

Mount Pleasant Elementary School

Family Handbook
2019-2020



500 Duncan Road Wilmington, DE 19809

Main Office - (302) 762-7120

Fax - (302) 762-7040

Nurse's Office - (302) 762-7110

<http://www.brandywineschools.org/mpe>

Mount Pleasant Elementary School

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MOUNT PLEASANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

500 Duncan Road
Wilmington, DE 19809

(302) 762-7120
FAX (302) 762-7040

MARK A. HOLODICK, Ed.D.
Superintendent

MATTHEW AUERBACH
Principal
KIMBERLY FAWKS
Assistant Principal
JACKIE CHESWORTH
Acting Assistant Principal
KEITH CASEY
Dean of Students
DONNA JANICKI
Dean of Students

August 5, 2019

Dear Mt. Pleasant Elementary Families,

I hope you were able to relax and enjoy the summer with family and friends. Our Administrative Team has been busy working with teachers, participating in professional development, and intentionally planning for the upcoming school year. This year, we will work to *engage, educate, and energize* our students, staff and the entire MPE community and we will do this through implementing the *Three to Be at MPE – Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be Safe* at all times and in all places. On behalf of the entire staff, we truly appreciate your partnership and we look forward to helping your children realize their potential this school year and beyond!

As part of our implementation of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) – Tier I, we will continue to work on implementing *mindfulness* strategies to help reduce stress and improve emotional regulation for our entire school community. Our staff is also being trained in *Restorative Practices* this year, which focuses on helping students become aware of their behavior, its impact on others and the community, and involves taking actions to help make things right. Be on the lookout for information about this new framework. We will continue to use our *Pride Points* and *Class Compliments* systems, which we hope will help keep students engaged and excited this year!

I am happy to announce the addition of two new members to our Administrative Team – *Ms. Jackie Chesworth, Acting Assistant Principal* and *Ms. Donna Janicki, Dean of Students*. Both Ms. Chesworth and Ms. Janicki were formerly outstanding teachers at MPE, and we are excited to have them join our Administrative Team this year! You can find out more about them and the other members of our staff on our website under the “About us” tab.

Come and meet your child’s teacher at our annual **Back to School Night/Community Resource Fair** on **Wednesday, August 28th** from 5:00 – 6:30 pm. We invite you to visit the local vendors in our MPR and connect with MPE’s *carline* staff who will be there to assist families with this procedure. Also, enclosed in this mailing is information regarding our *dress code* and *district calendar*.

Nuts And Bolts:

- *Communication:* We encourage all parents to join their homeroom teacher’s *Class Dojo* page. Your child’s teacher will share information about this at the beginning of the school year.
- *Lunch:* Please note that all MPE students are eligible to receive a free and nutritious breakfast and lunch every day under the Community Eligibility Provision.
- *Buses:* BSD Transportation will be mailing a postcard to your home approximately one week before school starts with your child’s bus stop time and location. Please call BSD Transportation if you have any questions regarding bussing at (302)762-7181.
- *Summer Reading Challenge:* Do not miss out on our annual Fall Reading Picnic! All students in 1st-5th grade who complete the summer reading challenge will be invited to attend. See our website or pick up a copy in our main office.

- *Dreambox*: For those returning MPE students, it is never too late to freshen up on your math skills! Students should be able to use the same login as last year over the summer. Be on the lookout for new login information from your child's teacher.
- *Curriculum*: We will be implementing a new Reading curriculum this year called *Bookworms*. This curriculum is being implemented across all elementary schools in the District. We are excited to have this excellent resource for our students! For Math, we will continue with the *Eureka* curriculum. More information about curriculum and school procedures will be discussed at our Open House and will be made available in our MPE Family Handbook.
- *School supply lists* are available in our main office or on our website.
- Check out our new school website at: <https://www.brandywineschools.org/mpe>.
- Our *PTA's* website is: <https://www.mpeptade.com/>. Support our PTA by becoming a member this year!

Good job getting to the bottom of this information-packed letter! Enjoy the remaining days of summer and please reach out to our main office at 302-762-7120 if you have any questions. Looking forward to a great school year!

Sincerely,



Matthew Auerbach
Principal

Mark Your Calendars!!!

