



ESTD **PINE** 1979
MOUNTAIN
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Preparing Students for High School Success

FAMILY HANDBOOK

This handbook has been prepared to help you get acquainted with the traditions and expectations at the “Mountain”. Please read this handbook carefully and share the information with your parents. If you use the information that is provided as a guide and take part in all that the “Mountain” has to offer, you should have a very successful and rewarding middle school experience. Please do not hesitate to seek help from any teacher, counselor, or principal. Our reason for being here is to help you be successful!

Phone: 678-594-8252

**2720 Pine Mountain Circle
Kennesaw, Georgia 30152**



MISSION

One Team. One Goal. Student Success.

VISION

Prepare Students for High School Success

CORE VALUES

Empowering students to CLIMB: to be Committed, to Lead, to possess Integrity, to be Mindful, and to be Balanced in all their endeavors.

HISTORY

Pine Mountain Middle School was named for the Civil War battle which took place just northwest of the school on the nearby mountain slope. It is believed that the mountain was called "pine" because of the stand of pine trees there. Pine Mountain, the highest point between Lost and Kennesaw Mountains was fortified by the Confederates and was used as an outpost of the main Confederate line. General Joseph Johnston led the Confederate troops and hoped to slow the advance of General William Tecumseh Sherman as he neared Atlanta. The Battle of Pine Mountain took place between June 10 and June 14, 1864. General Johnston's troops had been joined by General Leonidas Polk. While observing the advance of the Union troops from the top of Pine Mountain, General Polk was killed by Union artillery fire on June 14, 1864.

Pine Mountain was one of the few areas used by both the Confederate and Union armies. The Confederate army used the mountain as a fortification. The Union army used the mountain as an observatory during the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain.

Pine Mountain Middle School first opened its doors in 1979 to serve the growing population of northwest Cobb County. The school is located on the site of the Civil War Battle for Pine Mountain.

CURRICULUM

Curriculum is differentiated through Advanced Content, Special Education, English Speakers of Other Languages, and General Education courses.

6th Grade Overview – Language Arts, Mathematics, Earth Science, Social Studies, Reading/Writing

7th Grade Overview – Language Arts, Mathematics, Life Science, Social Studies, Reading/Writing

8th Grade Overview – Language Arts, Mathematics, Physical Science, HS Physical Science, Algebra I, Algebra I/Geometry, Georgia Studies, Reading/Writing

Through Connections, students will be provided the opportunity to take specific Technology courses per grade level, World Language, High School World Language*, Art, PE/Health, Piano and Music Appreciation, Band*, Orchestra*, and Chorus*.

*yearlong courses

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR ADVANCED MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES

Four high school courses are offered through our curricular program: Spanish, Physical Science, Coordinate Algebra, and Visual Arts.

Administrative Rule IHF-R:

- (a) Upon successful completion of high school courses taken at the middle school level with a final grade average of 70 or above, a student will receive a "P" for Pass on his/her high school transcript.
- (b) Courses awarded "P" for "Pass" will count toward graduation but will not be calculated into the student's Grade Point Average (GPA).

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Physical Education program addresses the physical, mental, and emotional needs of students through activities designed to develop physical skills and coordination, increase fitness levels, and build knowledge of various team and individual sports.

A parent may request that his/her child be excused from participation on a particular day due to an illness or injury. A doctor's notice is required if the student must be excused for longer than five days.

HEALTH

Health Education in Cobb County is designed to provide students with the necessary knowledge and skills to make decisions, become advocates of healthy living, and choose health behaviors for life. Human Growth and Development is part of the health curricula, and an alternate unit will also be offered if parent consent is not given for this unit.

Cobb Systems of Support

The Cobb Systems of Support (CSS) is composed of faculty members who work with students who have academic and/or behavioral areas to address. The purpose of CSS is to review and consider all available information about the student. In addition, the CSS team makes recommendations for needed additional educational strategies and plans to further assist the student. Parents are given the opportunity to be an active member of a problem-solving team for their child.

PROMOTION POLICY

For students in grades 6-8, Cobb County School District promotion and retention policy indicates that to earn promotion to the next grade level, the student must meet all the following criteria:

- (1) Pass math, English/language arts and one additional core subject for the year or demonstrate minimum proficiency on the

appropriate state-adopted assessment in math, English/language arts and one additional core subject.

