

Things to know

STANDARDIZED TESTING

Students in grades 3 – 8 will participate in the PSSA Mathematics and Language Arts assessment. Students in grades 4 and 8 will participate in the PSSA Science assessment. Students completing courses in Algebra I, Biology and Grade 10 Literature will participate in the Keystone Exams as well as students needing to retest. College entrance examinations and advanced placement examinations are also available and optional for high school students. The specific dates for many of these assessments are listed in the District Activities Calendar. Educational Trips will not be approved during this time.

FREE/REDUCED PRICE LUNCHES

Breakfast and lunch will be provided to all students in grades K-12 at no cost. This does not include a la carte items.

CAFETERIA CHARGE AND PAYMENT PROCEDURE

Meals will be provided to students in grades K-12. No child is denied a meal; however, payment is expected for all additional meals served to a child. Any student that owes money to the food services department will not be permitted to purchase extras, a la carte items or participate in commencement activities until such time that their debt has been paid in full. Payments must be made using the website or via check. Checks must be made payable to MASD Cafeteria Fund.

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

When an illness is serious enough to warrant the administration of medication, the parent or guardian should attempt to administer the medication before or after school hours. However, the District recognizes that there are extenuating circumstances that make it necessary for certain medications to be administered during the school day. In this event, the parent/guardian should contact the school nurse to make arrangements.

All medications (prescription and over-the counter), must be delivered to the school nurse by a parent/guardian; and must be kept in the nursing office. Students are not permitted to transport medications or self-administer medications (with the exception of certain emergency/rescue medications). Current prescription orders are required from a primary care provider, along with signed parental consent. The school nurse will provide information concerning authorization forms and procedures for administration, or you can find this information on the MASD website.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING

Experience indicates that each year emergency conditions may require school to close. Although weather conditions are the major reason for an emergency closing, the loss of a school's water or power supply or the breakdown of a heating system or other emergency may also necessitate closing a school.

Most parents know when impending weather conditions may require a late start, a cancellation or an early closing of the schools. However, parents have virtually no way of anticipating a school closing for any other emergency. Consequently, an emergency closing usually creates difficulty for children for whom there are no accommodations when they arrive home prior to the normal dismissal time.

When any emergency necessitates the cancellation or early closing of school, we will utilize the District's notification system which calls, e-mails, and texts all parents that have opted into the system. We will also notify local radio and TV stations and request that they air the appropriate information as soon as possible.

Due to the number of students in each school and the many incoming calls that are common when there is an emergency closing, parents are urged to opt into the notification system as well as develop a contingency plan, which will provide accommodations for any child who arrives home early due to an emergency closing. Arrangements with neighbors, friends or relatives constitute the contingency plan already developed by many District residents.

STUDENT INSURANCE

The District does not have insurance coverage for expenses resulting from accidental injuries to students during the course of the school day.

Medical expenses resulting from an accident to a student is the personal responsibility of the parent or guardian and should be immediately reported to the parent or guardian's insurance company as their insurance is "primary coverage."

SCIENCE ACTIVITIES INVOLVING ANIMALS

Senate Bill 727 states that public school pupils from kindergarten through grade twelve may refuse to dissect, vivisection, incubate, capture or otherwise harm or destroy animals, or any parts thereof, as part of their course of instruction. Any students wishing to exercise this right should speak with their science teacher at the start of the year or semester.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS, NETWORK, INTERNET, ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS POLICY

The use of the District's technology resources is for appropriate school-related educational and operational purposes and for the performance of job duties consistent with the educational mission of the District. Use for educational purposes is defined as use that is consistent with the curriculum adopted by the District as well as the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities and developmental levels of students. All use for any purpose must comply with this policy and all other applicable codes of conduct, policies, procedures, and rules and must not cause damage to the District's technology resources.

