

A-Z Guide for New Families

from the MMR Home & School Association (HSA)

A-Attendance - If your child is too sick to come to school or might be contagious to others, you will need to call the school (215) 412-7101 and leave a message on the attendance line with the name of your child, their teacher, and the reason for the absence. The office staff includes Donna McFadden and Sally Frazzette, who are all always willing and able to answer any questions you may have!

B-Back to School Night - The purpose of Back to School Night is to meet your child's teacher and for some general information about the procedures, expectations and curriculum for the year. If you have individual questions or concerns, you should email the teacher and ask to schedule an individual meeting after this date.

C-Contacting teachers - At Back to School Night, your child's teacher will give you his or her school email address. Mrs. Judge strongly encourages parents to contact the teachers with any questions or concerns as soon as they arise. The teachers will get back to you in a timely manner. If you need to get a hold of the teacher before the day's end about a change in transportation, or with something important, call the school office.

D-Dress Code - The school handbook (posted on the MMR school Parents Page: <http://mmrschool.org/for-parents>) has full information on the required school uniform. From the first day of school until October 31, students may wear the warm weather uniform (khaki shorts from Flynn and O'Hara may be worn instead of the khaki pants, and no sweaters required). The regular uniform is required from Nov. 1st through March 31st. Uniforms can be purchased at Flynn and O'Hara year round.

***On the assigned gym day for each class, the gym uniform are worn. Purchase gym uniforms in the school office** during regular hours or may be ordered online: <http://mmrschool.org/gym-uniforms>). Payment must be made by cash or check. Orders placed online will be sent to home upon receipt of payment.

E-Education - MMR was named a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence in 2010 and again in 2019 and the administrators, teachers and staff continue to stay focused on the success of every student.

F-First Day of School - For the Kindergarten students, the first full day of school will be Monday, September 9th. The Kindergarten students will already have met their teachers at orientation and should go right to their classroom on the first day. The first day of school for Grades 1-8 is Wednesday, September 4th. The new students in grades 1-8 should also go directly to their classrooms, and there will be teachers at both entrances to the school to assist them in finding their classrooms, or someone in the office can help.

G-Getting to know the school and other new students -There will be a New Family Ice Cream Social on Sunday, September 8th for which you should have received

an invitation. There will be ice cream served and activities for children. **They will be able to meet new students and get to know each other. This is also a great opportunity for the parents to interact with one another, and meet the HSA Board members to find out what kinds of events are offered throughout the year.**

H-Home and School Association (HSA) - Once you have paid the HSA Membership fee, you are welcome to attend any of the HSA activities throughout the year. Inside your new family envelope is a list of all of the HSA events. You can volunteer for HSA activities online: <http://mmrschool.org/join-get-involved>. Let us know which events you would be interested in helping with, and event chairs will reach out to you shortly before each event to coordinate further details.

You do not need a membership card when you attend any of the activities or any of the HSA meetings once you have paid; just simply give your last name at the door.

There are **two HSA General Meetings during the school year (The dates are listed on the school calendar and reminders will be sent out in the Weekly Update).**

Save the Dates: TBD

Please plan to attend these meetings to hear more from Mrs. Judge with important school information, to hear from the HSA Board about upcoming activities and ways to get involved, and to hear from special guests about issues pertaining to the school-aged child. ****The HSA Board is offers free babysitting at each general meeting so you can attend. Please look for information on how to sign up to take advantage of the free babysitting in the Weekly Notes prior to the general meetings.**

I-Student Illness/Health - If your child has a special health concern, such as allergies or asthma, you will need to contact the school nurse at the beginning of the school year and make an appointment with the nurse to take in any medication needed for the child, as well as an action plan for asthma or allergies. If your child has a specific food allergy, like a peanut or nut allergy, you should also let the teacher know at the beginning of the year, especially if the child will need to sit at a separate table in the cafeteria.

J- Mrs. Judge - Mrs. Judge is the principal of MMR and she has an open door policy. If you need to speak with her, Mrs. Judge's email is djudge@mmrschool.org. She also can be reached by calling the main office phone number (215) 412-7101.

K-Kindergarten - Kindergarten is a big step into the school setting and it will take most children some time to adjust to the full day in school and things like going to the cafeteria, getting to know all the teachers, and seeing the older kids in the hallways. The kindergarten teachers are very aware of the challenges of the first few weeks of school and will make this transition for the kids a positive and stress free one for the children.

L-Lunch Account - The cafeteria offers a hot school lunch every day of the week, as well as drinks and snacks. The daily lunch menu listed by month on the school website. There is also a list of the food ingredients for those students with food allergies. The cafeteria uses a Point of Sale system for lunch, which requires the advanced deposit of funds into each family's lunch account and operates on a declining balance method.