- Back to School Picnic: Wednesday, August 28th at 5:00 pm
- First day of school (1st-5th Grade): Tuesday, September 3rd (Orientation Day for Kindergarten)
- First day for Kindergarten: Wednesday, September 4th
- Rosh Hashanah – No School: Monday, September 30th
- Open House: Thursday, October 3rd at 6:00 pm.

Mount Pleasant Elementary School

Contact Information

If you ever have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to contact a Mount Pleasant or Brandywine School District Staff Member.

Mount Pleasant Elementary Staff 762-7120			District Office Staff 793-5003		
Principal	Mr. Auerbach	762-07120 x5002	Superintendent	Dr. Holodick	793-5003
Assistant Principal	Mrs. Fawks	762-7120 x 5003	Asst. Superintendent of School Operations	Linc Hohler	793-5003
Assistant Principal	Mrs. Chesworth	762-7120 x1224	Asst. Superintendent of Teaching and Learning	Cora Scott	793-5003
Dean of Students	Mr. Casey	762-7120 x1152	Executive Director of Elementary Education	Lavina Jones-Davis	793-5003
Dean of Students	Ms. Janicki	762-7120 x1236	Transportation		762-7181
Administrative Assistant	Mrs. Suiter	762-7120 x5001	School Nutrition	Ms. Pam Gouge	529-3110 x223
Administrative Assistant	Ms. Butcher	762-7120 x5000	Home Access Center	Ms. Patty Staker	529-3110
School Nurse	Ms. Buffin	762-7110 x1129	Special Education	Ms. Kate Siegel	
Cafeteria Manager	Ms. Poole	762-7120 x1168	Gifted Education	Ms. Ann Marie Fitzgerald	793-5003
Guidance Counselor (K-2)	Ms. Spencer	76207120 x1180			
Guidance Counselor (3-5)	Mr. Johnson	762-7120 x1181			

Mount Pleasant Elementary School



Mount Pleasant Elementary School Vision: *Engage-Educate-Energize*

Mission:

We believe that every member of our school community has the opportunity to learn in a safe and caring environment where diversity is valued and respected. As educators, we will engage, educate, and energize our pupils to be productive members of society.

About our School:

Mount Pleasant is home to approximately 740 Kindergarten through Fifth grade students. The historic building is located along Duncan Road, off of Philadelphia Pike, north of the city of Wilmington. The building houses a regular education program, a full-day gifted program, as well as an emotional support program for a wide variety of students. The Bellevue Community Center is attached to the east side of the building. The Brandywine School District Offices are located in the lower level of the building.

Mount Pleasant Elementary School

2019-2020 School Calendar



BRANDYWINE SCHOOL DISTRICT 2019-2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR

(District calendars are subject to revision by the Brandywine Board of Education)

JULY 2019	
Thursday, July 4 th	SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED – Independence Day
AUGUST 2019	
Monday, August 26 th - Thursday, August 29 th	Staff Professional Development
Friday, August 30 th	PK-12 SCHOOLS CLOSED – Offices Open
SEPTEMBER 2019	
Monday, September 2 nd	PK-12 SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED – Labor Day
Tuesday, September 3 rd	ORIENTATION DAY KINDERGARTEN (Orientation times are determined at each Elementary School Site) FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL (Grades 1-5, 6, 9, and 12)
Wednesday, September 4 th	ALL STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL
Monday, September 30 th	PK-12 SCHOOLS CLOSED (Offices Open) – Rosh Hashanah
OCTOBER 2019	
Wednesday, October 2 nd	1 st Marking Period Interim Ends
Wednesday, October 9 th	PK-12 SCHOOLS CLOSED (Offices Open) – Yom Kippur
Friday, October 11 th	1 st Marking Period Interims Distributed to Students
Wednesday, October 16 th	PK SCHOOLS CLOSED – Professional Development PK Teachers
Thursday, October 17 th	PK-8 SCHOOLS CLOSED – Parent/Teacher Conferences (Offices Open)
Friday, October 18 th	PK-12 SCHOOLS CLOSED – Parent/Teacher Conferences (Offices Open)
NOVEMBER 2019	
Thursday, November 7 th	1 st Marking Period Ends
Friday, November 8 th	PK-12 SCHOOLS CLOSED – Staff Professional Responsibilities Day (Offices Open)
Monday, November 11 th	SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED – Veterans' Day
Wednesday, November 20 th	1 st Marking Period Report Cards Distributed to Students
Monday, November 25 th	PK-12 SCHOOLS CLOSED – (Offices Open)
Tuesday, November 26 th	PK-12 SCHOOLS CLOSED – Professional Development Day (Offices Open) PIP
Wednesday, November 27 th	PK-12 SCHOOLS CLOSED – Professional Development (Offices Open) Trade In
Thursday, November 28 th – Friday, November 29 th	PK-12 SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED – Thanksgiving Holiday
DECEMBER 2019	
Monday, December 16 th	2 nd Marking Period Interim Ends
Monday, December 23 rd – Tuesday, December 31 st	PK-12 SCHOOLS CLOSED – Winter Holiday (Offices are closed December 24 th and 25 th only)
JANUARY 2020	
Wednesday, January 1 st	PK-12 SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED – New Year's Day
Thursday, January 2 nd	PK-12 SCHOOLS CLOSED – Winter Holiday (Offices Open)
Friday, January 3 rd	PK-12 SCHOOLS CLOSED – Professional Development Day (Offices Open) Trade In
Monday, January 6 th	2 nd Marking Period Interims Distributed to Students
Monday, January 20 th	PK-12 SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Tuesday, January 28 th – Wednesday, January 29 th	Grades 9-12 Mid Term Exams (Half-days)
Thursday, January 30 th	Grades 9-12 Mid Term Exams (Half-day)
Friday, January 31 st	2 nd Marking Period Ends (PK-8) Grades 9-12 Mid Term Exams (Half-day)

