

## Notes From the Principal

It's hard to believe we are a quarter of the way through the school year. October was a busy month, filled with many exciting events for students. A couple of the October highlights included a visit from our local fire departments for Fire Prevention Week and our annual Halloween Parade and Dance Party. November is a short month with only 16 days of instruction. We will have early dismissal days on November 3rd and 22nd. Students will be dismissed at 11:30 on these days. During the month of November, we have many activities and special events planned for students including a Veterans Day assembly, a visit from author Alan St. Jean for a Writing Olympics event, and a Monthly PBIS Reward.



## Upcoming Activities

**Nov 3** - 3 hour Early Dismissal/In-Service

**Nov 6-9** - Writing Olympics for students w/ Author Alan St. Jean

**Nov 10** - Veterans Day Assembly - for students and special guests

**Nov 16** - PTO Meeting - 6:00


**Nov 20** - PBIS Monthly Student Reward

**Nov 22** - 3-hour early dismissal

**Nov 23-28** - Thanksgiving Break

**Dec 19** - Renovo (K-6) Holiday Christmas Concert @ BHS - 6:30pm

## School Day Schedules

	Mill Hall Elem. (K-4) Liberty-Curtin Elem. (K-4) Robb Elem. (K-4) Renovo Elem. (K-6) Woodward Elem. (K-4)	Central Mountain Middle School (5-8)	Bucktail High School (7-12) Central Mountain High School (9-12)
Doors Open Bus Arrival Parent Drop-Off Breakfast	7:20 am	8:00 am	8:00 am
Instruction Begins	7:55 am	8:20 am	8:20 am
Instruction Ends	2:30 pm	3:15 pm	3:20 pm
Bus Departure Parent Pick-Up	2:30 pm	3:15 pm	3:20 pm

## Messages and Updates through Class Dojo

Elementary schools have moved back to ClassDojo as our messaging app. Please be sure to connect (or reconnect) so you don't miss any important information from your child's school or



teachers.

Stay informed about:

School events and activities

Family-teacher conferences

Important deadlines and assignments

Emergency alerts and school delays/dismissals/closures

## **Receive District-Wide Notifications**

Scan the QR code below to receive district-wide notifications which includes:

Weather alerts/delays/early dismissals/closures

Emergency alerts

District-wide events

Important dates



**Join your child's adventure  
on ClassDojo!**



**Scan to join Administration's Class**

Click on the button above to access the information.

## **Fall Federal Programs Updates**

At the end of October or during early November, each elementary school will hold a Policy 917/918 Committee Meeting. As Title I schools, we are required to make sure that we hold at least one

meeting per year where we review and revise our community engagement strategies. During these meetings we also review our Schoolwide Improvement Plans, because this is a good way to let families and community know what we are working on, what our goals are, and how we plan to grow our Title I program with the Federal funds we are provided through Title I. If you are interested in becoming a part of our Title I team, please reach out to your building Interventionist or principal.

All elementary schools within the district are Title I schoolwide schools and receive Title I federal funds to support the positions of Interventionist and Title I Associates. We determine how to use the funding to staff our buildings based on family input and our school data.

At all school levels, we use Title IV federal funds to purchase incentives for PBIS (our positive school-wide behavior supports) rewards, and we emphasize the goal of following school rules in all schools.

Required documents for families:

Right to Request Qualifications of Teachers (see Annual Notices and Policy Review button above) - if you wish to request a paper copy, please contact [rmurty@kcsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:rmurty@kcsd.k12.pa.us) . Note: If your child is taught for four or more weeks by a teacher who is instructing in a content area for which they are not currently certified, the district must notify you. Four-week notification letters will be added here if that becomes necessary.

Non-Discrimination Statement (see Annual Notices and Policy Review button above) - if you wish to request a paper copy, please contact [rmurty@kcsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:rmurty@kcsd.k12.pa.us).