(2) Earn a combined overall passing average for all scheduled courses for the year; and

(3) Demonstrate an appropriate level of reading comprehension as measured by Lexile score.

ACADEMIC/EXPLORATORY GRADING SCALE

A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	74 – 79
D	70 – 73
F	0 - 69
I	INCOMPLETE

GRADE REPORTING SYSTEM

PMMS breaks the school year into four, nine-week grading periods. Report cards are issued electronically at the end of each quarter. Progress reports are available between report cards. ParentVUE is available for parents/guardians and students to access grades and attendance 24/7. Weekly updated grades will be available each Thursday. As a result, progress reports and report cards are not printed and distributed to families. A hardcopy of the final report card will be available for pick up by the enrolling parent at the end of the school year.

CONDUCT GRADE SYSTEM

The student's conduct grade is determined by his/her behavior. The following standards for determining grades are used school wide. Each teacher incorporates these standards into their behavior management plans, which are shared with all students at the beginning of the school year. Students must have all satisfactory conduct grades to be recognized for the Honor Roll. Students earn a new conduct grade each nine weeks.

Satisfactory: Conduct that generally follows classroom and school rules and does not

interfere with the learning of others.

Needs Improvement: Conduct that frequently causes class disruptions and/or does not always conform to classroom and school rules.

Unsatisfactory: Conduct that consistently causes a class disruption that interfere with the learning of others, and which often does not conform to classroom and school rules.

HONOR ROLLS

The Principal's Honor Roll is composed of students who earn all A's in class work. Honor Roll is composed of students who earn all A's and B's. Don't forget, everything counts. Connections grades are included in Honor Roll eligibility along with satisfactory conduct in all classes. Grades are determined by the grading scale set by the CCSD.

The Wall of Honor is a recognition for eighth grade students only who have completed their entire Middle School careers with all A's on every report card.

HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework may be given for the purpose of reinforcement of class work or as an extension of class assignments. Homework may also be appropriate for enabling absentees to catch up, for assisting those who have fallen behind, for preparation of the next day's assignment, for preparation of tests, or for enrichment purposes.

Homework policies may vary between departments. Refer to the syllabus provided by your child's teacher for specific homework policies.

MAKE-UP WORK

If a student is absent, he/she should check CTLS for missing assignments and email his/her teachers if there are questions. Assignments should be made up within the same number of days as the student was

absent unless exceptional circumstances exist. It is the student's responsibility to complete and turn in work missed. Please refer to the syllabus provided by your child's teachers for specific make-up work policies.

CONFERENCES

Parents are invited to be an active part of their school. One of the best ways to stay informed about the progress of your child is through a parent/teacher conference. Conferences will enlighten you about your child's progress and help keep all lines of communication open. Enrolling adults who desire additional conferences during the year should contact their child's guidance counselor at 678-594-8252 to arrange a conference.

COUNSELING

Middle school counselors assist students, teachers, and parents with developmental issues common to children in the "tween" years.

Students may meet with a counselor in individual or group counseling sessions. Classroom guidance is provided to all students typically in the areas of career/life development and academic achievement.

Counselors may also assist during parent conferences. In addition, counselors maintain and interpret permanent record information. The transition activities between elementary/middle/high schools are also coordinated through the guidance office.

Parents who do not wish for their child to participate in counseling group activities should notify the counseling office.

ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

The CCSD standardized assessment program includes both norm referenced and criterion referenced tests such as the Iowa Assessment (Iowa) and the Georgia Milestones End of Grade Assessment. Seventh grade students will take the Iowa and the Cognitive Abilities

Test (CogAT). All grades take the GA Milestones End of Grade Assessment toward the end of the year.

Several assessment/screening programs are also conducted throughout the school year. Primary among these are vision, auditory, speech, and scoliosis screenings.

MEDIA CENTER

The mission of the Pine Mountain Media Center is to provide a quality media program that supports the needs of the academic program at Pine Mountain Middle School. The Media Center is the hub for information and technology services for the students and staff at Pine Mountain. We provide a variety of resources including books, magazines, networked computers, and audiovisual materials for patrons to use. In addition, Cobb County students have access to several Internet resources available at school and home.

