

After-School Playground Use Policy

Mountain Song Community School provides limited access to the front playground after parent/guardian pickup as a courtesy to families. This time is intended for children to play and connect with one another while under the **active supervision of their parent or guardian**.

Student Behavioral Expectations

Mountain Song Community School's behavioral expectations are grounded in four school-wide tenets: **Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible**. These expectations apply to students using the playground after dismissal. Students are expected to:

- **Be Safe:** Care for their own bodies and the safety of others, use playground equipment appropriately, and follow safety directions.
- **Be Kind:** Treat others with care and consideration, contribute to a sense of belonging, and seek help when they cannot resolve a conflict safely or peacefully.
- **Be Respectful:** Honor personal boundaries, use appropriate language, listen to others, and treat people, property, and the playground environment with respect.
- **Be Responsible:** Take ownership of their choices, follow playground expectations, care for the school environment, and repair harm when appropriate.

Mountain Song recognizes that children develop self-regulation, judgment, social understanding, and responsibility over time. Parents/guardians are responsible for actively supervising their children after pickup and for supporting them in meeting these expectations.

Parent/Guardian Supervision

Once a student has been released to a parent/guardian at dismissal, **school supervision of that student has ended**. Parents/guardians must remain actively present and supervise their child(ren) while using the playground. Parents/guardians are responsible for supervising all children in their care, including siblings and other children who are not enrolled at MSCS. If a parent/guardian is not actively supervising their child, the school may ask the family to leave the playground.

School staff are **not responsible for supervising, monitoring, or addressing student behavior** during this time. Parents/guardians are expected to address behavior, resolve conflicts, and ensure that their child follows school expectations for safe and respectful play. School staff may intervene when necessary to address an **immediate safety concern** or to protect the safety of students, families, or school property.

Playground Expectations

Students using the playground are expected to demonstrate behavior that is:

- **Kind** toward others
- **Safe** for themselves and others
- **Respectful** of people and school property
- **Responsible** and appropriate for the playground environment

The school reserves the right to ask a student or family to leave the playground if a student is demonstrating behavior that is not kind, safe, respectful, or responsible, or if the behavior creates a concern for the safety or well-being of others.

Areas Available for Use

After dismissal, families may use **only the designated front playground**. The area surrounding the front flagpoles is not available for student or family use. Other school grounds, buildings, classrooms, outdoor learning spaces, equipment, or areas are not available for after-school use unless specifically authorized by the school.

Playground Closure

The school reserves the right to close the playground at any time due to weather, maintenance, safety concerns, or other circumstances.

Playground Closing Time

The front playground closes to students at **3:45 p.m.** All students and families must vacate the playground and school grounds by **3:45 p.m.** Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring that their children leave promptly at this time.

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment for all Mountain Song families.