

# Pilot Squadron

## Sky Ranch GT Magnet Team Expectations

### 2025-2026



Greetings to parents, students, family and friends! Welcome to Sky Ranch Middle School! The next year is so important in your child's development, and we are doing everything we can to make this school year run as smoothly as possible. As you know, three grade levels of the GT Magnet Program are housed here at Sky Ranch, and the team of educators who works with your son or daughter is striving to create an educational environment that possesses a rigor commensurate with your child's abilities. We strive to integrate all core tasks and provide activities that elicit responses to real life problems and dilemmas.

By joining the GATE Magnet Program, you and your child have committed to following our academic and social/behavioral expectations. By selecting this program of choice, you recognize that you and your child have many benefits; however, if our team feels that this academic placement is in question, we are committed to working with parents to ensure that your child has the most appropriate academic placement available to him/her.

## Expected Supplies

A supply list has been provided for your child and can be found on our team website. In addition, a \$60.00 fee is requested by the GATE office to defray the cost of science materials, technology, and manipulatives. These donations are due to your child's Enrichment teacher by Friday, August 22nd. Our students will be expected to arrive on time daily with their own writing instrument and any other required materials for each class that will allow them to be successful.

## Agenda Books

The Sky Ranch Magnet Program has purchased Agenda Books for each 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade student. Our expectation is that these are filled out by students and signed by parents weekly. Students will fill out their books on Monday during Enrichment. Students will earn 10 points in their Enrichment grade for having their book filled out and signed on Tuesday. If it's shown to a teacher on Wednesday, the student will earn half credit. After Wednesday, the score will be entered as a zero. We will adjust due dates as needed each week due to days off and weather/smoke days.

For 8<sup>th</sup> graders, we strongly encourage students to use some sort of system to keep track of assignments and due dates. A paper calendar, notebook or digital planner is encouraged. We'd be happy to help students find a system that works for them.

## Weekly Schedule

The school wide bell schedule is below. **School is dismissed at 1:15 p.m. on most Wednesdays.** We are available Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays after school until 2:45 p.m. to help students. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders on Pilot Squadron will go to 2<sup>nd</sup> lunch.

Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday	Wednesday			
1 <sup>st</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> – 1 <sup>st</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> – 1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>			
Description	Time		Minutes	Description	Time		Minutes
1 <sup>st</sup> Period	7:30 – 8:20		50	1 <sup>st</sup> Period	7:30 – 8:13		43
Passing	8:20 – 8:24		4	Passing	8:13 – 8:17		4
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	8:24 – 9:15		51	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	8:17 – 9:00		43
Passing	9:15 – 9:19		4	Passing	9:00 – 9:04		4
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	9:19 – 10:09		50	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	9:04 – 9:47		43
Passing	10:09 – 10:13		4	Passing	9:47 – 9:51		4
4 <sup>th</sup> Period	10:13 – 11:03		50	4 <sup>th</sup> Period	9:51 – 10:34		43
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade + Matterhorn	Passing	Enrichment	Lunch	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade + Matterhorn	Passing	Enrichment	Lunch
	11:03 – 11:08	11:08 – 11:39	11:39 – 12:10		10:34 – 10:40	10:40 – 11:10	11:10 – 11:40
6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Lunch	Passing	Enrichment	6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Lunch	Passing	Enrichment
	11:03 – 11:33	11:33 – 11:39	11:39 – 12:10		10:34 – 11:04	11:04 – 11:10	11:10 – 11:40
5 <sup>th</sup> Period	12:15 – 1:05		50	5 <sup>th</sup> Period	11:45 – 12:28		43
Passing	1:05 – 1:09		4	Passing	12:28 – 12:32		4
6 <sup>th</sup> Period	1:09 – 2:00		51	6 <sup>th</sup> Period	12:32 – 1:15		43

## Office Hours

Office hours are 7:10 am-2:45 pm, Monday through Friday. Emails that are sent after 2:45 pm will be answered the following day. If an email is sent after 2:45 pm on a Friday, it will be answered on Monday. We encourage students to seek help from their peers, the Team Assignment Calendar, and/or Canvas/OneNote prior to emailing a teacher.

