## 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.

Tip: Easily navigate to each previous sections by clicking the red check

### 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

#### **Mission 4**

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

#### Final Summer Email: Class placements



## Back to School Mission 1

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



## 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 (alendar

| AUGUST 2025         SEPTEMBER 2025         OCTOBER 2025         NOVEMBER 2025         Professional Development/No S           S         M         T         W         T         F         S         M         T         W         T         F         S         M         T         W         T         F         S         M         T         W         T         F         S         M         T         W         T         F         S         M         T         W         T         F         S         M         T         W         T         F         S         M         T         W         T         F         S         M         T         W         T         F         S         M         T         W         T         F         S         M         T         W         T         F         S         M         T         W         T         F         S         M         T         W         T         F         S         M         T         W         T         F         S         M         T         W         T         F         S         M         T         W         T         F         S   | Merry | yh |      |          | N  |     | e    | rı | r) |    |    |    |    |      |     |    | <b>10</b><br>1001 |     |     |     |      |     |    | <b>tc</b><br>ar* |    | N   | n           |      |     | IMPORTANT DATES:First & Last DaysFirst Day of School8/18Last Day of School6/5First Day of Camp6/10 |
|---|-------|----|------|----------|----|-----|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|-----|----|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|----|------------------|----|-----|-------------|------|-----|--|
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| Indicate       Indicat       Indicat       Indicat       In   | 10    | 1  | 1 1  | 2 -      |    |     |      | 16 |    | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18   | 19  | 20 | 12                | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16   | 17  | 18 | 9                | 10 | 11  | 12          | 13   | 14  |  |
| 24       25       26       27       28       29       30       26       27       28       29       30       21       23       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31       23       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31       23       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31       23       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31       23       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31       23       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31       23       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31       23       24       25       26       27       28       9       10       11       12       13       14       15       11       12       13       14       15       11       12       13       14       15       11       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       21       13       14 <th1< td=""><td>17</td><td>1</td><td>8 1</td><td>9 2</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td></td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>-</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Fall Break 11/24 - 11/28</td></th1<>  | 17    | 1  | 8 1  | 9 2      | 20 | 21  | 22   | 23 |    | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25   | 26  | 27 | -                 |     |     |     |      |     |    |                  |    |     |             |      |     | Fall Break 11/24 - 11/28   |
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| OPECEMBER 2025       JANUARY 2026       MARCH 2026         S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F </td <td>31</td> <td></td> <td>Holiday Breaks/Campus Closed</td>   | 31    |    |      |          |    |     |      |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |     |    |                   |     |     |     |      |     |    |                  |    |     |             |      |     | Holiday Breaks/Campus Closed   |
| S       M       T       W       T       F       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       N       T       W       T       F       S       N       T       W       T       F       S       N       T       W       T       F       S       N       T       W       T       F       S       N       T       W       T       F       S       N       T       W       T       F       S       N       T       W       T       F       S       N       T       W       T       F       S       N       T       W       T       F       S       N       T       W       T       F       S       N       T       W       T       F       S       N       T       W       T       F       S       N       T       W       T       F       S       N       T       W       T       F       S       N       T       W       T       F       S       N       T       W       T       F       S       N       T       W       T       F       S       N       T       W       T   |       | DI | ECE  | M        | BE | R 2 | 2025 | 5  |    |    | JA | NU | AR | Y 20 | 26  | d  |                   | FEI | BRL | JAF | RY 2 | 026 | ;  |                  | N  | IAR | CH 2        | 2020 | 6   | Veteran's Day 11/11<br>Thanksgiving 11/24 - 11/28  |
| 1       2       3       4       5       6       7       8       9       10       11       12       13       14       15       6       7       8       9       10       11       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       9       10       11       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       11       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       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       2       2       23       24       25       26       27       28       3       4       5       6       7       8       9       10       11       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       31       12       13       14       15       16       17   | S     | N  | 1    | • •      | w  | т   | F    | s  |    | S  | М  | т  | w  | т    | F   | s  | S                 | М   | т   | w   | т    | F   | s  | S                | М  | т   | w           | т    | F   | S New Year's 12/31 - 1/1   |
| 7       8       9       10       11       12       13       14       5       6       7       8       9       10       11       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       9       10       11       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       9       10       11       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       28       29  |       | -  | 1 2  | 2        | 3  | 4   | 5    | 6  |    |    |    |    |    | 1    | 2   | 3  | 1                 | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5    | 6   | 7  | 1                | 2  | 3   | 4           | 5    | 6   | 7 President's Day 2/16   |
| 14       15       16       17       18       19       20       11       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31 <th< td=""><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>3 9</td><td>) -</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td></td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14 Juneteenth 6/19</td></th<>   | 7     | 8  | 3 9  | ) -      | 10 | 11  | 12   | 13 |    | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8    | 9   | 10 | 8                 | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12   | 13  | 14 | 8                | 9  | 10  | 11          | 12   | 13  | 14 Juneteenth 6/19   |
| 21       22       23       24       25       26       27       18       19       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31       -       -       1       2       28       29       30       31       -       -       1       2       28       29       30       31       -       -       1       2       28       29       30       31       -       -       -       1       2       3       4       5       6       7       8       9       10       11       2       3       4       5       6       7       8       9       10       11       12       13       4       5       6       7       8       9       10       11       12       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       28       27       28       27       28       27       28       27       28       27       28       27       28       27       28       27       28       27       28       27       2   | 14    | 1  | 5 1  | 6 -      | 17 | 18  | 19   | 20 |    | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15   | 16  | 17 | 15                | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19   | 20  | 21 | 15               | 16 | 17  | 18          | 19   | 20  | 21   |
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| S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       S       M       T       W       T       F       S   |       |    |      | -        |    |     |      |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |     | -  |                   |     |     |     |      |     |    | 29               | 30 | 31  |             |      |     |  |
| S       M       T       W       T       F       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       M       T       W       T       F       S       M       T       W       T   |       |    | .0 0 |          |    |     |      |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |     |    |                   |     |     |     |      |     |    |                  |    |     |             |      |     | Trimester Beginning/End Dates  |
| I       I <thi< th=""> <thi< th=""> <thi< th=""></thi<></thi<></thi<>   |       |    |      |          |    |     |      |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |     |    |                   |     |     |     |      |     |    |                  |    |     |             |      |     | Second Trimester 11/10 - 2/27  |
| 1       2       3       4       5       6       7       8       9       10       11       2       3       4       5       6       7       8       9       10       11       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       10       11       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       19       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       19       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       19       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       19       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       19       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       19       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       19       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       19       20       21       22 <t< td=""><td>s</td><td>Ν</td><td>ר ו</td><td>• •</td><td>W</td><td>Т</td><td>F</td><td>S</td><td></td><td>S</td><td>Μ</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td><td>S</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>-</td><td></td><td></td><td>S</td><td>М</td><td>Т</td><td>W</td><td>Т</td><td>F</td><td></td></t<>  | s     | Ν  | ר ו  | • •      | W  | Т   | F    | S  |    | S  | Μ  | T  | W  | T    | F   | S  | S                 |     |     |     | -    |     |    | S                | М  | Т   | W           | Т    | F   |  |
| 12       13       14       15       16       17       18       10       11       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       19       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       19       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       19       20       21       22       23       24 <td< td=""><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>-</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4 First Trimester 10/6</td></td<>   |       |    |      |          | 1  | 2   | 3    | 4  |    |    |    |    |    |      | 1   | 2  |                   |     |     | -   |      |     |    |                  |    |     | 1           | 2    | 3   | 4 First Trimester 10/6   |
| 12       13       14       15       16       17       18       10       11       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       19       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       19       20       21       22       23       24       25       26       27       19       20       21       22       23       24 <td< td=""><td>5</td><td>e</td><td>3 7</td><td><b>'</b></td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td></td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td></td></td<>   | 5     | e  | 3 7  | <b>'</b> | 8  | 9   | 10   | 11 |    | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7    | 8   | 9  | 7                 | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11   | 12  | 13 | 5                | 6  | 7   | 8           | 9    | 10  |  |
|   | / 12  | 1  | 3 1  | 4        | 15 | 16  | 17   | 18 |    | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14   | 15  | 16 | 14                | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18   | 19  | 20 | 12               | 13 | 14  | 15          | 16   | 17  | 18 Report Card Dates   |
|   | 19    | 2  | 0 2  | 1 2      | 22 | 23  | 24   | 25 |    | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21   | 22  | 23 | 21                | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25   | 26  | 27 | 19               | 20 | 21  | 22          | 23   | 24  | Second Trimester 3/6   |
| 26       27       28       29       30       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       26       27       28       29       30       31       Third Trimester       6/5         Conference Dates/No School       24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31       Third Trimester       6/5  | 26    | 2  | 7 2  | 8 2      | 29 | 30  |      |    |    | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28   | 29  | 30 | 28                | 29  | 30  |     |      |     |    | 26               | 27 | 28  | 29          | 30   | 31  |  |

