

MIFFLIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

201 Eighth Street - Highland Park

Lewistown, Pennsylvania 17044

TELEPHONE (717) 248-0148

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Vance S. Varner, Superintendent

Clint N. Aurand, Chief Operations Officer

Steven F. DeArment, Chief Academic Officer

Jennifer L. Wingard, Chief Financial Officer

August 19, 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we approach the first day of school, I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome all new and returning families and students to the Mifflin County School District.

As superintendent of schools, I am exceptionally proud of the outstanding educational programs and opportunities we offer our students. Our dedicated staff has been working diligently to prepare for the new school year, and we are excited to welcome students back to our schools. We look forward to a successful year filled with learning, growth, and new opportunities.

The first day of school for students will be Monday, August 31, 2026. The 2026-2027 school year calendar is posted on the MCSD web page, and I have also attached it to this letter.

Several important facilities projects have been completed or are nearing completion throughout the Mifflin County School District. These improvements reflect our continued commitment to providing students and staff with safe, functional, and welcoming learning environments.

1. East Derry Elementary School: The playground and entrances have been repaved.
2. Indian Valley Elementary Center: A portion of the playground equipment is being replaced.
3. Lewistown Intermediate School: A new emergency generator is being installed.
4. Strodes Mills Elementary School: A new water main has been installed from the well into the building and the parking lots were repaved.
5. Mifflin County Middle School: New stage and house lighting will be installed in the auditorium, new flooring and sinks have been installed in two (2) bathrooms, and the terrazzo stairs leading up from the cafeteria have been completely restored.
6. Mifflin County Junior High School: New flooring has been installed in twelve (12) bathrooms.
7. Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology: New fire alarm, camera, and security systems.
8. District-Wide HVAC Improvements: Ten (10) outdated HVAC controllers were replaced throughout the district.

The most recent edition of the *PawPrint*, our district-wide newsletter, was released in July 2026. Please take an opportunity to review the publication at <https://www.mcsdk12.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Summer-2026-PawPrint.pdf> The *PawPrint* highlights many of the outstanding accomplishments, activities, and events taking place throughout our schools. It provides a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our students and staff while keeping our community informed about the many positive things happening across the Mifflin County School District.

The district continues an initiative to review and update all policies within the Mifflin County School District. All currently approved policies can be viewed on the MCSD web page at <https://policymain.org/mifflin-county-school-district/policies>. A printed copy of all MCSD policies is available at the administration building during regular office hours.

My office continues to utilize three different social media accounts to strengthen communication and engagement with our school community. These platforms provide another opportunity to stay informed about district news, accomplishments, activities, and events. I encourage you to follow my social media accounts and stay connected with the latest information from the Mifflin County School District:

Facebook: MCSD V Varner

Instagram: MCSD VVarner

X: @MCSDVVarner

To stay informed about all school district news releases, delays, early dismissals, and cancellations, please ensure your phone numbers and email addresses are up to date in Family Access. Family Access instructions may be found at:

https://www.mcsdk12.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FA_SkylertInstructions.pdf

The Mifflin County School District utilizes various bus contractors to provide transportation services. These bus contractors still need to hire bus and van drivers to meet students' daily transportation needs. If you or someone you know may be interested in part-time, full-time, or substitute driving opportunities, please contact one of the following providers directly:

• BGJ Enterprise, LLC.	Burnham	717-248-5697
• Krise Transportation	Lewistown/Milroy	717-248-8125
• K.V. Bus Line, LLC.	Belleville	717-348-4834
• Rhodes Bus Company	Lewistown	717-248-6719
• Yoder Tourways, Inc.	Mattawana	717-899-6742
• J&L Rhone Services, LLC.	McVeytown	814-644-1415

In addition to the bus contractors above, Lauver Brothers (717-994-2414) has agreed to provide transportation to many athletic events and field/activity trips. Please contact Lauver Brothers if you would be interested in driving for our athletic events and field/activity trips.

The Mifflin County School District continues to experience a shortage of substitute teachers, substitute paraprofessionals/aides, and substitute school nurses. To help fill the substitute teacher need, the district utilizes the "Guest Teacher" program. A "Guest Teacher" does not need a teaching certificate. Anyone with a four (4) year college degree may work as a Guest Teacher by obtaining an Emergency Permit through the Substitute Teacher Service (STS). If you, or someone you know, is interested in working as a substitute in one of these areas, or would like more information on working as a guest teacher in the district, please contact Mr. Chris Ruble at c.ruble@thesubservice.com or call 814-360-1280 for more information.

Finally, please note the State Assessment Windows for PSSA and Keystone Testing and try to plan appointments, vacations, etc., around these dates.

PSSA Testing Window for Spring 2027 will be as follows:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1. English Language Arts | April 26-30, 2027 | Grades 3-8 |
| 2. Mathematics and Science | May 3-7, 2027 | Grades 3-8 |

Keystone Testing Window will be May 17-28, 2027

I want to wish your student(s) a successful and rewarding start to the 2026–2027 school year. I hope the year ahead is filled with opportunities for learning, growth, and achievement for all of our students.

