



FOCUS NEWSLETTER

SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF MCGUFFEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

August 2020 | Volume 17

FOCUS ON NEWS

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McGuffey School District

90 McGuffey Drive
Claysville, PA 15323

www.mcguffey.k12.pa.us

Claysville Elementary School
Joe Walker Elementary School
McGuffey Middle School
McGuffey High School

The school year is about to start. Students and teachers are ready to return. What is the biggest question? How will school look this year? We have a lot of changes within the district. Due to COVID19, we have been out of the buildings since March. While everyone participated in the distance learning, not everyone felt comfortable. Flash forward to this August, what has changed? We have a Return to School Committee that has met all summer to answer questions. We will start with a blended learning model. The blended model will have students grouped into two groups: Blue and Gold. Both groups will attend school physically two days per week. The remaining days will be distance learning. The ultimate goal is to achieve five day, face-to-face instruction and we will be working toward that outcome daily.

To ensure learning, we are utilizing many options. The goal is to enable all students to learn regardless of internet access. In order to achieve this, we are ensuring that each student has a device. We are working to ensure that distance learning material can be accessed regardless of internet. We are also working to ensure that all staff are trained to provide distance education. In the spring, we had an emergency closure. We have now had months to work on an effective learning plan. We have also created a McGuffey School District Cyber



Program. Students can enroll in the full cyber program and remain a McGuffey School District student. What does this mean? You are a McGuffey student 100% which enables you to participate in all activities including graduating with a McGuffey School District diploma.

While we are planning our opening, the state of the pandemic is changing. We could move from green phase to red phase easily. Given the planning, we are able to seamlessly move from one phase to another. While we will still have challenges, I have complete faith in the faculty and staff of McGuffey School District. They will provide the excellent education

that you deserve and have come to expect. While the pandemic may change, our staff remains dedicated to the students and community of McGuffey School District. Welcome back everyone! Let's make this the best school year yet!

Amy Todd
Interim Superintendent



Focus Newsletter

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

McGuffey School District

90 McGuffey Drive
Claysville, PA 15323

724-948-3731

Fax 724-948-3769

www.mcguffey.k12.pa.us

District I

Blaine Township, Claysville Borough,
Donegal Township) David Haines--
Betty Shingle-Richard Shriver

District II

(Buffalo Township, East Finley
Township, Green Hills Borough,
West Finley Township) Scott
Harden · Zonie Jackson · Edward
Szygenda

District III

(Morris Township and South
Franklin Township)
Carl Group- President
Jeffrey Ross- Vice President
Kenneth Leasure

McGuffey School Board Passes Final Budget

The final 2020-2021 budget in the amount of \$33,062,238 was approved at the June 11, 2020 school board meeting. The final budget includes an increase of \$960,266 in expenditures or 2.99% from the 2019-2020 budget year. Revenues for next year are in the amount of \$31,638,937 and represents a decrease of \$74,622 from the 2019-2020 budget year. The final budget sets the millage at 12.76 mills for the 2020-2021 budget year. The budget approved for the 2020-2021 school year has a deficit of \$1,423,301.

State funds make up 55% of the revenue while local revenue contributes 43% to the revenue. The District received \$173,942 in CARES Act funding. Due to the pandemic, revenue projections have been adjusted and are reflected in the local revenue. With no increase in state subsidy and pandemic related revenue decreases, the district must continue to be fiscally responsible and vigilant to ensure that the number and level of services it provides align with the enrollment of McGuffey School District.

Mrs. Amy Todd

Mrs. Lynn Hudak
Mr. Mark Bonus
Mr. Chester Welc
Mr. Setrak Haroutounian
Mr. Dan Gottron
Ms. Sheryl Fleck
Mr. Matt Wolfe
Ms. Marie Pupo
Mr. Mike Wilson
Ms. Charissa Rychcik
Mr. Craig McKee

Interim Superintendent
Interim Business Administrator
HS/MS Principal
High School Assistant Principal
Interim Academic Administrator
Acting Joe Walker Elementary Principal
Claysville Elementary Principal
Claysville Elementary Assistant Principal
Joe Walker Elementary Principal
Director of Technology/Transportation
Supervisor of Special Education
Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds

The McGuffey School District is committed to providing safe and efficient transportation for all students. Letters will be mailed in August with times and stop assignments for the 2020-2021 school year. If you have any changes in address, phone number, or stop assignment, please notify the transportation office at 724-948-3731 as soon as possible.



Open House

Due to current restrictions we will not be holding an in-person open house. A virtual open house may be scheduled at a date to be decided.

Grading Period Ends

October 29, 2020
January 14, 2021
March 23, 2021
June 2, 2021

Report Cards Issued

November 5, 2020
January 21, 2021
March 30, 2021
June 2, 2021

Health Office Guidelines from the Nurse

In order to meet the Pennsylvania Department of Health mandates and provide the children with a safe and healthy learning environment, the district asks that parents/guardians abide by the following guidelines.

Important Health Information

Please provide your child's nurse with current parent/guardian phone numbers along with emergency contacts in the event the nurse is unable to reach you by phone. It is also important to provide the nurse with up-to-date health and medication information concerning your child. This should include recent hospitalization information, new medical conditions, or any new medication.

Pennsylvania Immunization Requirements (28 PA.CODE CH 23)

ATTENTION PARENTS - the immunizations required for the beginning of school are suspended for 2 months from the start date for the 2020/2021 school year (10/30/2020) due to the pandemic. Children in grades K-12 must have the

- 4 doses of tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis*
(1 dose on or after the 4th birthday)
- 4 doses of polio (4th dose on or after 4th birthday and at least 6 months after previous dose given)
- 2 doses of measles, mumps and rubella**
- 3 doses of hepatitis B
- 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine or history of disease
* Usually given as DTP or DTaP or DT or Td
**Usually given as MMR

Children entering 7th through 12th grade must have the following additional immunizations:

- 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis [Tdap]
- 2 doses of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)
- First dose is given 11-15 years of age; a second dose is required at age 16 or entry into 12th grade.
- If the first dose was given at 16 years of age or older, then only one dose is required.

Pennsylvania school immunization law allows for exemptions. They are medical reasons, religious beliefs, and philosophical/strong moral or ethical conviction. If your child is exempt from certain immunizations then the school will need a written statement concerning exemption along with parent signature for the student immunization record.

