



MUHLENBERG  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

# news



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## Congratulations MUHLENBERG CLASS OF 2023

Commencement for the graduating Class of 2023 was held on June 7, 2023 at the Santander Arena. The 366 seniors in the Class of 2023 have excelled in academics, athletics, the arts, and community service. The Class of 2023 has earned more than 2.2 million dollars in scholarship monies to various universities and colleges across the United States. 78% of this graduating class will be attending universities, colleges, community colleges, technical and trade schools, or the military. 56% of the Class of 2023 are first generation college students. 32% of the Class of 2023 attended the Reading/Muhlenberg Career and Technical Center. 27% of the seniors who attend the RMCTC will be entering the workforce in the area in which they studied over the last 3 years.

On behalf of the administration and faculty of Muhlenberg High School, we wish the Class of 2023 the very best as they enter this new chapter of their lives.



## School Resource Police Officers

The Muhlenberg School District, Laureldale Police Department and Muhlenberg Township Police Department conducted numerous discussions regarding the needs of our district. This joint effort led to the agreement between the district and Muhlenberg Township to provide our campus with two police officers commencing the 2023-2024 school year. This upgrade in security will consist of two full-time School Resource Officers that will be present on campus every day during school hours and continued attendance at school events. With today's society, the district understands the need for police presence and is without a doubt, committed to the safety of the entire district and community.

—Dr. Joseph E. Macharola

# Our Responsibility for the Students and Our Nation

## Dear Muhlenberg School District Community Members:

The Muhlenberg School District has provided enriching learning opportunities for generations. Our history continues to be the cornerstone for continuous improvement. You will see the power of education in the thousands of students whom have graduated from the Muhlenberg School District. Our mission and role in American society has never been more important than it is today. We know by continuously investing in quality programs and technology that our children K-12, unquestionably, will have the proper tools to prepare them for their future. This is only a portion of the incredible responsibility in delivering instruction and teaching social and emotional skills to cope with society's demands and prepare children to be productive citizens.

The Muhlenberg School District is a beautiful and inspiring blend of children from all parts of the world and from multi-dimensional backgrounds. Our keystone in reaching our children, with all of the tools and materials in consideration, is the human spirit from teachers, staff and administrators who care about our children.

The 2023-2024 school year will be 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 is embarking on aggressive and robust building projects over the next seven years. This is primarily due to an additional 700 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 4,311 and our cultural diversity from 35% to 75% minority. 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 over the past ten years which have resulted in tremendous opportunities for our children. These opportunities include literacy, math, science and mental health initiatives which have resulted in new programs in the district. We have a new literacy pilot program commencing next 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 RMCTC continue to emerge with another all-time high number of Muhlenberg School District students attending the CTC over the past two years. The Air Force JROTC program has completed its sixth year with over 600 cadets experiencing the importance of service, knowledge, integrity, character, and pride and respect for the greatest country on earth, the United States of America.

The Muhlenberg School District has an incredible responsibility to invest and grow our children academically, socially, and productively with care and respect. Our rich cultural enrollment only stands for the hope and promise for all children to pursue the American dream. I wish you the very best in the spirit of the Muhlenberg School District.

*Dr. Joseph E. Macharola*  
SUPERINTENDENT

# Nuestra Responsabilidad Para Nuestros Estudiantes y Nuestra Nación

## Estimados Miembros de la Comunidad del Distrito Escolar de Muhlenberg:

El Distrito Escolar de Muhlenberg ha proporcionado oportunidades de aprendizaje enriquecedoras durante generaciones. Nuestra historia sigue siendo la piedra angular para la mejora continua. Usted verá el poder de la educación en los miles de estudiantes que se han graduado del Distrito Escolar de Muhlenberg. Nuestra misión y papel en la sociedad americana nunca ha sido más importante que hoy. Sabemos que invirtiendo continuamente en programas de calidad y tecnología, nuestros niños K-12, indiscutiblemente, tendrán las herramientas adecuadas para prepararlos para su futuro. Esto es sólo una parte de la increíble responsabilidad de impartir instrucción y enseñar habilidades sociales y emocionales para hacer frente a las demandas de la sociedad y preparar a los niños para ser ciudadanos productivos.

