



From the Desk of our Executive Director

It was wonderful to welcome our students back to their Limestone home at the beginning of the week - campus is not the same without them here! It is also nice to introduce the newest members of the MSSM community to the *Penguin Weekly* as we've included families who have committed to enrolling next year on the distribution list. As always, there's some important information in this *Weekly*, especially as we're in that busy month of May that started today and ends with our 2026 Commencement on May 30.

While most students made their way back to campus on Sunday, we did have several students who were off at the **DECA Internationals in Atlanta** for part of their break through Tuesday. They did a great job representing MSSM and Maine - including one student named an International Finalist! This was the School's first year as a DECA chapter and, after a commanding performance in the state regional competition, brought the first honor for Maine in a very long time. Five students also took one Saturday of break to compete in a track and field competition in Orono, including one provisional state championship qualifier.

There's a busy weekend ahead of us! Many members of the class of 2026 will be camping at Acadia for a final bonding outing during their time at MSSM. Our track and field athletes will compete in Presque Isle on Saturday, and some students will take the SAT on Saturday morning. There are a host of other trips and activities available for students this weekend. Prom and UMPI commencement are coming up next weekend (May 9), so I know there will be some shopping and prep for those exciting events during this weekend, as well. There is more information regarding the MSSM Commencement on May 30 in this *Penguin Weekly* and on the [parent resource page](#). We'll continue to update the parent resource page as we get more information.

Students are working with their advisors to submit course selections for next fall. Students will also receive the final schedule for the week of May 25-29 next week. Students are expected to be on campus through their last final, but can depart after that. Once we've finalized and shared that schedule, it will help with solidifying departure plans,

which I know some parents have reached out about. We've been excited to see re-enrollment contracts coming in and to enroll our new students. There are still some spaces available, so please feel free to encourage any mission-appropriate students you know to consider becoming part of MSSM.

We often joke about the 100 days of May in schools - it is a very busy month for students and adults alike, as we make our way to the end of the academic year at the end of the month. Our committed and caring adult community is invested in supporting our students through this busy month and appreciates your partnership as we all look to see our students continue to thrive!

2026 Graduation Schedule



The graduation schedule, including Senior Night, the senior banquet, and the ceremony, has been uploaded to the [Parent Landing Page](#). Also on the page is the [form for the senior banquet](#) for the families of the class of 2026.



For **non-seniors** who are not involved with graduation on Saturday, you can move out after your last final exam. All students will have an exam on Thursday, May 28th.

Weekend

The weekend schedule is posted on the [Parent Landing Page](#).



Staff Appreciation

Each year, MSSM families celebrate **Teacher Appreciation Week** by showing the staff how much we value their commitment to our students. Teacher Appreciation Week this year falls in the first week of May, and we're looking forward to continuing this wonderful tradition!

Over the last couple of years, we have used a Kudoboard, which has been well-received by the staff. Please take a moment to visit the board and leave a message for the MSSM staff.

Thanks for helping us make Staff Appreciation Week a success.

-Sue Nonken, Terri Roberts, Lana McPherson

Fall Course Descriptions

Click here to view the document of classes available in the fall.

Placement recommendations for English, Math, Science, and World Language classes will be sent to students by their advisor. Students need to meet with their advisors sometime between April 27 and May 8 to complete their course request forms. To the extent possible, student preferences for specific classes will guide the creation of the class schedule.

Prom Help Needed

The Prom Committee is **offering an open invitation** to any MSSM parents who would like to help with prom setup this year. The setup will be on Friday, May 9th, from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

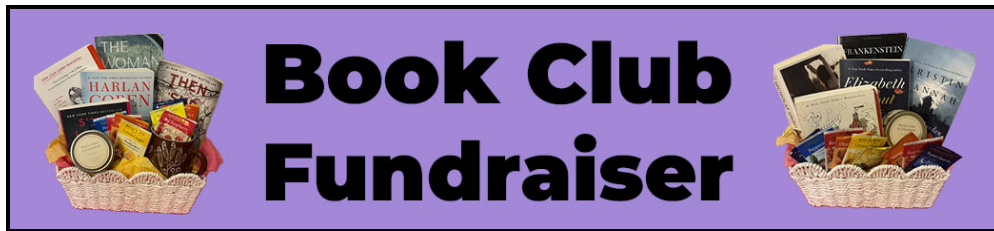
For more information, please email Casandra Vislosky at visloskyc@mssm.org.

