

Mechanicsville Elementary School
School-to-Home Connection
3838 Sykesville Road, Sykesville, MD 21784
Phone: 410-751-3510 / Fax: 410-751-3516
<http://www.carrollk12.org/mes/>

9/11/09

Principal: Nicholas Shockney

Assistant Principal: Natalie Crist

Dear MES Families,

We are off to a fantastic start to the 2009-2010 school year! Our students have been working very hard in the classroom learning new concepts, skills, and knowledge while building new relationships and lasting friendships with other students and staff members. I am very proud of their hard work and I encourage each of our students to always try their best, take responsibility for their learning, and to set goals they can work toward achieving. Together we will continue to strive to achieve our vision of becoming a model school of caring, sharing, and high student achievement!

Starting this year, we are going to hold true to one of our Green School initiatives of decreasing the amount of paper we use. We will only be sending this email electronically via our new Alert Now system. This system will replace the E-school newsletter system from previous years. A big advantage to this new program is that families do not need to register their email addresses to receive updates. All email addresses that parents and guardians added to the emergency cards will be automatically updated in the Alert Now system. Carroll County Public Schools will also use this system to send out information on closings, delays, and other important events.

We continue to ask that parents and guardians utilize CCPS bus transportation as much as possible. Our parking lot is just not structured to handle a high volume of parent drop-off and pick-up. When we have a high volume of parent drop-off and pick-up, traffic often backs up on Route 32, potentially causing an unsafe situation. As always, please allow our buses the right-of-way and allow the buses plenty of room to exit the loop and turn on to Route 32. Also, please follow the directions of the staff members assigned to the drop-off/pick-up area. We greatly appreciate your understanding and support with this matter.

We have slightly revised our TQ program this year. To reinforce more positive behavior, staff members are awarding students with "Magnificent Mustang Tickets" when they observe a student showing TQ behavior. Teachers and students have set goals for the number of tickets they can earn each month/quarter. When awarded with a ticket, one copy will come home for families and one copy will remain at school. Keep an eye out for these tickets and be sure to have your child share how they earned the ticket!

MES would not be what it is without the support of our parents, guardians, and community. We are so thankful to be part of such a supportive community focused on helping all students succeed. We encourage all parents and guardians to get involved through volunteering, joining the PTA, and being informed about what is happening at school. Our first PTA meeting will be on September 16th at 7 PM in the Media Center. We hope you can attend! Have a great school year!

Many Thanks,
Nick Shockney and Natalie Crist

CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ADA COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

The Board of Education of Carroll County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in employment or provision of services, programs, or activities. Information concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act is available from the Director of Facilities, 410-751-3177. Persons needing auxiliary aids and services for communication should contact the Office of Community and Media Relations at 410-751-3020 or publicinfo@carrollk12.org, or write to Carroll County Public Schools, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, MD 21157. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, use Relay or 7-1-1. Please contact the school system at least one (1) week advance of the date the special accommodation is needed.

Homeroom Parents Needed

We are currently looking for Homeroom Parents for the following teachers: Austin, Easterday, Schroder, Wineke, Blank, Purper, Heim, Thurston, Dorsey, Batanglo, and Darnley. This program was started last year and was a great success. Basically the Homeroom Parents work with the teachers on special events and projects. These events and projects often can be done at home and communications are usually done through e-mail. If interested and for more information please contact Karen Kohr at 410.552.6777 or skkahr@verizon.net.

Hello Prior Instrumental Music Parents!

If your son or daughter is now in middle or high school and is no longer playing his/her instrument, MES could benefit from the leftover items that may be hanging around your house. Things like cork grease, rosin, valve oil, slide grease, unused reeds, and even our band or strings book can be utilized by students. You can place items in Mrs. Anastasion's mailbox in the front office.

Gifted and Talented Program

The CCPS Gifted and Talented Program is designed to meet the needs of highly able learners and maximize student achievement. Gifted and Talented teachers, in collaboration with classroom instructors, will continue to provide a continuum of interventions designed to meet the needs of Gifted and Talented Education Program participants. This may include in-class instruction, pullout groups, and/or resource development with classroom teachers. A Referral and Review Team will determine student eligibility for interventions. Indicators for participation include observational checklists, standardized test scores, work samples, and classroom performance. Although students are not formally identified until the beginning of third grade, Gifted and Talented teachers will continue to provide a range of services for grades K-5, including the Primary Education Thinking Skills for grade 2.