El Distrito Escolar de Muhlenberg es una hermosa e inspiradora mezcla de niños de todas partes del mundo y de orígenes multidimensionales. Nuestra piedra angular para llegar a nuestros niños, con todas las herramientas y materiales en consideración, es el espíritu humano de los maestros, el personal y los administradores que se preocupan por nuestros niños.

El año escolar 2023-2024 será un tiempo emocionante para la comunidad de Muhlenberg. Usted verá esto en nuestro 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 está embarcando en proyectos de construcción agresivos y robustos durante los próximos siete años. Esto se debe principalmente a los 700 estudiantes adicionales matriculados en nuestro sistema escolar y se llevará a cabo en varias fases. La diferencia entre nuestra comunidad y el distrito escolar es bastante sorprendente cuando se revisan las estadísticas de los últimos diez años. Se trata principalmente de un aumento en la matrícula de 3,506 a 4,311 y nuestra diversidad

cultural del 35% al 75% de minorías. El distrito cae bajo un Programa de Elegibilidad de la Comunidad que proporciona nutrición para 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.

En nuestro sitio web encontrará pruebas claras de iniciativas anteriores del distrito de los últimos diez años que han dado lugar a enormes oportunidades para nuestros niños. Estas oportunidades incluyen iniciativas de alfabetización, matemáticas, ciencias y salud mental que han dado lugar a nuevos programas en el distrito. Tenemos un nuevo programa piloto de alfabetización que comenzará el próximo año escolar. Hemos invertido millones de dólares en tecnología junto con una iniciativa emergente de capacidades uno a uno para nuestros niños en el nivel secundario. Los caminos de la tecnología de la carrera para nuestros estudiantes de la escuela secundaria que asisten al RMCTC continúan emergiendo con otro número sin precedentes de estudiantes del Distrito Escolar de Muhlenberg que asisten al CTC en los últimos dos años. El programa JROTC de la Fuerza Aérea ha completado su sexto año con más de 600 cadetes experimentando la importancia del servicio, el conocimiento, la integridad, el carácter y el orgullo y el respeto por el país más grande de la tierra, los Estados Unidos de América.

El Distrito Escolar de Muhlenberg tiene la increíble responsabilidad de invertir y hacer crecer a nuestros niños académica, social y productivamente con cuidado y respeto. Nuestra rica inscripción cultural sólo representa la esperanza y la promesa para todos los niños de perseguir el sueño americano. Les deseo lo mejor en el espíritu del Distrito Escolar de Muhlenberg.

*Dr. Joseph E. Macharola*  
SUPERINTENDENTE



## Recursos Escolares de los Oficiales de la Policía

El Distrito Escolar de Muhlenberg, el Departamento de Policía de Laureldale y el Departamento de Policía del Municipio de Muhlenberg llevaron a cabo numerosas discusiones con respecto a las necesidades de nuestro distrito. Este esfuerzo conjunto condujo al acuerdo entre el distrito y el municipio de Muhlenberg para proporcionar a nuestro recinto con dos oficiales de policía a partir del año escolar 2023-2024. Esta mejora en la seguridad consistirá en dos Oficiales de Recursos Escolares a tiempo completo que estarán presentes en el recinto todos los días durante el horario escolar y la asistencia continua a los eventos escolares. Con la sociedad actual, el distrito entiende la necesidad de la presencia policial y está, sin duda, comprometida con la seguridad de todo el distrito y la comunidad.

—Dr. Joseph E. Macharola





**NOLDE FOREST CREW!**

## What's happening at Muhlenberg Elementary Center?



**DAVINCI CENTER**

Wow, what a great year it's been here at Muhlenberg Elementary Center (MEC)! Our students had wonderful learning opportunities in the classroom throughout the school year. Thanks to the great success of fundraisers sponsored by MEC Student Council, we have been able to enrich the learning of our students with in-house presentations and field trips to local attractions.

