



Tradition, Pride, & Excellence Since 1872

**Murray High School  
Student Handbook 2023-24**

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Murray, Kentucky 42071  
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This handbook has been prepared by the administrative staff and faculty of Murray High School and shall be distributed to all high school students and/or parents electronically.

### **Welcome to Murray High for the 2023-2024 School Year**

First a big welcome to all our Murray High Tigers! We are so very excited to have you here and want you to have the very best possible year as you begin or continue your high school career. You are a part of a school and community that has a great deal of pride in the one hundred and fifty-year MHS tradition. Embrace that tradition and continue that pride as you enter the school every single day!

We are Tigers and we are excited to see you in 2023!

Tony Jarvis, Principal

### **Non-Discrimination Notice**

The Murray Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, marital status, age, or disability in its employment practices or educational programs and activities, including vocational education.

Inquiries regarding Section 504 compliance may be directed to David McDowell, Coordinator, Murray Board of Education, 208 S. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Murray, KY 42071, (270) 753-4363. Inquiries regarding Title IX and Title VI compliance may be directed to the Superintendent at the above address and telephone number.

### **Administration**

Tony Jarvis	Principal
Heath Walls	Assistant Principal
Melvin Cunningham	Assistant Principal
Eli Lathram	School Counselor
Toree McMain	School Counselor

## Faculty

Joey Adair	Interventionist
Wesley Bolin	Social Studies
Haley Burchett	Math
Rebecca Burgess	Science
Shauna Burkeen	Library
Hunter Carter	Choir/Band
Brandon Cayton	Math
Emily Chipman	Art
Michael Chipman	Science
Dior Curtis	Special Education
Kelly Dublin	English
Laurie Edminster	English
Brittany Forgey	Agriculture
Tyler Franklin	Strength/Conditioning
Jordan Garland	Health/PE
Emily Gooch	Special Education
Ann Greenfield	Athletic Director
Sophie Grogan	English
Juna Harvey	Science
Sarah Hultman	Math
John Karanja	English
Jeremy Krug	Science
Billie Martin	Special Education
Erin Mathis	Social Studies
Amy McDowell	Business
Matt McMain	Social Studies
Lourdes Oster	ESL
Adam Pitman	English
Crystal Riley	Special Education
Michael Robinson	English
Jared Rosa	Business
Sam Rushing	Social Studies
Katie Samples	Business
Justin Scott	Math
Sarah Silvestre	Spanish
Carley Thomas	Spanish
Drew Thompson	Social Studies
Tim Zeiss	Band

## **Alternative Education and Instructional Aides**

Cassie Bixler  
Tom Foust  
Sarah Underhill  
Taylor Schaff  
Olivia Gills  
Andrea White, RN

## **Secretaries**

Jennifer Speed, Attendance  
Julie Stone, Finance/Administrative Assistant  
Tammy Thompson, Counselors Administrative Assistant

## **School Nurse**

Emily Hill, RN

## **Custodial Staff**

Walter Arnold, Robert Hartsfield, Barbara Naugle, Frank Scott, and  
Dedra Schneider

## **Cafeteria Staff**

Anna Boehmer, Lita Birdsong, Renae Day, Brittany Morris, and  
Samantha Mason

## **Area Technical Center Staff**

Dan Hicks	Principal
Brian Provine	Carpentry
Mitch McNutt	Auto Tech
Kathleen Holman	Culinary Arts
Taylor Caldwell	Machine Tech/Manufacturing
Nicole Vaughn	Health Sciences/Pre-Nursing
Tony Adair	Welding
Ron Thompson	Electrical

## Accreditation

Murray High School has been accredited by AdvanceEd. This accreditation assures the acceptance of credits when transferred to another school and entitles graduates to admittance without examination to most colleges and universities. MHS is also accredited by the KY State Department of Education and has been awarded a Distinguished rating, the highest possible category.

