



2024-2025

# Annual Report to the Community

**NURTURE AND CHALLENGE FOR SUCCESS**

Access • Opportunity • Educational Excellence



# Welcome

Welcome to the 2024-2025 Annual Report to the Community for Manheim Township School District (MTSD). This publication reflects a small sample of the many achievements of our students and staff this past year. We are dedicated to building the future of tomorrow's leaders, and we are committed to informing the community of our district's accomplishments. In this report, you will find the past school year's (2023-2024) class of 2024 Academic Profile, this year's (2024-2025) district finances, and the current state of the district.



## District Office Leadership Team

<b>Dr. Robin L. Felty,</b> <i>Superintendent</i>	<b>Mrs. Amber Mentz,</b> <i>Director of Special Education</i>
<b>Dr. Dale Reimann,</b> <i>Assistant Superintendent</i>	<b>Mrs. Jennifer Davidson,</b> <i>Director of Communications and Marketing</i>
<b>Mrs. Donna Robbins,</b> <i>Chief Operating Officer</i>	<b>Mrs. Courtney Nowak,</b> <i>Director of Student Services</i>
<b>Mrs. Linda Long,</b> <i>Supervisor of Multilingual Learning</i>	<b>Mrs. Bette Oberle,</b> <i>Director of Safety, Security and Custodial Services</i>
<b>Mr. Paul Barr,</b> <i>Supervisor of Special Education</i>	<b>Mrs. Jessica O'Gorman,</b> <i>Supervisor of K-12 English Language Arts &amp; Federal Programs</i>
<b>Mrs. Maddalena DiMarco-Beard,</b> <i>Supervisor of Special Education</i>	<b>Mrs. Kelley Romyn,</b> <i>Supervisor of Math &amp; Virtual Learning</i>
<b>Mrs. Kelly Price,</b> <i>Director of Food Services</i>	<b>Dr. Sharon Schaefer,</b> <i>Director of Curriculum &amp; Instruction</i>
<b>Mrs. Jaclyn Dudzic,</b> <i>Supervisor of Health Services</i>	<b>Mrs. Jennifer Snyderman,</b> <i>Business Manager</i>
<b>Mr. Matthew Gillis,</b> <i>Director of Transportation</i>	<b>Ms. Katherine Ward,</b> <i>Director of Human Resources, Title IX Coordinator</i>
<b>Mr. Tom Koch,</b> <i>Director of Plant Services</i>	
<b>Mr. Dan Lyons,</b> <i>Director of Technology Services</i>	

## MTSD Vision

We are committed to the achievement of each individual's potential by providing:

*A nurturing learning community that:*

- Provides safety and mutual respect
- Stimulates curiosity and creativity
- Promotes personal integrity
- Encourages good citizenship

*A challenging learning community that:*

- Establishes high expectations and promotes individual achievement
- Encourages critical thinking and problem solving
- Inspires lifelong learning
- Provides opportunities for extracurricular experiences
- Facilitates collaborative communication
- Embraces the richness of diversity

## MTSD North Star

To create a welcoming and supportive environment where all students, staff and families feel a sense of belonging.



## School Administration

<b>Mr. David Rilatt,</b> <i>Principal, High School</i>	<b>Dr. William Gillis,</b> <i>Principal, Landis Run Intermediate</i>
<b>Mrs. Lisa Lyons,</b> <i>Assistant Principal, High School</i>	<b>Mrs. Amy Houck,</b> <i>Assistant Principal, Landis Run Intermediate</i>
<b>Mrs. Tara Newhouse,</b> <i>Assistant Principal, High School</i>	<b>Mrs. Alexis Yakstis-Startoni,</b> <i>Assistant Principal, Landis Run Intermediate</i>
<b>Mrs. Laura Rakoczy,</b> <i>Assistant Principal, High School</i>	<b>Mrs. Amanda Munson,</b> <i>Principal, Brecht Elementary</i>
<b>Mrs. Amanda Rhinier,</b> <i>Assistant Principal/Assistant Athletic Director, High School</i>	<b>Dr. Andrew Martin,</b> <i>Principal, Bucher Elementary</i>
<b>Mr. Matthew Johns,</b> <i>Dean of Students, High School</i>	<b>Mr. Taylor Good,</b> <i>Principal, Neff Elementary</i>
<b>Mr. Tim Hollenback,</b> <i>Athletic Director, High School</i>	<b>Mr. Dana Schrodell,</b> <i>Principal, Nitrauer Elementary</i>
<b>Dr. Christine Resh,</b> <i>Principal, Middle School</i>	<b>Mrs. Lindsay Long,</b> <i>Principal, Reidenbaugh Elementary</i>
<b>Mrs. Kara Frazier,</b> <i>Assistant Principal, Middle School</i>	<b>Mrs. Elizabeth Edwards,</b> <i>Principal, Schaeffer Elementary</i>
<b>Dr. Andrew Hull,</b> <i>Assistant Principal, Middle School</i>	

## MTSD Board of School Directors

The members of the Manheim Township School Board are volunteers who give their time and effort to provide MTSD students with a quality education while maintaining fiscal responsibility for their decisions. Board agendas and board meeting minutes can be found on our website at [www.mtwp.net](http://www.mtwp.net).

**Mr. Mark Boldizar**  
**Mr. Patrick Greuter**  
**Dr. Terrance Henderson**  
**Mrs. JoAnn Hentz**  
**Mrs. Erin Hoffman**  
**Mrs. Cindy Lam**  
**Mr. Michael Landis**  
**Mrs. Kim Romano**  
**Ms. Sara Woodbury**

**Non-Voting Members**  
**Jennifer Davidson,**  
*Secretary*  
**Donna Robbins,**  
*Treasurer*  
**Salaar Faiz,**  
*Student Representative*  
**Rose Montgomery,**  
*Student Representative*

## School Board Work Sessions

- Sessions are held the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., except Dec. and July.
- Agendas and information on the meeting location can be found on the website at [www.mtwp.net](http://www.mtwp.net).

