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MISSION

The Mount Union Area School District prepares all children for success and productivity in a global society by encouraging the fulfillment of individual hopes and dreams.

Beliefs:

Expectations for children must have meaning and purpose.

The school environment must be safe and secure.

All children learn at different rates.

This school system is the catalyst impacting the culture, economy, and climate of our community.

All children can learn, and it is our responsibility to help them reach their potential.

The elementary program is the foundation for K-12 learning.

Assessment must occur on a regular basis, thus driving instruction.

All teachers must actively engage children by helping individuals understand why they are learning.

Learning begins at birth, thus requiring the district to engage with parents and children before entering the formal K-12 system.

Our secondary schools must be willing to move beyond current models to create an educational environment that is rigorous, relevant, and personalized.

We must pursue alternative funding streams in the form of competitive grants to insure the fulfillment of the district's vision/mission

2023-2024 School Calendar

<u>August</u>	Teachers' In-Service Teacher's In-Service ½ day Students' First Day MS/HS School Open House 6-7 p.m. Kistler Open House 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. Shirley Township Open House 6-7 p.m.	August 21, 2023 August 22, 2023 August 23, 2023 August 29, 2023 August 30, 2023 August 31, 2023
<u>September</u>	Labor Day	September 4, 2023 NO SCHOOL
<u>October</u>	Act 80 Day	October 09, 2023
<u>November</u>	Early Dismissal/P-T Conferences Veterans Day observance Early Dismissal Thanksgiving Vacation	November 09, 2023 November 10, 2023 NO SCHOOL November 22, 2023 Nov. 23-Nov. 28, 2023 NO SCHOOL
<u>December</u>	Early Dismissal Winter Break	December 22, 2023 December 25-29, 2023 NO SCHOOL
<u>January</u>	Winter Break (Last Day) Dr. Martin Luther King Day/Act 80	January 1-2, 2024 NO SCHOOL January 15, 2024 NO School for students
<u>February</u>	Winter Break/poss. weather make-up President's Day	February 16, 2024 NO SCHOOL February 19, 2024 NO SCHOOL
<u>March</u>	Act 80 Day Easter Break/poss. 2 nd weather make-up Easter Break	March 08, 2024 NO SCHOOL for students March 28, 2024 NO SCHOOL March 29, 2024 NO SCHOOL
<u>April</u>	Easter Break/poss. 3 rd weather make-up	April 1, 2024 NO SCHOOL
<u>May</u>	Student's Last Day	May 24, 2024

Weather Make up order: Feb. 16, Mar. 28, and April 1. All Early Dismissal times for Elementary Schools will be 11:10 A.M.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL INFORMATION

Mount Union-Kistler Elementary

154 School Street
Mount Union, PA 17066
Phone: (814) 542-2595
Fax: (814) 542-3465
Principal: Mr. Chad Mickle – cmickle@muasd.org
Secretary: Mrs. Tonya Stoner – tstoner@muasd.org

Shirley Township Elementary

14188 2nd Street
Mount Union, PA 17066
Phone: (814) 542-9381
Fax: (814) 542-5424
Principal: Mrs. Sandra Kay Rickabaugh – srickabaugh@muasd.org
Secretary: Mrs. Tierney Love – tlove@muasd.org

Superintendent, Dr. Amy Smith (814) 542-8631; asmith@muasd.org

Federal Programs Coordinator: Christian McClure -814-542-9381; cmclure@muasd.org (Shirley/Kistler – K-5).

Director of Special Education: Dr. Dianne Thomas (814) 542-2518; dthomas@muasd.org

Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment – Christian McClure – 814-542-9381; cmclure@muasd.org (Shirley/Kistler – K-5)

Elementary Guidance Counselor: Ms. Nicole Crone; ncrone@muasd.org

District Registered Nurse: Mrs. Lori Varner: lvarner@muasd.org

LPN at Shirley Township Elementary: Ms. Jamie Bowser: jbowser@muasd.org

LPN at Kistler Elementary: Mrs. Carol Pollock – cpollock@muasd.org

BUILDING TIME SCHEDULE

Mount Union Kistler and Shirley Township Teacher reporting time is 7:25 AM.

Mount Union Kistler and Shirley Township students may enter the building at 7:30 AM.

Any Mount Union Kistler or Shirley Township student who is eating breakfast at school must report to school by 7:30 AM.

All Mount Union Kistler or Shirley Township students are expected to report to their homeroom classroom by 7:50 AM.

Students will be marked tardy after 7:50 AM.

Instruction will begin by 7:50 AM every day.

Mount Union Kistler and Shirley Township dismissal will be as follows:

Walkers and Car Riders: 2:30 PM.

Busses:

First Wave Dismissal is 2:35 PM.

Second Wave Dismissal is 2:45 PM.

Success in school depends on cooperation among students, parents, and staff. The following lists of responsibilities should assist everyone to better understand their role in this partnership.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS

1. Treat others with **respect** and courtesy in your actions and language. Avoid physical violence.
2. Know and follow all the school rules.
3. Put forth your best effort by staying on task, paying attention, and completing assignments on time.
4. Attend school daily, except when excused, and report to class on time.
5. Add to what you've learned in school by reading books, magazines, newspapers, and by watching appropriate television shows.
6. Set aside a time and quiet place to do your homework.
7. Show your parents what you've done in school.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

1. Encourage your child to do his/her best in school by showing interest in all his/her activities and provide a time and a quiet place to do homework.
2. Use positive pressure by expecting the best from your child academically. Respect his/her interests, capabilities, and limitations.
3. Spend quality time with your child reading books, magazines, newspapers, and watching appropriate television shows.
4. **Support school rules and goals; recognize that parents' attitudes and opinions often become those of their children.**
5. **Insist on prompt and regular attendance.**
6. Don't wait until it's too late. Call teachers more often and earlier if you have a question or concern.
7. Parents are required to report to the office before visiting the teacher or picking up children.
8. **Any change in the transportation of your child must be accompanied by a note, written by the parent. This note will be sent to the office**

CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS

Should you have a concern about your child's education or behavior, first contact the classroom teacher. If your concern is not resolved satisfactorily, contact the building head teacher or principal. Further inquiries should be directed to the Federal Programs Coordinator.

If you would like to schedule a conference to discuss your child's progress, please contact your child's teacher to arrange a mutually convenient time.

VISITATIONS TO SCHOOL

All visits to the classroom MUST be scheduled with the classroom teacher at least 24 hours in advance. All school guests **MUST sign in** at the school office before proceeding throughout the building. Visitors must wear a "visitor badge" when they are moving through the building. All visitors must sign out in the office when leaving the building. Visitors' access to the elem. buildings will be limited to one entrance, which will be through the main office doors.

Important Note: Parents and/or family members must always report to the office to deliver a message, medication, homework, lunch or lunch money, supplies, etc. To promote independence, please allow your child to walk to his/her classroom with the other children.

HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework is an important part of a child's learning. The purpose of homework is to provide additional practice, to prepare for future lessons, and to encourage the child to work independently. Parents can help their children by emphasizing the importance of homework. Reserve a specific time and turn off the television. Show an interest in your child's assignments, but do not do the work for them. Understand that the school expects the homework to be completed neatly and returned promptly.

Homework amounts vary from teacher to teacher; therefore, we encourage you to set aside a minimum study time each evening. This time could be used for daily assignments, review, test preparation, long range assignments, or reading.

Students who have been absent are required to make up all missed work.

STAYING IN AT RECESS

Recess is an important part of school to help develop physical and social skills to be successful in school and life. Weather permitting; students will go out for recess. Students are permitted to stay inside with a doctor's excuse. On rare occasions, due to a recent illness, students may stay inside with a written permission slip signed by the parent. Students that stay in for recess may be assigned an alternative room because their teacher may have a recess or lunch duty.

RECESS EQUIPMENT AND TOYS BROUGHT FROM HOME

Our schools have large equipment designed for climbing, sliding and for creative play. Additionally, we provide the necessary basketballs, kick balls and other equipment so children have a variety of options to play during the daily thirty-minute recess period. **Children are not permitted to bring cell phones, toys, or other playground equipment (i.e., baseballs, bats, etc.) to school.** Too often these items become broken, lost, stolen or present a hazard on the buses.

STATE STANDARD FOR READING BOOKS

The Pennsylvania State Standards indicate that all students should read, or have read to them, 25 books per year. If we want children to improve their reading fluency, vocabulary and comprehension we must get them to read books at home every night. Your child should bring a good book home every night from school. There is a huge difference in the amount of time strong readers spend reading each night as compared to reluctant readers. Reading 20-30 minutes per night will make a difference in your child's academic performance this year and for the rest of their lives.

SUPPORT SERVICES

GUIDANCE/COUNSELING

The Mount Union Area School District employs one elementary school guidance counselor. The counselor is available for crisis management and is knowledgeable about community agencies and resources, which may be helpful for students and families. The counselor provides guidance and counseling to all students and works with students individually or with small groups that have similar interest or needs or with a whole class. The counselor is also available to consult with parents about a child's educational or emotional needs, and he can refer parents to additional services and specialists within the school system or community.

Parents may want to contact the school counselor for the following reasons:

1. Assistance in helping your child through a family or personal crisis.
2. Change in behavior.
3. Questions about test scores.

Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)

Pennsylvania's Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) is a standards-aligned, comprehensive school improvement framework designed to enhance academic, behavioral, and social-emotional learning outcomes for ALL students using a continuum of evidence-based practices and technically adequate assessment measures. The components of Pennsylvania's MTSS framework include high-quality standards-aligned core instruction, universal screening, shared ownership, data-based decision-making within a tiered service delivery model, family engagement, and ongoing context embedded professional learning.

TITLE I

Title I is a 100 percent federally funded supplemental education program that provides financial assistance to local educational agencies to improve educational opportunities for economically disadvantaged children. Title I programs are designed to help children meet the state content and performance standards in reading, language arts, and mathematics. Mount Union Area School District Title I reading services are offered for students in grades K-5. Assessments are administered to students in September/October, January and May to determine eligibility and monitor progress. An annual performance report is completed each year and shared with parents regarding the progress of our Title I program. Specific data on each building's Title I annual progress is on file and available for parental review. A Home-School Compact and Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy have been developed by our Parent Advisory Committee and are included in our student handbook, which is available as a paper copy or on our district's website. Assessment data indicating student progress is sent home with each student in September/October, January and May.

MTSS is organized into three tiers of support:

All students will receive **Tier 1** support, using the district-adopted core materials. Instruction in Tier 1 may be differentiated to meet individual student needs with this core instruction; however, students are still instructed using the core materials. In English Language Arts (ELA) we use the **Open Court** reading series from McGraw-Hill. In Math, we use **Envision Math** from Savaas Learning. Both core programs are well-researched and proven to make a difference in reading and math skills when implemented with fidelity. In addition to our core materials, we also utilize various programs for practicing skills such as IXL, Reflex Math, Frax, and eSpark, to name a few.

If data reveals that a student needs extra support in a targeted skill or strategy beyond core instruction, our school district provides Title I support in both reading and math. We call this, **Tier 2**. In Tier 2 instruction, students are provided an extra twenty minutes of instruction, very specific to their area of deficiency. Direct instruction occurs in Tier 2 to give students the boost they need to be more successful. We provide this extra support in addition to core instruction so students do not miss important teaching; students are **working with a reading or math specialist (Title I)** during part of their class's center time/stations. Tier 2 instruction may occur in the regular classroom or may occur in a small group setting outside of the classroom. We aim to have no more than six students in each small group.

Tier 3 support is provided for those students with intensive needs in reading and math. For example, these students need a small group environment for this intensive, direct instruction. Sometimes, the instruction is provided 1:1. These students are likely to be more than one year behind grade level. This tiered system of support is 40 minutes in duration. We aim to have no more than five students per group. All Tier 3 programs that Mount Union utilizes are research-based and have proven evidence that these materials work for most students in Tier 3.

In summary, the Mount Union Area School District believes in the overwhelming research findings for effective practices. We believe in shared ownership of each student's learning so your child may have more than one expert working with them throughout the day. We strive to create opportunities for our students where they can thrive. We assure high expectations for all students, providing research-based, data-driven instruction that is aligned to the Pennsylvania State Standards. We also will progress monitor all students throughout the year to ensure that learning is taking place.

Shirley Township Elementary School Title I Parent/Family Engagement Policy

At the beginning of each school year, a letter will be sent home with all Title I Parents. This will be an invitation for parents to participate in the planning, reviewing and improvement of Shirley Township Elementary's Parent/Family Engagement Policy including the Parent Compact. They will also be informed on the current Title I requirements and their right to be involved in the planning, reviewing and improvement of our Title I Program. Comments and suggestions will be taken during the meeting and the policy will be amended.

Parents are encouraged to attend Shirley Township's Open House in September to schedule a conference with his/her child. Conferences will be held each November with hours available during the day and evening to accommodate parent's schedules. Parents may also call the school to arrange a time to meet with a teacher if there is a conflict with the conference times.

Shirley Township Elementary School provides opportunities throughout the school year for parents to be engaged with the students and teachers. Examples of past parent/family engagement programs include; author visits, Thanksgiving Dinner, Breakfast and Book with Santa, Open House, and Spring Picnic. In addition, the PTO/PBIS plan many activities that also encourage parental engagement and participation. Title I Funding is available to support the activities planned by the parents and Title I staff.

During Parent/Family Engagement activities, Title I staff members will provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve achievement across the curriculum.

Mount Union Area School District's Federal Programs Coordinator will send a letter home three times per year (November, January, and June) describing the forms of local and standardized academic assessments used to track the progress of our students. In addition, the curriculum is posted on the school district's website. Parents have access to Power School, the student information system, to monitor their child's progress.

