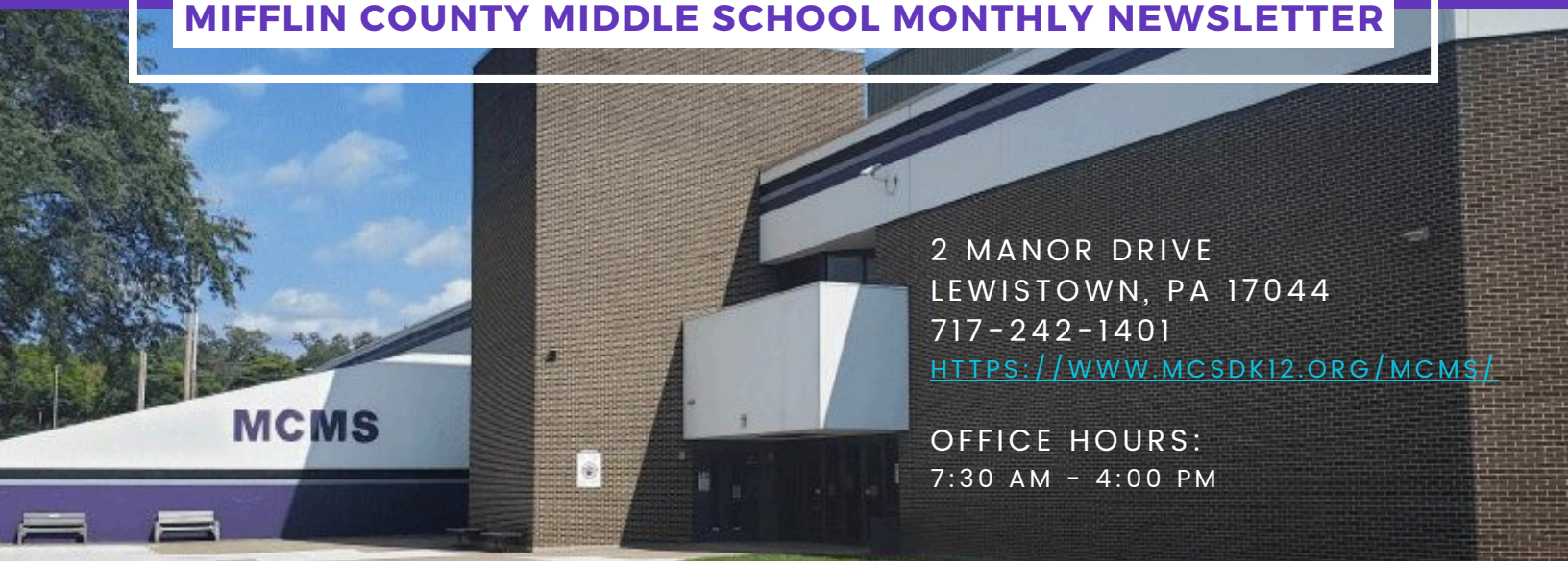
CHARACTER TRAIT: RESPECT

MARCH 2026

PACK POST

MIFFLIN COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



2 MANOR DRIVE
LEWISTOWN, PA 17044
717-242-1401
HTTPS://WWW.MCSDK12.ORG/MCMS/

OFFICE HOURS:
7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

DEAR MCMS PARENTS/GUARDIANS,

We're thinking spring at MCMS, and we hope you are, too! In this edition of the Pack Post, you'll find news and information about lots of exciting events and activities happening at MCMS.

TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY

"Take Your Child to Work Day" will be observed on Thursday, April 23, 2026. In order for students who miss school to participate in "Take Your Child to Work Day" to receive an excused absence, parents/guardians must submit a consent form to the school office by Wednesday, April 22, 2026. Consent forms are available in the MCMS office or at this link. Students who participate in "Take Your Child to Work Day" will not be eligible for perfect attendance.

ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK NOW

It is time to order your yearbook! Orders are being taken until March. Yearbooks cost $35.00. To order, use the QR code or visit: https://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=AO1129946

FOLLOW MCMS ONLINE AND ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, March 13, 2026
Act 80 Day
No School for Students

Monday, March 16, 2026 - Friday, March 20, 2026
Book Fair in Library - ELA Classes

Friday, March 20, 2026
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
March Madness Activity Night

Monday, March 23, 2026 - Thursday, April 2, 2026
Stall Day Collection in Period 1 to Benefit Mini-THON

Tuesday, March 24, 2026
7:00 p.m.
Juniata-Mifflin County Honors Band

Wednesday, March 25, 2026
Last Day of Third Marking Period

STALL DAY TO BENEFIT MINI-THON

MCMS Student Council is helping to raise funds for mini-THON. We will be participating in Stall Day on April 2. Students can bring in coins to their first period teacher March 23-April 2.