## School Board Meetings

- Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., except Dec. and July.
- Agendas and information on the meeting location can be found on the website at [www.mtwp.net](http://www.mtwp.net).

# Superintendent's Letter



We are excited to share with you the 2024-2025 Annual Report for the Manheim Township School District (MTSD)! This report highlights many of the accomplishments shown by our students and staff, and includes information about our district initiatives, programs, and other newsworthy items. **#MTProud!**

As we are busy this school year wrapping up our work on the three strategic planning goals of the school district's Comprehensive Plan – created and implemented for the 2022-2023 through 2024-2025 school years with support by students, families and staff – we reflect upon our progress as a district and feel a sense of pride in our efforts to achieve these goals. The three Comprehensive Plan goals currently in place are as follows:

1. Implement **data review protocols for K-12 that drive continuous improvement** as determined by district and building level data, as well as student outcome data.
2. Develop a **comprehensive resource** for students, families and staff in need of assistance/guidance/support to **address academic and mental health needs**.
3. Facilitate **school-wide powerful learning, personal growth, and leadership opportunities** for key stakeholder groups (teachers, students, community) that develop lifelong learners and prepare students for effective college and career readiness.

The Comprehensive Plan is designed with our district mission statement and North Star at the forefront:

**Manheim Township Mission Statement: Nurture and Challenge for Success.**



**North Star: To create a welcoming and supportive environment where all students, staff and families feel a sense of belonging.**

The collective work to pursue the district's mission, strive for our North Star, and achieve the Comprehensive Plan's goals continues to promote our dedication to educational excellence in all nine Manheim Township schools. We are proud to share that our students' achievements within the academics, performing arts, technology, visual arts, and athletic skills have brought annual recognition at the state and national levels.

Our district initiatives for the 2024-2025 school year include the following four areas:



Increased opportunities for students to receive advanced learning experiences in **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) through new and enhanced standards-based curriculum at the K-12 levels. We are excited that the 2024-2025 school year has brought a new hands-on, highly-engaging STEM program – and teachers – to the elementary level!



Creation of a **comprehensive sustainability plan** that addresses environmental health, safety and efficiency factors across the nine schools and departments.



Planning, designing and implementation of a multi-year project focused on several **larger-scale facilities improvements**, including the athletic facilities on the main campus and the areas surrounding the athletic complex.



Development of a **new Comprehensive Plan** that covers the next three-year span for the school district – the 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and the 2027-2028 school years. This plan will hold the collective vision and goals as established by students, families, district staff, and community members.

We thank our staff, families, and the larger Manheim Township community for their dedication to our students, our educational and extracurricular programs, and the school district.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robin L. Felty, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

# About the Manheim Township School District

MTSD extends over 23 square miles and serves a community of approximately 44,000 citizens in 16,000+ residential dwellings, with 27% of these households having children. MTSD is a diverse school district in Lancaster County with approximately 800 employees who care for approximately 6,000 students in grades K-12. The district

addresses our students' needs by providing educational services in one high school, one middle school (grades 7-8), one intermediate school (grades 5-6), and six elementary schools (grades K-4), as well as a Virtual Academy. Please visit the Manheim Township School District website for more specific information about each of the Manheim Township schools.

## Statistics

### DISTRICT INFORMATION

(as of October 2024)

#### Career and Technical Center Students

**64** (Full day) **35** (Half day)

**220**

Homeschooled Students

**736\*** **490**

Private/Parochial School Students

Gifted Education Students

\*Based on information provided by the private/parochial schools

#### Special Education Students

**951**

(Includes IU and out-of-district placements)

#### Charter Students

**80** **2**

(Cyber) (Brick/Mortar)

**374**

English Language Learners (ELL)

### STUDENT INFORMATION

#### Current Enrollment Data

(as of October 2024)

Brecht Elementary	237
Bucher Elementary	403
Neff Elementary	283
Nitrauer Elementary	469
Reidenbaugh Elementary	488
Schaeffer Elementary	319
Landis Run Intermediate	927
Middle School	916
High School	1,954

**TOTAL 5,996**

#### Student Demographics

White/Caucasian	60.91%
Black or African American	5.69%
Hispanic	16.69%
Asian	9.76%
Multi-Racial/Ethnic	6.82%
American Indian/Alaskan	0.07%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.07%

### STAFF INFORMATION

Average Teacher Salary: \$79,217

Starting Teacher Salary: \$60,500

**14**

Average Years of Teaching Experience

Teachers with Advanced Degrees

**362**

### STAFF PROFILE

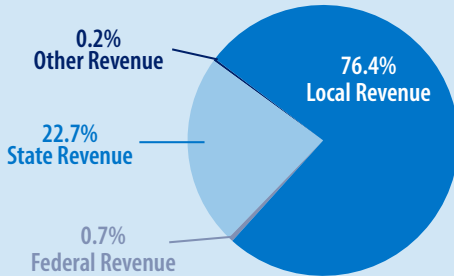
<b>Teachers</b>	<b>455</b>
Elementary	160
Intermediate	55
Middle School	70
High School	121
Special Education	49
<b>Support Staff</b>	<b>298</b>
Administration	37
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>790</b>

### FINANCE INFORMATION

#### MTSD Budget

2024-2025 Total Budget \$124,509,519  
Millage Rate 17.2429

MTSD Millage Ranking in Lancaster County – 7th Lowest Out of 16 Districts



#### MTSD Revenue

Local Revenue \$93,233,761  
State Revenue \$27,638,885  
Federal Revenue \$814,832  
Other Revenue \$275,000

**Total Revenue \$121,962,478**

#### MTSD Expenditures

Instructional \$68,813,172 (55.3%)  
Support \$36,743,244 (29.5%)  
Non-instructional Services \$1,965,689 (1.6%)  
Other Expenditures & Financial Uses \$16,987,414 (13.6%)

**Total Expenditures \$124,509,519**

### Free and Reduced Lunch

(as of October 2024)

High School	33.37%
Middle School	34.06%
Landis Run Intermediate	35.23%
Brecht Elementary	47.48%
Bucher Elementary	36.14%
Neff Elementary	34.35%
Nitrauer Elementary	33.62%
Reidenbaugh Elementary	22.52%
Schaeffer Elementary	40.94%

**Total Districtwide: 34.08%**





# Manheim Township High School

## Class of 2024 Academic Profile

### Lancaster County Career & Technology Center

Manheim Township is proud to partner with the Lancaster County Career & Technology Center (LCCTC) to offer our students in grade 12 the option of pursuing full-day technical educational training in a variety of industries. The LCCTC also offers half-day programs for students in grade 11 to explore different aspects of a particular career field. Introductory courses explore careers in construction, culinary arts, healthcare, manufacturing, transportation, and visual communications.