Updated July 2023

**Mount Union Area School District
Schoolwide Title 1
School-Parent Compact
2023-2024**

The **Shirley Township Elementary School**, and the parents of the students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (participating children), agree that this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the Pennsylvania Academic Standards.

This school-parent compact is in effect during the **2022-2023** school year.

School Responsibilities:

The **Shirley Township Elementary School** will...

1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the Pennsylvania Academic Standards as follows:

READING:

- Reading material and strategies will be based on the Science of Reading Research.
- Reading instruction will include the five critical elements of effective reading instruction (phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and text comprehension).
- A minimum of 90 minutes of direct, explicit, and systematic reading instruction will be provided to students in Grades 3 & 4, and at least 60 minutes in Grade 5. This is known as Tier 1 instruction in the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) model.
- Grades 3, 4, & 5 students will receive small group, differentiated instruction to help them achieve the Pennsylvania Core Standards for English Language Arts.
 - Small group instruction is based on our MTSS model. Students will be grouped by tiers. Tier 1 students will receive small group instruction (SGI) from their classroom teacher based on their needs. Tier 2 students may receive SGI from their classroom teacher and/or a reading specialist; students will be grouped based on their common skill deficit. Tier 3 students may receive SGI from their classroom teacher, a reading specialist, and/or a special education teacher. This instruction will be based on the individual needs of students. We aim to keep all small groups to not more than 5 students at one time. When possible, we aim to meet with every student in small groups at least two times per week.

MATH:

- Mathematics instructional material will be aligned to meet Pennsylvania’s Core Standards for Mathematics.
 - A minimum of 40 minutes of direct, explicit, and systematic mathematics instruction will be provided to students in Grades 3, 4, & 5. This is known as Tier 1 instruction in the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) model.
 - Students in Grades 3, 4, & 5 will receive small group, differentiated instruction to help them achieve the Pennsylvania Core Standards for Mathematics. (MTSS Tiers 1-3)
 - Small group instruction is based on our MTSS model. Students will be grouped by tiers. Tier 1 students will receive small group instruction (SGI) from their classroom teacher based on their needs. Tier 2 students may receive SGI from their classroom teacher and/or a reading specialist; students will be grouped based on their common skill deficit. Tier 3 students may receive SGI from their classroom teacher, a reading specialist, and/or a special education teacher. This instruction will be based on the individual needs of students. We aim to keep all small groups to not more than 6 students at one time. In addition, we aim to meet with every student in small groups at least two times per week.
2. Hold parent-teacher conferences (at least annually in elementary schools) during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child’s achievement. Specifically, those conferences will be held:
- Parent Teacher Conference Dates November 09, 2023
3. Provide parents with frequent reports on their child’s progress. Specifically, the school will provide reports as follows:
- Title 1 schoolwide progress reports will be distributed tri-annually to all students. Reports will be distributed in November 2023, January 2024 and May 2024. Reports will include student data from the Acadience Assessment System in both Reading & Math.
4. Provide parents reasonable access to staff. Classroom Teacher, Title I Teacher, Guidance Counselor and Principal are available for consultation, upon request, at any time. However, the school does plan for a parent-teacher conference in the fall. Specifically, staff will be available for consultation with parents as follows:
- Parent Teacher Conference Dates November 09, 2023
5. Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child’s class, and to observe classroom activities, as follows:
- Parents are encouraged to visit their child’s classrooms on a scheduled basis.
 - Parent/Family engagement activities to support reading and mathematics instruction at home will be coordinated and scheduled throughout the year by classroom teachers, building administrators, and Title I staff.

Principal’s Signature: *Sandra Kay Rickabaugh*

Date: July 10, 2023

Student Responsibilities:

As a student in the *Shirley Township Elementary School*, I realize that my education is important and will share the responsibility to improve my academic achievement and achieve Pennsylvania’s Academic Standards. I know that I am responsible for my own success. Therefore, I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability:

1. I will follow the school-wide rules:
 - Be respectful.
 - Be responsible.
 - Be safe.
2. I will go to school with the attitude that I am going to do my best.
3. I will pay attention as best as I can.
4. I will do my homework everyday and ask for help when I need it.
5. I will take a book home from school each night to read independently or with my parents.
6. I will practice my number identification, counting, and addition & subtraction facts every night.
7. I will participate in extra curricular activities that go along with my schoolwork.
8. I will give all school notes and information that are sent home with me to my parents or the adult who is responsible for my welfare.

Student’s Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Responsibilities:

As the parent/guardian of a student in the *Shirley Township Elementary School*, I realize the importance of working with the school. I understand that my participation in my child’s education will help his/her achievement and attitude. Therefore, I join with *Shirley Township Elementary School* by carrying out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability:

1. Monitoring attendance.
2. Making sure homework is complete.
3. Monitoring the amount of television my child watches.
4. Participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to my children’s education.
5. Promoting positive use of my child’s extracurricular time.
6. Encouraging my child to read every day.
7. Practicing math facts every day with my child.
8. Staying informed about my child’s education and communicating with the school by promptly reading all notices from the school or the school district either received via child or mail and responding, as appropriate.
9. Promote an open, positive dialogue with the school.
10. Serving to the extent possible on policy advisory groups, such as the Mount Union Area Title I Parent-Family Engagement Committee.

Parent/Guardian’s Signature: _____ Date: _____

Right to Know

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child's school receives Title I funding and is included under the regulations of the "Every Student Succeeds Act" (ESSA) that was signed into law December 2015 and reauthorizes the Elementary Student Education Act of 1956 (ESEA).

ESSA requires:

- Increased accountability for states and school districts.
- Greater choice for parents, especially those in low performing schools.
- Greater flexibility for state and local education agencies in the use of federal funding.

Under ESSA, parents have a right to request professional qualifications of their children's teacher(s) or paraprofessional(s). This letter is to inform you of your right to ask for the following information about your children's classroom teachers or paraprofessionals:

- Whether Pennsylvania has licensed the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which Pennsylvania licensing criteria have been waived.
- The teacher's baccalaureate degree major and whether the teacher has any advance degrees, and if so, the subject of the degrees.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive specific information about your child's teacher or paraprofessional, please contact your school principal.

Our district is fully committed to the success of your child. We appreciate your partnership in our efforts to provide the best education for your child.

Sincerely,

Mr. Christian McClure

Mr. Christian McClure
Federal Programs Coordinator

July, 2023

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Getting Help for Your Child

If you suspect your child may have special needs that influence his or her ability to learn, interact socially or emotionally in the school environment, you should first schedule a meeting with school personnel to review your concerns. Special education services are coordinated in Mount Union by the Director of Special Education to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations.

To have your child evaluation for the suspected need(s), you **must** complete a written request to the Mount Union Area School District (MUASD) as per Pennsylvania law. A letter that states the facts and the suspected problem(s) can achieve this. You may also obtain a “Parent Request for an Evaluation/Reevaluation” form that is available at each building within the district. Your written request should be sent to the following:

**Mount Union Area School District
Director of Special Education
706 N. Shaver Street
Mount Union, Pennsylvania 17066**

Know Your Rights

All children who are of school age are entitled to a **Free Appropriate Public Education** (FAPE) under state and federal regulations. MUASD strives to ensure the educational rights of your child are being met. Parents are encouraged to obtain a free copy of the “**Procedural Safeguards Notice**” from the district that outlines your child’s educational rights. Parents are further encouraged to contact the Director of Special Education to review specific questions, concerns, and disagreements with referrals, evaluations, and placements.

Parents should clearly understand that no child can receive specially designed instruction without the parent’s consent. In addition, parents need to understand the concept of FAPE. An appropriate education with specially designed instruction can range from placement in regular education to more restrictive settings. There is a difference between what is appropriate and what may be desired.

You are a Team Member

As a parent, you are a valuable member of the “**IEP Team**”. This team is a collection of people from across several disciplines (fields of study or having knowledge of the student) that meet routinely to collect data, evaluate educational progress, and to make recommendations regarding the student’s needs. Members of the team include: the parents, the child’s regular education teacher, special education teacher, LEA, the child (when appropriate), and others who may have knowledge of your child such as the school psychologist, specialists, and support personnel.

Levels of Support

The level and type of support your child may need can depend on many factors. Levels and types of support may vary depending on the child's needs. MUASD is committed to providing services in the least restrictive environment that will appropriately meet the child's needs. An example of the least restrictive environment could be a placement in the regular classroom and an example of a more restrictive environment could represent placement in a special school. Below is a listing of the levels of support that exist.

- Itinerant: Special education support and services provided by special education personnel for 20% or less of the school day
- Supplemental: Special education support and services provided by special education personnel for more than 20% of the day but less than 80% of the school day
- Full-time: Special education support and services provided by special education personnel for 80% or more of the school day

Location of Intervention

Specially designed instruction can occur at different locations based on the student's needs, availability of programs and services, and appropriateness. Parents should know that it is not always possible to have every program in every school due to factors such as exceptionality population, availability of certified staff, and appropriateness. MUASD contracts for services with other school districts and Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11 (IU11) for some programs in an effort to strategically place programs and services and to share costs. Examples of locations include:

- The regular school the student would attend if not exceptional
- An alternate school as close to the student's home as possible
- An alternate school in a neighboring school district
- Instruction in the home
- Approved Private School on a day basis
- Approved Private School on a residential basis
- Out-of-state placement
- Other residential facility
- Area Vocational-Technical School

Types of Programs and Services

- Autistic Support (AS). MUASD operates three ABA classrooms within the school district to support students with Autism.
- Blind or Visually Impaired Support (BVIS): The MUASD contracts with IU 11 to provide blind or visually impaired support
- Physical Support (PS): The MUASD can provide physical support as needed. Where necessary, physical therapists contracted through IU 11 can offer support to students in need of PS.
- Deaf and Hearing Support (DHIS): The MUASD contracts with the IU 11 for the Deaf and Hearing Support program.

- Emotional Support (ES): The MUASD operates its own Emotional Support program. An itinerant teacher is assigned to students in need of ES in the district. Students who have greater ES needs may be placed in programs offering a highly structured full-time emotional support class outside of their regular school setting.
- Gifted Support (GS): MUASD operates its own GS programs in the elementary and secondary schools for students with high intellectual and creative ability.
- Learning Support (LS): MUASD operates its own LS programs. This programming is designed to provide varying levels of support for students experiencing academic difficulty.
- Life Skills Support (LSS): The MUASD operates an elementary and Jr/Sr high school level LSS program. Students from both inside and outside the school district attend this program.
- Speech and Language Support (SLS): The MUASD operates its own SLS program. Additionally, the MUASD contracts with the IU 11 to support additional speech needs.
- Multi-Disabled Support (MDS): MUASD operates its own MDS programming at the elementary and Jr/Sr high schools. Students both inside and outside the district attend our classrooms.
- School Health Services: MUASD employs school nurses to provide health services.
- Guidance Counseling: MUASD employs guidance counselors to assist students with their needs.
- Transportation: MUASD provides regular school bus transportation to all eligible students. Specialized transportation is arranged when determined to be appropriate through educational programming.
- School Psychologist: MUASD employs a school psychologist for psychological services. Psychological evaluations are required under state and federal regulations to be eligible for special education.

Other programs and services available when appropriate include:

- Adaptive Physical Education
- Assistive Technology Devices
- Audiology
- Behavior Management Programs
- Early Identification and Assessment of disabilities
- Extended School Year
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Social Work Services
- Student Assistance Programs
- Transition Services
- Vocational Education

Annual Public Notice of Special Education Services and Programs, Services for Gifted Students and Services for Protected Handicapped Students

August 2023

Notice to Parents

According to state and federal special education regulations, annual public notice to parents of children who reside within a school district is required regarding child find responsibilities. School districts (SDs), intermediate units (IUs) and charter schools (CSs) are required to conduct child find activities for children who may be eligible for services via Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For additional information related to Section 504/Chapter 15 services, the parent may refer to Section 504, Chapter 15, and the Basic Education Circular entitled Implementation of Chapter 15. Also, school districts are required to conduct child find activities for children who may be eligible for gifted services via 22 PA Code Chapter 16. For additional information regarding gifted services, the parent may refer to 22 PA Code Chapter 16. If a student is both gifted and eligible for Special Education, the procedures in IDEA and Chapter 14 shall take precedence.

This notice shall inform parents throughout the school district, intermediate unit, and charter school of the child identification activities and of the procedures followed to ensure confidentiality of information pertaining to students with disabilities or eligible young children. In addition to this public notice, each school district, intermediate unit, and charter school shall publish written information in the handbook and on the web site. Children ages three through twenty-one can be eligible for special education programs and services. If parents believe that the child may be eligible for special education, the parent should contact the appropriate staff member identified at the end of this public notice.

Children ages three to school-age may be eligible for Early Intervention services if they are experiencing developmental delays. Developmental delays, as defined by the State and as measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments, include a 25 percent delay or a test performance of 1.5 standard deviations below the mean on a standardized assessment in one of the following developmental areas: physical development, cognitive development, communication development, social or emotional development or adaptive development. A young child may also be deemed eligible if they are determined to have a diagnosed disability as defined by PA Chapter 14 regulations. Eligibility for Early Intervention services is two-pronged. The child must be diagnosed with a developmental delay or a diagnosed disability and display a need for specially designed instruction. Specially designed instruction means adapting the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction to address the unique needs of the child and to ensure access to the general education curriculum.

Evaluation Process

Each school district, intermediate unit, and charter school has a procedure in place by which parents can request an evaluation. For information about procedures applicable to your child, contact the school which your child attends. Telephone numbers and addresses can be found at the end of this notice. Parents of preschool age children, age three through five, may request an evaluation in writing by addressing a letter to the intermediate unit staff.