- 1) You can send in a deposit for your family's lunch account (if your child will be buying lunch or a snack or drink in the cafeteria at any time throughout the year), by cash or a check with your child in an envelope labeled "Lunch Account" with your family name.
- 2) In addition, you can register online and add to the lunch account by visiting EZSchoolPay.com and pay by Visa or MasterCard (A flat \$4 fee applies per transaction). Student will have a school nametag with a barcode that will be scanned when buying lunch to keep track of the lunch account. An email will be sent when funds need to be replenished. For questions, contact Mrs. DePaul at 215-412-7101 ext. 568.

M-Medications - Medication should be given to the student before or after school whenever possible. If physician's directions require medicine be administered during the school day, it will be given from the main office or the nurse's office. Authorization forms are required before medication is given. These forms must be signed by the parent AND PHYSICIAN and are available in the office or on the MMR School site Forms page: <http://mmrschool.org/forms>. All medication must be in its original container.

N-News & Events - On Sunday evenings prior to each school week, an email with The Weekly Update is emailed by the school office. The Weekly Update includes information about upcoming school events and activities, reminders of dates of meetings, days off school, etc. There is also a link with the News and Events under the School tab on the MMR website. Make sure you read the Weekly Update to keep up to date on what is happening in school.

The HSA Board also encourages you to attend the two general meetings during the school year with information of school events, speakers on topics about the school-aged child and updates on school items. The homeroom with the highest number of parent attendees at the general meetings will receive a free dress down day.

***Names of families who have attended both general meetings are placed in a drawing for a chance to win one of four \$250 tuition vouchers for the next school year.**

O-Opportunities to get involved - There are many opportunities during school and after school for students to get involved. Many of the student clubs are only offered for upper grade students, but some of the student clubs offered at MMR are:

- **Student Council**
- **Project Peace**
- **MMR Honors Club**
- **MMR Service Club**
- **Voices of Praise**
- **Junior and Senior Band**
- **Art Studio**
- **Odyssey of the Mind**
- **Reading Olympics**
- **Theatre Arts Club**

P-Parent Participation - If you would like to get involved and meet other parents, there are many opportunities to volunteer at school and at school functions. The HSA relies on the help of parent volunteers to guarantee events can happen year after year. In addition to the sign-up sheets that will be available at the New Family Social, Back to School Night, and at the General Meetings. Parents can also sign up to help at a school event on the MMR website, under HSA tab and then click on "browsing our Volunteer form" link. We ask you to find something you are interested in getting involved with because without parent volunteers, these events would not be possible.

Q-Questions -As new parents to MMR, there are always questions you may have, and until you have been through a full year at the school, there may be things you just don't know much about or feel you have enough information for. For these questions, contact the HSA Members by email: hsa@mmschool.org. (They are all veteran parents and will be happy to answer even the simplest question because sometimes you don't know until you ask). You also can call the school office, they will be happy to answer your questions too!

R-Recess - If the weather is good (not raining or snowing or freezing), the students will be outside for recess daily. For the winter months, make sure your child wears to school what you would want them to wear out to recess.

S-School supplies - There is a list of the supplies parents need to provide on the MMR School Stationery and Supplies page: <http://mmschool.org/stationery-and-supplies>. The individual teachers might ask for additional supplies at Back to School Night and/or on their individual teacher page.

T-Teachers Websites - On the school website, under the "For Students" tab, you can find the "Teachers Websites" pages: <http://mmschool.org/homework-sites>. This will take you to the list of all the teachers K-8 including the special subject teachers. If you click on the name of your child's teacher, it will take you to his/her teacher page, which has an announcement page with important information/dates specific to your child's class, as well as homework (for students in grades 1-8), a calendar of events, and the class schedule, etc.

You should look at the teacher page each night, as many teachers use this as a supplement to what students should be writing down in their homework assignment book.

U-Uniform Sale -At each of the HSA General meeting, a used uniform sale will be set up 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Here, you can purchase gently worn and used uniform items. All items are \$1.00 with the exception of kilts and jumpers, which are \$5.00. All proceeds are donated back to MMR. For more information on the uniform exchange or with questions, contact Kimberly O'Neill at: Kimberly_petit28@yahoo.com

V-Volunteers - Parent volunteers are needed, sometimes to help in the classroom and often to assist with HSA sponsored events. In order to be a volunteer, adults must have several clearances on file with the school. Please visit <https://www.mmschool.org/volunteer-requirements> for details and links to obtain these clearances. They are free for volunteers and will allow you to participate in many wonderful activities with your child(ren).