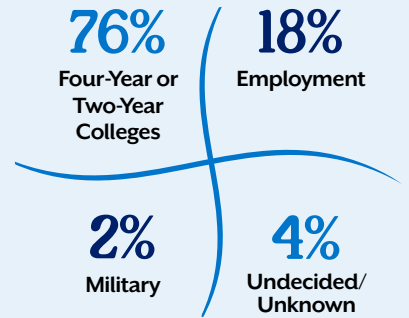
### Industry Certifications Earned 2023-2024

Our students earned industry certifications through the Lancaster County Career & Technology Center. They include some of the following:

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Act 31 - Mandatory Reporter                      | Intro to Mechanical Systems Terminology - Part 2        | Pediatric First Aid CPR and AED                          |
| Automotive Lighting                              | Intro to Refinishing/Corrosion Protection - Part 1 & 2  | Radiation Health & Safety (RHS)                          |
| BLS Healthcare Provider                          | Intro to Safety Systems                                 | Refinishing Equipment                                    |
| Bolted-On Exterior Panels - Part 1 & 2           | Intro to Tools, Equip., Attachment Methods - Part 1 & 2 | Removing and Installing Hardware Interior Trim           |
| Certified Emissions Inspector                    | Intro to Vehicle Construction Materials                 | Removing/Installing Exterior Trim, Pinstripes and Decals |
| Get Started with Center-Based Care               | Intro to Vehicle Parts Terminology - Part 1 & 2         | ServSafe/Manager Food Safety Certification               |
| Hazardous Airborne Pollutant Reduction           | Local - Bloodborne and Airborne Pathogens               | Single and Extension Ladder                              |
| Hazardous Material Storage and Disposal          | Mobile Ladder   | Step Ladder  |
| HIPAA  | NCCER Credentials (Various Trades)                      | Surface Preparation and Masking                          |
| Intro to Collision Repair Process Overview       | OSHA Certification                                      | Vehicle Construction Material Types                      |
| Intro to Mech, Repair Terms/Vehicle Protection I | OSHA Certification - Healthcare                         | Vehicle Technology and Trends 2013                       |

### Post High School Plans

College-bound students in the class of 2024 plan to attend more than **115 institutions** in over **25 states**. Based on data available in August 2024, the figures shown represent the percentages of the total class of **457\*** students continuing their education at various types of schools:



\*437 out of 457 graduates have reported their post-secondary plans.

## Pennsylvania State Seal of Bilingualism



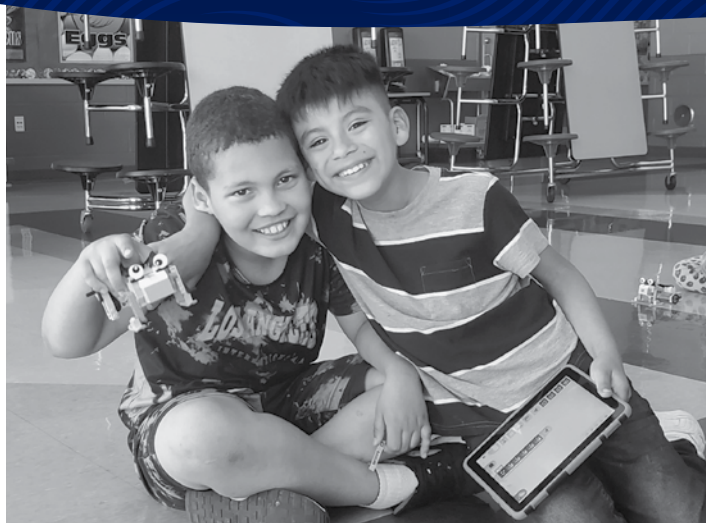
Manheim Township High School proudly awards the Pennsylvania Seal of Bilingualism (PASB) to graduating seniors who demonstrate proficiency in English and one or more world languages by the time they complete high school. This recognition is achieved through various means, including showcasing intermediate-high proficiency on approved World language and English language assessments, demonstrating multicultural competence by embracing two or more languages, and meeting the school's graduation requirements. The PASB serves multiple essential purposes: It provides future employers a valuable tool for identifying candidates with bilingual skills, it grants colleges and universities a method for recognizing applicants with high proficiency in a world language, and it equips students to be well-prepared for college, career, and active

participation in our global society. This seal also celebrates and values the linguistic and cultural diversity that many students bring to the classroom and the workplace. Furthermore, it encourages partnerships between educational institutions, businesses, and community organizations, thereby fostering increased language learning opportunities in the dynamic 21st-century global economy.

During the 2023-2024 school year, 19 students were awarded the PASB. Students presented with the award represented proficiency in the languages of French, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, and Montenegrin.

If students aspire to pursue the Pennsylvania Seal of Bilingualism, they are encouraged to reach out to their school counselor, world language teacher, or ELD teacher by November 1 of their senior year for guidance and support. Additional information can be found on the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association Website at <https://psmla.net/pa-seal-bilingualism>.

