



View our district's calendar by going to our website.

Under the "District Info" tab. Click on 2014-2015 School Calendar.

#### CONTACTING US

**High School:**  
570-368-2611

**McCall:**  
570-368-2441

**Loyalsock Valley:**  
570-435-0446

**Lyter:**  
570-368-2614



### School Bus Stop Change Requests

Request for changes in school bus stops and requests for additional bus stops for the 2015-2016 school year must be made before July 1, 2015, in accordance with district policy. Requests must be made in writing to Mr. Robert Saul, Business Manager, Montoursville Area School District, 50 N Arch Street, Montoursville, PA 17754.

## Montoursville Area School District

*"Home of the Warriors"*

# THE MESSENGER

[www.montoursville.k12.pa.us](http://www.montoursville.k12.pa.us) April/May/June/July

## Message from the Superintendent

Residents of the Montoursville Area School District, I hope this edition of the newsletter finds you well and ready for spring weather. As you will see as you read through this newsletter, our district has been extremely busy engaging our students in many different facets of their education including rigorous academic challenges and exciting opportunities in athletics and the fine arts. We hope that you will find time to join our students this spring and, perhaps, take in a ball game or maybe a musical performance. I am sure you will be amazed by the talent you see. As always, I encourage you to visit our webpage to stay current with all our school district news at [www.montoursville.k12.pa.us](http://www.montoursville.k12.pa.us).

We are preparing for the class of 2015 to take that exciting walk to receive their diplomas. Commencement will take place on June 4, 2015 at 7 p.m. I am looking forward to congratulating this great group of seniors and feel confident they will accomplish amazing things.

Congratulations to those Montoursville Area School District employees who have decided to retire at the end of this school year. Jennifer Freund, sixth grade teacher, C. E. McCall Middle School, retired in January with 15 years of service. Susan Umstead, special education teacher, Loyalsock Valley Elementary School, will retire with 27 years of service. Michelle Hopkins, English teacher, Montoursville Area High School, will retire with 26 years of service. Rhonda Schreiter, remedial reading teacher, Lyter Elementary School, will retire with 35 years of service. Cheryl Lucas, English teacher, C. E. McCall Middle School, will retire with 15 years of service. Roseanne Stroup, elementary teacher, Lyter Elementary School, will retire with 32 years of service. Ralph Kepner, night custodian, Lyter Elementary School, will retire with 35 years of service. On behalf of the faculty, staff, administration and school board, congratulations and

board, congratulations and thank you to these tremendous individuals for their dedication to public education.

In recent weeks, there has been lots of discussion regarding the proposed high school additions and renovations project. Included in this edition of the newsletter, please find a fact sheet regarding this project and a list of frequently asked questions about this project. Detailed information about this project can be found on our webpage under the district info tab drop down "building project".

Please check out the insert

It is my hope that you are all finally able to be outside and enjoy the spring weather. My hope is after the long and cold winter, you are ready for your children to spend time after school participating in sports and other outside activities. This year has been a very exciting year for our department. We have been able to successfully implement many new programs and services for our students with disabilities. It is my hope that as parents, you have found our improvement in services and programs as successful for your child. Highlights from this year include:

- Site based gifted programs for all students in the school district.
- Continued professional development opportunities for special education staff in looking at specific disabilities (autism)
- Students participating in transition activities through the Employability Day in Lycoming County
- Implementation of a 3:1 Communication Facilitation Model for our students receiving speech and language support services.
- Working with building level and district level administrators to improve our RTII programs through adjustments made to the Tiered instructional programs
- Improved model of communication with parents to make the IEP meetings more meaningful and provide more valuable dialogue with parents to discuss students' strengths and weaknesses.
- Students participating in work opportunities through local businesses to prepare for transitions after high school (EXPLORE Program)
- Assist in the development of graduation plans from a statewide assessment perspective so all students with disabilities have a graduation plan in place by the end of their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year.

This is just a few of the many positive things that have occurred during the 2014-2015 school year. Please understand that all of the accomplishments could not be possible without your continued support as parents and the partnerships we have made with businesses in the community. I want to continue to thank you for your continued support to the district and to your children this year. As you can see, this has been a very successful school year for the students in our department and the district as a whole.

