

2023-2024

Annual Report

to the Community

NURTURE AND CHALLENGE FOR SUCCESS

Access • Opportunity • Educational Excellence

Welcome

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Annual Report to the Community for Manheim Township School District (MTSD). This publication reflects a small sample of the many achievements of our students and staff this past year. We are dedicated to building the future of tomorrow's leaders, and we are committed to informing the community of our district's accomplishments. In this report, you will find the past school year's (2022-2023) class of 2023 Academic Profile, this year's (2023-2024) district finances, and the current state of the district.

MTSD VISION

We are committed to the achievement of each individual's potential by providing ...

A nurturing learning community that:

- Provides safety and mutual respect
- Stimulates curiosity and creativity
- Promotes personal integrity
- Encourages good citizenship

A challenging learning community that:

- Establishes high expectations and promotes individual achievement
- Encourages critical thinking and problem solving
- Inspires lifelong learning
- Provides opportunities for extracurricular experiences
- Facilitates collaborative communication
- Embraces the richness of diversity



MTSD North Star

To create a welcoming and supportive environment where all students, staff and families feel a sense of belonging.

MTSD Board of School Directors

The members of the Manheim Township School Board are volunteers who give their time and effort to provide MTSD students with a quality education while maintaining fiscal responsibility for their decisions. Board agendas and board meeting minutes can be found on our website at www.mtwp.net.

Mr. Mark Boldizar
Mr. Patrick Greuter
Mrs. JoAnn Hentz
Dr. Terrance Henderson
Mrs. Erin Hoffman
Mr. Michael Landis
Mrs. Nikki Rivera
Mrs. Kim Romano
Ms. Sara Woodbury

Dr. Robin L. Felty,
Superintendent
Dr. Dale Reimann,
Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Donna Robbins,
Chief Operating Officer
Dr. Katelyn Barlet,
Supervisor of Multilingual Learning
Mr. Paul Barr,
Supervisor of Special Education
Mr. James Dierolf,
Director of Food Services
Mrs. Maddalena DiMarco-Beard,
Supervisor of Special Education
Mrs. Jaclyn Dudzic,
Supervisor of Health Services
Mr. Matthew Gillis,
Director of Transportation
Mr. Tom Koch,
Director of Plant Services
Mr. Daniel Lyons,
Director of Technology Services

School Administration

Mr. David Rilatt,
Principal, High School
Mrs. Lisa Lyons,
Assistant Principal, High School
Mrs. Tara Newhouse,
Assistant Principal, High School
Mrs. Laura Rakoczy,
Assistant Principal, High School
Mr. Tim Hollenback,
Athletic Director, High School
Mr. Matthew Johns,
Dean of Students, High School
Dr. Christine Resh,
Principal, Middle School
Dr. Andrew Hull,
Assistant Principal, Middle School
Mrs. Megan Misnik,
Assistant Principal, Middle School
Dr. William Gillis,
Principal, Landis Run Intermediate

Mrs. Amber Mentz,
Director of Special Education
Mrs. ShaiQuana Mitchell,
Director of Communications and Marketing
Mrs. Courtney Nowak,
Director of Student Services
Mrs. Bette Oberle,
Director of Safety, Security and Custodial Services
Mrs. Jessica O'Gorman,
Supervisor of K-12 English Language Arts & Federal Programs
Mrs. Kelley Romyn,
Supervisor of Math & Virtual Learning
Dr. Sharon Schaefer,
Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Mrs. Jennifer Snyderman,
Business Manager
Mrs. Katherine Ward,
Director of Human Resources, Title IX Coordinator

Mrs. Amy Houck,
Assistant Principal, Landis Run Intermediate
Mrs. Alexis Yakstis-Startoni,
Assistant Principal, Landis Run Intermediate
Dr. Nicole Irish,
Principal, Brecht Elementary
Dr. Andrew Martin,
Principal, Bucher Elementary
Ms. Travis Bash,
Principal, Neff Elementary
Mr. Dana Schrodell,
Principal, Nitrauer Elementary
Ms. Lindsay Capoferri,
Principal, Reidenbaugh Elementary
Mrs. Elizabeth Edwards,
Principal, Schaeffer Elementary

School Board Work Sessions

- Second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., except Dec. and July.
- Agendas and information on the meeting location can be found on the website at www.mtwp.net.

School Board Meetings

- Third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., except Dec. and July.
- Agendas and information on the meeting location can be found on the website at www.mtwp.net.

Non-Voting Members

Jennifer Davidson,
Secretary
Donna Robbins,
Treasurer
Jack Commerce,
Student Representative
Ben Smith,
Student Representative



Superintendent's Letter

We are pleased to bring you the 2023-2024 Annual Report for the Manheim Township School District (MTSD). The many achievements highlighted in this report are a testament to the ongoing dedication and support of our students, staff, administration, families, and the larger Manheim Township community. And as more families move into the community and enroll their students into the school district, we continue to be proud of the educational excellence in all nine of our schools. The MTSD is recognized annually at the national and state levels for student achievement. It also demonstrates student success in the visual and performing arts, athletics, and other extracurricular activities.