W-Website - The MMR school website (www.mmschool.org) is the place to go to find out any information you should need to know. You can find the teacher's email addresses (under Staff Directory link), the school calendar, information about academics and school handbook. MMR is "going green" and therefore, much of the communication to parents from teachers, administration and the HSA will be through the school website and email.

X-Xtracurricular activities - In addition to the school-sponsored clubs mentioned above, MMR's CYO Sports include boys baseball, girls softball, girls volleyball, track and field,

cross country, boys and girls intramural basketball, football, co-ed soccer, and cheerleading. Information on registration for fall, winter, and spring sports can be found on www.mmrschool.org and by clicking on the MMR CYO page (under useful links on the bottom of the site).

Y-You are Important to us - Each family and each child at MMR school is very important to us. The HSA looks forward to getting to know you!

Z-Zero - The number of silly questions you can ask as a new parent. So just ask!

MMR HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION **EVENTS 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

September

Kindergarten & New Family Coffee

Join us for coffee and treats and learn more about the Home and School Association. Held in the main school lobby.

Kindergarten & New Family Social

Welcome to MMR! Get to know your new classmates with this fun family get-together. Held in the Catholic Education Center (main school gymnasium).

October

7-8th Grade Dance

Open to MMR students and their friends attending other area schools. Tickets available at the door. Held in the Catholic Education Center (main school gymnasium).

Fall Festival

Whether you prefer tricks or treats, here's Halloween fun for your family. Join us at Delaware Valley College for hayrides, pumpkin picking and other classic fall activities ideal for the entire family.

Designer Bag Bingo

Get your girlfriends together for this popular and fun bingo night, and your chance to win a designer bag. The event sold out last year, so get your tickets early.

K-6th Grade Skating Party

Join us at Inline 309 in Hatfield for some skating fun! Pretzels and water will be available for purchase.

November

Donuts With Dad

Before you rush to work and school, take a break out for breakfast. Sweet treats, juice, and milk will be served. Held in the Catholic Education Center (main school gymnasium).

7-8th Grade Dance

Open to MMR students and their friends attending other area schools. Tickets available at the door. Held in the Catholic Education Center (main school gymnasium).

December

Secret Santa Workshop

It's the season of giving, and your kids want in on the fun, too. During this in-school shopping event, classes will visit a mini shop set up in the school library and have the opportunity to purchase gifts for their family.

Breakfast with Santa

He needed a break from making his list and checking it twice, so Santa's taking a break at MMR. Join us for a full breakfast spread, special Christmas games and crafts, and of course, photos with the big guy. Held in the Catholic Education Center (main school gymnasium).

January

Family BINGO Night

Enjoy a few rounds of the classic game and a night of family fun. Held in the Catholic Education Center (main school gymnasium).

Catholic Schools Week events

The HSA is proud to help celebrate the many people that make our Catholic school great. Events include the Grandparent's Day Art Show on Sunday, Wednesday's Open House, and in-school teacher and student appreciation events.

Blood Drive

In partnership with the American Red Cross. Held in the Catholic Education Center (main school gymnasium).

February

7-8th Grade Dance

Open to MMR students and their friends attending other area schools. Tickets available at the door. Held in the Catholic Education Center (main school gymnasium).

March

5th Grade Social

Welcome to the middle school years! Kick off being an upperclassman with a celebration just for you. Held in the Catholic Education Center (main school gymnasium).

Adult Trivia Night

Save the date: details to be released soon!

April

6-8th Grade Dance

Open to MMR students and their friends attending other area schools. Tickets available at the door. Held in the Catholic Education Center (main school gymnasium).

May

Mommy Market

Save the date: details to be released soon!

6-8th Grade Dance

Open to MMR students and their friends attending other area schools. Tickets available at the door. Held in the Catholic Education Center (main school gymnasium).

Muffins With Mom

Before you rush to work and school, take a break out for breakfast. Sweet treats, juice, and milk will be served. Held in the Catholic Education Center (main school gymnasium).

Daddy/Daughter Event

Save the date: details to be released soon!

June

End of Year Picnic

School's almost out for summer! Celebrate another amazing year with this all-school party on the school grounds featuring crafts, food, and fair-style fun.

MMR Home and School Association **Board Members (2020-2021):**

President	Carol Roberts
Treasurer	Stephanie Shortall
Vice President	Erika Maholick
Communications Chair	Jennifer Morrison
Social Events Co-Chair	Jenn Cartwright
Social Events Co-Chair	Katie Brady Quigg
Social Events Co-Chair	Michelle Lemasters
Recording Secretary	Jen Armeli
Elections Chair	Linda Musitano

Have questions or comments? Please send them to hsa@mmschool.org.

Mark Your Calendars for the HSA General Meetings: TBD