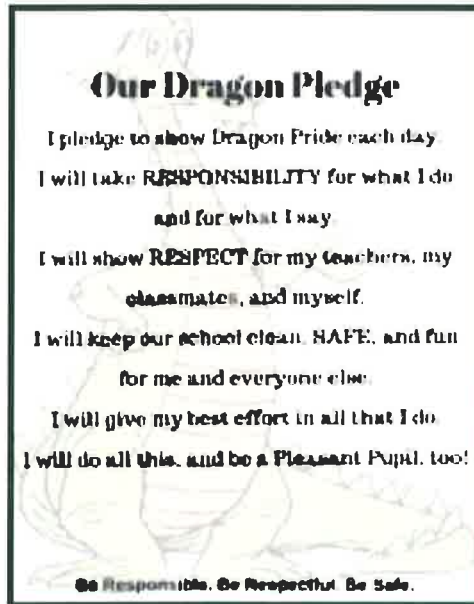
Mount Pleasant Elementary School

2019-2020 School Calendar (cont.)

FEBRUARY 2020	
Tuesday, February 11 th	2 nd Marking Period Report Cards Distributed to Students
Friday, February 14 th	PK-8 SCHOOL CLOSED – Parent/Teacher Conferences (Offices Open)
Monday, February 17 th	PK-12 SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED – Presidents' Day
MARCH 2020	
Monday, March 2 nd	3 rd Marking Period Interim Ends
Tuesday, March 10 th	3 rd Marking Period Interims Distributed to Students
APRIL 2020	
Thursday, April 2 nd	3 rd Marking Period Ends PK SCHOOLS CLOSED – Professional Development PK Teachers
Friday, April 3 rd	PK-12 SCHOOLS CLOSED – Staff Professional Responsibilities Day (Office Open)
Friday, April 10 th	PK-12 SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED – Good Friday
Monday, April 13 th - Friday April 17 th	PK-12 SCHOOLS CLOSED – Spring Break (Offices Open)
Wednesday, April 22 nd	3 rd Marking Period Report Cards Distributed to Students
Tuesday, April 28 th	PK-12 SCHOOLS CLOSED Professional Development Day (Offices Open) Presidential Primary
MAY 2020	
Monday, May 4 th	PK-5 SCHOOLS CLOSED - Parent/Teacher Conferences (Offices Open)
Tuesday, May 12 th	4 th Marking Period Interim Ends
Wednesday, May 20 th – Friday, May 22 nd	Senior Exams (Half Days) 4 th Marking Period Interims Distributed to Students (May 20 th)
Monday, May 25 th	SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED – Memorial Day
Tuesday, May 26 th – Wednesday, May 27 th	Senior Exams (Half Days)
Sunday, May 31 st	GRADUATION DAY
JUNE 2020	
Monday, June 8 th – Thursday, June 11 th	Final Exams (1/2 Days for Grades 6-11)
Friday, June 12 th	Last Day of School (PK-11) Grades 6-11 Final Exam Make-Up Day (Half Day for Grades 6-11) (only students who need to make up a final should attend) 4 th Marking Period Ends
Monday, June 15 th	Staff Professional Responsibilities Day (Grades PK-8) Staff Professional Development Day (Grades 9-12)
Tuesday, June 16 th - Thursday, June 18 th	Staff Professional Development Days (PK-12) Last Teacher Day (June 18th)
Monday, June 22 nd	Report Cards Mailed Home
PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:	
All Jewish holidays begin at sundown on the evening before the holiday. Activities and events must not be scheduled on these days.	
September 30, 2019	Rosh Hashanah
October 9, 2019	Yom Kippur

