



**EXCELLENCE
TODAY
FOR TOMORROW**

Media Elementary School
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Dr. Eleanor Dimarino-Linnen, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Dr. Paula Voshell
Principal

August 2021

Greetings, Mustang Families!

I hope this letter finds you healthy while enjoying and making the most of the remaining days of summer vacation. On behalf of the Rose Tree Media School District and the Media Elementary School team, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2021-2022 school year. We are excited to open our doors and welcome all families to in-person learning!

It has been a busy summer for us at Media! From all the "behind the scenes" preparations to the completion of Phase 5 of our playground project, things are in place to open the doors and welcome the children (and you) to a new school year. Everyone's efforts are certain to make the children's time with us a rich and rewarding experience. Thank you, in advance, for your continued support, both at home and at school. It takes a dedicated team to nurture the academic and social-emotional development of a child. Together we can do (and do) GREAT things for our Media children!

We have a few personnel updates for the coming year. Please join me in welcoming our newest team members as well as those taking on a new challenge this year.

- Mr. Ed Canavan: Tech Assistant (for MES and GES)
- Ms. Amanda Celestino: Grade 3 until Ms. Viscuso returns
- Ms. Gianna DeFelice: Support Staff I (Lunch/Recess Monitor) until Ms. Ozanne returns
- Mr. Hans Kalbach: Grade 4
- Ms. Alison Kotras: Grade 5
- Ms. Melissa Lieberman: Physical Education (Days 2, 5, 8, and 11)
- Michelle Long: Grade 4 until Ms. Frazier returns
- Tina Loveland-Smith: Teacher on Assignment (for the year)
- Hannah Ozanne: Support Staff I (Lunch/Recess Monitor)
- Melissa Posthauer: Support Staff I (Lunch/Recess Monitor) (new last May)
- Mr. Jesse Leahy: Support Staff II (Learning Support Assistant)

We are excited to welcome back our own Ms. Behringer, Ms. Bruce, and Ms. Nieczpiel! We have certainly missed them!

At the district level, please welcome,

- Mr. Andrew Koonradt: Supervisor for Curriculum and Instruction
- Ms. Jenni Lee: RTMSD Food Service Director

This year, Grade 4 teacher, Ms. Loveland-Smith, will serve as a Teacher on Assignment working closely with the RTMSD Curriculum and Instruction Team at the Education Center. We wish her well and look forward to her return for the 2022-2023 school year.

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Listed below are important beginning of the year updates. Please take a moment to read and review the information, mark your calendars, and reach out with any questions you may have.

May you enjoy these last few weeks of summer vacation as we ready the school in anticipation of the return of our learners. We are ready and excited to get the new school year underway! Until we see each other, always remember and never forget,

*It's a **GREAT** day to be a **Media Mustang!***

Sincerely,
Paula Voshell

Getting Ready for School

Bus Schedules

The RTMSD Transportation Department will post **bus schedules** on the district [website](#) during the week of August 23. The schedules will also be posted on the school's Front Street main entrance doors. Families are reminded to have their children at the bus stop 5-10 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. **Please note** that it is not unusual for bus runs to take a little longer during the first few days of school. We ask for your patience in this matter. Any bus questions or concerns can be shared with the transportation department at (610) 627-6475 or by emailing Ms. Kinsler at bkinsler@rtmsd.org.

Open House: August 26, 2021

We are so excited to open our doors and let our learners and their families visit! In order to provide all Kindergarten through Grade 5 learners and their families this opportunity to visit the classrooms, meet the teachers, drop off learning supplies, and pick up packets, we will have an **Open House on Thursday, August 26**. It will look differently than in the past. In compliance with the District's Health and Safety Plan, all visitors will be masked, visits will be staggered to limit the number of people in the school at the same time, with only one adult per child permitted at the time of the scheduled visit. Visits will be kept to 15 minutes.

