



MUHLENBERG
SCHOOL DISTRICT

FALL 2023 |

news

Welcome

NEW STAFF | 2023



MHS

Left to Right:
Tori Galluccio,
Dr. Maria Lester,
Maria Hilaire,
Laura Barrall,
Shane Shaffer.

Not pictured:
Jennifer Biondo,
George Dunda,
Brian Hendricks,
Tiffany Price.

C.E. COLE



Chris Becker
COLE Principal



Joseph Scoboria
COLE Assistant Principal

*More New
MSD Staff
on page 4*

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Dr. Joseph E. Macharola
Superintendent
610-921-8000, Ext. 1271
macharolaj@muhlsdk12.net



Meeting the Needs of Our Flourishing Community

Dear Muhlenberg School District Community members:

The 2023-2024 school year is an exciting time for the Muhlenberg community. You will see this in our post pandemic plan, holistic plan for success, and in our action plan's concentric circles, which clearly define the focus of our district. The district has embarked on robust building projects scheduled over the next seven years. This is primarily due to an additional 850 students enrolled in our school system and will be accomplished in multiple phases. The difference in our community and school district is quite astounding when you review statistics from the last ten years. This is mainly an increase in enrollment from 3,506 to 4,366 and our cultural diversity growing from 35% to 76%. The district falls under a Community Eligibility Program which provides nutrition for all of our students. Muhlenberg School District has the second highest poverty rate and lowest per pupil cost in comparison to other Berks County communities and school systems.

You will find clear evidence on our website of previous district initiatives from the past ten years which have resulted in tremendous opportunities for our children. These opportunities include literacy, math, science, and mental health initiatives resulting in new programs in the district. With our high enrollment of English Language Learners, we have initiated a new K-6 reading pilot and implemented a new literacy program this school year. We have invested millions of dollars in technology along with an emerging initiative of one-to-one capabilities for our children at the secondary level. Career technology pathways for our high school students attending the Reading Muhlenberg Career & Technology Center continue to grow with another all-time high number of MSD students attending RMCTC during the past two years. The Air Force JROTC program has completed its seventh year with more than 800 cadets experiencing the importance of service, knowledge, integrity, character, and pride and respect for the greatest country on earth, the United States of America.

Our obligation to additional cultural needs has led to the addition of two School Resource Officers as well as the multi-phase building projects within the District. You will also learn all about our incredibly gifted staff and exciting events and opportunities for our children in this fall edition of our newsletter.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

The MSD has embraced two full-time School Resource Officers (SRO), **Officer Samuel Calabria** and **Officer Stephen Collelo**, who have been present on campus every day during school hours and continued attendance at school events. The SROs have conducted safety protocols in the high school and junior high school, along with our intermediate and elementary schools. These officers are positively “walking the beat” on all of our property and in all of our schools. The District would like to thank **Chief Randall Hoover**, **Sergeant Andrew Swoyer**, and **Chief Brian Horner** for their countless meetings and cooperation to make this partnership a reality for our community and schools.

PHYSICAL PLANT UPDATE

Phase One of the multi-phase building projects is restructuring traffic, walking pedestrians, parking, new grade 5-6 building, new multi-purpose turf field, as well as transitioning the current natural football field into a new artificial turf field. These multi-phase projects are necessary for all our Muhlenberg School District students as enrollment is projected to grow to 5,000 students within Muhlenberg Township alone. The modular unit for 4th grade conjunction is running with complete fluidity as our students and faculty engage as part of the building. This system has been working flawlessly for the district.