*YEARLY MANDATED HEALTH SERVICES

| SERVICE | K or 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | Special Education |
|--|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|-------------------|
| VISION | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| GROWTH | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| HEARING | X | X | X | | | | X | | | | X | | |
| PHYSICAL EXAM | X | | | | | X | | | | | X | | As needed |
| DENTAL EXAM | X | | X | | | | X | | | | | | As needed |
| SCOLIOSIS SCREEN | | | | | | X | X | | | | | | |
| TB TEST (State approved district waiver) | X | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SCHOOL NURSE SERVICES | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| MAINTENANCE OF HEALTH RECORD | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| IMMUNIZATION ASSESSMENT | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |

Medication Policy

The school nurse realizes that some students may require daily, emergency, or as-needed medication during the school day. To provide for the safety of all children, please remember that the school nurse must follow both school policy and the Pennsylvania Nursing Law. Pennsylvania Nursing Law does not permit the school nurse to administer any prescribed or over-the-counter medications to your child unless a doctor writes orders for the school nurse to administer during the school day. If your child needs daily, emergency, or as-needed medication during the school day, the child's doctor must complete the School Medication Form, or School Authorization To Carry Medication Form which must include signatures from both the doctor and parent.

- NO MEDICATION WILL BE GIVEN WITHOUT AN ORDER FROM THE CHILD'S DOCTOR.
- ALL MEDICATION MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE SCHOOL IN THE ORIGINAL CONTAINER BY THE PARENT OR A DESIGNATED ADULT.

Student Illness Guidelines

In order to provide for the health and wellness of all students, the nurses ask that you abide by the following guidelines if your child becomes ill. These guidelines help to avoid student exposure to possibly contagious illness.

- If your child's temperature is 100 degrees or higher, the child should stay home. Children should be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.
- If your child vomits or has diarrhea, the child should stay home for 24 hours from the last episode.
- If your child's eyes are red, swollen, itchy, have drainage, or have a crusty appearance on awakening, the child should stay home and be seen by a doctor.
- If your child has a productive cough that cannot be controlled with medication, the child should stay home and be seen by a doctor.
- If your child has been diagnosed with a communicable illness such as head lice, impetigo, ringworm, or chickenpox, the child should stay home and the school nurse should be called.
- If your child receives a serious injury or appears obviously ill, the child should be seen by a doctor.
- If your child presents with any of the above symptoms

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*Private physical and dental forms are available on the McGuffey School District website.

PARENT NOTIFICATIONS

Legislation at the state and federal levels requires school districts to annually notify parents in regard to certain aspects of the educational program. The following information provides an abbreviated version of the information required to meet the mandates. If you have any questions regarding the information, please contact the building principal where your child attends or the District Administration Office as listed elsewhere in the Focus. If you wish to review the district policies, please visit our website at www.mcguiffey.k12.pa.us, "District Administration" and then "District Policies."

POLICY 006: Local Board Procedures — Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, will be followed but not adopted by the Board of Education in its deliberations in all cases in which it is not inconsistent with statute, rules of the State Board, or these procedures.

POLICY 103: Nondiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices — The McGuffey School District declares it to be the policy of this district to provide an equal opportunity for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the programs and activities offered in the schools regardless of race, color, age, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy, or handicap/disability. The board encourages students and third parties who believe they have been subject to discrimination to promptly report such incidents to designated employees. Copies of this policy and the associated complaint form are available in the principal's office of each school and at the district administration office. The Compliance Officer for this policy is: Ms. Amy Todd, Interim Superintendent, 90 McGuffey Drive, Claysville, PA 15323, 724-948-3731.

POLICY 104: Nondiscrimination in Employment/Contract Practices— The McGuffey School District declares it to be the policy of this district to provide all persons equal access to all categories of employment in this district, regardless of race, color, age, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, or handicap/disability. The board encourages employees and third parties who believe they have been subject to discrimination to promptly report such incidents to designated employees. Copies of this policy and the associated complaint form are available in the principal's office of each school and at the district administration office. The Compliance Officer for this policy is: Ms. Amy Todd, Interim Superintendent, 90 McGuffey Drive, Claysville, PA 15323, 724-948-3731.

POLICY 105.1: Curriculum Review by Parents and Students— Upon request by a parent or student, the district will make available existing information about the curriculum including academic standards to be achieved, instructional materials, and assessment techniques.

POLICY 127: Assessment of Educational Programs— The Board shall grant requests by parents and guardians to review the state assessments two weeks prior to their administration, during regular district office hours. The district shall ensure the security of the assessment documents. The district will grant parents and guardians the right to have their child excused from state assessments that conflict with their religious beliefs. Individual student achievement levels on the state assessment will be distributed to parents and guardians as soon as practicable after the results are received by the district.

POLICY 138: English as a Second Language Program— In accordance with the school district's philosophy to provide a quality educational program for all students, the McGuffey School District shall provide an appropriate planned instructional program for students identified whose dominant language is not English.

POLICY 142: Migrant Students— The Board establishes a program to address the needs and provide appropriate services to migrant students attending district schools.

POLICY 143: Standards for Persistently Dangerous Schools— Schools meeting specific criteria may be defined as "persistently dangerous schools." Should this occur, parents of students attending that school have the right to request transfer to a school within the district not so identified. Transfers outside of the district may occur only if an agreement between the identified school and a neighboring district exists.

POLICY 144: Standards For Victims of Dangerous Crimes— Victims of violent behavior meeting specific criteria may be defined as "victims of dangerous crimes." These individuals have the right to request transfer to another school within the district should one exist. Transfers outside of the district may occur only if an agreement between the school and a neighboring district exist.

POLICY 146: Student Services— The Board shall approve a written plan for implementing a comprehensive and integrated K-12 program of student services, based on the needs of students.

POLICY 200: Enrollment In District— The Board shall enroll school age students eligible to attend district schools, in accordance with Board policy, laws, and regulations.

POLICY 209: Health Examinations/Screenings— In compliance with the School Code, the Board shall require that district students submit to health and dental examinations. Parents will be notified of the date and time of examinations. A private health and/or dental examination conducted at the parent's expense will be accepted in lieu of the school examination. Please be advised of the existence of the Pennsylvania Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). This program provides free or low-cost health insurance to children, birth to age nineteen, when they are not eligible for medical assistance coverage. Eligibility is determined by family income. More information may be obtained by contacting either your child's school or the District Administration Office.

POLICY 216: Student Records— The policy is directly related to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). It deals with the compilation, retention, disposition, security, and confidentiality of student records. The policy in its entirety can be found in the office of each school building and may be accessed through the school district's website.

POLICY 235: Student Rights/Surveys— All instructional materials, including teacher's manuals, audiovisuals, or other supplementary instructional material, used in the instruction program shall be available for inspection by parents of students in accordance with board policy. Instructional materials do not include tests or academic assessments. Parents have the right to inspect, upon request, any survey created by a third party prior to the administration or distribution to students. Such written requests shall be submitted to the superintendent. Parents and students shall have the right to opt out based upon specific criteria contained within the policy.

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POLICY 246: Student Wellness— The District recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to the student's physical well-being, growth, development, and readiness to learn. To ensure the health and well-being of all students, the Board establishes that the District shall provide to students: A comprehensive nutrition program consistent with federal and state requirements; Access at reasonable cost to foods and beverages that meet established nutritional guidelines; physical education courses and opportunities for developmentally appropriate physical activity during the school day; and curriculum and programs for K-12 students that are designed to educate students about proper nutrition and lifelong physical activity, in accordance with the State Board of Education curriculum regulations and academic standards.