We remain focused on the district's North Star and the goals of our MTSD Comprehensive (Strategic) Plan (which can be found on the school district website). There are several key initiatives we are implementing this year in light of the North Star and Comprehensive Plan goals; some of these projects are part of a multi-year planning effort:

- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) projects, curriculum pathways, and industry partnerships;
- Expanded college & career readiness curriculum, activities, and interorganizational collaboration and partnerships;
- Continued development of a Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework that promotes powerful learning through high-quality instruction targeted to students' needs, with interventions and supports offered based on their performance and success;

- Safe and supportive school environment;
- Enhanced internal and external communication process for the school district.

In addition to the focus on our Comprehensive Plan goals, we are also strategizing for the increased student enrollment in our district and the future needs of the schools and main campus facilities. Using valuable data and information from a demographic study presented in January 2023, and an updated facility study in August 2023, the district is planning for a phased approach to addressing the identified areas of need. As the district moves forward in its planning efforts, public presentations will occur during scheduled School Board meetings.

In follow up to the meaningful feedback from the May 2023 Communication Survey, we have established several key goals to address the identified internal and external communication needs of the district. These goals (which can be found on the school district website) are part of a new MTSD Communication Plan that provides us with a clear, concise direction for communicating effectively with all stakeholders.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school community and the students that we proudly serve.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robin L. Felty, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

MTSD Celebrates its 175th Anniversary

Through 175 years of unwavering dedication, the MTSD has been a beacon of educational excellence, fostering growth, igniting passions, and empowering generations of learners. As we celebrate this significant milestone, we reflect upon the remarkable journey that has shaped our district's identity and set the stage for an even brighter future. Together, we have cultivated an educational community where knowledge thrives, innovation flourishes, and dreams find their wings. With gratitude for the past and boundless optimism for what lies ahead, we unite to honor our rich history and confidently embrace the next chapter of our extraordinary legacy. Together, let us continue to inspire, uplift, and empower every student, teacher, and member of our vibrant community, as we embark on a new era of limitless possibilities. Here's to 175 years of educational excellence and to the countless milestones yet to come.





About the Manheim Township School District

MTSD extends over 23 square miles and serves a community of approximately 44,000 citizens in 16,000+ residential dwellings, with 27 percent of these households having children. MTSD is a diverse school district in Lancaster County with approximately 800 employees who care for over 6,000 students in grades K-12. The district addresses our students' needs by providing educational services in one high school, one middle school (grades 7-8), one intermediate school (grades 5-6), and six elementary schools (grades K-4), as well as a Virtual Academy. Please visit the Manheim Township School District website for more specific information about each of the Manheim Township schools.

Statistics

DISTRICT INFORMATION (as of October 2023)

Career and Technical Center Students

64 (Full day) 36 (Half day)

103

Homeschooled Students

766* 479

Private/Parochial School Students

Gifted Education Students

*Based on information provided by the private/parochial schools

Special Education Students in District

990

(Includes IU and out-of-district placements)

Charter Students in District

86 (Cyber) 6 (Brick/Mortar)

325

English Language Learners (ELL)

STAFF INFORMATION

Average Teacher Salary: \$75,195
Starting Teacher Salary: \$60,000

11.7

Average Years of Teaching Experience

Teachers with Advanced Degrees

354

Staff Profile

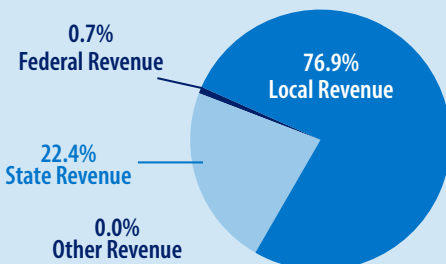
Teachers	453
Elementary	157
Landis Run Intermediate	60
Middle School	71
High School	119
Special Education	46
Support Staff	289
Administration	37
TOTAL	779

FINANCE INFORMATION

MTSD Budget

2023-2024 Total Budget \$117,957,859
Millage Rate 16.6921

MTSD Millage Ranking in Lancaster County –
7th Lowest Out of 16 Districts



MTSD Revenue

Local Revenue	\$89,222,172
State Revenue	\$25,935,680
Federal Revenue	\$814,832
Other Revenue	\$35,000
Total Revenue	\$116,007,684

MTSD Expenditures

Instructional	\$65,380,542 (55.4%)
Support	\$34,621,501 (29.4%)
Non-instructional Services	\$1,745,544 (1.5%)
Other Expenditures & Financial Uses	\$16,210,272 (13.7%)
Total Expenditures	\$117,957,859

STUDENT INFORMATION

Current Enrollment Data

(as of October 2023)

Brecht Elementary	243
Bucher Elementary	420
Neff Elementary	274
Nitrauer Elementary	472
Reidenbaugh Elementary	495
Schaeffer Elementary	327
Landis Run Intermediate	914
Middle School	907
High School	1,966
TOTAL	6,018

Student Demographics

White/Caucasian	61.68%
Black or African American	5.72%
Hispanic	16.10%
Asian	9.70%
Multi-Racial/Ethnic	6.73%
American Indian/Alaskan	0.03%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.03%

Free and Reduced Lunch

(as of October 2023)

High School	32.57%
Middle School	34.18%
Landis Run Intermediate	34.89%
Brecht Elementary	48.55%
Bucher Elementary	38.09%
Neff Elementary	35.40%
Nitrauer Elementary	34.81%
Reidenbaugh Elementary	21.84%
Schaeffer Elementary	42.25%

Total Districtwide: 34.16%



For additional information on the school district budget, please visit the Business Office page on our website at www.mtwp.net/about/business-office.