On April 2, the first period teacher must count all of the coins brought in by their students. Class may not begin until the teacher counts all the coins - the more coins the longer class is stalled! We participated in this last year and raised $2,588. Proceeds go to benefit pediatric cancer research.

MARCH MADNESS ACTIVITY NIGHT

Student council will be sponsoring a March Madness Activity Night on March 20, 2026 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the MCMS cafeteria/gym. The cost will be $2.00. There will be cornhole, capture the flag, indoor bowling, hula hooping, and much more! Our concession stand will also be open.

MCMS BOOK FAIR

Mark your calendars for the MCMS Book Fair! The Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled for the week of **March 16 – March 20**. Students will visit with their ELA classes during the week. Unfortunately, there are no available times to visit outside of school hours for students to shop. Students may pay with cash, check (made out to MCMS Library), credit card, or Scholastic e-wallet dollars. For more information on Scholastic e-wallet dollars, please check your student's Library Google Classroom where there is a link provided to the book fair webpage. The full schedule of ELA class visits will be posted in the Library Google Classroom so you can see what day your child's class is visiting. If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Shank at eal06@mcsdk12.org. Happy shopping!

MCMS STUDENTS WIN TIU 11 READING COMPETITION CHAMPIONSHIP!

We are proud to announce that MCMS had tremendous success at this year's TIU 11 Reading Competition! Our team, the **Bookaneers** — Mia Clark, Lennin Ruble, and Adalyn Lutz — earned **1st place** at the regional competition held on February 3. The event featured **19 teams** from across the TIU 11 region, including schools from Juniata County, Huntingdon, Juniata Valley, Southern Fulton, and Forbes Road.

MCMS was represented by three outstanding teams:

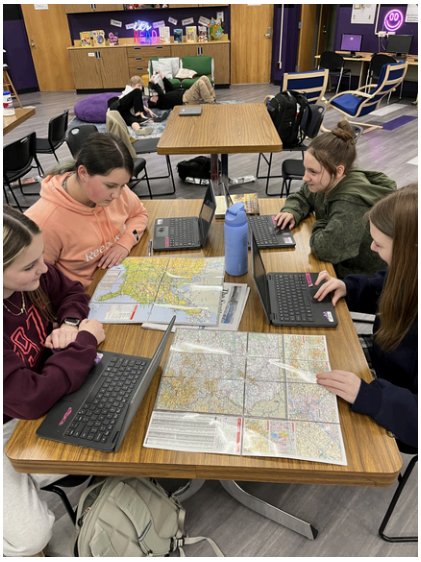
- **Bookaneers** – Mia Clark, Lennin Ruble, Adalyn Lutz *(1st Place Champions!)*
- **Novel Ninjas** – Emmett Jackson, Deitrich Swineford, Parker Sherlock
- **Pageturners** – Rebecca McKnight, Nolan Wade, Tanner Napikoski

All three teams did a fantastic job representing MCMS with their knowledge, teamwork, and love of reading. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and dedication!

CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT: MRS. SHANK'S LIBRARY

This semester in the library, students took a step back in time as they explored media from the 1900s. As part of this hands-on activity, students learned how to read and interpret maps and how to use *The Sentinel* to gather information.

The experience gave students a glimpse into how people gathered information before the digital age, while building valuable research and literacy skills along the way.



PSSA TESTING BEGINS ON APRIL 20

It's the time of year when we will be completing our state mandated assessments in English Language Arts and Math beginning on **April 20**. Parents and/or guardians are an important partner in ensuring that all students are successful.

PSSA		
ELA	April 20, 21, and 22	April 23 Make-up
Math	April 27 and 28	April 29 Make-up

NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH

March is National Social Work Month, so we would like to recognize and say thank you to the three social workers who provide services to MCMS:

Kaitlin Marshall and **Nicole Frazier** are our School Social Workers for the entire district. They are available to help families with a variety of issues including gaining access to local services.