Dr. Joseph E. Macharola
SUPERINTENDENT

M FAST FACTS

DISTRICT FACTS
10 YEAR SPAN

ENROLLMENT

2013 | 3,506
2023 | 4,366

ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED

2013 | 33%
2023 | (63%)
CEP | 94%

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

2013 | 35%
2023 | 76%

BUDGET

2013/2014:
\$47,863,554
2023/2024:
\$77,188,919

EMPLOYEES

2013 | 440
2023 | 513

Alcanzando las Necesidades de Nuestra Floreciente Comunidad



Estimados Miembros de la Comunidad del Distrito Escolar de Muhlenberg:

El año escolar 2023-2024 es un momento emocionante para la comunidad de Muhlenberg. Verá esto en nuestro plan post pandemia, plan holístico para el éxito y en los círculos concéntricos de nuestro plan de acción, que definen claramente el enfoque de nuestro distrito. El distrito se ha embarcado en sólidos proyectos de construcción durante los próximos siete años. Esto se debe principalmente a 850 estudiantes adicionales matriculados en nuestro sistema escolar y se logrará en múltiples fases. La diferencia en nuestra comunidad y distrito escolar es bastante sorprendente cuando se revisan las estadísticas de los últimos diez años. Esto es principalmente un aumento en la matrícula de 3,506 a 4,366 y nuestra diversidad cultural del 35% al 76% de minoría. El distrito está bajo un Programa de Elegibilidad Comunitaria que proporciona nutrición a todos nuestros estudiantes. El Distrito Escolar de Muhlenberg tiene la segunda tasa de pobreza más alta y el costo por alumno más bajo en comparación con otras comunidades y sistemas escolares del condado de Berks.

Encontrará evidencia clara en nuestro sitio web de iniciativas distritales anteriores de los últimos diez años que han resultado en enormes oportunidades para nuestros niños. Estas oportunidades incluyen iniciativas de alfabetización, matemáticas, ciencias y salud mental que han resultado en nuevos programas en el distrito. Con nuestra alta inscripción de estudiantes del idioma inglés, hemos iniciado un nuevo programa piloto de lectura K-6 e implementado un nuevo programa de alfabetización este año escolar. Hemos invertido millones de dólares en tecnología junto con una iniciativa emergente de capacidades individuales para nuestros niños en el nivel secundario. Las vías de carrera tecnológica para nuestros estudiantes de secundaria que asisten al RMCTC continúan surgiendo con otro número récord de estudiantes del Distrito Escolar de Muhlenberg que asisten al CTC durante los

últimos dos años. El programa JROTC de la Fuerza Aérea ha completado su séptimo año con más de 800 cadetes experimentando la importancia del servicio, el conocimiento, la integridad, el carácter, el orgullo y el respeto por el país más grande del mundo, los Estados Unidos de América.

Nuestra obligación con necesidades culturales adicionales ha llevado a la incorporación de dos Oficiales de Recursos Escolares, así como a proyectos de construcción de múltiples fases dentro del Distrito Escolar de Muhlenberg. También verá en esta edición de otoño de nuestro boletín informativo a nuestro personal increíblemente talentoso y eventos y oportunidades emocionantes para nuestros estudiantes.

OFICIALES DE RECURSOS ESCOLARES

El Distrito Escolar de Muhlenberg ha acogido a dos Oficiales de Recursos Escolares (SRO, por sus siglas en inglés) de tiempo completo, el **Oficial Samuel Calabria** y el **Oficial Stephen Collelo**, quienes han estado presentes en el campus todos los días durante el horario escolar y han asistido continuamente a los eventos escolares. Las SRO han llevado a cabo protocolos de seguridad en la escuela intermedia y la escuela secundaria, junto con nuestras escuelas elementales y primarias. Estos oficiales están positivamente "caminando al ritmo" en toda nuestra propiedad y en todas nuestras escuelas. El Distrito quisiera agradecer al **Jefe Randall Hoover**, al **Sargento Andrew Swoyer** y al **Jefe Brian Horner** por sus innumerables reuniones y cooperación para hacer de esta asociación una realidad para nuestra comunidad y nuestras escuelas.