Manheim Township High School

Class of 2023 Academic Profile

National Merit Program 1 Finalist — 1 Semifinalist — 8 Commended



Post High School Plans

College-bound students in the class of 2023 plan to attend more than **120 institutions** in over **25 states**. Based on data available in August 2023, the figures shown represent the percentages of the total class of **428* students** continuing their education at various types of schools.

*403 out of 428 graduates have reported their post-secondary plans.

78%

Four-Year or
Two-Year
Colleges

13%

Employment

2%

Military

7%

Undecided/
Unknown

Lancaster County Career & Technology Center

Manheim Township is proud to partner with the Lancaster County Career & Technology Center (LCCTC) to offer our students in grade 12 the option of pursuing full-day technical educational training in a variety of industries. The LCCTC also offers half-day programs for students in grade 11 to explore different aspects of a particular career field. Introductory courses explore careers in construction, culinary arts, health care, manufacturing, transportation, and visual communications.

Industry Certifications Earned 2022-2023

Our students earned industry certifications through the Lancaster County Career & Technology Center. They include some of the following:

Act 31 - Mandatory Reporter
Automotive Lighting
Automotive Mechanics Technology PA
Basic Rigging for Rope Rescue
BLS Healthcare Provider
Bolted-On Exterior Panels - Part 1 & 2
Certified Emissions Inspector
Certified Safety Inspector, Cat III
Child Care and Support Services Management PA
Collision Repair and Refinishing Technology
Commercial and Advertising Art PA
Computer Technology/
Computer Systems PA
Culinary Arts Cook (NOCTI-ACF)
Dental Assisting
Diesel Technology
Electromechanical Engineering Technology PA
EMT
EPA 608 Certification
Fork Lift Operator

Get Started with Center-Based Care
Graphic Production Technology
Hazardous Airborne Pollutant Reduction
Hazardous Material Storage and Disposal
Health Assisting
HIPAA
Homeland Security PA
HVAC Maintenance Technology PA
Intro to Collision Repair process overview
Intro to Mech, Repair Terms/Vehicle Protection I
Intro to Mechanical Systems Terminology - Part 2
Intro to Refinishing/Corrosion Protection - Part 1 & 2
Intro to Safety Systems
Intro to Tools, Equip., Attachment Methods - Part 1 & 2
Intro to Vehicle Construction Materials
Intro to Vehicle Parts Terminology - Part 1 & 2
Local Bloodborne and Airborne Pathogens
Medical Assisting

Mobile Ladder
NCCER Credentials (various trades)
OSHA Certification
OSHA Certification - Healthcare
Pediatric First Aid CPR and AED
Plumbing Technology/Plumber PA
Radiation Health & Safety (RHS)
Recognition and Identification of Hazardous Materials
Refinishing Equipment
Removing/Installing Exterior Trim, Pinstripes and Decals
Removing and Installing Hardware
Interior Trim

Retail Commercial Baking (NOCTI-ACF)
ServSafe Food Handler Certification
ServSafe/Manager Food Safety Certification
Single and Extension Ladder
Small Engine Technology
Step Ladder
Surface Preparation and Masking
Tracpipe Certification
Vehicle Construction Material Types
Vehicle Technology and Trends 2013
Veterinary Assistant - PA
Web Design
Welding





Advancing STEM Education in Our School District

At Manheim Township School District, our commitment to STEM education is more than just a curriculum—it's a culture. Our passion for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) permeates every grade level, from PreK to high school. We don't just teach STEM; we live it. By fusing STEM principles into other content areas, we enable students to see the interconnectedness of these subjects and the real-world applications.

The heart of our STEM education lies in providing students with opportunities for hands-on, real-world problem-solving. Whether it's through STEM industry tours, guest speakers and community-wide events, or collaborative curriculum projects that encourage students to think critically and work together, we ensure classroom learning extends beyond those walls.

At the core of MTSD's curriculum is the "Engineering by Design" process, which infuses collaboration, creativity, technical literacy, and problem-solving into every level of our PreK-12 curriculum. We encourage students to explore basic computing and robotics, apply design concepts and principles through play and exploration, and analyze how things work, nurturing a deeper understanding of STEM concepts.

This process begins with our youngest students – those who are not yet in school and are enrolling in our kindergarten programs. During the enrollment process, families are given a *STEM Starts Now: Countdown to Kindergarten* (© 2023 STEM Starts Now) box of activities. Each STEM activity box is thoughtfully curated to include information and materials that help young learners to develop language, literacy, science, technology, engineering, and math skills necessary for success in school and a lifetime of new learning.

At the elementary level, we introduce students to the Engineering by Design concepts, and offer opportunities to engage in authentic, project-based learning experiences in STEM Labs. This commitment to STEM instruction continues to the intermediate, middle school, and high school curriculum, which provide an array of rigorous STEM courses in programming, product design, graphic design, computer-aided drafting and design, video production, robotics, transportation technology, and several other key areas. For high school students with a passion for engineering, our *Project Lead the Way* (PLTW) engineering courses offer avenues for exploration, covering topics such as Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, and Civil Engineering and Architecture.

During the 2023-2024 school year, we are aligning the recently released "STEEL" academic standards – Pennsylvania's integrated academic standards for Science, Technology & Engineering, and Environmental Literacy & Sustainability, at all grade levels.

