Back to School News

2026 - 2027 www.maccray.k12.mn.us

Welcome Back MACCRAY!



Welcome to a new school year! We hope your summer has been filled with time to relax, time to recharge, and time to make lasting memories. We are excited to welcome our students and families back for another exciting year of learning, growth, and success.

At MACCRAY Schools, our commitment is to partner with families to provide every student with the opportunities, support, and encouragement they need to thrive. By working together, we can create a student focused environment where every child feels valued, challenged, and inspired to reach their full potential.

Our dedicated teachers and staff have been preparing for an outstanding year, and we cannot wait to see our classrooms filled with energy, curiosity, and excitement. We look forward to celebrating achievements, building meaningful relationships, and creating experiences that help every student succeed.

Thank you for your continued partnership and trust. Together, we will make this a great school year for every student.

Go Wolverines!

With appreciation,

Mr. Bertram, Mr. Wheatley, and Mr. Holm

Scan Here for your One Stop Shop for

ALL things Back to School!

SCAN HERE >>>

Open House & First Days

Our school year will kick off on **September 1** for all students in grades 1-12 and September 3 for our youngest learners in Kindergarten and Preschool. There will be no school on Friday, September 4 for Labor Day weekend. Our school day runs from 8am – 3:30pm. Open House will be Wednesday, Aug 26 from 12 – 6 pm! While you are here ALL students Preschool through Grade 12 will have their school picture taken. During this time families can meet with teachers, locate your locker and classrooms, and pay for fees if you have not done so already. Middle and High School students can pick up their devices. We hope your summer was filled with fun, adventures and time spent together making memories. As the first day of school draws closer, we are so very excited to welcome all of our MACCRAY Family back to school. We are going to have an incredible year!



A Message from Mr. Holm

This November, Minnesota voters will consider a constitutional amendment related to the Permanent School Fund, a resource that has supported public education since Minnesota became a state in 1858.

Here are a few key facts:
• The Permanent School Fund already exists and currently supports public schools throughout Minnesota.
• The fund has grown to more than $2.3 billion through revenue generated from school trust lands and investment earnings.
• The proposed amendment does not raise property taxes, income taxes, sales taxes, or any other taxes.
• The recommendation came from a nonpartisan legislative task force that unanimously recommended modernizing the distribution formula.
• The proposal later received strong bipartisan support from the Minnesota Legislature.
• If approved by voters, the amendment would increase support for public schools while preserving the long-term strength of the fund.

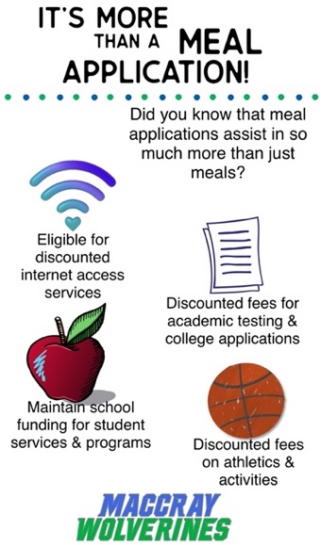
Learn More:
To learn more about the Permanent School Fund amendment, including frequently asked questions, background information, and voter resources, visit:
www.mnPSFamendment.org

As always, we encourage community members to become informed and participate in the election process.
Local Impact for MACCRAY
• Current annual PSF distribution: $56,000*
• Estimated increase under proposed formula: 40% or $22,000*
• Potential impact on students and programs: $78,000*
*(Numbers listed above are estimates until MDE finalizes our per pupil numbers)

Did your Info Change?



We need your current information in our student information system (accessible to parents through Parent Portal) to ensure that you can be reached in the event of an emergency! Please log on to your Parent Portal account and review your information to see that we have your correct address, phone numbers, and email address. If you do not have access to your Parent Portal or forgot your login, please contact your school's office or email: shamlah@maccray.k12.mn.us.