In the beginning of the school year, Barn Hill Preserve visited our kindergarteners for a personal experience with different types of animals. Students loved learning about owls and other amazing creatures. Kindergarten students also experienced the great outdoors during a trip to Berks Nature in April. Students participated in four outdoor activities including a scavenger hunt and a playground. The

Nature Play Zone encouraged children to explore and engage in unstructured free play.

In March, first graders visited The Crayola Experience for a day filled with creative and interactive play. First-grade artists had the opportunity to create many art projects throughout the day including drip art with melted crayons and sculptures with Model Magic. Students also named and wrapped their own crayon and starred in their own coloring page. At the end of the school year, first graders will also visit the Temple Greenhouse to enrich their learning of the plant life cycle.

Second grade students visited the DaVinci Center in November. Science came to life for our second-grade scientists thanks to the many amazing hands-on exhibits. Students discovered



**BERKS NATURE**



**ALL ABILITIES**

Newton's Second Law of Motion, experienced a hurricane simulator, and learned how the human eye adapts and works in the darkness. During the month of April, second graders saw a turtle, snake, iguana, and other reptiles when the Lehigh Valley Zoo visited MEC. The students learned about the animals' habitats, survival skills, diet, and defense mechanisms.

Earlier this school year, presenters from Nolde Forest visited MEC to teach our third-grade students about birds and adaptations. After the visits to MEC, students went to Nolde Forest to search for birds and enjoy a nature walk. As the school year winds down, third grade students are looking forward to the end of year picnic celebration at the Temple Playground. We are looking forward to making more



**THE CRAYOLA EXPERIENCE**

memories with this group of students before they go to C.E. Cole for fourth grade.

Some of our MEC students had the opportunity to visit All Abilities. Students participated in

many fun activities including a play roller coaster and steamroller hug machine. While on the field trip, students also had a delicious snack and colored cookies. Every single student had an incredible experience on this trip.





# MARCH MADNESS



At C.E. Cole Intermediate School, students had the opportunity to participate in a unique March Madness competition. Homerooms were challenged to work together to earn “March Madness” points for displays of positive behavior. Students could earn five (5) points for their class for lunch behavior, classroom behavior, and hallway behavior. They even had the opportunity to earn the coveted 10 points for “Caught by an Administrator.” The grade level that received the most points was invited to attend and play in a students vs. faculty basketball game. The winning homerooms in each grade level were able to “Pie an Administrator.”

On April 19, the March Madness game commenced with the 4th

Grade in attendance. Before the game, a representative from each homeroom winner picked an administrator to pie in the face. The highest-earning homerooms were 6th Grade (**Mr. Fair**), 5th Grade (**Mrs. Sager**), and 4th Grade (**Mrs. Quillman**). Mr. Fair and Mrs. Sager’s representatives decided to pie **Mr. Reiniger** in the face, much to **Mrs. Bellanca’s** delight. Mrs. Quillman’s representative went rogue and pied Mrs. Quillman in the face! Representatives from the 4th Grade class were selected to play on the faculty team made up of administrators, specialists, and 4th Grade teachers. The faculty did not take it easy on the 4th graders. There were many steals, blocks, and 3-point shots! A blast was had by everyone, both playing and cheering! We are looking



forward to many more fun events like this!

Next up for C.E. Cole and its positive behavior initiative is the Sizzlin' Summer individual incentive challenge. Students will earn dojo points for positive behavior from now until the end of the school year. Randomly, announcements will be made for various point totals for students to receive awards. Awards will vary, and students will never know what or when they will happen. Examples of possible rewards include extra recess, pizza parties, ice cream, and more. We already had one reward at the end of the first week. A donut party was rewarded to the classes that had earned the most points so far. Those classes were **Mrs. Franzone**, **Mrs. Kemmerer**, and **Mrs. Wallace**. We cannot wait to reward more students for showing positive behaviors at school and making our school community a better place.







## AFJROTC Change of Command Ceremony and Accolades



On Tuesday, April 25 the AFJROTC Change of Command Ceremony took place. Alpha Kourouma took Command of Unit PA-20172. Above, left to right, **Alyssa Hoffman**, **Alpha Kourouma**, **Major Campbell**, **Sarah Love** and **Katrina Mirville**.