Our STEM culture also holds a larger community-wide focus. We partner with local businesses in order to provide job shadowing, internships, and apprenticeships to students at the secondary level. Through an exciting partnership with Lancaster County STEM Alliance, our middle school is collaborating with a local STEM-based business to facilitate a collaborative project that builds engineering skills and inspires students to pursue a possible career in the STEM-related industry.

Through hosting an annual Engineering Day for interested high school students who learn from guest speakers in STEM-related fields, and an annual community STEM Fest for Grades K-6 students and families (with activities led by high school students in the Technology & Engineering Club), we strive to empower students with important real-world knowledge and critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Consequently, our students are then better prepared to fill in-demand jobs in Lancaster County and beyond.

Pennsylvania Seal of Biliteracy

Manheim Township High School proudly awards the Pennsylvania Seal of Biliteracy (PASB) to graduating seniors who demonstrate proficiency in English and one or more world languages by the time they complete high school. This recognition is achieved through various means, including showcasing intermediate-high proficiency on approved world language and English language assessments, demonstrating multicultural competence by embracing two or more languages, and meeting the school's graduation requirements. The PASB serves multiple essential purposes: it provides future employers a valuable tool for identifying candidates with biliteracy skills, it grants colleges and universities a method for recognizing applicants with high proficiency in a world language, and it equips students to be well prepared for college, career, and

active participation in our global society. This seal also celebrates and values the linguistic and cultural diversity that many students bring to the classroom and the workplace. Furthermore, it encourages partnerships between educational institutions, businesses, and community organizations, thereby fostering increased language learning opportunities in the dynamic 21st-century global economy.

If students aspire to pursue the Pennsylvania Seal of Biliteracy, they are encouraged to reach out to their school counselor, world language teacher, or ELD teacher by October 31 of their senior year for guidance and support. Additional information can be found on the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association website at psmla.net/pa-seal-biliteracy.

International Baccalaureate (IB)

Manheim Township juniors and seniors have the opportunity to earn an internationally recognized diploma that allows them to earn college credit while in high school, and gives our students another advantage in the college admissions process. Our IB program fosters a student-centered, interdisciplinary approach to learning, emphasizing critical thinking skills.

In the 2023-24 academic year, we proudly mark the 12th year of offering the IB program at our high school. Students apply during their sophomore year.

Beyond the classroom, our students have ventured far and wide, recently traveling to Ecuador on the IB Service Learning Trip. This experiential journey saw 43 students engaging with innovative urban recycling programs in Quito, exploring sustainable farming practices in the Andes mountains, and actively participating in a reforestation project in the Amazon rainforest through collaboration with conservationist Omar Tello. They were immersed in daily workshops focused on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and citizen science projects supported by National Geographic and BIOWEB Ecuador. For more information about the IB program, please contact IB Coordinator Larry Penner at pennerla@mtwp.net.



MTSD Curriculum & Instruction Information

Spanish Immersion Program

The Manheim Township Spanish Immersion program is a district program that immerses students in Spanish while they learn the same MTSD curriculum based on the PA Standards. At the elementary level (grades 1-4), selected students from each of our six elementary schools learn Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, Health, and Social Studies in Spanish. As the Spanish Immersion students transition to Landis Run Intermediate School, Spanish is incorporated into homeroom, literacy (reading and writing activities), and social studies for 5th grade, and homeroom and literacy for 6th grade. In grades 7 and 8, students have one period of Spanish daily that focuses on academic language preparation, with speaking, listening, writing, and reading at a high level of proficiency. In grades 9 - 12, Spanish may be scheduled as an elective for all immersion students.

Manheim Township Virtual Academy (MTVA)

The Manheim Township Virtual Academy (MTVA) offers K-12 virtual learning opportunities for Manheim Township families. The MTVA is a collaborative effort with Lancaster-Lebanon Virtual Solutions that provides new learning options for students. Through our participation in the largest consortium of online learning in Pennsylvania, students have access to over 300 courses, traditional and advanced coursework. Our web-based courses meet the increasing demand for high-quality student instruction in a flexible learning environment. Students can enjoy the flexibility of online instruction as well as participation in extracurricular activities within MTSD and our neighborhood schools!

Enrollment in MTVA provides students the opportunity to maintain active status in MT schools, receive quality online instruction, and participate in all school-related activities. The program holds an academic curriculum with rigorous learning standards, and the ability for students to have flexibility in accessing the courses.

Our school counselors and MTVA Coordinator are available to provide more information about MTVA including enrollment information.

TOWNSHIP TEN!



GOAL: Every Manheim Township School District student graduates with these 10 essential skills!



Resilience and Growth Mindset: The ability to persist through adversity or change and never give up on yourself or your team. The belief that your skills and abilities can improve with effort.



Integrity and Social Awareness: The ability to be honest and take ownership of your actions, regardless of the consequences. The ability to take the perspective of and empathize with others, including those from diverse backgrounds and cultures.



Critical Thinking and Problem Solving: The ability to think through complex issues and to question, examine, identify and create solutions to those issues.



Communication and Teamwork: The ability to effectively communicate with all different types of people in oral, verbal, written and non-verbal forms. The ability to collaborate with others and compromise when necessary for the betterment of the team.



Initiative and Purpose: The ability to establish and pursue goals, while acting in accordance with one's values and striving to make a positive difference beyond self-interest.

Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

MTSD continues to build a K-12 Multi-tiered System of Supports Framework (MTSS). MTSS is a prevention framework that organizes building-level and district resources to address each individual student's academic and/or behavioral needs within intervention tiers that vary in intensity. MTSS allows for the early identification of learning and behavioral challenges and timely intervention for students who are at risk for poor learning outcomes. The increasingly intense tiers (i.e., Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3) represent a continuum of supports.

MTSD's Assessment Framework & Guidelines

MTSD's *Assessment Framework & Guidelines* support MTSS and consistency in grading and assessment practices, which are crucial. The *Assessment Framework & Guidelines* ensure that all students are assessed accurately, fairly, and consistently. The guidelines are designed to ensure that assigned grades reflect student achievement of the standards and concepts outlined in the curriculum.

MTSD K-12 Curriculum Information

Manheim Township School District (MTSD) is proud to display a summary of the K-4 curriculum and syllabi for grades 5 through 12 courses. The MTSD community may access this information on our website at www.mtwp.net/about/curriculum/.

A process is in place for curriculum review by parents/guardians and students per School Board Policy 105.1. If parents/guardians and/or students desire to review instructional materials and access information about the curriculum, including academic standards to be achieved, instructional materials and assessment techniques, please contact the student's principal to arrange for this review.

MT Special Endorsement

Starting with the Class of 2025, students who complete their grade-level Career Readiness Portfolio requirements and also meet additional criteria in the areas below may be considered for an MT Endorsement to be awarded their senior year. More information will be shared with students during the school year.

- GPA Requirements – unweighted GPA of 75% or higher
- Attendance Requirements – 95% or higher
- Demonstration of the Township Ten!
- Evaluation from Teacher or Employer
- Experiential Learning – must have two of the following:
 - » Industry-recognized credential
 - » Demonstration of industry skills through CCT
 - » Successful completion of a service learning project – minimum of 10 hours
 - » Letter guaranteeing full-time employment or military enlistment
 - » Completion of an internship, externship, or cooperative education program

High School Internships and Opportunities: Empowering Student Career Paths

Students have actively engaged in a diverse range of fields, including education, languages, Speech/Language Pathology, OT/PT, sports management, and business through our internship program. Additionally, we offer a manufacturing pre-apprenticeship program, where students can earn valuable certifications and articulate courses to colleges. Manheim Township High School is also working on aligning their courses with specific career pathways to help students make informed choices about their education and future careers. This approach fosters connections between classroom learning and career skills, particularly in STEM/STEAM-related fields, enhancing their preparedness for adult life.

Early Childhood Learning Corner

For complete and detailed information, please visit the Early Childhood Education page on our website: www.mtwp.net/community/mt-early-childhood-education/

Pre-K Owl Hill Program

The Owl Hill pre-kindergarten program is funded by the PA Department of Education Office of Child Development and Early Learning. It is offered to the district in partnership with the Owl Hill Learning Academy. The program is held at Bucher Elementary and Brecht Elementary, and classes are staffed by PA state-certified early childhood teachers and qualified early childhood teaching assistants. Students attend the program for five and a half hours each day during the school year and follow the MTSD school calendar. Materials and lunch are provided at no cost to families. Any questions regarding the Pre-K Owl Hill program may be directed to Owl Hill Learning Academy via Julie Mathers at 717-537-8304 or matherju@mtwp.net.

Kindergarten Transition Plan

MTSD uses an online student registration program, and we are currently processing registrations remotely. More information may be found on our Student Registration page (www.mtwp.net/about/student-services/student-registration/) on our website.

The MTSD Kindergarten Transition Plan includes opportunities for our incoming kindergarten students to participate in a story time, a bus ride, and a school check-in. More information about these events will be communicated by individual school buildings in the spring, in preparation for the next school year.

STEM Starts Now

STEM Starts Now is a digital subscription program that helps infants and children by supporting their parents/caregivers with regular emails tailored to their child's age and development level. Parents and caregivers of children newborn to age 5 in Manheim Township School District can subscribe for FREE by going to www.STEMstartsnow.com. **Click on Start Here, then Join Now, and complete the Organizational Membership using code MT2023 for a free subscription.**

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION IS CRITICAL TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS

By age 3, 85% of a child's core brain structure is formed, but less than 4% of public educational funds are dedicated to this period. (Schiavelli & Benchoff, 2001)

From age 3 onward, children should be learning about 2,500 words per year. (Biemiller & Slonim, 2001)

What Hospitals Say

"Plant the Seed of Learning has allowed schools and medical professionals to partner with each other to better support our families and their understanding of brain development and the crucial influence of play on child development."

WHAT THE PARENTS SAY

"I have been able to use ideas from the sessions immediately."

"It is so nice to be educated as a parent on the topics that will help my baby learn."

"I like having the time to walk with other parents."

Quality early learning requires the commitment of families, schools, and community members in order for children to reach their potential as they are set on the path to success in school and life.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH...

Lancaster County School Districts
Wellspring Ephrata Hospital
Lancaster General Hospital
Early Childhood Innovative Connections
Lancaster County Early Learning Centers
Popovsky Studios
Local area Libraries
United Way of Lancaster County

What Educators Say

"Working with other educators and professionals in the county has benefited our students tremendously."

"Through collective impact, we have been able to share resources to assist our families with the transition to kindergarten."

