MOUNT ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LAKER NEWS

2026-2027 School Year, August Edition

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Mount Arlington Public School Community,

As we approach the start of an exciting school year, I am pleased to share that our team has had a highly productive summer preparing for the return of our students. There has been a tremendous amount of work taking place behind the scenes to strengthen our programs, enhance our facilities, welcome new staff, and ensure that we are ready to begin the 2026–2027 school year with energy and purpose.

We are thrilled to welcome new members to the Mount Arlington Public Schools community. Please join us in welcoming members to our administrative team:

- Ms. Marina Williams, Principal,
- Mr. Migues Valle, Facilities Manager,
- Ms. Laurie Dachowski, Main Office Secretary at MAPS, and
- Ms. Maria Panycia, Child Study Team secretary.

We are also welcoming several new staff members to our instructional and student support teams. Please join us in welcoming:

- Ms. Zoe Cerenzio, Grade 1 teacher, serving as a leave replacement,
- Ms. Samantha Trilling, Grade 3 teacher,
- Ms. Heba Soliman, Speech Therapist,
- Mr. Tim Macko, Social Studies teacher for Grades 6–8, serving as a leave replacement, and
- Ms. Krissoula Tzouvaras, School Counselor, also serving as a leave replacement.

We are fortunate to have such talented staff joining our schools, and I look forward to seeing the positive contributions they will make to our students and school community.

A Message from the Superintendent (cont.)

Another exciting addition this year is our **full-day Preschool program**. This expansion provides families with greater access to high-quality early childhood education right here in our community.

This year, we will be **moving our Parent-Teacher Conferences *from November to February***. This change is intentional and will allow our teachers to have additional time to collect and analyze meaningful student growth data following the first half of the school year. By meeting with families in February, we hope to provide a more comprehensive picture of each student's progress, strengths, and areas for continued growth, while also discussing specific ways we can work together to support their success.

This summer has also provided an opportunity for us to **enhance a few of our school safety and security measures**. Among the improvements taking place are the installation of a fence around the Edith Decker School field and playground. Security roll-down shades for each classroom and new highly reflective door numbers will be installed in both schools to assist with clear building identification during an emergency.

The start of a new school year is always filled with possibility, and I am honored to begin this journey with the Mount Arlington Public Schools community. *Most importantly, I am eager to welcome our students and families back to our schools in just a few short weeks.*

Warmly,

Dr. Jessica Neu

LAKER NEWS

August 2026 Edition

A Message from the Principal

Welcome to the 2026-2027 School Year!

Greetings, Mount Arlington Schools Community!

I am so happy and proud to be your new principal and look forward to the year ahead. I truly can't wait to lead and learn with the staff, students, families and community in this incredibly special place.

I come to you with 25 years of experience in education that include being an acting elementary school principal, middle school assistant principal, district supervisor of world languages and dance/drama, literacy coach and a teacher of language arts and social studies.
I received my bachelor of arts degree in Sociology from Montclair State University, my teacher certification from St. Elizabeth's College, through an accelerated teacher certification program, and my master of arts degree in educational leadership from Montclair State University.

I strongly believe in working together to ensure that students receive a safe and meaningful education, that allows for them to identify and achieve their goals and dreams. I am committed to upholding the District mission:

To ensure that our children succeed personally, academically, socially, and physically. Through our commitment and passion to promote excellence, we will continue to provide our students with a safe, challenging, and inspiring learning environment so that each student may achieve his/her full potential. In partnership with the community, our students are provided with a sound foundation to support a lifelong journey of opportunity and success.

Sincerely,
Ms. Marina Williams

LAKER NEWS

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IMPORTANT DATES

School Start Time: 8:20 AM, School End Time: 2:55 PM

AUGUST

Day/Date	Time	Event
Thursday/27th	10:00 - 11:00 AM	Kindergarten Orientation

SEPTEMBER

Day/Date	Time	Event
Friday/4th	8:20 am - 2:55 PM	1st Day of School for Students
Monday/7th	N/A	LABOR DAY-District Closed
Wednesday and Thursday/16 and 17	N/A	Decker-Scholastic Book Fair
Thursday/17th	6:30 - 8:00 PM	Decker-Back to School Night
Wednesday and Thursday/23 and 24	N/A	MAPS-Scholastic Book Fair
Monday/21st	N/A	YOM KIPPUR-District Closed
Thursday/24th	6:30 - 8:00 PM	MAPS-Back to School Night
Friday/25th	11:00 AM - Close	8th Grade Fundraiser-Buffalo Wild Wings

