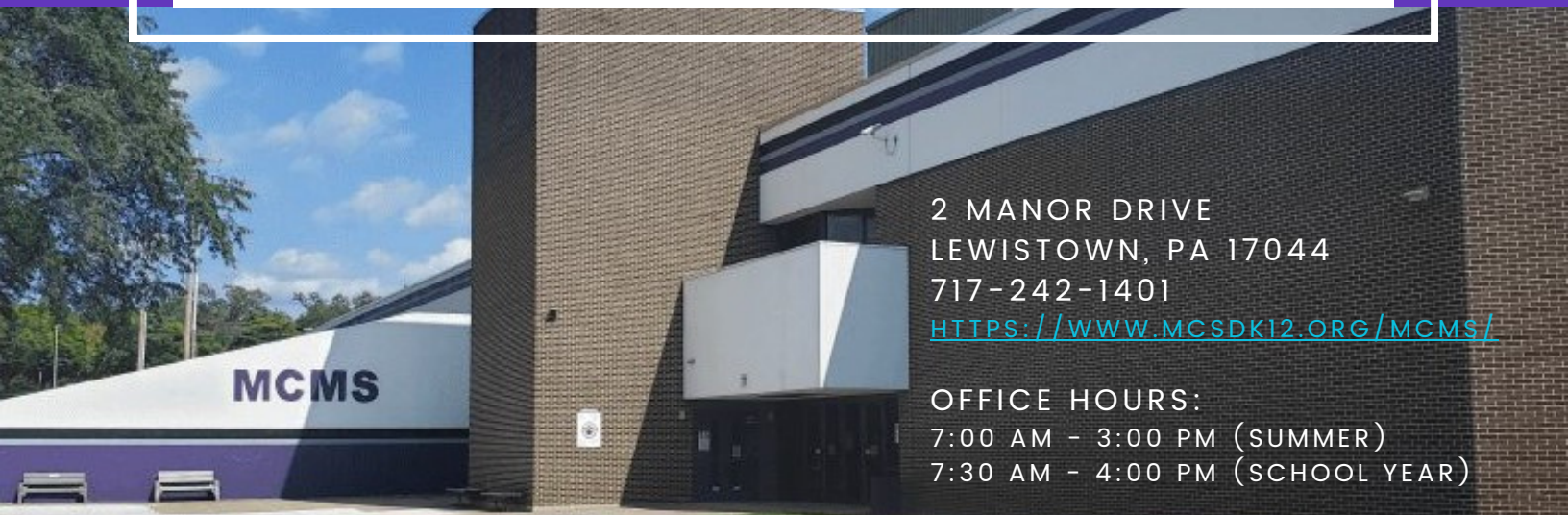


AUGUST 2026

PACK POST

MIFFLIN COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



2 MANOR DRIVE
LEWISTOWN, PA 17044
717-242-1401

[HTTPS://WWW.MCSDK12.ORG/MCMS/](https://www.mcSDK12.org/MCMS/)

OFFICE HOURS:
7:00 AM - 3:00 PM (SUMMER)
7:30 AM - 4:00 PM (SCHOOL YEAR)

DEAR MCMS PARENTS/GUARDIANS,

It's hard to believe that there are just a few short weeks left of summer! We hope you enjoy this issue of the *Pack Post*, the MCMS monthly newsletter. We are looking forward to welcoming our students back to school on **Monday, August 31!**

MCMS NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Mifflin County Middle School will hold orientation for new students on **Wednesday, August 19, 2026**. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the MCMS auditorium and will consist of a brief informational presentation followed by self-guided building tours.

WELCOME NEW STAFF TO MCMS

Mrs. Beers - Paraprofessional

Mrs. Craig - 6th Grade ELA

Ms. Goss - Paraprofessional

Mr. McClure - 6th Grade Health

Ms. Rowles - 6th Grade Math/Computer

Ms. Ward - 7th Grade Art

FOLLOW MCMS ONLINE AND ON SOCIAL MEDIA:



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, August 17, 2026

Skyward Family Access Opens for
Students and Parents/Guardians

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

New Student Orientation - 6:00 p.m.

Monday, August 31, 2026

First Day for Students

Friday, September 4, 2026

Act 80 Day

No School for Students

Monday, September 7, 2026

Labor Day

No School for Students

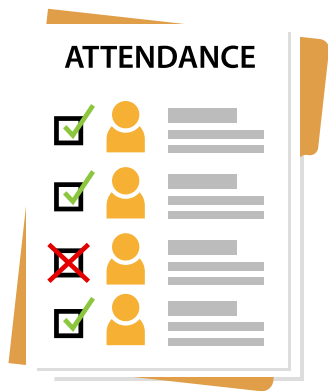
Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Picture Day

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Back to School Night - 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION



- Students arriving in their classrooms after 8:08 a.m. are tardy. Tardy students are required to sign in at the main office. We encourage parents/guardians to drop off students at or before 8:00 a.m. at the cafeteria lot.
- Students arriving after 9:30 a.m. or leaving before 2:00 p.m. will be marked absent for half of a day.
- Excuses must be returned within three (3) days of an absence.
- Excuses should include the student's full name, grade, the date of and reason for absence, and a parent/guardian signature.
- See your child's First Day Packet for information on submitting excuses via Skyward Family Access.