## Homework

We believe that academic work at home must be meaningful. All students will have adequate experience with a project prior to its due date. Many projects and assignments are started in class and completion is expected to be done at home. Often, homework assigned will be for your child to prepare for the next class. Some classes will have an ongoing cycle of assignments and others will be on an irregular schedule. **Your child is expected to check the team assignment calendar nightly as changes may be necessary throughout the week. The calendar can be found on the Pilot Squad website: [www.washoeschools.net/pilotsquadron](http://www.washoeschools.net/pilotsquadron).**

## Communication with Families

If you are concerned about your child's performance or have a question, please contact us and we will respond. Email is one option for quick communication, but you can also call us @ 775-626-0060. We need your continued support in encouraging our expectation that your child brings his or her work/homework home every day and is prepared daily for class. **We use Infinite Campus to send out our messages, so please make sure that your email information is valid and up to date with the Sky Ranch office.**

<b>Pilot Squadron Educators</b>	Mrs. Leona Cameron – LCameron@washoeschools.net (6 Science/Math) Mrs. Taylie Doss – Taylie.Doss@washoeschools.net (7/8 Science/Agriculture) Mr. Luke Sorensen – LSorensen@washoeschool.net (6 Social Studies & English/Creative Writing) Mr. Brian VanKirk – BVanKirk@washoeschools.net (7/8 Math/Yearbook) Mr. Andrew Richardson – Andrew.Richardson@washoeschools.net (7/8 Social Studies, Robotics) Mrs. Jennifer Ponce (Team Lead) – Jennifer.Ponce@washoeschools.net (7/8 English/Edgenuity)
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## Team Website

Our team has a website that provides important information. **Pilot Squadron's website is: [www.washoeschools.net/pilotsquadron](http://www.washoeschools.net/pilotsquadron).**

**TEAM ASSIGNMENT CALENDAR (on the team website)-** This calendar is updated weekly so that students and parents are aware of what is taking place and the assignments that are coming up due in each class. **We request that the team assignment calendar is checked by each student nightly.** Assignments and due dates are subject to change, so it is important to check it frequently.

## Parent/Team Meetings:

If you would like to set up a meeting with the team to discuss your child's progress, please contact Mrs. Ponce and the counselor listed below.

### Sky Ranch Counselors:

6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Ms. Rebecca Gunderson: [RGunderson@WashoeSchools.net](mailto:RGunderson@WashoeSchools.net)

7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Mr. Cameron Tuttle: [Cameron.Tuttle@washoeschools.net](mailto:Cameron.Tuttle@washoeschools.net)

8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Mrs. Kelly Yost: [KYost@washoeschools.net](mailto:KYost@washoeschools.net)

## Common Policies

One of the greatest benefits of teaming is that your child will experience some common policies and similar expectations from all of their teachers. This limits confusion and conflict as the year progresses. We will make sure to communicate with you regarding any new policies we develop to address new issues as our school year progresses. For now, here are some of our common and current policies:

**Missing and Late Work/Retakes**– In general, students need to turn work in on time in order to be successful and keep up with the pace of our courses. We understand that occasionally students get a little jumbled and/or there are extenuating circumstances that prevent students from getting work in on time. If such a circumstance occurs, please communicate that information with us via email as soon as possible. Some assignments, due to the nature of the work, will not be accepted late. This is at each teachers' discretion and will be communicated with students ahead of time. The magnet will follow Sky Ranch's missing/late/retake policy.

Retakes are only permitted if all assignments for the unit have been completed. Retakes are handled by each individual teacher and the format will be communicated with the students.

**\*Only work from the current unit of study will be accepted late. All late and missing work for each quarter is due about a week before the end of the current quarter. This date will be posted.\***

**If I have an assignment that is late that needs to be turned in, what do I do?**

**Step 1:** Complete the assignment- incomplete work will not be accepted.

**Step 2:** Fill out a pink late slip which can be found in each of our classrooms.

**Step 3:** Physical assignments: turn in completed work with a slip attached to your teacher  
Electronic assignments: Turn in completed pink late slip to your teacher

**Absences**- If a student is absent, **it is their responsibility to gather their makeup work no later than 2 days upon their arrival back to school.** They will have one day for each day absent plus one additional day to complete and turn in missing work. After that point, our late policy will go into effect. If a **previously assigned task is due on the day of their absence**, that task is due the day they return. Due to the rigorous curriculum that your student will be experiencing this year, it is crucial for them to be in attendance. If possible, please limit their absences. Please refer to Washoe County School District's website for updated attendance policies.

**Students need to email each of the teachers whose class they're missing to inform the teacher of the absence.** We ask that students check the Team Assignment Calendar prior to emailing the teacher so they can ask specific questions about what they missed in class. This is a skill students will need and we will require this in the program.

**If I am absent, what do I do?**

**Step 1:** Check the Team Assignment Calendar

**Step 2:** Cross reference names of assignments with Canvas and OneNote, if possible, at home.

**Step 3:** Ask a classmate for information.

**Step 4:** Email the teacher (following email guidelines) with specific questions. This should be done after checking the Team Assignment Calendar first.

**Step 5:** Complete work, fill out a pink absence slip and give to the teacher.

\*If due dates have been communicated prior to an absence, the assignment is still due on the original due date\*\*

Tardy Policy – the Magnet will follow Sky Ranch's tardy policy. This will be communicated with students.