Mount Pleasant Elementary School

Getting to Know Mount Pleasant



School Traditions

Students, staff, and families engage in a variety of school traditions throughout the year.

- Celebrations of Learning
- Book fairs
- Field Trips
- Recycling Program
- After School Activities
- Odyssey of the Mind
- Dragon Dudes
- Musical Concerts
- PTA Events and Activities
- Lego League
- School Play
- Girls on the Run
- Field Day
- GreenFest
- FitnessFest
- Elementary Basketball League
- STEM/Robotics Club
- Leader Corps
- Field Day

Mount Pleasant Elementary School

Family Involvement

At Mount Pleasant, we believe that students learn best when they are provided with high quality instruction and ongoing collaboration between home and school. Through frequent communication consistency, high expectations, and family involvement, we can work together to help each student achieve his/her greatest potential. Our families are encouraged to become actively involved in the school community.

Title I School-Family Compact

Title I is a federally funded program to provide supplemental services for low achieving and Limited English Proficient students until they are able to meet and exceed the standards set forth by the state. Since Mount Pleasant is a Title I school, each student will receive a School-Family Compact which states the partnership promises of both the family and school that are necessary in order to provide a quality education for all students. This compact will be sent home at the beginning of the school year. Please sign and return one copy with your child by October 1st. More information about Title I can be found at the BSD web page: www.brandywineschools.org.



PTA (Parent Teacher Association)

The PTA consists of all interested parents and teachers. Meetings are held regularly throughout the school year with programs designed to strengthen understanding and cooperation between home and school. In addition to monthly meetings, the PTA sponsors fundraising opportunities and family activities. All money raised by the PTA is used for programs and activities, which directly benefit the children of Mount Pleasant. Please check out the PTA's website for more information: www.mpeptade.com



Mount Pleasant Elementary School

Volunteers

We feel a core of volunteers is the key to the effective operation of our school. Parents/guardians may serve in a variety of ways to help enhance our programs. They may volunteer as: classroom tutors, art room aides, library aides, and lunchroom aides. Volunteers may also help with school dismissal by helping supervise children in the bus area or car line area. Parents interested in volunteering should contact the School Office at 762-7120.

Mount Pleasant Elementary School

Academic Programs

Special Education Services

Mount Pleasant offers a continuum of settings, services, and support for students identified with special needs. Whenever possible, students receive services in the general education classroom with accommodations and modifications to support individual learning styles and needs. General education and special education teachers are highly trained in research-based strategies and collaborate on a regular basis to meet the needs of all students in the building. Services such as speech, occupational therapy, and physical therapy are provided as prescribed on students IEPs.

Brandywine School District Emotional Support Program

The Emotional Support Program, a district-wide program housed at MPE, is designed to meet the needs of K-5 students who are experiencing significant emotional issues that make participation in the regular school environment challenging. This is a smaller program within the school that provides academics, counseling, and family support so that all students will experience success in the school environment.

Brandywine School District Academically Gifted Services

Students who qualify and show a need to receive gifted services in Kindergarten through Third Grade attend Mount Pleasant Elementary School. Nominations for these services take place during the months of December and January. Parents and teachers are able to nominate a student to receive gifted services. All nominations must be received by January 31st. Parent nomination information can be found on the BSD webpage.

Mount Pleasant Elementary School

Specials and Extra-Curricular Activities

The Arts

The arts are an important part of our program at Mount Pleasant Elementary. All students attend an art and music class at least once a week. There are also opportunities to participate in special programs related to the arts. Students in the 4th and 5th grades have the opportunity to participate in chorus, band, and orchestra.