Consent

School entities cannot proceed with an evaluation or reevaluation, or with the initial provision of special education and related services, without the written consent of the parents. For additional information related to consent, please refer to the Procedural Safeguards Notice which can be found at the PaTTAN website, www.Pattan.net or your educational agency. Once written parental consent is obtained, the district will proceed with the evaluation process. If the parent disagrees with the evaluation, the parent can request an independent education evaluation at public expense.

Program Development

Once the evaluation process is completed, a team of qualified professionals and parents determine whether the child is eligible. If the child is eligible, the individualized education program team meets, develops the program, and determines the educational placement. Once the IEP team develops the program and determines the educational placement, school district staff, intermediate unit staff, or charter school staff will issue a notice of recommended educational placement/prior written notice. Your written consent is required before initial services can be provided. The parent has the right to revoke consent after initial placement.

Confidentiality of Information

The SDs, IUs and CDs maintain records concerning all children enrolled in the school, including students with disabilities. All records are maintained in the strictest confidentiality. Your consent, or consent of an eligible child who has reached the age of majority under State law, must be obtained before personally identifiable information is released, except as permitted under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The age of majority in Pennsylvania is 21. Each participating agency must protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information at collection, storage, disclosure, and destruction stages. One official at each participating agency must assume responsibility for ensuring the confidentiality of any personally identifiable information. Each participating agency must maintain, for public inspection, a current listing of the names and positions of those employees within the agency who have access to personally identifiable information.

In accordance with 34 CFR § 300.624, please be advised of the following retention/destruction schedule for the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA), Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), and Keystone Exam related materials:

- PSSA, Keystone Exam, and PASA test booklets will be destroyed one year after student reports are delivered for the administration associated with the test booklets.
- PSSA and Keystone Exam answer booklets and PASA media recordings will be destroyed three years after completion of the assessment.

For additional information related to student records, the parent can refer to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

This notice is only a summary of the Special Education services, evaluation and screening activities, and rights and protections pertaining to children with disabilities, children thought to be disabled, and their parents. For more information or to request evaluation or screening of a public or private school child, contact the responsible school entity listed below. For preschool age children, information, screenings and evaluations requested may be obtained by contacting the Intermediate Unit. The addresses of these schools are as follows:

INTERMEDIATE UNIT			
Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11 Mrs. Kelly Zurybida 2527 US Hwy 522 S McVeytown, PA 17051	814-542-2501	TIU Early Intervention Programming 2501 Mr. Brian Kritzer 2527 US Hwy 522 S McVeytown, PA 17051	814-542-2501
SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICES			
Central Fulton School District Mrs. Holly Varner 151 East Cherry Street McConnellsburg, PA 17233-1400	717-485-7060	Forbes Road School District 3865 Forbes Road High School Ms. Rebekah Rogers 159 Redbird Drive Waterfall, PA 16689	814-685-3865
Huntingdon Area School District Administrative Office Mr. Tim Snare 2400 Cassady Avenue, Suite 2 Huntingdon, PA 16652-2602	814-641-2104	Juniata County School District 2111 Administrative Office Ms. Christie Holderman 146 Weatherby Way Mifflintown, PA 17059	717-436-2111
Juniata Valley School District Administrative Office Ms. Lisa Coble 7775 Juniata Valley Pike, PO Box 318 Alexandria, PA 16611	814-669-9150	Mifflin County School District 0148 Administrative Building Ms. Cindi Marsh 201 Eighth Street, Highland Park Lewistown, PA 17044	717-248-0148
Mount Union Area School District Administrative Center Dr. Dianne Thomas 603 N. Industrial Drive Mount Union, PA 17066	814-542-2518	Southern Fulton School District 3400 Dr. Laurel Keegan 3072 Great Cove Road, Suite 100 Warfordsburg, PA 17267	717-294-3400
Southern Huntingdon School District Southern Huntingdon County High School Ms. Alisa Scott 10339 Pogue Road Three Springs, PA 17264-9730	814-447-5520	Corrections Education 4024 Mr. Timothy Miller Trough Creek Youth Forestry Camp #3 4534 Tar Kiln Road James Creek, PA. 16657 -South Mountain Secure Treatment Unit 10056 South Mountain Road – P.O. Box 374 South Mountain, PA 17261	814-658-4024
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NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS LOCATED IN IU 11			
Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11		814-542-2501	
Dr. Brett Gilliland 2527 US Hwy 522 S McVeytown, PA 17051			
CHARTER SCHOOLS			
New Day Charter School		814-643-7112	Stone Valley Community Charter School
Ms. Brandy Armstrong			814-667-2705
-256 South 5th Street.			Ms. Cheryl Casner
Huntingdon, PA 16652		717-447-0623	13006 Greenwood Road
-109 Industrial Circle			Huntingdon, PA 16652
Mifflintown, PA 17059			
PRISONS			
Huntingdon County Prison		814-641-2104	Mifflin County Prison
Mr. Tim Snare			717-248-0148
2400 Cassady Avenue, Suite 2			Ms. Cindi Marsh
Huntingdon, PA 16652-2602			201 Eighth Street, Highland Park
			Lewistown, PA 17044

The school entity or charter school will not discriminate in employment, educational programs, or activities based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, handicap, creed, marital status or because a person is a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam era. No preschool, elementary or secondary school pupil enrolled in a school district, Intermediate Unit, or charter school program shall be denied equal opportunity to participate in age and program appropriate instruction or activities due to race, color, handicap, creed, national origin, marital status or financial hardship.

Homelessness

The Mount Union Area School District's requirements for homeless families are identified in the district policy and the McKinney-Vento Act. The McKinney-Vento Act states that child welfare and local education agencies must work together so that children can have school stability and continuity, including trying to ensure children remain in their home school whenever possible. The district's Homeless Liaison will provide resources for students currently enrolled or upon enrollment in the Mount Union Area School District, who are identified as homeless. The District Homeless Liaison can also support and help students in homeless situations in many ways. The Liaison may assist families with the following:

- ✓ Make sure students are enrolled in school immediately, even if they do not have the papers they would normally need.
- ✓ Help families and youth get immunizations, immunization records or other medical records, if a student needs them.
- ✓ Tell parents and youth about all transportation services and help set up transportation.
- ✓ Make sure students get all the school services they need.
- ✓ Tell parents and guardians about all the programs and services the school and community have for their children.

Mount Union Area School District's Homeless Liaison is Dr. Dianne Thomas. For questions about homelessness please call: 814-542-2518; Ext. 162 or email: dthomas@muasd.org.

DISCIPLINE

The disciplining of students is the responsibility of the entire school staff. We expect our students to adhere to the building expectations listed below and act in a reasonable and courteous manner. Every teacher has reviewed these expectations with your child.

1. Respect yourself, other people, and other belongings.
2. Use appropriate and respectful language at all times.
3. Walk while in the hallways, on the stairs, and while unloading and boarding the busses.
4. Take pride in the school.
5. Practice non-violence by avoiding behaviors that are harmful to yourself and others.

LEVELS OF STUDENT MISCONDUCT AND SUBSEQUENT DISCIPLINE

The following is a list of student misconducts and subsequent disciplines. This list is divided into four levels of misconduct, from minor misbehaviors to very serious misbehaviors. Since it would be impossible to conceive of every possible misconduct, this listing is not meant to be all-inclusive. Instead, it should be viewed as a listing of examples of misconducts and their subsequent disciplines. It should be noted that continued misconduct could result in more serious consequences, and that certain misconducts could lead to exclusion from school (in school suspension, suspension, or expulsion). Students could be excluded from school for the following reasons: Smoking, drugs and/or alcohol (possession, use, under the influence of, or evidence of such on the student's breath or clothes), possession and/or use of weapons or replica of such weapons, fighting, skipping or refusing to serve detention, theft (including taking books out of the library without signing them out), insubordination, harassment, extortion, continuation of lower level misconducts, criminal acts, and serious misbehaviors unbecoming a student in the Mount Union Area School District Elementary Schools.

Students will remain at the highest level of infraction until the student has gone 45 days without any misconducts above a level II. Student discipline level is reduced one level every 45 days without a misconduct of Level II or higher.

LEVEL I

Minor misbehaviors on the part of the student that impede the educational process and orderly classroom procedures or interfere with the orderly operation of the school. This level of misconduct can and should be handled by the classroom teacher but may sometimes require additional action by guidance and/or administration.

Examples: Minor classroom disturbances, tardiness to school, failure to complete assignments, failure to return library items on time, coming unprepared to school, having gum, food or drinks in unauthorized areas, failure to meet deadlines, improper dress, loitering, littering, lying, hall pass offenses, cafeteria or playground offenses, book damage or loss, climbing over bus seats, etc.

Discipline: Can take any or all of the following forms: parental contact, parent conference, special assignment, reteaching during PBIS time (first 10 minutes of recess), counseling, withdrawal of privileges, conference with student, paying of fines, after-school detention, assigned bus seat, or bus suspension (1-3 days).

LEVEL II

Misbehavior whose frequency and seriousness tends to disrupt the general learning climate of the school or impacts adversely on the school operation or public image.

Examples: School tardiness, truancy, disruptive, lewd or rude behavior, bullying, abusive or obscene language, forgery, cheating on tests or assignments, smoking or possession of tobacco, harassment of others, misconduct on field trips or during assemblies, leaving school without permission, ignoring or disregarding safety rules and regulations, continuation of Level I misconducts, etc.

Discipline: Can take any or all of the following forms: behavioral contract, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, bus behavioral contract, or bus suspension (1-10 days). Can also result in any or all of the Level I options.

LEVEL III

This level of student conduct includes acts directly against persons and property and drug and alcohol related incidents. These acts normally do not seriously endanger the health and safety of others in the school.

Examples: Minor vandalism, drug and/or alcohol related incidents, theft or possession of stolen property, harassment (including sexual harassment), threats, possession of a look-alike weapon, insubordination, vulgar behavior, belligerent behavior, open defiance of student toward staff or bus driver, continuation of Level II misconduct, etc.

Discipline: Can take any or all of the following forms: mandated out-of-school counseling, arrest, prosecution, citation, detention, bus suspension (5 days-semester-entire year). Can also result in any or all Level I and II options.

LEVEL IV

Acts which could or do result in violence to another person or property or which pose a direct threat to the safety of others in the school.

Examples: Fighting, assault and battery, possession of a weapon, extortion, bomb threat, false alarm, arson, drug dealing, major vandalism, other criminal acts, continuation of Level III misconduct, etc.

Discipline: Can take any or all of the following forms including: suspension, expulsion, drug and alcohol assessment/rehabilitation. May also result in any or all Level I, II and III options.

Notice: The administration reserves the right to assign such discipline for infractions which are not specifically listed. Students will be disciplined taking into consideration the past disciplinary record of the student and any other extenuating circumstances.

Participation in extra-curricular activities during the school day

Students must be in good standing in order to attend and/or participate in field trips, field day activities, reward events and assemblies. Good standing means:

1. No after-school detention owed.
2. No out of school suspension one month prior to the event.
3. No more than three office referrals one month prior to the event.
4. Student is not at a level of discipline higher than Level II.

If In-School Suspension, Out-of-School Suspension, or Alternative Placement is assigned, the student is not permitted to participate in any school related activities and is not permitted on school grounds.

BULLYING

As a part of safe schools, we are committed to providing an environment where students feel safe and secure. Therefore, bullying behavior is not tolerated at Mount Union Kistler or Shirley Township Elementary.

Below are definitions of what constitutes bullying.

BULLYING: A student is being bullied or victimized when he or she is exposed, **REPEATEDLY AND OVER TIME**, to negative actions on the part of one or more other students (Olweus 1986 and 1991). It is a negative action when someone intentionally inflicts, or attempts to inflict, injury or discomfort upon another.

DIRECT BULLYING: A negative action when somebody hits, pushes, kicks, pinches, or restrains another by physical contact. Direct bullying can also be carried out by words (verbally), by threatening, taunting, teasing, and calling names.

INDIRECT BULLYING: Making faces or dirty gestures, intentionally excluding someone from a group, spreading rumors, or refusing to comply with another person's wishes.

CYBER-BULLYING: Using electronic device mediums such as but not limited to computers, cell phones, and pagers to bully (bullying defined above) others through methods such as posting comments or pictures on blogs or websites, text messaging, instant messaging and email. This cyber-bullying behavior is not to be confused with terroristic threats, which can be communicated through similar methods.

RELATIONAL AGGRESSION: Describes behavior which can undermine and destroy relationships and is often used when identifying "female" bullying. However, it should be noted that both genders can engage in direct or indirect bullying, and it can be either physical and/or psychological in nature.

Bullying can be carried out by a single individual or by a group. The target/victim of bullying can be a single individual or a group of students. The behavior can be either overt or covert in nature utilizing various methods of communication. For example, the term ‘cyber-bullying’ is being used to describe behavior which occurs on the Internet. The term bullying should not be used when there is a mutual confrontation between two students or groups of students.

Behavior is clearly bullying when:

1. There is intent to harm. The perpetrator appears to find pleasure in taunting and continues even when the target’s distress is obvious. **Mutual “teasing” should not be confused with bullying behavior.**
2. **There is intensity and duration.** The taunting continues over a period of time, and, is not welcomed by the target.

Mount Union Area Elementary School Anti-Bullying Rules:

1. We will not bully others.
2. We will help students who are bullied.
3. We will include students who are left out.
4. If we know that someone is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.

PBIS

The Mount Union Area Elementary Schools will implement Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) as a means to promote positive behaviors. Students will be expected to “Be a Trojan” by following these three guiding principles: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe.