[Title I District Parent Policy - Policy 918](#)

[Coaching Newsletter for Families - How We Teach Reading](#)

[Title I Complaint Procedure](#)

[Title I Schoolwide Plan 2023-2024](#)



## Homeless Awareness Month Activities

#KeystoneCares is partnering with KCSD and Sleep in Heavenly Peace to bring awareness to homelessness.

**If you believe that you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness, please reach out to Christina Manning, KCSD Homeless Liasion, [cmanning@kcsd.us](mailto:cmanning@kcsd.us) or 570-893-4900 ext. 2105 or Kyle Galer, KCSD School Social Worker, [kgaler@kcsd.us](mailto:kgaler@kcsd.us) or 570-893-4900 ext. 2341**

Look for information coming home with your student about a food drive being held from 11/11 - 11/17. Each grade has been assigned a specific category to donate. The class with the most

donations wins a donut party!!

**RED** is the color for homelessness. We are asking that everyone wear **RED** on Friday, 11/17 to show your support.

The National Day of Giving is on 11/28. KCSD will be recognizing the National Day of Giving on 11/22. Look for information from our school on how our school plans to give to [Sleep in Heavenly Peace](#). Sleep in Heavenly Peace helps build beds for students in need. Each school will either be collecting monetary donations or donations of pillows and bedding supplies. Please help them ensure that **NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!**®.

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

### Attendance a priority at KCSD!

Help us reach our Attendance Goal of \_\_\_\_%.

For the month of October, our students showed up \_\_\_\_% of the time.

Remember: Excuses need to be turned in within 3 days of an absence.  
Use your school's attendance email to make sure that the excuse notes get turned in on time.

**Wildcats on the Prowl: AttendanceMatters Now!**

**Be Buck Strong: Show Up and Belong!**

### ATTENDANCE EMAILS

Email your excuses to the addresses below  
→ Save them in your phone contacts today!

**BT**attendance@kcsd.us - BHS & BHS  
**CMHS**attendance@kcsd.us - CMHS  
**CMMS**attendance@kcsd.us - CMMS  
**LC**attendance@kcsd.us - Liberty-Curtin  
**MH**attendance@kcsd.us - Mill Hall  
**SV**attendance@kcsd.us - Seneca  
**ROBB**attendance@kcsd.us - Robb  
**WW**attendance@kcsd.us - Woodward





*Going on a trip?*  
Please complete the [educational trip form](#) & submit it to your learners' attendance office for review & approval - this must be turned in at least 1-week in advance.

Having issues with getting your student to school? Is your student experiencing school stress?

**Reach Out TODAY:** 

On go to [Beeper/Learn/KCSDtoday](#)



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

In one school year

When a student misses 2 days a month, they will **MISS**

**20** DAYS A YEAR

**30** DAYS OF MATH

**60** DAYS OF ELA

**+1 YR** & OVER 1 YEAR OF SCHOOL BY GRADUATION

It's never too late to improve attendance!

- Going to school more often will make a difference
- Attendance habits will follow your student into work & life.

## EVERY DAY COUNTS

School & future success starts with **GOOD ATTENDANCE!!**

How parents can help?

Make sure your student is at school **on time, every day**

Have conversations with your student. Attending school **DOES** make a difference!

Schedule appointments outside of the school day, if possible.

SAP

If you are concerned about a student for any reason, you can make a SAP referral. The SAP referral can potentially lead to any needed services and/or supports the student may need to be successful. Click on the picture to make a referral!

### SAP: Student Assistance Program

#### What is SAP?

The Student Assistance Program (SAP) identifies school concerns, mental health issues, and connects to a student's success. SAP connects the student and family with resources. The primary goal of SAP is to help students succeed, solve problems, and address academically.

#### Our SAP Teams

All team members are specially trained. SAP Team members consist of Principals, Teachers, School Counselors, School Psychologists, School Social Workers, School Nurses, County Mental Health Clinicians, and other providers.