OCTOBER

Day/Date	Time	Event
Friday/2nd	4:00 - 8:00 PM	8th Grade Fundraiser-Panera
Wednesday/7th	9:00 - 3:00 PM	School Picture Day (both schools)
Monday/12th	N/A	District Closed for Students Only
Friday/23	6:30 - 8:30 pm	Theatre Performance

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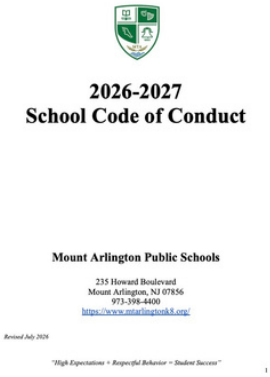
TITLE I Part A INFORMATION

The links below provide information regarding Title I Part A.
WEBSITE LINK: includes annual Parent Right to Know Letter and the Parent School Compact.

BOARD POLICY # 2415 Parent Engagement


2026-2027
School Code of Conduct

Mount Arlington Public Schools

235 Howard Boulevard
Mount Arlington, NJ 07856
973-398-4400
https://www.mtarlingtonk8.org/

Revised July 2026

"High Expectations + Respectful Behavior = Student Success"

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2026–2027 Student Code of Conduct

The Student Code of Conduct has been revised for the school year and is now posted on our District website. We encourage parents to review the document with their children.

2026–2027 Technology User Agreement

The Student Technology User Agreement has been updated for the school year and is now posted on our District website. We encourage parents to review the document with their children. Student will receive a hard copy on the first day of school and are required to return it with a parent signature.

PowerSchool Parent Portal is now open!

The PowerSchool Parent Portal is now open and available for families to access throughout the school year. The Portal provides families with an easy way to view their child's schedule, stay informed about academic progress, including viewing grades and attendance. We encourage all parents to regularly check the Portal as an important tool for staying connected to their child's educational experience. Please contact your school's main office if any help is needed.

PowerSchool

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Important: Safety and Security Reminders

All parents/guardians must be prepared to show proof of ID when picking up their child. Emergency contact must be updated in PowerSchool, as needed.

All parents and visitors are encouraged to schedule an appointment prior to stopping by the school. All visitors must sign in upon entry and wear a visitor lanyard. Visitors must be escorted while in the building at all times.

If needed, a drop box for students' forgotten items is located in each school's vestibule.

Drop-Off/Pick-Up Safety Reminders

Decker

To ensure the safety of all students, families and staff at Decker School, if a child is being walked to the school entrance or picked up from the school entrance, the child must be accompanied by an adult at all times. In these instances, vehicles must be parked in the designated parking lot. Adults should then walk their child across the bus/fire lane using one of the designated pedestrian walkways.

Families who are dropping off or picking up their child without accompanying them to the entrance may use the bus/fire lane. In these cases, students can exit and enter the vehicle independently, but must exit and enter the vehicle on the sidewalk side. Additionally, when using the bus/fire lane drivers can only move forward when exiting.

MAPS

To ensure the safety of all students, families and staff at MAPS, drop off and pick-up is on Kadel Drive only (on the school-side of the street), with the first car pulling up to the crosswalk (across from Henry Ct). Children must exit and enter the vehicle on the sidewalk side (only), in a timely manner and walk on the sidewalk on the hill.
The parking lot is only for buses and faculty.

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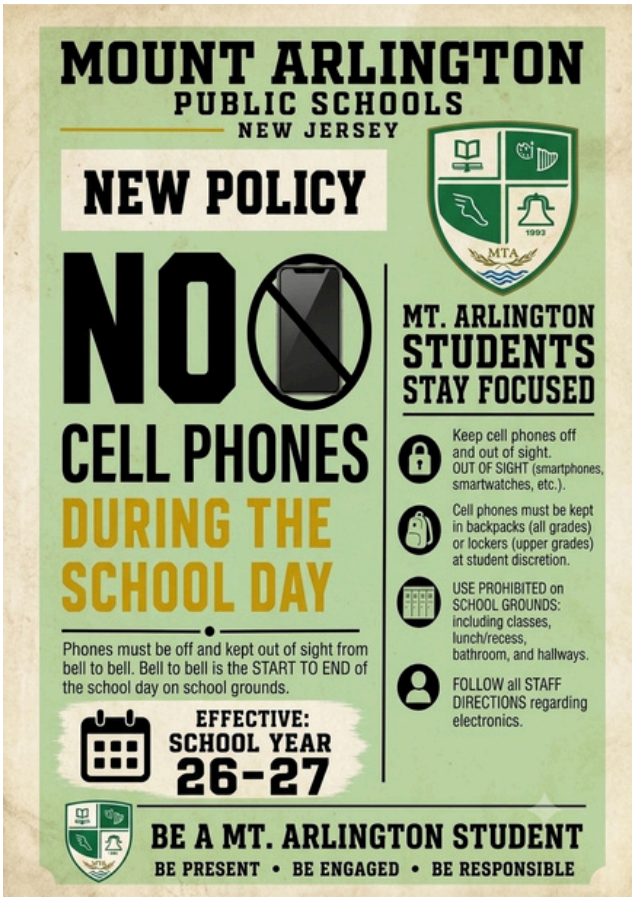
NEW



