



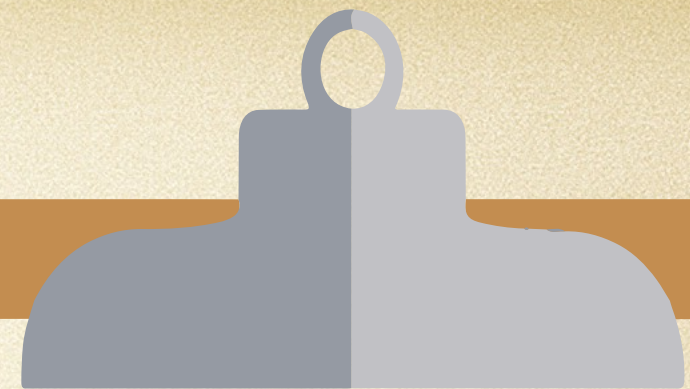
Secret Agents of Learning: Back to School Files

Merryhill Midtown 2025-2026





Families can expect to receive at least 4 Back to School communications over the course of the summer. Additional communications may vary depending on grade level.



CHECKLIST

Mission 1



- Important dates & school calendar
- Required Parent Orientations
- Summer reading
- Preventing the summer slide
- School supply lists
- Uniform options & spirit wear

Mission 2

- Back to School paperwork
- Handbooks
- School schedules
- Drop off/pick up procedures

Mission 3

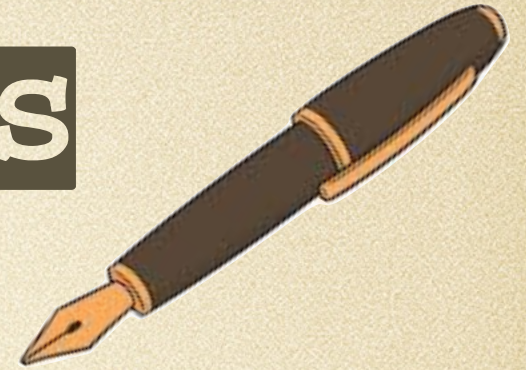
- Food services: hot lunch & snack cart
- After School clubs & classes
- School programs: athletics, FIERCE, specialty classes
- Middle School electives & Student Council

Mission 4

- Faculty and Staff overview
- 1st day of school reminders
- Save the date: Back to School Night
- Back to School FAQs



Important Dates



- **Wednesday, June 11th - Friday, August 8th:** Summer Camp 2025
- **Tuesday, July 1st:** First 2025 - 2026 tuition payment due (annual/semi-annual plans)
- **Monday, July 7th:** Middle School Info Night with Principal Brett Wallis, 5:00 - 6:00PM
- **Friday, July 11th:** Summer Camp Social, 12:30 - 2:30PM for all families (more details to follow)
- **Wednesday, July 30th:** Mandatory Parent Orientation option #1 (in person, 11:30 - 12:15PM), and option #2 (in person, 5:00 - 5:45PM)
- **Friday, August 1st:** First 2025-2026 tuition payment due (monthly plans)
- **Monday, August 4th:** All Back to School paperwork due
- **Thursday, August 7th:** Mandatory Parent Orientation option #3 (virtual, 5:00 - 5:45PM)
- **Monday, August 11th - Friday, August 15th:** School Closed
- **Thursday, August 14th:** End of Summer Family Event & Used Uniform Sale, 4:30 - 6:00PM, details & invite to follow, class placements/teacher assignments communicated via email in AM
- **Monday, August 18th:** First Day of School!



2025-2026 Calendar



Merryhill School Midtown

2025 - 2026 School Year Calendar*

AUGUST 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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OCTOBER 2025

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NOVEMBER 2025

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30						

DECEMBER 2025

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28	29	30	31			

JANUARY 2026

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY 2026

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MARCH 2026

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29	30	31				

APRIL 2026

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MAY 2026

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE 2026

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28	29	30				

JULY 2026

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

IMPORTANT DATES:

First & Last Days

First Day of School	8/18
Last Day of School	6/5
First Day of Camp	6/10

Professional Development/No School

August PD	8/11 - 8/15
October PD	10/3
December PD	12/19
February PD	2/13
June PD/Camp Prep	6/8 - 6/9

