

EAST DERRY ELEMENTARY

MARCH 2026 newsletter



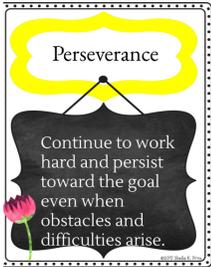
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RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, READY & SAFE:

In March, we will focus on Perseverance. Helping students understand to not give up and keep working even when something is hard.

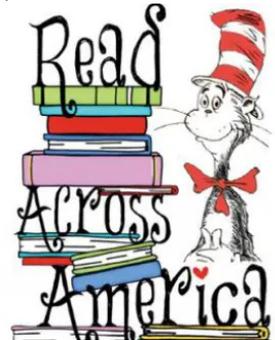


READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK:

Read Across America Week is a nationwide celebration that encourages a love of reading in children of all ages. Throughout the week, schools across the country highlight the importance of literacy and make reading fun and exciting for students. Building strong reading skills helps children grow as learners and sets them up for success in every subject.

We will be celebrating with a special Spirit Week **March 2nd - 6th**. The week will be filled with fun, themed days to promote reading. We can't wait to share the joy of books together!

- **Monday** - The Sleep Book - Wear school-appropriate pajamas
- **Tuesday** - One Fish, Two Fish - Wear lots of red and blue
- **Wednesday** - If I Ran the Zoo - Wear animal print or clothing with animal pictures
- **Thursday** - Green Eggs and Ham - Wear green
- **Friday** - Oh, the Places You'll Go! - Dress like what you want to be when you grow up or a place you have been.



COMING UP:

- 3/5 - End of the 2nd Marking Period (Kg & 1st Grades)
- 3/5 - Home & School Meeting 6:30 pm
- 3/11 - Kg & 1st Grade Report Cards Sent Home
- 3/13 - Act 80 Day (No School)
- 3/18 & 3/19 - Kg Registration Days
- 3/24 - End of the 3rd Marking Period (2nd & 3rd Grades)
- 4/3 - No School
- 4/6 - School In Session (Snow Makeup Day)
- 4/21-23 - 3rd Grade ELA PSSA Testing
- 4/23 - 1st Grade Field Trip
- 4/24 - Smile Clinic
- 4/28-29 - 3rd Grade Math PSSA Testing
- 5/5 - 3rd Grade Field Trip
- 5/13 - Spring Chorus Concert
- 5/19 - Field Day (Rain Date - 5/20)
- 5/27 - Beach Day
- 5/29 - Last Day of School (Early Dismissal)



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are planning a school wide STEM event. We need paper towel rolls, toilet paper rolls, string, paper plates, popsicle sticks, rubber bands, as well as all types of tape (scotch, masking, packaging, duct tape). We also need boxes of all sizes!

Items are needed by April 1st. If you have any items to donate, you can send them to school with your student or drop them off at the Main Office.

Many thanks!!!



3RD GRADE PSSA TESTING:

The Math and Reading (ELA) PSSA tests will be given to 3rd graders on:

- Reading (ELA) - April 21st, 22nd, and 23rd
- Math - April 28th and 29th

It's very important for students to be at school during this time. Please avoid scheduling appointments or vacations on these dates.

PSSA PREP TIPS:

- Get a good night's sleep (8-10 hours is best).
- Eat a healthy breakfast each morning.
- Arrive at school on time and ready to go.
- Encourage your child to try their best and take their time.
- Limit screen time the night before testing.
- Pack a positive attitude – confidence makes a difference!

REPORT CARDS:



Kindergarten and First Grade report cards will be distributed on **March 11th**. These grades receive 3 report cards a year. Second and Third Grades still receive 4 report cards a year.

HOME & SCHOOL:

There is still plenty of things to do and plan! Join us for our next Home and School meeting on March 5th at 6:30 pm in the East Derry Elementary School Library.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Any notes sent in to the Main Office **MUST contain your child's full name**, their teacher, and the information you are sharing (ex - early pickup, bus rider, illness excuse, etc)
- A note must be sent to the office for your child to be a parent pickup for the day.
 - Calls after 2:00 pm will not be guaranteed a change in dismissal status
- Family Access is the main source of family contact for important district information (including Sky Alerts for weather delays). To relay messages to parents/guardians EDES must have accurate information stored in Family Access. Please notify EDES office immediately of any changes in contact information.
- The MCS D website has the following important pieces of information: All Hazards Plan, Student Handbook, Bullying Policy, Curriculum Links, District Calendar, Lunch Menu, Cycle Day calendar, and much more! Check it out at www.mcsdk12.org



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION:

Do you have a child who will turn 5 years old on or before September 1, 2026? It's time to get registered for Kindergarten! Kindergarten Registration will take place at East Derry Elementary School on **March 18th & 19th, 2026**.

Please complete the form on the last page of this newsletter (or contact the school office for a copy) and return it to the EDES office before registration days.