As we prepare for a successful start to the 2026–2027 school year, we want to inform families about New Jersey's new "bell-to-bell" requirement for student use of personal internet-enabled devices.

At its August 19, 2026 meeting, the Mount Arlington Board of Education approved the district's implementation of this NJ Department of Education requirement. Under the new guidance, students are expected to refrain from using personal internet-enabled devices including cell phones and smartwatches on school grounds throughout the school day.

We encourage parents and guardians to review these expectations with their children before the first day of school. Working together, we can help ensure a smooth transition and create an environment that supports student learning, engagement, and positive connections.

For additional information, please review the NJDOE Guidance document, BOE Policy #5516, the Letter to the Community, and the Student Code of Conduct. If you have questions regarding the district's bell-to-bell device policy, please contact Ms. Marina Williams, Principal.

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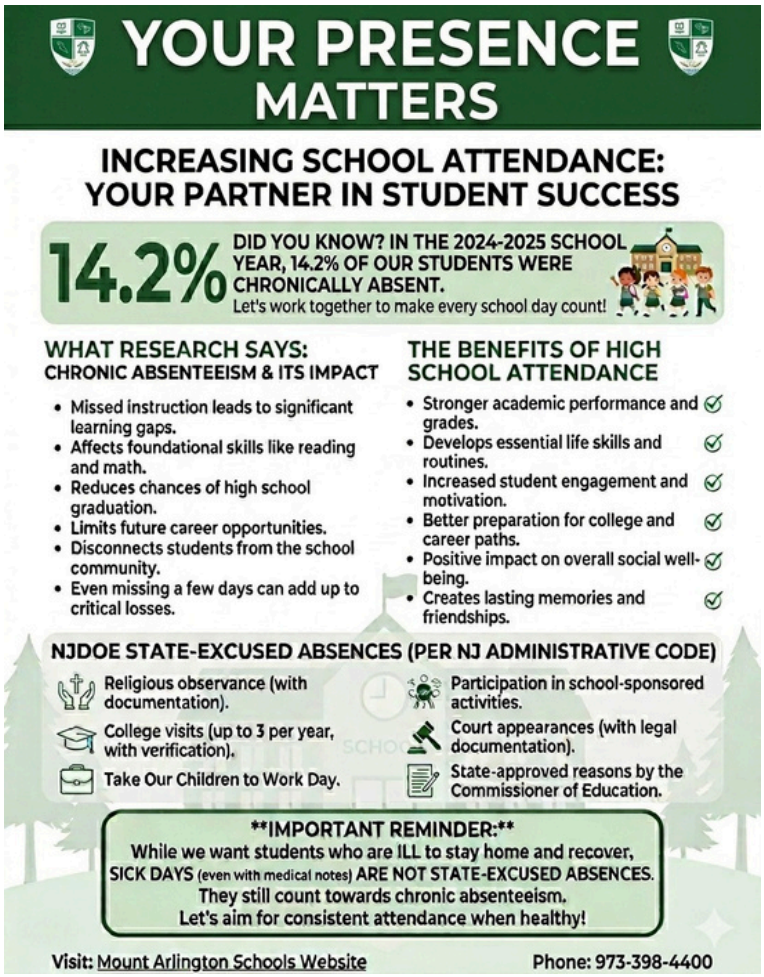
It is important to know that while we want children to stay home and recover from illness, sick days, even with medical notes, **ARE NOT STATE EXCUSED ABSENCES**. See the attached flyer for more detailed information. Let's work together to make every school day count.



