



# MOUNTAIN EMPIRE HIGH SCHOOL

*Mountain Empire Unified School District*

## MISSION

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

## 2023-2024 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.

## 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 GPA point in the following areas: A=5, B=4, C=3.

## CONTACT

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## SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Patrick Keeley  
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## LEADERSHIP

David Rios, Principal  
Heather Westgaard, AP

## COUNSELORS

Michelle Ditomaso(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

*Home of the Redhawks*

# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Mountain Empire Unified School District Board of Education requires 240 credits to be completed in order for students to receive their high school diploma. Most courses are term-long classes and grant five credits per quarter. The course requirements for graduation are:

English.....	40 credits
Social Studies.....	40 credits
Fine Arts/Foreign Language.....	10 credits
Mathematics.....	30 credits
Life Science.....	10 credits
Physical Science.....	10 credits
Third Year Science....	10 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, Integrated Science II (Biology), Integrated Science III (Chemistry), Mexican Regional Music, and Jazz Band.

**Advanced Placement** courses are offered in Spanish Language and Culture, Studio Art and World History and U.S. History rotate every other year.

## TESTING DATA (CEEB: 050455)

In the spring of 2023, 48 students took Advanced Placement Exams. The number of exams passed for 2023 with scores of 3, 4, and 5 was 21 resulting in an increased overall pass rate of 44%.

## 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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