



MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

1014 ROUTE 601 · SKILLMAN, NJ · 08558-2119

Mary E. McLoughlin, Superintendent

Phone (609) 466-7608
mmcloughlin@mtsdsd.us

Dear Montgomery Township School District Community,

As our summer break winds down, I look forward to the start of a new school year and to seeing our hallways come alive again with the enthusiasm of our students, ready to explore new ideas and take on new challenges. To our returning families and those joining us for the very first time, we are grateful to have you as part of this journey and look forward to the milestones we will achieve together throughout 2026-2027.

Our teachers have been preparing for an exciting year ahead, and our facilities department has been working hard to ensure our schools are in top condition inside and out.

The First Day of School is Thursday, September 3, 2026!

It will be a full day of learning, reconnecting, and setting the tone for a great year ahead.

District Goals

In alignment with our strategic plan, the district's goals for 2026-2027 are:

Goal 1: The Student Experience: Student Achievement, Teaching, and Learning – For the 2026-2027 school year, the district will prioritize instructional excellence by expanding a collaborative Universal Design for Learning (UDL) lesson library, integrating purposeful AI use to enhance efficiency, and embedding executive function skills into the curriculum. Simultaneously, the district will strengthen organizational growth by updating curricular standards in Rubicon Atlas, formalizing community partnerships, and fostering internal faculty leadership to drive professional development.

Goal 2: Communication, Community Engagement, and Outreach – Building upon our established social media and administrative channels, the district will enhance community engagement by refining communication formats, using stakeholder feedback, and National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) survey data. Additionally, we will continue to grow our township partnership and leverage relationships with parent organizations to foster strong, well-informed, two-way communication essential for student success.

Goal 3: Climate and Culture (Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) – Cultural Sensitivity, Health and Wellness, Resilience) – The district will continue to enhance the social-emotional learning environment by expanding the interdisciplinary SEL framework to promote student resilience and healthy life choices. We will align codes of conduct and core values across all schools to

instill responsibility, respect, and consistent behavioral expectations. MTSD will continuously cultivate an inclusive, supportive culture where every student's well-being is uplifted and celebrated.

For information on our strategic planning process, please visit <https://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us/parents/strategic-plan>.

2026-2027 Calendar

The [2026-2027 District Calendar](#) was board-approved on December 16, 2025. If the calendar is adjusted throughout the school year due to school closings or other events, you can always view the most up-to-date version by visiting <https://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us/current-calendar>.

[A/B Day](#) and [6-Day Rotation calendars](#) for the upcoming school year have also been created. In the event of school closings or other events, the most up-to-date versions of these calendars can always be viewed by visiting <https://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us/ab-day-calendar> and <https://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us/six-day-calendar>, respectively.

New Administrators

The district introduced several new administrators over the summer:

- **Mrs. Katie Upshaw** – Orchard Hill Elementary School Assistant Principal
- **Mr. Matt Apel** – Supervisor of Special Services for Preschool-Grade 2
- **Ms. Erica Pawlo** – Supervisor of Special Services for Grades 3-6 (leave replacement for Ms. Regina Dunich through March 2027)

New Mandated District-Wide Personal Electronic Device Procedure for Students

Effective immediately, and in accordance with P.L. 2025, c.195, all New Jersey public schools must implement a bell-to-bell ban on personal communication devices. Students must keep cell phones and other devices turned off and stored away all day, including during classes, study halls, lunch, and hallway transitions. Thank you for your support as we follow this statewide rule.

ID Cards

Late in the 2025-2026 school year, [a communication was sent with important reminders about student ID cards](#).

To maximize safety and security, all of our students are issued ID cards. While specific usage and expectations differ slightly by building, the key item to remember across all of our schools is that IDs help us quickly identify our students and staff members when we have visitors in our buildings and on school grounds.

All MTSD students will receive new IDs this fall. If a student needs a replacement ID and/or lanyard, each school has created a Google Form to complete. The forms can be accessed with the links below:

- [Orchard Hill Elementary School](#)
- [Village Elementary School](#)
- [Lower Middle School](#)
- [Upper Middle School](#)
- [Montgomery High School](#)

Failure to wear or present a district-issued student ID card may result in disciplinary consequences. These consequences are detailed in each school's handbook and/or Code of Conduct.

For additional information, please read the [Student ID Communication](#). Thank you for your support and cooperation in keeping our district safe and secure.

Attendance and HIB Policies

We encourage all of our district families to familiarize themselves with our [attendance policy](#) and our [Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying \(HIB\) policy](#). The district website also includes sections with more information about [student attendance](#) and [HIB](#).

PaySchools

The district will continue to use PaySchools for all school-related payments. For more information about PaySchools, including a full user guide if you've never used the program before or need a refresh, you can visit <https://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us/parents/payschools>.

Maschio's Food Services

Maschio's will continue to be our Food Services provider for the 2026-2027 school year. Updated price lists, menus, and more can be found by visiting <https://maschiofood.com/montgomery>.

New this year from Maschio's is the daily breakfast program at Orchard Hill and Village Elementary Schools. Students may purchase breakfast for \$3.00 (\$3.50 for adults). Note: For Preschool and Kindergarten students **ONLY**, the program requires a weekly pre-order [to be placed online](#).

We are honored to partner with you in your child's educational journey and wish everyone a fantastic start to the year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mary E. McLoughlin
Superintendent of Schools