# K-12 STEM Education in Our School District



At Manheim Township School District, our district's mission is to nurture and challenge for success. As we look at the ever-changing world and what our students will need to be successful, the district is excited to provide a new K-4 STEM special for our elementary students beginning with the 24-25 school year. The district's K-12 STEM courses are aligned and designed to provide a safe place for students to take chances, solve problems, and think deeply beyond themselves. The learning environment emphasizes the process, not the product, bringing the mindset of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) to MTSD classrooms.

As defined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), MTSD's K-12 STEM curriculum is built on the following foundational beliefs:

- All students are capable of STEM literacy.
- Iteration and reflection are an important part of the STEM learning process.
- STEM education transcends the classroom walls, integrating into the community.
- Success depends upon the partnership between educators, students, families, postsecondary providers, legislators, businesses, and industry.

The district's K-12 STEM curriculum embeds PDE's mandated STEELS (Science, Technology, Engineering, Environmental Literacy, and Sustainability) standards. The K-4 STEM course provides our students with opportunities to embark on exploratory journeys to grasp the essence and principles of STEM. Throughout the K-4 STEM curriculum, students will practice and improve on STEM skills including collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking, and learn problem-solving skills through hands-on exploration of tools and materials, discovering how engineering and technology enhance everyday life. With an emphasis on the design process, students creatively tackle real-world challenges collaboratively, honing their problem-solving skills and understanding the importance of teamwork in finding solutions. Students will also learn and practice skills such as coding. By encouraging curiosity and a growth mindset, the K-4 STEM curriculum aims to make STEM accessible to all, nurturing a lifelong love for exploration, innovation, and learning.

The MTSD STEM and Science curricula are anchored on the "Engineering by Design" process, which infuses collaboration, creativity, technical literacy, and problem-solving into every level of our K-12 program. At the elementary level, we introduce students to the Engineering by Design concepts and offer opportunities to engage in authentic, project-based learning experiences in STEM labs and classrooms.

MTSD's commitment to STEM instruction continues to the intermediate, middle, and high school curriculum, which provides a variety of rigorous STEM courses that promote systems thinking and problem-solving to develop models to create optimal designs for specific engineering challenges. Students explore the dynamic relationship between technology, engineering, and creativity. Students are encouraged to think innovatively, connecting their creative abilities to technology and engineering, while challenging them to develop products and systems that address specific needs and wants in their communities or society at large. Throughout MT courses, students are immersed in learning to help them understand, evaluate, and contribute to the dynamic landscape of technology and design.

MTSD's STEM education lies in providing students with opportunities for hands-on, real-world problem-solving. These opportunities – such as STEM industry tours, guest speakers, community-wide events, and collaborative curriculum projects – encourage students to think critically and work together, ensuring learning extends beyond classroom walls.

At the high school level, MT is proud to offer a variety of Technology & Engineering courses including *Project Lead the Way* (PLTW). These engineering courses offer avenues for exploration, covering topics such as Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, and Civil Engineering and Architecture. During the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years, the Technology & Engineering department has integrated the "STEELS" academic standards in all courses and at all grade levels.

MT continues to partner with local businesses to provide job shadowing, internships, and apprenticeships to students at the secondary level. Through an exciting partnership with Lancaster County STEM Alliance, our middle school is participating in the "Adopt-a-Middle School" program, which continues to bring exciting industry partnerships for our middle school students and staff to facilitate collaborative projects that build engineering skills and inspire authentic and meaningful learning experiences.

Through hosting an annual Engineering Day for interested high school students who learn from guest speakers in STEM-related fields and an annual community STEM Fest for grades K-6 students and families (with activities led by high school students in the Technology & Engineering Club), we strive to empower students with important real-world knowledge, as well as critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Our goal is to ensure our students are provided with learning and experiences that better prepare them to be college and career-ready.





# International Baccalaureate (IB)

Manheim Township juniors and seniors have a unique opportunity to earn an internationally recognized diploma while still in high school, granting them college credit and a competitive edge in the college admissions process. Our IB program fosters a student-centered, interdisciplinary approach to learning, emphasizing critical thinking skills.

In the 2024-25 academic year, we proudly mark the thirteenth year of offering the IB program at our high school. Students apply during their sophomore year.

Beyond the classroom, our students have ventured far and wide, traveling to the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, and Ecuador on IB Service Learning Trips. Our most recent Ecuador trip saw 43 students engaging with innovative urban recycling programs in Quito, exploring sustainable farming practices in the Andes mountains, and actively participating in a reforestation project in the Amazon rainforest through collaboration with conservationist Omar Tello. Students were immersed in daily workshops focused on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and citizen science projects supported by National Geographic and BIOWEB Ecuador. For more information about the IB program, please contact IB Coordinator Larry Penner at pennerla@mtwp.net.

# MTSD Curriculum and Instruction Information

## Spanish Immersion Program

The Manheim Township Spanish Immersion program is a district program that immerses students in Spanish while they learn the same MTSD curriculum based on the PA Standards. At the elementary level (grades 1-4), selected students from our six elementary schools learn Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, Health, and Social Studies in Spanish. As the Spanish Immersion students transition to Landis Run Intermediate School, Spanish is incorporated into homeroom, English Language Arts (reading and writing activities), and Social Studies for 5th grade and homeroom and English Language Arts for 6th grade. In grades 7 and 8, students have one period of Spanish daily that focuses on academic language preparation, including speaking, listening, writing, and reading at a high level of proficiency. In grades 9-12, Spanish may be scheduled as an elective for all immersion students.

## Manheim Township Virtual Academy (MTVA)

The Manheim Township Virtual Academy (MTVA) offers K-12 virtual learning opportunities for Manheim Township families. The MTVA is a collaborative effort with Lancaster-Lebanon Virtual Solutions that provides new learning options for students. Through our participation in the largest consortium of online learning in Pennsylvania, students have access to over 300 courses, including traditional and advanced coursework. Our web-based courses meet the increasing demand for high-quality student instruction in a flexible learning environment. Students can enjoy the flexibility of online instruction while participating in extracurricular activities within MTSD.

