



COMING UP

- 11/7..... 2nd grade field trip to Lincoln Caverns
- 11/11..... No School- Veteran's Day
- 11/12..... Picture Makeups
- 11/25..... PM Parent Conferences
- 11/26..... No School- AM Parent Conferences
- 11/27-11/28..... No School- Thanksgiving
- 12/1..... No School
Designated Makeup Day #1
- 12/5..... PSA Ornament Craft
- 12/9..... MCHS Cantare Performance

PICTURE RETAKES

Picture Retake Day is coming up on **Tuesday, 11/12!** If your student was absent or you'd like their photo retaken, this is the perfect opportunity. Here's what to do:

- If you received a photo package and want retakes, just send the original package back to school with your child.
- If your child missed picture day or didn't order photos, you can still purchase pictures—just send in a completed order form with payment on November 12.

Need a new order form? Contact the school office and we'll be happy to send one home.

Say cheese—again!

STRODES MILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Frank Miller, Principal
fwm28@mcsdk12.org

Julie Yoder, Building leader
jap36@mcsdk12.org

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

We're looking forward to connecting with you during our upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences on **Tuesday evening, 11/25, and Wednesday morning, 11/26.** This is a great opportunity to discuss your child's progress, celebrate their successes, and collaborate on goals for the rest of the school year.

To make the most of your conference time, consider jotting down any questions or topics you'd like to discuss. Whether it's about academics, social skills, or just how your child is feeling at school, your insights are invaluable.

Most teachers have already sent conference schedules and sign-up information home with students. If you haven't received yours yet, please expect it soon, and be sure to reach out if you need to make a change.

A friendly reminder: Please be prompt to your scheduled meeting to respect the integrity of the teacher's schedule and ensure every family has their full meeting time.

Remember to sign and return the report card envelope after review your child's grades.

We appreciate your partnership in making this a successful year for every student!

CELL PHONE POLICY

We'd like to remind all families of the cell phone policy to help ensure a safe and focused learning environment for every student. Your support at home makes a big difference, and we appreciate your help in reinforcing this policy with your child.

- 🚫 **Cell phones may not be used during school hours.** Students are expected to keep their phones off and stored in their backpacks **while at school and on the bus.**

Please note: **Students may face disciplinary consequences** for using a cell phone during school hours or on the bus, as outlined in the Elementary Parent Handbook.

PBIS

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

We're excited to announce the **return of bucket prizes!** These student favorites were missed, so we've brought them back on a smaller scale to keep the fun going. Students can once again look forward to earning rewards for positive behavior.

And don't worry- **the Paw Wall Prize will continue** as well, giving everyone more changes to be recognized for showing respectful, responsible, ready, and safe behaviors.

During the month of October, **the first 50 students could use 30 paw tickets** for the paw wall prize of pumpkin painting with Miss Marker! We're proud to announce that this was met by the middle of the month!

For the second half of the month, 53 students turned in 30 paw tickets for extra recess.

Coming up for November students can turn in 40 paw tickets will earn turkey bingo!

SUBARU LOVES LEARNING

We are incredibly grateful to Jason Renno and his team at Blaise Alexander Subaru of Lewistown for their generous donation through the Subaru Loves Learning Initiative. Their continued support helps provide valuable resources and opportunities for our students to grow and succeed.

Thank you for investing in our school and showing that you truly believe in the power of education!



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.



Questions? Reach out to Nurse Yoder (jsy43@mcSDK12.org) or Nurse Ritchey (air17@mcSDK12.org).

SICK - WHEN TO STAY HOME

To keep everyone healthy, please follow these guidelines when deciding whether to send your child to school:

- **Fever of 100° or higher:** they should stay home and be fever-free for 24 hours without medication before returning.
- **Vomiting or Diarrhea:** Stay home until symptoms have been resolved for 24 hours.
 - Rash
 - Persistent earache or cough
 - Thick nasal drainage

If you're unsure, feel free to reach out to the school nurse for guidance.

HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK

Pennsylvania Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) Week recognizes and brings awareness to the importance of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and the education needed to provide stability and consistency to students experiencing homelessness across Pennsylvania. Under federal law, children are considered homeless if they lack a fixed, regular, or adequate nighttime residence. Many people associate being homeless with living on the street, but homelessness is often hidden, especially in rural communities.

To date for the 2025-26 school year, MCSD has identified 98 students that are doubled up living with other families, living at the homeless shelter or living in campers/RVs.

To assist those in need, MCSD staff will be raising money for the district's student homelessness fund. In exchange for a \$5 donation, staff will be able to dress down on Thursday, 11/20 and are encouraged to wear a red shirt to spread awareness on Red Shirt Day on Friday, 11/21.

If you are experiencing homelessness, please know that help is available.

Please reach out to either of our district's homeless liaisons:

Nicole Frazier, LSW

717-250-0414

nrf56@mcsdk12.org

Kaitlin Marshall, LSW

717-250-2423

kjm07@mcsdk12.org

Scan for more info!



ATTENDANCE & TIMELINESS

Regular attendance is one of the most important ways to help your child succeed at school. When students are here every day, they don't miss out on important lessons, activities, and connections with friends and teachers.

We understand that sometimes life happens- illness, appointments, or unexpected situations can pop up. That's why it's a great idea to **have a backup plan** in place for getting your child to school on time each day. Maybe it's arranging a carpool, talking with a trusted family member who can help, or setting an earlier alarm on busy mornings.

Having a backup plan can **reduce stress and help make sure your child doesn't miss valuable learning time**. Every day counts!

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

REMEMBER:

- School starts at 8:20am. Students arriving after 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 _____

SPECIAL LUNCH GUESTS

We had special visitors join us in the cafeteria- two Pennsylvania State Police officers stopped by to have lunch with our students!

It was a great opportunity for students to meet and chat with local officers in a friendly, relaxed setting. We love building positive connections!

A big **THANK YOU** to **PSP** for spending time with us and for all they do to keep our communities safe!



PBIS SPONSORS

Our PBIS program is made stronger thanks to the generosity of our community partners! Their donations help us celebrate positive behavior and reward our amazing students. We are truly grateful for their commitment to our students' success and for making a lasting difference in our school community.

At the Barnyard | Discovery Space
Harshbarger's Sub & Malt | YMCA



LOST & FOUND

Our Lost & Found is overflowing with sweatshirts, jackets and more!

Please remind your student to check the lost and found for anything missing items before they're donated!

GOLDEN PAW WINNERS

The Golden Paw Award is 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(s) who they feel deserve extra recognition for their excellence in the classroom.

Golden Paw Award Winners 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, recognized in a post on Class Dojo school story the month they win.



PSA

PSA meetings are *typically* held on the second Tuesday of each month. Due to Veteran's Day falling on that date this year, **November's meeting will be held on Monday, 11/10** at 6pm. **Children should NOT attend PSA meetings.** They often involve planning events that are meant to be surprises for students.

Childcare is not provided.



FALL CANDY GRAM FUNDRAISER

Celebrate the season with a sweet treat! The **Fall Candy Gram Fundraiser** is the perfect way to brighten someone's day. Each Candy Gram is **just \$1** and comes with a fun treat and your personalized message. Want to surprise the whole class? For \$15, you can treat every student in your child's class!

To participate, fill out the candy gram form (*sent home earlier*), place it in an envelope with payment, and clearly label the envelope with your child's name, grade, and teacher.

Orders and payment are due by 11/5, and Candy Grams will be delivered on 11/21. Let's spread some fall cheer- one sweet message at a time!



WEIS FOR KIDS

Link your Weis Rewards Card to help our school earn money just by grocery shopping! Scan the QR code below and follow the steps. Each time you shop, a portion of your purchase goes toward our school. It's a simple way to make a big difference!