Volunteer Program - Making a Difference Together

Level II Volunteers (classroom helpers, tutors, chaperones, mentors, etc) are required to attend an annual training session at least seven (7) school days prior to volunteering. School Days are defined as days when schools are open for students. Many schools include volunteer training sessions with other school activities/events, so look for dates and times in school newsletters and e-school updates. Volunteer training obtained during the 2008-2009 school year is valid through September 30, 2009. Plan to attend a volunteer training session before October 1, 2009 to avoid a break in your volunteer service. Listed below are the training dates/times for Mechanicsville:

September 16 th @ 6:30 p.m.	September 23 rd @ 9:30 a.m.
October 8 th @ 6:30 p.m.	October 22 nd @ 6:30 p.m.
November 5 th @ 9:30 a.m.	November 18 th @ 6:30 p.m.

Thanks in advance for supporting student achievement by volunteering in our schools. Additional information about the school system's volunteer program can be obtained by contacting Jane Farver, CCPS Volunteer Program Coordinator at ejfarve@carrollk12.org or 410-386-1536.

Camera Systems on Buses

Video/audio cameras are placed on school buses to protect students and staff and provide for a safe and orderly environment. The privacy of students and the recording are kept secure and are reviewed only by the authorized Carroll County Public Schools personnel. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Doolan / Director of Transportation Services at 410-751-3229

Cafeteria News

September 14-18 is Maryland Farm to School Week. We will be having fresh fruits and vegetables from Baugher's and Spring Meadow Farms.

Cafeteria Menu: 9/14 – 9/18

Mon. 9/14 – Sloppy Joe on roll or tuna salad on roll, French fries, pears and animal crackers

Tues. 9/15 – Popcorn chicken, hot vegetable, roll, applesauce, cookie

Wed. 9/16 – Hard/Soft taco, corn, watermelon, orange cream bar

Thurs. 9/17 – Pepperoni or cheese pizza, vegetable, fruit, cookie

Fri. 9/18 – Pancake or waffles, scrambled eggs, sausage, orange juice and cinnamon apples

Important Dates

9/16: MES Volunteer Training @ 6:30 p.m.

9/18: Early Dismissal – School dismisses at 12:20 p.m.

9/23: MES Volunteer Training @ 9:30 a.m.

9/25: Picture Day - SMILE

Request from School Nurse

If you have any clothes that your child no longer wears, please consider donating them to the school nurse. We are in need of boys/girls sizes 4 thru 8.

Picture Day is Coming

Be sure to bring your smile on Picture Day - Friday, September 25th.

Consent And Release - Permission to Photograph, Videotape or Audiotape

Throughout the school year, the Carroll County Public School System frequently covers school activities and may use your child's photograph, video image, or voice for educational, informational, or public relation purposes with or without identification by name.

If you do not wish to have your child's voice reproduced on tape or to have his/her image appear in such things as a video, a photograph, or the school website, please notify the school principal in writing. It is assumed that parents and guardians consent to their children being audiotaped, photographed, videotaped, or having their image placed on a school website by the school system unless such notification is received.

There are also occasions when the media cover certain school events (such as when a government leader visits a school). If you do not wish to have your child's name or likeness published by the media, you should address your concerns directly to the school involved so that the media is so advised. Please be advised that the school system has no control over the media when they are covering activities such as sporting events and musical programs that are open to the public.

Use of Student Work on Websites or in Publications

There may be times throughout the year when the Carroll County Public School System wishes to display student work on school websites or in publications. If you do not wish to have your child's art, poetry, writing, etc., appear on school websites or in publications, please notify the school principal in writing. It is assumed that parents and guardians consent to their child's work being displayed on school websites or in publications unless such notification is received.

From the Desk of Denise Preller - School Counselor

I am offering group counseling for children experiencing the effects of separation, divorce or a change in their family. Children tend to cope better with these family changes when they have the chance to share their feelings with others going through a similar experience. I am offering group counseling sessions that will begin during the first week in October and continue for six sessions.

The following concepts will be discussed to help your child understand the changes in his or her family and the feelings that go along with the changes.

There are many different types of families
Grown-ups get divorced for grown-up reasons, not because of their kids
It's good to share your feelings
Although divorce is the end of some things, it is also the time for new beginnings
How to relax when feeling stressed
I'm still me
Things I like to do

The group will meet once a week for six, thirty minute sessions. If you feel your child can benefit from this opportunity, please tear off and sign the following permission form by September 25th. If you have any questions, please call me at (410) 751-3510.

Sincerely,
Denise Preller
School Counselor

I give my child _____, permission to participate
in the Family Change Group. My child's teacher is _____
Parent/Guardian's signature _____