Enrollment in MTVA provides students the opportunity to maintain active status in MT schools, receive quality online instruction, and participate in all school-related activities. The program holds an academic curriculum with rigorous learning standards and the ability for students to have flexibility in accessing the courses.

**Our School Counselors, MTVA Coordinator, and Supervisor of Virtual Learning are available to provide more information about MTVA including enrollment information.**

## TOWNSHIP TEN!



**GOAL: Every Manheim Township School District student graduates with these 10 employability skills!**



**Resilience and Growth Mindset:** The ability to persist through adversity or change and never give up on yourself or your team. The belief that your skills and abilities can improve with effort.



**Integrity and Social Awareness:** The ability to be honest and take ownership of your actions, regardless of the consequences. The ability to take the perspective of and empathize with others, including those from diverse backgrounds and cultures.



**Critical Thinking and Problem Solving:** The ability to think through complex issues and to question, examine, identify, and create solutions to those issues.



**Communication and Teamwork:** The ability to effectively communicate with all different types of people in oral, verbal, written, and non-verbal forms. The ability to collaborate with others and compromise when necessary for the betterment of the team.



**Initiative and Purpose:** The ability to act according to one's values and goals, while striving to make a positive difference beyond self-interest.

## MTSD K-12 Curriculum Information

Manheim Township School District (MTSD) is proud to display a summary of the K-4 curriculum and syllabi for courses in grades 5 through 12. The MTSD community may access this information on our website at <https://www.mtwp.net/about/curriculum/>.

A process is in place for curriculum review by parents/guardians and students per School Board Policy 105.1. If parents/guardians or students desire to review instructional materials and access information about the curriculum – including academic standards to be achieved, instructional materials, and assessment techniques – please contact the student's principal to arrange for this review.

## Empowering Student Career Paths

Manheim Township continues to bring exciting career experiences and opportunities to MTHS students.

Manheim Township High School is excited to share an Enrichment Opportunities section on the Counseling website: <https://www.mtwp.net/enrichment-opportunities/>. This website connects Manheim Township students to a variety of pathways for personal and professional growth. Students can explore career options, engage in meaningful community service, and discover job opportunities that align with their passions and goals. This hub provides students with a gateway to building a brighter future through hands-on experiences and valuable connections to help students prepare to be college and career-ready.

Since 2022, three Manheim Township students have completed a manufacturing pre-apprenticeship program, 61 students have earned industry-recognized credentials (non-CTC students), and 27 students have participated in various internship opportunities.

## MTSD's Assessment Framework & Guidelines

MTSD's *Assessment Framework & Guidelines* support MTSS and consistency in grading and assessment practices, which are crucial. The Assessment Framework & Guidelines ensure that all students are assessed accurately, fairly, and consistently. The guidelines are designed to ensure that assessment practices and assigned grades reflect student achievement of the standards and concepts outlined in the curriculum.

## MT Special Endorsement

Starting with the Class of 2025, students who complete their grade-level Career Readiness Portfolio requirements and also meet additional criteria in the areas below may be considered for an MT Endorsement to be awarded their Senior Year. More information will be shared with students during the school year.

- GPA Requirements: Unweighted GPA of 75% or higher
- Attendance Requirements: 95% or higher
- Demonstration of the *Township Ten!*
- Evaluation from Teacher or Employer
- Experiential Learning: Must have two of the following:
  - » Industry-recognized credential
  - » Demonstration of industry skills through CCT
  - » Successful completion of a service learning project (minimum of 10 hours)
  - » Letter guaranteeing full-time employment or military enlistment
  - » Completion of an internship, externship, or cooperative education program

## Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

MTSD continues to build a K-12 Multi-tiered Systems of Support Framework (MTSS). MTSS is a proactive and preventative framework that integrates data to inform instruction to maximize student achievement and support student needs. The framework organizes building-level and district resources to address each student's academic and/or behavioral needs within intervention tiers that vary in intensity. MTSS allows for the early identification of learning and behavioral challenges and timely intervention for students who are at risk for poor learning outcomes. The increasingly intense tiers (i.e., Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3), represent a continuum of supports. The MTSS framework is comprised of four essential components: screening, progress monitoring, multi-level prevention system, and data-based decision-making.



## Manheim Township Education Foundation (MTEF)

Since 1993, the Manheim Township Educational Foundation (MTEF) has been providing resources to educators, administrators, and school-related groups for innovative educational programs. In that time, MTEF has granted over \$2 million to projects benefiting Manheim Township School District students in all grades levels. Recent projects have included LEGO Spike Essentials sets for the new STEM classes at each elementary school and LEGO Spike Prime sets for the STEM classes at Landis Run Intermediate School and the High School Library. These new LEGO resources will help educators provide an innovative, hands-on approach to learning science, technology, engineering, and mathematics concepts in a fun and engaging manner. Other grant projects have included visiting artists and authors, tower gardens, early literacy resources, math skill-building resources, and welcome bags filled with school readiness items for incoming kindergarten students. MTEF-funded projects help to increase student engagement, encourage collaboration, differentiate instruction, and highlight cross-curricular and real-world applications of student learning to help elevate the educational experience of learners throughout the district. MTEF is proud to invest in great ideas that take learning to the next level and help Manheim Township nurture and challenge for success.

See page 11 for a list of 2023-2024 grants awarded.





# Early Childhood Learning Corner

Programs and helpful tips for early childhood education in a playful environment.

For complete and detailed information, please visit the Early Childhood Education page on our website:

[www.mtwp.net/community/mt-early-childhood-education/](http://www.mtwp.net/community/mt-early-childhood-education/)

## Sprouting Learners

Manheim Township School District is excited to offer Sprouting Learners sessions for children from newborn to 5 years of age. MT values the connection between family engagement and student success. Realizing that families are the crucial link in education, we have developed an early learning program filled with hands-on and fun learning activities for parents and their children.