Spanish version is available upon request

And please help us spread the word! Tell friends, neighbors, and family members who have children starting kindergarten next fall. We can't wait to welcome our newest learners to the East Derry family!

**EAST DERRY
K CAMP 2026**

JUNE

8TH - 11TH



DENTAL EXAM REQUIREMENTS:



All students are required to have a dental examination upon entry of Kindergarten, 3rd grade, and 7th grade. The school offers dental exams once each year; however, we prefer that your family dentist complete this requirement.

If your child has an upcoming dental appointment, please contact Nurse Nikki or Ms. Aleisa in the Main Office to request the required dental form.

MEDICATION POLICY:

Over-the-Counter Medication forms were handed out to students 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 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.

If your child requires an inhaler, a new physician order must be submitted to the school nurse EACH school year before your child can carry an inhaler on their person. Failure to do so is a violation of the MCS D Medication Policy.

Please contact the School Nurse with any questions.

WEATHER REMINDER:

Warmer weather is on it's way, but March is still a bit chilly. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the cold temperatures. Students go outside for recess each day (weather permitting) if the real feel is **30 degrees or higher**. We recommend sending them with coats, hats, and gloves to keep them warm while playing outside. Thank you for helping keep our students comfortable and ready to enjoy recess!

Please reach out to the school if you need items such as coats, hats, and gloves for your student.

FEVER FREE!

All students who are sent home by the Nurse because of a fever will automatically be doctor excused the next day. Before returning to school, students must be **fever free WITHOUT medication for 24 hours**.

Note - MCS D defines a fever as having a temperature of 100 degrees or higher.



MCS D POLICIES:



Parents are encouraged to share concerns through the proper channels. Policy 906 outlines the steps for addressing complaints. The full policy is located on the MCS D website.

Instructional Supplies Assistance - MCS D Policy 110 states that if provision of instructional supplies imposes a financial hardship on a family, the school district can assist with some of these costs. An application process for such materials is located under MCS D Policy 110, and is available for review on our website. Families may also contact Mr. Reeder to see if you qualify for any assistance with school materials.

You can view all MCS D policies on the MCS D website by clicking the School Board tab and then selecting the Board Docs box.

Save the Date!

Mifflin County School District

2026-2027

Kindergarten Registration



Will your child be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2026?

If so, please complete the back of this form and return it to your child's school. If you are not able to drop off or mail the completed form, you may take a picture of the form and email it to the building secretary. Their names and emails can be found on the back of this form.

Once the form has been received, a registration packet will be mailed to you with an appointment date and time. Appointments will be held during the school day on the following dates:

Indian Valley Elementary School: March 10th, 11th, and 12th

Strodes Mills Elementary School: March 16th and 17th

East Derry Elementary School: March 18th and 19th

Lewistown Elementary School: March 24th, 25th, and 26th



Please plan to provide the following items, as part of the registration process:

verification of child's birth date

proof of a physical

immunization records

proof of residence

custody agreements or court orders

Dear Parent:

The Mifflin County School District is conducting registration for children who will be eligible for enrollment in a kindergarten class for the 2026-2027 school year. A child must be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2026. There are no exceptions or provisions made for early entrance to kindergarten.

Information gathered from this form will enable the district to properly plan for its new enrollees and will provide an opportunity for school officials to communicate directly with parents and guardians concerning enrollment requirements.

Proper enrollment for school includes: a physical examination performed within one year of the start of the 2026-2027 school year, verification of birth date, proper immunization, proof of residence, and custody agreements/court orders (if applicable). Once enrolled, a kindergarten assessment will be administered to each child to determine learning potential. While this assessment has no bearing on eligibility for enrollment, it does aid the school in structuring meaningful and appropriate educational programs for new students. Once your child is registered you will receive more information about the assessment program.

Please complete the form below and return it to your child's school :

East Derry Elementary School - Mrs. Aleisa Baumgardner - (717) 543-5615, alb50@mcsdk12.org

Indian Valley Elementary School - Ms. Rylie Kepner - (717) 667-2123, rek14@mcsdk12.org

Lewistown Elementary School - Mrs. Kaitlin Lorson - (717) 242-5823, kml29@mcsdk12.org

Strodes Mills Elementary School - Mrs. Amber Peterson - (717) 248-7154, alp35@mcsdk12.org

Child's Name _____ Birth Date _____ SEX: *Male or Female*
Last First Middle Month / Date / Year

Father's Name _____ Home Phone _____
Last First Middle

Mother's Name _____ Home Phone _____
Last First Middle

Guardian's Name _____ Home Phone _____
(if applicable) Last First Middle

Child Resides with: _____
Father/Mother/Guardian

Address where Child Resides _____
Street / Box No. City

Name of a local friend or relative to contact if parents are not available.

Name	Address	Telephone	Relationship
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