Minimum Day/Early Release for PD

10/31, 1/30, 5/1

Academic Breaks

Fall Break	11/24 - 11/28
Winter Break	12/22 - 1/2
Spring Break	4/6 - 4/10

Holiday Breaks/Campus Closed

Labor Day	9/1
Veteran's Day	11/11
Thanksgiving	11/24 - 11/28
Christmas	12/22 - 12/26
New Year's	12/31 - 1/1
MLK Day	1/19
President's Day	2/16
Memorial Day	5/25
Juneteenth	6/19
Independence Day	7/3

Break Camp Dates

Winter Break Camp	12/29-12/30, 1/2
Spring Break Camp	4/6 - 4/10
Summer Camp	6/10 - 8/7

Trimester Beginning/End Dates

First Trimester	8/18 - 11/7
Second Trimester	11/10 - 2/27
Third Trimester	3/2 - 6/5

Progress Report Dates

First Trimester	10/6
Second Trimester	1/16
Third Trimester	4/24

Report Card Dates

First Trimester	11/14
Second Trimester	3/6
Third Trimester	6/5

Conference Dates/No School

First Trimester	10/6
Second Trimester	3/6

Click
Here

*subject to change



Middle School Update

Our Middle School program is designed to prepare students for success at our local private high schools, and our program has been reverse engineered from their admissions standards to ensure high school readiness. As we look continued growth of our program, and best practices for high school readiness, we're pleased to share that 5th grade now wraps into our Middle School program, resulting in a "5th-6th/Junior" and "7th-8th/Senior" Middle School program, starting in the 2025-2026 school year!

This approach allows for a smoother transition for students into the Middle School environment, providing more time for staff to get to know students before significant developmental changes occur in later grades, and can help with managing the social dynamics of younger Middle Schoolers by including them with older peers; essentially giving them a more gradual adjustment period to the new academic and social expectations.

While 5th grade will remain in assigned classrooms with lead teachers, they will also enjoy the following MS program components:

- Option to select 1 elective each trimester (encouraging student voice and choice)
- Instruction from multiple Middle School teachers in addition to instruction from their lead teacher (providing exposure to a variety of instructional strategies)
- Involvement in all Middle School activities, including Student Council, Middle School Nights Out, Middle School dances, and more (fostering social connections and leadership)



Middle School Info Night

Middle School is on the horizon for our incoming 5th grade students, and for new families joining us here at Midtown in 5th-8th grades. In order to ensure all families are fully prepared for our Middle School program, we are offering a Middle School Information Night on Monday, July 7th from 5:00-6:00PM to give our incoming Middle School families some additional information for the year ahead. Returning families are more than welcome to attend as well.

Hosted by Mr. Wallis and Mr. Zelphin, this Zoom presentation will review Middle School scheduling, content expectations, elective courses, field trips, lockers, and more. Please click [HERE](#) to join the event; another email will be sent to MS families with the link as a reminder.



Mr. Wallis
Principal



Mr. Zelphin
Asst. Principal



Mandatory Parent Orientations

Our mandatory Back To School Parent Orientation series will be held in late July/early August. Attendance to one parent orientation is required for all families. At least one parent/guardian for every currently enrolled family must attend prior to the start of the school year. Should a parent/guardian not be able to attend, they must contact the school to set up an alternate orientation time.

During the orientation, administration will be reviewing expectations for the Midtown school experience, including guidelines for the 2025-2026 school year. This parent orientation will be aligned with the expectations outlined within the Midtown Parent Expectation Guide, provided to families later this summer.

Advanced registration is required. Please [HERE](#) to register for one session.

- Wednesday, July 30th — 11:30-12:15PM (in person option on campus)
- Wednesday, July 30th — 5:00-5:45PM (in person option on campus)
- Thursday, August 7th — 5:00-5:45PM (virtual option on Zoom)



Secret Agents of Summer Reading



FIERCE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

JOIN MERRYHILL MIDTOWN FOR A SUMMER READING CHALLENGE THAT
CELEBRATES DIVERSITY AND FOSTERS CULTURAL APPRECIATION!

STEP 1:

K – 2nd: Independently, or with a family member, read any 5 books from the list below or 5 books of your choosing that celebrate diversity.*

3rd – 5th: Read any 3-5 books from the list below or 3-5 books of your choosing that celebrate diversity.*

6th – 8th: Read any 2-3 books from the list below or 2-3 books of your choosing that celebrate diversity.*

STEP 2:

After reading, record the name of each book read, along with the date and book rating, on the reading log provided. Then, follow the directions on page 2 to create a one-pager for each book you read. When finished, paperclip or staple the reading log to the one-pagers - be sure to include your name!

