



STUDENT HANDBOOK 2021 - 2022

VALLEY  
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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# Liger Pride

**To feel strong support for your country and community.**

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*Educate and inform the whole mass of the people... They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty.  
~Thomas Jefferson*

**WELCOME TO VALLEY JUNIOR HIGH.** We are here to help guide and support you through your junior high experience and encourage you to make the most of the opportunities available. In order to create a secure, positive environment for all, there needs to be a common understanding of expectations. The purpose of the policies and procedures contained in this planner is to communicate them to you. We are looking forward to a great year.

**MISSION** - We work as a community to create a supportive environment where students acquire the values, academic skills, and character traits necessary to lead productive lives.

## **LIGER PRIDE**

We use a positive behavior intervention system to teach and support the development of positive behaviors. Students who exhibit Liger Pride through efforts that focus on our PRIDE acronym: **Positive, Respect, Improving, Dependable, and Effort** will be rewarded with points from all teachers and administration. Pride points can be used to buy supplies, games, treats, etc. on our online store. As students use these points at the store they will be eligible for weekly prize drawings and for activities during the year. Pride points are given for good grades on report cards and randomly by all school staff for students following these school-wide expectations.



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# Positive

**To be ready, able and willing to do or deal with something**

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*We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we will always be free.*

*~Thomas Jefferson*

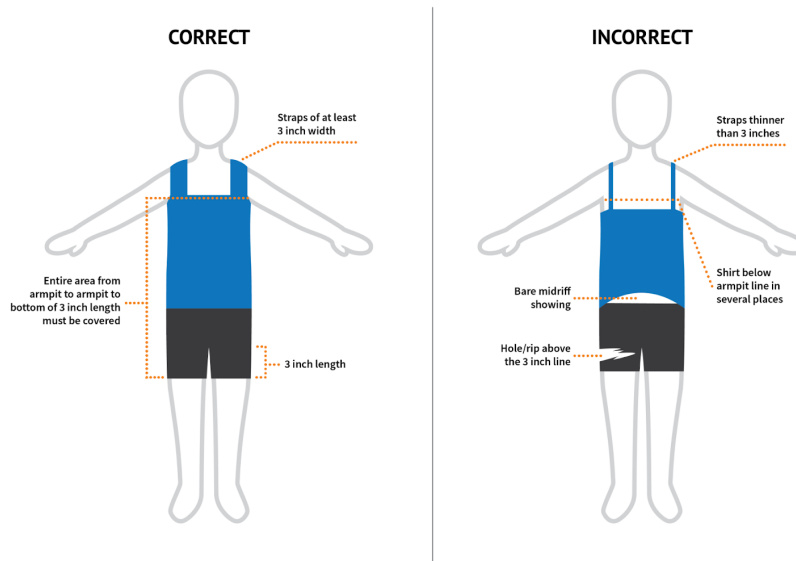
## **DRESS & APPEARANCE**

Valley Jr is a public school setting where students are preparing for a future career. Valley strives to allow for, and respect, a students' desire to express themselves as an individual while promoting a safe and positive learning environment. Anything that promotes violence, drugs or gangs will be immediately addressed and students will need to either change or a parent will be required to bring them a change of clothes. The administration reserves the right to modify the Dress Code Policy as needed.

1. Valley Jr. High expects students to dress appropriately for school. If students fail to meet the dress standards, they will be reminded to wear clothing/apparel that meets dress code standards. Students who choose not to follow the dress code will have parents notified and may be sent home until proper attire is obtained.
2. Clothing must not detract from the learning environment. Any item, dress, behavior, or appearance that causes a disruption to the educational atmosphere of the classroom or the school is prohibited.
3. Clothing or apparel that displays or suggests lewd images or content, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, inciting violence, or drugs/controlled substances are not permitted.
4. Any messages or images that promote gangs are not permitted. Items may be restricted by administration according to current recommendations by the Metro Gang Task Force.
5. Chains, sharp jewelry, and spikes are not allowed at school
6. Bandanas are restricted in schools as per recommendation of the Metro Gang Task Force, as is the wearing of colored shoelaces and the requirement for different colors of tops and bottoms
7. Hats, beanies, and hoodies are permissible provided they are not used to conceal headphones and do not violate drug, alcohol or gang provisions

## **CLOTHING COVERAGE & AREA**

Students, regardless of gender, must wear clothing that cover[s] areas from one armpit across to the other armpit, down to approximately 3 inches in length on the upper thighs. Tops must have shoulder straps of at least 3 inch width. The length of the top must be of sufficient length to cover the waistline with no visible skin or visible navel region. Pants and shorts shall sit at the natural waistline. Please see the diagram provided.