**Plagiarism/Use of AI**- The Sky Ranch GT teams will follow WCSD rules when it comes to plagiarism, cheating and the use of AI. If a student chooses to plagiarize or cheat, that student will earn a zero for that assignment. Students will also earn a deduction in their citizenship grade for that class. A teacher may require completion of an alternative assignment, and it is that teacher's decision whether or not to give the student partial or no credit for that assignment. The violation will be recorded in the student's Infinite Campus file under Academic Integrity/Cheating. The teacher will also notify the administration and the parents. The school administration may impose additional consequences if conditions so warrant. Please visit Washoe County School District's plagiarism policy for more information.

Sometimes students choose to copy each other's work instead of doing their own. As a team, we consider copying the work of another student as a form of plagiarism/cheating. Please be aware that consequences for copying another student's work will be earned by both the student who chose to copy AND the student who allowed their work to be copied.

**Electronic Devices-** Our team will follow Sky Ranch Technology Rules and Procedures. **Students are expected to use computers properly and as outlined by their teachers. At no time will video games, unnecessary internet browsing, etc. during class time be permitted.**

**While on campus, students' cell phones and earbuds must be put away in backpacks.** Students can use their devices and earbuds outside during lunch. If a student is found using their personal device, the teacher will take the device and deduct behavior points. The device will be given back at the end of the period for a first offense. If a student chooses to use a personal device a second time, the device will be sent to the office and they can pick it up at the end of the day. If there is a 3<sup>rd</sup> offense, a parent will need to pick up the device in the office. Students can use their own wired earbuds at teacher discretion.

## **Field Trips**

Some field trips will be taken during the year. Each field trip will cost at least \$5.00 so that we can pay for our transportation. Information about field trips will be sent out at a later date.

## **Project Based Learning (PBL)**

All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be involved in two Project Based Learning units. Students will present their work on these projects in a discussion/presentation format to members of the community. **A portion of the grade on this project is based on these presentations.** In order to earn participation points, students must attend the night of presentations. All PBL presentations occur at 6:00 in the evening at Sky Ranch and last for about an hour and a half. Students will be presenting and possibly assessing other groups of students. **Please add the dates of these presentations to your calendar: Thursday, November 20, 2025 and Thursday, May 14, 2026 both starting at 6pm.**

## **Brown Bag Luncheons:**

To bring our families together, we will be welcoming you to join us for lunch this year. During these events we ask that you bring lunch for your child and yourself—these can come from yummy restaurants or your homes! We will have a picnic-style lunch either on the soccer field or in the Activity Room—bring a blanket or camping chairs. This is an opportunity for all of us to have informal social time!

**The date for the Brown Bag Luncheon is Friday, September 5, 2025 from 11:05-12:05.**

**\*\* More information will be provided as date nears\*\***

## **Behavioral Expectations**

Students are expected to behave in a way that benefits his/her learning as well as the learning of others. Although most of our children have exemplary behavior, we do have a progressive discipline plan in place to ensure that behaviors that are detrimental to learning are dealt with appropriately.

**Minor behavior violations:** We will follow Sky Ranch's PSAs and FLIGHT PLAN

**Major behavior violations:** such as bullying, safety concerns, fighting, or severe disrespect to another student or school staff member (including volunteers and substitutes) will result in an immediate meeting. A Sky Ranch administrator will contact the parent and the GATE representative. All major violations will result in either an in-school suspension or out of school suspension.

## **iReady**

Students will be expected to work weekly in the district-adopted, differentiated education program called iReady. A minimum of 40 minutes per week is required in both math and reading. The completion of these minutes will be recorded as 3% of the student's math and English grades.

## **Work Ethic**

For 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, a Work Ethic grade is added each quarter to the behavior category of each students' core class grade. The work ethic grade is the same as a student's overall grade in the class and, therefore, directly correlates to the student's performance in the class in terms of effort, participation and responsibility for their work.

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**\*Please sign and return this portion to your enrichment teacher by  
Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Please keep the rest of the packet for your reference.**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Enrichment Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the following that apply:

- ☐ I have **read** this letter and **understand** the expectations of the Team.
- ☐ My child and I have tried and **successfully accessed** the team assignment calendar on the team website.
- ☐ I have **added the dates** for the PBL Showcases (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades only) and Brown Bag Luncheon to my calendar.
- ☐ I will send the GT Donation (\$60) to my child's Enrichment teacher by 8/22/25.
- ☐ I have checked Infinite Campus and the email listed as contact 1 is **correct**.
- ☐ I have checked Infinite Campus and the email listed as contact 1 is **NOT correct**. The email I would rather have communication sent to is: \_\_\_\_\_

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Student Full Signature

Date

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Parent/Guardian Full Signature

Date