## 2023-24 School Calendar First Semester

August 9	First Day for students
September 4	Labor Day (no school)
October 2-6	Fall Break
November 7	Election Day (no school)
November 22-24	Thanksgiving Break
December 20	End of First Semester
<b>December 21-January 2</b>	<b>Winter Break</b>

## Second Semester

January 3	School re-opens
January 15	No School (Holiday)
February 19 (M1)	President's Day
March 22 (M2)	No School
<b>April 1-April 5</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>
April 8	School re-opens
May 17	Last day for students
May 19	Tentative Graduation*

\*The last day of school may change if school is closed for severe weather or other reasons.

If necessary, make-up days will be added to the end of the school.

## **Class Sponsors**

### **Freshmen Class:**

M. Chipman, Forgey, Karanja, Robinson, Rushing, Scott, C Thomas

### **Sophomore Class:**

Bolin, Dublin, Grogan, Krug, McDowell, Rowland, Samples, Silvestre

### **Junior Class:**

Burchett, Burgess, E. Chipman, Garland, Hultman, McMain, Pitman

### **Senior Class:**

Cayton, Franklin, Harvey, Mathis, Rosa, Thompson

Beginning with the graduating class of 2022, a Standard Diploma shall be issued to each student who successfully completes and meets the minimum requirements set forth in [704 KAR 003:305](#) Kentucky Administrative Regulation and all other state and local requirements.

Twenty-five (25) approved credit units are required for graduates.

## **Standard Diploma**

A Standard Diploma shall be issued to each student who successfully completes and meets the minimum requirements set forth in [704 KAR 003:305](#) Kentucky Administrative Regulation and all other state and local requirements.

Twenty-five (25) approved credit units are required for graduates.

## **Advanced Diploma**

An Advanced Diploma shall be issued to each student who successfully completes and meets the minimum requirements set forth in [704 KAR 003:305](#) Kentucky Administrative Regulation and all other state and local requirements.

1. Successful completion of twenty-five (25) approved units and all the minimum unit requirements for high school graduation set forth in [704 KAR 003:305](#) and all other state and local requirements.
2. Successful completion of two (2) World Language credits;
3. Successful completion of eight (8) Advanced Placement (AP) or Dual Credit courses.



- a. All classes must be taken during both the regular school day and the regular school year to be counted in this formula.

### **Graduation with Honors (based on unweighted GPA)**

*Cum Laude grade point average estimates: GPA 3.45 to 3.74*

*Magna Cum Laude GPA estimates: GPA 3.75 to 3.94*

*Summa Cum Laude GPA estimates: GPA 3.95 to 4.0*

### **Top Ten Students/Top Ten Percent**

The top ten students or top ten percent will be determined using the highest weighted grade point averages from students who complete the advanced diploma and attend Murray High School for a minimum of four semesters.

### **School Fees**

Per board policy, all school fees must be paid, in full, for all students prior to graduation. Students who qualify for free/reduced lunch will be exempt from this policy. A fee waiver form must be completed and approved for fees to be waived. A new fee waiver form must be completed each school year.

### **Test Information**

PSAT – Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/NMSQT – National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. This test is used for scholarship competition, self-evaluation, and counseling. It is for juniors and is given in October. There is a verbal and math section on the test, and students receive a score on each section and a NMSQT selection score for scholarship competition. A test fee paid by the student is required.

ACT – American College Test and SAT – Scholastic Aptitude Test. These are college entrance tests required for admission and/or placement. Juniors and seniors may take these tests for college admission. These tests are given throughout the year. Applications, which are mailed by the student, are available in the guidance office. A test fee paid by the student is required. In March, all

juniors are given the ACT and is part of the state accountability testing.

ASVAB – Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. This is a testing program sponsored by the Department of Defense. Although the majority of students will probably never enter military service, the benefits of this aptitude testing program are available to all, and the test battery results can be useful in helping young people explore their own aptitudes. Trained personnel administer this test to juniors at no cost to the student or the school.

### **Advanced Placement**

Tests are given in May in specific AP classes for the purpose of earning college credit. Application for the test is made in the spring with the individual teacher and the counselor. Registration for AP exams is in early March. Students taking AP exams must have completed the AP preparation for that exam as outlined by the teacher of the AP class in which the student desires to be tested. A test fee paid by the student is required (students approved for free or reduced lunch at MHS are exempt from test fees).