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# 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 <u>HERE</u> 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



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



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.\*

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

STEP 2:

**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?

your name!

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!

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.

Click Here

### 8 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







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!

### 💙 Khan Academy Kids

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 handson 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!



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!



Prodigy 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.



# School Supply Lists

Please click <u>HERE</u> 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 addition school supplies with your child.







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 <u>HERE</u> to download a copy.
- Click <u>HERE</u> 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.







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)

Your Design Could Be Here!



## 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.



## Back to School Mission 2

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



# Back to School Paperwork

**NEW!** Back to School paperwork will be sent/completed via Docusign, except for:

- <u>Report of Health Examination for School Entry</u> & Updated Immunization Records (Kinder only, click link for form)
- Copy of Birth Certificate (Kinder only)
- Updated Immunization Records (7th grade only) or those with recent shot updates

#### **Paperwork Completion Reminders:**

- All paperwork is due by Monday, August 4th. Students may not begin school without up to date paperwork.
- Information provided in the paperwork packet will be used throughout the school year for a variety of purposes including student illness, mailings, and in case of emergency. Please ensure that your paperwork is both accurate and up-to-date,
- Docusigns will be sent starting the week of July 14th to the <u>primary</u> email address on file **Tip**: this is the email address used to register your child for the 25/26 school year.
- Families with more than one child enrolled will be sent a Docusign for <u>each</u> child; be sure to complete a separate Docusign for each child.



## Handbooks

Families are provided with copies of our school handbooks each year; content from these handbooks will be reviewed during the August Back to School Parent Orientations.

All families and students (as applicable) are required to sign an acknowledgement form confirming that they have reviewed, understand, and will comply with all policies outlined within each handbook. These signature forms are considered part of the required yearly Back to School paperwork.

