

1. **Can students use the Joint School District #2 Bus System?**
Yes, there are shuttle buses provided from each home high school. Buses will run the same schedule as Joint School District #2. The bus numbers will be available at registration. To find out what buses to ride to the home high school, see http://bus.meridianschools.org/meridian_arcims/.
2. **Are lunch services available? Where and who do we pay?**
Lunch services are available through Joint School District #2. Free and reduced lunch forms are available at <http://frapplications.meridianschools.org>. Breakfast is available before school and at break. Make checks payable to School Nutrition and give to the kitchen staff at Meridian Medical Arts Charter School next door. Students' meal account information and online payments are available at <http://www.mealpayplus.com>.
3. **What supplies are required for my student?**
 - Scientific calculator (Algebra II or higher bring a minimum of a TI-83)
 - Pens, pencils, paper
 - Binder with dividers or expando file (Student preference)
 - Agenda book or online calendar
 - Headset with 3.5 mm connection (the standard computer jack)
 - Spiral notebook and red pens for Spanish (Freshmen, Sophomores)
 - At least one professional dress outfit for professional dress days
 - Slacks or skirt (no denim)
 - Dress Shoes (no sports shoes or sandals)
 - Polo or Collared Shirt
 - Socks match outfit
 - Belt (non-studded or decorated)
 - Dress for business; traditional, conservative business dress is expected.
4. **Are students required to have a computer at home?**
No, however it is highly recommended. We have programs available for students to get a computer for their home if you do not have one. Talk to Mr. Beebe for more information.
5. **Is an Internet connection required at home?**
No, however it is highly recommended. Student assignments, calendars, grades and email are located on the web.
6. **What software would be helpful for my student to have on a home computer?**
Students are not required to have this software at home, but it is helpful to have an Office Suite and Internet browser. Other software needs depend on the student's interests. See Software Page for more information.
7. **What software is available through the school?**
The school participates in the MSDNAA program, which allows students at MTCHS to get legal copies of Microsoft Server and Development Products for a minimal cost. See your technology teacher at the beginning of the year to sign up. This does **NOT** include **Microsoft Office**. Also, Adobe products are not available through the school. However, student versions may be purchased from retailers for a significant discount if you have a student ID card.
8. **What type of electronics/computers may the student bring to school?**
Students need to use the school computers during class time and for all assignments. However, students may bring MP3 players, laptop computers, cell phones, and other electronics. The school is not responsible for the loss of these devices. Also, students may be told they **cannot** use their personal laptop or other electronic devices in class. Electronic device use is a privilege and may be taken away for any reason. If a student brings a laptop to school, certain programs including antivirus with up-to-date license must be installed on the computer and a Personal Laptop Acceptable Use Guideline must be signed. Cell phones must **NOT** be used or heard during class.
9. **Do students need an outside personal email account?** No. All students are assigned an email account that can be accessed from home or school. It is required that all students check email daily for important announcements and communication with staff.
10. **What fees will be required throughout the year?**
 - Below is a list of common items, **but not required**, students purchase; prices are based on 2009-10 school year and may change:
 - i. Parking Pass (\$5)
 - ii. Yearbook (\$35)
 - iii. Key Club (\$10.50)
 - iv. SkillsUSA Rewards (\$10)
 1. Fall Leadership (\$125)
 2. State Leadership and Skills Competition (\$50)
 3. National Leadership and Skills Competition (\$600-800)

- v. Honor Societies (If a member, \$10)
- vi. Fitness Days (Mandatory Participation) / Grants Available
 - 1. Cost depends on activity -- Minimum \$20
 - 2. Four times per year
- vii. School Shirts (\$10-\$30)
- viii. PTO cash donation (suggested \$25)

11. **What extra-curricular activities are available?**

- Key Club-Service Organization (See Ms. Riley)
- SkillsUSA (See your Tech Teacher or Ms. Deitchler)
 - i. Technical Skill Training Sessions Before and After School Starting in November
 - ii. State and Local Competitions
 - iii. Leadership Training Opportunities
- Student Government
- Tech Parties (Approximately four times per year)
- Prom
- Home High School Activities (See your home high school for details)
- Athletics at Home High School (See your Home High School for details)

12. **What are the school hours?**

8:00 AM to 2:30 PM; Lunch starts at 11:30 AM and ends at 12 PM.

13. **What type of extra help and computer access will students have after school hours?**

There is a computer lab open for student use Monday-Friday 7:00 am to 7:55 am and Monday-Thursday from 2:35-3:30 pm. Students should contact individual teachers to setup a time for specific help.

14. **What are the attendance requirements and how do parents report an absence?**

Students are allowed 30 hours of absence per semester. Any event that is not school related counts for this time. This includes doctor's appointments, illness, etc. School events at home high schools count as school related events and are excused. Parents are required to report student absences by calling Mrs. Hawkley at 208-288-2928.