I wish each of you a safe and enjoyable summer with your family.

## **Classroom Assignments for 2015-16:**

Classroom assignment letters for 2015-16 will be available Friday, August 7, 2015. Students and/or their parents may pick up the letters at the Loyalsock Valley/Lyter Elementary School offices between the hours of 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Letters that have not been picked up by the close of business Monday, August 10, 2015, will be mailed to the student's home address. **Parents are once again asked not to submit letters of request this year.** Classroom assignments are determined by careful consultation between the principal, previous grade teachers, and counselor.

## **The Valley & Lyter Elementary Schools would like to thank...**

*The Faith United Methodist Church...* for its support in once again offering to fund the summer Kinder Camp program at the Valley and Lyter. The program will be held for the ninth consecutive year this summer. Kindergarten teachers use pre-Kindergarten screenings and parental feedback to identify incoming students that would benefit from this program which assists certain students in adapting with the transition into kindergarten.

- May 6 - 4th Gr Spring Concert at LV  
7:00pm  
School Nurse Appreciation Day
- May 25 - No School for Memorial Day
- May 28 - Fitness Day at LV
- June 4 - Last Day of School for students  
(11:10am Dismissal)



## Which Came First? The Chicken or the Egg?

The students in Mr. Adams' 4<sup>th</sup> grade class will be studying embryology throughout the month of April by hatching and raising chickens in their classroom. The students will begin by learning all about the incubator and the incubation process. They will also dissect eggs learning the various parts, and how those parts end up turning into a live, baby chicken. Before the eggs hatch, the kids will "candle" the egg, which means they will actually see the embryo moving around inside the shell long before it hatches. If you get a chance, stop by and take a "PEEP"!!!

## Box Tops for Education- Spring Drive

The Valley PTO conducted its second Box Tops for Education Collection Drive of the school year March 16-27, 2015. Box Tops provide an easy way for the school to earn money for school activities and supplies. There is no selling involved, just the simple clipping and collecting of General Mills products with the "Box Tops for Education" logo, and sending those pieces to the school. The school, in turn, receives money for each collected Box Top. Anyone can collect and donate Box Tops to the school. The Fall contest earned more than \$1,000 for the PTO to purchase supplies for the classrooms.

Target department stores, Giant grocery stores, and Campbell's Soup also have a school rewards programs. If you have a Target card or Giant super-market card, you can designate funds to come to the school as well. Additionally the PTO continues to collect Campbell's Soup can labels. Thank you to everyone for your assistance with these programs that benefit our students.



*To All Valley Parents and Volunteers...*for volunteering your time and support throughout the year. The staff could not do its job as effectively as it does without your assistance throughout the year. From chaperoning special events or trips, supporting fundraisers, helping as a classroom volunteer, sponsoring assembly programs, and the countless hours spent supporting your child's growth throughout the year, we all say THANK YOU! The Valley is truly blessed to have supportive parents like all of you

# Lyter Calendar & News

## APRIL

- 18 - "Daddy/Daughter Dance (6:30 P.M.-Lyter Gym)
- 19 - Lyter's Day at Hoss's
- 21 thru 23 Mathematics PSSA (grades 3 & 4)
- 24 - County Chorus Concert at Troy
- 28 & 29 - Science PSSA (grade 4)

## MAY

- 1 - Law Day Celebration at the Lycoming Co Court House
- 1 - Kindergarten travels to the C.A.C. to watch "Wild Katts"
- 5 - Gifted Students to the Computer Fair at Penn College
- 7 - Spring Chorus Concert ( 7:00pm)
- 14 - Grade 1 travels to the Montour Preserve
- 15 - Spring Fling (3:30 P.M. – 7:30pm)
- 19 - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Fair
- 21 - Kindergarten travels to Camp Susque
- 22 - Crazy Socks Day
- 27 - Kindergarten Screening
- 27 - Grade 2 travels to Penn's Cave
- 28 - Grade 1 Play (7:00 P.M.)
- 29 - Rock/Roll/Read

## JUNE

- 1 - Grade 4 travels to Knoebel's Grove
- 3 - Annual picnic sponsored by the P.T.O.
- 4 - Awards Ceremony (9:00 A.M.)