POLICY 249: Bullying/Cyberbullying— The Board is committed to providing a safe and positive learning environment for all district students. The Board recognizes that bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, detracts from the safe environment necessary for student learning, and may lead to more serious violence. Therefore, the Board strives to maintain an educational environment free from bullying. The Board prohibits all forms of bullying by district students in school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop, or at any activity sponsored, supervised, or sanctioned by the school. The Board encourages students who believe they have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee. The Board directs that complaints of bullying 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 reports of bullying. For a complete definition of "bullying/cyberbullying" refer to the Board Policy.

POLICY 251: Student Recruitment— Postsecondary institutions and military recruiters shall have access to secondary students' names, addresses, and telephone numbers, unless the students or parents request that such information not be released without prior written parental consent.

POLICY 252: Homeless Students— The Board recognizes its obligation to ensure that homeless students have access to the same educational programs and services provided to other district students. The Board shall make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children within the district, encourage their enrollment and eliminate existing barriers to their attendance and education, in compliance with federal and state laws and regulations.

POLICY 424: Personnel Files (Professional Employees)— The district shall release to parents, upon request, information regarding the professional qualifications and academic degrees of a teacher providing instruction to their child at a school receiving Title I funds. Likewise, in Title I schools, parents shall be notified when their child has been assigned to or taught for four (4) or more weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified, as defined by federal law.

POLICY 524: Personnel Files (Classified Employees)— In accordance with federal law, the district shall release to parents, upon request, the qualifications on any paraprofessional who provides instructional support to their child in a school receiving Title I funds.

POLICY 716: Integrated Pest Management— The practices and procedures for the use of pesticides in the school environment are outlined. In addition, the requirements for notification of application of pesticides on the school campus are presented. At this time there are no restricted or licensed chemicals used in school buildings or on school grounds. If for any reason a planned or emergency application of pesticides in school buildings or school grounds is necessary, a public notice would be given and a certified professional person would apply the chemicals. Parents/guardians that wish to be notified of a planned or emergency application of pesticides should contact Craig McKee, Supervisor of Building Grounds, in writing at mckeec@mcguffey.k12.pa.us or at 90 McGuffey Drive, Claysville, PA 15323.

POLICY 901: Tobacco Use/Nicotine Use— In order to protect students and staff from an environment that may be harmful, the Board prohibits smoking by all persons in school buildings, on school grounds, and on school buses.

POLICY 904: Public Attendance At School Events— The Board welcomes the public at athletic and other events held by the school district but the board acknowledges its duty to maintain order and preserve the facilities of the district during such events.

POLICY 917: Parent/Family Involvement — All school districts receiving Title 1 funds are required under section 1118 (a) (2) of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) to develop a written Parent Involvement Policy for the school district. The NCLB states that the district Parent Involvement Policy must be jointly developed with parents, incorporated into the Local Education Agency (LEA) plan, and distributed to parents of participating children in a format and language parents can understand.

POLICY 918: Title I Parent/Family Involvement Claysville Elementary and POLICY 918.1 Title I Parent/Family Involvement Joe Walker Elementary — The Title 1 Parent Involvement section of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires each Title 1 school to develop a written Parental Involvement Policy that describes the means for carrying out the requirements of Section 1118. The policy is to be developed jointly with and agreed upon by parents of Title 1 children. The school must ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities be sent to the Title 1 parents in a format and language that the parents can understand. The policy is also made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.

POLICY 919: District/School Report Cards— To provide pertinent information regarding the academic performance of the district and its schools, the Board shall annually develop and publicly disseminate a district report card and report cards for individual schools, in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations.

Code of Student Conduct— The McGuffey School District formally adopted a Code of Student Conduct. The document which contains information on attendance, student rights and responsibilities, disciplinary infractions, and disciplinary action can be found in its entirety in the student handbook at each level and in the office of each school building. In addition, the Code of Student Conduct may be accessed through the school district's website.

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National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)— Parents have the right to preview the assessment document. Students may be opted out by parents for any reason. Students have the right not to answer all questions or finish the test.

Violence and Drug Prevention Efforts, Programs, and Activities— Parents have the right to opt out their children from violence and drug prevention efforts, programs, and activities.

Schools Identified for Improvement Under No Child Left Behind Act— Schools may be classified as under: Corrective Action Status, Restructuring Status, School Improvement Status, School Choice Option, and Supplemental Education Services Status based on specific criteria on Adequate Yearly Progress. The state mandates that any school so classified develops specific action plans to increase test scores.

Parent-Right-To-Know under Section 1111(h) (6) of the No Child Left Behind Act— School districts receiving Title I, Part A funds will notify parents at the beginning of each school year of their right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's teacher and/or para-educator.

Due to the social distancing guidelines as recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DOH), the McGuffey School District will be conducting all parent meetings virtually or by telephone. This will include, but not limited to principal & teacher, parent meetings, IST Meetings, attendance and discipline meetings when appropriate.

Additionally, any meetings required for your child's evaluation, IEP, GIEP, or 504 plans will be held virtually or by telephone as well. You will be contacted by your child's case manager to schedule the meeting. Once the meeting is confirmed, invitations and other necessary documents will be emailed or mailed per parent preference.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2021-2022

Children in McGuffey School District who are five years old before September 1st are eligible to enter kindergarten for the following school year.

CLAYSVILLE ELEMENTARY

Thursday, March 18, 2021 & Friday, March 19, 2021

BY APPOINTMENT....Please call 724-663-7772

JOE WALKER ELEMENTARY

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

BY APPOINTMENT...Please call 724-222-3061

At **Kindergarten Registration** various screenings will be conducted with your child. Parents will complete all of the necessary documents needed by the school to complete the process.

Notification of Rights under Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) for Elementary and Secondary Schools

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (eligible students) certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the school to amend a record should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parents or eligible students, the school will notify them of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted as its agent to provide a service instead of using its own employees or officials (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office: U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-5920

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Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Model Notice for Directory Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that McGuffey School District, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, McGuffey School District may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the McGuffey School District to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production/ the annual yearbook/ honor roll or other recognition lists/ graduation programs/ sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight, and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories - names, addresses, and telephone listings - unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.¹

If you do not want McGuffey School District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing by September 13, 2020. McGuffey School District has designated the following information as directory information:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| ■ Student's Name | ■ Dates of attendance |
| ■ Address | ■ Grade Level |
| ■ Telephone listing | ■ Participation in officially recognized activities and sports |
| ■ Photograph | ■ Weight and height of members of athletic teams |
| ■ Date and place of birth | ■ Degrees, honors, and awards received |
| ■ Major field of study | ■ The most recent educational agency or institution attended |

¹ These laws are: Section 9528 of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. 7908), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-110), the education bill, and 10 U.S.C. 503, as amended by section 544, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (P.L. 107-107), the legislation that provides funding for the Nation's armed forces.

