



12/05/2023

Dear Alpha Community,

The holiday season brings us together in the spirit of warmth, kindness, and celebration. In this special edition of our newsletter, we're delighted to share some highlights, upcoming events around our school district, and messages from our school staff.

We are often asked, "Who is the typical Alpha student?" The answer simply is, "There is no such thing as a typical Alpha student." By the end of the school year we anticipate that nearly 600 students will have taken at least one online course through the Alpha Program. Each of these students will have had their own unique circumstance for taking an online course or courses. Some students are interested in elective courses not offered in the building, some may be taking a credit recovery course, others may need online courses due to a health reason that has prevented them from attending traditional school. The list of reasons to take an online course is a long one. No matter the reason for a student's needs, we are proud that we can fill in the gaps within our district to address these unique needs of our students. This is why we like to view the Alpha Program as a dynamic program, not satisfied with what we have done in the past, but rather always looking to fulfill what the students within our community need now.

Recently, because of the hard work of our staff, the success of our students, and the dedication by all of our stake-holders, we were recognized by the Tuscarora Intermediate Unit as an exemplar program in the field of online learning. Subsequently, we hosted an online learning symposium on November 4th with other school districts who are looking to create successful online learning experiences for their students. Feedback from these participants was very positive and included comments such as, "The Alpha classroom was a peaceful and pleasant space," "I didn't expect there to be this level of interaction between students and teachers," and "This program is the gold standard."

# HOLIDAY ALPHA NEWSLETTER

As we approach the end of another successful semester, the Alpha Staff would like to express our sincere gratitude to our dedicated students and supportive families. You are why we have been recognized as “the gold standard.”

Warmest wishes from the Alpha Staff,

*Christopher M. Gill*  
Christopher M. Gill  
Alpha Program Supervisor

## Here are a few important items to keep in mind:

**The Christmas Break is December 22nd through January 2nd.** Suggested due dates in courses will not appear in this time frame, however, students will continue to have 24/7 access to their courses.

**Alpha End of Marking Period 2:** All Marking Period 2 coursework must be completed by **11:59 pm on Friday, January 12th.** Please note this deadline is 1 week prior to the building class deadline of January 19th.

**Alpha Beginning of Marking Period 3:** The Drop/Add Deadline for any student taking a new course is **Tuesday, January 30th at 3:00 pm. This date could change if we were to have any day(s) cancelled prior to this date.**

**Morning Tutoring and Extended Hours:** Room C207 is open M-F starting at 7:30 am and Room C 207 also stays open until 6:00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. These are great opportunities for students to get extra help or to take exams.



## In Case of Inclement Weather

Please keep the following in mind, and perhaps on your refrigerator, in case of inclement weather affecting the school day schedule.

If there is a 2 hour delay,

Van transportation will not start until 11:00 am.

Online attendance must be completed between 6:00 am and 10:10 am.

If there is a 3 hour delay,

Van transportation will not start until 12:00 pm.

Online attendance must be completed between 6:00 am and 11:10 am.

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT



## MCHS Athletic News

- Meet the Huskies for Winter Sports will take place on January 15th at 7:00 pm in the MCHS Auditorium.
- Senior Citizen, Veteran, and Active Military passes from last year are valid for the 23-24 sports season. Passes can be picked up at the MCHS main office for anyone that qualifies. Passes MUST be presented for free admission.
- Tickets for all Mifflin County Home Varsity Basketball and Wrestling matches can be purchased online at <https://events.ticketspicket.com/agency/e76d4bd5-9868-4b08-878a-9472b4410179>
- Get the most up-to-date athletic information on our athletic website and by following ArbiterLive!
- Check out our MC Athletics Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MiffcoAthletics>, and follow us on Twitter @MCHuskySports for the most up-to-date information regarding MC Athletics.
- Many sponsorship opportunities are available to support your MC Huskies! Please contact the athletic office for more information.
- Geisinger is the official sports medicine and orthopedics provider of the Mifflin County Huskies. Geisinger supports the big dreams of Mifflin County athletics, and whether your dreams include playing in the pros, hiking, or just getting back on your feet, our doctors and healthcare professionals are here for you every step of the way. Learn more at [Geisinger.org/bigdreams](http://Geisinger.org/bigdreams)

## MCHS Yearbook Ordering Information

Order online at [balfour.com](http://balfour.com) or at school using the order form. Please make sure the order form you are using is valid - expiration date is printed in the bottom right hand corner of the form. A current form can be found on the school website or picked up in the main office, Alpha office, guidance office, or room A322.



Note: Students who have fundraiser credit should NOT order online, but rather through the school. See the school web page for a link to the order form. Email Mrs. Riden at [sd49@mcsdk12.org](mailto:sd49@mcsdk12.org) with questions.

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT



## MCJHS Yearbook Ordering

- Order your 2023-2024 MCJHS Yearbook NOW to get the lowest price of the year!
- Order online at [www.jostens.com](http://www.jostens.com)
- An order form was sent home in homeroom on the first day of school with each student.
- You may also pay via check, money order, or cash.
- Order forms located in the office or outside of Room 154.
- Throughout the year, the price will increase, so order now to get the best price.
- If you have any questions, please email Ms. Corson at [rlc31@mcsdk12.org](mailto:rlc31@mcsdk12.org).

## MCMS Yearbook Presale

The yearbook store is open! Yearbooks are now on sale online. The cost will be discounted until December 31, 2023, and cost is \$25. The price will increase to \$30 starting January 1, 2024. Order your book today and receive the discounted rate. A \$1 processing fee will apply. This is an online only discount, so no money should be sent to school. To order, visit this link or use the QR code. If you have any questions, you can email Ms. Reese at [ldr24@mcsdk12.org](mailto:ldr24@mcsdk12.org).



## MCMS Winter Concerts

On December 5, the MCMS Band Concert will take place at 7:00 p.m. in the MCMS auditorium. On December 12, the 6th and 7th grade choirs will be offering their winter concert. This will also take place at 7:00 p.m. in the MCMS auditorium. Come join us for two evenings of great music!





# NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

MIFFLIN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL HELD ITS ANNUAL HOLIDAY DOOR DECORATING CONTEST THIS MONTH. MANY ALPHA STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE FUN WITH ROOM B204 CHOOSING "THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS" THEME WHILE THE ALPHA STAFF OFFICE WAS DECORATED FOR "A MERRY SWIFTMAS CHRISTMAS."



ABOVE: PICTURED ARE ALPHA MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ABBY SHILLING, AVA MILLER, GRACIE KERSTETTER, AND JAZELLE WILLIAMS.



ABOVE: ALPHA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SAVANNAH POWELL, MARA WISE, ADA BODMER, AND ANASTASIA COLYER DECORATED THE ALPHA STAFF DOOR. PICTURED IS ANASTASIA COLYER.



ABOVE: ROOM A114 HAS A CHRISTMAS VISITOR!



## CONTACT

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## SOMETHING FUN FOR PARENTS THIS TIME!

COMPLETE THE GOOGLE FORM WITH YOUR BEST GUESS OF HOLIDAY TRIVIA!

A PARENT, DRAWN RANDOMLY FROM ALL CORRECT ENTRIES, WILL RECEIVE A SMALL PRIZE.

ENTRY DEADLINE IS 3:00 PM ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15TH.

**GOOGLE FORM LINK**