Proud partner with

United Way of Lancaster County



BONDING THROUGH LEARNING

Free Family Learning Sessions
Designed for children ages 2-4

Please see our website for session locations and registration information.

Our goal is to influence our future learners in Lancaster County through meaningful activities that empower and educate both parents and children.



planttheseedoflearning.org

Manheim Township Educational Foundation (MTEF)

Manheim Township Educational Foundation (MTEF) provides resources to educators, administrators, and school-related groups for innovative educational programs. Since 1993, MTEF has funded 583 grants, totaling more than \$1,850,000, including recent projects like podcasting studios – equipped with soundboards, microphones and headphones – which provide high school students with opportunities to demonstrate their learning in new ways and gain experience with emerging technology and media. From artists-in-residence, including Melinda Steffy, who guided middle school students through the creation and installation of a unique mural during the 2022-2023 school year, and impactful speakers bringing important messages to our students and faculty, to instructional tools that build students' math and reading skills, MTEF-funded projects increase engagement, differentiate instruction, encourage collaboration, integrate disciplines, connect curriculum to real life, and elevate education across the district. MTEF is proud to support "aha moments" – the inspirations, insights, and ideas – that take learning experiences to the next level and help Manheim Township nurture and challenge for success.



MTEF Grants Awarded \$153,895

FALL 2023 GRANTS

- **After School Drama Club K-2nd Grade (Brecht)** Brecht PTO / \$4,000
- **All Are Reading (Nitrauer)** Allyson Weitzel, Shannon Wright, Madison Gillman, Jill Milton / \$528
- **Artist-in-Residence with Steven Courtney (Reidenbaugh)** Lindsay Capoferri / \$3,500
- **Author Visit – Omar Mohamed (Middle School)** Laura Houghton / \$500
- **Bucher's Environmental Science and Arts Investigations (Bucher)** Kristen Rychener / \$2,182
- **Build a House (Landis Run)** Mark Jordan / \$455
- **Cafeteria to Compost (Nitrauer)** Nitrauer PTO / \$2,500
- **Conducting Science with Space Tomatoes (High School)** Ashley Sutton / \$395
- **Core STEAM Programming through Snapology (Bucher)** JoEllen Castronova / \$7,110
- **High School Library Creative Commons (High School)** Karen Leisey, Brandi Swavely / \$25,000
- **Honesty in Songwriting: A Bluegrass Experience (Middle School)** Laura Gingerich, Rachel Bucher Swank / \$7,800
- **Kindergarten Welcome Bags (All Elementary)** Elizabeth Edwards, Lindsay Capoferri, Barbara Kurtz, Noelle Duscha, Donna Buckwalter, Lynn Longridge / \$11,750
- **Math Fact Mastery Made Fun: Empowering Students with Reflex (All Elementary)** Gregory Seiger, Allison Zell, Meghan Nephin, Shelby Wright, Ashley Keath / \$15,390
- **Phonics Kits (Reidenbaugh)** Noelle Duscha, Barbara Kurtz, Laura Maranan / \$3,200
- **Quiz Bowl 2023-2024 (High School)** Zach Mussmon / \$2,500
- **Student Impact Grant: Students' Journal of Engineering (High School)** Vraj Parikh / \$180

SPRING 2023 GRANTS

- **Calming Corner (Reidenbaugh)** Heatherann Paul / \$1,100
- **Chess Team Summer Program (Student Impact Grant)** / \$120
- **Decodable Books Do Wonders for Our Students (Schaeffer)** Betty Jo Reinhart, Elizabeth Edwards / \$2,920
- **Functional Learning Lab (Landis Run)** Cathy Patterson / \$1,011
- **Interactive Demonstration Table and Innovative Small Appliance Ware (MTHS)** Melissa Diehm / \$12,134
- **James L and Jane L Wertz Memorial Scholarship (MTHS)** / \$200
- **Outdoor Classroom – Phase 2 (Schaeffer)** Elizabeth Edwards, Schaeffer PTO / \$5,000
- **Sally Hawthorne Art Education Scholarship (MTHS)** / \$1,000
- **Sensory Space (MTMS)** Middle School PTO / \$2,200
- **Spring/Summer Garden Lessons and Maintenance (Brecht)** Brecht PTO / \$1,000
- **Start Up Club Shark Tank Event (Student Impact Grant)** / \$600
- **STEM for ALL Students (Landis Run)** Cathy Patterson, Jackie Druck / \$4,965
- **The Herren Project (MTMS & MTHS)** Jacqueline Phillips, Christine Resh, David Rilatt / \$17,000
- **The Power of Play (MTHS)** Brandi Swavely / \$14,250
- **Time Capsule Project (MTSD)** ShaiQuana Mitchell / \$2,000
- **Tower Garden (Reidenbaugh)** Sugely Reyes / \$1,405



Annual Public Notice of Special Education Services and Programs, Services for Gifted Students, and Services for Protected Handicapped Students

State and federal special education regulations require each school district to provide notice to the community by publishing an annual public notice to parents, in newspapers, on the website, or by other media, regarding the school district's identification and screening activities, the location and time of the activities, and also any evaluation activity that takes place in the Manheim Township School District.