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during the school day, you will be called to pick up the child. Please pick up your child in a timely manner.

School Screenings

The Pennsylvania Department of Health states that students in grades K or 1, 6 & 11 must receive a physical examination. Students in grades K or 1, 3 & 7 must receive a dental examination. The school nurse will send a notice to inform parents/guardians of the date and time that the school will provide these services. If you prefer to have these screenings done by your child's doctor, call the school nurse for the appropriate health form. (Please see the Yearly Mandated Health Services chart on page 3.) Health forms are available on the McGuffey School District website.

Medical Excuses

A doctor's order is required for the following: (1) excused participation in gym class due to serious injury/illness, (2) use of the elevator due to a medical condition, (3) release to return to participation in gym class after a serious injury/illness documented by a doctor's order, and (4) release to use the stairs instead of the elevator after a serious injury/illness documented by a doctor's order.

Please call your child's school nurse if you have further questions or concerns.



Message from Ms. Fleck

The teachers and staff at Claysville Elementary continue to work around the clock to prepare for a safe and healthy return to school at the end of August. Whether you choose Hybrid (2 days in person and 3 days of distance learning) or Cyber (5 days of distance learning), all students will be learning five days a week, and teachers will continue to deliver high-quality instruction that is culturally responsive, rigorous and developmentally appropriate for all students.

Teachers will have dedicated time every school day to engage with students either in person, or while at home.

Students at Claysville Elementary will take part in learning activities that are fun, engaging, and enriching. Our school will maintain all health and safety guidelines while students are in the school building.

I know that current circumstances in the pandemic have been very difficult for you and your children. Students have been isolated from their teachers, classmates, and school communities. For this reason, we will allow time for teachers, school-based staff, and students to readjust to being in school buildings and to adapt to changes. In addition, we will integrate social-emotional activities into academic subjects to the greatest extent possible throughout the day.

All students must meet the same academic requirements, whether they are engaged in fully remote or blended learning. The teacher overseeing your child's classwork is responsible for designing assessments to measure your child's progress. This will include projects and exams administered in school and within the online platform.

There is no doubt that we have all learned a lot since March—both about the virus, and about our ability to keep learning during this unprecedented time. That is why we won't settle for anything but the most rigorous and engaging instructional experience for your child, in whatever learning model you choose. Your needs—along with those of your children and the staff who serve them, continue to be at the center of our back-to-school planning.
Sheryl Fleck, Principal

Parent tips from our School Counselors: Preparing your child to return to school

Prepare yourself first. Vent privately to other adults, problem solve, and cope. Don't vent to your child - they have enough to process.

When explaining to your child:

1. Use clear simple language to explain masks, social distancing, bussing, schedules, etc.
2. If they are just excited, roll with that!
3. If they feel uncomfortable, acknowledge their feelings AND yours, but without inflammatory language and venting. No plan is going to be ideal -model how to cope with uncomfortable feelings and turn to problem solving. How can you work together to make things as good as possible? Accentuate the positive!
4. Reassure them that returning to school will be done in a way that keeps them safe!
5. Stay calm and work to minimize your child's anxiety. Practice coping strategies when they feel stressed, before school starts: deep breathing, distraction, calming strategies, grounding techniques, journaling, etc.

Our Claysville Return to School Team will be providing information and a video to give you and your child a better idea of how school might look a little different this fall!

Claysville Elementary continues to be recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for our School-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. The program has positively impacted our school culture. We have incorporated a Growth Mindset philosophy and have established protocols to hear all voices of our students, staff, parents and community! Our Claysville STAR students will participate in a school-wide celebration when we return to school as well as at the end of each grading period.

We look forward to our 5th Grade Students accepting the role of school leaders and ambassadors in our school!

Best Wishes...

Best wishes to the following Claysville Staff who are moving on to fulfill their dreams and ambitions: Missy Six, Leah Senneway, Diana Smith, Terry Lemley, and Kaly Gluth

Claysville Kindergarten & New Student Orientations

Students who will be new to Claysville Elementary are invited to attend a New Student Orientation on Thursday, August 20th. If you have not received an invitation, please call the school office to find out what session to attend. We ask that one parent attend with each new child in order to limit the number of people in the building at the same time. You and your child will have a great experience and learn about the upcoming school year!

Claysville Important Dates

(Always check the Calendar on the Claysville Elementary Website, as well as the Claysville Morning Announcements each day!)

- Monday, August 17th – Class Assignments sent to Parents
- Thursday, August 20th – Kindergarten & New Student Orientation
- Thursday, August 27th – 1st Day "in School Building" for BLUE Group
- Friday, August 28th – 1st Day "in School Building" for GOLD Group



9 Focus on Joe Walker

As we prepare for the first day of school, it is certain that this will be a year like no other. I am excited to welcome you all back. I cannot wait to serve as your interim principal to start the year.

A new year always brings obstacles, and that is just as true now as it has ever been. As we start the year, it is important that we are aware of and prepared for these challenges. We have spent many hours trying to anticipate and respond to these challenges, and I would encourage families to review the return to school resources on our district web site.

A new year also brings opportunities, and it is equally important that we embrace these moments in front of us. Whether it is through participation in our newly formed McGuffey Cyber Program or through enrollment in our Hybrid Learning Model, there is so much to anticipate for the year ahead. We have many exciting programs and activities for our students, including Kids of Steel and Girls on The Run, and our positive support and behavior program that has received recognition across Pennsylvania.

In thinking about our school's namesake, and both the challenges, and the opportunities he embraced to become such a decorated pilot, it seems fitting to reflect on what it means to be the Joe Walker Jets. While these are difficult times, I know that our school community, our wonderful Joe Walker family, will find ways to SOAR together this year.

As we approach the year, final details will be coming for both our hybrid and cyber students. Keep tuned into our district website and school and district social media pages for the most up to date news and information.

Thank you for all you do as members of our school community. I sincerely look forward to the year in front of us.

Dan Gottron, Principal



Focus on Middle School/High School

The administration, faculty, and staff of McGuffey Middle School and High School are excited to welcome students back on our campus for the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. Many days have been spent preparing our school for opening day and we anticipate a successful launch on August 27th. Over the past several months, our region has been through an extraordinary experience that has left us all with a greater appreciation of the unique role that school plays in the lives of our families and community.

Our schools proudly serve as the hub of many of the programs and activities that enrich the lives of our students and bring together generations of our McGuffey residents. We embrace this critical role and are grateful for your patience and support throughout this ongoing crisis. As we focus in on the new school year, our goal has always been and will continue to be, to provide the students of this community with the best educational experience possible in a safe and compassionate environment.

Throughout the planning for the opening of this school year, we have been intentional in developing additional programming options and safety procedures for our students and families. We clearly understand that parents and students will have questions and concerns about the operations of our facilities, and we will do our best to provide you the answers and assist your children as they transition back into the classroom.

