Union Gap School

Middle School Student Handbook

2026 - 2027

As a familia of learners,
we learn with integrity,
live with respect, and
lead with compassion.

School Board Adoption: July 2026

Copias del Union Gap Student Handbook estan disponibles en espanol.

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Table of Contents

8th Grade Promotion, Trip and Dance *2*
After school events *3*
Athletics- 6th through 8th grades *3*
BAND *4*
Cell Phones, Electronic Devices, Smart Watches *4*
Class Schedule Change *4*
Counseling *5*
School Socials, 6th-8th Grades *5*
Lockers – Middle School *5*
Physical Education (P.E) Clothing – 6th – 8th Grade *6*
Acknowledgement of Review and Agreement of *7*

8th Grade Promotion, Trip and Dance

- **Only currently enrolled** Union Gap students may attend the promotion dance.
- Students who have a **cumulative** grade point average of less than a C- (1.7/70%) are academically ineligible for the 8th grade field trip. Students must have a C- (70%) in 6 out of 6 classes to be eligible. 4th quarter grades will be evaluated as well. Eligibility will be determined two weeks prior for the field trip.
- If students have had significant discipline referrals and/or are currently suspended, as determined by the principal, will **not be allowed to participate in the promotion ceremony, trip and/or dance.**
- Significant attendance issues may also prevent a student from being eligible for promotion activities.
- Parents will be notified in writing if their student will be excluded from promotion activities. Excluded students will receive their promotion certificate by mail if on suspension.
- Students must follow the school district dress code for promotion and dance.
- Students must participate in 8th grade fundraising.
- Students who have not fundraised enough money to pay for their class trip will have a due date for paying trip fees or they forfeit the right to participate.
- Students who are removed by administration from promotion activities, including the trip, forfeit all fundraised monies and will be distributed to the remaining students attending the event.
- Students who have fundraised monies for the trip but then choose not to attend, forfeit those monies fundraised.
- All school fines must be paid for prior to the trip, promotion and dance in order to participate in these activities. **The date that fines are due will be provided by the 8th grade advisor(s).**

After school events

Students are expected to behave in the same manner required during the school day at all after school events. Students who are removed for inappropriate behavior from after school events, including but not limited to family nights, concessions and athletic events are subject to the following discipline:

- 1st offense – removed from activity
- 2nd offense – removed from activity and assigned detention
- 3rd offense – removed from activity with loss of after school event attendance privilege for the remainder of the school year.

Administration reserves the right to skip disciplinary steps based on the severity of the incident and contact law enforcement as needed.

If a student has been in in-house suspension or suspended for the day/evening of the after school event, they are restricted from attending due to their discipline. This includes Family Nights, sporting events, etc.

Law enforcement will be called if persons other than Union Gap students are attending a sporting event and have any items in their possession that are contraband, or under the influence of mind-altering substances. Students should be in school appropriate attire during all school events that occur.

Athletics- 6th through 8th grades

1. **The following sports are offered for students in 6th-8th grade:**

Fall – August to October	
Boys' and Girls' Cross Country	Girls' Volleyball Girls' Soccer
Winter I – November to December	
Boys' Basketball	Girls' Wrestling
Winter II – January to March	
Girls' Basketball	Boys' Wrestling
Spring – March to May	
Girls' Softball	Boys' Soccer

2. **Athletes must be registered by their parent/guardian through Final Forms prior to the sports season to participate in athletics.**
3. **Athletes must have a current sports physical from a medical provider on file with the Athletic Director.**
4. **Specific policies relating to athletics can be found on Final Forms.**
5. **Spectator Policy**
    a. Union Gap School welcomes all players, parents, relatives, friends and fans to our games. We want to remind all that our events are an extension of the classroom. As such, our school and our league require good sportsmanship at all events. For the enjoyment and respect of all in attendance, your cooperation in demonstrating the high ideals of sportsmanship is expected and greatly appreciated.

b. Each student, whether a player or a spectator, is responsible for conducting himself/herself in a positive manner that reflects favorably on the school and team. Students at any school-sponsored event will be governed by school district rules and expectations. Parents must also conduct themselves appropriately or they may be asked to leave.
c. Home games are open for spectators fifteen minutes prior to the competition starting. Doors will open/unlock fifteen minutes prior to the competition starting. Athletes will utilize the time from 3:05 until the game begins for warm up and to prepare for the game.

Academic Competitions for 6th through 8th grade

All academic competitions take place in the spring. Academic competitions include math, science, art and spelling.

BAND

Band is a **yearlong** commitment made by parents for the following school year. No changes will be made to student schedules other than for academic needs of students as determined by the Principal or Assistant Principal. Any piercings that interfere with or are considered unsanitary while playing musical instruments are prohibited in the Band program.

Cell Phones, Electronic Devices, Smart Watches

School days from 7:45 am – 4:15 pm

Time in the classroom is an opportunity for learning. We work hard to limit the number of distractions that occur during class. Due to the TREMENDOUS and FREQUENT distractions that they cause, we have a campus-wide, cell-phone policy. Cell phones are to be turned off and stored in a locker or backpack and remain there until such time that the student's school day ends and the student has left the building. Students participating in after school activities including sports must have their phones off and stored in a locker or backpack until the student's activity or sport ends and they have left the school building. Staff members who see these items with students during the school day will confiscate them. **The school day starts at 7:45 am to 4:15 pm** daily due to after school activities. This policy applies to field trips as well where cellphone usage is at the discretion of coaches/advisors.