## *National Geographic Geography Bee at Lyter*

For the ninth year, fourth graders at Lyter Elementary School participated in the National Geographic Geography Bee. This competition is open to all students in grades four through eight. The eight students who made it to the school finals were Aidan Connor, Michael Dincher, Dalton Doane, Ryan Evans, Connor Imbro, Christian Smith, Emily Rakestraw, and Haley Wilde. The finals took place in front of the entire school with Connor Imbro being crowned the school champion. Congratulations to all the students on a job well done!



## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual McCall Science Fair Winners

C.E. McCall Middle School held its annual science fair on February 10<sup>th</sup>. 60 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in the event. The fair emphasized science inquiry and investigative techniques while encouraging parent and community involvement and fun.

Students participated in one of three categories. Investigations must have used the scientific method to solve a problem or answer a question. Models involved the exhibition of a scientific principle or creation with moving parts. The third category is the Display in which students researched a topic and demonstrated their knowledge.

Secondary Education students from Lock Haven University judged the student projects. Each project was evaluated on a list of prerequisite criteria by multiple judges.

The winners received awards including Amazon Gift Cards provided by the McCall Parent-Teacher Organization and an Excell Tutoring Services Gift Certificate for a Summer Science Camp. Treats were given throughout the day from Auntie Anne's, Dunkin Donuts, Faxon Bowling Lanes, Montoursville OIP, Subway, and Wendy's Montoursville.

The 2015 winners included: In the Investigation category, Jared Holmes, "Hydrophobic Sand: Make Your Own Magic Sand" earned 1<sup>st</sup> place. 2<sup>nd</sup> place Cortney Houseknecht "Does Doodling While Learning Help Improve Memory?". 3<sup>rd</sup> place Julia Mertes, "Does Age Affect People's Memory?". In the Model category, the 1<sup>st</sup> place was earned by Braden Cott, "Homemade Solar Cell". 2<sup>nd</sup> place Jacob Anderson, "The Engine". 3<sup>rd</sup> place Kurtis Johnson, "Electrolysis of Water". In the Display category, Quentin Hill, "Conservation: Biology of Bats" earned 1<sup>st</sup> place. 2<sup>nd</sup> place Alex McWilliams, "Orange Egg Yolks". 3<sup>rd</sup> place Dawson Alexander, "The Earth's Demise".

### **Knitting Entrepreneur**

Mrs. Elser's 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade discovery knitting classes have been a huge hit the last couple of years. Students make scarves, hats and dishcloths. This year students had the opportunity to use knitting looms, both in the discovery classes and regular FCS classes. Lydia Albert learned how to make baby booties in December, and returned to school after Christmas break with a bag full of booties! Originally motivated by the desire to have booties for her simulator baby, she now makes them in her spare time and sells them for a small donation. Lydia is willing to take custom orders for both baby booties and baby hats. Orders can be placed with Lydia, Mrs. Albert in the guidance office at the high school, or with Mrs. Elser in room 142 at the middle school.



For the 27<sup>th</sup> year, the National Geographic Society is holding the National Geographic Bee for students in fourth through eighth grades in thousands of school across the United States and in the five U.S. territories as well as in the Department of Defense Schools around the world.

The champion of the C.E. McCall Middle School Bee will advance to the next level of the competition, a written examination to determine state competitors. All school champions are eligible to win the national championship and its first prize, a \$50,000 college scholarship, at the national competition May 11-13, 2015 in Washington, D.C.

The McCall Middle School Social Studies Department would like to Congratulate Ben Kutay, the winner of this year's National Geographic school level Geography Bee.