As the school year begins I will be serving in the capacity of Middle School/High School Principal, and I will endeavor to make this school year a great experience for all of our secondary students. It promises to be a challenging year, but also one that can go a long way in successfully restoring a sense of normalcy for our students and community. I look forward to welcoming students back into our buildings soon and regaining the initiative on teaching and learning.

Mark J. Bonus, Principal

Option C
Approved –

McGuffey School District

2020-2021 School Year Calendar



| August 2020 | | | | | | | August 2020 | | | | | | | September 2020 | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|-------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S | 8/10 – 21/20: Teacher In-Service Day* 8/24, 25, 26/20: Teacher In-Service Day 8/27/20 – First Day for Students | | | | | | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | | | | | | | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | | | | | | | | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | September 2020 9/7/20: Labor Day – No School | | | | | | | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | | | | | | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| October 2020 | | | | | | | October 2020 | | | | | | | November 2020 | | | | | | |
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S | 10/14/20: Teacher In-Service Day (Parent-Teacher Conf.) | | | | | | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | | | | | | | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | | | | | | | | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | November 2020 11/26/20 – 11/30/20: Thanksgiving Holiday – No School | | | | | | | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | 29 | 30 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| December 2020 | | | | | | | December 2020 | | | | | | | January 2021 | | | | | | |
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S | 12/24/20 – 12/31/20: Winter Break | | | | | | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | | | | | | | | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | | | | | | | | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | January 2021 1/1/21: Winter Break Continued 1/18/21: Teacher In-Service Day | | | | | | | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 31 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| February 2021 | | | | | | | February 2021 | | | | | | | March 2021 | | | | | | |
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S | 2/10/21: Act 80 Day (Senior Projects) 2/15/20: Make-up Day | | | | | | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | | | | | | | | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | | | | | | | | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | March 2021 3/10/21: Make-up Day | | | | | | | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| April 2021 | | | | | | | April 2021 | | | | | | | May 2021 | | | | | | |
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S | 4/1/21: Make-Up Day 4/2/21: Holiday (Good Friday) 4/5/21: Make-up Day | | | | | | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | | | | | | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | | | | | | | | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | May 2021 5/7/21: Make-up Day 5/31/21: Memorial Day – Holiday | | | | | | | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | | | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 30 | 31 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| June 2021 | | | | | | | June 2021 | | | | | | | Teacher In-Service No School for Students | | | | | | |
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S | 6/2/21: Last Student Day 6/3/21: Teacher In-Service Day 6/4/21: Teacher In-Service Day and Class of 2021 Graduation | | | | | | | Green | | | | | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | | | | Purple | First/Last Student Day | | | | | |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | | | | | | | | Red | Holiday/No School | | | | | |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | | | | | | | | Gray | Testing | | | | | |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | | | | | | | | Orange | Schools Closed (Unexpectedly) | | | | | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | | | | | Pink | Act 80 Day | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Yellow | Make-Up Day (5) | | | | | |
| Student Days | | | | | | | 179 | | | | | | | *Teachers may choose any full day between August 10, 2020, and August 21, 2020, (Monday through Friday from 8:00 am – 3:30 pm) as one of their clerical days. All teachers must designate one day as their clerical day during this window. <div><div></div> Blue Student Schedule</div> <div><div></div> Gold Student Schedule</div> | | | | | | |
| Act 80 Day (Senior Project) | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| In-Service Days | | | | | | | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Days | | | | | | | 188 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

*Teachers may choose any full day between August 10, 2020, and August 21, 2020, (Monday through Friday from 8:00 am – 3:30 pm) as one of their clerical days. All teachers must designate one day as their clerical day during this window.

Blue Student Schedule

Gold Student Schedule

CAFETERIA NOTICES

The McGuffey School District cafeterias will be open to serve breakfast and lunch on August 27, 2020. Breakfast and lunch prices for the 2020-2021 school year are listed below.

| | Breakfast | Lunch |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| Elementary | \$1.50 | \$2.50 |
| Middle/High School | \$1.50 | \$2.75 |
| Reduced Price Breakfast/Lunch | \$.30 | \$.40 |
| Eligible Students | Free | Free |
| Extra Milk | \$.75 | \$.75 |

Free or Reduced Program applications will be available at each school office and on the district's website. Parents/guardians are encouraged to complete the applications and return them to school. Students who were eligible for the free or reduced program at the end of the previous school year will remain on the free or reduced program until October 8, 2020, or until a new application has been processed. Please see details on the next page.

The food service department at Claysville Elementary, Joe Walker Elementary, and McGuffey Middle/High School operates with a computerized prepayment and debit card system. This is not a charge system. Students may pay for their meals daily, but parents/guardians are encouraged to pay in advance. Students are not permitted to charge a la carte. "This may include second meals and extra entrees."

Reminder: Any unpaid balances from the previous school year will show up as a negative balance for the new school year.

The McGuffey Food Service Department is using **www.myschoolbucks.com**. Parents/guardians can prepay their child's school breakfast, lunch, and a la carte food items using a credit card.

Why Should You Visit www.myschoolbucks.com ?

- Easy: Enrolling and funding are simple and completed online.
- Convenient: Once an account is established, parents/guardians can check balances and fund the account from their computer, phone, or fax. You cannot pay by credit card at the school. If you have multiple children, you can make multiple deposits for each child in a single transaction.
- Secure: Personal and payment card information is protected by the most advanced Internet security.

How Do You Enroll?

- Go to www.myschoolbucks.com and click ENROLL NOW
- Parents/guardians can create an account. They will need their child's district ID number. If parents/guardians do not know the ID number, they can call the McGuffey food service office at their child's school. Additional information required includes child's date of birth, school, and grade.
- Provide credit or debit card information.

Parents/guardian may also call the toll-free customer support center at 1-800-479-3531 to enroll by phone. The call center is also available to answer any questions parents/guardians may have about using the [myschoolbucks](http://myschoolbucks.com) website.

METHODS OF PAYMENT

All students (full priced, reduced, and free eligible) will use their ID Badge to access their lunch account. Students will scan their ID Badge at the register.

-All McGuffey students are prohibited from charging a la carte against their accounts as well as sharing their student ID number.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to deposit money into their children's account. Deposits left in the school office could take up to two (2) days to be applied to students' account. Students may make prepayments in the cafeteria in the morning before school, or at the time of breakfast and lunch service. In an effort to move the serving lines along quickly during the first few days of school, prepayments will be accepted by mail. Please complete the deposit form at the bottom of this page and mail to:

Ms. Paige Reed, Food Service Director
McGuffey High School
86 McGuffey Drive
Claysville, PA 15323

McGuffey School District has made it faster and easier for parents to apply for free and reduced meals through compass.com.

This free service enables families to receive program benefits faster than using the paper application. Your application is electronically submitted directly to the child nutrition office for processing.