Research shows that the child's home can make the most important contribution to early language and literacy learning. The district offers two hands-on classes throughout the school year as we learn and play together. Each session will offer helpful tips on how to educate children in a playful environment. Free learning bags filled with learning materials will be provided for families when they attend the sessions. Information about Sprouting Learners' sessions will be shared on the district's website and through social media platforms.

## Pre-K Owl Hill Program

The Pre-K Owl Hill pre-kindergarten program is funded by the PA Department of Education Office of Child Development and Early Learning. It is offered to the district in partnership with the Owl Hill Learning Centers. The program is held at Bucher Elementary and Brecht Elementary, and classes are staffed by PA State-certified early childhood teachers and qualified early childhood teaching assistants. Students attend the program for 5 ½ hours each day during the school year and follow the MTSD school calendar. Materials and lunch are provided at no cost to families. Any questions regarding the Pre-K Owl Hill Program may be directed to Owl Hill Learning Center's Director, Mrs. Julie Mathers (717) 435-0593 or [matherju@mtwp.net](mailto:matherju@mtwp.net).

## Kindergarten Transition Plan

MTSD uses an online student registration program, and we are currently processing registrations remotely. More information may be found on our Student Registration page (<https://www.mtwp.net/about/student-services/student-registration/>) on our website.

The MTSD Kindergarten Transition Plan includes opportunities for our incoming kindergarten students to receive a "Kindergarten Welcome Bag" at enrollment, participate in storytime, a bus ride, and a school check-in. More information about these events will be communicated by individual school buildings in the spring, in preparation for the next school year.

## STEM Starts Now

STEM Starts Now is a digital subscription program that helps infants and children by supporting their parents/caregivers with regular emails tailored to their child's age and development level. Parents and caregivers of children newborn to age 5 in Manheim Township School District can subscribe for FREE by going to [www.stemstartsnow.com](http://www.stemstartsnow.com). Click on Join, then Group Membership, and enter the code MT2024 for a free subscription.

## Head Start Preschool Program (Thrive to Five!)

Head Start is a high-quality, pre-kindergarten program for children ages 3 to 5 from income-eligible families. Providing children with early childhood education, family support services, nutritious meals, and health screenings, Head Start's early learning program emphasizes language, math, science, art, physical activity, and social skills to prepare children for school success.

Manheim Township School District is proud to offer a Thrive to Five classroom at Brecht Elementary. Thrive to Five, in partnership with CAP (Community Action Partnership), offers various programs for students in our district. The classes are staffed by PA State-certified early childhood teachers and qualified early childhood teaching assistants. Students attend the program for a full day (five hours), five days a week (Monday-Friday) during the school year. Materials and lunch are provided at no cost to families.

Please visit CAP's website to download the Head Start application and review the income eligibility guidelines for income and family size to determine if your family qualifies for consideration into this program.



# Annual Public Notice of Special Education Services and Programs, Services for Gifted Students, and Services for Protected Handicapped Students

State and federal special education regulations require each school district to provide notice to the community by publishing an annual public notice to parents, in newspapers, on the website, or by other media, regarding the school district's identification and screening activities, the location and time of the activities, and also any evaluation activity that takes place in the Manheim Township School District.

The district is required to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to children with disabilities who are determined, through the evaluation process, to need special education and related services under IDEA and 22 Pa. School Code Chapter 14. A school-age child with a disability, who is determined to be in need of special education and related services, is identified as a child with a disability for special education in need of specially designed instruction. The following are disability categories under IDEA: Autism, Deafness, Hearing Impairment, Multiple Disabilities, Other Health Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury, Specific Learning Disability, Speech or Language Impairment, Deaf-Blindness, Emotional Disturbance, Intellectual Disability, Orthopedic Impairment, Visual Impairment.

**Early Intervention:** Children ages 3 through the age of admission to first grade are also eligible if they have developmental delays and, as a result, need special education and related services. A child who is less than the age of beginners and at least 3 years of age is considered to have a developmental delay when one of the following exists: (i) The child's score, on a developmental assessment device, an assessment instrument that yields a score in months, indicates that the child is delayed by 25% of the child's chronological age in one or more developmental areas. (ii) The child is delayed in one or more of the developmental areas, as documented by test performance of 1.5 standard deviations below the mean on standardized tests. Developmental areas include cognitive, communicative, physical, social/emotional, and self-help. For additional information, you may contact IU13 Early Intervention – Preschool Special Education at 717-606-1601.

**Screening Activities:** The Manheim Township School District conducts ongoing screening activities throughout the school year to identify students who may have a disability and be in need of special education services. Screening is conducted in the student's home school unless other arrangements are necessary. If a child is identified by the district as possibly in need of such services, the school district will seek parental consent to conduct an evaluation. Parents can request screening for their children by contacting the building principal in writing.

**Evaluation Process:** When screening indicates that a student may have a disability, the school district will seek parental consent to conduct an evaluation. "Evaluation" is the procedure used to determine whether a child has a disability and if the child's disability is of the nature and extent that the child would be eligible for special education and related services. Evaluation procedures used are determined on an individual basis by a Multi-disciplinary Team, which includes the parents. Evaluation for the purpose of determining if a child has a disability eligible for special education does not include the procedures or basic tests that are administered to all children.

Parents who think their child is exceptional may request, at any time, that the school district conduct an evaluation. This request should be made in writing to the building principal. If a parent makes an oral request for an evaluation, the school district shall provide the parent with a form for that purpose within 10 days of the oral request.

**Independent Educational Evaluation:** Parents also have the right to obtain an independent educational evaluation. The school district must provide to parents, on request, information about where an independent educational evaluation may be obtained and application criteria for independent evaluations. Under certain circumstances, such an independent educational evaluation may be obtained at public expense.

**Consent:** School entities cannot proceed with an evaluation or with the initial provision of special education and related services without the written consent of the parents. For additional information related to consent, please refer to the Procedural Safeguards Notice, which can be found at the PaTTAN website, [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net). Once written parental

consent is obtained, the district will proceed with the evaluation process. If the parent disagrees with the evaluation, the parent can request an independent education evaluation at public expense.