EARLY DISMISSALS AND PARENT PICK-UP

- If your child has an early dismissal, please send a written note into the office. Do not submit early dismissals on Skyward Family Access.
- If a note is submitted, you may call the office when you arrive at MCMS, and your student may be sent out to your vehicle.
- If a note was not submitted, you must come into the office to provide a written note before your child may be dismissed.
- Students at MCMS are **NOT** required to submit a note to the office for parent pick-up.

SKYWARD FAMILY ACCESS

Skyward Family Access is an excellent resource to keep up to date on your student's academic progress, and we encourage you to access it regularly. **You will need to access it to see your child's schedule beginning on August 17 at 3:00 p.m.** Bussing information will also be available soon. If you need login information, please call Mrs. Murphy, the guidance secretary, at 717-242-1401 ext. 6506 for assistance.

2026-2027 MEAL PRICES

Breakfast will continue to be FREE for all students! Lunch will be free for reduced-price eligible students. The regular price for lunch is \$3.15.

For more info regarding MCSD food service, visit the food service website at <https://www.mcstk12.org/lunch/>.



STUDENT DROP-OFF/ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL

- Doors open for student access beginning at 7:30 a.m.
- Students should NOT report to school any earlier than 7:30 a.m. as there is no supervision.
- Prior to the start of school (8:00 a.m.), students should be dropped off and/or picked up in the cafeteria parking lot.
- Students riding a bus will be dropped off in the auditorium parking lot. Busses are the only vehicles permitted in this lot.
- Upon entering the building, students may choose to wait in the auditorium, eat breakfast in the cafeteria, or attend an Early Bird academic session in the library.



PREPARING FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

It's important to establish routines in the weeks before school resumes. Consider the following tips as you start preparing for our opening day on August 31.

1. **Implement a Bedtime** - The first thing you'll need to get your child used to is a new bedtime. To determine the best bedtime, determine what wake-up time will be first as in how much time does your child need in the morning before leaving for school? Then, work backward. Your child should get 9-10 hours of sleep each night. So, depending on their age and sleep needs, you'll come up with an appropriate bedtime.
2. **Implement a Wake-up Time** - The obvious counterpart to a set bedtime is a wake-up time! Using a similar process, start implementing a wake-up time corresponding to the bedtimes already set up. For older children, you can encourage responsibility by asking them to set an alarm clock and using it to wake up every day.
3. **Try Out a Practice Run on Routines** - Plan your routines ahead of time. Some may include picking out your clothes the night before, packing a lunch and water bottle in the morning, making sure your backpack is ready, and eating breakfast.
4. **Emphasize the Positive** - A new school year brings new clothes and school supplies, but it also gives your child a fresh opportunity to make friends and find new interests.

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 > Forms & Flyers > Nurse's Forms > 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 will be 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.

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 Vaccination Requirements: The Pennsylvania Department of Health's School Health Program requires all 7th-grade students, including those enrolled in the online Alpha Program, to submit proof of obtaining the Meningococcal Vaccine (MCV) and Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis Booster (Tdap) to their School Nurse. Please submit documentation of immunizations to the School Nurse as soon as possible. You may send a fax to 717-242-5805 (Attn School Nurse), scan records/take photos on phone and email them to Jennifer Staub, RN at jjs20@mcsdk12.org, or drop off records in the MCMS Main Office during school hours.

**** Please note: Non-compliant students will be excluded from school on September 9, 2026, and remain excluded until proof of compliance or an appropriate exemption is submitted to the School Nurse. Contact the MCMS Nurse's Office at 717-242-1401 ext. 6509 with questions.**

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.

Vision and Hearing Screenings: MCMS vision and hearing screenings will take place Monday, October 19 - Wednesday, October 21, 2026.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Andy McCardell and Mrs. Jane Foor are the MCMS school counselors. Mr. McCardell is the 6th grade counselor, and Mrs. Foor is the 7th grade counselor. Our counselors stay with their cohort of students for two years so they can get to know their students and families better. Please contact them if you have any concerns throughout the school year. You can also find additional information about school counseling as well as helpful resources by visiting the [Mifflin County Middle School Counseling Department Website](#).



Mr. Andy McCardell
alm21@mcsdk12.org



Mrs. Jane Foor
jaf28@mcsdk12.org

2026-2027 CHARACTER TRAITS

These 4 character traits will be emphasized throughout the school year at MCMS:

Loyalty - Show others that you are faithful and dependable when you have a commitment to them.

Adaptability - Be ready and willing to adjust as necessary to the changes in people and circumstances that arise in daily life.

Contemplation - Think things through with proper care before taking action.

Courage - Face difficulty or danger and express your beliefs even if you are afraid.