Lynsey Phillips is our Therapeutic Social Worker. Lynsey provides therapy to students who have mental health issues or on-going family issues. She sees students at all of the secondary buildings.

In addition to our social workers, MCMS has several service providers who see students for various mental health issues and/or problems with addiction. Students who are struggling with their mental health can receive free counseling through the school's SAP (Student Assistance Program) program. For more information about the SAP program or for help from one of our social workers, please contact your child's school counselor at 717-242-1401, or via email at:
6th grade – Jane Foor - jaf28@mcsdk12.org
7th grade – Andy McCardell - alm21@mcsdk12.org

Kaitlin Marshall

Nicole Frazier

Lynsey Phillips

ART CLUB BRINGS GLASS MOSAIC TO LIFE THROUGH ARTIST RESIDENCY

MCMS Art Club have been hard at work on an ambitious and eye-catching project — a large-scale glass mosaic that showcases both their creativity and collaboration. From carefully cutting pieces of glass to thoughtfully placing each colorful fragment, students are learning the patience, precision, and teamwork required to bring a complex piece of art to life. The mosaic is already an impressive display of craftsmanship and artistic vision.

The Art Club is partnering with guest artist Linda Billet, who is completing a 10-day residency at MCMS and providing our students with hands-on instruction and mentorship. This special opportunity has been made possible through a grant from the Perry County Council of the Arts, whose support is allowing our students to engage in an authentic, large-scale artistic experience.

HUSKY CHORAL FESTIVAL

The 6th and 7th Grade Choirs from MCMS will be participating in the annual Husky Choral Festival at Mifflin County High School on **March 5 at 7:00 p.m.** This event involves every choir member in Mifflin County School District from 5th grade through 12th grade and highlights the progress and achievement of our talented young singers.

MARCH IS "MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS" MONTH!

Music education in the Mifflin County School district is a vital part of the education of our students. During the month of March, we take a moment to celebrate all that music education is and the service it provides.

In the classroom, music education shows students the connections between culture and historical events. From hand-made instruments to important life-defining moments, music has played a role in every aspect of human existence.

On the stage, students learn to listen, communicate, and work together while creating a vital piece of the musical puzzle.

Music education has been shown to strengthen the brain, support emotional and social growth, and create connections between a wide range of students. It instills a sense of pride in a successful performance.

Take a moment to look back on the musical experiences you've enjoyed and celebrate "Music in our Schools" month!

CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT: MS. FAITH'S PHYSICAL EDUCATION

March Madness hits different in Ms. Faith's Physical Education class. Students are learning about the calisthenics exercise - the push-up! Students are taking the entire month of March to build their strength and complete quality push-ups. They are focused on using the proper form while also learning different techniques to strengthen different parts of the body. No equipment needed, just a positive attitude!

CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT: MRS. HARTMAN'S 6TH GRADE SCIENCE

Mrs. Hartman's 6th grade science students have been learning about volcanic activity. Students worked to model and map a "growing" shield volcano. Once their model was completed, they had the opportunity to investigate and interpret the eruption history of another group's volcano using techniques employed by geologists, like core sampling. The data they collected was then used to create a map of the volcano they investigated. Following this investigation, students explored several phenomena associated with volcanic activity, like geysers and hot springs. Students then tried their hand at building a working model of a geyser with the goal of generating the largest eruption.

HUSKIES OF THE MONTH: FEBRUARY

Congratulations to the February Huskies of the Month! These students were nominated and voted on by their teachers. HOTM is a program to recognize students with strong work ethic, good grades, no discipline referrals, and positive character. In other words, HOTM honors students who try their best every day!

February Huskies of the Month, from left, Brooks Williams (7th grade), Eden Allen (7th grade), Clayton Fultz (7th grade), Camden Snyder (6th grade), Autumn Jackson (7th grade), Sadie Yoder (7th grade), and Cael Metzler (6th grade). Blake Neff (6th grade) is not pictured.

