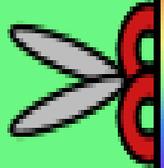




# Strodes Mills Elementary School

185 Chestnut Ridge Road  
McVeytown, PA 17051

PHONE: 717-248-7154 FAX: 717-242-5839



**SEPTEMBER 2020**

Principal: Frank W. Miller  
Building Leader: Julie Yoder

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**WELCOME BACK FOR A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR!!**

**PLEASE WELCOME TO SMES**

Mrs. Leah Noerr - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
Miss Kelley Fox - Kindergarten

**Welcome to Strodes Mills Elementary!**



**GO  
HUSKIES!!!**

Mifflin County Student/Parent Handbooks are now available online at [www.mcSDK12.org](http://www.mcSDK12.org).

If you would like to have a hardcopy of the handbook, a written request must be submitted to your school.

### FREE LUNCHES

For **ALL** students at SMES until December 31, 2020 due to **Seamless Summer Option** plan from the USDA.

**All families**, will need to fill out the "Free and Reduced" lunch form **this year** at Strodes Mills. So, please return your completed lunch forms ASAP.

### LUNCH PRICES 2020-2021 After December 31, 2020

Regular Lunch - \$2.75  
Reduced - \$ .40  
Breakfast - \$1.30  
Reduced Breakfast - \$.30  
Milk - \$.60

#### Alternates each week

New this year, each week will be different alternatives. It is marked on the menus.



## ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance in elementary school sets up a good pattern for your child's entire school career. Show your child that school comes first by trying to save days off for illness and family emergencies. Also, try to schedule routine doctor and dentist appointments for after school or during school breaks. ACT 80 Days are other good days to schedule appointments. We have one almost every month of the school year.

\*Students must turn in a written excuse within **three (3) days following an absence**. Excuses must be written and signed by the student's parent or guardian. Failure to submit a written excuse within three (3) days will result in the absence(s) being recorded as an unlawful absence.

\*Students will be considered **tardy to school if they arrive after 8:20 a.m. but before 9:30 a.m.**



If your child is **NOT** to ride the bus on a given day, a note is needed, otherwise students will be placed on their bus as usual. The note should be given to the classroom teacher and she will turn it into the office.

### IMPORTANT REMINDERS

\*\*Please notify the office of any **changes in emergency information**, such as a change in a phone number, court papers etc.

\*\*Please **DO NOT DROP** your child off before 8:00 AM. There are no teachers on duty till that time. Pick-up time for students, not riding the bus home, is 2:35 PM.



## Parent/Guardian Right to Know Information 2020-2021

As a Title I school, we must meet federal regulations related to teacher qualifications as defined in ESEA. These regulations allow you to learn more about your child's teachers' training and credentials. We are happy to provide this information to you. At any time, you may ask:

- Whether the teacher met state qualifications and certification requirements for the grade level and subject he/she is teaching,
- Whether the teacher received an emergency or conditional certificate through which state qualifications were waived, and
- What undergraduate or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including graduate certificates and additional degrees, and major(s) or area(s) of concentration.
- You may also ask whether your child receives help from a paraprofessional. If your child receives this assistance, we can provide you with information about the paraprofessional's qualifications.

If you have any questions about your child's assignment to a teacher or paraprofessional, please contact Frank W. Miller at Strodes Mills Elementary School at 717-248-7154 or email me at [fwm28@mcsdk12.org](mailto:fwm28@mcsdk12.org).



### Dates to Remember

Sept. 4	Act 80 Day - No school for students
Sept. 7	Labor Day - No school for students
Sept. 18	Act 80 Day - No school for students
Sept. 25	Remote Friday
Sept. 30	Individual and Group Pictures
Oct. 2	Remote Friday
Oct. 9	Remote Friday
Oct. 16	Act 80 Day - No school for students
Oct. 23	Remote Friday
Oct. 29	Vision and Hearing testing
Oct. 30	Remote Friday
Nov. 6	Remote Friday
Nov. 10	Parent Conferences - No School
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day-No School
Nov. 25	Students dismissed at 1:15
Nov. 26 - 27	Thanksgiving Vacation
Dec. 24 - Jan. 1	Christmas Vacation

### ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK

As part of our Parent Engagement efforts, this year our school will be taking part in One School, One Book. One School, One Book is a program where children of all grade levels will all be listening to their parents read the same book. This will be Strodes Mills' fifth consecutive year participating in One School, One Book and we have had a lot of fun reading in the past. Please help us vote on this year's selection by completing the book vote that was sent home with your child/children. The winner will be announced in next month's newsletter. We look forward to sharing in the reading experience with your families.