School-wide Positive Behavior and Intervention Support (PBIS) is a proactive, team-based framework that aids in creating and sustaining safe and effective schools. PBIS is a research-based approach that supports all students. Development and implementation of proactive procedures and practices aides in the prevention of problem behavior and also improves of school climate. The key components of an effective school-wide PBIS system include:

- Clearly defining and teaching a set of behavioral expectations
- Consistently acknowledging and rewarding appropriate behavior
- Constructively addressing problematic behavior
- Effectively using behavioral data to assess progress

SCHOOL BUS RULES AND STUDENT CONDUCT

The bus driver is in direct charge of the bus and students at all times.

The driver will:

- a. stop at regular stops only
- b. have control over the conduct of students
- c. assign seats to all students
- d. make written reports of student misbehavior and misconduct to the appropriate building administrators

As the new school year begins, parents of students who ride the school buses are encouraged to review the rules of conduct with their children. Students should be reminded that breaking one or more of these rules could result in suspension of bus riding privileges. The Mount Union Area School District has cameras installed in the school buses for the purpose of monitoring student behavior. Students may be monitored by video and audio surveillance.

Students will:

- a. enter the bus quietly and orderly, be seated quickly and remain seated until it is time to leave the bus
- b. cross the roadway in front of bus after getting off
- c. not distract the driver with noise. Normal talking is permitted, but students may not yell, or engage in horseplay.
- d. not throw trash in the bus, out of the bus windows or at bus stops
- e. not tamper with the bus or its equipment
- f. not stick their arms or heads out of the windows
- g. not get off the bus at a stop that they regularly do not use
- h. not use profanity or vulgar talk
- i. not carry or use tobacco products including vapes
- j. not carry or use drugs and/or alcohol
- k. not carry weapons of any kind
- l. not eat or drink on the bus, including chewing gum

Students are assigned one bus/bus stop to school and one bus/bus stop home. Students are not permitted to ride multiple buses or get on/off at multiple stops to school or home.

Students must be at the bus stop (5) minutes prior to the time designated and be ready to board with the least possible delay. The time designated is the departure, not the arrival time. The times listed in the transportation letter for the beginning of the school year are computer generated. You will need to monitor the time the bus actually arrives everyday to get the designated time.

Parents of kindergarten students are required to be at the bus stop with his/her child or have a responsible adult with his/her child to get on and off the bus. If the parent or responsible adult is not at the bus stop to get his/her child off the bus, your child will be returned to his/her school or to the district office at the end of the bus run. The parent or designated adult will then be responsible to pick up the child. Failure to be at the bus stop for a kindergarten student may result in loss of bus privileges.

CONSEQUENCES FOR BREAKING BUS RULES: .

Misconduct on a school bus can place the lives and safety of other people in jeopardy, and school authorities treat it very seriously.

Disciplinary offenses that are determined to be severe (fighting, bullying, harassing, possession of drugs or weapons, vandalism-student must pay for damages, etc.) by school administration or put the health and safety of others in jeopardy will lead to immediate loss of bus riding privileges. District Administration reserves the right to suspend bus privileges deemed severe in nature. An incident on a bus may also result in a student being suspended from school.

Additional infractions may result in the loss of transportation privileges. For bus occurrences that do not need immediate attention or are not severe in nature will follow the procedure below:

The driver will give a written report to the building principal who will send a copy of the report to the parent. Disciplinary action will be taken against any student violating safety rules and regulations. Inappropriate behaviors on the school bus will be addressed through a series of levels listed below:

1st offense: Report infraction, issue a warning and conference with the student.

2nd offense: Report infraction and conference with the student. Student receives detention or ISS for a duration in accordance with handbook punishable offenses. Phone call home to let parent know the next bus write up will result in loss of bus privileges for 3 days.

3rd offense: Report infraction and conference with the student. The student receives a 3-day suspension from the bus. The days will be the next 3 days the student is scheduled to ride the bus.

4th offense: Report infraction and conference with the student. The student receives a 5-day suspension from the bus. The days will be the next 5 days the student is scheduled to ride the bus.

5th offense: Student forfeits his/her privilege to utilize school-issued transportation.

TRANSPORTATION IS A PRIVILEGE -- NOT A RIGHT
PLEASE REMEMBER PENNSYLVANIA LAW DOES NOT REQUIRE A SCHOOL
DISTRICT TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR ITS STUDENTS. AS A CONVENIENCE
TO OUR DISTRICT FAMILIES, THE MOUNT UNION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
CHOOSES TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR STUDENTS THAT LIVE OUTSIDE OF
A SCHOOL'S IMMEDIATE AREA.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES/CHANGES TO STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

If for any reason you should need to pick up your child from school instead of allowing him/her to use the bus service, **A WRITTEN NOTE FROM THE PARENT/GUARDIAN TO THE TEACHER IS MANDATORY.**

In order to have your child dismissed in any manner contrary to his/her regular dismissal procedure, parental written permission is required (by note or in the sign out book).

Students will not be called by the office or dismissed by classroom teacher until parent or guardian has arrived in the office and signed the student out.

Long term or permanent changes to your child's assigned transportation must be arranged with Mrs. Bonita Carper, our transportation coordinator who is located at the District Office.

Parents/guardians of students who are car riders need to follow each building's procedure when picking students up. Parents/guardians must stay in your car and drive in a single-file line when picking students up and dropping students off at school. If you need to have a discussion with one of the monitors on duty, please park your car in a parking space. This is for the safety of all students and staff at each of our buildings.

MECHANICAL/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The unauthorized possession or use of any type of electronic or mechanical device that distracts or impedes the educational process is against policy. No unauthorized use of iPod's, cell phones, smart watches, iPad's, (electronics) etc., will be allowed during school hours.

Violation of this policy may result in the following:

First Offense: 2 days recess detention (PBIS time) and electronic device is taken and returned only to parent

Second Offense: 2 nights of after school detention and electronic device is taken and returned only to parent

Third Offense: 4 nights of after school detention and device is taken and returned only to parent after 10 school days

DRESS GUIDELINES

In order to create an atmosphere of learning, cleanliness and safety, the following are guidelines for proper dress while at school:

1. Cleanliness and personal hygiene must be stressed at all times.
2. **Flip-flops or slide-on shoes are NOT to be worn to school.** They present hazards at recess, gym class and traveling through the halls and stairways. Shoes worn by students must have a strap on the back-ankle area to ensure the shoe stays on the foot. Sneakers **MUST** be worn on designated gym days.
3. Shoes with wheels (Heelys) are not permitted to be worn.
4. Skirts, dresses and shorts must be of reasonable length and will be up to the discretion of each building administrator for age appropriateness.
5. Any articles of clothing that expose a bare midriff are not permitted.
6. Hats, visors, bandanas and sunglasses may not be worn in the building. The "hoodie" part of hooded sweatshirts or coats may not be worn on top of the head in the building.
7. Clothing or other articles which display words or pictures about alcohol, drugs, sex, violence or material offensive to school personnel are not permitted.
8. **Revealing** muscle shirts, undershirts, halter tops, spaghetti strap shirts and open back dresses are not permitted.

When a student's clothing is not in accordance with the above guidelines as viewed by the school staff, the parent of the child may be contacted and requested to bring appropriate clothing to the school. The school nurse may provide appropriate clothing if available.

Please make sure children are appropriately dressed for physical education class. .

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Compulsory school age shall mean no later than six (6) until age eighteen (18); at that time, students under eighteen (18) years of age shall be subject to compulsory school attendance, and even though expelled, shall be provided an education.

Regular attendance is necessary to ensure the continuity of the educational process. Regularity of attendance is desirable in developing proper habits, interest in school, and a sense of responsibility.

It is essential that parents/guardians and school authorities plan for anticipated absences together whenever possible. This will assure fulfillment of the school's aim to help pupils plan and accept responsibility for their actions.

Attendance shall be required of all students enrolled in the schools during the days and hours that the school is in session, except that an administrator may excuse a student for temporary absences when s/he receives satisfactory evidence of such mental, physical, or other urgent conditions which may reasonably cause the student's absence.

The Board considers the following conditions to constitute reasonable cause for excused absences from school:

1. Illness.
2. Family emergencies.
3. Prearranged doctor and dentist appointments.
4. Authorized school activities.
5. Pre-Approved Educational Trips.

All absences occasioned by the observance of the student's religion shall be excused, and no student so excused shall be deprived of an award or eligibility to compete for an award or the opportunity to make up a test given on the religious holiday.

Attendance need not always be within the school facilities, but a student will be considered to be in attendance if present at any place where school is in session by authority of the Board, or at the place where the student is receiving approved tutorial instruction or health care, or at the place where the student is engaged in an approved and properly supervised work-study or career education program, or at home when the student is receiving approved homebound instruction/charter school enrollment.

The Board shall excuse the following students from the requirements of attendance at the schools of this district:

1. On certification by a physician or submission of other satisfactory evidence and on approval of the Department of Education, children who are unable to attend school or apply themselves to study for mental, physical or other reasons so urgent as to preclude regular attendance.
2. Students enrolled in nonpublic or private schools in which the subjects and activities prescribed by law are taught, except that such students and students attending college who are also enrolled part-time in the schools of this district shall be counted as being in attendance in this district.
3. Students fifteen (15) or sixteen (16) years of age whose enrollments in a private trade or business school have been approved.
4. Children fifteen (15) years of age, and fourteen (14) years of age who have completed sixth grade, who are engaged in farm work or private domestic service under duly issued permits.
5. Children sixteen (16) years of age regularly employed during the school session and holding a lawfully issued employment certificate.

Unexcused/Unlawful absences include the following:

1. Absence from school with parents'/guardians' consent, for reasons other than those considered excusable.
2. Leaving school during school hours without office permission.

The Board may report to appropriate authorities infractions of the law and policy regarding the attendance of students. The Board shall issue notice to those parents/ guardians who fail to comply with the statutory requirements of compulsory attendance that such infractions of the statute will be prosecuted.

Illness, quarantine, death in the immediate family, impassable roads, and other very urgent reasons, as accepted by the administrator, are legal reasons for absence. All other reasons are considered unlawful (for students under seventeen) or unexcused (for students over seventeen [17]).

Secondary students who have ten (10) parental absences and elementary students who have ten (10) parental absences must provide a doctor's excuse for future absences. Failure to provide this physician's excuse will result in that date being declared unexcused.

If a student is unlawfully absent for three (3) days (any combination of whole or half days), the school is required by law to serve a notice on the pupil's parent/guardian. If the student is unlawfully absent again, the parents/guardians can be charged at the district justice office with a violation of the law and/or referral to Huntingdon County Children Services for a possible dependency petition being filed before Huntingdon County Court. ****Students under age 13 who have accumulated 3 unexcused absences will automatically be referred to Children and Youth Services.**** When it has been determined that the parent/guardian has done everything in his/her ability to ensure that a student is in attendance and the child is circumventing the parent's/guardian's authority, then the child shall be immediately referred to Children Services and/or any further fines will be lodged against the child and if convicted, the child would lose his/her privilege to operate a vehicle when of age.

Excessive unexcused absences by a pupil above the compulsory school age defined as seventeen (17) or over may result in the pupil being asked to withdraw from school for the remainder of the school year.

The Board shall, upon written request of the parents/guardians, release from attendance a student participating in a religious instruction program acknowledged by the Board. Such instruction shall not require the child's absence from school for more than thirty-six (36) hours per school year, and its organizers must inform the Board of the child's attendance record. The Board shall not provide transportation to religious instruction.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER AN ABSENCE

1. All students regardless of age should bring a written excuse in the form of a signed note from a parent/guardian on the day of return to school. This note should give the day(s) of absence and the reason(s) for absence.
2. The school is required to maintain files of excuses for student absences. It is the student's responsibility to see that all excuses are properly submitted.
3. Failure to submit a written excuse within three (3) school days of the student's return to school may result in the absence being classified as either illegal or unexcused. Such an absence may subject the parents/guardians to monetary penalties according to state law and/or school policy.

BEING EXCUSED FROM SCHOOL DURING THE DAY

Generally, a student is released from school during the day only for serious reasons such as family funerals, or medical or dental appointments that cannot be scheduled for after-school hours. In order to be excused, the secondary student is required to turn in a written request from the parents/guardians to either the junior high school office or senior high school office at the beginning of the school day, after s/he reports to his/her first period classroom. Elementary students should give their request to their teacher upon their arrival to school.

The requests from parents/guardians should include the date and time that the student needs to be excused as well as the reason. Parents/Guardians of elementary students are asked to report to the school office to pick their child up. Secondary students who are excused for a medical or dental appointment, must secure a note from the doctor or dentist's office stating that the student was seen at the time and place indicated. This note is to be turned in when the student returns to school. If the note is not turned in when the student returns to school, the absence from school is marked as either illegal/unexcused.

POWERSCHOOL TIME INCREMENTS

Elementary –The elementary day is divided into 8 equal periods of time. Students are marked absent in 1/8-day increments according to the time of day they enter or leave the building.

TARDINESS

After students accumulate three (3) tardies in one marking period, the building principal or head teacher will contact the student and his or her parents/guardians.

TRIPS/VACATIONS

Parents wishing to take students with them on trips should complete the Educational Trip form on the school district website under the Student Tab and return to the Principal for approval. This form should be submitted at least one week in advance of the proposed trip so that the Principal/Head Teacher can relay this information to the Attendance Officer and the Superintendent. Trips that are not approved by the Superintendent are considered illegal absences.

FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT

CHARGE GUIDELINES

1. All MUASD students receive FREE breakfast and lunch including milk.
2. Any Ala Carte or extra items must be paid for at the time of purchase.
3. Parents can send money to be deposited in their child's lunch account for extra purchases.
4. Water from a dispenser is available to all students in the cafeteria. Bottled water is available for an additional charge.
5. Students may not bring energy drinks, sport drinks, or soda. A capri sun, water, or 100% fruit juice is acceptable for packed lunches.
6. No food or drinks will be allowed in the classrooms without preapproved authorization from administration.