**Program Development:** Once the evaluation process is completed, a team of qualified professionals and parents determine whether the child is eligible. If the child is eligible, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team meets, develops the program, and determines the educational placement. Once the IEP team develops the program and determines the educational placement, school district staff, intermediate unit staff, or charter school staff will issue a Notice of Recommended Educational Placement/ Prior Written Notice (NOREP/PWN). The parent's written consent is required before initial services can be provided. The parent has the right to revoke consent after initial placement.

**Gifted Education:** The Manheim Township School District conducts child find activities for children who may be eligible for gifted services via 22 Pa. School Code Chapter 16. Parents who suspect that their child is in need of specially designed instruction beyond that required in 22 Pa. School Code Chapter 4 (relating to academic standards and assessments) may request in writing that their child be evaluated under the criteria of 22 Pa. School Code §16.22. If a student is both gifted and eligible for special education, the procedures in IDEA and Chapter 14 shall take precedence. For additional information, please contact the Director of Student Services at 717-560-3089.

**Protected Handicapped Students:** In compliance with state and federal law, and 22 Pa. School Code Chapter 15, the Manheim Township School District will provide to each protected handicapped student, without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services or accommodations that are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities. In order to qualify as a protected handicapped student, the child must be of school age with a physical or mental disability that substantially limits a major life activity or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program. These services and protections for "protected handicapped students" are distinct from those applicable to all eligible or exceptional students with disabilities enrolled in special education programs.

For additional information related to Section 504/Chapter 15 services, the parent may refer to Section 504, Chapter 15, and the Basic Education Circular entitled "Implementation of Chapter 15." Parents may also contact the building principal to request further information on the rights of parents and children, provision of services, evaluation and screening (including purpose, time and location), and due process procedures.

**Confidentiality:** The Manheim Township School District, and to some extent the intermediate unit, maintain records concerning children enrolled in the school, including students with disabilities. All records are maintained in the strictest confidentiality. Parental consent, or consent of an eligible child who has reached the age of majority under state law, must be obtained before personally identifiable information is released, except as permitted under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The age of majority in Pennsylvania is 21. Each participating agency must protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information at collection, storage, disclosure, and destruction states. One official at each participating agency must assume responsibility for ensuring the confidentiality of any personally identifiable information. Each participating agency must maintain, for public inspection, a current listing of the names and positions of those employees within the agency who have access to personally identifiable information. For additional information related to student records, the parent can refer to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

This notice is only a summary of the screening, evaluation, and services activities, and rights and protections pertaining to children with disabilities, children thought to be disabled and their parents. For information about these policies and procedures, rights of confidentiality, and access to educational records, or to request an evaluation or screening of a public or private school child, parents should contact the Director of Student Services at 717-560-3089.



## Transportation

Approximately 6,800 children who reside in the Manheim Township footprint are transported to and from numerous schools every day. Students are bused to our nine Manheim Township school buildings, and as per Pennsylvania law, are also transported to (22) non-public schools, (2) Charter Schools and (16) Special Education program locations. Brightbill Transportation, the bus contractor for the district, employs over 54 bus drivers and 17 van drivers. Other bus contractors are also utilized for special situations.

Radios on the buses permit the Brightbill Transportation dispatcher and school personnel to communicate directly with drivers. Cameras assist the driver and school personnel in promoting safety for students on the buses.

Our buses travel approximately 875,000 miles annually to transport students to and from school, field trips, athletic trips, and activity runs.



## Child Nutrition

More than 567,839 school lunches and 274,106 school breakfasts are served annually in our nine schools by a dedicated and well-trained staff of over 45 full- and part-time employees in our Food Services Department.

Over the past year, our Food Services Department provided meal menus with healthier choices at all grade levels. Current school meals include more whole grains, additional fiber, lower sodium content, and a decrease in added sugars. Nutritional guidelines and federal nutrition regulations, which limit the fat content, sugar content, and portion size of foods served, are implemented throughout Manheim Township School District.

For the past few years, we have received a grant to provide a free summer lunch program for students. This summer lunch program has been quite popular; this past summer (2024), it offered a total of 6,213 meals to students! Given the steady interest, we hope to continue offering a summer lunch program.

To learn more about MTSD's Food Services Program, the Student Wellness Policy, child nutrition, and monthly menus, please visit the Food Services page on the website: [www.mtwp.net/about/food-services/](http://www.mtwp.net/about/food-services/)

## Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy

The Manheim Township School District Board of School Directors is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for district students. The Board recognizes that bullying and unlawful harassment create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, detract from the safe environment necessary for student learning, and may lead to more serious violence. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the school district to maintain an educational environment in which bullying and harassment in any form is not tolerated (Policy no. 249).

## McKinney-Vento Act

Students lacking a fixed, regular, or adequate nighttime residence may be eligible for additional educational support through the federal McKinney-Vento Act. For more information on eligibility, please see our website or contact Roseanne Myers at 717-735-3208.

## Pest Management Plan

The Manheim Township School District abides by the provisions of Act 35/36 2002 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania – Integrated Pest Management Plan. In accordance with this plan, non-chemical pest management treatment will be implemented whenever practical. Advance notification of pesticide treatment will be posted prior to all applications. Parents or guardians may also request individual notification prior to pesticide use within the school district by contacting the Plant Services Department. All reports of inspections and our management plan are on file in the Plant Services Office located at the District Office. Anyone interested may examine these reports by appointment by contacting the Plant Services Department at 717-560-3080.

## Asbestos Management Plan

The Manheim Township Asbestos Management Plan has been approved by the Board of Directors and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. All school buildings are inspected every six months by a third-party consultant and have been found to be in compliance with the rules and regulations of AHERA regarding this subject. All reports of inspections and our management plan are on file in the Plant Services Office located at the District Office. Anyone interested may examine these reports by appointment by contacting the Plant Services Department at 717-560-3080.

## Notification of Rights Under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. They are:

- (1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- (2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when the school is notified of the request for a hearing.
- (3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception that permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate education interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
- (4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school system to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202.

