



STRODES MILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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COMING UP

- 10/13..... No School- Act 80 Day
- 10/14..... PSA Meeting @6pm
- 10/21 & 10/22..... Health Screenings
- 10/31..... Classroom Parties & Parade
- 11/1..... No School- Veteran's Day
- 11/2..... Picture Makeups
- 11/25..... Evening Parent Teacher Conferences
- 11/26..... No School- Morning Parent Conferences
- 11/27-11/28..... No School- Thanksgiving

HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES

We're excited to celebrate Halloween with classroom parties and our annual costume parade on Friday, October 31st.

- **CLASSROOM PARTIES:** details will be provided by your child's teacher.
- **COSTUME PARADE:** Join us at 12:45 in the grassy areas in front of our school to view students parading around the bus circle. We ask that you don't park in the Body & Soul parking lot.
- **COSTUME GUIDELINES:** costumes must be school appropriate with **NO WEAPONS.** Students must be able to change themselves.



MORNING DROPOFF

We need your help to make morning dropoff smoother and safer for everyone. We've experienced frequent traffic backups onto Chestnut Ridge Road, which create safety concerns and delays. Please take a moment to review and follow these important procedures:

- **Be ready to exit quickly-** students should be seated on the passenger side and have their backpacks ready so they can exit the vehicle immediately when you stop along the curb.
- **Dropoff Lane-** the dropoff lane is for quick goodbyes only. Drivers must stay in their vehicles and move forward promptly. Please pull up to the end of the sidewalk (or close to the curb in front of you) before letting your child out. Avoid leaving large gaps between cars to maximize the number of students being dropped off at once.
- **Use parking spaces for more time-** if you need to get out of your vehicle, walk your child to the building, or just need a little more time, please use a designated parking space.
- **Wait for staff before exiting-** for safety reasons, students should not exit vehicles before 7:30 am, when staff are present and on duty outside.

Thank you for your cooperation! Following these procedures helps keep our students safe, traffic flowing, and mornings less stressful for everyone. We appreciate your attention to these guidelines and your continued support in making our school a safe place to start the day!

HEALTH SCREENINGS

Health screenings will be taking place on Tuesday, 10/21 and Wednesday, 10/22. These screenings will include height, weight, and body mass index as well as hearing and vision screenings.

If your child wears glasses, please make sure they wear their glasses to school that day for their screening.

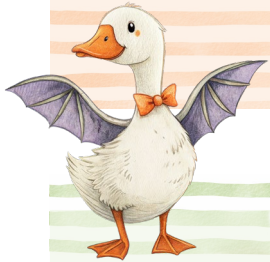
PBIS

Students have been working hard demonstrating their respectful, responsible, ready, and safe behaviors for the start of the school year.

During the month of September, students could use 20 paw tickets for the paw wall prize of extra recess and popsicles. We're proud to announce that **133 students earned this prize!**

Coming up for October- the first 50 students to turn in 30 paw tickets will earn pumpkin painting with Miss Marker!

Let's keep this momentum going as we move forward this school year!



VOLUNTEERS

We're excited to announce a more convenient way to submit and manage your volunteer requirements with our new online Volunteer Portal. Through this portal, you will be able to:

- Submit your annual volunteer application
- Submit your annual volunteer manual
- Upload required clearances and track the expiration dates of each

This streamlined process makes it easier than ever to stay up to date and ready to volunteer with all of your documents and requirements stored in one secure, easy-to-access place.

A step-by-step guide has been shared on ClassDojo and is available in the office.

REQUIRED CLEARANCES & DOCUMENTATION:

- PA Criminal History Clearance (*Act 34*)
 - valid 5 years
 - PA Child Abuse History Clearance (*Act 151*)
 - valid 5 years
 - Federal Criminal History & Fingerprinting (*Act 114*)
 - valid 5 years
- (OR Volunteer Affidavit in lieu of Act 114 - restrictions apply - and valid only current school year)
- Volunteer Manual/Package
 - valid current school year
 - Driver's license or state ID scanned
 - valid until license/ID expires

We appreciate your continued support and commitment to our school community!

NURSE NOTICES



Over-the-Counter Medication forms were distributed on the first day of school. This form must be completed and signed by a parent/guardian in order for students to receive medication from the school nurse. **If your child has not submitted the Over-the-Counter Medication form to the Nurse's Office, your child will not receive medication at school.** Forms are available online and in the nurse's office.