#### 2025-2026 Required Handbooks:

- K-8 Family & Student Handbook
  - All families should have received this via email from Admissions Services, Adobe Acrobat Sign, on 6/10.
  - **Tip**: Can't find the email? Search for "Subject: Signature requested on "<u>Child's Name</u> 2025-26 Merryhill School Parent Handbook"
- Merryhill Midtown School Expectations Guide (sent via Docusign along with all Back to School Paperwork starting the week of July 14th)

#### 2025-2026 Optional Handbooks:

- Volunteer Handbook
- Athletic Handbook

Handbooks will also be linked on our website in the parent section under "Forms & Handbooks".



#### Who manages billing?

• Billing and finance is managed by our Office and Finance Manager Lisa Goerlich, in partnership with our centralized billing department, which supports a number of Merryhill Schools, and other schools, across our region.

#### How does billing work?

- **Tuition & Before/After Care (B&A)** charges are static/fixed, and are processed automatically by our centralized billing department on the 1st of each month from August through May. For families who select annual or semi-annual tuition plans, charges are processed annually or semi-annually, as outlined on the fee sheet (applies to tuition only, not B&A).
- **Summer camp tuition** is processed weekly by our centralized billing department for the 9 week duration of camp, based on camp enrollment.
- Other charges and fees, including but not limited to food services, sports, after school programs, winter/ spring camps, and field trips, are submitted by the 20th of each month by Lisa to the centralized billing department, which then bills them on a rolling basis. Because of the volume of invoices and various timing factors (e.g., program start dates, submission timelines), these charges can appear on your account at variable times, typically within 30 days of submission. Note: Invoices are generally processed Tuesday through Thursday.
- ALMA, our parent portal, allows families to view and pay invoices. You can read more about ALMA below.

#### What are my payment options?

- ACH (autopay): families are encouraged to set up an automatic payment plan; this is considered the easiest payment method. Please note this method does not provide parents control over when payments are made. Autopay runs weekly at the start of each week and automatically pulls any open invoices, including tuition and B&A at the start of the month. While parents are all encouraged to sign up for autopay, we understand this doesn't work for everyone.
- **Credit Card/Check:** Payments can also be submitted at the front desk and require families to fill out a payment slip indicating the form of payment and item being paid. Please note, timing on charges may vary (typically 5–10 days) when paying at the front desk, depending on when Lisa processes the slip.
- **ALMA:** Parents have access to an online parent portal called ALMA. Payments made directly through ALMA are processed immediately. This allows parents the most control over payment timing. You can pay open invoices or make advance payments at your convenience using a debit or credit card. If managing payment timing is a priority, we recommend using ALMA for the most flexibility and transparency.



## Financial Overview

#### Are there credit card fees?

• Yes, a 2.5% convenience fee is added to the amount charged to credit cards. This fee is payable to the processor and is not applied to any amount due to the school.

#### What other fees, if any, can I expect?

- In the event of failure to pay all tuition, fees, and charges promptly, on or before specified due dates, the following provisions apply:
  - A late fee of \$30 will be assessed to cover administrative expenses related to follow-up on the account.
  - An insufficient funds fee of \$25 will be assessed if a payment is returned due to insufficient funds or otherwise declined by the bank for any other reason to cover bank and bookkeeping expenses, and late fees and interest will be assessed for past due balances that result from a returned payment.
  - If the School refers Student's tuition account for collection, Parents will pay all the Schools' costs of collection, including (but not limited to) attorneys' fees.
  - Late pick up charges are \$5 per minute past the regularly scheduled pick up times.

#### Who should I contact for questions related to billing and finance?

While we are all here to help, questions regarding billing and finance should be directed to Lisa Goerlich. Please note that other office administrators have limited access to financial information, and typically cannot assist with account related questions.



## Financial Forms

Automatic tuition payment options include credit card \* autopay or ACH for checking or savings accounts. Simply click, complete, and submit the form below to set up automatic payment if you have not done so already for credit card, or log into ALMA for checking account autopay.

Families who have already signed up for ACH or credit card autopay do not need to resubmit the form or set back up the checking account autopay.

\*A 2.5% convenience fee is added to all credit card transactions. This fee is payable to the processor, Unity Fl Solutions. There is no fee associated with ACH autopay for checking/savings accounts.

| hereby authorize Unity FI Solutions, as ag<br>to my credit card as identified below, for ar  |   |  |   |   |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| Customer Information   |   |  |   |   |
| Student Name   |   | Parent/Guardian Name   |   |   |
| Billing Address  |   |  |   |   |
| Mobile Phone   |   | Work Phone   |   |   |
| Email  |   |  |   |   |
|  |   |  |   |   |
| Payment Information  |   |  |   |   |
| Name on Card   |   | Last Four Digits of Credit Card  |   |   |
|  |   |  |   |   |
|  | d Discover  | Expiration Date  | CVC   |   |
| to only by providing written notice to my s  | iss revoked or altered. It  | n the event I wish to revoke or alt<br>usiness days prior to the effective   | er this authorizat<br>e date of such re   | ion, I may do vocation                            |
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Click the image to open and download the Credit Card Authorization form.

# School Demographics

**Please click** <u>HERE</u> in order to help us gather information regarding our school demographics. This information will also be used for our WASC Accreditation Self-Study. As part of our WASC Accreditation Self-Study, the school is required to report on stakeholder demographics, including that of our families. Please help us with collecting this demographic data by taking a moment to complete the survey.

If you do not see options listed that apply to you please select other and fill in the response that best fits you or your family. If you have more than one child, please complete a separate survey for each enrolled child. Responses will remain anonymous and families will receive an updated school demographic profile based on this data in the fall of 2025.