Submit an application in minutes

Easy-to-follow steps

Faster processing

Safe and secure

Apply anytime throughout the school year

www.paschoolmeals.com

Please do not submit post-dated checks.

Cafeteria Deposit Form (2020-2021 School Year)

Student: _____

Grade: _____

Amount: _____

DAILY BREAKFAST & LUNCH MENUS

You can easily view information about what is on our school menu each day. You can see an image and description for food items, as well as nutrition information. Our innovative and interactive site and mobile app make our school menus more convenient and informative than ever before!

Nutrislice is brought to you by The Nutrition Group
Find McGuffey menus by visiting
mcguffeysd.nutrislice.com or Search for "School Menus by Nutrislice" on Google Play or the App Store

McGuffey Middle School and High School Telephone System

Middle School

724-948-3323

Press 2

High School

724-948-3328

Press 1

Extensions

| | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|---|
| Daily Events and School Closing Information | 1 | Athletic Department | 6 |
| Attendance Office | 2 | School Nurse's Office | 7 |
| Security Office | 4 | Cafeteria Office | 8 |
| Guidance Office | 5 | Middle / High School Office | 0 |

Electronic Devices at McGuffey Middle School and High School

Students are not permitted to use electronic devices during school hours except for educational purposes. Failure to comply with this policy may result in the confiscation of the phone. If an electronic device is utilized in a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, it may result in citations and/or changes being filed with legal authorities. Electronic devices include any device that can take photographs; record audio or video data; store, transmit or receive messages or images; or provide a wireless, unfiltered connection to the Internet. Examples of these devices include but are not limited to iPods, MP3 Players, iPads, Tablet Personal Computers, Smartphones, handheld game consoles, electronic readers with unfiltered Internet connections, personal laptop computers, and digital cameras.

Students are able to register their personal electronic devices for education use during the school day. For more information and a copy of the Electronic Device Registration form, please visit the Students section of the McGuffey School District Website.



VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

The McGuffey School District implements an electronic video surveillance system. This system covers the interior and exterior of the district's buildings and grounds to protect district property and ensure the safety of students, staff, community, and visitors. This system will also be implemented on district transportation vehicles on an as-needed basis.

Any activities detected through the use of video surveillance cameras that present a violation of school rules, breach of security, or possible criminal activity will be reported immediately to the appropriate authority and appropriate disciplinary consequences will be administered and/or criminal charges filed consistent with Board policy and procedures.

Passive Alcohol Sensor used at McGuffey Middle School and High School

To deter the use of drugs and alcohol during school and extra curricular activities, Passive Alcohol Sensors will be used by authorized McGuffey school staff during all school functions.

The P.A.S. IV device has a micro miniature alcohol detector to check breath, open containers, and enclosed spaces for the presence of alcohol. The P.A.S. IV functions as a non-intrusive extension "of the operator's nose". The McGuffey School Board adopted the policy, and procedures and the P.A.S. IV will be used by trained school personnel.

McGuffey School District
CHILD FIND AND ANNUAL NOTICE TO PARENTS
(CFR 300.125)
SERVICES FOR PROTECTED HANDICAPPED STUDENTS

In compliance with state and federal law, the district will provide to each protected handicapped student without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities. In order to qualify as a protected handicapped student the child must be of school age with a physical or mental disability, which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program.

These services and protections for "protected handicapped students" are distinct from those applicable to all eligible or exceptional students enrolled (or seeking enrollment) in special education programs.

For further information on the evaluation procedures and provision of services to protected handicapped students or eligible students, contact the Supervisor of Special Education at 724-663-5364 throughout the school year.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Child Find

McGuffey School District
Special Service Office
P.O. Box 421, 119 Main Street
Claysville, PA 15323

Phone 724-663-5364 Fax: 724-663-3696

Each school district, along with other public agencies in the Commonwealth, must establish and implement procedures to identify, locate and evaluate all children who need special education programs and services because of the child's disability. This notice is to help find these children, offer assistance to parents and describe the parent's rights with regard to confidentiality of information that will be obtained during the process. Each school district shall also conduct awareness activities to inform the public of gifted education services and programs and the manner by which to request these services and programs.

The content of this notice has been written in English. If a person does not understand any of this notice, he or she should contact the school district and request an explanation.

IDENTIFICATION ACTIVITY

Child Find refers to activities undertaken by public education agencies to identify, locate, and evaluate children residing in the State, including children attending private schools, who are suspected of having disabilities, regardless of the severity of their disability, and determine the child's need for special education and related services. The purpose is to locate these children so that a free appropriate public education (FAPE) can be made available. The types of disabilities, that if found to cause a child to need services are: Autism, deaf-blindness, deafness, emotional disturbance, hearing impairment, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment due to chronic or acute health problems, specific learning disabilities (speech or language), traumatic brain injury and visual impairment including blindness, in the case of a child that is of preschool age developmental delay. Screening activities are also conducted to determine student need for gifted support services.

The McGuffey School District provides educational services for all eligible students either through district-operated classes, contracts with Intermediate Unit #1, or Approved Private Schools. Classes providing Learning Support, Life-Skills Support, Emotional Support, Physical Support, Multiple Disabilities Support, and Autistic Support are available for students at beginning school age through age 21, if necessary. Additional services include hearing, vision, and speech and language support. Students found to meet eligibility criteria as "mentally gifted" may receive services through the district's Gifted Support programs.

Each school district is required to annually provide notice describing the identification activities and the procedures followed to ensure confidentiality of personally identifiable information. This notice is intended to meet this requirement.

Identification activities are performed to find a child who is suspected as having a disability that would interfere with his or her learning unless special education programs and services are made available. Children suspected of being "mentally gifted" who need specially designed instruction not ordinarily provided in the regular education program also go through screening activities. The activities include: Review of group data, conduct hearing and vision screening, assessment of student's academic functioning, observation of the student displaying difficulty in behavior and determining the student's response to attempted remediation. Input from parents is also an information source for identification. After a child is identified as a suspected child with a disability, he or she is evaluated, but is not evaluated before parents give permission for their child to be evaluated.

The school district will follow procedures outlined in the special education regulations (Chapter 14) for determining eligibility and need for special education services. Chapter 16 regulations will be followed to determine eligibility and need for Gifted Support service.

CONFIDENTIALITY (CFR 300.127 and 300.624)

If after screening, a disability is suspected, upon your permission, your child will be evaluated. Written records of the results are called an education record, which are directly related to your child and are maintained by the school district. These records are personally identifiable to your child. Personally identifiable information includes the child's name, the name of the child's parents or other family member, the address of the child or their family, a personal identifier such as social security number, a list of characteristics that would make the child's identity easily traceable or other information that would make the child's identity easily traceable.

The school district will gather information regarding your child's physical, mental, emotional and health functioning through testing and assessment, observation of your child, as well as through review of any records made available to the school district through your physician and other providers of services such as day care agencies.

