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Community Update – November 12, 2026

Mansfield Families & Friends,

We hope this update finds everyone well, closing out fall activities, and looking forward to the slower paced winter months. We thank everyone for your continued engagement in your students' learning experiences and encourage you to reach out with any concerns, questions, or needed clarifications.

We have a few updates and reminders for everyone.

November Character Trait

For November we are focusing on helping students understand and express the trait of gratitude. We are continually discussing what it means to be grateful, how to effectively communicate gratitude with others, and how to be appreciative of the many wonderful things in our lives. As we approach Thanksgiving, we hope this character trait is shared in your homes and with your family.

Inclement Weather Closure/Delay Announcements

As we enter inclement weather season, any emergency closures or delayed openings will be announced via robo-call, text message, e-mail, on our website, and on our social media pages. All announcements will be made by 6:00am.

If you have a new phone number or email address, please update your information in the OnCourse Parent Portal as soon as possible.

2027-2028 School Calendar (Next Year)

Last evening, the Board of Education approved the 2027-2028 School Calendar. We hope getting the calendar early is helpful to families as you plan your future family events.

Please note that for the 27-28 calendar, we have reduced the number of students ½ days and are better aligned with the Northern Burlington School District calendar.

Additionally, emergency closure days are added to the end of the year instead of being attached to long weekends or Spring Break. This change allows for families and staff to know what days are in session, regardless of inclement weather closures. If we don't use these emergency closures, they will be given back in June. An updated calendar with these dates will be provided in April 2028 based on actual emergency closure days used (or not used).

The 27-28 Calendar can be found on our website under 'Calendar' and directly here: https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1794487810/mansfieldschoolcom/n4ctkpsxtmcqfbfzcyz4/2027-2028CalendarBOE111126.pdf

Parent Teacher Conferences

We are looking forward to our Fall Parent-Teacher conferences on November 23rd & November 24th. Sign-Up Genius links will be shared by Dr. Cullari & Mr. Kershner tomorrow (Friday 11/13).

Trimester Report Card Dates

The first trimester is set to close on December 4th. Report cards will be published in OnCourse Parent Portal on December 11th. If you need support accessing your OnCourse portal, please reach out to Krissy Patton at JHES or Megan Patterson at MTES.

MTES Outdoor Library

In remembrance of Ms. Traino, MTES faculty and our facilities team successfully created and installed a book exchange box in the recess area of MTES. Students can now access books during outdoor recess, if they wish. If you want to donate gently loved books that are targeted towards grades 3-6 students, please provide them to Ms. Szymanski for review/approval and they will be added on a rotational basis.





Governors Educator of the Year

We are excited to share the 2026-2027 Educator of the Year and Educational Services Professional of the Year nomination form. This is an opportunity for community members, parents, and colleagues to nominate outstanding educators for both the Teacher of the Year and Educational Services Professional (ESP) of the Year awards.

Please take time to read and complete the 2026-2027 GOVERNOR'S EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR PROGRAM form before **Friday, November 20, 2026 at 4:00PM.**

Reduced Screen Time Efforts

Research is continually showing that screen time amongst all kids is way too high and can negatively impact their mental health, social interactions, and learning how to appropriately engage with peers and adults. JHES has spearheaded a purposeful effort this year to reduce screen time in our classrooms. This effort will progress to MTES as the year moves forward. We are closely reviewing Rutgers Research Department findings, who partnered with the NJ Department of Education, to

produce screen-time guidelines based on age and grade-level. The research and guidelines will help inform our screen-based learning opportunities in the future.

We encourage families to join us in this initiative of decreasing screen-time across all aspects of our children's lives.

NJSLA-A

Spring 2026 NJSLA-A State Assessment scores were sent home for grades 4-6 a few weeks ago. As this was a new assessment, we are using this baseline data, along with our I-Ready benchmarks and classroom performance, to meet the individual needs of our students. If you have any questions about your students' academic performance or progress, please reach out to Ms. Riviello at nriviello@mansfieldschool.com.

Harvest of Hope Food Drive

Our food drive is ongoing at both JHES & MTES. If you are able to donate, we are greatly appreciative of your support in this endeavor. More Information: Food Drive Flyer

MVP

Our before-and-after school program, MVP, accepts ongoing registration if your family needs support. See the attached flyer if you are interested in joining the program: MVP Flyer

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We thank everyone for your continued partnership in providing your children the best educational experience possible in our schools. If we can be of any support, please reach out.

We wish everyone a peaceful and healthy upcoming Thanksgiving with your family and friends.

Best,

James S. Knipper
Superintendent