The Media Center is open daily from 8:55 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Students are welcome to visit the Media Center at any time during the regular operating hours with a signed pass from the classroom teacher. Students may check out books for a three-week period, with the option of renewing once. No fines are charged if a book is not returned on time, but we do require the return of overdue materials before allowing any additional checkouts. If a book is lost or damaged, we must charge the cost of replacement of a "library bound" copy of the book. We are dedicated to providing an open and positive source of enrichment and pleasure during your education here. Please feel free to come and talk to us if you need any assistance on projects or assignments.

INTERNET USE

It is our intention to provide an internet environment that is safe and appropriate; however, students must presume the personal responsibility for acceptable use of this resource. All users of the Cobb County School District Network/Internet services must maintain strict compliance with all

applicable ethical and legal rules and regulations. Cobb County Board of Education Policy IJNDB will be strictly enforced.

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONICS

Cell phones/electronic devices should be kept in a student's locker at all times unless under the specific guidance of a teacher. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices. It is not necessary to bring devices to school as students have access to school laptops.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES

Our school café offers several choices within each food group to provide variety and encourage eating a balanced meal. Our menu features 4 entrée choices, 4 fruit/vegetable side dishes, bread, and dessert: along with milk or calcium fortified fruit drink. Our menus are developed by our Food and Nutrition Services staff of Registered Dietitians to satisfy Federal School Lunch Program requirements while also meeting the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

In addition to the traditional lunch we offer bottled water, non-carbonated fruit drinks and chips for purchase in the café. Students are encouraged to prepay for lunches for the week, month, quarter or year. Payments can be made at the time students pick up their lunch. Students are required to use their 6-digit Cobb County Student Identification number for all purchases made in the café. Your child can ask the cashier how much they have on their account.

Mypaymentsplus also provides easy access to the child's account balance and payment history. You can even be notified by email when the account balance is low. Parents do not have to make prepayments to utilize these features; they simply must register with Mypaymentsplus.com

Free and reduced lunches will be provided for those families who qualify and complete

the proper Federal application form. The applications are given to each student at the beginning of the school year. All applications are confidential. Additional applications may be obtained either through the café manager or our front office.

Our goal is to have the best lunch possible for our students at a reasonable cost. When compared to a home-packed lunch of equal nutritional value, school lunches are a bargain. For information on our weekly menu and the current lunch prices please refer to the County Food and Nutrition Services web site:

<http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/foodservices/>. Meal prices can be found on the CCSD website.

A nourishing lunch significantly affects a child's readiness to learn. We thank you for supporting our school café. **Food delivery services such as UberEats are not permitted on our campus. In addition, students are not allowed to have quests at lunch.**

ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Student clubs and organizations are recognized as excellent learning opportunities. All activities shall be limited to those of clubs and organizations sponsored and recognized by the school. Club and organization information will be available on the Pine Mountain website.

BUYING AND SELLING

Students are not allowed to buy or sell items from each other at school. That includes, but is not limited to candy, gum, games, and fundraisers not supported by the school.

INTRAMURALS

The Intramural Program is an extension of the Physical Education program. It provides additional time for not only competitive games and sports, but also for individual practice and instruction. Intramural activities

are varied in order to provide as many experiences as possible. Because intramurals are an extension of the Physical Education program, students must exhibit good behavior to participate. Intramurals begin at 8:15 a.m. and are held Monday through Thursday. Intramurals do not begin on the first day of school; students will be informed of the beginning date for the program.

FIELD TRIPS

Virtual and/or physical field trips to enrich our curriculum will be planned throughout the school year. Families will be informed of the event, the cost per student, and the date that the trip is planned. All checks are to be made payable to Pine Mountain Middle School.

The full participation of students in all classroom activities is provided, and no student is ever denied these opportunities because of the inability of his/her parents/guardians to financially donate in support of those activities. Our field trips are funded basically through parent/guardian donations, which are requested and collected to enable every student to participate. All school rules apply on field trips and appropriate behavior is expected from all students. Payments made for field trips are not refundable unless the planned trip is canceled.

LOCKERS

Students will be able to use lockers. Specific locker access times will be provided. Students must use school issued combination locks. Lockers are school property. Students should not share a locker nor share the combination to their locker. Cell phones and electronic devices should be kept in a student's assigned locker along with any backpacks, lunchboxes, etc.

LOST/DAMAGED TEXTBOOKS

Online access to textbooks will be communicated by teachers at the beginning of the school year. Textbooks are available

for students to use in classrooms and are available online. Should a textbook be lost or damaged, fines will be assessed.