The school district protects the confidentiality of personally identifiable information by one school official being responsible for ensuring the confidentiality of the records, training being provided to all persons using the information, and maintaining for public inspection a current list of employee's names and positions who may have access to the information. The school district will inform you when this information is no longer needed to provide educational services to your child and will destroy the information at designated intervals, except general in-

(Continued from page 13)

formation such as your child's name, address, phone number, grades, attendance record and classes attended, grade level completed, may be maintained without time limitation.

As the parent of the child, you have a number of rights regarding the confidentiality of your child's records. The right to inspect and review any education records related to your child are collected, maintained, or used by the school district. The school district will comply with a request for you to review the records without unnecessary delay before any meetings regarding planning for your child's special education program (called an IEP meeting). Should you and your school district disagree about your child's special education supports and services and a Due Process Hearing is requested, the school district will furnish you with the opportunity to inspect and review your child's records, within 30 days.

You have the right to an explanation and interpretations of the records, to be provided copies of the records if failure to provide the copies would effectively prevent you from exercising your right to inspect and review the records, and the right to have a representative inspect and review the records. This review is conducted with the assistance of an appropriate school district staff member.

Upon your request, the school district will provide you a list of the types and location of education records collected, maintained, or used by the agency. Additionally, the school district will charge a fee for copies of records made in response to your request except, it will not charge a fee if doing so will prevent you from inspecting and reviewing your child's records. A current list of reasonable fees relative to records request is available in the district's central office. The district will not charge a fee to search or retrieve information.

You have the right to request in writing the amendment of your child's education records that you believe are inaccurate or misleading, or violate the privacy or other rights of your child. The school district will decide whether to amend the records within 45 school days of receipt of your request. If the school district refuses to amend the records you will be notified of the refusal and your right to a hearing. You will be given at that time, additional information regarding the hearing procedures. Upon written request, the district will schedule and provide written notice of the hearing to challenge information in your child's education files.

Parental consent is required before personally identifiable information contained in your child's education records is disclosed to anyone other than officials of the school district collecting or using the information for purposes of identification of your child, locating your child and evaluating your child or for any other purpose of making available a free appropriate public education to your child. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Additionally, the school district, upon request, discloses records without consent to officials of another school district in which your child seeks or intends to enroll.

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.

A parent may file a written complaint alleging that the rights described in this notice were not provided:

Pennsylvania Department of Education

Bureau of Special Education
Division of Compliance
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

The Department of Education will investigate the matter, issue a report of findings and necessary corrective action within 60 days. The Department will take necessary action to ensure compliance is achieved. Complaints alleging failures of the school district with regard to confidentiality of personally identifiable information may also be filed with:

Family Policy Compliance Office

U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

McGuffey School District will provide ongoing screening services. If you wish to learn more, have questions, or believe your child may need to be identified, please contact:

Supervisor of Special Education
724-663-5364 Office

EARLY INTERVENTION IDENTIFICATION

In Pennsylvania, a child between three years of age and the school district's age to begin school who has a developmental delay or one or more of the physical or mental conditions listed above, will be identified as an "eligible young child." The parents of these children have the same rights described above.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education is responsible for providing programs and services to eligible young children under Act 212 of 1990, the Early Intervention Services System Act. Screening for pre-school children is available through the Child Alert Program operated by Intermediate Unit #1. To schedule an appointment for screening call Barbara Rothermel at 724-747-8476. For additional information, contact the Supervisor of Special Education at 724-664-5364.

POTENTIAL INDICATORS OF WEAKNESSES IN THE DEVELOPMENTAL DOMAIN AREAS AND OTHER RISK FACTORS THAT COULD INDICATE A DISABILITY (Requirement of Section 14.212(b))

A developmental delay is determined by the results of a developmental evaluation. The results of one or more domain areas (adaptive, personal-social, communication, motor or cognitive) have to show at least a 25% delay or a score of 1.5 standard deviations below the mean (Standard Score of 77 or below). The delay results in the need for specially designed intervention/instruction (SDI) in order to participate in typical activities and routines.

Children with a developmental delay may show weaknesses in the following areas:

Adaptive – Pre-kindergarten aged children with a developmental delay may have difficulty dressing/undressing; using utensils to eat, removing shoes without assistance, distinguishing between nonfood/food substances, or have difficulty with toileting needs. One may have difficulty moving independently around the house, understanding that hot is dangerous, putting away toys when asked, indicating an illness or ailment to an adult; or demonstrating caution and avoiding common dangers.

(Continued on page 15)

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Personal-Social – Pre-kindergarten aged children with a developmental delay may have difficulty responding positively to adult praise, rewards or promise of rewards; greeting familiar adults spontaneously, enjoying simple stories read aloud, helping with simple household tasks, initiating social interaction with familiar adults, expressing affection/liking for peers, playing cooperatively with peers, stating first name, last name, age, or whether he/she is a male/female; using objects in make-believe play, using 'I' or 'me' to refer to himself/herself, or recognizing facial expressions of common emotions.

Communication – Pre-kindergarten aged children with a developmental delay may have difficulty following 2-step verbal commands, associating spoken words with pictures, recalling events from a story presented orally; engaging in extended and meaningful nonverbal exchanges with others, using words to get his needs met, responding to 'yes' and 'no' questions appropriately, or asking 'wh' questions.

Motor - Pre-kindergarten aged children with a developmental delay may have difficulty running without falling, kicking a ball without falling, walking up and down steps alternating feet without assistance, walking backward, imitating the bilateral movements of an adult, pointing with his index finger independent of the thumb and other fingers, scribbling linear and/or circular patterns spontaneously, using the pads of fingertips to grasp a pencil, holding a paper with one hand while drawing or writing with the other hand, fastening clothing without assistance, cutting with scissors, copying a circle, or imitating vertical and horizontal markings.

Cognitive - Pre-kindergarten aged children with a developmental delay may have difficulty attending to one activity for 3 or more minutes, reciting memorized lines from songs or TV shows, showing interest in age-appropriate books, matching/naming colors, responding to one and one more, giving three objects on request, matching shapes, identifying objects by their use, identifying items by size, identifying colors of familiar objects not in view, or identifying simple objects by touch.

OTHER FACTORS THAT COULD INDICATE A DISABILITY

Developmental disabilities are birth defects related to a problem with how a body part or body system works. They may also be known as functional birth defects. Many of these conditions affect multiple body parts or systems. Researchers have identified thousands of different birth defects. Birth defects can have a variety of causes, such as:

Genetic problems caused when one or more genes do not work properly or part of a gene is missing, problems with chromosomes, such as having an extra chromosome or missing part of a chromosome, environmental factors that the expectant mother is exposed to during pregnancy, such as Rubella or German measles or if she uses drugs or alcohol during pregnancy.