Physical Education

Physical Education is an important part of each child's school experience. The development of good health and exercise patterns begins early. Children participate in physical education class at least once a week in addition to regularly scheduled recess.

Library Policies

- Students may check out up to two books each week.
- Loan period is 14 days. Extensions may be made for books used for projects and reports.
- There is no late fee for books. Overdue notices will be sent home.
- Students will be charged for lost or damaged books.
- The full library lending policy may be found on the MPE website.

Computer Lab & Chromebooks

The computer lab located at MPE is used by all of the students in the building for research, organizing data, communicating information to others, Dreambox, keyboarding, NWEA Math and Reading Assessment, Accelerated Reader, Reflex Math and SMARTER state testing. There are also Chromebooks available in classrooms for teachers and students for these purposes.

Field Trips

We believe that learning happens through hands-on experiences inside and outside of the school building. Therefore, our teachers plan meaningful and fun field trips to extend student learning. In order to attend any field trip, students must have a signed permission slip (and money, if applicable) returned by the deadline. Verbal permission is not acceptable. If there is a fee associated with any academic field trip, and it presents a hardship to any family, please contact an administrator for financial assistance.

Mount Pleasant Elementary School

After-School Clubs and Activities

Through a combination of parent leaders, teachers, and outside vendors, MPE is able to offer after- school clubs and activities to enhance learning and social opportunities for our students. Through the years, our after-school offerings have included Odyssey of the Mind, Soccer, Ready-Set-Run, Robotics, Elementary Basketball, Cheerleading, Girls on the Run, Drama, Lego League, Chess Club, Yoga, Spanish Club, and Yearbook. Many of these clubs and activities will be offered again this year as well as some new additions. Keep an eye out for flyers about upcoming activities for your students. Financial assistance is available for activities provided by outside vendors; contact Mr. Auerbach for more information.



Mount Pleasant Elementary School

DRESSED FOR SUCCESS – STUDENT DRESS CODE

Brandywine School District's Code of Dress for all elementary school students is required on the first day of school and each day thereafter.

Please be sure your child in dress code clothing every day. Students not in dress code will be asked to change their clothing into clothing from our clothes closet. Parents may be called to bring proper clothing to school if there are not items available in the closet.

Announcements will be made when there is a special dress down day. If you have any questions regarding the dress code, please contact the main office. Thank you.

Pants, skirts, jumpers, dresses, and shorts:

- Must be a solid color-only dark blue, black or khaki (tan) –NO DENIM/JEANS material or any other colors may be worn.
- All skirts, jumpers, and shorts must be no shorter than four inches above the knee (middle fingertip length when arm is at side)
- No jeans, sweatpants, sports pants, leggings, or track pants
- Bottoms must be free of graphics, rhinestones, and embroidery with the exception of small labels. They may not have any insignias, words, or pictures.

Tops:

- Must be solid color with sleeves and a collar(including turtlenecks)
- **Sweatshirts/sweaters(including hoodies) must be a solid color(NO pictures, writing, designs, etc.)**
- **No writing, pictures, stripes, polka dots, designs, or other patterns-** this includes shirts worn under other shirts that can be seen (for example a striped long-sleeved tee may NOT be worn under a solid colored short-sleeved polo so that the striped sleeves are visible)
- No undershirts or tank tops may be worn unless it is under a dress code shirt and is not visible
- MPE spirit Wear may be worn

Shoes Must be:

- Tied, buckled, or closed with Velcro
- No opened-toe shoes or backless shoes- (NO Flip Flops or clog like shoes)
- Sneakers are permitted every day & must be worn or brought in a bag on Phys. Ed Day

Mount Pleasant Elementary School

Other:

- Clothes must fit appropriately so as not to expose undergarments or the student's body.
- Hats, sweat bands, and other head coverings may not be worn inside the building-with the exception of religious purposes (documentation may be requested.)
- No make-up may be worn
- Large jewelry, belts, and key chains, etc. that may pose a safety issue or distraction are not allowed.

Student Day

Students will be permitted to enter the building beginning at 8:35 AM. Parents should be aware that prior to 8:35 AM, there is no supervision provided for students. Therefore, no students should be dropped off and left unattended.

Upon arrival, students should walk quietly to their classrooms and prepare for the school day.

