



Peters Township School District

Mr. Blair Stoehr, *Principal*

Mr. Greg Marquis, *Assistant Principal*

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2014-2015 school year at McMurray Elementary! The McMurray Team is thrilled to meet your children and help to facilitate their academic, social, and emotional growth. We have some exciting new elements to enhance your children's educational experience that are new for the 2014-2015 school year.

This starts with the structure of our teacher teams. We have added a homeroom teacher to bring the total number of our homerooms to 40 and our average class size across the building to 25. Our teachers will all be working in partnerships of two and will share the instructional responsibility by one teacher instructing Math/Science and the other teaching English & Language Arts (ELA)/Social Studies. Your children will spend an equal amount of time with each of their teachers and will switch classes as a group.

We have also made some adjustments to the schedule of our calendar and student day. We will be operating on a Monday through Friday schedule as opposed to a six day schedule. The student day will now begin at 8:55 AM, with students being able to access the building at 8:45 AM and a bell schedule to signify the beginning and end of each class. We have also dramatically increased the number of instructional minutes in the areas of Math, Science, ELA, and Social Studies. In addition to the increase of instructional minutes, we are making adjustments to how we utilize this instructional time, most notably, the revision to our math curriculum and adoption of the Envisions Math Program.

Our new curriculum and the Envisions Math Program are designed to foster a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts. It utilizes instructional strategies that enhances problem solving and supports the standards of mathematical practice at each grade level as well as a system of intervention resources to support student learning at all levels. There is a specific structure to each lesson designed to meet the needs of students with a range of abilities with a variety of learning activities, levels of support, enrichment, and leveled homework. McMurray math teachers have worked very hard this summer to be prepared to teach our curriculum, utilizing this system of materials, and are excited to get started.

(More information is available regarding our new math program at the following url:

<http://www.ptsd.k12.pa.us/enVisionsGuide.aspx>)

Our PTA continues to offer tremendous support to our students, teachers, and school. The PTA is led by President Mrs. Suzanne MacKay and a committed group of board members and

volunteers that work to provide significant support, interesting programs, and fun events for our students and staff throughout the year. We truly appreciate the partnership that we have with them.

We have been hard at work planning and preparing for the upcoming school year. With the combined efforts of our PTA Box Tops, Giant Eagle Apples for Students, and technology budget allotted by the District, we were able to purchase 4 Chrome book labs for our students.

McMurray has a passionate team of teachers in place for the 2014-2015 school year. We have some members of our team that are new to us, some familiar faces returning on a more permanent basis, and some familiar faces changing roles. Mrs. Scouvar, filling in for Ms. Kennedy for the first nine weeks, is a native to the Pittsburgh area and comes to us with a wealth of teaching experience from Connecticut. Ms. Wellek is returning to McMurray to teach 5th grade for the 2014-2015 school year. Mrs. Doran and Mrs. Lamatrice are returning to our Learning Support team, along with Ms. Johnson. Mrs. Stark, Mrs. Seelhorst and Mrs. DeCario are joining our 6th grade team, Mrs. Hanna is joining our 5th grade team, and Mrs. Fox-O'Kelly and Mrs. Abele will be teaching accelerated math in 4th and 5th grade, respectively. We are also in the process of searching for a Reading Specialist to add to our spirited team. Stay tuned for more details.

All of our students will also have scheduled time for Computer Applications, Library, Art, General Music, Physical Education, World Language, and the opportunity to take instrument lessons. All students will also be provided the opportunity to participate in chorus, either before (8:05-8:45 AM) or after (3:35-4:15 PM) school as well. Our 6th grade ensemble Band and Orchestra students will have their rehearsals on Tuesdays and Thursdays before school from 8:05-8:45 AM.

We have a lot to be excited about for the upcoming school year and look forward to communicating the wonderful things your children accomplish throughout the year at McMurray Elementary so please follow us on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.

We consider ourselves immensely fortunate to have such a dedicated and talented team of faculty, staff, and families working together to create challenging, fun, and interesting experiences for our students. As always, please contact me or other members of our team if you would like to know more about McMurray Elementary School. Thank you for entrusting the education of your children to our care.

Sincerely,

Blair Stoehr
McMurray Elementary Principal

Stay in touch with McMurray -
Follow us on Social Media!

Facebook: McMurray Elementary

Twitter: McM_Elem

Instagram: McM_Elem



Additional Important Information

4th Grade						
A				B		
4A1	Fox-O'Kelly	204		4B7	Lovett	310
4A2	Barry	205		4B8	DeSalvo	311
4A3	Schinosi	206		4B9	Stock	203
4A4	Vance	207		4B10	Hemmingson	202
4A5	MacKay	209		4B11	Riberich	211
4A6	Owen	208		4B12	Kennedy (Scouvert)	210
5th Grade						
A				B		
5A1	Miller	103		5B8	Clark	308
5A2	McKenna	104		5B9	Abele	312
5A3	Bratetich	101		5B10	Zuccarini	309
5A4	Tillack	102		5B11	Mongillo	304
5A5	Wellek	305		5B12	Noel	303
5A6	Farabaugh	307		5B13	Hanna	302
5A7	Wysocki	313		5B14	Skrok	306
6th Grade						
A				B		
6A1	DeCario	319		6B8	Casciola	316
6A2	Stutzman	216		6B9	Lasser	219
6A3	Bergman	215		6B10	Seelhorst	218
6A4	Scaglione	213		6B11	Goldbach	320
6A5	Kropiewnicki	318		6B12	Kashak	321
6A6	Muto	317		6B13	Stark	105
6A7	Rys	315		6B14	Keffel	217

Lunch/Recess Times

Team	Lunch	Recess
4A	11:33-11:53	11:53-12:13
4B	11:53-12:13	11:33-11:53
6A	12:16-12:36	12:36-12:56
6B	12:36-12:56	12:16-12:36
5A	12:59-1:19	1:19-1:39
5B	1:19-1:39	12:59-1:19

Standardized Testing Dates

Date	Test	Grade
February 17, 2015	NAEP	4 th
April 13-17, 2015	PSSA ELA	4 th ,5 th ,6 th
April 20-24, 2015	PSSA Math	4 th ,5 th ,6 th
April 27-May 1, 2015	PSSA Science	4 th
May 4-8 2015	PSSA Makeup Window	4 th ,5 th ,6 th

Just a reminder...

Parents must use the school walker note form when requesting for children to be permitted to walk to any destination when dismissed from school. Forms are available at the district website (<http://www.ptsd.k12.pa.us/Downloads/Student%20Walker%20Form2.pdf>) or in the main office. A sample form will be included in the PTA packet.