## School Schedule Overview

#### School hours:

- Campus Hours of Operation: 7:00AM 6:00PM
- Financial Office Hours: 7:30AM 4:00PM

#### **Academic hours:**

- Elementary School Academic Hours: 8:15AM 3:45AM (3:00PM 3:45PM K-5th study hall/early dismissal window)
- Middle School Academic Hours: 8:20AM 3:45PM

#### Arrival & Dismissal hours:

- AM drop off for non-B&A students: 8:00AM 8:15AM
- PM pick up for non-B&A students: 3:45 4:00PM
- Early Pick Up option for K-5th: 3:00PM 3:45PM

### **B&A** hours:

- Before School Program Hours: 7:00AM 8:00AM
- After School Program Hours: 4:00PM 6:00PM

## Parking Lot Reminders

We ask families to cooperate with the school by following the basic rules during car drop-off and pick-up.

- While on school property, adhere to the 5 MPH speed limit, refrain from using cellphones, and be mindful that parking spaces are tight. Use caution at all times.
- There is no stopping or parking within the lot other than in designated spaces. Please do not attempt to park along the "curb/sidewalk" within our lot.
- The parking lot is one way. Please enter from 26th St. and exit to 27th St.
- Park in designated spaces or along the streets surrounding the school. Use the sidewalks/walkways leading into the building and proceed carefully through the one way parking lot.
- From 8:30-3:00PM, the parking lot gates will be closed, and the code #0062 must be entered manually on the keypad located on the left side of the driveway. Please do not share this gate code with anyone other than Family members (parents/ guardians and other authorized individuals) listed on the emergency information form.
- Parents should avoid parking in the staff parking alcove during drop off/pick up to reduce pulling in/out across the student crosswalk.
- The security guard supports student safety during arrival and departure times. Please be respectful and follow directions should the security guard, or any other staff member. request that you slow down, relocate your car, etc.



## Building Reminders

- Families, students, and visitors enter through the **main front double doors** from the outside, and enter the family access code on the keypad unlocking the doors to the lobby area.
- No other doors may be used for entering or exiting the building. Exterior doors located near the Kindergarten wing are emergency exits only.
- In order to maintain a safe learning environment, the building is closed from 8:15-3:00PM, and all parents and visitors (including Kinder parents) are required to check in at the front desk. You will note the stanchion on the front lobby will be up during this time, instructing all visitors to check in at the front desk. Please do not bypass this.
- Please note that parents may not remain in classrooms or other shared spaced for extended periods of time.
- Parents/adults may only use the adult bathrooms. No adults are permitted inside student bathrooms at any time, for any reason.



## Drop Off Procedures

#### **General Arrival Details**

- When dropping off 1st-8th grade students, please refrain from entering the classrooms.
- Enter through the main front double doors only. Families may not use any other doors to enter or exit the building.
- Kindergarten students may receive assistance with their lunches/backpacks. However, please avoid sitting down in the classrooms, using classroom materials, or spending additional time in the rooms outside of the minimal support needed to put away personal belongings at drop off.
- Students are to be dropped off in the front office if arriving late. Please make every effort to have your child arrive on time.
- Students enrolled in the B&A program may be dropped off anytime between 7:00AM-8:15AM, while students not enrolled in the B&A program must be dropped off between 8:00-8:15AM.

### Arrival Option 1: Curbside drop off, otherwise known as "Kiss-n-Ride", is offered during morning drop off. The "Kiss-N-Ride" procedures are provided below:

- Cars enter the lot from 26th street and continue through lot, keeping to the left side, until stopped adjacent to the loading zone sidewalk. Once the car is stopped, students then exit the driver's side/left side of the car, proceed on the sidewalk, enter the building through the front doors, and proceed directly to their classroom. Cars exit the car line by merging to the right and proceeding through the lot to the exit.
- Students must be seated behind the driver, be able to unbuckle themselves, must have all backpacks, lunch boxes, etc. with them in the back seat to eliminate the need for trunks to be opened. Parents must remain inside the vehicle.
- There is no parking anytime in this Kiss-N-Ride lane. Cars may not be left parked and/or unattended.
- Families with students that cannot unload without parent assistance should not use the Kiss-N-Ride Lane.
- Students must be able to independently enter the door code to enter the building. Those unable to do so must be escorted by a parent, in which case parking in a designated spot is required.
- There is no stopping and/or parking anytime after 8:15AM along the parking lot sidewalk/Kiss-N-Drop Lane. This is indicated by the "NO PARKING" cone sign. All cars must be parked in designated parking spaces and enter the building for late drop offs and/or pick ups.

### Arrival Option 2: Parents may also "park and walk" their child in the building. The park and walk procedures are provided below:

- Families of students unable to unload without parent assistance, enter the door code independently, or those wishing to enter the building, must park in the parking lot or on the street, and enter through the main office.
- Parking is limited and families should avoid spots directly across from the Kiss-N-Ride curb, as backing out can be challenging when cars are also unloading along the curb. Please refer to the Parking Lot Map and Guide for more information.
- Please avoid leaving valuables and bags visible in cars during drop off and pick up.
- If arriving late to school, parents must park and escort students into the building, where they will be checked in at the front desk in order for attendance and arrival time to be logged. Parents may not escort students to classrooms when arriving late.