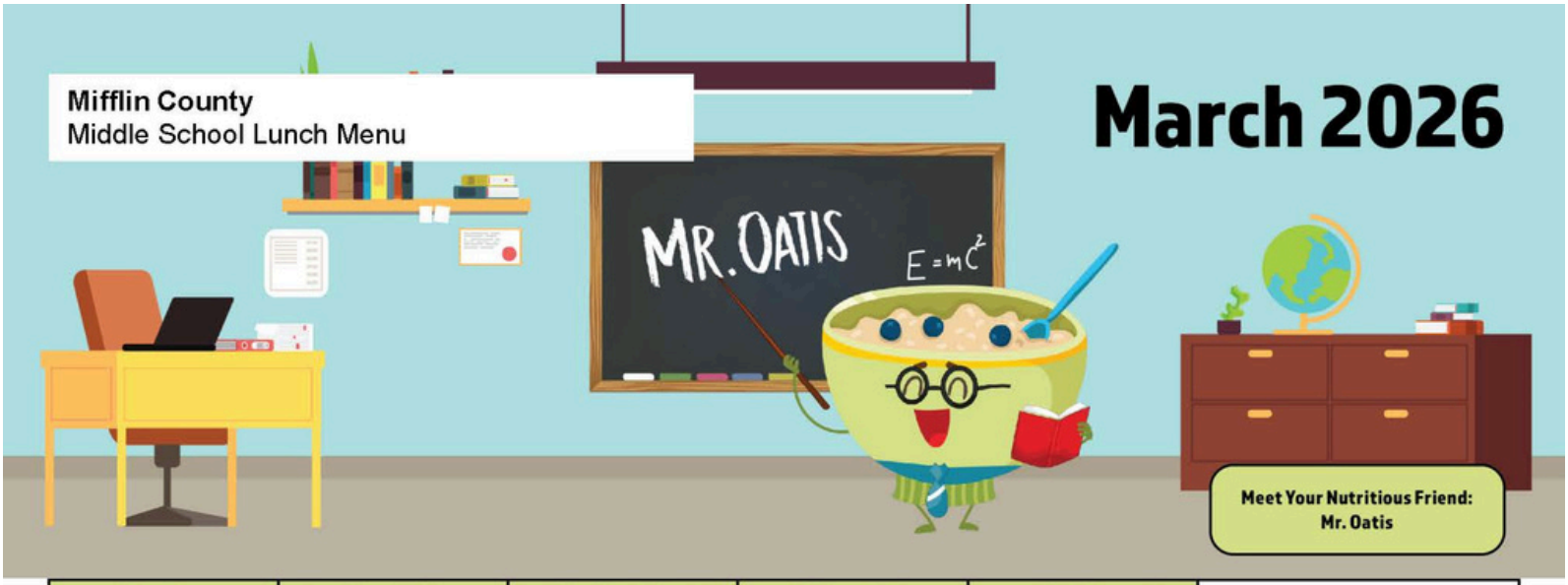
LEADERS OF THE PACK: FEBRUARY

Congratulations to the February Leaders of the Pack! These students were nominated and voted on by their teachers. Leaders of the Pack are students who model PACK expectations and positive character traits. The third marking period's character trait is **respect**.

February Leaders of the Pack, from left, Jonas Kochenderfer (7th grade), Evelyn Parkes (7th grade), Gabriel Byler (7th grade), Arizona Grassmyer (7th grade), Breckyn Kauffman (6th grade), Peyton Smith (6th grade), and Wyatt Hassinger (6th grade). Carter Long (6th grade) was absent for the photo.

