

# MARS AREA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

August/September 2018

## Welcome Back MAE Students!

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year. As we begin this exciting school year, communication will be a key aspect to the continued success here at the Mars Area Elementary School. The MAE Newsletter will be a great source for all the important news and events taking place here at the Mars Area Elementary School. The MAE Newsletter will be e-mailed home and posted on the district website at the beginning of each month.



### Student Pictures

Students may have their pictures taken this year by district staff for a variety of reasons and may be posted on the district website, district social media outlets and even published in the newspaper. If you would like your child to ***not*** be photographed, please submit your request in writing to your child's classroom teacher. If you have any questions, please contact the MAE Office at 724-625-3161.



### Student Vacations/Educational Trips

Students missing school due to a vacation must obtain a vacation form from the school office. Students may not miss more than 10 consecutive school days.

Students are not to be excused for more than two vacations/educational trips within a single school year. Vacation forms must be submitted to the Elementary School office at least 2 weeks prior to departure. If the proper application is not completed, the absence will be considered an unexcused absence.



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## Volunteers

MAE is a very busy place, and we can always use an extra set of hands! Volunteers serving in all District Schools must comply with Mars Area School District Policy 916, which clearly defines roles and requirements for parent/guardians and community members interested in volunteering in our schools. Policy 916 establishes the following three categories for volunteers:

1. Assistive Volunteers
2. Independent Volunteers
3. Volunteer Coaches/Sponsors

To view the definitions of each type of volunteer and the requirements to serve as a volunteer, please consult the MAE handbook. You can find the handbook on the Mars Area School District Website, [www.marsk12.org](http://www.marsk12.org) under the Elementary School page. All volunteers are based on a need by the classroom teacher, not all classroom teachers require volunteers in their classroom.



## Important Bus Information

Students are not permitted to ride home on buses that they are not assigned to ride. Emergency exceptions will be permitted and will be determined by Mr. Lape. If permission is granted, that student will receive a bus slip to ride the bus. All bus drivers are aware and will enforce this requirement.



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## Cafeteria Information

Lunches are available for purchase for all MAE students. Students buying lunches may pay for them by the day, week, month, or for the entire school year. The cafeteria accepts cash or checks made out to the Mars Area Cafeteria Fund. Create an account for your child online. Online payment plans are available at MySchoolBucks.com. You will need your child's six-digit District ID number that can be provided by your classroom teacher or accessed through your skyward account.

MySchoolBucks.com:

- Check balances and make payments for your child's account from your computer, phone, or fax
- Sign up for low balance email notifications
- Prepay for your child's school breakfast, lunch, and individual food items using your credit card- THERE IS A FEE FOR THIS SERVICE. There is no fee if you prepay to the school cafeteria.
- Access your child's spending history

NO PEANUT BUTTER will be served in the Mars Area Elementary School, but children are permitted to have peanut butter in the lunches they bring from home.

## Cafeteria Prices

Breakfast with Milk: \$1.00

Lunch with Milk: \$2.80

Milk Only: \$0.65



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## Classroom Disruptions

Please help minimize classroom disruptions! The office will not phone classrooms to report forgotten items such as books, lunches, gym shoes, or homework.

During a break throughout the day, teachers will inquire in the office to see if any items are present in the office. Students will then have an opportunity to stop in the office during transitions to claim their item(s). Please note that lunches must be delivered to the MAE office by 10:45 a.m. Lunches will be delivered to the cafeteria in time for your child's lunch period.

Lunches will NOT be accepted after 10:45 a.m.

Students will have an opportunity to buy a lunch and pay for the lunch the following day. Students will NOT go without a lunch. Thank you for your help with this matter!



## Birthday/Party Treats

No food or treat of any type are permitted into the classroom during classroom birthday celebrations or class parties. There are three options for parents wanting to celebrate their child's birthday in the classroom:

1. Read a book to your child's class
2. Donate a book to the library in your child's name
3. 10 minutes of extra recess for the class that day

## Student Drop-Off

Parents wishing to drop-off their child at school will do so by accessing the drop-off area in the back of the elementary school via Three Degree Road and Doc's Way. Students will need to be able to exit the vehicle on their own. Parents will not be permitted to exit the vehicle in the drop-off line to open the door for their child. Parents will not be permitted to walk their child to the doors at the drop-off location. If parents feel the need to walk their child to the front doors, they will need to park in the parking lot in the front of the elementary school and walk to the front doors of the building.

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## Student Pick up

If you will be picking up your child from the Mars Area Elementary School, **you will need to send a note every day that you will be picking up your child.** If your child does not have a note, they will be put on the bus during dismissal. Pick up occurs at the cafeteria entrance to the Elementary School, which is located in the front of the building. Parents will park, exit their car, line up on the ramp in front of the cafeteria and walk to the cafeteria doors to physically sign out their child. District staff will be present when you are signing out our child.

## Dates to Remember

September 3 – No School – Labor Day

September 5 – Grades 2, 3, 4 Parent Orientation (6-8 PM **Parents Only**)

September 13 – Mars Area Elementary School Pictures

October 3 – PTO Sponsored Fundraiser “March for Mars”

October 8 – No School – Teacher In-Service Day

October 22-26 – Scholastic Book Fair