ACTUALIZACIÓN DE PLANTA FÍSICA

La primera fase de los proyectos de construcción de múltiples fases es la reestructuración del tráfico, peatonal, estacionamiento, nuevo edificio de 5to al 6to grado, nuevo campo de césped multiuso, así como la transición del campo de fútbol actual natural a un nuevo campo de césped artificial. Estos proyectos de múltiples fases son necesarios para todos nuestros estudiantes del Distrito Escolar de Muhlenberg, ya que se proyecta que la inscripción aumentará a 5,000 estudiantes solo en el municipio de Muhlenberg. La unidad modular para la conjunción de cuarto grado está funcionando con total fluidez a medida que nuestros estudiantes y profesores participan como parte del edificio. Este sistema ha estado funcionando perfectamente para el distrito.

Dr. Joseph E. Macharola
SUPERINTENDENTE



MUHLENBERG JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Left to Right:
Denisse Jaquez, Officer Colella, Christopher Antosy, Nancy Paul-Francois, Connor Oburn, Kedric Yoder, Tiffani Turk, Elizabeth Figueroa



NEW STAFF | 2023



C.E. COLE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Front Row (left to right): **Natasha Perez, Allecia Stiles, Lee Rogers, Beth Hendrickson, Makenzie Yablonsky**

Back Row (left to right): **Hailey Jack, Erin Hole, Paige McGrogan, Meghan Goetz, Andrew Stoudt, Joseph Scoboria**

MUHLENBERG ELEMENTARY CENTER

Front Row (left to right): **Kylie Torrens, Alissa Wenrich, Lilah Shade, Gabriella Boyer**

Back Row (left to right): **Erica Berger, Tamara Torres, Courtney Mitchell, Shane Silas, Allysa Hirneisen, Brianna Bodner**





First Lady Shapiro Visit

Two MHS seniors, **Joseph Eby** and **Janeska Quinones** participated in a work site event through the Department of Labor & Industry's (L&I) Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) this summer with **First Lady Lori Shapiro**.

The event took place at Humane PA's animal shelter in Reading. It was a great event during which the First Lady toured the facility, helped the students with job tasks, and heard about the history and importance of *MY Work* and other OVR programs designed to help students build employment skills while in high school.

Photo credit: Commonwealth Media Services



NEW STAFF | 2023



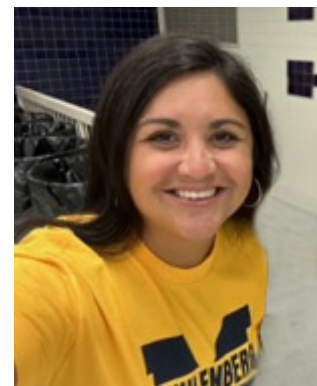
Aaron Kopetsky
MHS Assistant Principal



Jennifer Doyle
MJHS Assistant Principal



Dr. Janet Heilman
Supervisor of
Special Education



Kristin Perez
Confidential Secretary to the
Assistant Superintendent



On September 7, MHS held "Back to School Night" an opportunity for new students and students moving up from 9th grade to learn more about MHS. **Officer Samuel Calabria** is pictured on the far right.



Officer Stephen Colella

(far left) receiving an award for saving a life at the September 18 Muhlenberg Township Board of Commissioners meeting.

On August 8, 2023, the Muhlenberg Township Police Department and Muhlenberg Ambulance received a distress call about a two-day-old infant in grave danger. Officer Colella took charge of the situation and used infant CPR to clear an obstruction from the infant's airway. Thanks to his swift and precise actions, the infant began to breathe and cry once more. The infant's mother expressed her profound appreciation for his heroism.



Get to Know Your School Resource Officers (SROs)

Officer Samuel Calabria

Number of years as a police officer? 18 years

Why did you want to become a school resource officer?

Over the course of my career I have met many people. It is important to me to get to know our students. Previously, I held a position in a Special Services Unit, which led to building better relationships in the community. As an SRO, I hope to build trust and be a role model for the students of MSD.

What do you want our students and parents to know about your role in our schools?

I want the students to be able to come to school and enjoy a safe learning environment. I strive to make the school a better place and continue to build strong relationships with students, helping to mentor in any way possible.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I was born and raised in Berks County. I am also a huge Notre Dame fan.

