



# MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

## Office of the Superintendent

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**Date:** August 30, 2024

**Subject:** A Welcome Back Message from Superintendent McLoughlin

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Dear Montgomery Township School District Community,

I hope that you have all had a refreshing and enjoyable summer break! While it is sad to see the summer end, I am always filled with excitement and optimism when the first day of a new school year approaches.

The district staff has been diligently planning and preparing to ensure this school year is filled with fun and engaging opportunities in and out of the classroom. A deserving acknowledgment and gratitude to our buildings, grounds, and custodial teams who have dedicated countless hours to meticulously cleaning and preparing each school building, both inside and out.

Whether you are returning or joining us for the first time, I am thrilled to have you as part of our extraordinary school district community.

### **Strategic Plan**

Over the past several months, district and school administrators and staff members have been developing action plans to meet our strategic planning goals and objectives. The goals and objectives were crafted by community stakeholders during our three strategic planning meetings last winter. The district's strategic goals are:

Goal 1: The Student Experience: student achievement, teaching, and learning - To cultivate a learning community that is safe, comprehensive, and customized to provide a balanced academic, creative, and engaging experience to prepare students to make an impact on the future.

Goal 2: Communication, Community Engagement, and Outreach - Increase community engagement by improving two-way communication so that all community members are well-informed and feel connected.

Goal 3: Culture and Climate (Social Emotional Learning – cultural sensitivity, health and wellness, resilience) - Enhance the social-emotional learning environment to support the development and resiliency of ALL learners.

To follow along with everything related to our strategic planning process, please visit <https://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us/2024StrategicPlan>.

## **ID Cards**

To further enhance our safety and security procedures, we have updated our student identification card rules district-wide. Each school has sent out information this month regarding how ID cards will be used in their buildings, and they have also included a section in their respective student handbooks about ID cards.

Universally, please remember that all students must wear their school-issued ID card and lanyard at all times on the exterior of their clothing from the moment they enter the bus and/or walk into their school building. Students must have their ID when attending school-related events (both after school and on weekends) and may be subject to disciplinary consequences if they do not wear or present their ID card. If a student loses their ID card or lanyard, they will be charged a \$5 replacement fee that must be paid through your PaySchools account.

## **PaySchools**

The district will continue to use PaySchools, a streamlined payment system, this school year. All school-related payments, such as cafeteria funds, ID card replacement fees, and more will be collected through PaySchools. For more information about PaySchools, including a full user guide if you've never used the program before or simply need a refresher, you can go to <https://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us/PaySchools>.

New this school year, any lunch account that falls below a -\$10.00 balance will prohibit a student from purchasing lunch. Please check your PaySchools account before the start of school to avoid any interruption.

## **New Director of Special Services**

In May, [we welcomed Ms. Michele Deremer](#) as the district's new Director of Special Services. Ms. Deremer officially began in her role this summer on July 1st. She has an extensive background in special education and has served in various roles as an administrator throughout her successful career.

We are all very excited that Ms. Deremer is a member of our MTSD community. If you need to reach out throughout the school year, her email address is [nderemer@mtsd.us](mailto:nderemer@mtsd.us), and her phone number is (609) 466-7600, extension 7023.

## **Attendance and HIB Policies**

It is encouraged for all members of our school district community to familiarize themselves with our [attendance policy](#) and [Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying \(HIB\) policy](#). On our district website, we also have sections with more information and resources about [student attendance](#) and [HIB](#).

## **2024-2025 District Calendar**

The [2024-2025 District Calendar](#) was amended and board approved on January 23, 2024. Please note that if the calendar is adjusted throughout the school year due to school closings or other events, you can always view the most up-to-date version by visiting <https://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us/currentCalendar>.

The most up-to-date versions of our A/B and 6-Day schedules can also be viewed by visiting <https://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us/calendarAB> and <https://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us/sixDayCalendar>, respectively.

### **Maschio's Food Services**

Maschio's will continue to be our Food Services provider. To view school-specific welcome letters, price lists, menus, and more from Maschio's, you can go to <https://maschiofood.com/montgomery/>.

I am excited to see everyone for our first day of school on Thursday, September 5th. Enjoy the remaining days of summer break!

Sincerely,

Mary E. McLoughlin | Superintendent of Schools