



# MOUNTAIN EMPIRE HIGH SCHOOL

*Mountain Empire Unified School District*

## MISSION

*Preparing students to engage in society with duty, honor, and service.*

## 2022-2023 SCHOOL PROFILE

Mountain Empire High School is a comprehensive school serving the Mountain Empire Unified School District. Located in a rural area of San Diego County, it is 45 miles east of San Diego. We are bordered by the Mexican state of Baja California on

the south and Imperial County to the east. The district encompasses 660 square miles, and approximately 90% of the students depend on district transportation to and from school. This mountainous district ranges in elevation from 2,000 feet to almost 6,000 feet. The district serves the communities of Descanso, Guatay, Pine Valley, Campo, Potrero, Boulevard, Lake Morena, Jacumba, and Tecate, California. Each community has a different community culture and the location of each community contributes to that. Current enrollment is 433 students in grades 9 through 12.

Mountain Empire High School is on a block schedule resulting in students taking four classes in the Fall/Term 1 and four in the Spring/Term 2. These four block periods span approx 90 minutes. The average student-to-teacher ratio is 17.5:1. Mountain Empire High School's in-person program continues to use multiple levels of student engagement that include virtual meetings for students that are on 15+ day independent study contacts, after-school program tutoring, and individual meetings for students per identified need.

Staff collaborates every Wednesday with a focus on student improvement and success through preparing our students to engage society with duty, honor, and service.

## CONTACT

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## SUPERINTENDENT

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## LEADERSHIP

David Rios, Principal  
Heather Westgaard, VP

## COUNSELORS

Cherie Foraker (A-J)  
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## REGISTRAR

Mary Hall  
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## ACCREDITATION

Mountain Empire High School is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

Mountain Empire High School

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# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Mountain Empire Unified School District Board of Education requires 220 credits to graduate through the Class of 2023. The Board has updated this requirement to 240 credits to be expected of the Class of 2024 and all future classes. Most courses are term-long classes and grant five credits per quarter. The course requirements for graduation are:

<u>Current 220 Requirement</u>	<u>Future 240 Requirement</u>
English.....40 credits	English.....40 credits
Social Studies.....40 credits	Social Studies.....40 credits
Fine Arts/	Fine Arts/
Foreign Language.....10 credits	Foreign Language.....10 credits
Mathematics.....30 credits	Mathematics.....30 credits
Life Science.....10 credits	Life Science.....10 credits
Physical Science.....10 credits	Physical Science.....10 credits
Phys Education.....20 credits	Third Year Science....10 credits
Electives.....60 credits	Phys Education.....20 credits
	Electives/Includes College Career Readiness (CCR) and Senior Project.....70 credits

## HONORS AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT

**Honors** level courses are offered for students determined to take a more rigorous curriculum in the areas of Geography, English I, English II, Integrated Math I, Integrated Math II, Integrated Math III, Biology, Chemistry, Mexican Regional Music, Jazz Band, and Choir totaling 13 course options.

**Advanced Placement** courses are offered in English Language, English Literature, World History, U.S. History, U.S. Government, Calculus, Spanish Language, and Studio Art totaling 8 course options.

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# **GRADING**

Grades in all courses (excluding all assistant and tutor sections) taken from freshman through senior year are used in calculating GPA and class rank according to the following numerical equivalents: A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0. Honors and Advanced Placement courses receive an additional point in the following areas: A=5, B=4, C=3.

# **TESTING DATA (CEEB: 050455)**

In the spring of 2022, 27 students took 35 Advanced Placement Exams. The number of exams passed for 2022 with scores of 3, 4, and 5 was 21. The overall pass rate of 60%. The individual subjects are as follows:

English Literature - 7, English Language - 0, World History - 4,  
U.S. History - 1, U.S. Government - 0, Spanish Language - 4, and Art - 5.

# **POST-SECONDARY PLANNING**

Based on reporting from the National Student Clearinghouse for the class of 2021, 47% of students are determined to be college-going students and 64% of those students were determined to persist from fall to spring and fall to fall for each year. This reveals the diversity of our students pursuing college, certificates, and straight-to-work options. To meet our mission, we have expanded career pathways options, connecting students to concurrent college course enrollment, and increasing college-career readiness. MEHS provides access for students to participate in multiple options for post-secondary planning such as guidance programming that provides a series of events to connect all students to professionals and career categories. All MEHS students have access to the UC TRiO program. MEHS Seniors participate in yearly onboarding programs with Grossmont Community College. The counseling department provides interest inventory assessments connecting students to career options.

To meet the needs of our students and provide the most opportunity for students to prepare for their future, MEHS now provides a College Career Readiness (CCR) course which teaches success strategies to enhance academic and lifelong learning. Students explore personality, interests, and values to increase self-understanding and select appropriate career and post-secondary pathways. Students will also determine a senior project they will complete during their senior year that focuses on their interests and connects to a future career, passion, or community service goal.

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