



East Derry Elementary School

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Dates to Remember

- March 12-13 – Kindergarten Registration.
- March 15 – Act 80 Day. No school for students.
- March 29 – 3rd Grade Field trip to Shaver's Creek.
- April 15 – 2nd Grade Field Trip to PSU.
- April 18 – School is in Session. Designated make-up day #4.
- April 15-26 – PSSA Testing Window.
- April 19 – Good Friday No School for students.
- April 22- Act 80 – No school for students.
- May 2 – 1st Grade Field Trip to Penn's Cave.
- May 3 – 3rd Grade Field Trip to the Whitaker Center.
- May 10 – Kindergarten Animal Awareness Day.
- May 22 – Field Day.
- May 23 – Field Day rain date.
- May 27 – Memorial Day. No school.

Respectful, Responsible, Ready, and Safe - 3RS and the Internet

Our students continue to show respectful, responsible, ready, and safe behaviors throughout the school day. We are hearing wonderful stories from families about how some of these behaviors are showing up at home, too! We are proud of our East Derry students and enjoy hearing your 3RS stories from home!



Home and School News

Look for a Little Caesar's fundraiser coming home in April. Our Home and School does much to support our school. Please consider becoming a part of this organization.

School Resource Officer Ettinger



In the past few weeks you may have heard your child tell you about a new face he or she has seen at East Derry Elementary School. On January 14th, Officer Eric Ettinger joined MCSD as our School Resource Officer. His goal is to help keep our school safe. SRO Ettinger has been getting to know our school, students, and staff. He is here as another resource to provide safety and support to our school community.

Officer Ettinger has a wealth of experience having served on the Mifflin County Regional police force for the past 14 years. He has been a welcome addition to our East Derry family. He will be serving several of our elementary buildings in the district. There is a chance you will see his vehicle parked outside of our building from time to time. Please do not become concerned. He tries to stop in daily to be sure we are all safe.

2019 PSSA Testing Dates

The Math and Reading PSSA tests will be given to the 3rd graders this year.

- The English Language Arts testing window is April 15 - 18.
- The Math testing window is April 23 -26.

It is important for students to be in school during this time. Please try **not to schedule appointments or vacations during these dates.**

Important Information

Remember to update your Skylert information. It is critical that all emergency contact information is up to date. [Please contact the office if phone numbers change.](#)

All visitors must sign-in at the Main Office.

Special Reminder: All kindergarten students must have an adult at the bus stop to pick them up after school.

East Derry has a **FACEBOOK** page. Be sure to LIKE us on Facebook!

Students are able to take up to 5 Educational Trip days per school year. Be sure to fill out the form and have it signed *PRIOR* to taking the educational trip. [A report is due to the office within 3 days of returning from the trip for it to be considered a lawful absence.](#)

Clearances: If you would like to volunteer in the school, you will need to have all clearances completed. Contact the school office if you have any questions.

MTSS. What is it and how does it affect my child?

Wouldn't it be great if each individual child received support at school for his or her specific needs? Your mind might go straight to academic needs, like reading and math since that is the backbone of education. But, wouldn't it be exceptional to also include social and behavioral support along with academic support? In the Mifflin County School District, East Derry Elementary School supports all of these important parts of a child's needs with the goal of helping them become a well-rounded individual.

East Derry's faculty and staff have been working hard over the past few years to incorporate a new and very specific system to help identify the needs and provide individualized support to our students. This system is called a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) and it helps us look deep into each student's academic, social, and behavioral needs so we know what kind of support to give to each child. Under this Multi-Tiered System of Support, the "tiered" portion refers to the amount of support a child is given. Because each child is different, the amount of support he or she needs is also different. As educators, we know that a child's behavior and social skills can have a tremendous effect on academics. As a school community, our goal is to help students become the best well-rounded person he or she can be.

Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtII) is the part of MTSS that focuses primarily on academic needs. In November 2017, Pennsylvania's Bureau of Special Education approved East Derry Elementary to use this RtII system to determine if a child has a specific learning disability (SLD). At this time, East Derry was one of only 55 other schools in PA to be approved. This RtII structure is the new way to think about identifying if a child has a specific learning disability. If a child is not responding to reading instruction – using high quality reading programs that are research-based and tested – we will then consider going further with doing more evaluations to find if the child has a specific learning disability. Before we do that, we meet with the parents to get a broad picture of the child, we look at all the data we have on the child, then decide together, as a team, if we are going to go further with the process in identifying the child with a learning disability.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is the part of MTSS that focuses on social-emotional and behavioral needs. This piece is included because we know that a child's behavior and social skills can have a tremendous effect on academic success. All children need instruction on the proper ways to behave. The PBIS system allows children to know and understand what behaviors are expected when they are in various parts of the school. We start this during the first few days of the school year by teaching and modeling for them the exact behaviors and procedures that are expected. We also have strategies in place for students that might need extra support and guidance with behavior or social skills. With the PBIS system comes an acknowledgment system in which students receive 3RS tickets when they are seen meeting these expectations of respectful, responsible, ready, and safe behavior. Students have the chance to "win" special rewards by placing their tickets into buckets under the "prize" that they want to earn. Each classroom has their own set goal for number of 3RS tickets to reach to earn a classroom celebration. We also have a school-wide goal with the reward being a whole school PBIS celebration.

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Cold Weather and Recess

Children will go outside for recess as long as the Real Feel temperature is 32 degrees or above. Please make sure that your child has appropriate clothing for outside recess. If you are in need of appropriate outerwear for your child, please reach out to Miss Didomenico, our school guidance counselor.