In order to visit the classrooms, families will need to sign-up for a time. The sign-up times will be made available on Monday, August 23, at which time all families will receive a link to sign up for their visits. Visitation times will be available throughout the day. Families will be able to sign up to visit one child's classroom/teacher at the designated time. Teachers will meet families at the specified locations, take them (families) to the classroom, and then walk families back to their original location. **Important note:** For the Open House, we will be using four different doors to enter and exit the school. The doors that we will use for visitation are the State Street-Playground door (door nearest the playground gate on State Street), the State Street-Atrium doors (across from the Media Theater), the Front Street-Atrium doors (main entrance), and the Front Street-Parking Lot doors. Because of this, families who have more than one child enrolled at Media may need to move from one entrance/exit door to another entrance/exit door for their different children's visits. Please be aware of this as you sign up for your visit. Once you schedule your visits, please write down the time/s and door location/s so that you have them handy for the day of your visit. Thank you for your cooperation!

The School Day (Arrival and Dismissal)

All Kindergarten through Grade 5 learners are to report to Media Elementary School on **Monday, August 30, 2021** for the first day of school. The student day begins at 9:00 AM and ends at 3:30 PM (Exceptions: AM and

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PM Kindergarten). Doors open at **8:40 AM**, and we strongly encourage learners to arrive and get seated in their classrooms **by 8:55 AM**. This provides them with time to greet their classmates, get organized, and settled before the school day officially begins at 9:00 AM. The morning (AM) kindergarten session runs from 9:00-11:30 AM, while the afternoon (PM) kindergarten session runs from 1:00 – 3:30 PM. Upon morning arrival, all learners will go directly to their classrooms. Below is specific information regarding arrival and dismissal of students.

- **Morning Arrival (K-5): 8:40-8:55 AM**
 - *Buses will drop off students at the Front Street Main office doors*
 - *Walkers can enter either the Front or State Street entrances*
 - *Family drop-off: Please drop off learners at the **State Street entrance only***
 - *Adults will greet students upon their arrival and direct/assist them to their classrooms*
- **AM Kindergarten Dismissal: 11:30 AM**
 - *All AM Kindergarten learners will exit school via the Front Street main entrance*
 - *Teachers will bring the learners to the Front Street doors*
 - *Families/identified designees will pick up their learners there*
 - *Teachers will assist the learners onto the buses*
- **PM Kindergarten Arrival: 12:50-12:55 PM**
 - *All PM Kindergarten learners will enter school via the Front Street main entrance*
 - *Buses will drop off students at the Front Street main entrance*
 - *Families can walk their children to the Front Street main entrance. Children must be accompanied by a grown-up until the teachers arrive*
 - *Teachers will meet and greet the learners*
- **PM Kindergarten-Grade 5 Dismissal: 3:35 PM**
 - *Learners **riding the bus** home from school will be escorted to their buses by a Media staff member*
 - *Family Pick-up: **Grade 1-5 Learners** being picked up will meet their families/specific designee at the **State Street-Atrium** door (across from the Media Theater)*
 - ***PM Kindergarten learners and their older Media Elementary siblings** will be picked up at the **State Street-Playground** door (door near the gate to the playground)*
 - *Learners may **walk home** from school **IF written permission is provided** by the family. Kindergarten-Grade 1 students cannot walk home alone*

Lunch

The first day of school is a full day. Families can plan to have their children either bring their own lunches or obtain cafeteria-prepared lunches. Beginning on the first day of school, **lunch** will be available to all Grade 1-5 learners at **no cost**. Second helpings, snacks, and ala carte items will be available at a predetermined cost. More information about the school lunch program can be found in your school packet and/or on the district webpage under [Food Services](#). Packets will be available for pick-up in the children's classrooms during Open House. In the event that a family is unable to attend Open House, the packets will be sent home with the children on their first day of school.

Back to School Night

Please mark the calendar for our annual **Back to School Night** which will be held on Wednesday, September 1, between 7:00-8:30 PM. This **virtual** "Back to School Night" is an adults-only event and provides families the opportunity to become more familiar with the teacher and the academic and behavioral expectations for each grade.