Breakfast:

All MPE students are eligible to eat breakfast for free. Students in grades K-5 will get breakfast from a cart near their classroom and will eat in the classroom. This allows students to learn and socialize while nourishing their bodies and minds for the day.

Attendance

The law requires that a child be in school all days and hours school is in session unless the student has an excused absence. Excused absences include:

- Illness of the child
- Contagious disease within the home or of the pupil
- Death in the immediate family or of a close friend
- Legal business regarding the student
- Observance of a religious holiday
- Remedial health treatment

(continued on next page)

Mount Pleasant Elementary School

Absences for other reasons are classified as “unexcused.” After an absence, **the student must present a note to the teacher, written by the parent or legal guardian, within the first 5 days of the student returning to school.** (Please note: Family Vacations are NOT excused absences.) Specific attendance information can be found in the Brandywine School District’s Student Code of Conduct on the BSD webpage.

Tardiness

Being punctual is in your child’s best interest. Arrival after 8:50 AM is considered tardy; however, students are welcomed to school to learn at any time. A “Welcome to School” tardy pass should be obtained in the Main Office or from students who assist with this task in the main lobby. When a bus is late, students will NOT be marked tardy.

Early Dismissal

**** Early Dismissals will take place until 3:00pm. After this time, parents may wait for regular dismissal to begin.****

Should it be necessary for a student to be released from school before the regular time, the student must give the homeroom teacher a request signed by the parent or legal guardian. Verbal requests WILL NOT be honored without a signed, written request. The written request must state the time and reason for the early dismissal.

Parents/guardians picking up their child for early dismissal must go to the main office at the appropriate time. Upon parent arrival, the student will be called from his/her classroom to the office. Parents must then sign the student “out” on the appropriate form in the main office. Students will not be released to parents directly from the classroom or recess.

Bus Routine

Morning— Buses will enter and drop off students at the main entrance in the front of the school. *Please do not block the bus lane when arriving to school. Assigned staff will be present to monitor arrival and to assist children.

Afternoon— Following afternoon announcements, students will be escorted by staff members to their assigned buses. Should your child’s bus riding arrangements change, please supply written notification to your child’s teacher in a timely manner. Contact Brandywine School District’s Transportation Department at 762-7181 regarding any questions about bus schedules.

Mount Pleasant Elementary School

Student Arrival and Dismissal

Doors open at 8:35 AM—Students are marked tardy after 8:50 AM

All car rider students must be dropped off and picked up at the back entrance of our school building.

- Vehicles enter the car line from Brandywine Boulevard and must exit through the parking lot onto School House Lane.
- Once you enter our car line, cars are to “double up” using two lanes of ONE-WAY traffic during arrival and dismissal hours.
- Pull forward to the “Student Drop-Off Area” by the blue poles near the back entrance of the school. **DO NOT BLOCK CROSSWALKS.**
- Display your car line number card in your front car window and tell the staff member your child’s name. Do NOT write your child’s name on the card for their safety.
- School staff will be there to assist children into and out of the building from 8:30-8:45 a.m. and 3:15 -3:45 p.m.
- No adults will be permitted to enter the Cafeteria to retrieve their child during our car line procedure.
- If parents arrive after 8:45 a.m. or after 3:45 p.m., students will need to be signed in and/or out through the main office. Persistently late parents will be contacted by Administration.
- Car line numbers will be distributed to parents/guardians who request one after providing their ID. You may get one during our Back to School Night or through our Main Office once school begins.
- The Brandywine School District Office is located on the lower level of our school building. The parking lot to the left of our driveway is for District Office staff and visitors. Please keep a watchful eye for employees and visitors using the cross- walks to enter the District Office.

During the first 2-3 weeks of school, the car line procedure takes a little extra time. We thank you, in advance, for your patience and understanding.

Walkers & Bus Riders

- Walkers and bus riders will enter and exit through the main front doors. Staff will be present to supervise students
- beginning at 8:35 a.m. and throughout dismissal. (Bus & walker dismissal begins at 3:25 p.m.)

Please make every effort to have your child know or wear their bus number on the first day of school. Kindergarten teachers will be handing out labels at the Kindergarten Orientation on September 5th, identifying the name of the child, homeroom number, and whether or not the student rides the bus (including the bus number) and/or if they are a car rider.