STEP 3:

Completed summer reading challenges can be submitted to the front office during the first week of school, August 18th - 22nd. All participants will receive a free dress pass and have their work displayed in our FIERCE Lending Library, along with the chance for their one-pagers to be featured in the school newsletter!

DID YOU KNOW?

Summer reading provides benefits that extend well past the summer months and helps neutralize summer learning loss or what is commonly known as the "summer slide". Benefits of summer reading range from improved comprehension and memory to increased self-esteem and social-emotional skills!

*number of required books adjusted by grade range, based on average book length/complexity



Summer Reading is **optional** but encouraged!

Students who participate in our optional FIERCE Summer Reading Challenge will receive a free dress pass & have the chance to be featured in a school newsletter!

Click to view & download the full summer reading challenge.





6th-8th Grade Required Summer Reading

Each year, incoming and current 6th-8th grade students are **required** to complete a summer reading assignment. This is a separate activity from our FIERCE Summer Reading Challenge, which is entirely optional.

Our 6th-8th grade required reading program is designed to provide our Middle School students a range of book selections with varying reading levels and interests, as well as engage them in continued rigorous thinking over the break. Each student must **choose one book from the following provided list to read over the summer, then complete a Padlet tied to the essential questions.** For more in depth information on each novel, families are encouraged to look online.

The three novel choices this year are all connected to a theme of “Journeys of Survival and Purpose”. Please see the next page for the essential guiding questions and book options.

When students return for class in August, they can expect to engage in literary analysis activities with their Language Arts teachers about the essential questions and their summer reading selections. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to Ms. Sharkey, our 8th grade MS Language Arts instructor, at willow.sharkey@merryhillschool.com.

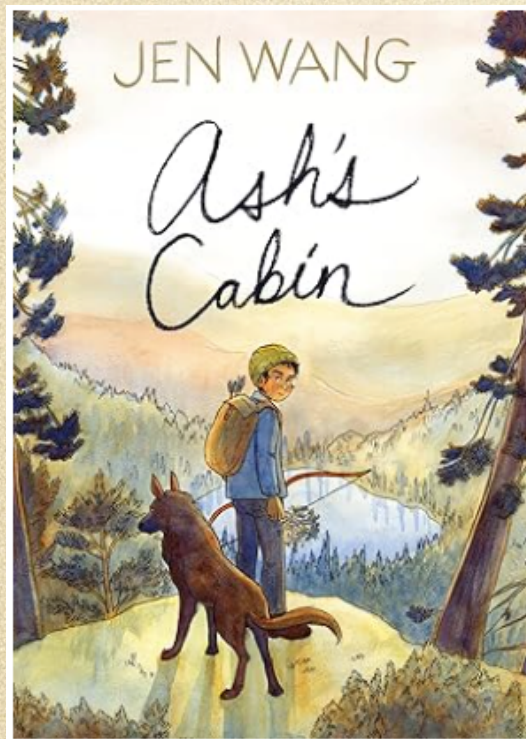


6th-8th Grade Required Summer Reading

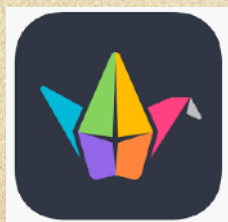
Theme: "Journeys of Survival and Purpose"

The essential questions guiding this year's selection are listed on each Padlet, linked under the book options below (the books are also linked to Amazon for easy purchasing). Incoming 6th grade students are required to read "Ash's Cabin". Incoming 7th and 8th grade students may choose between "Global" and "Illegal". All students are required to complete the corresponding Padlet, also linked below.

