

Principal

Matt Durand

Assistant Principal

Troy Wright

Assistant Principal/
Athletic Director

Quinn Lesage

Secretary

Heidi Brown

Secretary

Karin Snavely

Counselors

Toby Marston

Rob Bennett

Meg McBroom

Secretary/Registrar

Angie Bass

Athletics & Facilities

Secretary

Mickie Perez

Career Specialist

Sandi Madison

MOUNT BAKER JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH

September 1, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This year, Mount Baker Jr/Sr High School is making a special effort to ensure that all students fully benefit from their education by attending school regularly. Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Consistent attendance will help your child(ren) do well in junior high, high school, college, and at work.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) increases the chance that your student will not read or master math at the same level as their peers.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down to help children catch up.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By being present at school, your child learns valuable social skills and has the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with other students and school staff.
- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.
- By 9th grade, good attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

We miss your student when they are gone and we value their contributions to our school. We would like you to help ensure that your student attends regularly and is successful in school. If your student is going to be absent, please contact **Karin Snavely at 360-383-2015**. Calls to excuse absences must be received within 48 hours of the absence. **Excused absences are defined by school board policy as: illness, medical appointments, family emergencies, court/legal proceedings, religious / cultural observations, pre-notification of planned vacations, funerals and bereavement.**

OUR PROMISE TO YOU

We know that there are a wide variety of reasons that students are absent from school, from health concerns to transportation challenges. There are many people in our building prepared to help you if you or your student face challenges in getting to school regularly or on time. Some of the people who can help include:

- Rob Bennett, junior high counselor – 360-383-2015
- Meg McBroom, high school counselor for students with last names A-K – 360-383-2015
- Toby Marston, high school counselor for students with last names L-Z – 360-383-2015
- Karin Snavely, attendance secretary – 360-383-2015
- Troy Wright, assistant principal – 360-383-2021

We promise to track attendance daily, to notice when your student is missing from class, communicate with you to understand why they were absent, and to identify barriers and supports available to overcome challenges you may face in helping your student attend school.



Tel: 360.383.2015
Fax: 360.383.2029
PO Box 95 4936 Deming Rd
Deming, WA 98244
www.mtbaker.wednet.edu

MOUNT BAKER JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH

SCHOOL POLICIES AND STATE LAWS

It is important that you understand our school policies and procedures, as well as Washington State Law, to ensure your child is successful in school. State law for mandatory attendance, called the Becca Bill, requires children from age 8 to 17 to attend a public school, private school, or a district-approved home school program. Children that are 6- or 7-years-old are not required to be enrolled in school. However, if parents enroll their 6- or 7-year-old, the student must attend full-time. Youth who are 16 or older may be excused from attending public school if they meet certain requirements.

If your student has two unexcused absences in one month, state law (RCW 28A.225.020) requires we schedule a conference with you and your student to identify the barriers and supports available to ensure regular attendance. The district is obligated to develop a plan that may require an assessment to determine how to best meet the needs of your student and reduce absenteeism.

If your student has seven unexcused absences in any month or ten unexcused absences within the school year, we are required to file a petition with the Juvenile court, alleging a violation of RCW 28A.225.010, the mandatory attendance laws. The petition may be automatically stayed and your student and family may be referred to a Community Truancy Board, or you and your student may need to appear in Juvenile Court. If your student continues to be truant you may need to go to court.

At Mount Baker Jr/Sr High School, we have established rules on attendance that will help you ensure your student is attending regularly. These can be found on page 6 of the 2016-17 student handbook.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Prepare for school the night before, finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Don't let your student stay home unless they are truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- Avoid appointments and extended trips when school is in session.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Keep track of your student's attendance.
- Talk to your student about the importance of attendance.
- Talk to your students' teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on at school.
- Encourage meaningful afterschool activities, including sports and clubs.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact us!

Sincerely,

Matt Durand
Principal

Your signature below indicates that you have read and understand our attendance policies and procedures.

_____ Date _____ Print Student's Name _____