June 28, 2024

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 2024-2025 school year.

I would like to start by mentioning some important dates to start our school year:

Junior-Senior High School Student Schedule Pick-Up:
Tuesday August 13th - beginning at 9:00am

Schedule Changes for Grades 10-12: Wednesday August 14th and Thursday August 15th from 9:00am to 2:00pm. **NOTE**: No schedule changes will occur pick-up day.

NCCTC Open House at MCA: Tuesday, August 20 5:30 - 6:00 pm
(All students, with their parents/guardians, that are attending NCCTC in the Fall are expected to attend.)

Kindergarten Orientation: Thursday August 15, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

TELA Virtual Open House: Monday, August 19, 6:00 pm

JH-SH Open House: Tuesday August 20, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Open House Elementary Grades 1-3: Monday August 19 - 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Open House Elementary Grades 4-6: Tuesday August 20, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

PreK Counts Orientation: Wednesday August 21, 12:30-2:00

First day of school: Thursday, August 22nd

Our 2024-2025 School Calendar can be downloaded here:
https://www.mca.k12.pa.us/wp/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-2025-mca-calendar.pdf

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

1. Did anything change related to the dress code?

Yes. There was an alert now sent to district families on June 21, 2024. Please see the attachment below. If you have any questions — please reach out to your building's main office.

https://www.mca.k12.pa.us/wp/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024-2025_dress_code.pdf

2. 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/

3. 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.

All students will again enter our buildings through our metal detectors every day. Chromebooks must be pulled out of bags and ready to be handed off to our security staff. Students should be reminded to keep their bags and belongings as organized as possible. ***Students must understand that they will be held responsible for belongings in their possession***. Again, please speak to your children about the importance of **not** having anything dangerous that could be considered a weapon or a weapon look-a-like.

4. 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 http://www.mca.k12.pa.us/wp/.

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.

5. 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 9th using the attached form:
http://www.mca.k12.pa.us/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/22-23-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 2024-2025 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