March of the Penguins

Parents are invited to watch the March of the Penguins 2026. A prom tradition at MSSM. The march will begin at 5:30 PM, followed by class photos.

The Students will depart MSSM at 6:00 PM to head to the off-campus venue.

The Prom committee would like to thank all parents, staff, and students who have donated time and supplies to make the 2026 Tangled Prom a grand adventure.



Book Club is going to be hosting our annual book basket raffle fundraiser, and you can now buy the raffle tickets! There are two different baskets you can purchase raffle tickets for. The first basket is a mystery/thriller basket and contains six books, various tea packets, a warm cider & cinnamon candle, and a microwave-safe mug. The second basket is a mixed basket containing five different books, including realistic and historical fiction, along with various tea packets and a warm cider & cinnamon candle. [Link to purchasing form](#)



Click the header to order. The winning colors are on the form for our 2026 Senate T-Shirt! Sales are primarily through this form, very minimal supply will be available for in-person purchase. All shirts are unisex and cost \$15.

Congrats to Geraghty for making this years design!

Size options are as follows: Small, Medium, Large, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL.

Reach out to Elena (wirthe@mssm.org) with any questions!



May is Mental Health Month, and this year's theme is More Good Days, Together.

Here are some things to keep in mind as we start May with this theme and goal.

1. **Reflect on what a "good day"** means to you- everyone will have a different definition of what it means to them so it is important to recognize what it means to you.
2. No matter how you are feeling in the moment, **remember more good days are possible**
3. You do not have to have good days alone- check in with friends, family members, and others around you to encourage them to **focus on the positive things**.
4. Make connections- find a support system that is there for you on **good and not so good days**.

It may look different for everyone, but it's important to remember that we all deserve more good days!



Welcome to a force-filled week in the health office! As we celebrate the start of the week, May 4th, remember: your health habits are stronger than the Dark Side when you stay consistent.

Use the Force... to Wash Your Hands!

Don't let germs strike back! Washing your hands regularly is one of the most powerful tools in your health arsenal. Aim for at least 20 seconds.

Stay Hydrated, You Must

Your body needs fuel to function like a well-tuned starship. Drink water throughout the day to stay energized and focused in class.

Choose Snacks from the Light Side

Fuel your body with healthy snacks like fruits, veggies, or yogurt. Too much sugar can lead to energy crashes faster than the Millennium Falcon in hyperdrive trouble.

Feeling Under the Weather?

If you're not feeling your best, don't try to tough it out like a lone bounty hunter. Come visit the nurse's office.

Final Jedi Tip:

Your health is your superpower. Make choices that keep you strong, focused, and ready to take on anything the galaxy (or school week) throws your way.

May the 4th be with you this week... and your health!

Testing 1,2,3...

AP testing begins next week. The MSSM AP schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, May 5: Chemistry

Wednesday, May 6: Physics 1 (self-study students)

Thursday, May 7: Statistics

Monday, May 11: Calculus BC

Wednesday, May 13: English Language and Composition & Physics C: Mechanics

Thursday, May 14: Physics C (Electricity and Magnetism & Computer Science Principles)

Parents will be invoiced via the business office for AP fees.

If you have any questions, please reach out to [Ms. Jortberg](#).



Science Center

At the end of April break, Mr. Berz, MSSM math teacher and Galactic Ambassador, had a gathering of some people in the area at the Francis Malcolm Science Center to look at the moon and other astronomical objects. In the photo, MSSM senior, Mia Shaw, focuses the large telescope Goliath to look at the moon.

MSSM News

Do you want a quick update on recent penguin events? For a detailed look at our latest accomplishments and recent events, we invite you to visit our recent posts section at www.MSSM.org/news. Stay informed about the incredible journey of our scholars and the vibrant life at MSSM.

MSSM NEWS



Important Contacts

Student Life Office - 207-325-3796
Student Life Mobile - 207-498-9956
Transportation Questions & Updates
Transportation@mssm.org

Admin on Duty - 207-540-6013

Student Life Email - RI@mssm.org
Parent Landing Page
<https://www.mssm.org/parents>



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