### **Counseling**

The Counseling Department offers all students services in the areas of social and personal counseling, vocational information, educational counseling, record clarification, and post-secondary information. Referrals are made, as necessary. Students should feel free to contact members of the faculty, the administration, or the school counselors.

### **NCAA Requirements**

If a student wants to participate in NCAA sports as a college freshman, he/she needs to consult a school counselor or go to [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) or [www.playNAIA.org](http://www.playNAIA.org).

### **Area Technology Center**

The KY-TECH Murray Area Technology Center offers courses in Auto Technology, Carpentry, Food Technology, Electrical, Health Sciences, Machine Tool, and Welding to students enrolled in Murray High School and Calloway County High School.

**2023-2024  
Daily Bell Schedule**

**Doors open 7:45 with some exceptions  
Students may report to cafeteria or 1<sup>st</sup> period classroom**

**REGULAR DAILY SCHEDULE**

**7:45 doors open  
8:15-9:05 1st period  
9:10-10:00 2nd period  
10:05-11:00 3rd period  
11:05-12:20 4th period  
1st lunch- 11:05-11:25  
2nd lunch- 11:30-11:55  
3rd lunch- 11:55-12:20  
5th period 12:25-1:15  
6th period 1:20-2:10  
7th period 2:15-3:10**

**Homeroom/Advisory Schedules**

**AM Schedule:**

**1<sup>st</sup> period 8:15-8:55  
2<sup>nd</sup> period 9:00-9:40  
3<sup>rd</sup> period 9:45-10:30  
Homeroom 10:35-11:00**

**PM Schedule:**

**5<sup>th</sup> period 12:25-1:05  
Homeroom 1:10-1:40  
6<sup>th</sup> period 1:45-2:25  
7<sup>th</sup> period 2:30-3:10**

### **Grading Scale**

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

### **Transfer Credits**

A+	98	C	75
A	95	C-	70
A-	90	D+	69
B+	89	D	65
B	85	D-	60
B-	80	F	55
C+	79		

### **Classes and Credits**

Students will receive ½ credit for successful completion of a semester class.

### **Transfer Policy**

Students transferring from a block school who enroll before the midpoint in the first nine weeks and who were not previously enrolled in a core class (math, science, social studies, language, English) in their previous school will be given the opportunity to make up work missed through extended school services.

Students in this situation will work in conjunction with the teacher in the class involved to make up missed work to the satisfaction of the teacher. All work must be made up before the end of the nine-week grading period. Failure to complete work will result in no credit for the semester.

## **Progress Reports**

At the end of the fifth week of each grading period, a notification of Progress Report will be sent via email to all parents. Parents who have questions or desire a conference should call the specific teacher or counselor at 270-753-5202.

## **Withdrawal from School**

Students must report to the principal's office to be officially withdrawn. A student who withdraws must return all materials that belong to the school and must pay all financial obligations. A withdrawal form from the Counseling Office will also be needed.

## **Attendance**

1. Attendance- The progress of a student at school depends on the punctuality and regularity of attendance. Students are expected to be present at school every day and in their assigned classrooms on time. We believe that attendance is a student-parent/guardian responsibility. The principal has discretion on all school policies, including tardies and absences. There is a direct relationship between attendance and success in school. If the following procedures are followed, difficulties related to attendance will be minimized
2. Absences
  - a. Parents or guardians must call the school between 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. daily to report students' absences, or when the student returns to school they must bring a statement signed and dated by the parent/guardian to the office before the student is readmitted to school.
  - a. When the school is not notified of a student's absence, it will be considered an unexcused absence. The student will be viewed as skipping and will be subject to school discipline.
  - b. School personnel will make every effort to contact the parent or guardian of those students not in school.
  - c. Students who are absent because of death in the family, illness in the family, which requires their presence at home, or personal illness, which is verified by the parents or guardian, will receive an excuse for the absence. However, these students are expected to make arrangements with their teachers to make up

work missed. Absences because of a death in the immediate family will require a written statement and a phone call to the attendance clerk.