Officer Stephen Colella

Number of years as a police officer? 12 years

Why did you want to become a school resource officer?

I became a school Resource Officer to build strong relationships with the youth of our community, and to knock down barriers between law enforcement and the community. Also, to educate, mentor, and be a role model for the students of the District.

What do you want our students and parents to know about your role in our schools?

My role as a school resource officer is to provide the students and staff a healthy, safe environment where education can grow. Ways that we will achieve this is by holding all staff and students accountable for their actions, and to mentor the students from grade school through graduation and beyond.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I was born and raised in south eastern Pennsylvania and love Philadelphia sports.

Celebrating

NATIONAL
HISPANIC
HERITAGE MONTH



Muhlenberg School District is the most diverse school district in Berks County. Muhlenberg Junior High School (MJHS), and all of the District, embraces this diversity of students and culture as a strength.

On October 6, 2023, MJHS celebrated their diversity and the month of Hispanic Heritage Month. Students and staff were treated with an assembly of guest speakers, salsa dancers, poetry and more, all related to Hispanic heritage. Following the assembly, students were also given an opportunity to explore various Hispanic foods, various country displays, music, picture opportunities, including a 360 degree camera, and much more. Hispanic Heritage Day at MJHS was a huge success for everyone and recognizing students' heritage was extremely well received by many students, including one that stated, "this is the best day ever!" Hispanic heritage is a valued part of the Muhlenberg School District culture and Hispanic Heritage Day is a new, valued part of MJHS!



Summer Style



2023





The MSD celebrated the third annual MSD Summer Style. Students were able to engage in academics through project-based learning, they explored a plethora of activities, and they collaborated with friends! Each free three-week session consisted of two 90-minute blocks. One session, CORE, had students engage in academics through hands-on and experiential learning working on projects such as designing a new building for the community, creating a colonial settlement, designing a

wagon to trek the Oregon trail using Sphero robotics, and creating a wax museum of famous and influential people. The CORE block also included a social emotional learning component where students learned how to collaborate, practice mindfulness, and build relationships. Another session, GET INVOLVED! exposed students to various activities, clubs, sports, and electives. Breakfast, lunch, and transportation were all provided. All sessions, activities, food, and celebrations were free to any registered Muhlenberg student.



MSD Social Media



for the 2023-2024 school year, MSD has nine high school seniors serving as social media interns who will highlight the amazing things happening in our buildings. These young women have been hard at work during the busy start of the school year capturing moments from different events to share with our community.

Stay tuned for more exciting features, videos, and photos.

#GOMUHLS



MSD Social Media Interns:

Front L-R: Jeslee and Bladys

Back L-R: Katherine, Yana, Leticia, Nashli, Leia, Erin, and Danesky





MSD Partnership with the Literacy Council of Reading-Berks

Muhlenberg School District (MSD) has partnered with the Literacy Council of Reading-Berks who provide our families with ESL, GED, and Gateway to Citizenship Classes on site and other locations. Families can call 610-670-9960 to register for any of the programs.

MSD prides itself in working with community partners to support our students and their families. This year the district partnered with the Centro Hispano to deliver two programs: *The Opening Doors/Abriendo Puertas* program for



parents and the *Great Debate Summer Enrichment* program for 9th grade students. Parents who graduated from the *Opening Doors Program* were recognized and were provided with a free iPad for their children in a ceremony at the Centro Hispano. Students who participated in the *Great Debate Summer Enrichment* program spent a week at St. Francis University this summer with other students from across the country. "We value our partnership with the Muhlenberg School district," **Centro Hispano CEO Michael Toledo** said. "When we can lift up our families and enhance their family engagement with the district, we all benefit."

The *Opening Doors Program* is a 10-week program for parents of children up to six years old. Parents learn how to become more active in their children's



academic lives as their child's first teacher. Families interested can contact **Elizabeth Laviena**, Community & Family Outreach Coordinator/District Interpreter at 610-921-8000 ext 5535.

The *Great Debate Summer Enrichment* program is a week-long program focused on engaging youth on strengthening their communication and leadership skills.