SCAN HERE TO REGISTER!

weis4
schoolTM

BUILDING A WEIS FUTURE

CELEBRATING NATIONAL SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY WEEK

November 5th through 11th is National School Psychology Week, a time to recognize the important work school psychologists do to support students' learning, behavior, and emotional well-being.

This year, we are excited to welcome Dr. Amelia Nulton to the SMES family!



Dr. Nulton serves both SMES and MCJHS, providing valuable support to students, staff, and families. Her dedication to student success and mental health is already making a positive impact in our school community.



VOLUNTEERS

Thinking about volunteering? Don't forget to use our new online volunteer portal to complete your annual application, upload clearances, and stay up to date on requirements- all in one easy place!

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

The deadline to complete parent volunteer clearance requirements has been extended! While a new date has not yet been selected, there's still time to submit your paperwork and get cleared.

If you're interested in volunteering, make sure your clearance requirements are up to date. The new deadline will be announced once it is finalized — but don't wait! Submit your requirements as soon as possible to ensure you're ready to support our students when opportunities arise.

Thank you for your continued support- we love our volunteers!

PARENT INVOLVEMENT DAY

National Parent Involvement Day, celebrated on 11/20 this year, recognizes the important role parents play in their children's education.

Whether volunteering at school, supporting learning at home, or staying engaged with teachers and school activities, your involvement makes a powerful difference!

We want to extend a special thank you to our PSA and all of our dedicated volunteers for their time and support. Your commitment helps create a strong, caring community where our students can thrive!

FALL WEATHER



As we move through fall, the weather can be a bit unpredictable- chilly in the morning and warm by recess! We recommend sending students to school dressed in layers so they can stay comfortable throughout the day.

With colder days ahead, please also remember to make sure your child is coming to school with warm outerwear like jackets, hats, and gloves. We want all students to enjoy outdoor recess safely and comfortably.

If you need assistance with winter gear, please don't hesitate to reach out to the school—we're here to help!

HOLIDAY MEAL FOOD DRIVE

Each year, the SMES family comes together for a special project to give back- whether it's a cereal drive or penny wars, we hope these moments become meaningful experiences and lasting core memories for our students.

This holiday season, we're excited to launch our "Holiday Meals in a Bag" Food Drive, helping provide simple, shelf stable meals to those in need. Each bag will include instant mashed potatoes, gravy packets, stuffing mix, 2 cans of chicken, and canned corn, green beans, and cranberry sauce. Most items are under \$1 at Walmart. Monetary donations are also welcome to help us purchase gallon bags and complete meal kits. The more we collect, the more we can serve. Thank you for helping us spread kindness and generosity this season!

KINDERGARTEN	1 ST GRADE	2 ND GRADE	3 RD GRADE
Stuffing mix Canned cranberry sauce	Instant mashed potatoes Canned green beans	Canned chicken Canned corn	Canned chicken Gravy packets

STAFF CHANGES

This fall, we said goodbye to **Mrs. Kratzer** in the library and wished her all the best in her next chapter. Stepping into the role of Library and Media Specialist is our very own **Mrs. Dill**, who was teaching second grade. She will now be sharing her love of reading and technology with students at SMES and LIS.

While we'll miss Mrs. Dill in the classroom, we're excited for her as she begins this new adventure- and we're happy she's still a part of the SMES family!

Taking over Mrs. Dill's second grade classroom is **Miss Weidler**, who comes to us from a long-term substitute position at LES. She has already hit the ground running and is a wonderful addition to our school community.

Please join us in wishing Mrs. Dill and Miss Weidler all the best in their new roles. We're so lucky to have them both at SMES!



PARENT PICKUPS

With more than 270 students heading home each day, our goal is to make dismissal **safe**, calm, and organized for everyone.

Remember to send a note in the morning. This allows teachers to note the dismissal plan before forwarding it to the office for the next step.

Limit phone calls to emergencies. We understand that last-minute changes happen. However, frequent calls make it difficult for staff to manage the many moving parts of dismissal safely.