- d. After three (3) days of absence (consecutive or nonconsecutive) or three (3) absences per class during a school year, a student must present a doctor's statement upon returning to school verifying the student's absence from school. A doctor's excuse or fax from the provider should be submitted to the attendance clerk upon returning to school.
- e. Only students with an excused absence will be allowed to make up homework or tests. Students should work with each of their teachers to complete any make-up work.
- f. Pupils are not absent when participating in school activities which the Murray Independent Board of Education has authorized, and which is a definite part of the instructional program of the school.
- g. A suspension will be counted as an unexcused absence from school. As a result, any missing classwork will not be accepted.
- h. Applying for a driver's license will be excused for ½ day.
- i. Kentucky School Law, 159.150 states "any child who has been absent from school without a valid excuse for three (3) days or more (single or consecutive), or who is habitually tardy without valid excuse, is a truant." Any child who has been reported as a truant more than two (2) times is a habitual truant. Being absent more than two hours counts as a full-day absence. A student who is absent for sixty (60) minutes or less of the regular scheduled day without a valid excuse is tardy.
- j. Planned absences (non-school related) will be allowed if classwork is current. Students will be responsible for make-up work. A prior planned form must be completed and signed by a parent or guardian. Administration must approve a pre-planned absence.
- k. Seniors will be allowed up to three (3) college visits by following the pre-arranged process. Documentation may be required as needed. Administrative discretion can be used for additional events.
- l. Students summoned to court for violations, committed or alleged, should report the reason for the absence to the school. A court excuse may be needed.

- m. Classroom hall pass policies are established by individual teachers. The expectation of students is that he/she remain in class for the entire class period unless given permission to leave for any reason.
- n. If a student is assigned A-Room, they may not participate in any extracurricular activity until completion of their A-Room assignment. Students may return to their extracurricular team on the date of A-Room completion. *Extracurricular activities include any sporting, academic, arts, or other Murray High group that might convene at any time before or after school (including weekends).*
- o. LEGAL: The 2007 General Assembly amended KRS (Kentucky Revised Statute)

159.051 and KRS 186.470, requiring districts to report students who are academically deficient, drop out of school or accumulate nine (9) or more unexcused absences in the preceding semester, for license revocation. Parental consent as part of the revocation process will be obtained as part of the process of applying for a license.

### 3. Attendance Due Process

- A. After a student has acquired their third (3) unexcused absence, the principal/designee will notify parent or guardian.
- B. Upon the sixth (6) unexcused absence/ tardy to school the principal/designee will notify the parent/guardian and set up a conference with the parent/guardian and student. The Director of Pupil Personnel will file charges resulting in a court appearance.
- C. Upon the ninth (9) unexcused absence/tardy the principal/designee will notify the Department of Education. The General Assembly amended KRS 159.051 and KRS 186.470, requiring districts to report students who are academically deficient, drop out of school or accumulate nine (9) or more unexcused absences in the preceding semester, for license revocation. Parental consent as part of the revocation process will be obtained as part of the process of applying for a license.

## **Before and After School Procedures**

Students will enter either the Sycamore entrance, which is for bus riders or drivers who park in the Doran lot, or the West Commons aka the Doran entrance which is for drivers or dropped-off students. For security reasons, students may not enter the building at any other location and parents may not drop off or pick up students at other locations. Doors will open at 7:45 am with some exceptions. For security purposes for all, students will open all items to be searched and will be subject to security review from either the School Resource officer or school staff.

All students will be required to walk through the electronic scanners and also may have their belongings searched for school safety purposes.

Before and after school, including evenings and weekends, students are to park in the student parking lot on the Doran Road side of the building. The parking lot area behind the high school between the high school and the track should be designated for faculty and staff parking only. Also, this same area behind the high school between the high school and the track should not be used as a drop-off or pick-up point for any extracurricular activities or as a location to park any vehicles designated for extra-curricular activity use as it needs to be kept clear to allow for emergency vehicles if the need arises. Late students will check in the Sycamore entrance and be checked by staff as well.