LIBRARY GUIDELINES

The Mount Union Area School District Elementary Libraries seek to ensure that students and staff are effective users of ideas and information; books, periodicals, audio/visual material, and technology combine to promote the lifelong habit of reading and learning.

Fines:

Students are responsible for returning books on time. If a student loses a library book, he/she will be asked to pay the library the replacement cost. All payments for lost or damaged books must be cleared before the 2nd and 4th marking periods in order to receive a progress report. As a special service, the library sends the student a reminder when a book becomes overdue. Regardless of whether or not the student received the library's notice, it is the student's responsibility to know when his/her book is due to return it to the library on time.

SCHOOL DELAYS & CLOSINGS

SCHOOL DELAYS/CLOSINGS

Snow or other severe weather conditions may require that we close school or delay school openings for the safety of our children. The announcement of a delay/closing will be made as soon as the decision is made. Announcements are made by local media including radio and television.

ONE CALL NOW

The Mount Union Area School District uses One Call Now as a new parent notification system to notify and inform parents of up-coming events and emergency situations. This system uses student/parent telephone information to quickly deliver a pre-recorded message. **With the implementation of One Call Now, it is important that the school is notified of any changes in phone numbers.** Parents should contact the building secretary to update contact information.

EARLY DISMISSALS DUE TO WEATHER

Occasionally hazardous weather conditions develop during the day. We monitor weather information continuously, and we will close school early if conditions become hazardous. If this seems likely, please listen to your radio or television for instructions. Parents will be notified of dismissals through the One Call Now system. Parents need to discuss in advance with their child about who will pick them up or what they should do if school is dismissed early. School officials will stay at each school until all students have left the building.

Important Note: ***PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL TO ASK IF SCHOOL WILL BE DISMISSING EARLY.*** This ties up the phone lines in the event of an emergency. Please listen to the radio or TV. You will also be receiving a phone call at your primary phone number through the One Call Now system notifying you of the change.

GRADING SYSTEM

The school term is divided into four scholastic periods of nine weeks each. Report cards are prepared and given to each student at the close of these periods.

Academic Classes are graded as follows:

A+	99-100	C+	82-81	F	Under 65
A	98-95	C	80-77		
A-	94-92	C-	76-74		
B+	91-90	D+	73-72		
B	89-86	D	71-68		
B-	85-83	D-	67-65		

Art, music, physical education in grades K-5 are graded as follows:

EE	Exceeds Expectations
ME	Meets Expectations
NI	Needs Improvement

Social studies and science in grades 2 & 3 are graded as follows:

O	Outstanding
S	Satisfactory
N	Not Satisfactory

Conduct will be graded under the category of Skills for Successful Learners as follows:

EE	Exceeds Expectations
ME	Meets Expectations
NI	Needs Improvement

Treats other students with respect and kindness
Treats adults with respect
Actively participates in classroom discussion and activities
Listens attentively and follows classroom directions
Interacts with others cooperatively during small group instruction time
Is able to work independently on assigned activities and tasks

REPORTING TO PARENTS

As a concerted effort to communicate to parents all information that should be available in the interest of students, grades will be entered into PowerSchool at minimum every two weeks for all graded subject areas. Each marking period must have a minimum of nine (9) entered grades for ELA and Math.

CRITERIA FOR ACADEMIC HONORS

Each marking period, students from Grades 1 through 5 (including special education) are awarded academic honors based upon grades in the major subject areas, which include Reading, Mathematics, Spelling, Science or Social Studies. The following criteria will be used:

High Honors	A's in all major subject areas
Honors	A's and B's in all major subject areas (any combination)
Merit	B's in all major subject areas

PROMOTION/RETENTION

The classroom teacher and the principal will decide whether a student is promoted or retained. They will use student performance data, report card grades and reading levels to inform the decision. Students who are failing reading or math will be screened for retention.

A meeting will be held with parents of those students who are at risk of retention no later than ten (10) days after the start of the third marking period.

HEALTH SERVICES

A full-time nurse is employed for the Mount Union elementary schools. She assists the school physician and dentist in medical and dental examinations. Dental examinations are given to children in kindergarten, third and seventh grades. Medical examinations are given to children in kindergarten, sixth and eleventh grades. Physical or dental defects discovered or suspected during these exams are reported on a written statement, which is sent home with the child. The school nurse may also contact the parent by phone or in person.

All school children in grades K through 12 are weighed and their BMI (Body Mass Index) measured each year. These same children have their vision tested each year. Hearing tests are given in grades K through three and grades seven and eleven. The school nurse will send a note home with any student who fails these tests. Scoliosis screening is done in grades six and seven to detect curvatures of the spine.

The school attempts to provide an environment in which the child will be safe from accidents. If illness or a minor accident occurs, first aid will be administered. If the accident is of a type requiring more than first aid, the parents will be notified and the child taken home or to a doctor. **Children who show signs of unusual skin eruptions, swelling about the neck, severe cough, sore throat, fever, vomiting or redness of the eyes, should not be sent to school.**

MANDATED SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

In accordance with the School Nurse Act, every child within the Commonwealth has the right to receive mandated school health services. If your child is home schooled and you would like mandated services (hearing, vision, dental, physical, ht./wt.), please contact one of our nurses in September of each school year for the screening schedules.

ACCESS TO RECORDS

Federal law permits the school district to disclose personally identifiable information in the student's education records to *school officials with legitimate educational interests*. School officials include persons employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, teacher, or support staff member (including but not limited to transportation personnel...);...or a person, agency, or company with whom the district has contracted, or otherwise arranged to perform a special task or service...Such individuals have a legitimate educational interest if she/he needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional and/or official responsibility.

BODY MASS INDEX (BMI)

As part of the yearly school health growth program, your child's height, weight and BMI will be calculated. The BMI is used as a guideline to help assess whether a person may be overweight or underweight.

If you would like your child's BMI results, please contact the school nurse the LAST WEEK of school.

FIELD TRIP PROCEDURE (FOR MEDICATIONS) - ELEMENTARY

Students who will need to receive a daily medication, rectal Diastat, or diabetic care will be provided with nursing services in the event that a parent or family member cannot attend. A form will be sent home to the child's parent/guardian a week in advance regarding their field trip options.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN SCHOOL CHILDREN

Children may be excluded from school for specified diseases and infectious conditions.

Each teacher, principal, superintendent, or other person in charge of any public, private, parochial, Sunday, or other school, college or preschool shall exclude students from school who have been diagnosed by a physician or are suspected of having the disease by the school nurse for the indicated period of time for the following diseases:

1. **Diphtheria**-two weeks from the onset or until appropriate negative culture tests.
2. **Measles**-four days from the onset of rash.
3. **Mumps**-nine days from the onset or until swelling is no longer present
4. **Pertussis**-four weeks from the onset or seven days from institution of appropriate antimicrobial therapy.
5. **Rubella**-four days from the onset of rash.
6. **Chickenpox**-six days from the crop of vesicles.
7. **Respiratory streptococcal infections including scarlet fever**-not less than seven days from the onset if no physician is in attendance or 24 hours from institution of appropriate antimicrobial therapy.
8. **Acute contagious conjunctivitis (pink eye)**-twenty-four hours from institution of appropriate therapy.
9. **Ringworm**-all types-until judged non-infective by the nurse or child's physician.
10. **Impetigo contagiosa**-until judged non-infective by the nurse in school, college, or preschool, or child's physician.
11. **Pediculosis capitis (Head Lice)**-until judged non-infective by the nurse.
12. **Scabies**-until judged non-infective by the nurse or child's physician.
13. **Tonsillitis**-twenty-four hours from institution of appropriate therapy.

EXCLUSION OF PUPILS SHOWING SYMPTOMS

Each teacher, principal, superintendent, or other person in charge of any public, private, parochial, Sunday, or other school or college or preschool shall exclude immediately any person showing an unusual skin eruption, having soreness of the throat, or having signs or symptoms of whooping cough or disease of the eyes. The exclusion and the reasons prompting it shall be reported to the health authority of the municipality or county in which the school is situated, together with the name and address of the person excluded.

READMISSION OF PUPILS SHOWING SYMPTOMS

No person excluded from any public, private, parochial, or other school or college or preschool under the provisions of *Exclusion of Pupils Showing Symptoms* shall be readmitted until the nurse in the school, or preschool is satisfied that the condition for which the child was excluded is not communicable or until the child presents a certificate of recovery or non-infectiousness from the physician.

HEALTH ROOM TREATMENT SUPPLIES

Many students are seen in the nurse's office throughout the school day for minor accidents or injuries. Please note below the list of everyday treatment items that are used to treat your child. If for any reason any of the listed items **should not be used** on your child, please, **send a note** to your child's school nurse.

Non-Latex Gloves	Medical Tape	Adhesive bandages	Caladryl	Peroxide
Bactine	Rubbing alcohol	Topical Antihistamine	Bactracin	A&D ointment
External Analgesic	First Aid Cream	Antifungal Cream	Anbesol	Eye Wash
Chloraseptic Spray	Burn Spray/Gel			

MEDICATION GUIDELINES

The Mount Union Area School District recognizes that parents have the primary responsibility for the health of their children. Although the district strongly recommends that medication be given in the home, it realizes that the health of some children requires that they receive medication while in school.

All students who need to take medication during school hours will need to have a form completed by their doctor and signed by a parent. This form must be given to the school nurse when medication is brought to school.

Parents should confer with the child's doctor to arrange medication time intervals to avoid school hours whenever possible. When medication MUST be given during school hours, the following procedures must be followed:

FOR PRESCRIPTION AND NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

1. The doctor must complete the prescription medication form.
2. The parents/guardian must sign the consent form for medications.
3. Any medication to be given during school hours must be delivered directly to the school nurse, building administrator, head teacher, or school secretary by the parent/guardian or designee. The medication must be brought to school in the original prescription bottle and properly labeled. The consent form for medication should be signed at this time. This form is included on the medication form.
4. A drug log will be kept for any child receiving medicine during school hours.
5. In the absence of the school nurse, medications will only be given by a licensed professional.
6. Medication will be kept in a locked cupboard in the Nurse's Office or main office if proper storage is available. (locked file cabinet or locked cabinet)
7. Medications **cannot** be carried by students. (**Exceptions:** Students with asthma may carry inhalers as prescribed by a doctor. Students with severe allergic reactions may carry Epi pens as prescribed by a doctor. In both cases, the student must demonstrate competency and responsibility to the school nurse. If medication is used in any manner other than the prescribed orders, the privilege to carry the medication can be revoked.) Refer to School Board Policy 210.1
8. **Medications will be administered within 30 minutes before or after the prescribed time. In the event medication is administered outside these guidelines a medication variance form will be completed.**

STANDING ORDERS for "stock" Epinephrine

The Mount Union School District has physician orders to administer Epinephrine (Epi pen) to any person(s) who show signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis (allergic reaction) triggered by touching, inhaling or ingesting allergens or by insect stings.

It is still necessary for parents/guardians to provide their child's individual Epi pen if they have a **known** allergy. The purpose of the "stock" Epi pen supply is to provide immediate intervention to a student showing signs of anaphylaxis to an **unknown** allergen.

All staff is trained annually on the use of Epi pens through an online, state mandated site.

****Parents/guardians have the option to "opt-out". You MUST contact your child's school nurse to request the "opt-out" form.****

POSSESSION/USE OF ASTHMA INHALERS/EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTORS

The Board shall permit students in district schools to possess asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors and to self-administer the prescribed medication in compliance with state law and Board policy.

Asthma inhaler shall mean a prescribed device used for self-administration of short-acting, metered doses of prescribed medication to treat an acute asthma attack.

Epinephrine auto-injector shall mean a prescribed disposable drug delivery system designed for the self-administration of epinephrine to provide rapid first aid for persons suffering effects of anaphylaxis.

Self-administration shall mean a student's use of medication in accordance with a prescription or written instructions from a licensed physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

Before a student may possess or use an asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector in the school setting, the Board shall require the following:

1. A written request from the parent/guardian that the school complies with the order of the licensed physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.
2. A written statement from the parent/guardian acknowledging that the school is not responsible for ensuring the medication is taken and relieving the district and its employees of responsibility for the benefits or consequences of the prescribed medication.
3. A written statement from the licensed physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant that states:
 - a. Name of drug
 - b. Prescribed dosage
 - c. Times medication is to be taken
 - d. Length of time medication is prescribed
 - e. Diagnosis or reason medication is needed, unless confidential
 - f. Potential serious reaction or side effects of medication
 - g. Emergency response
 - h. If child is qualified and able to self-administer the medication

The student shall notify the school nurse immediately following each use of an asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector.

The district reserves the right to require a statement from the licensed physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant for the continued use of a medication beyond the specified time period.

A written request for student use of an asthma inhaler and/or epinephrine auto-injector shall be submitted annually, along with required written statements from the parent/guardian and an updated prescription.

Student health records shall be confidential and maintained in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations.

A student whose parent/guardian completes the written requirements for the student to possess an asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector and to self-administer the prescribed medication in the school setting shall demonstrate to the school nurse the competency for self-administration and responsible behavior in the use of the medication. Determination of competency for self-administration shall be based on the student's age, cognitive function, maturity and demonstration of responsible behavior.

Students shall be prohibited from sharing, giving, selling, and using as asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector in any manner other than which it is prescribed during school hours, at any time while on school property, at any school-sponsored activity, and during the time spent traveling to and from school and school-sponsored activities. Violations of this policy shall result in loss of privilege to self-carry the asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector and disciplinary action in accordance with Board policy.

