



# Murray Avenue SCHOOL



## Welcome to Murray Avenue School!

Included in this packet is information for parents and students about the daily operation of the school; programs and services; extracurricular activities; and student and parent online accounts.

### Murray Avenue Office Staff

Principal – Ms. Jennifer Dilks [jdilks@lmtsd.org](mailto:jdilks@lmtsd.org)

Assistant Principal – Mr. Michael Bourdreau [mbourdreau@lmtsd.org](mailto:mbourdreau@lmtsd.org)

Guidance Counselor – Ms. Linda Helm [lhelm@lmtsd.org](mailto:lhelm@lmtsd.org)

Community Counselor – Mrs. Peg Kreutzer [pkreutzer@lmtsd.org](mailto:pkreutzer@lmtsd.org)

School Nurse – Mrs. Donna Liberg [dliberg@lmtsd.org](mailto:dliberg@lmtsd.org)

### Murray Avenue School Office Information

**Office Hours:** 7:45 am to 4:00 pm

**School hours:** 8:05 am and 2:55 pm

**Administrative Assistants:** Ms. Tish Mangan and Ms. Nyoka Toler

**Office phone number:** 215-938-0230

To access more information, visit the district website at [www.lmtsd.org](http://www.lmtsd.org).

### District Email & Voicemail

All district employees can be emailed using the first initial and last name of the staff member [@lmtsd.org](mailto:@lmtsd.org). You can leave messages on our voicemail system when classes are not in session.

### Virtual Backpack

In an effort to effectively communicate information from school to home, the district posts all non-profit flyers to the Lower Moreland Township School District's Virtual Backpack. The Virtual Backpack can be found on the district's home page and includes Murray Avenue School announcements, PTA announcements, supply lists, nurse's forms, and frequently used forms. Sharing school and community information in this way supports the district's efforts to "go green" while keeping families informed of the many school/community activities available.

To access the Virtual Backpack, go to the district website at [www.lmtsd.org](http://www.lmtsd.org). Click on the Virtual Backpack icon located to the right of the Upcoming Events banner in the middle of the page.

### Parent & Student Accounts

#### Parent Information

On the district website is a tab for parents located in the top right corner. This webpage includes links to various district resources including the district calendar, e-school home access center, transportation information, Lower Moreland Enrichment program, sports information and student lunch accounts.

**Lunch Accounts** – Families can load money and view account balances for their student's lunch account through the online portal, [www.mylunchmoney.com](http://www.mylunchmoney.com).

## Home Access Center

Parents can view their child's academic progress, school attendance, emergency medical information, transportation schedule, report cards and interim progress reports through the Home Access Center. Parents are assigned user names and passwords and are given instructions on how to access the district's student information system. The information for all students in the household is accessible through a single user name and password. Please note that students are not allowed to obtain parent username and password information.

For further information or to receive your user name and password, contact the main office at 215-938-0230.

**To log into the Home Access Center go to [www.lmtsd.org](http://www.lmtsd.org). On the main webpage click on the 'Home Access' link located to the right of the 'Upcoming Events' banner in the center of the page.**

## Information Students Can Access

On the district website is a tab for students located at the top right corner. This webpage includes links to various district resources including:

**Follett Destiny:** Destiny is a web-based, district-wide library browser. Students can use their username and password to log onto Destiny to check their accounts, make book selections, and save lists of books. It is accessible from any browser with Internet access and can be accessed through the web at [www.library.lmtsd.org](http://www.library.lmtsd.org).

**Virtual Locker:** Students are provided with network storage inside of the district. A Virtual Locker allows secure storage and collaboration of documents for academic purposes. It is accessible from any browser with Internet access and will be accessed through the web at [www.vlocker.lmtsd.org](http://www.vlocker.lmtsd.org) or under the Student Tab of the district website.

## Library

Our school library is open every morning and has extended hours after school for students on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You can access school files from home by using the "student" tab on the website. A summer reading list is available online.