## **Sign-Outs**

Murray High School is a closed campus. All students will remain on campus from 8:15 a.m. until 3:10 p.m. unless they are signed out by a contact listed in Infinite Campus. Parents must approve those allowed to sign the student out and take from Murray High campus. If it is necessary for a student to leave campus during the school day, the student is required to notify the teacher and report to the office. Parents/guardians must call in advance to prearrange the student's release. If it is deemed appropriate, school personnel will contact the parents/guardians to make arrangements.

## **Lunch Periods**

The Food Service Department of Murray High School offers a variety of nutritious foods from which students may choose. A breakfast



program is also available to students. Breakfast will be served from 7:50 a.m. to 8:05 a.m. each day.

Student classes are assigned to one of three lunch periods.

Students are encouraged to keep money in their accounts, rather than using cash. The lines will move more quickly. Free and reduced lunch forms may be picked up in the office and the kitchen.

Students are encouraged to eat food prepared in the cafeteria. It is permissible to bring lunch from home, but such food must be eaten in the cafeteria.

Students are not allowed to have food brought to them from local restaurants during the school day unless placed in their lunch box from home.

Students are not allowed to purchase beverages and snacks from school vending machines during the school day. Also, students should not have access to or use coffeemakers or other beverage makers that may be stationed in a teacher's classroom or designated area. Murray High School is a closed campus for safety reasons.

### **Visitors**

Parents, guardians, or other individuals who have business to conduct at Murray High School must first report to the front office and obtain a visitor pass. Failure to exhibit a visitor pass will result in a request to leave the premises. Murray High School students are not allowed to bring visitors to school to attend classes with them during the school day.

### **Telephones**

Parents should call the office at Murray High to relay information to their student. Calling the school prior to arrival to sign out a student will expedite the process. Phone messages left for students will be sent to teachers throughout the school day.

### **Lockers**

Locker numbers are assigned by the school. Students are encouraged to use a school provided lock for their locker. Students may pick-up a lock during their homeroom during the first week of school. Students will have to pay \$5.00 for the replacement of any lost locks.

Students are always encouraged to keep their lockers locked when not in use and keep all belongings locked in the assigned locker.

Periodic locker inspections may be made.

## **Cameras**

Murray High School has video cameras in strategic positions throughout the building to improve the safety of students and staff.

## **Lost and Found**

The school custodian oversees lost and found articles. Report any losses and bring any found items to the office.

## **Fire/Severe Weather Drills-Safety Drills**

Fire drills are held monthly. Each teacher will go over plans for evacuating his or her room. When the fire alarm sounds, students and staff wait for "safe to exit the building" before dismissing students to exit in a quiet orderly fashion. Severe weather (storm shelter) drills will also be conducted.

Teachers will review safety plans with each class. Lockdown drills will be practiced as well as other safety precautions as required by state law. The cooperation of all is required.

## **Book Bags**

Students may bring bookbags or backpacks to school, but all bags are forbidden in classrooms. Book bags must be kept in lockers. Athletic bags may be stored in locker rooms.

## **Senior Pictures**

A student must be enrolled in a senior homeroom to be assured a senior picture is made. Seniors are responsible for contacting the yearbook photographer for scheduling their appointments. The official yearbook photographer must make all senior pictures for the yearbook.

## **Textbooks**

The Murray Independent School District furnishes rental textbooks to students. If the books are damaged or lost, students must pay for their replacement. The amount collected shall be the cost to replace the book.

## **Health Records**

State law requires that all students have valid documentation of immunization before attending public schools. All students are required to be immunized against the following diseases before attending public schools: diphtheria, pertussis, polio, measles, and German measles.

## **Extracurricular/School-Sponsored Activities**

All extracurricular/school-sponsored activities must be approved by the Murray High SBDM (School Based Decision Making). All activities sponsored by a class or club must first be approved by the sponsor. The activities must then have administration approval. All activities must be properly chaperoned. Students and guests attending the activities must behave properly.

Alcoholic beverages, drugs, profanity, weapons, and boisterous behavior are absolutely forbidden. Disrespectful behavior will NOT be tolerated. If the school building is used, the group sponsoring the activity is responsible for seeing that the building is left clean. Please see the rules on Attendance (page 15) regarding student participation in extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities include any sporting, academic, arts, or other Murray High group that might convene at any time before or after school (including weekends).