LOST AND FOUND

A lost and found area is maintained at the school. All items unclaimed by the end of each nine weeks are donated to charity.

EARLY CHECKOUT

Your student will be called to the front office upon your arrival. Parent/guardians will sign out their student at the front office. If someone other than the enrolling guardian is to check the student out, this person must be listed by the enrolling adult on enrollment forms. The enrolling adult may update names of individuals allowed to check out students using the ParentVUE system. Anyone checking out a student must provide a picture ID. Students must remain in school until 12:45 to be counted present for the day. No students will be allowed to checkout after 3:45 pm.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

For safety, 7th and 8th grade car riders should be picked up directly in front of the school and should not be expected to walk through the parking lot or be picked up on the sidewalk in front of the school. 6th grade car riders should be picked up in front of the Memorial Garden. Unlike elementary schools, the front office does not monitor car riders or walkers. The last checkout of the day is promptly at 3:45pm. **Transportation changes must be made no later than 3:45pm by the enrolling family member.**

BUS CHANGE

Students will not be able to ride a bus that is not their own.

TARDINESS

Students are expected to be in class on time. All students who are tardy to school must

report to the main office for a tardy pass. All students who are tardy to class will be recorded by the teacher. Excessive tardies will result in disciplinary action.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

If you have doubts as to whether school is open due to inclement weather, please listen to your local television, radio station, or check the district's website.

TELEPHONE CALLS

Students will be allowed to use the telephone in the front office for emergency purposes only. Students are not allowed to use their own personal devices to accept or make texts, calls, or notifications once inside the school building. This is important to keep instructional time in classrooms from being disrupted and to ensure the safety of students. If a parent needs to get in contact with a student (emergency only), the parent can call and leave a message and the front office will relay it to the student.

INTERRUPTION OF CLASS

Out of respect for classroom instruction time students **are called out of class only for emergency situations as deemed by school administration**. Also, please remember that students **will not be called out of class in advance for checkout or to receive deliveries and messages. Cell phones and electronic devices will not be allowed in classes to also reduce the distractions caused by sending/receiving texts, alert notifications, calls, etc.**

VISITING

Visitors must register at the Main Office upon entering the school. Students eat lunch with a specific class period and have assigned tables. As such, guests will not be able to eat lunch with students.

High school students will not be able to come

to campus to visit former teachers during the school day or as determined by the principal.

ATTENDANCE

Student daily attendance is imperative. When a student is absent, a written note, including student's first and last name, stating the reason for the absence and signed by the parent is required and should be given to the front office. Notes must be turned in within 3 days after student is absent. Students missing 5 or more days will receive a letter from the principal and students missing 7 or more days may be referred to the school social worker.

MEDICATION

All medication, both prescription and non-prescription must be brought in the original container by an adult. All medication taken at school requires a medical form signed by a parent or guardian. Medical forms may be obtained from the school office or www.cobbk12.org. *Under no circumstances will medication be furnished by school personnel.* For questions regarding medication, please contact the school nurse at 678-594-8252 ext. 1602.

CLIMB BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Our CLIMB behavior system follows the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) framework and is an important part of our educational program. Our school-wide expectations are built around our school's core values.

In addition to school-wide expectations, the following are general school-wide processes and procedures:

1. Because of the keyless entry system, students may not enter the school building in the morning until 8:30 a.m. unless participating in a school sponsored activity. Students arriving between 8:30 a.m. and 8:50 a.m.

must wait in the cafeteria unless they have a pass from a teacher permitting them to be elsewhere in the building.

2. To promote everyone's safety, students are to walk in all instructional areas and hallways on the right side of the hall.
3. Good citizenship requires honesty in written and verbal communication and school assignments.
4. Food should not be eaten outside of the cafeteria or designated area unless instructed by a staff member.
5. Only bottles with water will be allowed in class. All bottles must have spill-proof lids. Drinks are not allowed in computer lab areas or other areas designated by staff.
6. All Cobb County Board Administrative Rules and Student Code of Conduct will be upheld at Pine Mountain. This information can be found on the Cobb County website at the following link.
http://www.cobbk12.org/generalinfo/FamilyInformationGuide/FamilyInformationGuide2020_2021.pdf
7. Book bags must be kept in assigned student lockers unless specifically informed otherwise by a teacher.