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# Respect

**B e i n g   k i n d   a n d   c o n s i d e r a t e   t o   a l l   p e o p l e .**

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*I believe that every human mind feels pleasure in doing good to another.*

*~Thomas Jefferson*

## **SCHOOL SUCCESS AND PREPARATION**

To be successful in class it is important that you come to class prepared, are ready to learn, and actively participate. Students will need the following items each day in class in order to be prepared:

1. Chromebook and Binder - including paper, dividers, folders, etc. to help maintain organization
2. Pens/Pencils

If students come to class unprepared, a consequence will be issued and students will need to correct the problem.

## **ASSEMBLY CONDUCT**

Students have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of entertaining and informative assemblies/performances. These include assemblies during school and performances held in the evening. Appropriate behavior is expected at all school events. **For all evening performances, students must be accompanied by a parent/guardian to attend.**

## **BULLYING/HARASSMENT**

The Board of Education recognizes that school bullying, hazing, harassment and intimidation greatly reduce a student's ability to achieve. In addition, bullying, hazing, harassment and intimidation can directly affect as students or an employee's health and well-being, contributing to negative consequences in both academic and personal areas. The purpose of the Prohibition of Bullying and Hazing policy is to stop and prevent bullying, hazing, harassment, and intimidation in district schools. Every student has the right to attend school without being threatened or bullied. Violators who engage in harassment or bullying behaviors are subject to disciplinary and/or legal actions. If a student has a problem with another student, it should be reported to the office. If a student does not feel safe reporting directly to the office, phone calls or e-mails are acceptable alternatives.

## **CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS**

All students should have self-discipline and make responsible choices. In order for students to obtain a positive educational experience it is imperative that the teacher be in charge of the class. Anything less would lead to a poor academic opportunity for all. Over the years, Valley has established traditions of courtesy, cooperation, friendliness, and an attitude of respect for people and property. Malapropos or disruptive behavior will receive appropriate consequences. (Consequences listed at the end of the handbook.)

## **SAFE SCHOOL POLICY**

Granite District's Safe and Alcohol/Drug Free School Policy is enforced at Valley Junior High. Acts of criminal behavior that place any person in imminent danger (e.g. instigating a fight, threatening, and fighting), possession/use/distribution of alcohol or drugs, and flammable materials such as lighters, firecrackers, etc. are prohibited in all Granite District schools, on school grounds, at school sponsored activities, when students are being transported in district vehicles, and when students are traveling to and from school. Students who violate this policy subject themselves to school, district, and legal sanctions. Law enforcement referrals will be made when appropriate. Students should also report if they have knowledge of weapons, alcohol, or drugs on school grounds immediately to school administration. **Weapons or any safe school violation may be reported on the Safety Hotline at 801-481-7199. Callers remain anonymous.**

## **SHOWING RESPECT**

Respecting someone and showing respect are not the same thing. People usually need to earn our respect, it is a positive feeling we have towards them. However, we can show respect to everybody regardless of how we feel about them. The ability to be respectful to all people is something we can and need to do. Students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately by the time they have entered seventh grade. All staff members have the authority and obligation to help maintain the rules and order of the school. A show of disrespect and willful disobedience toward any staff member anywhere on campus or at school sponsored activities will not be tolerated.

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# Improving

**To develop or increase in mental capacity by education or by experience.**

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*"Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen."*

*~Michael Jordan*

## **IMPROVING BEHAVIOR**

In order to discourage misbehavior and to improve behavior problems the following behavioral standards are required. Those students choosing to disregard these standards also choose to accept disciplinary action at the discretion of the appropriate school authorities.