We would also like to recognize the students who finished in the top 31 of the school wide bee:

Grade 5 - Lanie Mussina, Raya Pauling, Kamryn Pryor, Noah Shaffer Grade 6 - Jacob Foster, Alexandra Le-Crone, Peyton Mussina, Danae Newell Grade 7 - Julia Bradley, Colin Gorini, Travis Johnson, Alex McWilliams, Julia Mertes, London Mussina, Angelo Silvagni, Jake Simms, Jacob Twardowski, Jonathan Twardowski Grade 8 - Isaac Barrett, Alex Bohlin, Zac Caseman, Emma Cihanowyz, Brett Fausey, Paden Frey, Jared Holmes, Emma Klepper, Ben Kutay, Bekah Lundy, Hunter Moyer, Devon Robinson, Katie See

# Montoursville Area High School Additions and Renovations Project

*"An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest."*  
Benjamin Franklin

## PROJECT FACT SHEET

23 NEW CLASSROOMS / 6 RENOVATED CLASSROOMS

7 NEW SCIENCE LABS

4 NEW COMPUTER LABS

2 NEW ART CLASSROOMS

NEW LIBRARY / MEDIA CENTER

NEW MUSIC DEPARTMENT / BAND AND CHORAL AREAS

2 FLEX CLASSROOMS 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY BREAK OUT AREAS

LARGE GROUP INSTRUCTION/PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT / COMMUNITY MEETING SPACE

NEW 900 SEAT AUDITORIUM WITH "BLACK BOX" AREA

NEW CAFETERIA AND KITCHEN

IMPROVED SECURITY / ONE MAIN SECURE ENTRANCE

NEW HIGH EFFICIENCY HVAC SYSTEM

NEW TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS TO MEET 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY  
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

NEW BUS LOOP FOR IMPROVED SAFETY

84 ADDITIONAL PARKING SPACES

PROJECT SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED SUMMER 2017

TOTAL MAXIMUM PROJECT COST \$36 MILLION



Front Entrance



A smaller building footprint allows the district to address ongoing parking concerns by adding 84 new parking spaces. The smaller footprint also provides a safer location for loading and unloading school buses in a designated bus loop within the site rather than on the public street.





Sample Image

7 Modern science labs to deliver Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science and Physics

Modern library /media center equipped with educational technologies and flex learning spaces for group projects and collaboration.



Sample Image



Sample Image

Flexible Learning Space

#### 4 Modern Computer Labs

2 general use labs

1 business lab

1 library lab



Sample Image

## **Montoursville Area High School – Additions and Renovations Project**

### **How did the school district determine the need for a project?**

- In November 2013, the school district hired Crabtree, Rohrbaugh and Associates Architects to conduct a facilities study. The goal of the study was to examine all facilities within the school district. The content and sequence of the study followed the requirements published by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, which must be met in order for the district to submit for state reimbursement through the PlanCon process.

### **What is PlanCon?**

- When a school district undertakes a major construction project and seeks reimbursement from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a process known as PlanCon is initiated. PlanCon, an acronym for Planning and Construction Workbook, is a set of forms and procedures used to apply through the PA Department of Education for Commonwealth reimbursement. The PlanCon process is designed to: (1) document a local school district's planning process; (2) provide justification for a project to the public; (3) ascertain compliance with state laws and regulations; and (4) establish the level of state participation in the cost of the project.

### **How was the Architect selected?**

- In November 2013, the school board interviewed three architectural firms; Crabtree, Rohrbaugh and Associates Architects, Foreman Architects and The Hunt Group Architects. Crabtree, Rohrbaugh and Associates Architects were selected. This firm has an extensive K-12 education portfolio in Pennsylvania and has been named a top 250 firm by Architectural Record and a top 500 design firm by Engineering News-Record.

### **How does this project benefit the education of our students?**

- Provide students a learning environment that is full of natural light, in adequately sized classrooms, that can be properly temperature controlled with adequate air quality.
- Provide enough science labs to deliver science curricula in Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, and Physics.
- A new library/media center to provide technology and space for group projects in all subject areas.
- A new auditorium/black box theater to accommodate growing programs in band, chorus, and theatre arts.
- A black box theatre within the auditorium to provide a drama classroom for students.
- Auxiliary gymnasium to combine the wellness center, weight room and floor space to deliver a complete physical education program. This space will also be utilized after school hours for athletic practices.
- Flex classroom space such, as a cyber café, to provide areas for students to work together outside of a traditional classroom environment.
- Computer labs to provide the necessary technology to deliver foreign language classes, multiple business classes, writing instruction and technology education.
- Updated family and consumer science lab to provide students with life skills for after high school.