BUS CONDUCT

Our goal is to provide each student who is eligible to ride the bus the most safe and sufficient means of transportation to our school. We believe that students are citizens of Cobb County and have a right to a safe and comfortable trip to and from school.

Along with these rights are also responsibilities. Safety rules and regulations have been developed to assure all students eligible to ride the bus are aware of their rights. PMMS supports the CCSD – Safe Rider Program. Students are provided a copy of the Safe Rider Rules. It is the student's responsibility to follow these rules. We encourage our parents to instill the rules of conduct to bring about an atmosphere of respect and safety for one another. *When rules are broken, the privilege of riding the bus may be removed.*

The behavior of students on school buses is considered an extension of the classroom. Students are expected to follow all bus rules.

BEHAVIOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Pine Mountain recognizes and acknowledges students that meet our school-wide and classroom expectations. Students earn CLIMB points for demonstrating those expectations. Those points can be used in various ways throughout the school year to purchase items from Base Camp and/or participate in activities offered quarterly. Acknowledging and recognizing students is a huge factor in implementing the CLIMB Behavior framework.

BASE CAMP

Our school store is called Base Camp. Students may purchase items from Base Camp with a CLIMB Card. CLIMB Cards cost \$10.00 and may be purchased from the school bookkeeper or families may purchase them online through MyPaymentsPlus. If a CLIMB Card is purchased online, students can pick up the physical CLIMB Card from the school bookkeeper.

LOSS OF PRIVILEGE SYSTEM

There are many events and activities that students can participate in throughout the year. We will call those "privileges" which means when students receive a minor

discipline infraction, one of the consequences we will implement is “LOP” (loss of privilege). The LOP consequence will be in lieu of a suspension for the first offense for a minor infraction. Repeat offenses will eventually result in suspensions. With any consequence that we give, our goal is to change student behavior and our hope is that students will want to participate in these privileges. Therefore, they will make the right choices and decisions that will allow them to participate. Examples of events that will qualify as LOP are, but not limited to, 8th grade dance, CLIMB Behavior celebrations, school dances, school Olympics, and other school related events.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS)

ISS is where a student attends school but is isolated from other students. Work is assigned to the student and credit is given for all work completed while in isolation. Refusal to attend an assigned In-School Suspension or removal from In-School Suspension will result in an Out-of-School Suspension. A student is not allowed to attend a CCSD event or PMMS related function on the day of an assigned ISS.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS)

OSS is where a student is not permitted to be on school property or attend any school sponsored function. A parent conference may be requested before the student is readmitted to school.

DRESS CODE

The Cobb County School District recognizes that the dress and grooming of students both individually and collectively are significant factors in the successful operations of our educational program. We believe that one of the educational responsibilities of the school is to help make students aware that

appropriate appearances and hygiene are conducive to the well-being of themselves and others.

Each student will be expected to maintain a standard of dress and grooming that is consistent with the level of formality of the school situation. We seek the assistance of parents in monitoring their child(ren)’s clothing to ensure that it is appropriate to the classroom.

Clothing which is distracting, disruptive, or creates an unsafe situation may not be worn to school. If a child is not appropriately dressed, a parent may be contacted. The dress code applies to all school functions. These minimum standards should help define appropriate school dress:

- Clothing must be modest and not revealing or provocative. Tank tops and halters are not permitted. However, tank tops may be worn under a jacket or sweater. Cleavage must not show.
- Clothing must be worn as it was intended - overalls secured over both shoulders, pants with both legs down etc.
- Clothing must not reveal underwear. Clothing must not be see-through or reveal the midriff or buttocks.
- No sagging pants; all pants will be worn at the waist.
- No pajama pants or house slippers.
- Bike shorts (like spandex type of shorts) can be worn as long as the buttocks is covered.
- No hats, stocking caps, do-rags, bandanas, sweat head bands, forehead bands, hoods, etc. can be worn inside the building.

- Students may not wear clothing that displays or advertises obscene slogans or signs, profanity, gang symbols, gang related materials or any substance illegal for minors, such as beer, tobacco, etc.
- Clothing or ornamentation advocating, promoting, or suggesting illegal activity is prohibited.
- *Rule of “thumb”*: Look in the mirror just before leaving your home. If you are in doubt about what you are wearing, you should consider wearing something else. *Don’t forget*: Clothing must be modest and not revealing or provocative.