#### Not a Treatment Program

The SAP program is an intervention and confidential referral process, not a treatment program. Services may include consultation, referrals to SAP teams to help access mental health services, in-school interventions, support, and referral for services in the community.

#### When to Refer:

- Withdrawal from family, friends, and/or activities
- Refusing to go to school
- Feeling sad for 2 or more weeks
- Talking about suicide
- Self-harm or suicidal thoughts (both at home and school)
- Aggression toward others
- Dropping grades

#### SAP Referral:

Anyone can refer a student to the program including family, friends, teachers, and any school staff. Typically, consent from the student's parent must be obtained before making a referral. Complete a referral on our school website or by contacting your student's school counselor.

There is no charge for participation in the SAP program. Financing of follow-up treatment services is not covered as a part of a SAP intervention. Students and families without private insurance or ineligible for Medicaid assistance may be eligible for other options.

We've always heard that if we listen to our five senses (vision, hearing, taste, smell and touch) it will help us to understand a situation more fully. Interoception is the name given to listening to another sense - the sense of signals that come from inside your body (heart beat, breathing, the

feeling in your stomach, ringing ears and more). The key with body signals is that they can mean different things for different people. [This article](#) opens our eyes to awareness of what our body is



trying to tell us and encourages us to listen. It's challenging as an adult to try to figure out what a child's interoception is trying to tell them, and sometimes even the child (or adult) has difficulty understanding what this sense is trying to tell them.

### **What is Interoception and Why is it Important?**

What is the word for the sense of signals that come from inside your body, such as feeling your heart beating and your breathing, or knowing when you are hungry? This is called interoception. Interoception is one of our senses, like vision, hearing, taste, smell, and touch.

launch [kids.frontiersin.org](https://kids.frontiersin.org)

## Report to Parents: Developing Healthy Habits in Kids that Last a Lifetime

Families can use these tips to stay protected from illness-causing germs in the fall and winter seasons.

### Teach Proper Cold Etiquette

Teach kids to cough or sneeze into their elbows or a tissue and dispose of the tissue properly.



### Maintain a Disinfected Home Environment

Regularly disinfect frequently touched surfaces in your home, such as doorknobs, light switches, and remote controls throughout cold and flu season to help stop the spread of illness-causing germs.

### Boost Immunity through Nutrition

Eating a well-balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, proteins, and dairy can give your child's immune system the strength it needs to ward off potential illnesses.

### Stock Up on Essentials

Put a travel-sized pack of tissues for personal use and a small bottle of hand sanitizer in your child's school bag to empower them to maintain cleanliness while at school and help cut back on pathogens they might bring home.

## VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

<https://www.smores.com/361wz-keystone-central-school-district#:~:text=VOLUNTEER%20INFORMATION,to%20Clearance%20Page>

The link in the button above/QR Code should take you to our Volunteer Application.

You need to apply on-line at

<https://www.applitrack.com/kcsd/onlineapp/> instead of using a paper form.



Clearances and Mandated Reporter training are also required. Here are the links:

- Clearances
- (Act 34) PA State Police <https://epatch.pa.gov/home>
- (Act 151) PA Child Abuse <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>
- (Act 114) FBI <https://www.identogo.com/locations/pennsylvania>

Use service code to receive the correct clearance: 1KG6XN

Mandated Report Training <http://www.reportabusepa.pitt.edu/>

Elizabeth Nace is our Personnel Secretary & Volunteer Specialist, you can use the information below to contact her, and she said she is happy to help you and answer questions!

570-893-4900 x 2319

<https://www.kcsd.k12.pa.us/en-US/human-resources-32e72bfe>

[enace@kcsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:enace@kcsd.k12.pa.us)

86 Administration Drive, Mill Hall, PA 17751

[General Link to Clearance Page](#)

## Translation Services

If your family speaks a language other than English, the district has access to translators and interpreters that can accompany you in meetings with teachers and school members. If you would like to be connected with a translator or interpreter please reach out to your child's teacher or the school guidance counselor. The accessibility features in the top right corner of this Smore allow you to translate this page.