If the district denies a student's request to self-carry an asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector or the student has lost the privilege of self-carrying an asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector, the student's prescribed medication shall be appropriately stored at a location in close proximity to the student. The student's classroom teachers shall be informed where the medication is stored and the means to access the medication.

The district shall annually distribute to students and parents/guardians this policy along with the Code of Student Conduct.

The district shall post this policy on the district website, if available.

The Superintendent or designee, in conjunction with the school nurse(s), may develop administrative regulations for student possession of asthma inhalers or epinephrine auto-injectors and self-administration of prescribed medication.

STANDING ORDERS for Naloxone

The Mount Union School District wishes to prevent opiate-related overdose deaths by making Naloxone available in its secondary schools (grades 7-12).

Act 139 of 2014 permits an individual in a position to assist a person at risk of opioid overdose to obtain and administer Naloxone. Naloxone (also commonly known as Narcan) is a medication that can reverse an overdose that is caused by an opioid drug. When administered during an overdose, Naloxone blocks the effects of opioids on the brain and respiratory system in order to prevent death. Naloxone has no potential for abuse and is a non-narcotic and non-addicting prescription drug

****For more information pertaining to Naloxone, please contact your child's school nurse.****

WEAPONS POLICY

The School Board and Administration of the Mount Union Area School District are unanimous in their commitment to maintain their schools as safe and secure places where students, staff, volunteers, and guests may pursue educational and civic programs they deserve. It is strictly forbidden for anyone to possess a weapon or replica of a weapon on school property with the intent or potential to disrupt programs, cause physical injury to another person, or damage school property.

The following definitions shall apply to keep words and phrases used in this policy statement.

Weapon: any weapon, device, instrument, material or substance, animate or inanimate, which under the circumstances in which it is used, attempted to be used, or threatened to be used is capable of causing death or physical injury. A weapon shall include, but not limited to, firearm; knife, metal knuckle, chain; straight razor; explosive; noxious, irritating, or poisonous gas; poison; drug; or other items, fashioned with the intent to use, sell, harm, threaten or harass students, staff members, parents and patrons.

Guest: one who is invited, welcomed or has permission to be on school property.

Informal hearing: meeting between administrator and student during which the student is informed of the charges and afforded an opportunity to respond.

Intent: to act with purpose or resolve of causing physical injury to another.

Intruder: one who enters school property without invitation, permission, or welcome.

Physical injury: to physically harm, wound, or kill another person.

Possess a replica of a weapon: to have on the body, to carry on the person, to conceal on school property in an instrument resembling in appearance a weapon and giving an impression of potential bodily injury.

Possess a weapon: to have on the body, to carry on the person, or to conceal on school property an instrument of any kind that may inflict bodily injury. Weapons may include, but are not limited to: firearms; knives; metal knuckles; straight razor blades; fireworks; explosives; noxious, irritating, or poisonous gases; poisons; and drugs.

Potential: an act that may be construed or interpreted as causing physical injury to another person or damage to property.

School Official: any administrator or teacher of the Mount Union Area School District.

School property: buildings, grounds, and vehicles owned or leased by the Mount Union Area School District.

Staff: any staff employed full-time by the Mount Union Area School District, including administrators and teachers.

Students: any person, minor or adult, enrolled in the programs offered through the Mount Union Area School District.

Volunteers: any person who freely enters into or offers services to the Mount Union Area School District without monetary compensation.

APPLICATIONS

This policy is applicable to all: students, staff, volunteers, guests, and all who participate in approved activities on school property as well as intruders. The administration must make a reasonable effort to inform all students, staff, volunteers, guests, and all who participate in approved school activities, as well as intruders, of this policy.

Exemption 1: On-duty law enforcement officers that have been summoned to the school property for official business are exempt from this policy, given that they have proper certification for the weapon(s) they may carry.

Exemption 2: Responsible adults may petition the administration for permission to bring weapons onto school property for special instruction (e.g., hunter safety programs, classroom demonstrations, etc.)

VIOLATIONS

Suspected violations of this policy will be promptly investigated by proper authorities. Anyone who witnesses a violation of this policy must immediately report it to a school official. If no school official is available, the witness should report the incident to law enforcement officials. The Superintendent must be notified of the incident as soon as possible.

Students: Students of the Mount Union Area School District who are suspected of having a weapon on their persons or concealed on school property must, at the request of school officials, voluntarily submit to a search of self and/or their possessions in the presence of two (2) adult witnesses. If the student refuses to the search, the student will be detained and law enforcement officers summoned for assistance in the matter. If the student is a minor, a parent or guardian will be notified as soon as possible.

Others: Staff, volunteers, guests, and all who participate in approved school activities on school property, or intruders who are suspected of having a weapon on their persons or concealed on school property will be identified, detained, and reported to law enforcement officers summoned for assistance in the matter. If the suspect is a minor, a parent or guardian will be notified as soon as possible.

PENALTY

Those who are guilty of violating this policy will be dealt with severely and without hesitation. The Mount Union Area School District will expel for a period of at least one (1) year "Any student who is determined to have brought a weapon onto any school property, any school-sponsored activity or any conveyance providing transportation to a school or school sponsored activity".

Discipline short of expulsion for one (1) year is legal only where recommended by the Superintendent. The Superintendent's decision to recommend a modification of the one-year expulsion will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Students: Students of the Mount Union Area School District who violate this policy will, after an informal hearing, be subject to an immediate suspension out-of-school that shall not exceed ten (10) school days. The student and parents will be asked to appear before the School Board for a student review for possible expulsion. Charges may be filed with law enforcement officers for violation of Pennsylvania and/or Federal Laws.

If the incident results in bodily injury and/or damage to school property, the student may be held liable for restitution and related costs. If the student is a minor, the parent or guardian may be held liable for restitution and related costs.

Others: Volunteers, guests, and all who participate in approved school activities on school property, or intruders who violate this policy may be detained and reported directly to law enforcement officers and may be charged under Pennsylvania and/or Federal Laws.

If the incident results in bodily injury and/or damage to school property, the offender may be liable for restitution and related costs. If the offender is a minor, the parent or guardian may be held liable for restitution and related costs.

TOBACCO-FREE POLICY

The Board recognizes that tobacco use by students presents a health and safety hazard that can have serious consequences for both users and nonusers and the safety and environment of the schools.

For purposes of this policy, **tobacco use** shall be defined as use and/or possession of a lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar and pipe; other lighted smoking product; and smokeless tobacco in any form.

The Board prohibits tobacco use and possession by students at any time in a school building and on any property, buses, vans and vehicles that are owned, leased or controlled by the school district.

The school district may initiate prosecution of a student who possesses or uses tobacco in violation of this policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, parents and staff about the district's tobacco use policy by publishing such policy in the student handbook, parent newsletter, posted notices, and other efficient methods.

A student convicted of possessing or using tobacco in violation of this policy shall be fined up to \$50 plus court costs or admitted to alternative adjudication in lieu of imposition of a fine, even on the first offense.

DRUG & ALCOHOL POLICY

This policy is a coordinated effort by the school district to openly and effectively respond to the potential and current uses and abuses of drugs, alcohol, and mood-altering substances by members of the entire student population.

Under this policy, drugs are defined as any chemical substance that produces physical, mental, emotional, or behavioral changes in the user. Alcohol is considered a drug. Drugs and mood-altering chemical as stated in this policy, shall include any alcohol or malt beverage, controlled substance, or medication not approved and registered by the health office, over-the-counter drugs which are misused or abused and any substance which is intended to alter the mood. Examples of the above include, but are not limited to: marijuana, hash, chemical solvents, glue, capsules and pills not approved by the health office and any look-a-like chemical.

Drugs prescribed by a physician are permitted to be brought to school. However, students are only permitted to bring such drugs to school if the physician indicates the need to take the prescribed medication during school hours. Administrators, nurses, and teachers must be notified by parents and doctor in writing if medication is to be taken in school. All medication is to be deposited in the nurse's office or the area designated by the principal.

1. Cooperative Behavior - Shall be defined as the willingness of a student to work with staff and school personnel in a reasonable and helpful manner, complying with requests and recommendations of the school personnel.
2. Core Team – A team of trained and certified school staff members, as well as mental health and drug and alcohol professionals.
3. Distribution - deliver, sell, pass, share, or give any alcohol, drugs, or mood-altering substance, as defined by this policy, from one person to another or to aid therein.
4. Drug and Alcohol Counselor - is a trained program specialist with an expertise in the area of social restoration and student high-risk behaviors.
5. Drug Paraphernalia - includes any utensil or item which in the school's judgment can be associated with the use of drugs, alcohol, or mood-altering substance. Examples include, but are not limited to, roach clips, pipes, and bowls.
6. MUSIC - Mount Union Student Intervention Committee
7. Possession - possess or hold without any attempt to distribute any alcohol, drug, or mood-altering substance determined to be illegal or as defined in this policy.
8. Student Assistance Team - a multidisciplinary team comprised of school personnel (teachers, specialists, administrators, nurses, counselors) and members of designated community agencies. The Student Assistance Team has been trained in screening and intervention planning for at-risk students. The Student Assistance Team shall play a primary role in the identification and referral process of at-risk students.
9. Uncooperative Behavior - is resistance or refusal either verbal, physical, or passive, on the part of the student to comply with the reasonable request or recommendations of school personnel. Defiance, assault, deceit, and truancy shall constitute examples of uncooperative behavior. Uncooperative behavior shall also include the refusal to comply with the recommendations of a licensed drug and alcohol facility.

10. Use - shall mean the ingestion, injection, or inhalation of any drug or alcoholic beverage, and shall also mean a condition or state of being of a student indicating to school authorities that such student is under the influence of a drug (as defined) or alcoholic beverage, when either the ingestion, injection, or inhalation or condition is performed or observed in any setting in which students are responsible to school authority and/or supervision.

The Board prohibits the use, possession, being under the influence or distribution of any drug during school hours, on school property, and at any school sponsored event.

The privileged confidentiality between students and guidance counselors, school nurses, school psychologists, home and school visitors and other school employees shall be respected, and no confidential communication made to any such employee shall be required to be revealed without the consent of the student or his/her parent unless the best interests of the student can be served only by doing so.

The Superintendent shall prepare rules for the identification, amelioration and control of drug abuse in the schools which shall: discourage drug abuse and establish procedures for dealing with students suspected of drug abuse.

All personnel of the school district shall report to their immediate supervisor any student involved in the use of, transfer of, or possession of, alcohol or other drugs while on school property or at a school sponsored function.

ANABOLIC STEROIDS

The Board of Directors prescribe the following minimum penalties for any pupil found using anabolic steroids, except for a valid medical purpose, by any pupil involved in school related athletics. Body building, muscle enhancement, increasing muscle bulk or strength or the enhancement of athletic ability is not a valid medical purpose. Human Growth Hormone (HGH) shall not be included as an anabolic steroid under the provision of this act.

1. For a first violation, suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the season.
2. For a second violation, suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the season and for the following season.
3. For a third violation, permanent suspension from school athletics.

No student shall be eligible to resume participation in school athletics unless there has been a medical determination that no residual evidence of steroids exists. The Board may require participation in any drug counseling, rehabilitation, testing or other program as a condition of reinstatement into a school athletic program.

Furthermore, the Board instructs the administration to include information on anabolic steroids in the drug and alcohol curriculum of the school district.

HARASSMENT POLICY

The Board strives to provide a safe, positive learning climate for students in the schools. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the district to maintain an educational environment in which harassment in any form is not tolerated.

The Board prohibits all forms of unlawful harassment of students by all district students and staff members, contracted individuals and vendors, and volunteers in the schools. The Board encourages students who have been harassed to promptly report such incidents to the designated employees. The Board directs that complaints of harassment shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action shall be taken when allegations are verified. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the district's legal and investigative obligations. No reprisals or retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith charges of harassment.

The district shall annually inform students, staff, parents, independent contractors and volunteers that unlawful harassment of students will not be tolerated, by means of distribution of written policy, publication in handbooks, presentation at an assembly, training sessions and/or posting of notice/signs.

The district shall provide training for students and staff concerning all aspects of unlawful harassment.

The term harassment includes but is not limited to repeated, unwelcome and offensive slurs, jokes, or other verbal, graphic or physical conduct relating to an individual's race, color, religion, ancestry, sex, national origin, age or handicap/disability which creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment. Ethnic harassment includes the repeated, unwelcome and offensive use of any derogatory word, phrase or action characterizing a given racial or ethnic group that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. Sexual harassment shall consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other inappropriate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a student's academic status.
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for academic or work decisions affecting the individual.
3. Such conduct deprives a student of educational aid, benefits, services or treatment.
4. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with the student's school performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment.

Examples of sexual harassment include but are not limited to sexual flirtations, advances, touching or propositions; verbal abuse of a sexual nature; graphic or suggestive comments about an individual's dress or body; sexually degrading words to describe an individual; jokes, pin-ups, calendars, objects, graffiti, vulgar statements, abusive language, innuendoes, references to sexual activities, overt sexual conduct, or any conduct that has the effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's ability to work or learn or which creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning or working environment.

Each staff member shall be responsible to maintain an educational environment free from all forms of unlawful harassment.

Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of their fellow students and to ensure an atmosphere free from all forms of unlawful harassment.

Students shall be informed that they may choose to report harassment complaints to building principals, teachers, counselors, nurses and administrators.

All employees who receive harassment complaints from a student shall report such to the building principal.

If the building principal is the subject of a complaint, the student shall report the complaint directly to the Superintendent or designated administrator.