### **Is it true that some areas of the district will pay more?**

- All regions of the school district pay the same millage rate. The assessed value of your particular parcel determines the amount you pay. As an example, the “average” assessed property in Cascade Township is \$68,120 which is less than the average assessed value of a home in the Borough of Montoursville at \$127,601, so the 2015 tax impact for the “average” Borough of Montoursville property is \$43.38 and the 2015 tax impact on the “average” Cascade Township property is \$23.16.

Municipality	Total Taxable Assessment	Taxable Parcels	Average Assessment	Tax Increase at 0.34 mills for FY ending 2016
Cascade	24,114,530	354	68,120	\$23.16
Eldred	114,540,500	928	123,427	\$41.97
Fairfield	210,062,050	1,437	146,181	\$49.70

Gamble	49,677,770	553	89,833	\$30.54
Montoursville	257,116,940	2,015	127,601	\$43.38
Plunketts Creek	47,781,100	654	73,060	\$24.84
Upper Fairfield	99,127,050	907	109,291	\$37.16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>802,419,940</b>	<b>6,848</b>	<b>117,176</b>	<b>Average \$39.84</b>

*(Assessment data provided by the Lycoming County Assessment Office on 1/28/2015)*

#### **How will this project affect taxes?**

- The overall millage needed to fund this project is 1.9 mills phased in over a 6 year period. The average assessed home value in our district is \$117,176. The proposed millage increase for the fiscal year ending 2016 (school real estate taxes issued on July 1, 2015) needed to fund the project are 0.34 mills, which equates to a \$39.84 increase for the average assessed property. Below is a chart showing the millage phase-in structure.  
*(Assessment data provided by the Lycoming County Assessment Office on 1/28/2015)*

<u>Fiscal year ending:</u>	<u>Millage increase</u>	<u>Note:</u>
2015	0.36 mills	Already in place
2016	0.34 mills	Year noted above
2017	0.32 mills	
2018	0.32 mills	
2019	0.32 mills	
2020	0.24 mills	

#### **How will this project impact my taxes?**

To determine the impact of the proposed high school construction on your individual real estate tax use the tax calculator below.

1. Locate your Assessed Value on your School Real Estate Tax notice (the school real estate tax notice is issued in July and looks similar to the picture below).



MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
MONTOURSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

TAX PAYER COPY

Bill No: 001  
Duplicate No: 0001

PAYABLE TO: MONTOURSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DIST  
TO: PO BOX 4456  
LANCASTER PA 17604-4456

DESC: ASSESS.NO -000000  
MAP NO: 34 -0000-0000 - 000

ACRES .200 DEED 00000/00000  
100 N ARCH ST

34+,000.0-0000.00-000+  
RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

TAX PAYER SAMPLE TAX BILL  
100 N ARCH ST  
MONTOURSVILLE PA 17754-2503

Control No: 340-000000

### 2014 Statement of Real Estate Taxes

Bill Date: 7/01/2014

Assessed Land	Improvement	Mineral			
Values 22,490	95,370	0		117,860	
Homestead Exclusion				9,537-	
MONTOURSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DIST			Discount	Face	Penalty
Rates .01387000	.01387000		2 %		10 %
SCHOOL			1,602.03	1,634.72	1,798.19
Homestead Credit				132.28-	
TAX AMOUNT DUE ----->			\$1,472.39	\$1,502.44	\$1,652.68
If Paid On or After			7/01/2014	9/01/2014	11/01/2014
If Paid On or Before			8/31/2014	10/31/2014	12/31/2014

FOR INFORMATION CALL 570-368-7564

TAXES WILL BE RETURNED FOR COLLECTION IF THEY ARE NOT  
PAID IN FULL BY DECEMBER 31, 2014. FOR A RECEIPT, ENCLOSE  
THIS COUPON AND A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE.

1415100412014016000000063300014723900015024400016526818

<Detach Here>

- If your property qualified for a Homestead Exclusion, this will be listed under the Total Assessed Value. The Homestead Exclusion amount should be subtracted from the total assessment as noted in the tax calculator below. If your property did not qualify for a Homestead Exclusion, an amount will not be listed under the Total Assessed Value and you should enter 0 in the Homestead Exclusion line of the tax calculator.