# Pick Up Procedures

#### **General Departure Details**

- If you need to pick up your child early, report to the office. If you call campus in advance to notify of the early pick up, every effort will be made to have your child ready and waiting in the front office.
- Students will only be released to a Family member (parents/guardians and other authorized individuals) listed on the emergency information form. Students will not be released to a Family member (a parent/guardian or any other authorized person) who appears to be intoxicated or under the influence of a controlled substance. In this event, staff will contact the other parent and/or another authorized person for pick up and appropriate agencies will be contacted.
- Please notify the office of any changes in authorizations or emergency information.
- Students in K-5th grades may not exit the building without a parent/guardian. As such, please do not call the front office to request your child be sent to the parking lot. Students in 6th-8th grades must "check-out" with a staff member prior to exiting the building for pick up.

#### **Pick Up Procedures**

- Parking is required for afternoon pick up.
- 3:00PM-3:45PM is offered as an early pick up window for students in K-5th grades only, to minimize crowding during after school pick up. During this time, parents may pick up students directly from their classrooms.
- During the early pick up window, parents may not enter classrooms but should wait at the classroom door, and students will be excused quietly. The early pick up window runs concurrently with study hall. Early pick up is not available for students in MS, as instruction runs until 3:45PM.
- Non-B&A program pick up runs from 3:45-4:00PM, and students enrolled in the B&A program can be picked up anytime up until 6:00PM. Late student pick-ups (after 6:00PM) will result in a charge of \$5/minute.
- There is no afternoon car line, and no stopping along the sidewalk will be permitted. Parents should not call the front office for student dismissal or for students to be sent out to the parking lot.
- With the exception of the handicapped parking spots, parents should refrain from parking in the "alcove" parking area nearest the front office during drop off and pick up hours to avoid cars pulling across the student crossing area leading from the sidewalk to the front office. While our security guard assists with student crossing during pick up and drop off times, reducing the number of cars pulling in and out of that area will help keep our students, and families, safe.



LOT IS ONE WAY KEEP SPEED UNDER 5 MPH

MIDTOWN PARKING LOT

#### AM Drop Off • B&A program drop off: 7:00-8:15AM

- Non-B&A program drop off: 8:00-8:15AM
- "Kiss-N-Ride" lane procedures:
  - Pull left, adjacent to the unloading zone sidewalk
  - Students must unload from left side of vehicle and be prepared to exit quickly; all backpacks, lunch boxes, etc. should be with them in the back seat to eliminate the need for trunks to be opened.
  - Parents may not get out of their cars in the kiss-n-ride line
  - Remember to pull forward in the line.
  - Vehicles may not be left unattended in the unloading zone or no parking zones.

•Parents may also park /walk students into the building.

•Late arrivals (after 8:15AM) must park/escort students into the building, to check in at the front desk. Parents may not escort students to classrooms when arriving late.



No parking in the unloading zone or staff parking alcove.

Parking street side is highly recommended

#### **PM Pick Up** • Early Pick Up: 3:00-3:45PM, K-5th grades only

- Park, enter building, proceed to classroom.
   Please do not enter room, students will be dismissed quietly from study hall.
- There is no afternoon car line or option to call inside to have your child sent out.
   Please plan accordingly.

#### • Non-B&A program pick up: 3:45-4:00PM

- Late student pick-ups (after 6:00PM) will result in a charge of \$5/minute.
- B&A program pick up: 4:00-6:00PM
- **MS Walk Up Option:** Between 3:45-4:15PM, students in Middle School are dismissed from the Large Playground via the gate. MS parents can park on 26th St. for quick access.



## Back to School Mission 3

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

## Food Services: Hot Lunch

Hot Lunch: Our hot lunch program is provided through Goodfellas4Kids, and can be purchased for \$7.50 daily. Orders are placed on a weekly basis. Click HERE to view a sample menu. Please note this menu will be updated for the 25/26 school year.

- Lunch ordering will begin 8/25. There is no hot lunch the 1st week of school.
- Lunch orders for the week ahead must be placed by 8AM on the first school day of each week, using the link/QR code provided in the weekly Sunday newsletter. Alternately, families may print the lunch menu with QR codes, and use those each week to place orders.
   Ordering opens every Sunday and remains open through Monday at 8AM.
- Lunches are individually packaged and include choice of bottled water or a healthy juice option (typically Honest Kids Organic). A vegetarian option is available daily.
- Please make sure to order from the correct week! If the QR code does not allow you to place your order, it is because you are scanning the code for the wrong week. Please note, lunch ordering is currently closed and will be available starting the second week of school, 8/25.
- The lunch ordering system will be locked after 8AM weekly; no lunches can be ordered after the system locks.
- Lunches must be paid in advance by loading your ALMA account. If the owed balance on your account exceeds \$75 (two weeks of lunches), lunch ordering will be suspended until the account is paid in full.
- Kindergarten lunches are delivered to the classrooms.



## Lunch Reminders

#### If not purchasing hot lunch, students should bring lunch from home daily.

- Kindergarten lunches are consumed in the classrooms. Microwaves are available for teacher assisted heating of lunch items; refrigeration is not available for student lunches. Ice packs are recommended to keep lunches cool.
- 1st-8th grades eat lunch in the Commons (cafeteria) following the schedule outlined below:
  - 1st-2nd grades: 11:30AM-11:55AM
  - 6th-8th grades: 12:00PM-12:25PM
  - 3rd-5th grades: 12:30PM-12:55PM
- Microwaves are available in the Commons for supervised heating of lunch items. Napkins and utensils are also available for students in the Commons.
- In the occasion that a student arrives at school without a lunch, families will be called.
- We are a peanut free & nut aware campus. No foods containing nuts will be served by the school. No foods containing peanuts are permitted in student lunches or snacks.
- We cannot accommodate food delivery via DoorDash or any other food delivery service.