The preceding dress code list is not inclusive. We reserve the right to determine whether clothing is appropriate for school or not. The principal or his/her designee shall be the final judge as to the appropriateness, neatness, and cleanliness of the apparel and whether it is disruptive or in violation of the dress code.

Enforcement Guidelines Dress Code Violations:

- First Offense –Administrative Conference and parents contacted to bring appropriate clothing. Student violating the school dress code will be separated from other students while awaiting appropriate clothing to change into for the day.
- Subsequent Offenses – Administrative Referral and parents contacted to bring appropriate clothing. Student violating the school dress code will be separated from other students while awaiting appropriate clothing to change into for the day.

Parents may be contacted to bring appropriate clothing. If a student cannot correct the offensive/inappropriate dress, he/she will be assigned to ISS for the

remainder of the school day. Shirts with inappropriate language or graphics are to be turned inside out and the dress code violation will be administered as stated previously.

It is not acceptable for students to argue with teachers or administrators. Students will be referred for defiance/insubordination if they argue or behave in an otherwise disruptive manner when the dress code is enforced.**PTSA**

Many of the activities and programs at our school could not exist if it were not for the PTSA volunteers. Being a member of this organization provides you a way to stay informed about school events, offers a variety of programs designed for parents as well as students and provides parental support through the sharing of ideas, concerns and experiences with other parents and educators in the community. Plan to join and volunteer for this valuable organization as soon as possible.

DRIVER’S PERMITS

State Law stresses the importance of school attendance and behavior. The school system is required by law to report non-compliant students to the Department of Education. The Department of Education will notify the Department of Driver Services (DDS). A parent ‘s/ guardian’s permission for the student to withdraw from school will no longer be an acceptable reason to rescind suspension of the permit or license Detailed Information may be found in Georgia Code Section 40-5-22, the Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act (TAADRA).

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Recognizing great work of our students is important to us. With input from our students, staff, and PTSA, our school has created the following student recognition opportunities.

Student of the Week

Each week, two students per grade will be selected by the staff as the student of the week based on his/her demonstration of our school's core values of commitment, leadership, integrity, mindfulness, and balance.

CLIMB Points

All faculty and staff members are encouraged to give CLIMB points out to students who they witness demonstrating our CLIMB core expectations.

Mighty Mustangs

The "Mighty Mustang" wall signing event occurs each nine weeks. By focusing on the five core values of our school (commitment, leadership, integrity, mindfulness, and balance) teachers are given the opportunity to recognize students for one of the five core values. Parents are invited, and students are given refreshments, in addition to a certificate and the opportunity to sign their name on a "Mighty Mustang".

CLIMB Cards

Each month, every teacher will select 2 students to send a notecard. These cards will be mailed by the school to the students' home addresses. Grade level chairs will be responsible for ensuring cards are collected and mailed.

Honor Roll Ceremony

The honor roll ceremony recognizes students with all A's and B's for each quarter. The Honor Roll ceremony will take place during the CLIMB period following the posting of grades to ParentVue. Students will receive an Honor Roll certificate and a celebration. Student names are shared on the "Honor Roll" celebration wall.

Principal's Honor Roll

The Principal's Honor Roll recognizes students with all A's for each quarter. The Honor Roll ceremony will take place during the CLIMB period following the posting of grades to ParentVue. Students will receive an Honor Roll certificate as well as a celebration. Student names are shared on the "Honor Roll" celebration wall.

Wall of Honor Ceremony

8th grade students earning all A's for each quarter during their entire 3-year middle school career, will be recognized by having the opportunity to leave their handprint on the Wall of Honor. Regardless of where a student attended school during their middle school years (6,7,8), as long as all A's have been earned, they will be honored for having made all A's on our Wall of Honor.

End of the Year Award Ceremonies

At the end of the year, we will host an awards ceremony for each grade level. The following awards are given:

Sixth Grade

- A B Honor Roll
- Principal's Honor Roll
- Mighty Mustangs
- Perfect Attendance
- Outstanding Gains on the Reading and/or Mathematics Inventory Assessment
- Most Outstanding 6th Grade Student
- Most Outstanding Social Studies Student
- Most Outstanding Orchestra Student
- Most Outstanding Music Student
- Most Outstanding Percussion Student
- Most Outstanding Computer Science Student
- Most Outstanding Careers Student
- Most Outstanding ESOL Student
- Most Outstanding Language Arts Student
- Most Outstanding Physical Education/Health Student
- Most Outstanding Mathematics Student
- Most Outstanding Woodwind Student
- Most Outstanding Brass Student
- Most Outstanding Science Student
- Excellence in Art
- Excellence in Chorus
- Outstanding Gains on the Reading Inventory
- Outstanding Gains on the Mathematics Inventory