	SAMPLE CALCULATION	ENTER YOUR INFORMATION
Total Assessed Value:	117,860	
LESS: Homestead Exclusion	- 9,537	-
Taxable Assessment:	= 108,323	=
Tax Rate Increase (0.34 mills)	X 0.00034	X 0.00034
2015-2016 Tax Increase	= \$36.83	=

### Does our district have the highest or lowest millage rate in our area?

- Our district falls in the middle when compared with other school districts located all or partially in Lycoming County.

<b><u>District</u></b>	<b><u>Millage</u></b>
Jersey Shore	15.9869
Williamsport	15.2600
Southern Tioga	14.9421
South Williamsport	14.3000
Canton	14.0273
<b>Montoursville</b>	<b>13.8700</b>
Muncy	13.6300
Wellsboro	13.6200
Loyalsock	13.2500
Montgomery	12.8500
East Lycoming	12.3700

#### **How was information about this project made public?**

- Beginning in the fall of 2013, project information was made public through our website at [www.montoursville.k12.pa.us](http://www.montoursville.k12.pa.us), and at public board meetings, public work sessions and in numerous media outlets, including newspaper articles, TV news stories, district newsletter and the advertised Act 34 public hearing held on February 20, 2015.

#### **What is the Black Box Theater?**

- The black box theater is a portion of the auditorium seating area that incorporates flexible, retractable seats and a moveable divider wall to create a multifunctional space for the High School and community. The auditorium seats retract and can be repositioned around an area on the floor for smaller performances. The black box theater is just one use for this space. This area will also be used as a large classroom, open multi-purpose room, practice performance space, and many other general purpose educational uses. Utilizing a "black box" design will allow the auditorium space to be utilized as part of our everyday instructional program and not just a space that is utilized for concerts and theater programing.

#### **What is the cost of the Black Box Theater?**

- Since the space designated as the black box theater is located within the footprint of the auditorium seating space, no additional square footage is added for this function. The only additional costs are for an operable partition dividing the auditorium into two spaces, retractable audience seating versus fixed audience seating, and theatrical rigging for the performance space. The costs of these items are estimated at \$265,000. The cost to build a separate black box theater separate from the auditorium is estimated at \$850,000 and would be cost prohibitive.

#### **What is the purpose of the Auxiliary Gymnasium?**

- An auxiliary gymnasium is a small gym utilized for physical education classes and athletic practices. It does not include spectator seating and is not meant to hold competitions.
- The Montoursville Area School District recognizes that adequate space for Physical Education classes and athletic teams are essential in providing our students and community with opportunities to stay physically healthy and physically active. Participation in extra-curricular activities provides our students with life lessons and skills that the everyday classroom cannot provide. In addition, over the years, the number of athletic teams and number of students participating on those teams have dramatically increased. In 1971, we had approximately 8 athletic teams, today we have 17. The need for an auxiliary gym has been present for many years, but until now a solution has never been provided.

#### **What is the cost of the Auxiliary Gymnasium?**

- The major renovations slated to occur would convert the existing library and fitness center into an Auxiliary Gymnasium include demolition of existing walls and ceilings, replacement of flooring, and addition of Physical Education equipment (3 basketball goals, 2 retractable batting cages, and a divider curtain). The costs of these renovations are estimated at \$245,000.

### **The plans show a cyber café, what is that?**

- The plans show a flexible learning space labeled “cyber café”. This is a space designated for students to gather for collaborative discussions and project work. This space simply has seating in a common area with wireless internet capability. The only cost associated with this space is student seating.

### **Does the State favor new construction over renovations of existing buildings?**

- No. 80% of school construction projects that are reimbursed by the Commonwealth involve work on existing buildings.

### **What type of project receives greater reimbursement from the State: renovations or new construction?**

- The Commonwealth provides 10% additional reimbursement for projects that renovate existing buildings, in whole or part.
- The current High School plan will receive the additional 10% reimbursement since it is renovating part of the existing building.

### **How is reimbursement calculated?**

- Reimbursement is based on the student capacity of a planned school, which can be justified by current or projected student enrollment.
- Classroom capacity is calculated on the basis of 25 students per regular classroom (other values are assigned to laboratories, gymnasiums, art rooms, music rooms, etc.)