## Food Services: Snacks

Students are encouraged to bring two healthy snacks each day. Students in Kindergarten through 8th grades can also purchase from the snack cart daily. Click <u>HERE</u> to load a digital snack card.

- The Snack Cart is an optional program is available to all students during morning recess (K-8) and to students in K-5 during afternoon recesses.
- Snack Cart purchases must be paid for using a pre-loaded \$20 Digital Snack Card. Digital Snack Cards can be purchased by loading money into parent ALMA accounts and completing the Snack Card form using the link above. This link will be included in the weekly newsletter throughout the year for easy access.
- Please note that it takes 72 working hours for snack cards to be loaded. Same-day loading is not available.
- Snacks are \$1.00 per item and students are limited to purchasing 2 snack items per recess. Snack accounts are accessible to staff, in order to track purchases and the remaining balance.
- Students will be verbally reminded when their snack "card" is low. Families may also email <u>lisa.goerlich@merryhillschool.com</u> to inquire about snack card balances.



## Food Services: Treats

### Students are permitted to bring treats to share for birthday celebrations if they are provided to the whole class.

- Parents must notify teachers at least 24 working hours in advance if requesting to send in treats.
- All shared treats must be completely nut free. Store bought treats are highly recommended, but not required.
- Please note that we cannot host individual "parties" for students, such as birthday parties on campus, or accommodate visitors for those events.
- Treats to celebrate birthdays should be dropped off in the morning, either in the classroom or at the front desk. The treats will be distributed by the classroom teachers at the designated time.



## Before & After Care

The Before and After School program (or B&A) consists of daily activity rotations Monday through Friday for students in K through 8th grades.

- All families are required to complete the **Opt In/Opt Out form** for B&A.
- Before School program hours are 7:00AM-8:00AM. After School program hours are 4:00PM-6:00PM. Students not enrolled in the B&A program should be dropped off no earlier than 8:00AM and picked up no later than 4:00PM.
- The Before School program consists of gym play, outdoor play, and "Commons Lounge" (5th-8th). The After School program is highly structured, and runs concurrently with clubs and classes.
- Students enrolled in after school clubs and classes do NOT have to be enrolled in the B&A program, but should be picked up immediately following the club or class.
- The "Commons Lounge" is the school year equivalent of our summer game room, and will consist of table top/board games, limited video games, card games, etc. While students will have still have the freedom to talk with friends, read, etc., our goal is to provide a more structured environment to encourage increased socialization and interaction between students.
- When picking up from the B&A program, please be mindful that the support staff are actively engaged in supervising students. While we encourage communication, extended conversations with supervising staff should be limited, and/or scheduled for times when staff are available and not supervising students. Most questions can be addressed at the front desk.
- When picking up, parents can determine their child's location using the schedule provided on the large screen by the round couch. Should you need assistance, simply check in at the front desk.


#### Before & After Care: Tech Policies

Students may not use iPads or other devices in the B&A program, with the exception of students in 5th-8th grades, who may use their devices for for school related purposes (homework or academically focused/school approved apps) only.

- In the AM, tables will be designated for iPad use in the Commons for students in 5th-8th grades only.
- In the PM, a Homework Room will be available to students in 3rd-8th grades M-TH as staffing allows. This is the only location where iPads may be used afterschool. If the Homework Room is not available, the tables designated in the Commons may be used for homework and devices may be used.
- iPads may not be used by students of any other grade level in any other location for any other purposes than those outlined above.
- There is a **new cell phone policy** that will be reviewed at the parent orientations. It is essentially the same as the previously policy, but requires parent and student signature in order for students to bring phones or smart watches to school.
- Cell phones may be brought to school for communication purposes <u>only</u>. They may not be used for gaming, social media, etc. This means that any cell phone use should be brief and limited to parent or guardian contact related to pick up/dismissal or after school arrangements. Those calls must be made in the front office with staff permission.
- Cell phones are not permitted to be used during school hours by students in any grade level. If these devices are out and/or in use without permission, they will be confiscated. Confiscated items can be picked up at the front desk at the end of the day. Parents must escort their student to pick up the confiscated device in the front office, and sign to acknowledge receipt of the item.
- After multiple offenses, students will be limited from bringing the device back to school.
- Smart watches and devices that function as phones are treated as such. These devices may not be used to take photos or recordings, send messages, make phone calls, or be used for any other purpose than monitoring time.



#### Before & After Care: Homework Club

#### In the PM, a Homework Room will be available to students in 3rd-8th grades M-TH as staffing allows. This is the only location where iPads may be used afterschool.

- At no additional charge, students in 3rd-8th grades may join our Homework Club, which is held in room 210 after school on Mondays through Thursdays, from 4:30-5:30PM.
- This is a completely optional offering intended to provide students a quiet space for homework completion, silent reading, or educational iPad use (on school approved apps and websites only; list to follow).
- Homework Club will only be offered if staffing allows and student interest is high enough (10 or more students, max 20 students). On days when staffing is limited, or student attendance is low, Homework Club will be cancelled.
- Homework Club is first come, first serve, based on sign ups. Additional students may join on a day to day basis, space permitting.
- In order to help us determine attendance, a survey will be sent to families in late August; official sign ups will be sent in early September.
- Please note that students will be called to the Homework Club promptly at 4:30PM.
- Students who are unable to maintain a quiet homework environment may be asked to leave Homework Club, and parents will be contacted.
- On days that Homework Club is not offered, tables will be designated in the Commons for homework completion for students in 3rd-8th grades.