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Parent-Teacher Group (PTG)

The Media Elementary Parent-Teacher Group (PTG) is one way to get involved in the school community. This organization supports the MES children by providing funds for field trips (in-person and virtual), masks, books for classrooms and the library, many activities, Parent Education workshops, and so much more. The PTG is looking for chairpersons or co-chairs for the many planned activities. If you are interested in sharing your ideas and volunteering your time (get a friend to help), please reach out to Ms. Mundade at evp@mesptg.org.

We want to thank our PTG Playground Committee, under the leadership of Ms. Paola Haenn, for the completion of Phase V of our Playground Project. The Sport Court is here and promises to be a wonderful addition to our playground! It took several years, but we are nearing the end of this expansive project. Thank you, Ms. Haenn and Ms. Cohen (former parent) for spearheading and leading this project from start to (almost) finished! Ms. Haenn, we could not have completed this project without your organization, tenaciousness, and countless hours! Thanks, too, to all of our Media families and school team, past and present, who gave their time, energy, efforts, and donations to make this dream a reality for our children, for our community! We are Media proud!

This school year, the PTG is kicking off its "**Buddy Family Program**." This voluntary program is available for **all NEW Media families** who are interested in having a buddy family to help with their transition to a new school. This is also for **current** Media families who are interested in helping a new family become familiar with the Media School community. Are you new to MES and would like to have a buddy family? Are you a current MES family who would like to help a new family transition to their new school community? If you answered, "Yes," to one of these questions, then it is time to complete the [MES Buddy Google Form](#).

Another special PTG Committee is the [F.A.R.E.](#) (Family Alliance for Respect and Equity). They have hosted a variety of parent workshops, supported the annual Cultural Heritage Day project, assisted with the planning of our annual MLK Day of Service, and monthly voluntary family book clubs just to name a few. To learn more, click [F.A.R.E](#)

August - September 2021

Mark Your Calendars

August 23: Bus Schedules

- Bus schedules will be available online via [RTMSD Transportation](https://www.rtmsd.org/Transportation) (<https://www.rtmsd.org/Administration2/14>)
- Bus Schedules will be posted on the main doors of Media Elementary School
- Questions or concerns? Contact Ms. Kinsler at bkinsler@rtmsd.org

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August 23: Classroom Room Assignment and Welcome Letters

- Families will receive a welcome letter from their children's classroom teachers
- Students are assigned to the classroom of the teacher whose letter they receive

August 26: AM Kindergarten Visitation, 9:00, 9:30, or 10:00 AM

- AM Kindergarten Families will have the opportunity to sign up for a time to visit their children's classroom and meet the teacher
- The link to sign up for a visitation time will be available on the Media Elementary School webpage on Monday, August 23

August 26: PM Kindergarten Visitation, 10:30, 11:00, or 11:30 AM

- PM Kindergarten Families will have the opportunity to sign up for a time to visit their children's classroom and meet the teacher
- The link to sign up for a visitation time will be available on the Media Elementary School webpage on Monday, August 23
- Please arrive five minutes before your scheduled time

August 26: New Family Tour, (See scheduled times on sign-up sheet)

- New families are invited to a semi-private tour of your new school, Media Elementary
- A teacher will provide each new family with a tour of the school and a visit to their learner's classroom
- The link to sign up for a "New Family Tour" will be sent via email to you on/before Monday, August 23
- Please arrive five minutes before your scheduled time

August 26: Open House for Grades 1-5, Varied Times (beginning at 10:00 AM)

- All Grade 1-5 Learners and one adult are invited to visit their classrooms, meet their teachers, drop off their learning supplies, and pick up their packets
- Sign-up times vary beginning at 10:00 AM and ending before or after 3:00 PM (depending on the schedule)
- Check out the sign-up sheet and sign up for a time that works best for your family!
- Sign up sheets will be available on Monday, August 23
- Please arrive five minutes before your scheduled time

August 26: RTMSD School Board Meeting, 7:00 PM

- This is the monthly legislative meeting of the School Directors
- All RTMSD residents are invited to join virtually using the link on the [district website](#)