PRINCIPAL CONTACT INFO



Mrs. Jennifer Macknair
Principal
jsm33@mcsdk12.org



Mr. Luke Strawser
Assistant Principal
ljs36@mcsdk12.org

MCMS Bell Schedule

<u>Period</u>	<u>Time</u>
1	8:08 – 9:04
2	9:07 – 9:57
3	10:00 – 10:49

A Lunch (6th Grade)

Lunch	10:49 – 11:19
4 (4B)	11:22 – 12:12
5 (5B)	12:15 – 1:05

B Lunch (6th & 7th Grade)

4 (4A)	10:52 – 11:42
Lunch	11:42 – 12:12
5 (5B)	12:15 – 1:05

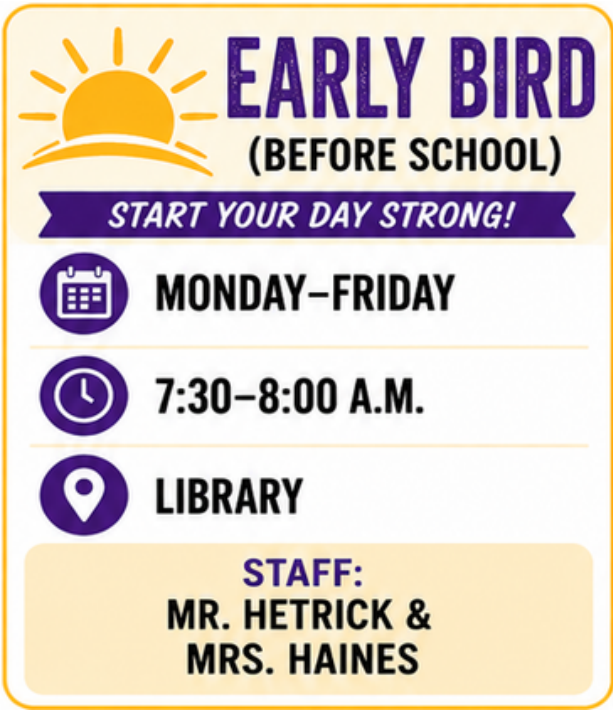
C Lunch (7th Grade)

4 (4A)	10:52 – 11:42
5 (5A)	11:45 – 12:35
Lunch	12:35 – 1:05

6	1:08 – 1:57
7	2:00 – 2:50
Student Dismissal 2:50	
2:50 First Run/walkers/pickups	
2:54 Second Run	
2:56 Third Run	

MCMS ACADEMIC HELP 2026-2027

Need help with homework and studying? These programs will be available all year long!



EARLY BIRD
(BEFORE SCHOOL)

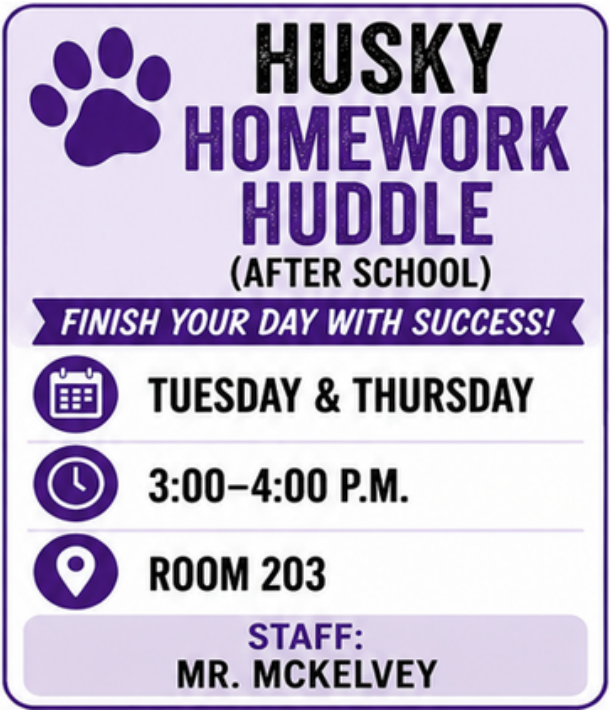
START YOUR DAY STRONG!

 **MONDAY-FRIDAY**

 **7:30-8:00 A.M.**

 **LIBRARY**

STAFF:
**MR. HETRICK &
MRS. HAINES**



**HUSKY
HOMEWORK
HUDDLE**
(AFTER SCHOOL)

FINISH YOUR DAY WITH SUCCESS!

 **TUESDAY & THURSDAY**

 **3:00-4:00 P.M.**

 **ROOM 203**

STAFF:
MR. MCKELVEY

ATHLETIC NEWS

- Fall Sports Registration opened May 1. Check out [the athletics website](#) for registration info.
- Fall Sports Registration closes for JV/Varsity Football on August 5. All other sports - August 12.
- Senior Citizen, Active Military, and Veteran Free Athletic Passes can be obtained at the MCHS Main Office. All passes are good for life.
- Cash Passes are now available. Passes are \$40 for adults and \$20 for students. Each pass is good for 12 games of your choice throughout the sports season. Passes can be picked up at the MCHS Main Office. Please have exact change.
- 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 X [@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](https://www.Geisinger.org/bigdreams).



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.mc SDK12.org/school-board/>.