Continuance of Free School Meals

Same as the last couple of years this entails 1 free breakfast and 1 free lunch for every student per school day! If the student does not take a full reimbursable meal, elects an additional meal, or chooses to purchase from ala carte there will be fees incurred. If you have any questions, please contact the office. We are continuing to ask EVERYONE to please take the time to fill out the Free or Reduced Application! You might be asking yourself "WHY?" when students are already receiving free meals? The number of families that we have receiving free and reduced meals affects our school funding and the classes of athletics and activities we participate in. If approved, you are also eligible for discounts in and out of school. We will have copies in the elementary gym for you to fill out while your students get their photos taken! If you prefer you can log into your Parent Portal and fill it out online. We THANK YOU in advance for taking the time to fill this out!

To access online applications:
Log into to parent portal → Click "More"
→ Meal Benefits

Communication

We will continue to utilize our Instant Alert system within Infinite Campus to not only alert families to any school delays/closures, but you can also expect to receive bulletins and all communication to families through emails and via text messages. Information will be posted on our website and our social media sites as well as classroom communication via Dojo. In addition to notifying families alerts will be sent out to news and radio stations.

Permissions for your Student

We love to showcase the great things our students are doing by displaying photos and write ups on our district website and social media pages. We do understand, however, that there are situations in which a parent might not want their child's photo taken. Please know that our **STANDARD PROCESS IS TO ALLOW PHOTOS, VIDEOS AND LIVESTREAMING.** If you are okay with this no action is necessary. If you would rather opt your child out, please fill out a Denial of Release Form available on our website or pick one up in your school's office.

Need a Ride?

Bus Registration

Palmer Bus Company is asking that any family that has a change in bussing needs or are new to MACCRAY schools scan the QR Code to the left and register your student(s). Any other questions can be directed to Palmer bus at 320-510-7529. We will have a bus schedule available at Open House.

MACCRAY Clothing Swap

Stop by our MACCRAY Clothing Swap to browse gently used, clean MACCRAY apparel! It's a great opportunity to pick up school spirit wear at no cost or pass along items your family has outgrown. Donations of clean MACCRAY clothing are always appreciated, but you're welcome to browse whether you're donating or not. Anything left over will be donated.

Athletics & Activities

In addition to outstanding classroom learning opportunities, here at MACCRAY we continue to offer a wide range of Athletics and Activities for students to be involved with. It is strongly encouraged that students participate in activities outside of the normal school day. These activities enrich the school experience and present an opportunity to meet other students with similar interests. Head to our website and under Departments you will find Activities with a full list of what MACCRAY has to offer!

Community Ed & Rec

MACCRAY has a very active Community Education program that offers preschool classes, various sporting activities, theatre, and numerous hands-on learning activities for our youngest wolverines. Throughout the year families have many opportunities to participate in these different activities. Be on the lookout for our upcoming Community Ed & Rec Booklet! Also make sure to follow the Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/MACCRAYCER/

Fall Sports

Fall sports are here! Varsity sports will begin practice August 17. Junior High will begin on Monday, August 24. There is still time to sign up if you have not already! See below to get registered!

NEW! MACCRAY Activities Now on Bound

We are excited to announce that MACCRAY Public Schools as well as Camden Conference is transitioning to **Bound** as our new activities management platform!

Bound will be your one-stop location for:

- Tickets & Season Passes
- Athletic schedules and event information
- Activity registrations
- Sports physical submissions
- Team and activity updates

We encourage all families with students participating in athletics or activities to create a Bound account before the school year begins. This will help ensure a smooth registration process and keep you up to date on schedules and important information.

Scan here to create your Family Account, purchase tickets and see all the exciting events coming up!

Please note: Beginning this school year, **MACCRAY activities ticketing will be cashless**. Tickets for home athletic events can be purchased in advance through Bound or at the gate using a credit/debit card or other accepted digital payment methods. We encourage families to purchase tickets ahead of time for the quickest and most convenient entry into events.

Also NEW! MACCRAY Participation Pass!

We're excited to introduce a new benefit for our student participants for a one-year pilot period! Students in **grades 9-12** who participate in a MACCRAY activity will receive a **FREE Participation Pass** that allows them admission to all regular-season home events.

Here's how it works:

- Students registered for a **Fall Activity** will automatically receive a complimentary Participation Pass through BOUND.
- Students not participating in a fall activity but who participated in a **Winter and/or Spring Activity during the previous school year** will also receive a complimentary Participation Pass.

Participation will be verified using each season's final team roster.