All employees and students are responsible for the appropriate and lawful use of the District's technology resources. This policy is intended to ensure that all users continue to enjoy access to the District's technology resources and that such resources are utilized in an appropriate manner and for legitimate purposes. The full policy can be found on the district website at www.battlinminers.com

SCHOOL BUS POLICY

Safety while riding the school bus is a responsibility that must be shared by all concerned parents, students and school officials as it is always our top concern. We urge all students who must cross the roadway to board the bus, not to cross until the bus arrives, is completely stopped and red lights are flashing. Students should check both directions to be sure all traffic is stopped before crossing the roadway.

Parents must reinforce with their children the need to be at the bus stop 10 minutes before the assigned bus time and to obey the rules. The complete policy and regulations are available on the District Website. Buses are equipped with cameras capable of visual recording. Bus Rules & Regulations can be found in the school handbook.

Violation of any of the regulations of the



Minersville School District bus policy may result in suspension of transportation privileges and/or other disciplinary action for a period of time to be determined by the seriousness of the offense at the discretion of the administration.

Suspension of school bus privileges does not relieve either the student or the parents of their responsibilities insofar as the compulsory attendance laws apply. Absence from school for the above reason will be considered an unexcused absence.

In the event of serious or repeated violation of bus regulations, the District may file a summary offense, misdemeanor, or felony complaint with the local magistrate.

POSSESSION OR USE OF WEAPONS IN SCHOOL

The possession or use of a weapon on the premises and/or property of the Minersville School District, or at any school-sponsored activity, and in any public conveyance providing transportation to school or a school-sponsored activity or while the student is coming to or from school, is prohibited both by policy and state law (Act 26 of 1995). A violation of the weapons policy and Act 26 may result in expulsion from the Minersville School District for a period of not less than one year.

It is imperative that parents discuss this information with their children. All the following are considered weapons, but not limited to, any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku



stick, brass or metal knuckles, firearm, shotgun, rifle, bb or pellet gun, look-alike gun, chemical agent, explosive device and/or any other tool, instrument or implement that is not a firearm, which impels a pellet of any kind with a force that can reasonably be expected to cause bodily harm or any instrument that is capable of inflicting serious bodily injury.

REPORTING DRUG & ALCOHOL ABUSE INFORMATION

Parents and residents are encouraged to report known or rumored incidents of drug or alcohol abuse by school-age children, particularly incidents known or rumored to occur during school hours. Contact the appropriate school principal who is responsible for investigating the reported incidents. Student Assistance Programs are in operation in all schools in the District.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

The Minersville School District is committed to providing a drug/alcohol-free learning environment for the students. A coordinated curriculum providing a wealth of information at various grade levels is utilized to prevent student use of drugs, alcohol and mood-altering chemical substances.

District rules and regulations are in place to provide a coordinated effort by District personnel to respond effectively to current and potential use and abuse of drugs and alcohol. No student shall unlawfully manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess or use any controlled substance as defined in the applicable Federal and State laws and regulations including but not limited to Act 21 (U.S.C.812) and Act 64 (1972).

Any student who violates this policy may be disciplined, suspended and/or expelled and/or be required to participate in a drug/alcohol evaluation. A student apprehended in the act of possessing, using, distributing and/or being under the influence of an illegal substance may be referred to the police as well as the building's Student Assistance Program, or school counselor and/or may be referred to an appropriate licensed agency for drug/alcohol evaluation. A student seeking individual help for drug/alcohol-related problems may

contact his/her building's Student Assistance Program, or school counselor for a list of appropriate licensed agencies.

TOBACCO LAW

Tobacco use or possession by students is prohibited in the school building, on school buses, and on school property leased, owned, or under the control of the Minersville Area School District. Violation of this rule will result in disciplinary action, including the filing of a summons with the District Justice Office charging the student with violation of Section of the Crimes. Tobacco possession includes tobacco of any kind found on a student's person as well as that which is found in a student's locker, book bag, purse, etc.