- Attend all classes on time everyday.
- Be prepared with binder, pen/pencil, and planner.
- Follow all school and classroom rules.
- Respectfully follow the directions of all staff members.
- Adhere to the Dress Code policy.
- Language free from vulgarity and obscenity, and free from racial, ethnic, religious, and sexual slurs.
- Public displays of affections are not permitted at school or on school grounds.
- Respect the right of others to feel safe and secure at school. No verbal or physical threats to others.
- Instigating and encouraging others to fight is prohibited.
- Fighting at school, on school grounds, at school activities, or to and from school is prohibited.
- Follow the District's Safe School policy.

## **TARDY POLICY**

Timeliness is essential. The passing time between classes is sufficient for students to arrive on time. When the bell rings, students must be in their seats and prepared with the appropriate materials. Otherwise, they are considered tardy. If a student is tardy 15 minutes or more to a class, they will be marked absent. Tardies are counted school-wide, not per class. Each new week is a fresh start on the tardy count. Tardies will affect student's citizenship grade. The administration has the right to change the tardy policy throughout the year. The administration will assign the following consequences as tardies accrue:

1. If a student is tardy 5 times during the week, they are assigned an after-school detention lasting 50 minutes.
2. If a student is tardy 10 times during the week, an Overnight Suspension is required with a parent. The student will not be allowed to class without a parent meeting after the tenth tardy. This allows parents, the student, and the administration an opportunity to sit down and discuss the plan for the student to get to class on time.
3. If a student reaches 15 tardies in one week, an out of school suspension for one day will occur.
4. If a student has been habitually tardy throughout the year, an escort will be provided to help the student get to-and-from class on time.
5. If a student "ditches" or "stuffs" a class, an automatic After School Detention will occur.

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# Dependable

**Believing something is important and giving time, energy and focus to it.**

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*Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude.*

*~Thomas Jefferson*

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Regular prompt attendance has a direct effect on what students learn. It is essential that all students attend every class every day and arrive on time. Valley Junior High is a closed campus, which means students must stay on the school campus from the time they arrive at school until the dismissal bell rings; even if the first class has not started.

- Students are not to leave the campus for lunch. This will be considered a “sluff”.
- Students not enrolled at Valley Junior High will not be issued a visitor’s pass and are not allowed to be on campus during the school day or at the end of school.
- When checking a student out of school early, **parents will need to come IN to the Main Office and personally sign out their students.** It is very important that we know when a student leaves school so we can account for that student if there were a school emergency or evacuation.

Please report and excuse absences by phone before 9:30 A.M. **The number for the Counseling/Attendance Office is 385-646-3653.** If no phone call is made, the student must provide the Attendance Office with a written note upon his/her return to school. You can check your attendance through the *Portal Login* link on the Valley website (<http://schools.graniteschools.org/valleyjr>) to make sure any absences have been excused.

## **CELL PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

The Granite School District Board of Education has established that electronic communication devices such as cell phones and music devices have the potential of disrupting the orderly operation of the school. Students may have their phones out before and after school, in the hallways, and during lunch. Use of electronic devices for academic purposes in the classroom is under the discretion and supervision of each individual teacher. **Valley Junior High and Granite School District accept no responsibility for the loss of or damage to any communication device.** All violations of this policy are recorded in the office and consequences are as follows:

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Offense | The student will receive a warning from the teacher.  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense | The phone will be confiscated and turned into the office where the student may retrieve it at the end of the day. |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense | A parent or guardian must retrieve the phone from the front office each time forward.                             |

## **HALL PASSES**

It is each student’s responsibility to be in class during class time. If an emergency arises, the student may be issued a hall pass. The student is to report directly to the location indicated on the pass and then return promptly to the classroom. Students must wear the orange hall pass vest properly so that the teacher name is visible. Students found in the halls or bathroom without an official pass may be considered as truant. Hall pass vests can only be used by one student at a time. Hall passes should not be given while other classes are at lunch.

