

July 22, 2022

Good Afternoon MCA Learning Community!

I hope you and your family are enjoying a restful summer!

Here at school, we are actively preparing for the start of the 2022-2023 school year. I would like to start by mentioning some important dates to start our school year:

## MCA BACK TO SCHOOL DATES

- Wednesday, August 17th - Kindergarten Orientation, 6:00 to 7:30pm
- Wednesday, August 17th - JH/SH Open House, 6:00 to 7:30pm
- Thursday, August 18th - Elementary Open House (Grades 1st to 3rd)  
6:00-7:30pm
- Monday, August 22nd - Elementary Open House (Grades 4th to 6th)  
6:00-7:30pm
- Tuesday, August 23rd - First Day of School, Pre K to 12!



Here are some other questions and answers for the start of the school year:

- 1. Will anything change related to COVID-19 that is different from how we ended last year?**
  - Just like at the end of the 2021-2022 school year, masking will be voluntary. Our district does recommend that anyone not vaccinated wear a mask. Positive cases will quarantine. Household close contacts (vaccination status will play a role) will also quarantine after a positive case within a household. Our district will not contact trace positive cases in school. As always, please contact your building nurse if you have any questions related to COVID-19. **JH-SH Nurse Erin Schwalm** [schwalm@mca.k12.pa.us](mailto:schwalm@mca.k12.pa.us) and **Elementary Nurse Kelly Ryan** [ryank@mca.k12.pa.us](mailto:ryank@mca.k12.pa.us)
- 2. Did anything change related to the dress code?**
  - No changes, but the district did clarify what is and is not allowed on dress-down days. Please see your student handbook for more information about dress code

appropriate clothing. (Found under the “School” tab on the main website.) If your child is in need of dress code-appropriate clothing, please see the following link: <http://www.mca.k12.pa.us/wp/clothing-project/>. Thanks to generous donations from our local community we are able to help students and families in need.

**3. Will MCA again be participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for school breakfast and lunch?**

- Yes, all students that attend the Mount Carmel Area School District will receive a nutritional breakfast and lunch **at no charge**. No application is needed. The district will be offering a la carte items at a cost to the student. Students will have to pay for any item that is in addition to the free breakfast or lunch. Students may purchase a la carte items if they have funds in their caf/trac account. For more information on school breakfast and lunch: <http://www.mca.k12.pa.us/wp/food-services-2/>

**4. Did anything change related to school safety and security?**

- As always, school safety of students and staff is our top priority. Please speak to your child about the importance of not making threats both in school and on social media. Any threat will be handled swiftly by our Administration and School Resource Officer. Our district has made plans to have guest speakers talk to our students early on in the school year on these topics. We expect our students to be leaders and not bully, antagonize, or threaten others. We all play an important role in keeping our buildings safe.

**5. How can I get the most up-to-date information related to school activities?**

- Our district will continue to utilize our alert now system for parents and guardians. Make sure the district has your most up-to-date phone information. We also ask that parents and guardians check the main website often [www.mca.k12.pa.us](http://www.mca.k12.pa.us). Our district will also utilize social media, both Twitter @MCAEducation and Facebook, but again we recommended using the main website for the important information related to our school district. Your school building also has its own Twitter and Facebook pages.

**6. When will bus schedules be released?**

- Student bus schedules will be posted in a few weeks. Please check out <http://www.mca.k12.pa.us/wp/bus-schedules/> for more information. There will be a deadline for any transportation change requests. All change requests must be made prior to Friday, August 12th using the attached form <http://www.mca.k12.pa.us/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/transportation-change-request-form.pdf>. For more information please contact the MCA District Office at 570 339 1500.

We are all very much excited for the start of the 2022-2023 school year! More information will be coming soon from both our Elementary and Junior-Senior High School buildings.

Hope you enjoy the rest of your summer!

Pete Cheddar  
Superintendent