## PENNSYLVANIA ATTENDANCE LAWS CHANGE!

Regular school attendance in elementary school sets a good pattern for your child's entire school career. Regular school attendance is one of the greatest predictors of student success.

Students must turn in a written excuse within three (3) days following an absence. Excuses must be written and signed by the student's parent or guardian. **Failure to submit a written excuse within three (3) days will result in the absence being recorded as an unlawful absence. The computer automatically generates the unlawful absence if no note is received within those three (30) days.**

In 2016, the PA Legislature passed a new law that goes into effect this school year. ACT 138 mandates that truant students (3 or more unexcused absences) are given written warning of those absences. If the student continues with another unlawful absence, a **School Attendance Improvement Conference** must be held. At this time a plan of action will be formed by those in attendance (parents, student, school administrator, guidance counselor, teacher, nurse, etc.) If the student's attendance does not improve using this plan, an outside agency will eventually be brought in to help alleviate the truancy issue. If there are further unlawful absences, a citation will be issued through the district magistrate's office. Fines for truancy have significantly increased under ACT 138. These fines range anywhere from \$300 - \$750 per citation.

Ultimately, the goal is to have students in school. With this in mind, The Mifflin County School District is working in conjunction with Raystown Developmental Services, Children and Youth, and our local district magistrates to ensure that we are all following ACT 138's mandates. Please be sure to contact the school if you would like further information concerning ACT 138.



## CLEARANCES

Due to Covid-19 restrictions at this time, information concerning clearances will be sent home later this school year.

**REMINDERS:** All Kindergarten students **must** have an adult meet them at the bus stop or the driver **will not** let the child off of the bus. Most busses have a second run, where they pick up students at other schools. The child will then have to go on that bus run until the bus goes back to the bus garage. Parents will need to pick up their child at a bus garage.

**SKYLERT:** The **Skylert** system must have updated and accurate information to get messages to parents/guardians. **Skylert** is our main line of contact with parents. Please make sure you return the completed emergency form that was sent home the first day of school.

## HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

If you know of a family who has school-aged children and is currently homeless, please let them know that there is help available. Each school in the Mifflin County School District has a school counselor who can direct the family in the right direction.

A student is considered homeless if he/she is lacking a fixed, regular, or adequate nighttime residence. Families may become homeless for a variety of reasons. Our concern is for the health and well-being of the family unit and the education of the children. With that in mind, the Mifflin County School District has received countless boxes of donations of clothing, toiletries, school supplies, and other items. Our school counselors have access to those items.

Homelessness is a sensitive subject; therefore, we are asking that those who may need assistance reach out to Miss Didomenico, our school counselor. She can make sure the needs of the students and family are met. She also may know of other resources through the community that would be of help to the family. If you know someone who is homeless but does not attend Strodes Mills, please encourage him or her to reach out to the school counselor at their child's school. Our goal is to make an unfortunate situation tolerable for a family.

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Hi Parents,

This year, students will get their own student accounts on ClassDojo to document and share their classwork. Teachers will use ClassDojo to message you and post announcements. It's the easiest way for you to see what your child is working on and to

get in touch with the teacher.

With their student account, your child will share what they're learning through photos, videos, and journal entries on their own digital portfolio. This portfolio can only be seen by your child, you and the teacher. Your child's teacher will approve all of the posts. If you do not want your child to be a part of Dojo, please let the teacher know. Your child will also be able to view their feedback from the ClassDojo monster. The goal of each class is for every child to be able to participate and have fun doing it!!





Strodes Mills Elementary is looking to provide after-school tutoring to students during the 2020 – 2021 school year. Tutoring will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 4:30. Parents/Guardians will need to provide transportation home from tutoring. Classroom teachers will begin to create a list of students who want to participate in tutoring. Tutoring will begin the week of September 25<sup>th</sup>. Please just make your child's classroom teacher aware, if you have interest in your child attending the after-school tutoring program.



**ATTENTION MIFFLIN COUNTY PARENTS & STUDENTS:**

The USDA has announced an extension to the **Seamless Summer Option** until December 31, 2020, or until the governmental funding expires. What does this mean to the families of Mifflin county School District? The cafeterias of the school district will provide a **FREE Breakfast and a FREE Lunch** to all children living in the district, that are up to and including the age of 18 years.

The free Breakfast and Lunches started the first day of school. Students are required to take all of the food components needed to make a full meal. Also, ala carte food, such as drinks and snacks, milk, and 2<sup>nd</sup> meals are not free.

Since this program is contingent on the availability of governmental funds, we will continue to process Free/Reduced Applications. Please fill out your application.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the Food Service office at 717-248-0148, Ext. 2514.