#### M2Enrich: After school clubs & Classes

#### Our after school programming extends student learning beyond the academic day through fun and creative options for all students.

- After school club and class options change throughout the year with new catalogs updated and emailed to families three times each school year: Fall, Winter, Spring.
- The Fall Catalog will be made available to families in late August. The catalog will contain descriptions for each club/class, including designated age group, cost, dates, and times for each option. The Fall M2Enrich Session is expected to run for 10 weeks from mid-September through mid-November. Each subsequent session runs for approximately 10 weeks with exact dates TBD.
- Clubs and classes will range from approx. \$125-185/10 week session (a total of \$12.50-18.50 per club/class).
- An enrollment link will be included on the last page of the catalog; please read the instructions carefully to ensure accurate registration.
- In general, most clubs/classes run once weekly from 3:45-4:30PM or 4:30-5:15PM. However, music lessons and several club options will begin at 3:00PM, and run concurrently with study hall for K-5 students. K-5 students enrolled in these earlier lessons/clubs will be dismissed from study hall on the day of their lesson/club.
- After school clubs and classes are taught by Merryhill Staff, as well as outside vendors who bring their courses to our campus.
- We do expect that classes will fill quickly, and encourage prompt registration and payment to ensure your child's space. Spaces are filled on a first come, first serve basis. When filled, a waitlist is formed.



#### M2Enrich: Private Music Lessons

Piano and string instrument lessons are offered as part of our after school program for students in K through 8th grades. Spaces are limited, and will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.

- 1:1 music lessons are offered after school by three different music teachers. Options include piano, string instruments and voice lessons.
- 30 minute music lessons are offered beginning at 3:00PM daily at a cost of \$40/lesson. We reserve the 3PM lessons for students in Kindergarten as students in 1st-8th are actively in class and/or study hall through 3:45PM.
- Students enrolled in music lessons last spring are offered priority in order to continue lessons; remaining spots are offered on a first come, first serve basis.
- Music lessons for the 25/26 school year will begin on 9/15.
- Interested in being added to the music lessons interest lists? Click **HERE** to confirm your interest and be placed on the list. Families will be contacted individually in August for scheduling specifics.
- Billing for tutoring runs on a monthly basis.
- If your child was enrolled in spring lessons, we ask that you still complete the interest list form to confirm continued enrollment in lessons.



## M2Enrich: Private Tutoring

Private tutoring is offered as part of our after school program for students in K through 8th grades. Spaces are limited, and dependent on teacher interest and availability.

- 1:1 tutoring sessions are offered after school at a cost of \$35/30 minutes.
  Typically, tutoring is 1-2 days per week, for either 30 or 60 minute sessions.
- Occasionally, teachers may recommend tutoring if a student needs additional support within core content areas. When possible, we try to offer these services on campus as a convenience to families.
- To set up tutoring, please contact the Head of School, Rachel Kennedy, at Rachel.Kennedy@merryhillschool.com, with your child's name, grade, and tutoring needs (content area such as math or reading, and any other requests).
- If a teacher is available, the teacher and parent will be introduced/connected via email, and work together to select dates/frequency/times (typically tutoring begins at 4:00PM). The teacher will notify admin of the dates/times/location of tutoring. Lisa will bill accordingly.
- Billing for tutoring runs on a monthly basis.



# M2Enrich: Athletics Program

#### In partnership with the Parochial Athletics League (PAL), league sports are available to students in grades 1st to 8th, depending on the sport.

- PAL league sports are competitive teams that play against other private schools in the Sacramento area.
- 2025-2026 sports include track & field, basketball, flag football, volleyball, cross country, and golf.
- Fall sports include:
  - Girls' volleyball (grades 5th-8th)
  - Boys' flag football (grades 6th-8th)
  - Co-ed Cross Country (grades 5th-8th)
- Families can expect to receive communications related to our Athletics program directly from our Athletics Director, Paul Kennedy. The first Midtown Athletic Communication will be sent in July, and contain interest surveys for athletes and coach volunteer.
- All athletes and coaches are required to follow the expectations outlined in the Athletic Handbook, and have a signed acknowledgment form on file. Coaches are also required to be fingerprinted/background checked, complete a series of trainings including the <u>SAFE</u> Environment training, and have a volunteer form on file.



## M2Enrich: Specialty Classes

Specialty classes provide students in K-5th grades with a well rounded education. Our specialty teachers are content experts within their area of instruction. They work closely with classroom teachers to reinforce core content instruction received in the classroom through interdisciplinary connections within their specialty class. Should you have questions about a specialty class, please contact the specialty teacher directly for assistance.

#### • K Specialty Classes:

- Art, Music, Technology (1x weekly), Spanish, PE (2x weekly), Design Lab (bi-weekly)
- Second Step SEL: instruction delivered weekly by classroom/homeroom teachers as part of the Monday Morning meeting

#### • 1st - 5th Specialty Classes:

- Art, Music, Technology (1x weekly), PE (2x weekly), Spanish (3x weekly), Design Lab (biweekly)
  - Second Step SEL: instruction delivered weekly by classroom/homeroom teachers as part of the Monday Morning meeting

Did you know? Students who engage with a broad subject range will develop better life attributes, such as creativity, persistence, and enhanced abilities to communicate and collaborate. A well-balanced education also gives students a more positive outlook on learning!