I remain honored to serve the students, parents, staff, and community members of the Mifflin County School District. I look forward to working together to make the 2026–2027 school year a successful one for our entire school community.

Sincerely,



Vance S. Varner
Superintendent

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19 de agosto de 2026

Queridos Padres/Tutores:

A medida que se acerca el primer día de clases, me gustaría aprovechar esta oportunidad para dar una cálida bienvenida a todas las familias y estudiantes nuevos y que regresan al Distrito Escolar del Condado de Mifflin.

Como superintendente de las escuelas, estoy excepcionalmente orgulloso de los programas educativos sobresalientes y las oportunidades que ofrecemos a nuestros estudiantes. Nuestro personal dedicado ha estado trabajando diligentemente para prepararse para el nuevo año escolar, y estamos emocionados de dar la bienvenida a los estudiantes de nuevo a nuestras escuelas. Esperamos un año exitoso lleno de aprendizaje, crecimiento y nuevas oportunidades.

El primer día de clases para los estudiantes será el lunes 31 de agosto de 2026. El calendario escolar 2026-2027 está publicado en la página web de MCSD, y también lo he adjuntado a esta carta.

Varios proyectos importantes de instalaciones se han completado o están cerca de completarse en todo el Distrito Escolar del Condado de Mifflin. Estas mejoras reflejan nuestro compromiso continuo de ofrecer a los estudiantes y al personal entornos de aprendizaje seguros, funcionales y acogedores.

1. Escuela Primaria East Derry: Se han repavimentado el patio de recreo y las entradas.
2. Centro Educativo Indian Valley Elementary: Se está reemplazando una parte del equipo del patio de recreo.
3. Escuela Intermedia Lewistown: Se está instalando un generador de emergencia nuevo.
4. Escuela Primaria Strodes Mills: Se ha instalado una nueva tubería de agua desde el pozo hasta el edificio y los estacionamientos fueron repavimentados.
5. Escuela Secundaria Mifflin County: Se instalará nueva iluminación para escenario y sala en el auditorio, se han instalado nuevos pisos y lavabos en dos (2) baños, y las escaleras de terrazo que suben desde la cafetería han sido completamente restauradas.
6. Escuela Junior High Mifflin County: Se han instalado nuevos pisos en doce (12) baños.
7. Academia de Ciencia y Tecnología del Condado de Mifflin: Nuevos sistemas de alarma contra incendios, cámaras y seguridad.
8. Mejoras de HVAC en todo el distrito: Se reemplazaron diez (10) controladores de HVAC obsoletos en todo el distrito.

La edición más reciente de PawPrint, nuestro boletín informativo de todo el distrito, se publicó en julio de 2026. Por favor, tómate un momento para revisar la publicación en <https://www.mcsdk12.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Summer-2026-PawPrint.pdf> PawPrint destaca muchos de los logros, actividades y eventos sobresalientes que se llevan a cabo en nuestras escuelas. Es una excelente oportunidad para celebrar los logros de nuestros estudiantes y personal, al mismo tiempo que mantenemos a nuestra comunidad informada sobre las muchas cosas positivas que ocurren en todo el Distrito Escolar del Condado de Mifflin.

El distrito continúa con una iniciativa para revisar y actualizar todas las políticas dentro del Distrito Escolar del Condado de Mifflin. Todas las políticas aprobadas actualmente se pueden ver en la página web del MCSD <https://policymain.org/mifflin-county-school-district/policies>. Una copia impresa de todas las políticas del MCSD está disponible en el edificio administrativo durante el horario de oficina.

Mi oficina continúa utilizando tres cuentas diferentes de redes sociales para fortalecer la comunicación y la participación con nuestra comunidad escolar. Estas plataformas brindan otra oportunidad para mantenerse informado sobre las noticias del distrito, logros, actividades y eventos. Te animo a seguir mis cuentas de redes sociales y mantenerte al tanto de la información más reciente del Distrito Escolar del Condado de Mifflin:

Facebook: MCSD V Varner

Instagram: MCSD VVarner

X: @MCSDVVarner

Para mantenerte informado sobre todos los comunicados del distrito escolar, retrasos, salidas tempranas y cancelaciones, por favor asegúrate de que tus números de teléfono y direcciones de correo electrónico estén actualizados en Family Access. Puedes encontrar las instrucciones de Family Access en:

https://www.mcsdk12.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FA_SkylertInstructions.pdf

El Distrito Escolar del Condado de Mifflin utiliza varios contratistas de autobuses para ofrecer servicios de transporte. Estos contratistas aún necesitan contratar conductores de autobuses y vans para cubrir las necesidades diarias de transporte de los estudiantes. Si tú o alguien que conoces podría estar interesado en oportunidades de conducción a tiempo parcial, completo o como sustituto, por favor contacta directamente a uno de los siguientes proveedores:

• BGJ Enterprise, LLC.	Burnham	717-248-5697
• Krise Transportation	Lewistown/Milroy	717-248-8125
• K.V. Bus Line, LLC.	Belleville	717-348-4834
• Rhodes Bus Company	Lewistown	717-248-6719
• Yoder Tourways, Inc.	Mattawana	717-899-6742
• J&L Rhone Services, LLC.	McVeytown	814-644-1415

Además de los contratistas de autobús mencionados arriba, Lauver Brothers (717-994-2414) ha aceptado proporcionar transporte a muchos eventos deportivos y excursiones/actividades. Por favor, comunícate con Lauver Brothers si estás interesado en conducir para nuestros eventos deportivos y excursiones/actividades.