## **Assemblies**

Assemblies and/or pep rallies will be scheduled throughout the year. They will generally be held near the end of the school day. Students should go promptly to assembly, occupying seats in assigned sections of the gymnasium, if appropriate. Program participants should be treated courteously.

## **School Dances**

All Murray High School students in grades 9-12 are eligible to attend after-game dances. Prices of admission may vary. Students attending the activities are expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner. Alcoholic beverages, drugs, profanity, weapons, and boisterous behavior are absolutely forbidden. Disrespectful behavior and inappropriate dancing will NOT be tolerated. Dances will be limited to no more than one per month. All dances will be closed, open only to current Murray High students, except

homecoming and prom. Doors to the school will be locked from the outside so that the students will enter at one entrance. No visitors will be allowed in the lobby. Students who leave the dance will NOT be readmitted. Lighting will be appropriate and standardized for every dance. The sponsoring organization of the dance will help monitor the type of music played to ensure that appropriate music will be played. All dances must be properly chaperoned by parents as well as faculty and staff. This includes Homecoming and Prom. Students are always expected to dress appropriately.

### **Junior-Senior Prom**

The Prom is one of the major social activities of the school year. It is hosted by the juniors to honor the seniors. Attendance is limited to those students at Murray High School who are in at least their third year of high school and who have completed at least 9 credits and their invited guests who meet the same requirements. All invited guests are required to have attained at least junior status, or if they have dropped out of school prior to their junior year, their class must have reached junior status and not exceed 21 years of age. Special arrangements must be made through the office for all guests prior to the Prom. Semiformal attire is appropriate. Only Seniors and Juniors are eligible to participate in Prom, regardless of school they are enrolled in, and each must be in good attendance standing and have no pending behavioral violations. In addition, to be a member of prom court, juniors must have attended the required number of meetings and work sessions.

### **Co-Curricular/Extracurricular Activities**

Many school wide organizations provide a wide variety of programs for interested students. Students are urged to take part in one or more of these activities. Success is not measured by the number of activities in which a student participates, but by the quality of work in each.

#### **Athletics**

Murray High School offers a comprehensive, competitive athletic program for its students. MHS is a member of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association, and the following sports are offered: football, soccer, golf, basketball, baseball, track, softball, tennis, volleyball, cross-country, cheer, archery, and swimming. No student shall be compelled to participate or not participate in more

than one sport. The rich tradition of Murray High School is carried on and supported by the students, parents, faculty, and the community. For additional information contact the athletic director.

### **Band**

The Murray Tiger Band is made up of students from Murray Independent School District. Band activities include Marching Band, Concert Band, Pep Band, Jazz Ensemble, Winter Guard, Tiger Beats Indoor Percussion, and other various voluntary small ensembles under the guidance of its director, Tim Zeiss. The band, in its many forms, represents Murray Independent Schools at ballgames, parades, concerts, contests, and festivals throughout the school year.

### **Speech Team**

The Murray High chapter of the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) is composed of members who attain 25 points or more for participation in inter-scholastic contests, civic projects, plays, etc. and novices who will become members upon attainment of 25 points.

The purposes of the organization are promoting speaking skills among participants, instilling self-confidence, developing an appreciation for drama, providing inter-scholastic competition, helping individuals to develop into sensitive communicators, and promoting pride in one's school.

Murray High School is one of 3,500 high schools throughout the United States which has a NSDA chapter. The speaking events include congressional debate, original oratory, dramatic and humorous interpretation, prose and poetry interpretation, duo interpretation, storytelling, extemporaneous speaking, broadcasting, impromptu speaking, declamation, improvisational duo, program oral interpretation, and informative speaking. NSDA activities include taking part in civic programs and various social gatherings; and participating in approximately fifteen speech and debate tournaments throughout the nation.