Mount Pleasant Elementary School

After School Activity Pick-up

When picking up students from after school activities, please remain in the Main Entrance Lobby. The activity sponsor will bring the students to you for safe dismissal with an adult. Please arrive on time to pick up your children from after school activities. Persistent late pick-ups may result in your child being excluded from the activities.

Visitors

All visitors must enter through the front lobby and main office. All visitors **MUST** sign in at the main office where they will be required to present a picture ID. Using the new SWIPE system, a visitor name tag will be provided and must be worn while in the building. For the safety of our students, all staff members will remind visitors without a name tag to go to the office to sign in and get a name tag.

Mount Pleasant Elementary School

Emergency Response Information

School Closing/Late Opening

When school will not be open or will open later than usual due to inclement weather or other circumstances, a posting will be put on the Brandywine School District Website and announcements will be made on radio stations (WDEL, WSTW, WILM, WJBR, WMPH, and KYW). Listen for Brandywine School District; Mount Pleasant Elementary will not be mentioned. The district will make an attempt to notify the parents and guardians through an automated call system. Please do not call the school!

Brandywine School District Website:

(www.bandywineschools.org)

Emergency Dismissal

In the case of an emergency closing during the school day, the District will notify the parents and guardians through an automated phone system. The information on your child's emergency card and on file in the office should always be kept current. ***If there are any changes to the information, notify the school in writing (email is ok), so we may update your records.***

Parents should establish with their children prearranged plans for arriving home in the event of an early closing.

Fire & Emergency Drills

Mount Pleasant Elementary has a detailed crisis response plan to address a variety of emergency situations. MPE will have a fire drill each month. Every effort will be made to avoid extreme weather conditions; however, this is not always possible and your understanding is appreciated. MPE will hold three emergency drills each school year. These include situations such as a lock-down within the school or an evacuation to an alternate location. For safety purposes, all drills will be announced to students beforehand. Parents will also be notified of lock-down drills to help facilitate discussions about safety in school.

Automated Phone System

Brandywine School District uses an automated phone system to send important information quickly to parents via phone about district and school emergency situations, school delays and/or cancellations due to inclement weather and upcoming activities and events. At any time your contact information should change, you need to contact the school office to make necessary adjustments to the database.

Mount Pleasant Elementary School

Before and After School Care

Although MPE does not have its own after hours childcare, there are many options available for families.

The YMCA is on site at MPE, and the Bellevue Community Center (attached to our building) bring students to school and pick them up at the end of the day. Several other locations listed below may offer transportation to and from MPE. Contact a provider directly if you are interested.

- Brandywine YMCA ~ 302-478-9622
- Bellevue Community Center ~ 302-762-1391
- Wilmington Montessori School ~ 302-475-0555
- Jewish Community Center ~ 302-478-5660
- Learning Center at Calvary ~ 302-762-2226



Mount Pleasant Elementary School

School Nutrition Program

Our school cafeteria provides free nutritionally balanced breakfasts and lunches each day. Menus are posted monthly. Should your child bring his/her lunch from home, we suggest it contain NO gum, soda, candy, or excessive sweets. Milk may be purchased at school. NO glass containers are permitted in school.

POS (Point of Sale) Registers

The School Nutrition Department uses a computerized/register system that allows users to: track all purchases during meal times, maintain a history of all student transactions, alert cashiers when a student has a food intolerance or allergy, etc. Students will use their assigned Student ID number as their meal pin number. This ID number will remain with the student until he/she graduates, including, transferring to another school in the district.

The keypad diagram will help your child memorize his/her six-digit Student ID number. The diagram is the format your child will use daily. After your child proceeds through the meal line, he/she will enter his/her six-digit Student ID number on the keypad. Your child can practice entering his/her number on the diagram. Your assistance in helping your child memorize the Student ID number will increase the speed of the breakfast and lunch line. If you need your child's six-digit Student ID number, please contact the office at 762-7120.

1	2	3	Clear
4	5	6	
7	8	9	Enter
*	0	#	

Mount Pleasant Elementary School

Student Performance & Academic Policies Standards-Based Grading System



Conferences

Frequent parent/teacher consultations throughout the school year are recommended to promote and maintain effective communication between home and school. These conferences may involve both telephone conversations as well as in-person contacts. District-wide conferences are held three times each year, but a parent or teacher may schedule additional conferences as the need arises. The Principal or Assistant Principal will attend parent/teacher conferences upon request. If you desire a conference with your child's teacher, please call the School Office or send a note with your child. Brandywine Elementary Schools use a **standards-based grading system**. One purpose of standards-based grading is to align grading with the state standards as measured by consistent and accurate student achievement data and common criteria for grading. Another purpose is to accurately communicate achievement towards these standards to students, parents and educators. The effect of work habits on student learning is reported separately from the academics in a category called Qualities of a Learner.

