exclusion from activities, and/or SARB.
3. **ATTITUDE:** Good behavior, self respect and the respect of others should be every student's goal. Being positive and productive and having a willingness to learn and work hard will result in success.
4. **WITHDRAWAL from SCHOOL:** Any student withdrawing from school needs to have his/her parent contact the office. The student will pick up a sign-out sheet and have it completed by all teachers and the counselor. The completed sign-out sheet is returned to the school secretary who will record where the school records are to be sent. A hold will be placed on a student's records if any school materials are not returned or paid for during sign-out.
5. **BUS RULES:** Any student riding a school bus must obey the following rules:
 - a. Remain seated.
 - b. Refrain from loud conversation and profanity.
 - c. No activity that causes a distraction to the driver.
 - d. Obey all requests of the bus driver at all times.
 - e. No eating on the bus.These rules have been designed to protect the safety of all bus riders. If a student's conduct is unsatisfactory, bus tickets will be issued by the driver and bus riding privilege may be denied.

6. **BUS STOPS:** Students will be provided information of these locations and the bus schedule from the office upon enrollment.
7. **CARS/PARKING:** The parking lot is for students and staff together. The school parking lot is provided as a convenience for all students who drive their own vehicle to school. Students desiring to park in the school parking lot must do so as long as they comply with regulations, including a valid driver's license and insurance, and normal safe driving procedures. All student vehicles must be in the school parking lot. Parking in the lots at the church and hotel is not permitted. There is to be no loitering in the parking lot. Students are not allowed to be in the parking lot during school hours. This includes break time. *The principal may suspend a student's driving privileges on campus for any unsafe operation of a vehicle or violation of any parking lot regulation.*
8. **CLOSED CAMPUS:** Once a student arrives at school he/she shall not leave the campus at any time during the regular day. Permission to leave must be done in advance via parents and office. Students with permission to leave during school hours are always required to sign out in the office.

An eighteen year old student may sign himself out, but if the privilege is abused, the student risks being dropped from school permanently. No student should miss more than ten days of school, excused or otherwise. Excessive excused absences (more than ten) are considered truancy. Schools are not required to implement disciplinary/truancy consequences for adults (18 year old students). These students will be dropped.
9. **COUNSELING SERVICE:** Counseling for any need is handled by the school counselor, teachers and principal. Students make an appointment to see the counselor by filling out a call slip by the counselor's door. The counselor will call for a student from class. Before a problem becomes too big see the counselor ASAP. Always feel free to ask for help!
10. **CREDITS/GRADING:** Credit is earned after the completion of assigned work or demonstrated mastery of standards. Grades are issued by the teachers every quarter and semester via a report card. Students track their individual credit with assistance from their advisor. Official credit checks are conducted by the counselor.
11. **TELEPHONE CALLS AND MESSAGES:** Phone messages for students will be taken from parents/guardians only. Students may use the office phone before and after school and during the break with permission from the secretary. Students have permission to possess a cell phone but if used during class, may be subject to confiscation.

- 12. DAMAGE TO SCHOOL PROPERTY:** The student, parent or guardian shall pay for any intentional damage to any school property.
- 13. DRESS/GROOMING:** Students should take pride in how they look and how they represent themselves. Students wearing clothing or exhibit grooming which disrupts school activities and the classroom learning atmosphere will be required to change and/or be sent home. (district dress code) *Staff reserves the right to determine “appropriate dress” and students are expected to change or wear loaned clothing if requested.*
- 14. DRUGS/ALCOHOL:** The use and possession of drugs and alcohol on campus or at school functions is strictly forbidden and will result in suspension and/or expulsion from school. The School Resource Officer will be called on any such violation.
- 15. KNIVES AND OTHER WEAPONS:** The possession or brandishing of knives or weapons on campus or at school functions is strictly forbidden and will result in suspension and/or expulsion from school. The School Resource Officer will be called on any such violation.
- 16. TOBACCO PRODUCTS:** Smoking and/or any tobacco product is not allowed on a school campus or at any school sponsored event according to law and school policy. Appropriate consequences will be implemented for violation of this policy. Continued violation may result in expulsion for administrative defiance.
- 17. FIGHTING/THREATS:** Fighting or threatening to use force or violence against any person is against the law and violates Mesquite’s policy of respect for self and others. Police, suspension and possible expulsion will be the consequence of such action.
- 18. FOOD/DRINK IN CLASS:** As a general rule, food or drinks are not allowed in classrooms with exception of water. Occasionally teachers may allow special circumstances.
- 19. HOMEWORK:** The assigning of homework is done by each teacher and only upon request after you have completed all classroom work. Homework is a privilege which can earn additional credit toward graduation.
- 20. LEAVING THE CLASSROOM:** Students needing to leave the classroom for reasons other than misbehavior or a pre-arranged agreement must have a written hall pass from their teacher at all times. This includes student TA’s and ASB students.