Mifflin County
Middle School Lunch Menu

March 2026



Meet Your Nutritious Friend: Mr. Oatis

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Hot Dog *Alternative: Grilled Chicken* Chicken Caesar Salad w/roll FEATURED VEGGIES Baked Beans Fries Day 4	3 Nachos Grande *Alternative: Grilled Chicken* Chicken Caesar Salad w/roll FEATURED VEGGIES Lettuce & Tomato Corn Day 5	4 Chicken and Corn Chowder w/ Peanut Butter Sandwich *Alternative: Grilled Chicken* Chicken Caesar Salad w/roll FEATURED VEGGIES Celery Green Beans Day 6	5 Sausage, Egg & Cheese Sandwich *Alternative: Grilled Chicken* Chicken Caesar Salad w/roll FEATURED VEGGIES Hash Brown Gr Pepper Strips Day 1	6 Fish Sticks w/ Mac and Cheese *Alternative: Grilled Chicken* Chicken Caesar Salad w/roll FEATURED VEGGIES Steamed Broccoli Baby Carrots Day 2
9 Cheeseburger On Roll *Alternative: PBJ* Garden Salad w Goldfish & Roll FEATURED VEGGIES Baked Beans Fries Day 3	10 Walking Taco *Alternative: PBJ* Garden Salad w Goldfish & Roll FEATURED VEGGIES Lettuce & Tomato Corn Day 4	11 Grilled Cheese Sandwich *Alternative: PBJ* Garden Salad w Goldfish & Roll FEATURED VEGGIES Tomato Soup Peas Day 5	12 Pasta w/ Meat Sauce Breadstick *Alternative: PBJ* Garden Salad w Goldfish & Roll FEATURED VEGGIES Green Beans Baby Carrots Day 6	13 **Act 80 Day No School** Day 1
16 Chicken Patty *Alternative: Deli Ham* Chef Salad w/ Roll FEATURED VEGGIES Tots Gr Pepper Strips Day 2	17 Cheese Quesadilla *Alternative: Deli Ham* Chef Salad w/ Roll ***(St. Patty's Day Treat)*** FEATURED VEGGIES Lettuce & Tomato Black Beans Day 3	18 Pancakes & Sausage *Alternative: Deli Ham* Chef Salad w/ Roll FEATURED VEGGIES Tots Baby Carrots Day 4	19 Chicken Alfredo Breadstick *Alternative: Deli Ham* Chef Salad w/ Roll FEATURED VEGGIES Steamed Broccoli Cherry Tomatoes Day 5	20 Cheese Pizza *Alternative: Deli Ham* Chef Salad w/ Roll FEATURED VEGGIES Celery Green Beans Day 6
23 Popcorn Chicken *Alternative:* Turkey & Cheese Wrap FEATURED VEGGIES Mashed Potatoes Baby Carrots Day 1	24 Soft Beef Tacos *Alternative:* Turkey & Cheese Wrap FEATURED VEGGIES Lettuce & Tomato Corn Day 2	25 Grilled Asian Chicken w /Rice *Alternative:* Turkey & Cheese Wrap FEATURED VEGGIES Steamed Broccoli Celery Day 3	26 Ham & Cheese on Pretzel Roll *Alternative:* Turkey & Cheese Wrap FEATURED VEGGIES Oven Fries Gr Pepper Strips Day 4	27 Maxi Sticks w/ Sauce *Alternative:* Turkey & Cheese Wrap FEATURED VEGGIES Green Beans Cucumbers Day 5
30 Meatball Sub *Alternative: PBJ* Garden Salad w Goldfish & Roll FEATURED VEGGIES Peas Cherry Tomatoes Day 6	31 Cheeseburger Tots *Alternative: PBJ* Garden Salad w Goldfish & Roll FEATURED VEGGIES Tots Baked Beans Day 1			

What is a Meal?

Students must choose at least 3 of the 5 components available for the school lunch price.

- Choice of Whole Grain
- Choice of Protein
- Choice of Vegetable
- Choice of Fruit
- Choice of Milk

-A minimum ½ cup serving of fruit or vegetable must accompany a reimbursable lunch.

Choice of Vegetable May Include:

Hot vegetable, leafy salad, composed bean salad, seasonal fresh vegetables

Choice of Fruit May Include:

Seasonal fresh fruits, canned fruit in light syrup, 100% fruit juice

Choice of Milk May Include:

White, Chocolate or Strawberry

Alternatives May Include:

Fresh Entree Salad of the Week

Weekly Cold Cut Sandwiches & Wraps

Your Team
Bob DuFour--Food Service Director
717-248-0148 ext. 2514
ma1134@metzcorp.com or
rd02@mcsdk12.org

Meal Prices

Student Lunch $3.10
Reduced Lunch $.40

Metz CULINARY MANAGEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Menu subject to change due to product availability. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

MCMS ACADEMIC HELP 2025-2026

Need help with homework and studying?

Check out Early Bird or the Husky Homework Huddle!
Both of these programs are available for homework help all year long!

Before School Early Bird	Monday through Friday Library Mr. Hetrick and Mrs. Haines	7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
After School Husky Homework Huddle	Tuesday and Thursday Room 203 Mr. McKelvey	3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

ATHLETIC NEWS

- Spring Sports' first day of practice is set for **March 2**. Please check out the athletics website for more information regarding Spring Sports.
- **Meet the Huskies for Spring Athletes** will take place March 12, 2026 at Chapman Stadium beginning at 7:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend.
- **The Husky Club All-Sports Recognition Night** will be May 19 in the MCHS Auditorium beginning at 6:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend.
- Senior Citizen, Active Military, and Veteran Free Athletic Passes can be obtained at the MCHS Main Office. All passes are good for life.
- **MCSD students will receive free admission to all MCSD HOME events for the 2025-2026 school year!**
- Get the most up-to-date athletic information on our athletic website and by following ArbiterLive.
- Check out our MC Athletics' Facebook page and follow us on Twitter @MCHuskySports for the most up-to-date information regarding MC Athletics.
- Many sponsorship opportunities are available to support your MC Huskies! Please contact the athletic office for more information.