### **Why does the Student Capacity exceed the Student Enrollment?**

- For the purposes of reimbursement, the student capacity of the existing school is 1,091 and the planned school is 1,040.
- The quantity of educational spaces and the resultant student capacity calculation is used as a basis for reimbursement; it does not represent realistic student capacity since it is based on every educational space being 100% full. This is the reason why the student capacity of most schools typically exceeds the student enrollment.
- For example, many advanced placement classes have significantly less than 25 students, not all classrooms are 100% full, therefore more classrooms are required to house a given number of students. The more classrooms, the higher the student capacity since the state reimbursement calculation only recognizes 25 students per classroom.

### **Is there a recommended square footage for a typical classroom?**

- To receive reimbursement, classrooms must be 660 square feet or larger. Any room smaller than 660 SF is considered sub-standard and does not receive reimbursement from the state.
- For a High School, 800 SF is considered an acceptable standard in most states.
- One-third of the classrooms in the existing school are less than 800 SF
- All new classrooms in the planned school are approx. 800 SF

### **What is the size of our existing and planned schools?**

### **What is the percentage of Educational Space in both?**

- Existing School size = 199,390 SF
- Planned School Size = 214,118 SF (7% increase)
- Existing School net educational space = 69,725 SF
- Planned School net educational space = 129,629 SF (86% increase)

- The planned school is 7% larger than the existing building but provides 86% more educational space. The efficiency of the planned school provides significantly more educational program opportunity in a building that is approx. 15,000 SF larger.

**What did the \$22 million Renovation-Only option include?**

- This option included major mechanical, electrical and plumbing system replacement and or repair and architectural upgrades to flooring, ceilings, windows, casework, hardware, limited roofing replacement, limited structural repair and very limited space reconfiguration.
- This cost estimate did not include any space or educational configuration changes.
- This cost estimate did not include any changes to the site plan and did not allow for additional parking or on-site bus loop.

**Did any options include keeping the original 1931 stone structure?**

- The facility study provided two options that would keep the original stone building. Option 1 at an estimated cost of \$37,872,746. This option required moving the football stadium and track to a different location on the same site, at an additional cost of \$3,864,672 for a total cost of \$41,737,418. Option 2 at an estimated cost of \$42,674,841. This option required renovations of the stadium to include a new track and synthetic turf at an additional cost of \$1,932,336 due to this option using the current practice fields and outdoor physical education space, for a total cost of \$44,607,177. Details regarding all 5 options can be found on our webpage under the district info tab, drop down building project, July 8, 2014 Final Study Presentation.

**If the District changes direction and plans for a different project, what are some potential outcomes?**

- **Loss of \$3.6 million of state reimbursement.** The budget proposed by Governor Wolf implements a moratorium on reimbursement for school construction projects starting on or after July 2015. Changing the project now would potentially take enough time to miss the July deadline.
- **Loss of \$2 million state grant.** The currently planned project is designed to be LEED Gold in order to qualify for an Alternative and Clean Energy Program grant. A lesser project will not achieve the gold status and result in a loss of grant eligibility.
- **Loss of current construction cost advantage.** Based on historic construction cost escalation, projects completed in the future will cost more. The average of the past 4 years is 3.1%. Using this average cost escalation, the current project cost would increase by \$1.1 million if bid one year later. ( $\$36 \text{ million} \times 3.1\% = \$1.1 \text{ million}$ )

Construction Cost Increase per year *	
Year	Increase
2014	2.9%
2013	2.4%
2012	3.9%
2011	3.3%
2010	-0.7%
2009	6.5%
2008	4.0%
2007	5.8%
2006	6.5%
2005	12.1%
2004	1.9%
* source: RSMeans	

- **Loss of current low interest rates on financing.** According to recent news reports, interest rates are predicted to increase during the latter part of 2015. If construction is delayed, the result will most likely cause an increase in the total financing cost.