21. **BREAKFAST/BREAK/LUNCH:** Breakfast is served each morning prior to 7:25 a.m. Lunch is served after school at 12:10 p.m. Students needing a free or reduced meal application can pick it up from the school secretary in the office. Nutrition Break is held each day from 9:45 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. Menus and price listings are available in the office.
22. **PAPER/PENCIL:** Each student is asked to bring the tools support learning. All students will at least use a notebook, paper, and a pen/pencil every day.
23. **PASSING FROM CLASS TO CLASS:** Mesquite does not have passing periods. There is only one bell and upon teacher release students need to go directly to the next class. The restroom is not to be used at this time. No student should be told or reminded to go to class.
24. **PRINCIPAL - REQUEST TO SEE:** Any student requesting to talk to the principal during class should ask for a pass from his/her teacher.
25. **RESTROOM:** The restrooms are to be used before school, during nutrition break and after school. If the need arises during class time, a student may request a pass from his/her teacher ten minutes after class begins until ten minutes before class ends. Only one student from each class is allowed to go to the restroom at one time.
26. **RETURNING TO BURROUGHS HIGH SCHOOL:** Students wanting to return to a comprehensive high school must do so at the end of a semester and be on track with the required number of credits and subjects. Students interested pursuing this path should be communicating with the counselor, Mrs. Zdeba well in advance. *Students wanting to graduate from BHS must complete their entire senior year at BHS.*
27. **SCHOOL AWARDS:** Awards for attendance, good students, grades, special accomplishments, honor roll, and others are given out on a regular basis. At the end of the school year there is an awards ceremony honoring and recognizing outstanding students.
28. **SCHOOL COLORS:** The official school colors are blue and white.
29. **SCHOOL MASCOT:** The official emblem is a dragon.
30. **SCHOOL MOTTO:** The motto for Mesquite is *FREEDOM THROUGH RESPONSIBILITY*. This means that the more responsible a student is for his/her education the more freedom they are entitled to receive.

- 31. CAMPUS PRIDE:** Students at MHS are very proud of their campus and take pride in keeping it clean. Students do not walk on the grass! (Students planted the grass when the campus was new and students have protected it for the past 34 years!) Students do not leave trash around the school. There is no graffiti on campus.
- 32. VISITORS:** Non-students are not permitted to visit the school unless they have permission from the principal. Alumni and friends are encouraged to visit **after** class hours so as not to disrupt the education of the students.
- 33. WORK EXPERIENCE:** Credit can be earned for work at a job outside of school. Any student who gets or has a job should see the counselor to set up a work experience class in order to obtain high school credits while working.
- 34. WORK PERMITS:** Any person under 18 years of age must have a work permit issued by the school they are enrolled in, unless working for a parent. Work permits are issued by the counselor. *Students not attending school regularly may have their work permit revoked.*

Mesquite Bell Schedule

Warning Bell	7:20
Period 1	7:25-8:15
Period 2	8:15-9:00
Period 3	9:00-9:45
Break	9:45-9:55
Period 4	9:55-10:40
Period 5	10:40-11:25
Period 6	11:25 – 12:10
Lunch/End of school day	

ROP Classes at BHS

Period 7	12:40-1:35
Period 8	1:40- 2:35

Students attending ROP classes at BHS are to report to the classroom on the BHS campus just prior to 6th period, at 12:30. Students reporting earlier may be dropped from the ROP program.

Students driving on to the BHS campus to attend an ROP class must register their vehicle in the BHS front office at a cost of \$3.00 per permit. Failure to do so may result in a citation by the Ridgecrest Police Department.