Geisinger is the official sports medicine and orthopedics provider of the Mifflin County Huskies. Geisinger supports the big dreams of Mifflin County athletics, and whether your dreams include playing in the pros, hiking, or just getting back on your feet, our doctors and healthcare professionals are here for you every step of the way. Learn more at Geisinger.org/bigdreams.

We support
big league dreams.
Geisinger

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

6th Grade Vaccinations and Physical Examination: The school nurse will accept a completed physical examination with the student's healthcare provider from up to one year prior to the first day of school or at any time during the sixth-grade year. A copy of the child's immunization record must be completed and turned in with the physical.

Students may request physical examination forms in the school nurse's office, or they can be downloaded and printed from the district's webpage (Student/Parents > Nurses > Forms & Policies > Private Physician Physical Form).

Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medication Forms: Over-the-Counter Medication forms 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 were sent home in the First Day Packet and are also available in the nurse's office.

MCSD Medication Policy Reminder: As a friendly 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. The only medications students may carry with a physician's order are epi-pens, diabetic supplies, or inhalers. Parents and guardians must deliver medications to the school nurse in the original prescription bottles or packaging along with the MCSD prescription medication form completed by the prescribing physician.
Please call Nurse Staub at **717-248-1401 ext. 6509** or email at jjs20@mcsdk12.org if your child needs to take any medication at school.

Parents/guardians may drop off medications to the nurse's office during regular school hours, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Please call or email the MCMS school nurse throughout the school year if your student has a change in his or her health status and needs any additional support or assistance during school hours. Please also keep in mind, morning meds should be given at home.

7th Grade Dental: The school nurse will accept a dental form dated from up to one year prior to the school start date or anytime during their seventh-grade year. It is a state requirement that every student in 7th grade must have a dental exam. Dental forms can be picked up in the nurse's office or downloaded from the district's webpage.

SECONDARY STUDENT HANDBOOK

At Mifflin County Middle School, we strive to create a safe, respectful, and engaging learning environment for all students. To support this goal, we ask that families review the Student Handbook for Secondary Education, which outlines important policies, expectations, and guidelines. The handbook can be found at this link. We encourage parents and guardians to read through the handbook with their student to ensure everyone is familiar with school rules, attendance policies, and behavior expectations. Please note that as policy updates occur, there may be changes to the Student Handbook.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURES – MCSD POLICY 906

Mifflin County Middle School is committed to maintaining a positive and responsive school environment. If you have a concern or complaint about Board policy and procedures, programs, personnel, operations or facilities, concerns should be addressed directly with the teacher, staff member or administrator involved. Many issues can be resolved through open and respectful communication. More information on complaint procedures is provided in Policy 906 of the MCSD Policy Manual.

REVIEW OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS – MCSD POLICY 105.1

Mifflin County School District School Board Policy 105.1 requires annual notification to parents/guardians and students that parents/guardians and students have an opportunity to review instructional materials and have access to information about the curriculum, including academic standards to be achieved, instructional materials and assessment techniques. Requests to review instructional materials and access information about the curriculum, including academic standards to be achieved, instructional materials and assessment techniques should be made by submitting a written request to the building principal.

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES – MCSD POLICY 110

The building principal will be responsible to ensure that no student in the school is denied participation in any school program for financial reasons and that the privacy of each student is protected. The principal will use the guidelines of the free and reduced price lunch program to determine the ability of students to provide necessary school supplies. Parents/Guardians must complete the Application For Instructional Supplies and submit required documentation when requesting free instructional supplies for students. Please contact the principal for more information and to request the application.

MCSD POLICY AND SCHOOL BOARD INFORMATION

Please visit the Mifflin County School District website for information regarding Board Policies, Agendas, and Minutes. Information on this site also includes the current school board members and school board meeting dates. Please visit the following link https://www.mcsdk12.org/school-board/.