FACTORS CONSIDERED WHEN DETERMINING MENTAL GIFTEDNESS

1. The child performs a year or more above grade achievement level in one or more subjects as measured by a nationally normed and validated achievement test.
2. The child demonstrates rates of acquisition/retention of content and skills reflecting gifted ability.
3. The child demonstrates achievement, performance, or expertise in one or more academic areas as evidenced by products, portfolios or research, as well as criterion-referenced team judgment.
4. The child demonstrates early and measured use of high level

thinking skills, academic creativity, leadership skills, intense academic interest, communication skills, foreign language aptitude, or technology expertise.

5. The child demonstrates that intervening factors such as English as a second language, disabilities, gender or race bias, or socio/cultural deprivation are masking gifted abilities.

FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION (CFR 300.121)

The McGuffey School District provides a free, appropriate, public education (FAPE) to exceptional students residing in the district. All children with a disability between the ages of three to twenty-one who have been identified as needing special education and related services have the right to FAPE. The determination that a child is eligible for special education and related services is made on an individual basis by a team of qualified professionals and the parent of the child following a multidisciplinary evaluation and the completion of an evaluation report. A student qualifies as exceptional if he or she is found to be a child with a disability and in need of specially designed instruction and related services under the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and Chapter 14 of the Pa. School Code. The following are disability categories under IDEA: autism, deafness, deaf/blindness, emotional disturbance, traumatic brain injury, hearing impairment, specific learning disability, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, other health impairment, speech and language impairment, orthopedic impairment and visual impairment including blindness.

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (CFR 300.340)

An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed and implemented annually for each eligible child with a disability. The IEP is completed within 30 calendar days of the parent's receipt of the evaluation report and must be in effect before special education and related services are provided. An IEP describes a student's current educational levels, goals, and objectives, and the individualized programs and services that the student will receive. These services include the learning support class, life skills support class, emotional support class, sensory support (deaf or hard of hearing and blind or vision support class). The extent of special education services and the location for the delivery of such services are determined by the IEP team which consists of the child's parent, a regular education teacher, a special education teacher and the LEA or district representative responsible for supervising the provision of special education services. The IEP goals and objectives and related services are based on the student's identified needs and abilities, chronological age and the level of intensity of the specified intervention. The school district will invite a student with a disability of any age to attend his or her IEP meeting if a purpose of the meeting will be the consideration of the student's transition services needs. If the student does not attend the IEP meeting, the district will take other steps to ensure that the student's preferences and interests are considered. In implementing these requirements, the district also invites a representative of any other agency that is likely to be responsible for providing transition services to the student.

The District also provides related services, such as transportation, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech and language support services, or other appropriate services determined to be necessary for the student to benefit from the special education program.

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LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT (CFR 300.130)

It is the school district's policy for children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, for whom a free appropriate public education is owed by the district, to the maximum extent appropriate, are educated with children who are nondisabled and that special classes, separate schooling or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only if the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. The McGuffey School District provides a continuum of services based upon the needs of the individual child ranging from the least restrictive setting in the regular school to more restrictive services in a program outside the regular school. The placement options considered by the IEP team include supportive intervention in the regular class, itinerant services, resource services, part-time or full-time services. The placement may be in a district operated program, an intermediate unit operated program in a neighboring school district, a private school placement or other agency operated program. The placement decision is made by the IEP Team at least annually based upon the child's IEP and is as close to the student's home as possible. In selecting the least restrictive environment, consideration is given to any potential effect of the program and on the quality of services that the child needs. A child with a disability is not removed from education in age-appropriate regular classrooms solely because of needed curriculum modifications.



SURROGATE PARENTS (34CFR 300.515)

General. Each public agency shall ensure that the rights of a child are protected if (1) no parent (as defined in 34CFR 300.20) can be identified (2) the public agency, after reasonable efforts, cannot discover the whereabouts of a parent; or (3) the child is a ward of the State under the laws of that State.(b) Duty of public agency. The duty of a public agency under paragraph (a) of this section includes the assignment of an individual to act as a surrogate for the parents. This must include a method (1) for determining whether a child needs a surrogate parent; and(2) for assigning a surrogate to the child (c) criteria for selection of surrogates, (d) non-employee requirement; compensation. A person who otherwise qualifies to be a surrogate parent under paragraph (c) of this section is not an employee of the agency solely because he or she is paid by the agency to serve as a surrogate parent. (e) Responsibilities; surrogate parent may represent the child in all matters relating to (1) identification evaluation, and educational placement of the child; and (2) the provision of FAPE to the child. For more information, please contact the Supervisor of Special Education at (724) 663-5364. (Authority: 20U.S.C. 1415(b)(2).

Focus on Athletics

With everything changing day to day, we are unable to share our sports schedules as we have in previous years in the FOCUS. You can access www.bigteams.com to see all McGuffey School District sport schedules. You can sign up to have text messages shared with you for any sport you are interested in when changes are made to the schedule.

As in the past, you will be able to continue to listen to our sports teams through various broadcasts. This year we also have an opportunity to view live broadcasts of events from Highlander Stadium and the high school gymnasium on PlayOn! Sports. You can sign up to view McGuffey sports events beginning this year.



McGuffey School District 2020-2021 Testing Calendar

| Type of Test | Test Date /Window | Grade(s) | Registration Deadline |
|--|---|---|-----------------------|
| PSSA English Language Arts | April 19-23, 2021 | 6-8 | |
| PSSA Math Assessment | April 26-April 30, 2021 | 6-8 | |
| PSSA Science Assessment | April 26-April 30, 2021 | 8 | |
| PSSA English Language Arts / Math / Science Make-Ups | May 3 - May 7, 2021 | | |
| Keystone Exams–Winter 2019 Algebra I, Biology, Literature | Wave 1: December 1-15, 2020 Wave 2: January 4-15, 2021 | 10-11 as needed | |
| Keystone Exams–Spring 2020 Algebra 1, Biology, Literature | May 17-28, 2021 | 11 (if necessary) & 8-10 End-of-Course | |
| Keystone Exams–Summer 2020 Algebra 1, Biology, Literature | | | |
| PASA Math & Reading | TBD | 3-8,11 | |
| PSAT/NMSQT | October 14, 2020 | 10-11 | |
| PASA Science | TBD | 4, 8, 11 | |
| ACCESS for ELLs | TBD | K-12 | |



One-To-One Computing Is Coming To McGuffey

The use of technology in our schools has increased significantly over the past ten years and this year we are excited to initiate a new era in student computing. These programs open up opportunities for engagement in the curriculum through increased communication and collaboration in electronic formats. Beyond that, students and teachers increase their use of critical thinking skills to plan, conduct research, manage projects, and solve problems.

McGuffey School District plans to implement our one-to-one program for all students. Starting in the 2020-2021 school year, each student will receive a Chromebook to use throughout the year.

McGuffey School District is very excited to provide this type of opportunity to our students and our community. Programs such as this one allow us to cultivate the learning through multiple experiences and pathways and ultimately empower all learners to grow and excel.



McGuffey School District
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