AFJROTC cadets received more than 600 local and national level awards at the Military Ball and Awards Ceremony held on Thursday, May 4, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Reading. Above center, **Alex Molina** receiving his Tuskegee Airman Award from **Mr. Skeete**.





Fifth graders collaborate to solve a reading mystery.



Second graders worked together to learn more about parts of speech.

# M Springstyle 2023



First graders learned more about dinosaurs and shared pictures of their favorites.

For the second year, the Muhlenberg School District ran MSD Springstyle 2023. This program invited our K-12 students to stay after school for additional education opportunities. More than 275 students registered for this fun and enriching learning experience. Thirty teachers from across the district worked with these students over the course of the eight-week program from February until April. All students were provided with a snack and spent time working on social-emotional skills through cooperative learning activities and engaging content. Students in grades K-2 worked on early reading skills. Students in grades 3-8 focused on test prep for the upcoming PSSA assessments. Students in grades 9-12 chose



Frank Ranaudo shares his project with his fifth grade group.

to stay either for credit recovery or Keystone test prep. MSD teachers built relationships with their students while providing captivating lessons.



Second Grade Students work on beginning sounds with a board game.



MUHLENBERG JUNIOR  
HIGH SCHOOL

## WHAT IF I FALL? OH, BUT MY DARLING, WHAT IF YOU FLY?

The Junior High Aavidum Club worked hard to create a *Wing Mural*, with the help of almost every student in the building! Every student had the opportunity to design their own unique feather to add their personal touch to the mural. The mural adds a burst of color, warmth and hope to the building as well as promotes inclusivity and diversity to the building.







## Student-Run Volunteer Club

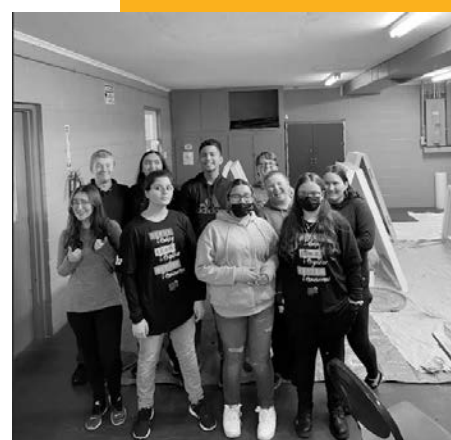
The Volunteer Club at the Muhlenberg Junior High School (MJHS) is a student-run club where the students pick an area in the community they are passionate about supporting and create a project in



order to do so. In the past, the Volunteer Club collected hygiene items, toys, coloring books, fidgets, and more to fill stockings for kids during Christmas time. The students of the Volunteer Club also collected hundreds of cans that went to Helping Harvest, as well as using those cans to make a very cool structure.

This year, with the help of **Mr. Keller** and **Ms. Konopelski**, most projects have involved supporting Muhlenberg's parks. So far this year, the Volunteer Club has helped clear the South Temple Playground of leaves and trash, as well as repaint the event stands that go up all

over Muhlenberg's parks to advertise for upcoming events. They will be returning to help the Muhlenberg Parks Department one last time this year to plant trees! In addition to all the wonderful outdoor volunteer opportunities the club has had, the students also put together a book drive, where all donated books went to Opportunity House's Second Street Learning Center. The Volunteer Club has a group of very passionate students who are always willing to better their community. We are always looking for new members, so if you have a passion for helping your community, come and check out Muhlenberg Junior High School's Volunteer Club!





Congratulations to artist **Michelle Bofill**. Her winning poster was displayed on a billboard on MSD's campus on Fifth Street Highway.

Muhlenberg High School took part in a campaign for healthy relationships that gave students the chance to submit posters emphasizing the value of healthy relationships.

MSD partnered with Jan's Circle of Friends to provide the top three winners with a prize!







High School Avidum students presented to the MSD school board about activities at the high school and things to look forward to in the district.



MSD social workers met the keynote speaker, **Admiral Rachel L. Levine**, Assistant Secretary for Health for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, during the 19th annual Community Forum of the Kutztown University Department of Social Work on March 3, 2023.



