July 7, 2025

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 2025-2026 school year. I would like to start by mentioning some important dates to start our school year:

Pre K Orientation: Monday, August 18th, 12pm to 2:00pm

NCCTC Open House at MCA: Monday, August 18th 5:30 to 6pm *(All students, with their parents/guardians, that are attending NCCTC in the Fall are expected to attend.)*

Open House Elementary Grades 4-6: Monday, August 18th 6pm to 7:30pm

JH-SH Open House: Monday, August 18th. 6pm to 7:30pm

Kindergarten Orientation: Tuesday, August 19th. 6pm to 7:30pm

TELA Open House at MCA: Tuesday, August 19th, 6pm

Open House Elementary Grades 1-3: Wednesday, August 20th 6pm to 7:30pm

First day of school: Thursday, August 21st

Our 2025-2026 School Calendar can be downloaded here:
https://www.mca.k12.pa.us/wp/daily-calendars/

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

1. Where can I find information on the district dress code? Please see attached:
https://go.boarddocs.com/pa/mcar/Board.nsf/files/DJCJU84ED540/$file/Dress%20Code%20Policy%20Attachment.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. Just like you don't get on an airplane and yell “bomb” or enter a movie theatre and yell “fire” students can't make threats to our school or to any staff member or student. “Joking around” will never be tolerated as a student excuse.

Our district has made plans to have guest speakers talk to our students early on in the school year on these topics but we also need parental help in discussions with their children. 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 8th using the attached form:

https://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 2025-2026 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