6th Grade Book



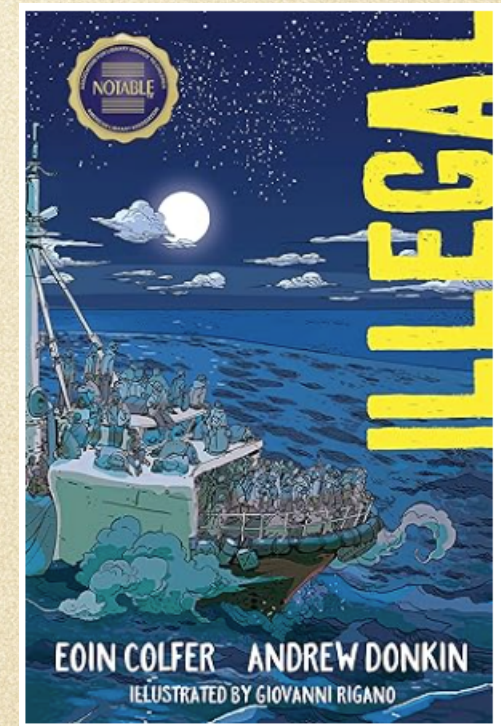
6th Grade
Padlet



7th and 8th grades may choose from either book below



7th & 8th
Grade
Padlet





Prevent the Summer Slide

Looking for other ways to prevent the summer slide?
Check out these digital resources! Click each image to access the resource.



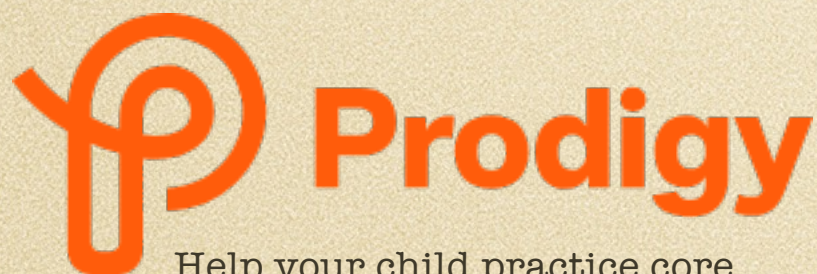
Students exiting K-5th grades have continued access over summer and can use their same log-in details to access adaptive reading and math instruction all summer long!



Camp Khan Kids is a free, self-paced summer learning program for children ages 2-8! The camp guides parents and children in a playful educational journey using the free Khan Academy Kids app as a launchpad into hands-on learning.



For an easy-breezy way to encourage learning over the break, send your kids on an IXL Summer Adventure! They'll explore new topics with skills across all IXL subjects, organized around a fun theme for each day!



Help your child practice core math and reading skills by setting up a free account on Prodigy!



ABCya offers 300+ educational games designed for PreK to 6+. From math and reading to fun logic games, the app has something for kids of all learning levels and styles.



Epic! is a subscription-based reading and learning platform. It offers access to books and videos for children ages 12 and under. Try it free for 7 days!



School Supply Lists

Please click [HERE](#) to access grade level supply lists to purchase school supplies for your child.

- Supplies should be brought to school on the first day.
- Students in K-1st grade should also bring an extra full change of clothes to store in their cubbies.
- When possible, please label your child's belongings (especially clothing).
- Please check with your child's teacher before sending any additional school supplies with your child.