When a student believes that s/he is being harassed, the student should immediately inform the harasser that his/her behavior is unwelcome, offensive or inappropriate. If the unwelcome, offensive or inappropriate behavior continues, the student shall follow the established complaint procedure.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

1. A student shall report a complaint of harassment, orally or in writing, to the building principal or a designated employee, who shall inform the student of his/her rights and of the complaint process.
2. The building principal immediately shall notify the Superintendent or other designated administrator and shall conduct an impartial, thorough and confidential investigation of the alleged harassment. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes harassment, the totality of the circumstances, nature of the conduct, and context in which the alleged conduct occurred shall be investigated.
3. The building principal shall prepare a written report summarizing the investigation and recommending disposition of the complaint. Copies of the report shall be provided to the complainant, the accused, the Superintendent and others directly involved, as appropriate.
4. If the investigation results in a substantiated charge of harassment, the district shall take prompt corrective action to ensure the harassment ceases and will not recur.

DISCIPLINE

A substantiated charge against a district staff member shall subject such staff member to disciplinary action, including discharge.

A substantiated charge against a district student shall subject such student to disciplinary action, consistent with the student discipline code, and may include educational activities and/or counseling services related to unlawful harassment.

If it is concluded that a student has made false accusations, such student shall be subject to disciplinary action, consistent with the student discipline code.

APPEAL PROCEDURE

1. If the complainant or accused is not satisfied with the principal's decision, s/he may file a written appeal to the Superintendent.
2. The Superintendent shall review the initial investigation and report and may also conduct a reasonable investigation. S/He shall prepare a written response to the appeal. Copies of the response shall be provided to the complainant, the accused, building principal and others directly involved, as appropriate.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS AND NETWORK SERVICES

Mount Union Area School District (School District) provides employees, students and guests (users) with access to the School District's electronic communications systems and network. This access includes internal Mount Union Area School District hosted applications as well as Internet access, whether wired or wireless, or by any other means.

Computers, electronic devices, network, Internet, electronic communications and information systems (collectively Technology Systems) provide vast, diverse and unique resources. The Board will provide access to the School District's Technology Systems for users in order to access information, research, and collaboration to facilitate learning and teaching to foster the educational purpose and mission of the School District.

Usage

The School District's Technology Systems must be used primarily for education-related purposes and performance of School District job duties. Incidental personal use of School District electronic devices is permitted for users so long as such use does not interfere with educational practices, system operations, or with other system users. Personal use must comply with this policy and all other applicable School District policies, procedures and rules contained in this policy, as well as Internet Service Provider (ISP) rules and regulations, and all applicable local, state and federal laws. Personal use must not damage and/or otherwise impair the School District's Technology Systems.

Users may also be permitted to use personally owned School District approved electronic devices through provided wireless access while on School District property, at School District events and/or in connection with the School District's Technology Systems, but only in strict compliance with this policy, the Acceptable Use of Personal Technology Resources Guidelines and all other applicable School District policies, procedures and rules, as well as ISP rules and regulations and all applicable local, state and federal laws. Use of personal electronic devices must not interfere with educational practices, system operations, or other system users, and/or otherwise damage or impair the School District's Technology Systems.

Security

The School District intends to strictly protect its Technology Systems against numerous outside and internal risks and vulnerabilities. Users are important and critical players in protecting these School District assets and in lessening the risks that can harm these important and critical assets. Consequently, users are required to fully comply with this policy, and to immediately report any violations or suspicious activities to the Technology Director or Building Administrator. Conduct otherwise will result in actions further described in Section 12 (Consequences for Inappropriate, Unauthorized and Illegal Use) of this policy and as provided in other relevant School District policies.

1. Access to the Internet - a device shall be considered to have access to the Internet if the device is connected to a network that has access to the Internet, whether by wire, wireless, cable or any other means.

2. Child Pornography - under federal law, any visual depiction, including any photograph, film, video, picture, or computer or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means, of sexually explicit conduct, where:

a. The production of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;

b. Such visual depiction is a digital image, computer image, or computer-generated image that is, or is indistinguishable from, that of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; or

c. Such visual depiction has been created, adapted, or modified to appear that an identifiable minor is engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

Under Pennsylvania law, any book, magazine, pamphlet, slide, photograph, film, videotape, computer depiction or other material depicting a child under the age of eighteen (18) years engaging in a prohibited sexual act or in the simulation of such act is considered child pornography.

3. Electronic Device - any School District owned, leased or licensed or user owned: personal hardware, software, or other technology used on School District premises or at School District events, connected to the School District Technology Systems, and/or containing School District programs or data. Electronic devices include, but are not limited to, laptops, desktops, cell phones, external media, wireless devices and similar technologies.

4. Electronic Communications Systems - any messaging, collaboration, publishing, broadcast, or distribution system that depends on electronic communications resources to create, send, forward, reply to, transmit, store, hold, copy, download, display, view, read, or print electronic records for purposes of communication across electronic communications network systems between or among individuals or groups, that is either explicitly denoted as a system for electronic communications or is implicitly used for such purposes.

5. Educational Purpose - includes use of the Technology Systems for classroom activities, professional or career development, and to support the School District's curriculum, policy and mission statement.

6. Harmful to Minors - under federal law, any picture, image, graphic image file or other visual depictions that:

a. Taken as a whole, with respect to minors, appeals to the prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;

- b. Depicts, describes, or represents in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual content, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or lewd exhibition of the genitals, and
- c. Taken as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

Under Pennsylvania law, any depiction or representation in whatever form, of nudity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement, or sadomasochistic abuse, when it:

- a. Predominantly appeals to the prurient, shameful, or morbid interest of minors;
- b. Is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community with respect to what is suitable material for minors; and
- c. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary artistic, political, educational or scientific value for minors.

For purposes of this policy, any text or audio depictions of such matters shall be included in this definition.

7. Inappropriate Matter - inappropriate matter includes, but is not limited to, visual, graphic, text and other form of obscene, sexually explicit, child pornographic, or other material that is harmful to minors, hateful, illegal, defamatory, lewd, vulgar, profane, rude, inflammatory, threatening, harassing, discriminatory (as it pertains to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, material status, age, sexual orientation, political beliefs, receipt of financial aid, or disability), violent, bullying, terroristic, and/or advocates the destruction of property.

8. Incidental Personal Use - use of School District Technology Systems by an individual user for occasional personal communications.

9. Minor - for purposes of compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), an individual who has not yet attained the age of seventeen (17). For other purposes, minor shall mean any person under the age of eighteen (18).

10. Network - a system that links two (2) or more electronic devices, including all components necessary to affect the operation.

11. Obscene - under federal and Pennsylvania law, any material if:

- a. The average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the material, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest;
- b. The subject matter depicts or describes in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct described in the law to be obscene; and
- c. The subject matter, taken as a whole, lacks serious artistic, political, educational or scientific value.

12. School District Premises - School District premises shall include all buildings, facilities, parking areas and other grounds, owned or leased by the School District and/or otherwise under the control of the School District, as well as all school buses, school vehicles and other conveyances used to transport School District students. As it relates to School District students attending the Huntington County Career and Technology Center (HCCTC), School District premises shall also include all buildings, facilities, parking areas and other grounds owned or leased by the HCCTC and/or otherwise under the control of HCCTC.

13. Sexual Act and Sexual Contact - as defined at 18 U.S.C. § 2246(2), 18 U.S.C. § 2246(3), and 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 5903.

14. Technology Protection Measure(s) (TPM) - a specific technology that is intended to block or filter access to content that is obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors.

1. Access to the School District's Technology Systems through school resources is a privilege, not a right. These, as well as the user accounts and information, are the property of the School District, which reserves the right to deny access to prevent further unauthorized, inappropriate or illegal activity, and may revoke those privileges and/or administer appropriate disciplinary action. The School District will cooperate fully with ISP, local, state and federal officials in any investigation concerning or related to the misuse of the Technology Systems.

2. It is often necessary to access user accounts in order to perform routine maintenance and security tasks. System administrators have the right to access user accounts by interception, and by retrieval of stored communication, to maintain the system. Users have no privacy expectation in the contents of their personal files or any of their use of the School District's Technology Systems. The School District reserves the right to monitor, track, log and access Technology Systems use and to monitor and allocate resources.

3. The School District reserves the right to restrict access to any Internet sites or functions it may deem inappropriate through software blocking or general policy. Specifically, the School District operates and enforces technology protection measure(s) that block or filter online activities of users on its electronic devices so as to filter or block inappropriate matter. Measures designed to restrict access to material harmful to students may be disabled to enable staff to access bona fide research or for another lawful purpose.

4. The School District reserves the right, but not the duty, to monitor, track, log, access and report all use of the School District's Technology Systems and School District electronic devices, as well as use by School District employees and students, of any personal electronic devices on School District premises or at School District events, connected to the School District network, and/or containing School District programs or data (including images, files, and other information), to the fullest extent permitted by law, to ensure compliance with this policy and other School District policies, to protect the School District's resources, and to comply with the law. The School District further reserves the right, but not the duty, to monitor, track, log, access and report all use by Guest of personal electronic devices connected to the District network and/or containing School District programs or data, pursuant to the law, to ensure compliance with this policy, and other School District policies, to protect the School District's resources, and to comply with the law.

5. The School District reserves the right to restrict or limit usage of lower priority Technology Systems and computer uses when network and computing requirements exceed available capacity according to the following priorities:
 - a. Highest – uses that directly supports the education of the students.
 - b. Medium – uses that indirectly benefit the education of the student.
 - c. Lowest – uses that include reasonable and limited educationally-related interpersonal communications and incidental personnel communications.
 - d. Forbidden – all activities in violation of this policy.

6. The School District additionally reserves the right to:
 - a. Determine which Technology Systems services will be provided through School District resources.
 - b. View and monitor network traffic, file server space, processor, and system utilization, and all applications provided through the network and communications systems, including email.
 - c. Remove excess email or files taking up excessive server resources as determined by the Technology Director. Notice will be provided to remove excess email or files before being purged.
 - d. Revoke user privileges, remove user accounts, or refer to legal authorities when violation of this and any other applicable School District policies occur, or state or federal law is violated, including, but not limited to, those governing network use, copyright, security, privacy, employment, and destruction of School District resources and equipment.

Due to the nature of the Internet as a global network connecting electronic devices around the world, inappropriate matter can be accessed through the network and electronic communications systems. Because of the nature of the technology that allows the Internet to operate, the School District cannot completely block access to these resources. Accessing these and similar types of resources may be considered an unacceptable use of school resources and will result in actions explained further in Section 12 (Consequences for Inappropriate, Unauthorized and Illegal Use) of this policy and as provided in relevant School District policies.

Users must become proficient in the use of the School District’s Technology Systems and software relevant to the use of the School District’s Technology Systems; practice proper netiquette and School District ethics; and agree to the requirements of this policy.

1. The Technology Director and/or designee(s) will serve as the coordinator to oversee the School District’s Technology Systems and will work with other regional or state organizations as necessary, to educate users, approve activities, provide leadership for proper training in the use of the Technology Systems and the requirements of this policy, establish a system to ensure adequate supervision of the Technology Systems, maintain executed user agreements, and interpret and enforce this policy.

2. The Technology Director and/or designee(s) will establish a process for: setting up individual user, class and service accounts; setting quotas for resource allocation; establishing a retention schedule; and establishing the School District electronic device security/threat protection mechanisms.

3. Unless otherwise denied for cause, student access to the Technology Systems resources shall be through supervision by the professional staff. Administrators, teachers and staff have the responsibility to work together to help students develop the skills and judgment required to make effective and appropriate use of the resources. All users have the responsibility to respect the rights of all other users within the School District and School District's Technology Systems, and to abide by the rules established by the School District, its ISP(s), and local, state and federal laws.

1. Access to the Technology Systems

a. Technology Systems user accounts will be used only by authorized owners of the accounts for authorized purposes.

b. A user account will be made available according to the procedures outlined in the Guidelines for Accounts and Passwords developed by appropriate School District authorities.

c. Technology Systems: The School District's Acceptable Use of the Electronic Communications Systems, Devices, Network, and Internet policy, as well as other relevant School District policies, will govern use of the School District's Technology Systems for users. Use of the Technology Systems will also be governed by the other relevant School District policies.

d. Guest Access: Guests may receive individual access to Technology Systems with the approval of the Technology Director and/or designee(s). Guests are considered users and must adhere to all applicable district policies.

e. Access to all data on, taken from, or compiled using School District electronic devices is subject to inspection and discipline. Users have no right to expect that School District information placed on users' personal electronic devices, external media, networks, and Internet is beyond the access of the School District. The School District reserves the right to access users' personal equipment for School District information.

f. Students and staff are permitted to connect personal electronic devices in compliance with the Personal Electronics Guidelines as set forth by School District Administration to the School District's Technology Systems. Further, such students or staff shall not be permitted to connect such devices via hardware to the School District's Technology Systems or through the School District's Technology Systems to outside networks or resources.

2. Parental Notification and Responsibility.

The School District will notify parents/guardians about the policies governing the use of School District Technology Systems and the use of electronic devices on School District premises. This policy contains restrictions on accessing inappropriate material. There is a wide range of material available on the Internet, some of which may not be fitting with the particular values of the families of the students. It is practically impossible for the School District to monitor and enforce a wide range of social values in student use of the Internet. Further, the School District recognizes that parents/guardians bear primary responsibility for transmitting their particular set of family values to their children. The School District will encourage parents/guardians to specify to their child(ren) what material is and is not acceptable for their child(ren) to access through the School District's Technology Systems. Parents/Guardians are responsible for monitoring their children's use of the School District's Technology Systems when they are accessing the systems outside of School District premises.