Tobacco includes a lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe or other smoking product or material, smokeless tobacco in any form, and electronic cigarettes and vaping devices. Electronic cigarettes are defined as battery-operated products designed to deliver nicotine, flavor and other chemicals by turning the substances into vapor that is inhaled by the user.

Student health and safety is of utmost importance. MASD recognizes the need for both disciplinary measures and therapeutic support. In addition to disciplinary consequences which begin with no less than three days of in-school suspension, students may be required to complete a smoking cessation/education course to be provided by the district.

First Offense – Level 3 offense consequences (3-5 days ISS/OSS), referral to SAP, citation with local magistrate.

Second Offense – Level 3 consequences, citation with local magistrate.

STUDENT'S RECORDS POLICY

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. THESE RIGHTS ARE

- 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 building principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent of the eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate. Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the school principal and clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record 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 notified of the right to a hearing.
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent the FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational 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 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 disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his/her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his/her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends

to enroll. The results from psychological assessments will be provided in an evaluation report. The protocol for those assessments is not considered to be a part of the student record and will be destroyed at the end of the school term in which the evaluation is completed.

Parents have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Dept. of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605.

DRESS & GROOMING POLICY #221 (REVISED July 7, 2022)

The Minersville Area School District encourages its students to wear clothing that is clean, neat and of appropriate length for an academic environment. All students are expected to exercise good taste and judgment in compliance with State Board of Education Regulations, Student Rights and Responsibilities, Section 12:11.

The following types of clothing are banned:

- Vulgar, offensive messages. Clothing that is offensive to staff and fellow students. Clothing that contains messages that are vulgar, offensive, obscene or libelous; that denigrate others based on race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability; that promote alcohol, drug use or violence; or that are otherwise contrary to the school's educational mission.
- Clothing that presents a safety hazard. Students may not wear any apparel that could pose a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of the school community. No chains, spiked or choke collars may be worn or carried at any time; this includes wallet chains, etc.
- The piercing of body parts and the insertion of jewelry or other objects which result in bleeding, oozing of bodily fluids or other physical condition which may reasonably pose a danger to the student or others is considered inappropriate and unacceptable.
- Clothing that is a health hazard to the individual student and the general student population.
- Hoods, hats, caps, bandannas covering the head, and similar headwear are not to be worn in district buildings during the school day except for medical or religious purposes with administrative approval. Hoodies are permitted, but the hood must be down during the school day.
- Sexual message or innuendoes.
- Drug or alcohol paraphernalia.

- Advertisements for alcohol or cigarettes.
- Racially or ethnically offensive messages.
- Messages that are political in nature.
- Harassment aimed at any group or individual.
- Brief and/or revealing clothing. Students must recognize that brief and/or revealing clothing is not appropriate apparel in school. The following guidelines on brief clothing are examples and do not cover all situations:

Students shall not wear tank tops, halter-tops, garments with spaghetti straps or strapless garments. Garments that are "see-through", cut low, or expose one's midriff are not acceptable. Sleeveless garments must extend to the end of the shoulders and fit closely under the arms. Skirts and shorts must not be shorter than the student's fingertips when his/her arms are held at his/her side.

- Undergarments must not be visible.
- Fishnet stockings, Pajama pants and sleepwear are not appropriate apparel in school.
- Unless there are heating problems, all jackets/coats must be kept in lockers.

COURSES NOT TAKEN IN MINERSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Students may take approved courses at schools and colleges other than the Minersville School District. There are certain criteria for these courses to be acknowledged and/or recognized by Minersville. Since these courses may be taken for different reasons and at different times, the following policies affect these particular situations:

1. Approval must be granted in writing by the administration. Credits earned through these courses may not be used towards fulfillment of Minersville's required courses for graduation. An official transcript may be added as a separate document to the MAHS transcript.
2. The student is responsible for registering, enrolling, and payment themselves.
3. The student is responsible for having an official transcript forwarded to Minersville for recording.