Honor Roll

The traditional concept of an Honor Roll does not match up with the intent of Standards-Based Grading. Therefore, Brandywine School District will be eliminating Honor Roll for students in elementary school. However, that does not mean our school does not believe in recognizing students for their academic and character accomplishments and growth. Mount Pleasant staff plan quarterly awards assemblies to recognize students who show positive growth in student character and academics.

Interim Reports and Report Cards

There will be four reporting periods during the school year. Interims will be distributed in the second, third, and fourth marking periods. Report cards will be distributed to students for the first three marking periods. The final report card will be mailed home following the end of the school year in June.

Promotion Policy

The classroom teacher will make every effort to keep you informed of your child's academic and social progress throughout the year. You will be notified in early spring of the possibility of retention, and a conference will be scheduled with you to discuss this

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decision. The Principal will make the final decision about retention after communication with you has taken place. Criteria for promotion is explained in the Code of Student Conduct, found on the Brandywine School District Web- site.

Student Records

Cumulative folders containing each student's permanent school records are housed in the School Office. They include test results, report cards, registration forms, and any other necessary information such as Court Orders. Parents can gain access to their children's records by contacting the school secretary and scheduling a time for reviewing the cumulative folder. Folders may not be transported outside the office for review purposes, and written consent from parent(s)/guardian(s) is required before records can be sent anywhere.

Homework Policy

Homework serves to reinforce and supplement the in-class lesson while developing independent study habits. Homework supports student achievement and reinforces learning both at school and home. Please speak with your child's homeroom teacher if you have any questions about how to support your child with homework.

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Behavior Expectations

The Brandywine School District is dedicated to creating a learning environment conducive to developing each student's potential for learning. To achieve this, students, parents, staff and the community must share the responsibility for encouraging orderly, constructive student behavior. The Brandywine School District maintains an Elementary School Code of Student Conduct describing student rights, student responsibilities, prohibited conduct, and consequences for violations of the Code for students in the District.

A copy of the Brandywine School District Elementary Code of Conduct / Student Procedure and Student Rights and Responsibilities will be sent home with each student at the beginning of the school year. Parents are reminded to carefully read, review and discuss this document with their child, and sign and return the card acknowledging receipt. The Elementary Code of Student Conduct will also be reviewed with each student.

It is the expectation that Mount Pleasant students will follow the school wide "Three to Be" and be responsible, respectful, and safe at all times and in all locations. Our students will also have to follow the Brandywine School District Student Code of Conduct while at school or school-sponsored events (such as field trips). Students will be taught the behavioral expectations for all areas of the school:

- Classrooms
- Common areas— cafeteria, offices, hallways, multipurpose room
- Restrooms
- Recess
- School Bus

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Nurse Notes Direct Line—762-7110

At Mount Pleasant Elementary, good health habits are emphasized so our students may participate fully in the learning experience. Children do not perform at high levels if they are experiencing symptoms related to colds, flu, upset stomach, vomiting, fever, chicken pox, etc. Therefore, we ask that you do not send your child to school if s/he is not in good health on any given day. No child should be sent to school with a fever (>100) or until his/her temperature has been normal for at least 24 hours after any illness without using fever reducing medications. Should your child develop an illness or an elevation of temperature during the school day, the school nurse will phone you or the person you designate on the student emergency card to inform you of his/her condition, and to request that you come to school to pick up your child.

Medication



All medication should be brought in to the nurse by the parent/guardian in the original container with the pharmacy label. The school nurse will dispense non-prescription medicines provided the medication is in the original container with detailed dosage information and parent/guardian signature. Please contact the school nurse for additional information and questions.

Health Screenings

As part of our health screening process, our school nurse will periodically examine children. Eyesight, hearing, skin and scalp will be checked. Abnormalities will be reported to you along with recommendations for follow-up care.

Health Concerns

It is important that the school nurse be made aware of any special health problems, allergies, dietary needs, etc. about your child. We are committed to providing a medically safe and healthy environment for our students.