### Library resources students can access from home:

Resource	Log-in	Password
Britannica Online School Edition	lions	Lion
Culture Grams	murrayhome	valley
World Conflicts Today	murray	valley
Power Library (Access PA)	The number on the back of your Huntingdon Valley library card	

## Student Access to eSchool Home Access Center

Students can also view their grades, report cards and interim progress reports through the Home Access Center. Students' assigned username and password for their computer login should be used to login to the Home Access Center. Students can receive their user name and password from the main office, the librarian or the computer teacher.

**Summer Assignments** – Students can complete optional review exercises in math or language arts. To order these review workbooks, information is listed in the Virtual Backpack. We also provide a suggested summer reading list for each grade level that can be found through the library webpage. Go to [www.lmtsd.org](http://www.lmtsd.org), click on Murray Avenue at the top left drop down menu, and then go to the library tab located in the middle banner on the Murray Avenue homepage.

## **Murray Avenue Arrival & Dismissal**

**Busses use the bus lanes in the front of the school. Cars are not allowed in the bus lanes.**

For safety concerns, all parents dropping off or picking up their child must use the lower lot.

Students who are permitted to walk home from school must have a note on file in the office or a note for the specific day when permission is granted. Any change in routine requires a note sent to the office.

Murray Avenue School doors open at **7:50 am**. Students will be allowed in the building before **8:05 am** with a teacher note. At **8:05 am** students are to report directly to their lockers and then report to their homeroom for attendance.

## **Murray Avenue Security**

Mr. Allen Freeman is our security greeter. Students arriving after **8:05 am** need to report to the greeter with a note explaining the reason for lateness. If the student will be leaving school early, a note explaining the reason must be sent to the office. The note must have the name of the person authorized to pick up the student. Anyone picking up a student is required to report to the main office to sign out the student (s).

## **Absence from School**

Parents/guardians must report an absence by calling the attendance line before **7:45 am**. If the office has not received a call excusing the student, you will receive a Connect-Ed call to report your child's absence. All absences must be validated by completing a BLUE CARD within 5 school days or the absence will become unlawful. BLUE CARDS can be faxed or emailed. They are available in the Virtual Backpack online.

## **Important Health Information**

State *mandated* physical exams are required for Grade 6 students and a dental examination is required for Grade 7 students. All forms must be turned into the nurse and can be found on the Virtual Backpack. Every student will receive health screenings each year. These screenings include: vision, height, weight and BMI screenings. In addition, students in Grade 6 and 7 will have scoliosis screenings. Hearing screenings are also completed in Grade 7.

**PA State Immunization Requirements have changed for the 2011-2012 school year.** All students must have 2 varivax (chicken pox) immunizations or a history of the disease. Students in Grade 7 must have a Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) if more than 5 years have passed since their last tetanus shot and one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV). Documentation for all immunizations must be given to the school nurse before the first day of school. Parents do have the option of filing for a religious or medical exemption for these mandated immunizations. A letter from the parent or doctor must be on file with the nurse if you want to file for an exemption.

## **Student Support Services**

Murray Avenue students have the opportunity to receive support from our guidance counselor, the community counselor, the school nurse, our Instructional Support Team (IST), our Student Assistance Program (SAP), reading and math intervention, Homework Club, and if needed, English as a Second Language support, and Special Education support. Contact our guidance counselor if you have questions about any of these services.

## **Progress Reports, Report Cards & Parent Conferences**

Interim progress reports are sent home mid-quarter and report cards are issued at the end of each marking period. Parent conferences are held twice a year in the fall and spring or by parent or teacher request during the school year.



## Student Schedules

Students' schedules include:

### Sixth Grade

Homeroom  
Language Arts—2 periods  
Math—2 periods  
Science  
Social Studies

#### Specials:

Health  
P.E.  
Gen. Music  
Band  
Chorus  
Art  
Computer Science

### Seventh Grade

Homeroom  
English  
Math  
Science  
Social Studies  
World Language or Reading

#### Specials:

Health  
P.E.  
Gen. Music  
Band  
Chorus  
Art  
Graphic Design  
Computer Science.

