

January 31, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In an effort to provide our students with more choice and opportunities in the Jordan School District and at Mountain Ridge High School, we have created Blended Education (BlendEd) courses to begin in the 2020-21 school year. This type of course combines both online and face-to-face instruction in varying ratios.

High school students are often motivated by online learning, and often have the maturity and self-discipline to work independently and succeed in online coursework. Blended learning courses will begin with some of our first and fifth periods. This will provide students with a 'late start' on most days, allowing them to arrive at school for second and sixth periods. Participating students will attend first and fifth-period classes via Canvas, a Learning Management System. Then, as directed, either by instructor requirement or self-selection, students will attend face-to-face classes to complete labs, small groups, writing conferences, assessments, etc. The benefits for students include:

- personal support and encouragement from a teacher, which is still necessary for many students
- self-paced progress through the course with benchmarks as progress goals
- flexibility to learn at a time that is appropriate for the student's schedule
- opportunity to gain advanced technological competencies
- the learning environment is extended to organizations, people, and facilities not available in the classroom
- enrichment opportunities for students who move at a faster pace than the rest of the class
- experience that prepares students for the 21st Century technological workplace
- expanded course offerings

We are excited at Mountain Ridge High School to offer the following courses for the 2020-2021 school year.

Science	Social Studies	English LA	Math
● Physics	● US History	● ELA 11	● Secondary Math 3

BlendEd Course Descriptions for Mountain Ridge High School are as follows:

**BlendEd Physics Course Description:**

This course is organized around major concepts of forces and interactions, energy, fields, and waves. Students will explore the foundational concepts, analyze and interpret data, determine cause and effect relationships, develop models to illustrate different outcomes, apply computational thinking to support claims, and engage in argument to support assertions. Additionally, students will design and evaluate solutions to problems that exist in various areas.

Student attendance is mandatory for scheduled labs and assessments, and on an individual or small group basis as the teacher sees necessary to aide in satisfactory course completion. All other work is completed online via the district Canvas Learning Management System (LMS). Teachers are available every day during assigned class periods to support students with the online content, pacing, and mastery of content.

This course is recommended for students who would like flexibility within the school day schedule, who are excellent time managers, and self-advocates. Students must be dedicated to communicating regularly with classroom teachers and collaborating online with peers.

### **BlendEd U.S. History Course Description:**

This course addresses the making of modern America, highlighting the events and issues in United States history from the late Industrial Revolution to modern times. Topics include, but are not limited to, the Industrial Revolution, the Progressive movement, imperialism and foreign affairs, the World Wars, the Great Depression, the Cold War, the civil rights movements, the rise of terrorism, and modern social and political history. The course will help students make connections between the events and ideas of the past and their lives today.

Student attendance is mandatory for scheduled discussions, writing conferences, assessments, reviews, feedback, and/or retakes at the end of each module, which adds up to approximately five times per quarter. It is also mandatory for an individual or small group as the teacher sees necessary to aide in satisfactory course completion. All other work is completed online via the district Canvas Learning Management System (LMS). The teacher will be available during assigned class periods to support students with the online content, pacing, and mastery of content.

This course is recommended for students who would like flexibility within the school day schedule, who are excellent time managers, and self-advocates. Students must be dedicated to communicating regularly with classroom teachers and collaborating online with peers.

### **BlendEd Language Arts 11 Course Description:**

This course combines composition and literature into a cohesive whole as students write critical and comparative analyses of selected literature. Through the study of various genres of literature, students will improve their reading rate, accuracy and comprehension, and develop the skills to determine the author's intent and theme, and to recognize the techniques used by the author to deliver his or her message.

Student attendance is mandatory for scheduled discussions, writing conferences, assessments, reviews, feedback, and/or retakes at the end of each module, which adds up to less than five times a quarter. It is also mandatory for an individual or small group as the teacher sees necessary to aide in satisfactory course completion. All other work is completed online via the district Canvas Learning Management System (LMS). The teacher will be available during assigned class periods to support students with the online content, pacing, and mastery of content.

This course is recommended for students who would like flexibility within the school day schedule, who are excellent time managers and self-advocates. Students must be dedicated to communicating regularly with classroom teachers and collaborating online with peers.

### **BlendEd Math Secondary 3 Course Description:**

This integrated math course is a study of coordinate geometry, geometric solids, conics, polynomial functions, rational polynomial expressions, quadratic equations, exponential and logarithmic functions, sequences and series, probability and statistics, and trigonometric functions.

Student attendance is required for unit tests and test retakes which will be less than five times a quarter, and on an individual or small group basis as the teacher sees as necessary to aide in satisfactory course completion. Online attendance is mandatory 2-3 times per week. All other work is completed online via the district Canvas Learning Management System (LMS). The teacher will be available during assigned class periods to support students with the online content, pacing, and mastery of content.

This course is recommended for students who would like flexibility within the school day schedule, who are excellent time managers and self-advocates. Students must be dedicated to communicating regularly with classroom teachers and collaborating online with peers.

Additional things to consider:

- Students who enroll in BlendEd courses need to be or are willing to learn to be excellent time managers because much of the course work will be completed outside the traditional brick and mortar school environment.
- Students must be able to self-advocate, meaning they can speak up for themselves, make decisions, obtain information, problem solve, and reach out to others when they need assistance.
- Students must be dedicated to communicating regularly with classroom teachers and collaborating online with peers through both their Jordan District Gmail account and the Canvas LMS.
- Transportation will not be provided; therefore, students will need alternative modes of transportation to arrive at second and sixths period on time each day.
- Students must follow classroom attendance and participation expectations as described in the course disclosure statement.

If you would like to learn more about the concept of blended learning, please review the website “What is blended learning?” by the Christensen Institute at <https://www.christenseninstitute.org/blended-learning>. You can also find the link on our school website under the academics tab. If you have further questions, please email your child’s counselor.

Sincerely,

Mike Kochevar  
Principal  
Mountain Ridge High School