MHS Care Closet is Here to Help!

MHS Aavidum Club students collaborated with the Youth Volunteer Corps of Reading, Calvary Lutheran on Elizabeth Avenue, and Good Shepherd Church on Tuckerton Avenue to establish a **Care Closet** that offers our students the chance to have their basic needs (shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, hygiene products, toothbrushes, etc.) met as well as provides any school supplies they might require to make their year a little easier. The Care closet

is located at **MHS in Room A107**. MSD recognizes the various barriers many students experience and we are committed to providing access to basic needs for our students and families.

The Care Closet is available to help all students in need, particularly those who are at risk or are experiencing housing insecurities. Any MSD student at the high school is able to gain access to the Care Closet by contacting **Mrs. Heydt**,



School Social Worker, or their counselor. Teachers can also reach out if they have a student who can benefit from the Care Closet. **Mrs. Lauren Heydt, LSW**, via email at heydtl@muhlsdk12.net.

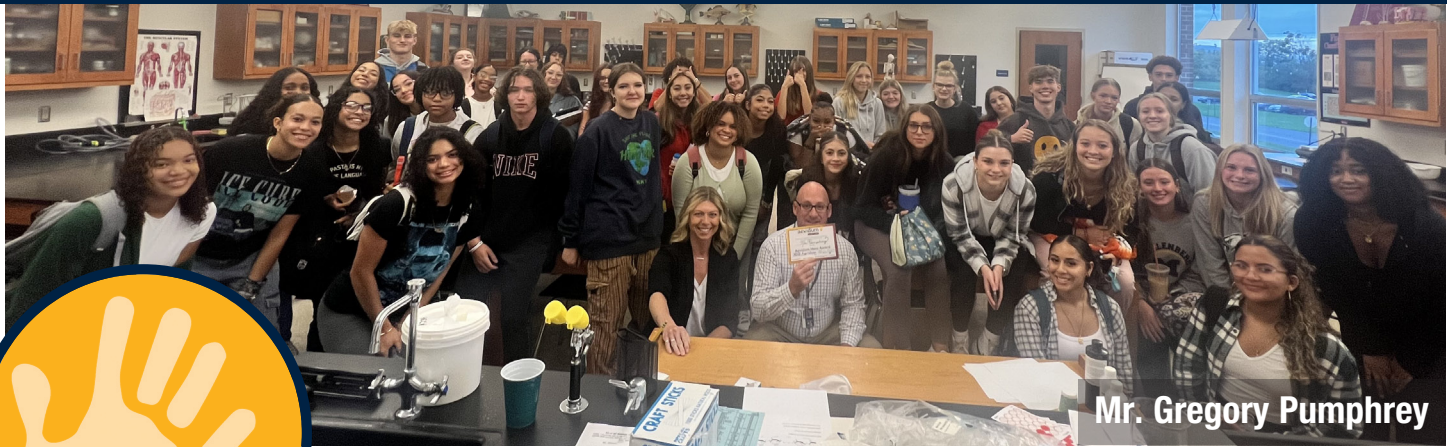
MSD is hopeful that by fulfilling these needs, students will be able to focus on their education.



This academic year, members of MHS's Aavidum club concentrated on the value of developing relationships between faculty and students. They were given the freedom to interview any staff member they wanted and to be as creative as possible. *Read All About Me* is currently in progress. Posters will be displayed all over MHS to highlight our incredible faculty!



Read All About Me



Mr. Gregory Pumphrey



Mr. Adam Burkart

MSD's AEVIDUM hero awards are underway! An Aavidum hero is a staff member nominated by students for going above and beyond in supporting our students. The first Aavidum hero staff members for the 2023/2024 school year are **Mr. Gregory Pumphrey**, MHS Science Teacher (top photo), and **Mr. Adam Burkart**, MHS English Teacher (bottom photo). **Thank you gentleman for all that you do!**



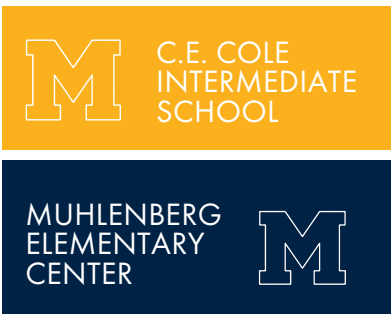
Left to right: Jose Candelaria, Rodney Kipp, Dan DeCarlo and Mr. Skeete.