### **Academic Team**

The Academic Team is open to students at all grade levels. The purpose of the club is to participate in academic competitions throughout the region and state. Competitions include Quick Recall, a buzz-in competition with four team members, each with a

specialty content area as well as general knowledge competing in conference matches as well as invitational tournaments and Governor's Cup; Written Assessment tests in Math, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and General Knowledge given in Governor's Cup; Future Problem Solving; a four-member team that applies logical means to solve societal problems of the future during Governor's Cup Competition.

### **Clubs and Organizations**

#### **Student Council**

The Murray High School Student Council is the student government of the high school. It serves as a forum to discuss school problems, and it welcomes any suggestions from the student body. The council membership is open to any students who desire to be a participating member by helping with student activities and by attending all meetings.

These council members are designated "at large" members.

School council officers must have a 3.0 GPA or better.

Representatives and at-large members must have a 2.5 GPA or better. The council meets regularly once their calendar is set.

#### **Beta Club**

The Beta Club is a student-centered organization which continually develops and nurtures individuals by providing opportunities and experiences enabling them to demonstrate the ideas of character, achievement, service, and leadership in a global community.

Membership is open to all students at Murray High School with a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher. Eligibility is calculated at the beginning of the school year for sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Freshman eligibility is calculated at the end of the first semester.

#### **National Honor Society**

The National Honor Society (NHS) was founded nationally in 1921 to create an organization that would recognize and encourage academic achievement while continuing to develop other characteristics essential to citizens in a democracy. The ideas of scholarship, character, service, and leadership are the foundation for this organization's selection of members and choice of activities. The Murray High chapter, founded in 1937, is open to each junior and senior who has attained at least a 3.5 cumulative average, who

has been active in at least two school sports, clubs, or organizations for two succeeding semesters prior to application for membership in NHS, and who has not been truant, suspended or expelled. New membership shall be considered after each semester. Members must also maintain the high standards required for membership in NHS or risk suspension or expulsion from the organization. Senior members in good standing will be officially recognized in an induction ceremony at the end of their senior year.

### **Black History Club**

The Black History Club is a multicultural club dedicated to the learning of historic African American culture and people or other role models. February is Black History month in the United States and is the busiest month for the club. On the last Friday of February, the club members treat the school and the community to a one-hour program if possible. The Black History Club is open to all students.

### **Writing Club**

All interested students may discuss writing techniques and self-authored work. These meetings may include prose, poetry, and playwriting. While short poems and songs may be dissected, this is distinct from a book club in that no one will be expected to read a text as "homework." Rather, a member can expect to be given free writing exercises and present their work to the club. In short, the member would write new work and hear new work from their peers.

### **Fellowship of Christian Athletes**

FCA membership includes students active in athletics, although one does not have to be an athlete to be a member. Motivational speakers, group discussions on issues of concern to students, group retreats, and service projects for the school year are among the activities planned for the year. The goals of the FCA include being of service to the school and promoting positive values among its members and in the school environment.

### **FFA (Future Farmers of America)**

The National FFA Organization is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of young people by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through

agricultural education. FFA is a national student organization that allows students to explore the world around them, serve others and make a difference in their home and community. Since the FFA content is offered within our education curriculum, students should take an agriculture class to get the most of their FFA experience.

### **Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)**

The Future Business Leaders of America is the national, state, and local organization for high school students enrolled in business classes.

The activities of the Future Business Leaders of America provide an opportunity for business students to further prepare for business occupations. Members of the FBLA learn how to participate in individual and group enterprise, preside at meetings and conferences, work effectively with committees, and engage in practical problem solving and decision-making. FBLA also provides an opportunity to compete honorably in competitive events at regional, state, and national conferences. Chapter activities include educational, service, promotional, and fund-raising activities and projects that develop vocational and career supportive competencies and that promote civic and personal responsibilities.

### **Leadership Tomorrow**

Leadership Tomorrow is open to juniors and seniors. The purpose of the program is to develop leadership and communication skills by introducing students to their own community. The program also strives to foster volunteerism and community involvement; and to encourage understanding and acceptance of civic responsibilities and leadership roles. Students will attend eight outings, approximately one each month during the school day. Students are chosen by a community committee from written applications. Students involved in Leadership Tomorrow must make up work missed while attending outings in a timely manner.