August 30: First Day of School

- Welcome, K-5 Learners!
- Arrival time: **8:40 - 8:55 AM** or **12:50-12:55 PM** for PM Kindergarten
- Students should be in their seats and ready for the day when the bell rings at 9:00 AM

September 1: Virtual Back to School Night, 7:00-8:3

- This annual adult event allows families to meet the teacher and learn about the upcoming school year
- Please follow this schedule, Virtual Back to School Night
- Teachers will send out the link to their Virtual Back to School Night 15 minutes before the scheduled event
- Families will also have the opportunity to "Zoom" into the virtual classrooms of our Encore teachers, Art, Library, Music, and PE

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September 6: School Closed

- *All district schools, K-12, are closed today*

September 7: School Closed

- *All district schools, K-12, are closed today*

September 8: School Reopens

- *All K-12 schools are open*

September 12: RTMSD Committee Meetings, 6:30 PM

- *This is the monthly committee meeting of the School Directors, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, etc.*
- *All RTMSD residents are invited to join virtually using the link on the [district website](#)*

September 16: School Closed

- *All district schools, K-12, are closed today*

September 17: School is Open

- *All K-12 schools are open*

September 20: Parent-Teacher Group (PTG) Meeting, 7:00 PM-virtual meeting

- *This will be the first PTG Meeting of the school year*
- *A link will be provided for the meeting*
- *We hope to see you there!*

September 23: RTMSD School Board Meeting, 7:00 PM

- *This is the monthly legislative meeting of the School Directors*
- *All RTMSD residents are invited to attend the meeting in person or to join virtually using the link on the [district website](#)*

September 27: Principals' Advisory Board(PAB) Meeting, 3:45 PM

- *This is a group of teachers and parents who meet four times a year to discuss concerns, suggestions, and/or celebrations involving Media Elementary School, its learners families, and staff*
- *If you have a question or concern, a suggestion, and/or a celebration, please reach out to your grade level representative who will either address your question or bring your celebration (what is going well), question/concern, suggestion, and/or celebration to our meeting*
- *For our first meeting in September, please contact Ms. Diane Boyer (610.627.6802 or dboyer@rtmsd.org) on or before September 18 with any question/concern, suggestion, or celebration. This will allow us to put it on our agenda for the September meeting*

Updates/Reminders

- **Family Drop-off (Morning Arrival):** Learners can be dropped off on State Street in the morning. Please drive slowly and carefully to avoid the trolley and other vehicles

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- **PM Kindergarten Arrival:** Learners will arrive either by bus or families can walk students to the Front Street doors where they will be met at 12:50 PM by school personnel
- **Taking a Trip?** Complete a "[Pre-planned Absence](#)" form. Submit it at least five days before the scheduled absence
- **School Messenger:** School Messenger is the global communication system used by the Rose Tree Media School District and Media Elementary to communicate with RTMSD/MES families
- **Membership Toolkit:** This is a PTG (Parent-Teacher Group) initiative that allows families to choose to be listed in a school directory. To be included, please follow the directions found in your Open House packet

Here's a "head start" on October

October 11: Picture Day

- *This is an opportunity for all students, K-5, to have their pictures taken*
- *Lifetouch photographers will be on hand to take individual student and class pictures*
- *Families have the opportunity to purchase or not to purchase their child/ren's photographs*
- *Stay tuned for more information*

October 12: RTMSD Committee Meetings, 6:30 PM

- *This is the monthly committee meeting of the School Directors, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, etc. where items are discussed prior to voting at the monthly legislative meeting*
- *All RTMSD residents are invited to join virtually using the link on the [district website](#)*

October 15: Teacher In-service Day-NO School for students

- *All district schools, K-12, are closed today for teacher in-service*

October 28: RTMSD School Board Meeting, 7:00 PM

- *This is the monthly legislative meeting of the School Directors*
- *All RTMSD residents are invited to join virtually using the link on the [district website](#)*

*Have a **GREAT** day, **Mustangs**, and we'll see **YOU** soon!*

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