The district is required to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to children with disabilities who are determined, through the evaluation process, to need special education and related services under IDEA and 22 PA School Code Chapter 14. A school-age child with a disability, who is determined to be in need of special education and related services, is identified as a child with a disability in need of specially designed instruction. The following are disability categories under IDEA:

Autism, Deafness, Hearing Impairment, Multiple Disabilities, Other Health Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury, Specific Learning Disability, Speech or Language Impairment, Deaf-Blindness, Emotional Disturbance, Intellectual Disability, Orthopedic Impairment, Visual Impairment

Early Intervention: Children ages 3 through the age of admission to first grade are also eligible if they have developmental delays and, as a result, need special education and related services. Developmental delay is defined as a child who is less than the age of beginners and at least 3 years of age and is considered to have a developmental delay when one of the following exists: (i) The child's score, on a developmental assessment device, on an assessment instrument that yields a score in months, indicates that the child is delayed by 25% of the child's chronological age in one or more developmental areas. (ii) The child is delayed in one or more of the developmental areas, as documented by test performance of 1.5 standard deviations below the mean on standardized tests. Developmental areas include cognitive, communicative, physical, social/emotional, and self-help. For additional information, you may contact IU13 Early Intervention – Preschool Special Education at 717-606-1601.

Screening Activities: The Manheim Township School District conducts ongoing screening activities throughout the school year to identify students who may have a disability and be in need of special education services. Screening is conducted in the student's home school unless other arrangements are necessary. If a child is identified by the district as possibly in need of such services, the school district will seek parental consent to conduct an evaluation. Parents can request screening in writing for their children by contacting the building principal.

Evaluation Process: When screening indicates that a student may have a disability, the school district will seek parental consent to conduct an evaluation. "Evaluation" is the procedure used to determine whether a child has a disability and if the child's disability is of the nature and extent that the child would be eligible for special education and related services. Evaluation procedures used are determined on an individual basis by a Multi-disciplinary Team, which includes the parents. Evaluation for the purpose of determining if a child has a disability eligible for special education does not include the procedures or basic tests that are administered to all children.

Parents who think their child is exceptional may request, at any time, that the school district conduct an evaluation. This request should be made in writing to the building principal. If a parent makes an oral request for an evaluation, the school district shall provide the parent with a form for that purpose within 10 days of the oral request.

Independent Educational Evaluation: Parents also have the right to obtain an independent educational evaluation. The school district must provide to parents, on request, information about where an independent educational evaluation may be obtained and criteria application for independent evaluations. Under certain circumstances, such an independent educational evaluation may be obtained at public expense.

Consent: School entities cannot proceed with an evaluation or with the initial provision of special education and related services without the written consent of the parents. For additional information related to consent, please refer to the Procedural Safeguards Notice, which can be found at the

PaTTAN website, www.pattan.net/. Once written parental consent is obtained, the district will proceed with the evaluation process. If the parent disagrees with the evaluation, the parent can request an independent education evaluation at public expense.

Program Development: Once the evaluation process is completed, a team of qualified professionals and parents determine whether the child is eligible. If the child is eligible, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team meets, develops the program, and determines the educational placement. Once the IEP team develops the program and determines the educational placement, school district staff, intermediate unit staff, or charter school staff will issue a Notice of Recommended Educational Placement/ Prior Written Notice (NOREP/PRN). Your written consent is required before initial services can be provided. The parent has the right to revoke consent after initial placement.

Gifted Education: The Manheim Township School District conducts child find activities for children who may be eligible for gifted services via 22 PA School Code Chapter 16. Parents who suspect that their child is in need of specially designed instruction beyond that required in 22 PA School Code Chapter 4 (relating to academic standards and assessments) may request in writing that their child be evaluated under the criteria of 22 PA School Code §16.22. If a student is both gifted and eligible for special education, the procedures in IDEA and Chapter 14 shall take precedence. For additional information, please contact the Director of Student Services at 717-560-3089.

Protected Handicapped Students: In compliance with state and federal law, and 22 PA School Code Chapter 15, the Manheim Township School District will provide to each protected handicapped student, without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services or accommodations that are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities. In order to qualify as a protected handicapped student, the child must be of school age with a physical or mental disability that substantially limits a major life activity or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program. These services and protections for "protected handicapped students" are distinct from those applicable to all eligible or exceptional students with disabilities enrolled in special education programs.

For additional information related to Section 504/Chapter 15 services, the parent may refer to Section 504, Chapter 15, and the Basic Education Circular entitled Implementation of Chapter 15. Parents may also contact the building principal to request further information on the rights of parents and children, provision of services, evaluation and screening (including purpose, time and location), and due process procedures.

Confidentiality: The Manheim Township School District, and to some extent the intermediate unit, maintain records concerning children enrolled in the school, including students with disabilities. All records are maintained in the strictest confidentiality. Parental consent, or consent of an eligible child who has reached the age of majority under state law, must be obtained before personally identifiable information is released, except as permitted under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The age of majority in Pennsylvania is 21. Each participating agency must protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information at collection, storage, disclosure, and destruction states. One official at each participating agency must assume responsibility for ensuring the confidentiality of any personally identifiable information. Each participating agency must maintain, for public inspection, a current listing of the names and positions of those employees within the agency who have access to personally identifiable information. For additional information related to student records, the parent can refer to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

This notice is only a summary of the screening, evaluation, and services activities, and rights and protections pertaining to children with disabilities, children thought to be disabled and their parents. For information about these policies and procedures, rights of confidentiality, and access to educational records, or to request an evaluation or screening of a public or private school child, parents should contact the Director of Student Services at 717-560-3089.