### **National Art Honor Society**

The national organization that serves to promote the Visual arts in our school. The club meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. It is open to all who meet membership requirements. Membership requirements are as follows: complete three service hours per year, annual dues of \$15, 60% attendance rate,



minimum 3.0 average in all classes. To graduate with NAHS honors and receive a cord for graduation, members must be in good standing. Good standing means a minimum of 3.0 cumulative average in all subjects, 60% attendance rate, and three service hours.

### **Pep Club**

Pep Club helps to support ALL varsity athletic teams and create school spirit. Some of the benefits of membership include spirit buses to away ballgames, half-price admission to home games, and other activities to promote and celebrate athletic competitions.

Different spirit committees are formed to help recognize and support ALL varsity athletic teams (e.g., golf, tennis, soccer, track, basketball, and football). Spirit committees may make signs, locker decorations, goodie baskets, and organize team send-offs. Membership is only \$10 for the entire year.

### **Spanish Club**

The Murray High School Spanish club strives to increase language ability, introduce Hispanic culture, provide an opportunity to socialize with Spanish friends, and develop an awareness of the role of the culture in today's world.

Membership is open to anyone currently enrolled in Spanish or anyone who has had Spanish in high school.

### **Tiger Yearbook**

The staff of the Tiger yearbook is composed of students who are enrolled in journalism. The class learns principles of journalistic writing, layout techniques, design, photography, and desktop publishing. To enroll in the class, a student must apply for admission. Editors are selected by the sponsor through an application process.

### **GSA**

The GSA is a student-run club which provides a supportive environment for LGBTQ+ students and their allies. The GSA aims to enrich the community for students to discuss issues related to gender and sexuality. Students will participate in community building activities and fundraisers to support LGBTQ+ causes. In addition, the club will foster a community of acceptance for all

students and be inclusive of all gender identities and sexual orientations. All students are welcome and encouraged to participate.

### **Gardening Club**

The purpose of the MHS Gardening Club is one of service: offer service to the school in the form of the care and maintenance of plants within and around the building, to learn about sustainable practices for growing food and building soil health, to be ambassadors for these practices and educate others, particularly younger students in the MISD.

### **LEO Club**

“Leadership, Experience, Opportunity.” That is what makes a Leo. Members of Leo clubs embody the best qualities of our incredible organization. They are devoted young people who realize the power of action. Together, “Leos” and Lions form a powerful partnership — one of mutual respect where Lions learn from the innovative insights of “Leos,” and where “Leos” gain access to the proven strategies of those who have successfully served the world for decades.

### **Educators Rising**

Educators Rising is a community-based movement, in which chapters at schools feed teacher preparation programs at institutes of higher education with the support of State Department of Education and local funders and foundations. These entities come together to provide a clear pathway to increase teacher diversity and teacher quality.

## **MHS Fundraising Policy**

All school-wide fundraising activities must be approved by the Board of Education. Requests must be channeled through the Principal and Superintendent. 09.33. No student shall be compelled to participate in or meet any kind of quota in a fundraising activity. Students shall not suffer repercussions for not meeting sales quotas.

Advisors/Sponsors/Coaches should use discretion in selecting fundraisers. A yearly plan for fundraising shall be submitted at the beginning of each school year.

A fundraising calendar will be maintained in the front office by the principal to avoid multiple fundraisers and overlap. Fundraisers must be submitted for approval at least one week before the Board of Education meeting each month.

## School Accident Insurance

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Murray Independent School District has purchased accident insurance for all students. The insurance plan provides benefits for accidental injury while attending assigned classes or during school sponsored and supervised activities or while being transported to and from school on a school owned/approved vehicle.

The insurance plan provided by the Murray Independent Schools **does not** pay 100% of all medical and dental expenses . Please note that the insurance provided by the Murray Independent Schools is "secondary" to any other family insurance plans and will pay only the eligible medical expenses not payable by other insurance sources. *Following is information outlining the benefits and limitations of the school purchased insurance plan.* If you desire additional insurance coverage for your child(ren), we suggest you consider purchasing supplemental individual accident insurance.

Sincerely  
Coy Samons, Superintendent