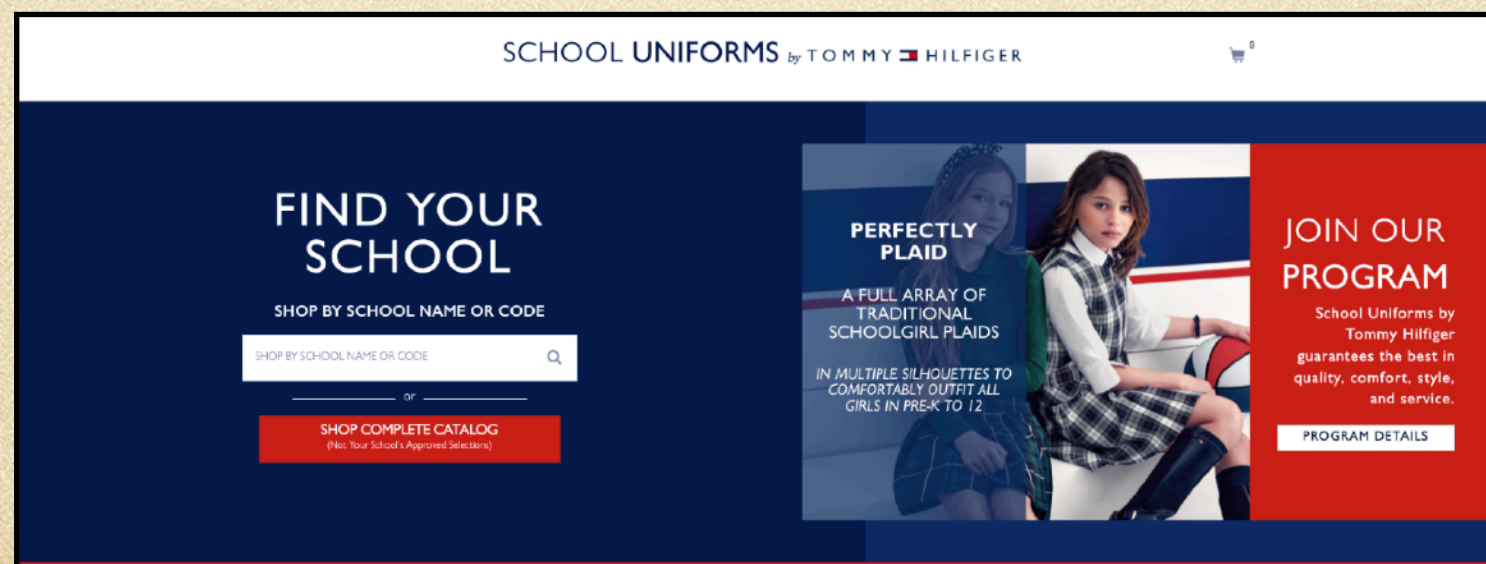




Uniforms

There are no changes to school uniforms for the 25-26 school year. Please see below for guidelines and ordering:

- Refer to the Uniform Guidelines for all uniform purchasing requirements. Click [HERE](#) to download a copy.
- Click [HERE](#) to shop online at School Uniforms by Tommy Hilfiger, our uniform vendor.
- Unless otherwise communicated, students are expected to be in uniform daily on M-TH. Fridays are reserved for Spirit Wear Days (more information on the following slide).
- Should a student not wish to participate in a Spirit Day or Special Dress Day, they should remain in uniform as normal.





Spirit Wear

Midtown “Spirit Wear” refers to clothing designed with Midtown colors, logos, and more. These items are sold in the School Spirit Store, located in the front office.

Please see below for more information:

- Every Friday, students may wear Merryhill spirit t-shirts and uniform bottoms.
- On the first Friday of each month, and other select days throughout the year, students may wear free dress.
- Non-uniform dates will be communicated in the weekly Sunday school newsletter. These dates will also be listed on the whiteboard located in the lobby, and reminders will be provided in weekly Friday classroom newsletters.
- School spirit sweatshirts can be worn with uniform anytime, and are available at the School Spirit Store, located in the front office.
- Spirit Wear will be available for purchase beginning in late July; the order form will be included in an upcoming Summer Communication.



Spirit Shirt Design Contest

NEW! Help us design a new school spirit shirt for the 2025-2026 school year!

Administration and faculty will vote to select one winning design, which will be used for a new spirit t-shirt (and possibly other spirit wear). See below and the next page for more details!

- All entries should be submitted to Rachel.Kennedy@merryhillschool.com.
- Entries are due by Friday, 7/11.
- Shirts will be either grey or navy blue.
- Entry emails should include the following:
 - Student name and 25/26 grade level
 - Desired shirt color (grey or navy blue)
 - Design attached to email (PDF or PNG)





Spirit Shirt Contest Rules

- Any student currently enrolled may submit an entry. One entry per student.
- The artwork can be original **or** students may opt to use existing school artwork, like the school shield. Designs must include at least one of the following: school name, the letter M, the mascot Fierce, the school shield, or any one or combination of the words “Merryhill”, “Midtown”, “Mustangs”, or “Fierce”.
- Artwork should be in school colors (navy blue, gold/yellow, black, white). Artwork must be limited to a maximum of 3 colors. Keep in mind that the color of the shirt on which the design will be printed will also show through the transparent/non-filled areas of the design. Lettering should be legible with at least some spacing between each letter.
- Artwork should be submitted in .png format, where able. If unable, PDF is acceptable but will likely be converted later.
- The artwork should be labeled with the student’s name. However, the student’s name should not appear anywhere in the drawing. The easiest way to handle this is to name the file with the student’s name.
- The winner will be announced in July, and spirit wear with the winning design will be available for pre-order following the announcement.
- The winning design may be adjusted and/or refined as needed. This may include adjusting the colors to match school colors, cleaning up lines for print purposes, or slight adjustments to font.

Detect

Discover

Learn

The investigation begins on the first day
of school, Monday, August 18th!