Most Improved Science Student
Most Improved ESOL Student
Most Improved Careers Student
Most Improved Computer Science Student
Most Improved Social Studies Student
Most Improved Mathematics Student
Most Improved Physical Education/Health Student
Most Improved Language Arts Student

Seventh Grade

A B Honor Roll
Principal's Honor Roll
Mighty Mustangs
Perfect Attendance
Most Outstanding 7th Grade Student
Excellence in Art
Excellence in Chorus
Most Improved Careers Student
Most Improved ESOL Student
Most Improved Language Arts Student
Most Improved Math Student
Most Improved Mathematics Student
Most Improved Physical Education/Health Student
Most Improved Project Lead the Way Student
Most Improved Reading Student
Most Improved Science Student
Most Improved Social Studies Student
Most Outstanding Brass Student
Most Outstanding Careers Student
Most Outstanding ESOL Student
Most Outstanding Language Arts Student
Most Outstanding Mathematics Student
Most Outstanding Orchestra Student
Most Outstanding Percussion Student
Most Outstanding Physical Education/Health Student
Most Outstanding Project Lead the Way Student
Most Outstanding Reading Student

Most Outstanding Science Student
Most Outstanding Social Studies Student
Most Outstanding Woodwind Student
Outstanding Gains in Mathematics Inventory
Outstanding Gains on the Reading Inventory

Eighth Grade

A B Honor Roll
Principal's Honor Roll
Mighty Mustangs
Perfect Attendance
Excellence in Art
Excellence in Chorus
Most Improved Careers Student
Most Improved ELA Student
Most Improved ESOL Student
Most Improved Latin Student
Most Improved Mathematics Student
Most Improved Physical Education/Health Student
Most Improved Project Lead the Way Student
Most Improved Science Student
Most Improved Social Studies Student
Most Improved Spanish Student
Most Outstanding Brass Student
Most Outstanding Careers Student
Most Outstanding ESOL Student
Most Outstanding Language Arts Student
Most Outstanding Latin Student
Most Outstanding Mathematics Student
Most Outstanding Orchestra Student
Most Outstanding Percussion Student
Most Outstanding Physical Education/Health Student
Most Outstanding Project Lead the Way Student
Most Outstanding Social Studies Student
Most Outstanding Spanish Student
Most Outstanding Woodwind Student

Outstanding Gains on the
Mathematics Inventory
Outstanding Gains on the Reading
Inventory

Eighth Grade CLIMB Awards

The CLIMB Awards are awarded to 8th grade students based on votes by the 8th grade student body at the end of the year. These are the following categories:

- **Fresh Off the Shelf-** This award is for a rising freshman who shows great promise to be a rising leader at their perspective high school.
- **UpGRADed-** This award goes to a PMMS eight grader that mentors and guides peers as they actively work to better our school.
- **The "C-Mix Award"-** This award goes to an artist whose creativity knows no bounds! They strive to actively make groundbreaking innovations with their crafts.
- **Classic Young Lady-** This award goes to a young lady who carries herself with class, is involved inside and out of school. She excels academically and actively strives to create a positive student environment.
- **Classic Young Man-** This award goes to a young man carries himself with class, is involved inside and out of school. He excels academically and actively strives to create a positive student environment.
- **Hidden Gem-** This award goes to a student of staff member that has worked behind the scene and has not received the recognition they deserve.
- **Faculty/Staff Award-** This award goes to a teacher or staff member in our building who supports PMMS students to the fullest! The recipient of this award will serve on the Principal's Advisory Council.
- **Ultimate C.L.I.M.B Award-** This award goes to a student that consistently displays our 5 Core Values of Commitment, Leadership, Integrity, Mindfulness and Balance.

STUDY TIPS and STRATEGIES

How to manage your time

Learning how to properly manage your time is not just a skill that will serve you well here at Pine Mountain, but also as you move into High School, College and the workplace. You have 7 periods

of roughly 50 minutes each, and in addition to that you can expect roughly an hour a week of homework, and that doesn't include study time. You can see how quickly your time can be consumed by schoolwork and if you don't plan properly, it can overwhelm you. The question then is HOW to plan and manage your time? Below are some tips and techniques to get you started on the right track.