Members of MHS Leo Club volunteered at New Journey Community Outreach Soup Kitchen.



We invited motivational speaker **Reggie Dabbs** to Muhlenberg School District so that our kids and staff may focus on improving their futures rather than concentrating on their pasts.

Reggie's message is that today's youth should continue to focus on optimism despite the unprecedented pressures, hurts, and decisions they may be facing. The objective is to keep our school environment positive.



Students partnered with the Reading Muhlenberg CTC horticultural class to create beautiful floral arrangements that students could take home and give their loved ones on Valentine's Day.

Working alongside WASD art teacher Mr. Michael Miller putting together a mural for the city of Reading.







In March 2023 during Read Across America, our high school Aavidum students visited Muhlenberg Elementary Center.



They had a great time getting to know and interacting with our second and third graders.



MHS National Honors Society current and new members.





# Muhlympics







Aavidum Hero Awards honor MSD staff members who go above and beyond.



These educators and staff check in with students to make sure they know they always have their support. Students nominate educators and once a month they surprise MSD staff with Hero Awards.

Recent HERO recipients from top to bottom:

**Mr. Pumphrey,**  
Science Teacher;

**Mr. Seisler,**  
Art Teacher;

**Mr. Wolfe,**  
Custodial Supervisor.







Aevidum students needed an end of the year pick-me-up; so they created a "Not feeling dandy? Have Some Cotton Candy" fundraiser.



"Feeling a little torn no worries have some popcorn!" Students provided popcorn as a treat on the way out the door this spring.



Each Friday, students help deliver Helping Harvest bags to students in need.



Our students attend a mental health conference at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Reading.





C.E. Cole Intermediate Student Council visited with MSD Board Members at their May meeting.



MJHS Student Council visited with MSD Board Members at their April meeting.

## Muhlenberg Community Library Summer Programs

**Muhlenberg Community Library's Summer Quest 2023, All Together Now**, runs June 10 through August 12, 2023.

Summer Quest registration will begin on June 10 in the library. BINGO tracking and activity sheets will be available for babies and young children being read to by parents, school-aged children, teens and adults. Complete reading and activity challenges, participate in special programming and earn tickets for the End of Summer Carnival to win prizes! Make a summer to remember when we all get together!

Summer Quest participation and programs are free and open to all ages! Summer reading programs are a fun way to prevent the "summer slide," wherein students can lose gains that they made in the previous school year. The library programming is designed to be fun and educational, while encouraging children to continue to read.

### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

**June 24 at 2:30 p.m.** | Learn to play your own bucket drum and how beats vary across cultures with Philadelphia's Music Play Patrol.

**August 3 at 10 a.m.** | Enjoy an interactive performance of *Commedia Prince and the Pauper* by the Yocum Institute for Arts Education.

**August 12** | End of Summer Carnival, (Time TBA.) All tracking sheets should be turned in by August 10 to receive tickets that can be redeemed during the carnival for games and prizes!

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**  
**[muhlenbergcommunitylibrary.org](https://muhlenbergcommunitylibrary.org)**, for updated information about Summer Quest, print-at-home tracking sheets, and a full events schedule.

**Muhlenberg Community Library** is located at 3612 Kutztown Road, Laureldale. Summer hours are Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

## MUHLENBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT MULTI-CLASS REUNION

All Muhlenberg alumni are invited to join us at the **ANNUAL MUHLENBERG MULTI-CLASS REUNION** to be held on Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 12 p.m. We will meet at the Evergreen German Club just off Route 7. The price of admission is \$3.00. Food and drinks will be available all day. This will give you a chance to spend time with former classmates and teachers. There is plenty of parking and seating under large pavilions. We look forward to renewing former friendships and acquaintances. Questions? Please contact Bill Sandel 610-921-2620.

GRADUATION  
WEBSITE  
FOR THE  
CLASS OF 2024.

LET'S CONNECT!



<https://sites.google.com/muhlsdk12.net/graduation>



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## RESIDENT

**www.muhlsdk12.org**

**Deadline for next newsletter is  
September 29, 2023**

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.

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:

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