## Directory Information Notice

The school may disclose certain information, known as directory information, in its discretion without consent. Directory information is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released. Directory information may be disclosed to entities such as outside organizations that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require schools receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents or students have advised the school that they do not want the student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

Parents or eligible students may refuse to let the school release any or all of this information. If you do not want this information released, you must send written notice annually to your child's school office before the first day of the school year. The following information regarding students is considered directory information: (1) name, (2) photo, (3) home address, (4) telephone number, (5) date and place of birth, (6) major field of study, (7) participation in officially recognized activities and sports, (8) weight and height of members of athletic teams, (9) dates of attendance, (10) degrees and awards received, and (11) the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student.

# MTEF 2023-2024 Grants Awarded \$204,817

## FALL 2023 GRANTS

- **After School Drama Club (Brecht)** Brecht PTO / \$4,000
- **All Are Reading (Nitrauer)** Madison Gillman, Jill Milton, Allyson Weitzel, Shannon Wright / \$528
- **Artist-in-Residence with Steven Courtney (Reidenbaugh)** Lindsay Long / \$3,500
- **Author Visit – Omar Mohamed (Middle School)** Laura Houghton / \$500
- **Bucher's Environmental Science and Arts Investigations (Bucher)** Kristen Rychener / \$2,182
- **Build a House (Landis Run)** Mark Jordan / \$455
- **Cafeteria to Compost (Nitrauer)** Nitrauer PTO / \$2,500
- **Conducting Science with Space Tomatoes (High School)** Ashley Sutton / \$395
- **Core STEAM Programming through Snapology (Bucher)** JoEllen Castronova / \$7,110
- **High School Creative Commons (High School)** Karen Leisey, Brandi Swavely / \$25,000
- **Honesty in Songwriting: A Bluegrass Experience (Middle School)** Rachel Bucher Swank, Laura Topping / \$7,800
- **Kindergarten Welcome Bags (All Elementary)** Donna Buckwalter, Noelle Duscha, Elizabeth Edwards, Barbara Kurtz, Lindsay Long, Lynn Longridge / \$11,750
- **Math Fact Mastery Made Fun: Empowering Students with Reflex Math (All Elementary)** Ashley Keath, Meghan Nephin, Gregory Seiger, Shelby Wright, Allison Zell / \$15,390
- **Student Impact Grant: Students' Journal of Engineering (High School)** \$180

## SPRING 2024 GRANTS

- **3D Scan to 3D Print (High School)** Aaron Krause / \$6,500
- **Brecht Garden Summer Camp, Garden Club, & Raised Bed Rehab (Brecht)** Brecht PTO / \$3,275
- **Brecht Summer Reading Kick-off (Brecht)** Gale Burkhardt / \$1,000
- **Brick by Brick: Constructing a Brighter Future with LEGO Spike Prime (Landis Run)** Trista Mullen, Anita Shoemaker / \$10,400
- **Build a Mantel (Landis Run)** Mark Jordan / \$500
- **DeltaMath (High School)** Rebecca Maryott, Kelley Romyn / \$4,380
- **Flexible Seating for Differentiated Learning (Landis Run)** Allison Corcoran, Christopher Fields / \$5,000
- **Gators and Grand-friends (Schaeffer)** Schaeffer PTO / \$1,565
- **High School Creative Commons Part 2 (High School)** Karen Leisey, Brandi Swavely / \$5,000
- **Lights, Camera, Learning: Stop Motion for Grades 3-8 (District)** Wendy Dagen, Jackie Druck / \$9,750
- **A Little Spot (Nitrauer)** Kristen Canady, Sheryl DePanfilis, Liz Ducey, Missy Weaver, Nikki Wingert / \$1,416
- **Mr. Roger's Legacy of Wonder (District)** Jackie Druck, Ashley Keath, Nick Scales / \$18,100
- **Neff Break Out Room (Neff)** Travis Bash, Olivia Brill, Nicole Rieker / \$8,979
- **Promoting Collaborative Science Classrooms (Landis Run)** Charlie Fisher, Rebecca Hyde, Tracy Poorman, Roy Whited II / \$10,586
- **Reimagining K-4 STEM Education for Innovation & Equity (Elementary)** Jackie Druck / \$28,800
- **Student Impact Grant: Robotics Team (High School)** \$875
- **Student Impact Grant: Startup Club Shark Tank (High School)** \$500



Manheim Township School District  
 P.O. Box 5134  
 Lancaster, PA 17606-5134  
**www.mtwp.net**

Nonprofit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Lancaster PA  
 Permit No. 1646



## Dates to Remember

This calendar represents district-wide events scheduled on or after December 1, 2024.

Friday, December 20, 2024..... Early Dismissal  
 Monday, December 23-Wednesday, January 1, 2025 ..... No School  
 Monday, January 20, 2025 ..... No School  
 Wednesday, January 22, 2025 ..... Early Dismissal  
 Friday, January 31, 2025..... No School  
 Thursday, February 13, 2025 ..... Early Dismissal  
 Friday, February 14, 2025..... No School  
 Monday, February 17, 2025 ..... No School, Snow Make-up Day\*  
 Friday, March 14, 2025..... Early Dismissal

Monday, March 17, 2025 ..... No School, Snow Make-up Day\*  
 Tuesday, April 1, 2025..... Early Dismissal  
 Friday, April 18, 2025 ..... No School  
 Monday, April 21, 2025..... No School  
 Friday, May 23, 2025 ..... Early Dismissal  
 Monday, May 26, 2025..... No School  
 Thursday, June 5, 2025 ..... Graduation Day  
 Friday, June 6, 2025 ..... Last Student Day (Tentative)\*

*\* Last student day is tentative and dependent on snow make-up days. There is a snow make-up day scheduled on Monday, February 17, 2025, and another day is scheduled for Monday, March 17, 2025 if needed. Both of these days will be used first; additional snow make-up days will be added to the end of the school year.*