#### M2Enrich: Electives Classes

Much like specialty classes, our elective classes provide 5th-8th grade students with opportunities to explore a variety of different topics, with instruction led by Middle School and Specialty teachers.

NEW! This year, 5th grade is officially part of Middle School and as such, will have chance to select one elective each trimester.

- Elective classes run on a trimester basis. Students in 6th-8th grades are required to enroll in two elective courses each trimester. Students in 5th grade are required to enroll in one elective course each trimester.
- Elective courses are held twice weekly T/TH and W/F, from 8:35-9:35AM. Students in 5th grade will enroll in the T/TH elective option.
- All enrolled Middle School students are required to complete and submit the MS elective form, both of which will be sent next week. The Elective Booklet will be sent 7/21 and form will be sent 7/23. Electives are first come, first serve.
- Please make a note of elective requirements as students are required to fulfill specific requirements each year:
  - 5th grade: 3 arts courses (art, music). Students in 5th grade will have PE, technology, Spanish, and design specialty classes, as normal.
  - 6th-8th grade: 2 PE courses, 1 arts course (art, music, design) and 1 technology course. The remaining 3 choices are student choice.
- All MS elective forms should be submitted no later than Friday, 8/1.
- Questions regarding electives should be directed to Principal Brett Wallis.



# Fierce Program

At Merryhill Midtown, we have combined social & emotional learning, character building, and development of prosocial skills into a comprehensive "FIERCE" program. FIERCE is an acronym which reflects our WASC School-Wide Learning Outcomes (SLOs), and is also the name of our Mustang mascot! Throughout the year, students are nominated by teachers across campus for exemplifying what is means to be FIERCE. In addition to receiving a certificate and being featured on the cover of the school newsletter, these FIERCE students also receive NEW, collectable FIERCE pins.

The FIERCE program is reinforced throughout the school through weekly SEL lessons, classroom meetings, student recognitions and awards, Friday FIERCE raffles, and more. Highlights of the program include:

- School wide rallies and assemblies
- Application and analysis of FIERCE traits across content areas within class projects and lessons
- School wide Monday Morning Meetings focused on the development of SEL skills and community building
- Yearly program updates based on data collected via our spring SEL student survey
- Continued training and updated resources for classroom teachers and support staff
- Standards based grading within the area of FIERCE Student Learning Outcomes & Prosocial Skills, reported three times yearly on the K-8 report card.
- FIERCE Field Day in June
- FIERCE raffle ticket distribution to students exhibiting FIERCE behaviors, and weekly Friday raffle
- FIERCE Student recognitions and awards, including NEW collectable FIERCE pins! While previous FIERCE tshirts can still be worn and may return in future years, we're excited to introduce collectible pins as a new reward option for students. This change reflects evolving student interests and helps us maintain strong engagement and enthusiasm for the program!





### Fierce Program: Mustang Market

Our FIERCE school wide economy program is an incentive based program, similar to the FIERCE raffle, designed to support students with making FIERCE choices here at school. This provides students with real-world experience in managing money, making responsible decisions, and understanding the value of hard work.

- The Mustang Money idea started with a suggestion from a parent and from feedback on our parent surveys. While we encourage proactive and positive behavior management systems here at Midtown, we also want to be mindful of what types of rewards we are giving. This program targets student behavior while reducing the small trinkets and candies being distributed to students. It also authentically connects to our FIERCE program!
- Each month, K-8 students have a chance to earn and save Mustang Money, and spend their money at the Mustang Market. The market is focused on bigger rewards (similar to the prize selection in arcades), with big ticket items like craft kits, art supplies, gift cards, lego sets, plush toys, books, etc. Classes rotate through the Mustang Market to "shop" at the end of each month; students can also save their money and budget for bigger items. In order to ensure our Market is aligned with student interest, we survey our students and teachers, and use their input to determine what to purchase.
- Students in 6th-8th grades also have an online/digital market, and an option to purchase a special lunch delivery from restaurants like In & Out.
- Students may also be "fined" for misbehaviors for example, running in a hallway will result in a "Speeding Ticket" that must be paid. Each grade level will have their own system for fines. This system is designed to help prepare students for the real world!
- While we have some items, we need your help in stocking the Mustang Market! Please consider donating to support this program! Check out our Amazon wishlist by clicking **HERE**, or feel free to send in other items such as new/unopened craft kids, stem kits, lego kits, plush toys, sports equipment, gift cards, etc. All donations can be dropped in the front office and we will be accepting donations throughout the year!





Here is a quick checklist to ensure you haven't missed anything as you prepare for the new school year.

Have you...

Registered for the mandatory Parent Orientation? (Slide 8)

Purchased school supplies? (Slide 13)

V Purchased school uniforms? (Slide 14)

Submitted updated vaccination records? (K & 7th only, Slide 19)

Completed and submitted the required Demographic Survey? (Slide 24)

Considered loading a Snack Card for your child? (Slide 34)

Completed the required Opt In/Opt Out B&A program form? (Slide 36)

Checked out our afterschool, music and sports offerings? (Slides 39-42)

Considered donating to Mustang Market? (Slide 46)



# End Of Summer Family Social 2025

Join us at Merryhill Midtown for our annual End of Summer Family Social! This event will be held on **Thursday, August 14th, from 4:30-6:00PM,** and is a wonderful chance to meet other Merryhill Midtown families and socialize with staff and teachers. Additional event highlights are included below. We hope to see you there!





Discover

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