### Eighth Grade

Homeroom  
English  
Math  
Science  
Social Studies  
World Language or Reading

#### Specials:

Health  
P.E.  
Gen. Music  
Band  
Chorus  
Art  
Graphic Design  
Computer Science - Robotics



## Murray Avenue School Community Responsibilities

As a member of the Murray Avenue School community, our students will be expected to:

1. Respect themselves and others
2. Respect property
3. Act with integrity
4. Be a productive member of our school community

## Anti-Bullying Program

**We provide anti-bullying programming by grade level throughout the school year.**

Our school rules related to anti-bullying include the following:

1. We will not bully others.
2. We will try to help students who are bullied.
3. We will try to include students who are left out.
4. If we know that somebody is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.

Students can report any type of bullying or harassment to the principal, assistant principal, teachers, counselors, coaches, parents and/or friends.

Students and families have access to Bullying/Harassment Reporting Forms. They are available on the school website, counselors' websites, and in the office. Anonymous reporting "boxes" are available on each floor.

## Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct is located in the front of the Student Agenda book. The code applies in school, at the bus stops, on the bus, and at any school sponsored event outside the school day. There are three levels of student misconduct with a range of consequences.

- **Cell Phone/Electronics Policy**

Electronic devices should be **OFF** and **not visible**. Students may NOT use any electronic devices during the school day. We should not be able to see or hear cell phones. Even if a student is sick, he/she must visit the school nurse. **Students may not contact their parents using their cell phones.** The nurse will contact the parent/guardian.

- **Bells & Hall Passes**

Our bell system allows for students to have 3 minutes passing time between classes. The students will be allowed a grace

period for the first two weeks of school to learn how to move between their classes on time. Students must have a hall pass from their teacher to move in the hallways or to leave a classroom or a specified area.

- **Locker Expectations**

Students are assigned two lockers. They are responsible for keeping their locker combinations private. All lockers must be kept clean, closed and LOCKED. Students can visit lockers only before/after school, lunch, and specials.



## **School Activities & Programs**

Students have the opportunity to be involved in the many clubs and activities offered here at Murray Avenue School. Late busses run Monday through Thursday for students in After School Activities.

### **Sports & Intramural Activities:**

**Fall Sports:** Field Hockey  
Soccer

**Winter Sports:** Basketball  
Wrestling

**Spring Sports:** Baseball  
Track  
Softball

**All students must have a completed PIAA physical form in order to try out for a team.** Fall sports begin in mid-late September. PIAA forms can be found in the Virtual Backpack or in the main office. Students **may not** participate in try outs or be on a team without a completed form **signed by a doctor and a parent.**

### **Intramural Sports:**

Intramural sports will be offered after school in the upper gym from **3:00 pm – 3:45 pm**. Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 that are interested are welcome. Look for schedules of activities each season.

### **Student Club/Activity Opportunities:**

Art Club  
German Club  
Newspaper  
Yearbook

Band  
Interact Club  
Robotics Club

Chamber Strings  
Jazz Band  
Science Club

Chorus  
Math League  
String Orchestra

Drama Club  
Media Club  
Student Council

In addition to these activities, students can also get involved in:

- Principal's Advisory Council
- Student Lounge
- School Store
- Monthly Spirit Days
- Sports Night
- Ski & Snow-board Trip
- Ultimate Challenge –Basketball game Teachers vs. Students
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade Skating Parties
- 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> grade Dances

## **PTA**

Murray Avenue PTA is used to strengthen the relationship between home, school and community. It is the goal of the district to have every family feel they are a welcomed and needed part of the PTA. Parents are welcome to join the PTA meetings throughout the year. There are both day and evening meetings. Dates and times may be found on the district calendar. There is a small fee per family to join. Your membership for PTA supports a wide range of activities and programs.