3. School District Limitation of Liability.

The School District makes no warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied, that the functions or the services provided by or through the School District's Technology Systems will be error-free or without defect. The School District does not warrant the effectiveness of Internet filtering. The electronic information available to users does not imply endorsement of the content by the School District, nor is the School District responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the Technology Systems. The School District shall not be responsible for any damage users may suffer, including but not limited to, information or equipment that may be lost, damaged, delayed, mis-delivered, or unavailable when using electronic devices. The School District shall not be responsible for material that is retrieved through the Internet, or the consequences that may result from them. The School District shall not be responsible for any unauthorized financial obligations, charges or fees resulting from or through access to the School District's Technology Systems. In no event shall the School District be liable to the user for any damages whether direct, indirect, special or consequential, arising out the use of the Technology Systems or electronic devices. To the contrary, should a user incur charges, such charges will be the user's responsibility.

4. Prohibitions.

Users are prohibited from using the School District's Technology Systems for illegal, inappropriate, unacceptable, or unethical purposes. Such activities engaged in by users are strictly prohibited and illustrated below. The School District reserves the right to determine if any activity not appearing in the list below constitutes an acceptable or unacceptable use of the Technology Systems.

a. General Prohibitions – Users are prohibited from using Technology Systems to:

- (1) Communicate about nonwork or nonschool related communications unless the use conforms with this policy's definition of incidental personal use.

- (2) Create, access, distribute or transmit material that is harmful to minors and/or users, indecent, obscene, pornographic, child pornographic, terroristic, or advocates the destruction of property.
- (3) Create, access, distribute or transmit material likely to be offensive or objectionable to recipients including, but not limited to, that which may be defamatory, inaccurate, obscene, sexually explicit, lewd, hateful, harassing, discriminatory (as it pertains to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, marital status, age, sexual orientation, political beliefs, receipt of financial aid, or disability), violent, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, profane, pornographic, offensive, terroristic and/or illegal.
- (4) To engage in any form of Cyberbullying.
- (5) Create, access, distribute or transmit material in support of gambling, pools for money, or any other betting or games of chance.
- (6) Participate in discussion or news groups that cover inappropriate and/or objectionable topics or materials, including those that conform to the definition of inappropriate matter in this policy.
- (7) Create, access, distribute or transmit terroristic threats, hateful mail, harassing communications, discriminatory remarks, and offensive or inflammatory communications.
- (8) Participate in unauthorized communications that are not for school-related purposes or required for employees to perform their job duties, except for incidental personal use as allowed under this policy.
- (9) Facilitate any illegal activity.
- (10) Engage in commercial, for-profit, or any business purposes (except where such activities are otherwise permitted or authorized under applicable School District policies); conduct unauthorized fundraising or advertising on behalf of the School District and non-School District organizations; resell of School District computer resources to individuals or organizations; or use the School District's name in any unauthorized manner that would reflect negatively on the School District, its employees, or students.
- (11) Create, access, distribute or transmit material in support of political lobbying.
- (12) Install, distribute, reproduce or use copyrighted software on School District computers or copy School District software to unauthorized computer systems, intentionally infringing upon the intellectual property rights of others or violating a copyright. See Section 8 Copyright Infringement of this policy.
- (13) Install software, computer hardware, peripheral devices, network hardware or system hardware. The authority to install hardware or devices on School District computers is restricted to the Technology Director or designee(s).

- (14) Encrypt messages or data using encryption software that is not authorized by the School District from any access point on School District equipment or School District property. Users must use School District approved encryption to protect the confidentiality of sensitive or critical information in the School District's approved manner.
- (15) Violate the privacy, confidentiality or security of electronic information.
- (16) Use the systems to send any School District information to another party, except in the ordinary course of business as necessary or appropriate for the advancement of the School District's business or educational interest.
- (17) Send unsolicited commercial electronic mail messages, also known as spam.
- (18) Create personal web pages utilizing School District resources without administrative approval.

b. Access and Security Prohibitions.

Users must immediately notify the Technology Director and/or designee(s) if they have identified a possible security problem. Users must read, understand and comply with this policy that includes network, Internet usage, electronic communications, telecommunications, nondisclosure and physical information security policies. The following activities related to access to the School District's Technology Systems, and information are prohibited:

- (1) Misrepresentation (including forgery) of the identity of a sender or source of communication.
- (2) Acquiring or attempting to acquire passwords of others or giving your password to another. Users will be held responsible for the result of any misuse of their accounts.
- (3) Using or attempting to use computer accounts of others. This includes instances where the users' account was left unattended and accessible to others, whether intentionally or through negligence.
- (4) Altering a communication originally received from another person or computer with the intent to deceive.
- (5) Using School District resources to engage in any act, illegal or which may threaten the health, safety or welfare of any person or persons.
- (6) Disabling or circumventing any School District security; software or hardware.
- (7) Transmitting electronic communications anonymously or under an alias unless authorized by the School District.

c. Operational Prohibitions.

The following operational activities and behaviors are prohibited:

- (1) Interference with or disruption of the Technology Systems, network accounts, services or equipment or personal electronic devices of others.
- (2) Altering or attempting to alter files, system security software/hardware or any Technology Systems without authorization.
- (3) Unauthorized scanning of the Technology Systems for security vulnerabilities.
- (4) Attempting to alter any School District computing or networking components without authorization or beyond one's level of authorization.
- (5) Attempting to create unauthorized network connections or any unauthorized extension or retransmission of any computer, electronic communications systems, or network services, whether wired, wireless, or by other means.
- (6) Connecting unauthorized hardware and electronic devices to the Technology Systems.
- (7) Loading, downloading, or use of unauthorized games, music, video, programs, files, or other electronic media.
- (8) Intentionally damaging or destroying the integrity of the School District's electronic information, computer hardware, software or any Technology Systems.
- (9) Failing to comply with requests from the Technology Director or designee(s) to discontinue activities that threaten the operation or integrity of the Technology Systems.

5. Content Guidelines.

Information electronically published on the School District's Technology Systems shall be subject to the following guidelines:

- a. Published documents containing student information, including but not limited to audio, image and video clips or conferences, must be in compliance with School District policy and administrative guidelines related to web standards.
- b. Documents, web pages, electronic communications, or video conferences may not contain objectionable materials or point directly or indirectly to objectionable materials.
- c. Documents, web pages and electronic communications, must conform to all School District policies and guidelines, as described in Section 8 Copyright Infringement of this policy.

6. Due Process.

- a. The School District will cooperate with the School District’s ISP, local, state, and federal officials to the extent legally required in investigations concerning or relating to any illegal activities conducted through the School District’s Technology Systems.
- b. If users are entitled to due process rights for discipline resulting from the violation of this policy, they will be provided such rights.
- c. The School District may terminate the account privileges with or without providing notice to the user.

7. User’s Consent to District Access and Disclosure.

- a. Users’ violations of this policy, any other School District policy, or the law may be discovered by routine maintenance and monitoring of the School District system, or any method stated in this policy, or pursuant to any legal means. User consents to the School District’s disclosure of information related to such violations as determined necessary by the School District to protect the School District’s resources and to comply with the law.
- b. The School District shall have the right, but not the obligation, to monitor, track, log and access any electronic information or communications relating to use of the School District Technology Systems and electronic devices. Users should not have the expectation of privacy in their use of the School District’s Technology Systems, and other School District technology, even when used for personal reasons. Further, the School District shall have the right, but not the obligation, to access any personal electronic device of students and employees brought onto the School District’s premises or at School District events, and/or any personal electronic device of any user connected to the School District network or containing School District programs or data, to ensure compliance with this policy and other School District policies, to protect the School District’s resources, and to comply with the law.
- c. Users’ execution of the User Acknowledgment shall constitute consent to the exercise of the aforesaid rights by the School District, as well as the confiscation of any personal electronic device and/or the disclosure of any information obtained by the School District pursuant to the exercise of the aforesaid rights, as determined necessary by the District to ensure compliance with this policy and other School District policies, to protect the School District’s resources and to comply with the law. As it relates to personal electronic devices, such devices may be searched once confiscated where there is reasonable suspicion that they contain information relating to a violation of a School District policy or code of conduct.

8. Copyright Infringement and Plagiarism.

- a. Federal laws, cases, and guidelines pertaining to copyright will govern the use of material accessed through the School District resources. Users will make a standard practice of requesting permission from the holder of the work and complying with license agreements. Employees will instruct students to respect copyrights, request permission when appropriate, and comply with license agreements.

b. Violations of copyright law can be a felony and the law allows a court to hold individuals personally responsible for infringing the law. The School District does not permit illegal acts pertaining to copyright law. Therefore, any user violating copyright law does so at their own risk and assumes all liability.

c. The illegal installation of copyrighted software or files for use on the School District's computers is expressly prohibited.

d. School District guidelines on plagiarism will govern use of material accessed through the School District's Technology Systems.

9. Selection of Material.

a. Board policies on the selection of materials will govern use of the School District's Technology Systems.

b. When using the Internet for class activities, teachers will select material that is appropriate in light of the age of the students and that is relevant to the course objectives. Teachers will preview the materials and websites they require or recommend students access to determine the appropriateness of the material contained on or accessed through the website. Teachers will provide guidelines and lists of resources to assist their students in channeling their research activities effectively and properly. Teachers will assist their students in developing the critical thinking skills necessary to ascertain the truthfulness of information, distinguish fact from opinion, and engage in discussions about controversial issues while demonstrating tolerance and respect for those who hold divergent views.

10. School District Website.

a. The School District will establish and maintain a website and will develop and modify its web pages that will present information about the School District under the direction of the District Webmaster or designee(s). All web pages posted at the discretion of and by the District Webmaster or a designee(s) shall adhere to the Web Page Guidelines. The Technology Director or their designee(s) will be responsible for the approval of information posted on the website.

b. School District employees may not officially or unofficially represent the school district on nondistrict websites. The Mount Union Area School District is not liable for information posted on nondistrict sites.

c. Groups associated with the School District as School District curricular, co-curricular, or auxiliary groups, including but not limited to Home & School's, booster clubs, musical associations or other associations representing official school district activities, may only establish or maintain websites representing such School District-affiliated groups upon agreement to comply with Web Page Guidelines.

d. The District shall not place links on its own website, except to the above affiliated groups which are under the direction of the District, and except as specified below.

e. Classes and teachers may establish web pages that comply with this policy, Web Page Guidelines and any administratively created guidelines to present information about the class activities or for other curricular purposes. Teachers are responsible for any content created by their students posted on such sites.

f. Any links occurring on School District web pages must comply with applicable laws and must only link to sites that have an educational purpose. Links may not be identified with sites containing defamatory, slanderous, libelous or inappropriate language. No attempt should be made to misrepresent the location of a link.

g. Only users authorized to do so by the District Webmaster or Technology Director may post information on the authorized School District websites. All websites operated under authority of this policy, and the content therein, are subject to prior approval of and periodic review by the Technology Director or designee(s).

h. The District Webmaster and Technology Director reserve the right to remove any material posted to any of the websites authorized pursuant to this policy.

11. Safety And Privacy.

a. To the extent legally required, users of the School District's Technology Systems will be protected from harassment or commercially unsolicited electronic communication. Any user who receives threatening or unwelcome communications should immediately forward them to the Technology Director or designee(s).

b. A user may not disclose, use or disseminate confidential, electronic or personal information about themselves or other users without appropriate consent, use for educational purpose and in compliance with School District policy.

c. Student users will agree not to physically meet with someone they have only met online unless they have parent/guardian consent.

12. Consequences for Inappropriate, Unauthorized and Illegal Use.

a. General rules for behavior, ethics, and communications apply when using the Technology Systems and information, in addition to the stipulations of this policy. Users must be aware that violations of this policy or other policies, or unlawful use of the Technology Systems may result in loss of Technology Systems access and a variety of other disciplinary actions and/or legal proceedings on a case-by-case basis. This policy incorporates all other relevant School District policies.

b. The user is responsible for damages to the network, equipment, electronic communications systems, and software, including incidental or unintended damage, resulting from willful or deliberate violations of this policy.

c. Violations as described in this policy may be reported to the School District, appropriate legal authorities, whether the ISP, local, state, or federal law enforcement. The School District will cooperate to the extent legally required with authorities in all such investigations.

d. Vandalism may result in cancellation of access to the School District's Technology Systems and resources and is subject to discipline.

13. Internet Safety Programs.

The District administration shall assure that the online activities of students are monitored and that students are provided educational programs regarding appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyber bullying awareness and response. Plans for educating students as set forth above shall be periodically reviewed and updated by the District administration.

14. User Acknowledgement.

The Board requires that each user or parent/guardian sign a document indicating their understanding of, and agreement and intent to adhere to the terms of this policy.

MOUNT UNION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
PARENT PERMISSION FORM FOR
PUBLISHING STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHS AND STUDENT WORK ON THE MOUNT
UNION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT WEBSITES AND
IN DISTRICT-RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Student Name (please print) _____

Homeroom Teacher (please print) _____

Grade _____ School _____

I understand that my child's photograph and class work could appear on the Mount Union Area School District websites and publications throughout the year and that any such publication is not for profit and neither my child nor my family will be compensated for any such use.

I understand that no last names, home addresses, email addresses, or telephone numbers will appear with any photograph or published work. Students will only be identified by first name.

I also understand that the Mount Union Area School District has no control over non-District media sources and their use of my child's likeness, name or photograph.

Please check all that apply and sign below.

Subject to the above conditions, do you grant permission for the publishing of the student's photograph and/or student work done by the child named above on the Mount Union Area School District websites and any District-related publications?

_____ YES _____ NO

Do you grant permission for the Mount Union Area School District to release my student's photograph and/or student work done by the child named above to local area newspapers understanding that such newspapers may print your student's name in full along with any such photographs and/or student work, and that the Mount Union Area School District has no control over non-District media sources and their use of your child's likeness, name, or photograph?

_____ YES _____ NO

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Please return this form to your Homeroom Teacher