Golfing for a Cause

Mr. Haniff Skeete, MHS Principal, and friends participated in the 3rd Annual David Hangen Memorial Golf Tournament on September 9 at Willow Hollow Golf Club. Some of the funds raised assist Muhlenberg High School students looking to further their education.

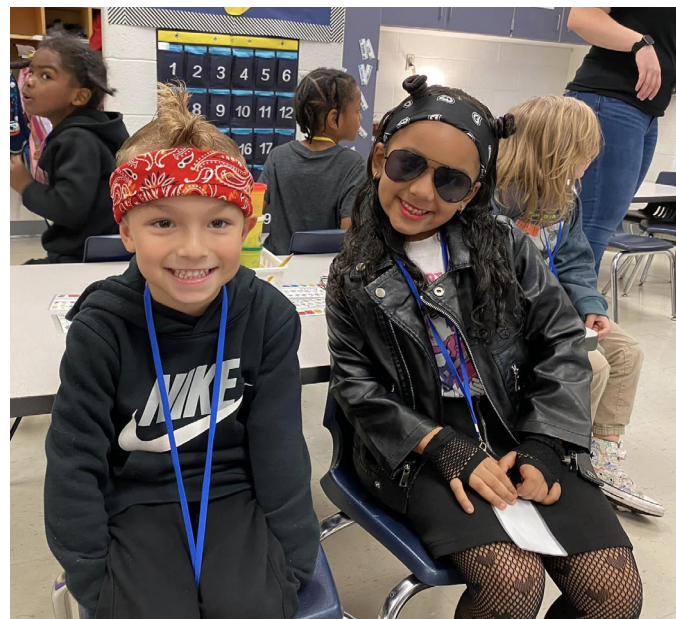
Mr. Hangen passed away in May 2020. He began his teaching career in the Reading School District and taught the past 20 years as a Technology Education teacher at MSD. David also coached both the Muhlenberg football and softball teams.



Rock Your School



On Friday, September 29, students and staff from both Muhlenberg Elementary Center and C.E. Cole Intermediate School participated in “Rock Your School” day, a nationwide celebration promoted by the professional development group *Get Your Teach On*. Teachers were encouraged to plan activities for students that are different than what they typically would experience on a school day, but related to academic and/or school culture. Additionally, and the most fun part, were that both staff and students were encouraged to **DRESS LIKE A ROCKSTAR**.



Students at both MEC and C.E. Cole engaged in activities such as rock painting, glow in the dark math lessons, “World Tour” learning stations, green screen photo shoots, and so much more. Thank you to all of our families, teachers, staff, and students were helping to make this a fun-filled event!



Central Registration Information

Welcome! Pick up an enrollment packet at the location below, or print out a copy of the packet from the district website.

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Please contact the office to schedule an in-person appointment.
610-921-8000 extension 5536

GRADES 1ST THROUGH 12TH

Central Registration–Blue Center

3630 Kutztown Road
Reading, PA 19605

Phone: 610-921-8000
Extension 5536

E-mail: lanninge@muhlsdk12.net

The Blue Center is located behind the C.E. Cole building by the tennis courts and C.E. Cole Gym.

In order to enroll a new student in the Muhlenberg School District, please call the School Registrar.

An appointment may be required. A child enrolling in first grade must have completed a kindergarten program or be six years old on or before August 31 to be admitted in the fall. With the exception of Kindergarten, no registrations will be accepted for the next school year until the day after the last student day of the current school year. For example, a student in grades 1-12 who wishes to register for the 2023/2024 school year, you cannot register until June 8, 2023.