LAKER NEWS

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Revised Delayed Opening and Early Dismissal Schedule *(now includes lunch)*

Delayed Opening Schedule

There is no recess on delayed opening days)

Period	Time
HR	10:20 - 10:30
1	10:30 - 10:58
2	10:58 - 11:26
3	11:26 - 11:54
4	11:54 - 12:22
5	12:22 - 12:50
6	12:50 - 1:18
7	1:18 - 1:46
8	1:46 - 2:15
9	2:15 - 2:45
Dismissal	2:45 - 2:55

Early Dismissal Schedule

(There is no recess on early dismissal days.)

Period	Time
HR	8:20 - 8:30
1	8:30 - 9:00
2	9:00 - 9:30
3	9:30 - 10:00
4	10:00 - 10:30
5	10:30 - 10:57
6	10:57 - 11:24
7	11:24 - 11:51
8	11:51 - 12:15
9	12:15 - 12:40
Dismissal	12:40 - 12:50

LAKER NEWS

August 2026 Edition

A Mesage from our Board of Education

Welcome Back to School!

As we begin a new school year, we are excited to welcome our students, families, faculty, and staff back to our Mount Arlington school community. The start of a new year brings fresh opportunities for learning, growth, and connection, and we look forward to all that our students will accomplish in the months ahead.

This year is especially exciting as we proudly welcome our new Superintendent, Dr. Jessica Neu. Her leadership, vision, and commitment to educational excellence inspire confidence as we work together to support the success of every student. We are grateful for the partnership of our families and community members and look forward to a year filled with achievement, innovation, and memorable experiences. Here's to a wonderful school year ahead! Together, we will make it our best one yet.

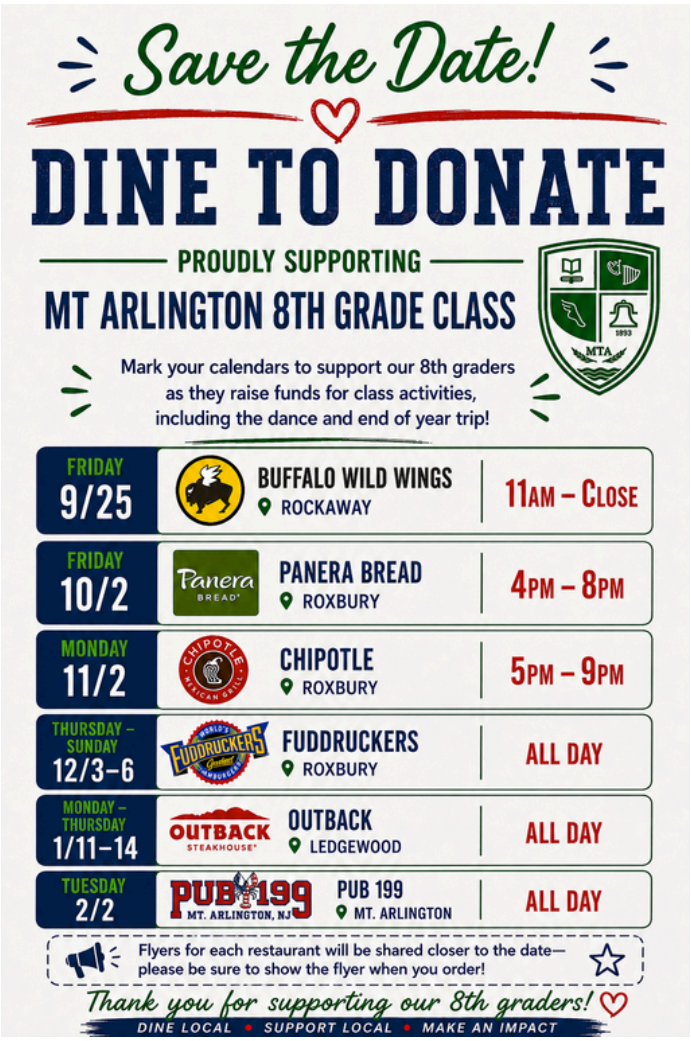
Parent Teacher Organization

Welcome Back from the MTA PTO!

The Mount Arlington PTO is excited for all that's ahead. We look forward to supporting our students and staff, bringing families together, and creating fun and meaningful experiences throughout the year. Most of all, we're grateful to be part of such a caring and supportive school.

Here's to a school year filled with kindness, laughter, learning, friendship, and lots of great memories along the way.

Please sign up to receive all PTO correspondence and volunteer opportunities through PTBoard:

Mount Arlington Schools PTO
mta.ptboard.com

School code is 93KANX