Transportation

Approximately 6,800 children who reside in the Manheim Township footprint are transported to and from numerous schools every day. Students are bused to our nine Manheim Township school buildings, and as per Pennsylvania law, are also transported to (22) non-public schools, (2) Charter Schools and (16) Special Education program locations. Brightbill Transportation, the bus contractor for the district, employs over 54 bus drivers and 17 van drivers. Other bus contractors are also utilized for special situations.

Radios on the buses permit the Brightbill Transportation dispatcher and school personnel to communicate directly with drivers. Cameras assist the driver and school personnel in promoting safety for students on the buses.

Our buses travel approximately 875,000 miles annually to transport students to/from school, field trips, athletic trips, and activity runs.



Child Nutrition

More than 536,473 school lunches and 204,179 school breakfasts are served annually in our nine schools by a dedicated and well-trained staff of over 45 full and part-time employees in our Food Services Department.

Over the past year, our Food Services Department provided meal menus with healthier choices at all grade levels. Current school meals include more whole grains, additional fiber, lower sodium content, and a decrease in added sugars. Nutritional guidelines and federal nutrition regulations, which limit the fat content, sugar content, and portion size of foods served, are implemented throughout Manheim Township School District.

For the past few years, we have received a grant to provide a free summer lunch program for students. This summer lunch program has been quite popular; this past summer (2023), it offered a total of 4,899 meals to students! Given the continued interest, we hope to continue offering a summer lunch program.

To learn more about MTSD's Food Services Program, the Student Wellness Policy, child nutrition, and monthly menus, please visit the Food Services page on the website: www.mtwp.net/about/food-services/

Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy

The Manheim Township School District Board of School Directors is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for district students. The Board recognizes that bullying and unlawful harassment create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, detract from the safe environment necessary for student learning, and may lead to more serious violence. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the school district to maintain an educational environment in which bullying and harassment in any form is not tolerated (Policy no. 249).

McKinney-Vento Act

Students lacking a fixed, regular, or adequate nighttime residence may be eligible for additional educational support through the federal McKinney-Vento Act. For more information on eligibility, please see our website or contact Roseanne Myers at 717-735-3208.

Pest Management Plan

The Manheim Township School District abides by the provisions of Act 35/36 2002 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania – Integrated Pest Management. In accordance with this plan, non-chemical pest management treatment will be implemented whenever practical. Advance notification of pesticide treatment will be posted prior to all applications. Parents or guardians may also request individual notification prior to pesticide use within the school district by contacting the Plant Services Department. All reports of inspections and our management plan are on file in the Plant Services Office located at the District Office. Anyone interested may examine these reports by appointment by contacting the Plant Services Department at 717-560-3080.

Asbestos Management Plan

The Manheim Township Asbestos Management Plan has been approved by the Board of Directors and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. All school buildings are inspected every six months by a third-party consultant and have been found to be in compliance with the rules and regulations of AHERA regarding this subject. All reports of inspections and our management plan are on file in the Plant Services Office located at the District Office. Anyone interested may examine these reports by appointment by contacting the Plant Services Department at 717-560-3080.

Notification of Rights under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. They are:

- (1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the record(s) may be inspected.
- (2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when the school is notified of the request for a hearing.
- (3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception that permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate education interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
- (4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school system to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202.

Directory Information Notice

The school may disclose certain information, known as directory information, in its discretion without consent. Directory information is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released. Directory information may be disclosed to entities such as outside organizations that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require schools receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents or students have advised the school that they do not want the student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

Parents or eligible students may refuse to let the school release any or all of this information. If you do not want this information released, you must send written notice annually to your child's school office before the first day of the school year. The following information regarding students is considered directory information: (1) name, (2) photo, (3) home address, (4) telephone number, (5) date and place of birth, (6) major field of study, (7) participation in officially recognized activities and sports, (8) weight and height of members of athletic teams, (9) dates of attendance, (10) degrees and awards received, and (11) the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student.





Manheim Township School District
P.O. Box 5134
Lancaster, PA 17606-5134
www.mtwp.net

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Dates to Remember

This calendar represents districtwide events scheduled on or after December 1, 2023.

Friday, December 22, 2023..... Early Dismissal
Monday, December 25-Friday, December 29, 2023 No School
Monday, January 1, 2024 No School
Monday, January 15, 2024 No School
Tuesday, January 23, 2024 Early Dismissal
Friday, February 2, 2024 No School
Thursday, February 15, 2024 Early Dismissal
Friday, February 16, 2024..... No School
Monday, February 19, 2024 No School, Snow Make-up Day*
Thursday, March 7, 2024 Early Dismissal

Friday, March 8, 2024..... No School
Monday, March 11, 2024 No School, Snow Make-up Day*
Friday, March 29, 2024..... No School
Monday, April 1, 2024..... No School
Thursday, April 4, 2024 Early Dismissal
Friday, May 24, 2024 Early Dismissal
Monday, May 27, 2024..... No School
Thursday, June 6, 2024 Graduation Day
Friday, June 7, 2024 Last Student Day (Tentative)*

** Last student day is tentative and dependent on snow make-up days. There is a snow make-up day scheduled on Monday, February 19, 2024, and another day is scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2024, if needed. Both of these days will be used first; additional snow make-up days will be added to the end of the school year.*