15. **Is a copy of the Student Handbook available?**

The 2009-2010 handbook is available at <http://www.mtchs.org/Information/Handbook/Handbook2009-2010.pdf>.

16. **What is the best way for parents to check grades, attendance or contact teachers?**

Grades and attendance can be checked at <http://www.mtchs.org>. Email is the best way to contact teachers. Addresses are located in PowerSchools or on the school web site under staff.

17. **What is AAP (Academic Accountability Plan)?**

This program is to help students who are failing or have failed class(es) and are not performing academically. For more information, contact Ms. Rule. Kim.Rule@mtchs.org

18. **Is campus open or closed?**

Campus is closed for ninth and tenth grade and open for eleventh and twelfth.

19. **What is the procedure for students with health conditions or medications?**

Speak with Mrs. Hawkley. If the condition requires special educational considerations, contact Ms. Green.

20. **Who do I contact about:**

- **Attendance, Contact Information, Health, Medications, General Questions?** Mrs. Hawkley, Kathy.Hawkley@mtchs.org
- **Transcripts, Report Cards, Summer School, 504?** Ms. Green, MaryHellen.Green@mtchs.org
- **Discipline, General School Issues, Facility Use?** Mr. Housel, Christian.Housel@mtchs.org
- **Technology Questions?** Mr. Beebe, Dennis.Beebe@mtchs.org
- **School Web Page?** Ms. Richtsmeier, Beth.Richtsmeier@mtchs.org
- **Work/Job Questions, Internships, Guest Speakers?** Ms. Deitchler, Cheryl.Deitchler@mtchs.org
- **Student Grades?** <http://grades.mtchs.org>. For further information, contact the student's teacher.
- **PTSO?** Tess Sparhawk, ptso@mtchs.org
- **Special Education?** Ms. Rule, Kim.Rule@mtchs.org
- **Key Club?** Ms. Riley, Debbie.Riley@mtchs.org
- **SkillsUSA?** Ms. Deitchler, Cheryl.Deitchler@mtchs.org

Helpful Software Links

1. **Office Suites**
 - a. Microsoft Office 2007 <http://www.microsoft.com>
 - b. Open Office <http://openoffice.org>
 - i. Free
 - ii. Compatible with school programs
2. **Anti-virus Software**
 - a. AVG Free <http://avgfree.com>
3. **Photo, Web and Page Layout**
 - a. Adobe <http://www.adobe.com>
 - b. Other Open Source/Freeware Graphics Programs
 - i. Photo Manipulation
GIMP - <http://www.gimp.org> is the GNU Image Manipulation Program. It is a freely distributed piece of software for such tasks as photo retouching, image composition and image authoring. It works on many operating systems, in many languages.
 - ii. Photo Conversion <http://www.evjosoft.com/PhImageResizer.html>
It is a photo resizing program that enables you to *quickly resize* one file or a selection of image files for use in web and e-mail. The converted files are saved in different folders, so your original images are not altered at all.
 - iii. Vector Based Graphics Editor: Inkscape - <http://www.inkscape.org/>
Inkscape is an Open Source vector graphics editor, with capabilities similar to Illustrator, Freehand, CorelDraw, or Xara X using the W3C standard Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) file format.
 - c. HTML Editor
 - i. HTML Kit <http://www.scintilla.org/SciTE.html>
4. **3D Animation**
 - a. Animator - Free 3D Animation Software <http://www.anim8or.com/>
Anim8or is a 3D modeling and character animation program that I have written over the past couple of years, not as a commercial endeavor, but because I love 3D graphics, animation, and programming. While it is far from a complete professional level application like 3DStudio MAX or Lightwave, I believe that it has enough capability to be of use to others.
 - b. BLENDER <http://www.blender.org/>
Blender is the free open source 3D content creation suite, available for all major operating systems under the GNU General Public License
 - c. Autodesk Maya Personal Learning Edition <http://usa.autodesk.com/adsk/servlet/index?siteID=123112&id=7639525>
Autodesk® Maya® Personal Learning Edition (PLE) is a special version of Autodesk® Maya® software, which provides free access to Autodesk Maya for non-commercial use. It is available for Windows® 2000/XP Professional and Mac OS® X (Macintosh® PowerPC) operating systems.
 - d. Animation and Rendering: <http://www.povray.org/>
The Persistence of Vision Raytracer is a high-quality, totally free tool for creating stunning three-dimensional graphics. It is available in official versions for Windows, Mac OS/Mac OS X and i86 Linux. The source code is available for those wanting to do their own ports.
5. **Programming and Web Development Integrated Development Environment Software**
 - a. Eclipse <http://www.eclipse.org>
 - b. MS Visual Studio Express <http://msdn.microsoft.com/vstudio/express/>
6. **Engineering/Drafting Software**
 - a. SolidWorks <http://www.solidworks.com>
7. **Computing and Internet Core**
 - a. Google SketchUP <http://sketchup.google.com/>
 - b. Alice: An introduction to programming in a 3D environment <http://alice.org/>