## Renovo Elementary School Counseling

School Counselors are able to assist your child in 3 main areas: Social/Emotional Development, College/Career Readiness, and Academics.

Some activities provided may be:

- 1:1 Counseling

- Group Counseling

- Classroom Guidance on Interpersonal Skills

  - (i.e. being a good friend, showing empathy, etc)

- Academic Achievement Strategies

- Career Awareness and Interest Inventories

To learn more or to schedule a meeting, please contact:

**Ms. Devan Everett: School Counselor, Renovo Elementary**

Phone: 570-893-4900 x3656

Email: [deverett@kcsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:deverett@kcsd.k12.pa.us)

**Bucktail High School**

Just another SportsHub Sites site

launch [bucktailathletics.com](http://bucktailathletics.com)

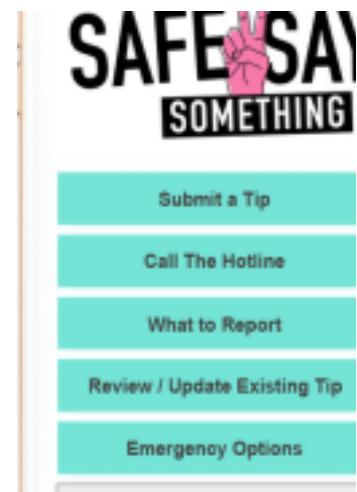
## Safety & Security



### Safety & Security

[Click here for updates and information about KCSD Safety and Security.](#)

### Safe 2 Say



[Click here to access information about Safe 2 Say.](#)

**Guardian** [Click here for more information about School Gate Guardian and the district requirement for all visitors to show ID.](#)



## School Gate

**Keystone Central School District has School Resource Officers throughout our district for safety and security.**

Officer Scott VanGorder - Central Mountain High School

Officer Cory Beaver - Bucktail High School & Renovo Elementary

Officer Luke Motter - Central Mountain Middle School

Officer Mike Fetzer - Elementary district-wide and District Attendance Officer

Officer Todd Brian - District-wide

## Virtual Academy

[Did you know the Keystone Central School District offers a full cyber program to students K 12?](#)

## Keystone Central Career & Technical Center

Please use the following link to read the upcoming events and information for October.

<https://www.smores.com/mw64j>

## Data & Performance

### Upcoming Assessments

**ASVAB- CMHS December 11-12 and BTHS Feb.16** (10th grade students and any 11th/12th grader who still needs a graduation pathway)

**Winter Keystone Exams - Jan. 3-17** (Semester 1 Biology, Alg1 and 10th grade Literature Students)

**Local Assessment Winter Benchmark - Jan.10-17** (K-8 Math and ELA)

**Grade 11 Civics and Government End of Course Exam - Week of Jan.17-24** (Built into course)

### **Local District Assessments**

All students in grades K-8 will be participating in our upcoming local district assessments which will be administered in the Fall, Winter and Spring. Students in K-2 will be tested using the Acadience assessment and students in grades 3-8 will be tested using NWEA MAP assessment. These assessments are administer in the Fall, Winter and Spring and will provide you as well as their teacher valuable information on academic growth. To learn more about our assessment please click the links below.

[NWEA Family Toolkit](#)

[NWEA FAQ](#)

[About Acadience](#)

[Need to take the SAT, Click here for upcoming dates and registration](#)

### **Quick Links**

Many questions can arise concerning your child's laptop, internet access, busing information or maybe you'd like to volunteer in your child's school. These links below can help you get answers or point you in the direction of who to speak to.

Click on the button above to access the information.

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## **School Contact Information**

Brett Umbenhouer, Principal, (570) 893-4900 ext. 3524

Rhonda Balchun, Secretary, (570) 893-4900 ext. 3601