## **CAFETERIA**

The cafeteria, besides being a lunchroom, is also a place where students sit and socialize with friends. Each student is expected to practice the rules of good manners. During lunch, students should help others around them by:

- Observing good eating standards at the table
- Leaving the table and the surrounding areas clean and orderly
- Staying in the cafeteria while eating or carrying food

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# Effort

**B e i n g   a b l e   t o   s e r v e   a s   a   m o d e l   f o r   o t h e r s .**

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*“Continuous effort - not strength or intelligence - is the key to unlocking our potential.”*

*~Winston Churchill*

## **IMPROVING GRADES**

Students should monitor grades and academic progress at least once a week. To access your academic information for each class follow these steps:

- o Go to the website: <http://schools.graniteschools.org/valleyjr>
- o Click on the *GSD Portal Login* Link
- o Put in the your user name (7-digit school ID number) and password
- o For new users – follow the instructions under Gradebook \ Parent Portal Registration

## **PROFICIENCY BASED LEARNING**

Proficiency Based Learning, or PBL, is a way to measure and report on what students actually know and can do in each class. This is a shift in thinking from the previous method of grading which included extra credit to boost grades, as well as penalizing students for late work - both of which obscure what a grade really means. When you check your student's grades, you will know what specific skill they are struggling with, not just what assignment they are missing. When you see a number 1-4 on the report card, you will have a better idea than ever before of what your student understands and knows in that content area, as well as the progress they have made to get there.

### **What Can I Expect to See?**

**Numbers 1 - 4 on Report Cards** instead of letter grades

**Less focus on homework.** Now the focus is on practice that helps students understand how to master the standard.

**A wide variety of ways to assess student learning.** Students will be given multiple opportunities to show that they know the standard. If they haven't mastered it yet, they can retake those assessments.

**A broader definition of assessment** - It's not limited to a multiple choice test or a five page exam. Assessment can be in the form of a project, group work, an essay, etc. Most assessments are small - measuring only one skill or standard at a time.

### **Highly Proficient**

**4**

I can exceed expectations and apply the standard in complex ways.

### **Proficient**

**3**

I meet the expectations described in the standard and can do them independently.

### **Approaching Proficient**

**2**

I am getting close to meeting expectations and can do the simpler parts of the standard independently.

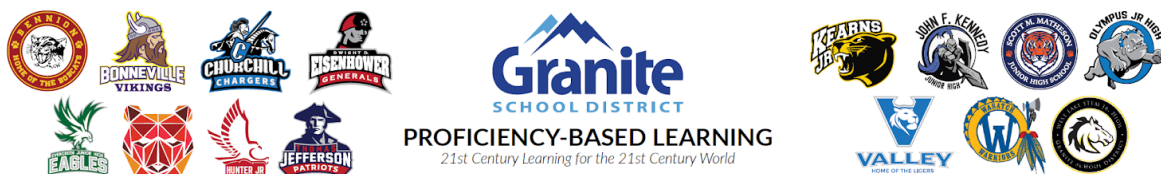
### **Below Proficient**

**1**

I still need help and support from my teacher to do the simpler parts of the standard.

## **PBL - STUDENT BILL OF RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES**

Students and parents in Granite School District have the right to understand the benefits of Proficiency Based Learning. Please review the following infographic for full details of our pledge to you, and the student responsibility for learning.



# **Student Bill of Rights & Responsibilities**

As a student in Granite School District, I have the right to the full benefits of Proficiency-Based Learning. Based on the district's philosophy and practice, ***I have the Right to:***

- know the core standards<sup>1</sup> I am being taught and have them presented to me in student-friendly language.
- receive rubrics that help me understand how I am being assessed and how to earn a 4.
- access meaningful, ungraded learning activities that, with my full participation, can improve my proficiency on core standards.
- demonstrate what I know and can do in a variety of ways on specific core standards.
- receive timely feedback and to have Gradebook updated regularly by my teachers.
- reassess and/or take alternate assessments.
- expect academic scores to reflect my ability, not work habits or behavior (my academic scores are independent of my citizenship grade).
- know my teachers' deadlines for submissions and reassessments.
- achieve at high levels and clearly understand what is required to earn a 4 on any given assessment.

As a student in Granite School District, I have the responsibility to advocate for my own learning. Based on the district's philosophy and practice, ***I have the Responsibility to:***

- learn and respect the learning of others
- attend class on time and actively engage in my learning.
- participate fully in learning activities that prepare me for assessment and reassessment.
- show what I know and can do on every assessment.
- monitor my progress through Gradebook.
- communicate with my teachers if I want to reassess or show what I know in a different way.
- self-manage my work habits and behavior so they do not interfere with my learning.
- honor my teachers' deadlines for submissions and reassessments and to take advantage of reassessment opportunities.
- challenge myself to achieve at high levels.

<sup>1</sup>Utah Core Curriculum Standards, specific to subject and grade level