El Distrito Escolar del Condado de Mifflin sigue enfrentando una escasez de maestros sustitutos, paraprofesionales/asistentes sustitutos y enfermeros escolares sustitutos. Para ayudar a cubrir la necesidad de maestros sustitutos, el distrito utiliza el programa de “Maestro Invitado”. Un “Maestro Invitado” no necesita un certificado de enseñanza. Cualquier persona con un título universitario de cuatro (4) años puede trabajar como Maestro Invitado obteniendo un Permiso de Emergencia a través del Servicio de Maestros Sustitutos (STS). Si tú o alguien que conoces está interesado en trabajar como sustituto en alguna de estas áreas, o quiere más información sobre cómo trabajar como maestro

invitado en el distrito, por favor contacta al Sr. Chris Ruble en c.ruble@thesubservice.com o llama al 814-360-1280 para más información.

Finalmente, por favor tengan en cuenta las fechas de las Evaluaciones Estatales para las pruebas PSSA y Keystone, y traten de planear citas, vacaciones, etc., alrededor de estas fechas.

La ventana de pruebas PSSA para la primavera de 2027 será la siguiente:

1. Artes del Lenguaje Inglés, del 26 al 30 de abril de 2027, para los grados 3-8
2. Matemáticas y Ciencias, del 3 al 7 de mayo de 2027, para los grados 3-8

La ventana de pruebas Keystone será del 17 al 28 de mayo de 2027

Quiero desearle a tu(s) estudiante(s) un comienzo exitoso y gratificante para el año escolar 2026-2027. Espero que el año que viene esté lleno de oportunidades para aprender, crecer y lograr cosas para todos nuestros estudiantes.

Me siento honrado de poder servir a los estudiantes, padres, personal y miembros de la comunidad del Distrito Escolar del Condado de Mifflin. Espero con entusiasmo trabajar juntos para que el año escolar 2026–2027 sea exitoso para toda nuestra comunidad escolar.

Sinceramente,



Vance S. Varner
Superintendente

MIFFLIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
2026-2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR

(W) August 26, 2026	Teacher Inservice Day - No School for Students
(TH) August 27, 2026	Act 80 Day
(F) August 28, 2026	Teacher Work Day
(M) August 31, 2026	First Day for Students
(F) September 4, 2026	Act 80 Day
(M) September 7, 2026	Labor Day - No School for Students
(M) October 12, 2026	Act 80 Day
(W) November 11, 2026	Veterans' Day – No School for Students
(T) November 24, 2026	Evening Parent Conferences
(W) November 25, 2026	No School for Students – Teachers Dismiss @ 11:30 AM (AM Parent Conferences - Elementary, AM Inservice - Secondary)
(TH) November 26, 2026 through (M) November 30, 2026	Thanksgiving Vacation - No School for Students
(M) November 30, 2026	Designated Make-Up Day #1
(W) December 23, 2026 through (F) January 1, 2027	Christmas Vacation - No School for Students
(M) January 18, 2027	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School for Students – Designated Make-Up Day #2
(F) January 29, 2027	Act 80 Day
(F) February 12, 2027	Act 80 Day
(M) February 15, 2027	Presidents' Day – No School for Students – Designated Make-Up Day #3
(TH) March 25, 2027	Act 80 Day
(F) March 26, 2027	Good Friday - No School for Students

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|--------------------|---|
| (M) March 29, 2027 | Easter Break - No School for Students
Designated Make-Up Day #4 |
| (F) April 23, 2027 | No School for Students
Designated Make-Up Day #5 |
| (M) May 31, 2027 | Memorial Day – No School for Students |
| (TH) June 3, 2027 | *Last Day of School for Students - Commencement
Grades K-7 dismiss @ 12:15 PM
Grades 8-12 dismiss @ 12:30 PM |
| (F) June 4, 2027 | *Teacher Workday - Designated Make-Up Day #6 |

***Pending weather, the Last Day of School for Students and the end-of-year Teacher Workday will move accordingly.**

2026-2027 MARKING PERIODS

August 27, 2026	-	October 30, 2026	----	First Marking Period
November 2, 2026	-	January 21, 2027	----	Second Marking Period
January 22, 2027	-	March 30, 2027	----	Third Marking Period
March 31, 2027	-	June 3, 2027	----	Fourth Marking Period

Board Approved: 12/18/2025