Develop a Schedule

Developing a schedule is important because it provides an overview of your day. It will help you keep on task and reach your goals.

Determine how you spend a typical 24-hour day by entering the hours you spend on each activity.

- Classes
- Studying
- Sleeping
- Exercise /sports
- Work/internship
- Family Commitments
- Personal care/grooming
- Meal preparation/eating/clean-up
- Transportation (school, work, etc.)
- Relaxing/TV/video games, etc. (alone)
- Socializing/entertainment (with friends)
- Other

Total = 24 hours

Then, decide what you want the schedule to look like.

Effective Study Habits

- Take responsibility for yourself.
- Don't let friends dictate what you consider important.
- Don't let them distract you from your goals.
- When and where are you the most productive?
 - Morning, afternoon, or evening?
 - Find spaces where you can be the most focused and productive.
 - No background noise or dead quiet
- First understand others, then attempt to be understood
 - When you have an issue with an instructor (a questionable grade, an assignment deadline, etc.) put yourself in the instructor's place.
 - Now ask yourself how you can best make your argument given his/her situation.
 - Practice this argument with a counselor, parent or other adult.

Restate
Restate the question by turning it into a statement.

Answer
Answer all parts of the question.

Cite
Give examples and evidence from the text. *"the text states..." "in paragraph 4..."*

Explain
Explain how your evidence supports your answer. *"this shows that..." "this means..."*

Sum it up
End with a summary sentence. *"In summary," "As you can see,"*

More 2.1.1

How to Improve Your Note-Taking: A Simple Strategy

#1 Cornell Method

The Cornell Method has been and remains one of the most popular note-taking strategies amongst students today.

The technique can be seen above and in the accompanying diagram. You simply **divide up your notes into 3 sections**.

The right column is home to the **general area**. This is where you keep your most important ideas that the teacher has covered during class. It is important that you try to summarise as much as possible and to be smart when note taking (see #4). The left area serves to

compliment the general area. Writing **notes in the margins** helps us understand and relate each part of our notes. This section may develop during the class itself or at the end of it. The last section labelled 'summary' should be

left blank during class as it is intended for use when you are reviewing/ studying the class notes. This lessens the

need to keep up with the teacher's delivery and write fast. You should try to **develop a short summary** of key points in this section for greater reflection of the class notes.

The diagram shows a page of lined paper titled "Cornell Two-Column Notes". A vertical red line on the left side divides the page into two columns. The top of the page is divided into two sections: "Keywords:" on the left and "Notes:" on the right. The "Notes:" section contains the following text:

Types of Matter

Solids I. Solids
A. Have a definite shape
B. Have a definite volume

Liquids II. Liquids
A. Do not have a definite shape
B. Have a definite volume

Gases III. Gases
A. Do not have a definite shape
B. Do not have a definite volume

At the bottom of the page, there is a section labeled "Summary:" with the text "(Insert summary of lecture after class.)" written in the margin.

Symbols and Abbreviations

No matter which Note Taking Methods you use to take notes, there will be times when you cannot keep pace with the class and your wrist will begin to hurt you from writing. Therefore it is important that you develop **your own language of symbols** so that you can write more with little effort. Once the class is over, you can always "translate" your notes that you took during class. This will leave you with your own 'language' of notes.

Underline Key Points

It's advisable to underline the most important learning concepts of the lesson, as they will **stand out more clearly and you'll be more inclined to memorize them**. In addition, the notes will be less monotonous and you can review them more quickly, since you can use the underline parts as a guide and won't need to read the entire text every time you go to study.

Visual Aids

This method is based on **the use of visual aids** to improve how the brain processes information. It involves using pictures, graphs, diagrams, etc. Rather than writing long paragraphs of information, our brain follows the information sequentially. The use of colours and other visual elements such as different sized letters,

Tips for Successful Test Taking

Preparation

- Analyze how you did on a similar test in the past
- Arrive early for tests
- Be comfortable but alert
- Stay relaxed and confident

Test Taking

- Read the directions carefully
- If there is time, quickly look through the test for an overview
- Answer questions in a strategic order:
 1. Answer easy questions first
 2. Then difficult questions or those with the most point value
- Review