- 1st offense – return at the end of the day.
- 2nd offense – parent/guardian will need to come and pick up the phone.
- 3rd offense – phone will be returned at the end of the school year.

This policy is in effect during stated hours and students are on district property (indoors or outdoors).

Electronic devices (i.e. Tablets, music playing devices, wired or wireless earphones, laser pointers, cameras, smart watches, etc.) are not allowed on the school grounds at any time without the express permission of staff. Cameras may be brought on field trips and the last day of school. Discipline consequences are the same as cell phones.

Class Schedule Change

No changes will be made to student schedules other than for academic needs of students as determined by the Principal or Assistant Principal.

Counseling

The school counselor is available to assist in scheduling classes, help solve conflicts and resolve personal problems, assist with behavioral issues, conduct individual and group counseling.

Student initiated appointments with the counselor should be made before or after school in the office. The counselor will notify a student's teacher of any scheduled appointment when appropriate.

School Socials, 6th-8th Grades

School socials for grades 6-8 may be scheduled throughout the school year. To get into the social , students must be currently enrolled in Union Gap School and follow dress code unless otherwise noted by administration. Students must enter the social within the first 30 minutes to attend. If they leave anytime during the social, they will not be permitted back in.

Lockers – Middle School

Students will be assigned a locker. Students are responsible for any item that is ever in their locker. Students may choose to check out a lock provided by the school. Students may not use their own locks. If a student shares a locker, they are responsible for any prohibited items found in the locker. There is no expectation of privacy as it relates to school lockers or desks. Students cannot share lockers and are responsible for keeping their lockers secured (locked) at all times.

Students are strongly encouraged not to store valuable possessions in their school lockers since these lockers are not 100% secure. Students are advised not to give out their locker combinations to other students. The school does not accept any responsibility for items lost, misplaced, or stolen from lockers.

If a student is responsible for a damaged or lost combination lock, they will be charged $ 10.00 for a replacement lock. Only school district combination locks are used on district lockers.

Physical Education (P.E) Clothing – 6th – 8th Grade

- Students must wear a black or gray plain crew neck t-shirt, black or gray solid shorts that are mid-thigh in length or black/gray plain sweats. When outside in cooler temperatures non-uniform sweatshirts/jackets may be worn. School club shirts, cub shirts and sports uniforms may not be worn in PE. Shirts must also be right side out.
- Students' shorts must follow dress code guidelines.
- PE uniforms are available to purchase. They may be purchased at Meet and Greet or through the PE department before or after school.
- Students must have athletic shoes that have rubber soles and laces or Velcro. They must be tied or otherwise securely fastened to stay on your feet. Students must also wear socks with their shoes. No sandals, flats, slip-ons, boots, high heels or flip flops.
- All loose jewelry must be removed prior to PE activities. No piercings in face or body may be visible during PE activities for safety and sanitary reasons.
- No belongings can be brought into the gym. This includes purses and backpacks. Students will have a small locker in the locker room to lock up their school clothes after they have changed into their PE uniform. Large items will not fit in PE lockers. Students are encouraged to bring as little as possible to the locker rooms.
- Students are encouraged to wear deodorant. However, perfumes and body sprays are not allowed. Scented lotion is also not allowed.
- Long hair must be pulled back (both male and females).

Non-Suit Policy (per semester)

- 1st non-suit – Warning
- 2nd non-suit – Final Warning
- 3rd non-suit – 1 Detention
- 4th non-suit – 2 Detentions
- 5th non-suit – In-house Suspension
- 6th non-suit – Progressive Discipline will be followed

Acknowledgement of Review and Agreement of
2026-2027 Student/Parent Handbook

The handbook was sent home to be shared with parent(s)/guardian(s) on the first day of school.

Parents/Guardians:

Please review this handbook. His/Her teacher has discussed it in class and the policies it references are an important part of daily student life, supporting a safe and secure learning environment. It is important that you review this handbook in its entirety so you understand how the policies and procedures affect you and your child.

It is essential that the school and home work together to assure that all students meet the high expectations for behavior established in our Code of Student Conduct. This enables students to succeed in school and the community. Your support is vital in this process.

After you have reviewed the Student/Parent Handbook and the Code of Student Conduct within the handbook, please sign and return this form to the school.

As the parent/guardian of _____ (student's name), I have read and discussed the Student/Parent Handbook with my child. I understand that it and the policies it references apply to all students at all times on Union Gap School property, including buildings and grounds; on all school vehicles and at all school, school related, or school-sponsored activities, including but not limited to, school field trips and school sporting events, whether such activities are held on school property or at locations off school property, including private business or commercial establishments.

☐ I understand that pictures of my child may be taken throughout the school year but they will not be identified by name in any published print without my consent.

☐ I understand that Union Gap School District uses an automated calling system to inform or remind me of important information related to my student or school activities and agree to continue to participate in receiving these automated calls/texts.

_____

Parent's/Guardian's Signature Date

_____

Student's Signature Date

DO NOT TEAR OUT – INFORMATION ONLY