



Medford 7-12 Schools
School Board Report
August 17, 2026

- 1) **Rolling out the new school year-** Most of our open positions have been filled with some great new teachers. We will have several brand new staff members at the high school. These include Ms. Trista Rudstrom who started her duties as counselor earlier this month, Ms. Buckle in special education, Ms. Boles in ELL, Mrs. Swenson in band, and Ms. Stockdale, our new school psychologist.
- 2) **Faculty will be rolling in shortly-** New teacher workshop is later this week. There will be technology training on Wednesday and then a full day of orientation on Thursday. All teachers will of course report the 24th through the 27th. We have several changes and lots of good information to share as we prepare to welcome back students. Reminder that all of you are invited to our Welcome back Breakfast on Monday, August 24, 2026 between 7:30 and 8:30am. We would love to have you and I know our teachers would love to see you there!
- 3) **Open House-** will again be on Tuesday evening from 5-7pm. We are looking forward to meeting with new students and helping orient them to Medford. Additionally, we will have student handbooks and chromebook check out available for 9-12th grade students.
- 4) **Handbook Updates/Proposals/Discussion:** The student and faculty handbooks are ready for your approval. [Student Handbook](#) [Faculty Handbook](#) There are several proposed policy changes, some due to legislation and others to fit current practice or changes in the environment. I have explained these in some detail below. I propose adding or changing the language in the following policies:
 - a) Attendance language: updated to reflect additional changes to the Steele County plans as well as some language that if students are unexcused absent, that may impact them academically. Some teachers had language about this in their syllabi, and there was some in the faculty handbook, but now it has been added to the student handbook as well.
 - b) Electronic Device Policy-Now includes smartglasses. We had a situation last year where a student wore a pair to school and was recording staff and students etc. without their consent or knowledge. The same policy that applies to chromebooks and smartphones etc. now applies to smartglasses. They are prohibited.
 - c) Loaner devices- specific information about how to obtain and how long loaner devices can be checked out was added to the student handbook.
 - d) Closed Campus and PSEO- we have always been a closed campus, but language was added this year in regards to issues with the number of students going in and out of the building during the day who are taking PSEO courses. This is important as these disruptions impact the office as students are coming and going, as well as the integrity of the school day and our ability to account for student supervision and safety throughout the school day.

PSEO Students. Students enrolled in PSEO on a full- or part-time basis are not required to remain in the building during the specific times their PSEO coursework is scheduled, whether the course is offered online or on a college campus. This exception applies only to actual scheduled instructional time:

 - **Synchronous PSEO courses** (courses that meet at a fixed, scheduled time, whether online or on a college campus): the student may be released from the building only during that specific scheduled period. The release period must be reflected in the student's schedule in Infinite Campus and coordinated in advance with the counseling office.
 - **Asynchronous PSEO courses** (no fixed meeting time): because there is no scheduled instructional period, no building-release time may be scheduled for this course. Students taking asynchronous PSEO courses will

have their Medford High School courses scheduled consecutively, with any unscheduled time placed at the start or end of the school day, or will be scheduled into a study hall between Medford High School courses. Students may not schedule a mid-day gap for the purpose of leaving campus to complete asynchronous coursework and returning later for additional Medford High School classes.

Outside of the specific instances above, PSEO students are subject to the same closed campus expectations as all other students, including during study halls and other unassigned periods.

- e) New Hall Pass System- minor language changes- we are no longer using Infinite Campus Hallpass, but have instead are using an add-on to GoGuardian our device monitoring software so that language was updated to reflect the change.
- f) Fidgets: had to update our fidget policy again as maintenance and facilities discovered that the Needoh's and other "Squishies" that contain substances that can "leak or explode" out of them, did damage to our floors and equipment. Therefore, these are being banned. Students can bring foam stress balls that meet the other parts of the original policy, as well as other appropriate fidgets if necessary, but nothing that has a water, gel, cream, or other substance inside that could leak from it.
- g) Prom and Good Standing-Added language that clarifies that LTS or late to school is considered an unexcused absence and will be treated as such in relation to this policy.

Faculty handbook:

- a) Field Trips-set up timelines for requesting field trips so that we can make sure that we have substitutes if necessary and buses. There were some last minute issues the last couple of years that have necessitated more guidance on this issue at the high school level.
- 5) **Site Team**-Planning for the first day of school. We will have an altered schedule to assist in making sure that students get the updates to the handbook that they need, have a chance to ask questions about anything that they are unclear about, do some planning for the year, and then some time to get reacquainted with one another and their teachers. 7th and 8th graders will again have a separate schedule so that their teachers can help them become familiar with Google, Infinite Campus, and a variety of other NEW things to middle schoolers without the added stress of finding classrooms amongst the rest of the high schoolers etc. they will then join the 9-12th graders at the end of the day for some fun activities.

Thanks!

Jen Ford