Please bring the following documents at the time of registration:

1. Two proofs of residency (see below)
2. Immunization records
3. IEP
4. Birth certificate

If you own/rent property in the school district, please bring:

1. A property tax bill, mortgage statement or recorded deed in your name showing residence property or the signed lease/rental agreement; and
2. One of the following items listed below:
 - Proof of residency from the County Registrar of Voters; or
 - Current vehicle registration showing residence property address; or
 - Utility bill in your name for the current month showing residence property address (cell phone bill is not a utility); or
 - Check stubs/statement of wages, public assistance, or Social Security showing residence property address.

A parent/guardian must be present in order for a student to be enrolled.

MSD Transportation

The Muhlenberg School District transports approximately 3,100 students, utilizing 43 vehicles, for eligible students.

Eligibility is determined by the distance from your primary address to the school district's closest boundary. For elementary grades (Kindergarten through 6) the distance is greater than 1.5 miles. For secondary grades (7-12), the distance must be greater than two miles. The exception to this rule is if the road you live on or is near is declared hazardous by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

Questions? Please contact the Transportation Department.

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT-BLUE CENTER

3630 Kutztown Road
Reading, PA 19605
Phone: 610-921-8000, Ext. 5532
Email: brumbache@muhlsdk12.net

**Same office hours as Central
Registration/same location/building*



NONPROFIT ORG
CARRIER ROUTE PRESORT
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Reading, PA
Permit No. 69

801 BELLEVUE AVENUE
READING, PA 19605

PHONE: 610-921-8000

FAX: 610-921-8076

E-mail: flowerst@muhlsdk12.net

www.muhlsdk12.org

**Deadline for next newsletter is
February 2, 2024**

Published for the citizens of the Muhlenberg School District, Newsletter is printed by Heffner Printing, Fleetwood, PA. Submit news of school or community interest to Muhlenberg School District, Newsletter, at return address. Include your name and phone number for verification purposes. Timely articles will be used as space allows.

RESIDENT

It is the policy of the Muhlenberg School District not to discriminate on the basis of gender, disability, race, color, and national origin in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies as required by Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments. Inquires regarding compliance with Title IX should be directed to the office of the assistant superintendent, Title IX Coordinator, Muhlenberg School District, 801 Bellevue Avenue, Reading, PA 19605, telephone (610)921-8000, or to the Director of Civil Rights, Department of Education,

**“Educating our children
and young adults for
life and service.”**

~Dr. Joseph E. Macharola

VALUES & BELIEFS

Students learn differently.
Students learn best with challenging and relevant curriculum.
Students thrive in a safe learning environment.
Teachers lead learning through passion, perseverance and personality.
Teachers create a culture of high expectations.
Teachers are inspirational role models.
Students, parents and families, the school, the school board, the community and business leaders create partnerships that drive students success.
An informed and involved learning community is essential to the development of strong educational partnerships and quality programs.
The learning community equips, engages and empowers learners.

VISION STATEMENT

The Muhlenberg School District is committed to guiding all students on a path of excellence with active and purposeful learning experiences, a growing and comprehensive curriculum, collaborative and innovative staff and creative use of technology and resources coupled with an unrelenting desire for success.

Follow us:

Facebook:
Muhlenberg School District
Instagram: @gomuhls
X (formerly Twitter): @muhlsd

SCHOOLBOARDMEMBERS

GARRETT HYNEMAN, PRESIDENT
OTTO W. VOIT, III, VICE PRESIDENT
CINDY L. MENGLE, SECRETARY
RICHARD E. HOFFMASTER, TREASURER
JANET HOWARD, ASSISTANT SECRETARY
KRISTYNA EAGLE
J. TONY LUPIA, JR.
MARK J. NELSON
MIGUEL VASQUEZ
DR. JOSEPH E. MACHAROLA
SUPERINTENDENT
DR. ALAN S. FUTRICK
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

FALL 2023

Designed by the Berks County Intermediate Unit Creative Team