As a reminder, students are NOT permitted to carry any medications on their person during school hours. This includes cough drops, medicated creams, eye drops or anything used for medicinal purposes. **ANY MEDICATION THAT IS REQUIRED TO BE TAKEN AT SCHOOL MUST BE TRANSPORTED TO AND FROM SCHOOL BY A PARENT/GUARDIAN OR DESIGNATED ADULT AND ACCOMPANIED WITH A PHYSICIAN'S ORDER.** Parents and guardians are required to sign medications into the nurse's office at drop-off. Failure to do so is a violation of the MCSD Medication Policy.

REMINDERS:

- Please work with your child to be able to use the restroom independently.
- Keep a change of clothes in your child's backpack in case of spills or accidents.
- Students entering kindergarten are required to have a physical and dental exam.
- Students entering 3rd grade are required to have a dental exam.

Questions? Reach out to Nurse Yoder (jsy43@mcsdk12.org) or Nurse Ritchey (alr17@mcsdk12.org).

BOOK FAIR

Thank you to everyone who supported our recent Book Fair! Thanks to your generosity, we had over \$7,000 in sales, which earned our school \$3,500 in Scholastic Dollars.

These funds go a long way—they help us stock our book vending machine and allow each teacher to select new books for their classroom library. Your support helps foster a love of reading throughout our school!

BUS SAFETY

We are receiving a high number of bus referrals for the short time we have been in school. We expect SMES students to continue respectful, responsible, ready, and SAFE on the bus in addition to at school.

Consequences- phone calls home, loss of recess or riding privileges, or other consequences to ensure the safety of all students. We take these behaviors seriously & appreciate your support in helping your child understand the importance of bus safety, including:

- **Talking quietly** to avoid distracting the bus driver
- **Using kind words** to create a positive environment
- **Keeping hands to self**
- **Not causing any damage** to the bus or its equipment
- **Not moving seats** once seated
- **No eating or drinking**
- **Staying seated** at all times during the ride

Talk regularly with your child about their bus ride and encourage them to speak up if they feel or see unsafe behavior. Reinforce the bus rules at home and explain why they matter.

Thank you for partnering with us to teach and reinforce positive behavior. Together, we can ensure a safe journey for every student!

ATTENDANCE & TIMELINESS

Consistent attendance and being on time are key to a successful school year- and it's a shared responsibility between parents and students.

Parents play a key role in helping children understand why coming to school every day matters. Regular attendance builds strong learning habits, supports academic success, and helps students feel more connected to their classmates and teachers.

Please talk with your child about the value of showing up on time and ready to learn. Daily attendance is more than just a school rule- it's a life skill that sets the foundation for future success in school, work, and beyond.

Let's work together to help every student build strong habits for a bright future!

Remember:

- School starts at 8:20am. Students arriving after 8:20 are tardy.
- Students arriving or leaving between 9:30 & 2pm will receive a 1/2 day's absence.
- Excuses must be submitted within 3 days of an absence. They can be sent in your child's folder, emailed to Mrs. Peterson at alp35@mcsdk12.org, or entered in Family Access.

Reach out if you need support—we're here to help!
Every day counts, and every student matters!



Absence Note

Student: _____

Teacher: _____

Date Absent: _____

Reason: _____

Signed _____



EDUCATIONAL TRIPS

Each student can take up to 5 educational trip days during the school year. **Before going on a trip**, make sure to submit an Educational Trip Request Form **5 days prior to the trip**.

When your child gets back, they'll need **write a one-page report** about their trip. For younger kids, drawing pictures and writing a little bit about their experience works great too.

Educational trips are a fun way for students to learn outside the classroom while staying on track with school!



PSA

The PSA is a group of dedicated parents/guardians who meet with school staff to support and enrich our school community. Together, they help plan and organize fun events like Field Day, Christmas Craft, Santa's Workshop, and more! They also coordinate fundraising efforts to help make these activities possible for our students.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, and all are welcome to join!

❌ Children should not attend PSA meetings. These gatherings often involve planning events that are meant to be surprises for students and childcare is not provided.

To be eligible to volunteer at PSA events, all requirements must be submitted through the portal by October 14th.

GOLDEN PAW WINNERS

The Golden Paw Award is a special award presented at the end of each month to students who have done an **EXCEPTIONAL** job at showing Respectful, Responsible, Ready and Safe behaviors in the classroom all month long.

Classroom teachers can nominate any student or students who they feel deserve extra recognition for their excellence in the classroom.

Golden Paw Award Winners will get:

- ☀️ A Golden Paw Award certificate.
- ☀️ A golden coin to be used in the book vending machine.
- ☀️ Their picture on the Golden Paw Wall of Fame.
- ☀️ To participate in a special pizza party at the end of the marking period in which they earned their award.
- ☀️ Recognized in a post on Class Dojo school story the month they win.