## Ag Mobile

From March 16 to the 20<sup>th</sup> kids from Loyalsock Valley and Lyter Elementary school came to the Montoursville High School to visit the Ag Mobile Trailer behind the Agriculture classroom. The kids get to learn about where their food/products that they use every day come from. There are posters on the walls in trailer that have examples of products and uses of a farm animal or a crop. Each day the kids did a different activity like making crayons. As an Ag student, I hope that we can educate the young more about Agriculture. You need a doctor, a dentist and a lawyer once in your life. But every day, for the rest of your life you need a farmer.



## Montoursville FFA

Throughout the year, there are so many memories made in the FFA. We get to go on agricultural related trips such as the Bloomsburg Fair, the PA Farm Show and the Environthon. The Environthon is a county wide contest where we compete against other schools in different categories like forestry, soil, aquatics and wildlife. We also go out to Mr. Hepburn Farm, to participate in Ag Day. Ag day is where FFA students set up different stations that teach about different Agriculture topics such as cattle, sheep, forestry etc. Elementary kids come and rotate to the different stations to learn about agriculture and nature. We also get to enjoy lunches at the end of each month down in the Agriculture classroom. All of this wouldn't happen without Mr. Hepburn. He doesn't only teach us about Agriculture, he teaches us about life. Walking out of the class room we will have memories and life friends that last forever.

-Fallyn Russell, Reporter of the Montoursville FFA Chapter

### YEARBOOK INFORMATION

The deadline for reserving a 2015 yearbook was March 31. However, a small number of extras were ordered, so if you would like one of these extras, send in payment as soon as possible. If we run out of extras, your money will be refunded. The price is \$75 (checks payable to "MHS Yearbook"). Plastic covers are also available for \$2 more.

Ad space may still be available for business or "Grad Ads." Call or email to find out how much space is left.

Plastic Warrior license plates are still available. They are blue and yellow and read "**Montoursville Warriors With Spirit and Pride.**" The price is \$7. They would make a great gift for graduating seniors to put on vehicles or in dorm rooms, etc. Call ahead your order so it can be ready for you to pick up in the high school office.

Information about the ordering yearbooks or ordering a license plate is available online at <http://www.montoursville.k12.pa.us/webpages/myearbook/> or you may email Mrs. Wentzler at [cwentzler@montoursville.k12.pa.us](mailto:cwentzler@montoursville.k12.pa.us) or call and leave a message at 368-2611 with any questions about yearbooks, past or present.

## High School Aviation Gains Support Students Are Reminded to Enroll in Next Year's Class

Montoursville High School's Transportation Technology/Aviation class has gained important local support from Energy Aviation at Williamsport Regional Airport. Energy Aviation is the local FBO (Fixed Base Operator) or service station for airplanes at Williamsport. Manager Jim Taylor, Jr. and Flight Instructor (Montoursville Aviation Program Graduate) Alex Minium came up with the idea of having a pancake breakfast every third Saturday of the month beginning in March at the airport facility. While considered a "fly-in" event for the aviation community, it is also a "drive-in" encouraged event for those who enjoy good food and fellowship in an airport setting. All profits from the breakfasts go to support the flight portion of the high school program. Students from the class participate by helping with cooking and serving at the breakfast and in return earn time with a certified flight instructor in a training aircraft from Energy. Program instructors Chris Liddic and Harry Boyer count this as a wonderful opportunity for the students to be exposed to the aviation community. What a wonderful way to spend a Saturday morning each month. Come out and support the program with your presence and take advantage of Energy Aviation's sky rides and aviation related activities that they have planned for the upcoming months. The breakfast runs from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. every third Saturday of the month. For answers to questions concerning the events, call Energy Aviation at 570-368-8651. Directions to Energy Aviation: Travel south on Loyalsock Ave. to Williamsport Regional Airport. At the end of Loyalsock Ave., turn right and continue around the end of the runway on the access road leading to the executive terminal parking lot. Follow the signs through the fence gate to the hangar breakfast area.

In a related item, make sure that if you are a student in grade 10, 11 or 12 and are interested in aviation, sign up for the Transportation Technology/Aviation class for next year. The class meets after school on Monday's, during the school year, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Young men and women are both encouraged to sign up. Take a look at the class description in the high school course selection guide.

# More News From The High School...

## Think Of Us When You Spring Clean!

Before throwing things away, think about donating them to the Montoursville High School art department.

Cookie cutters – any design or holiday  
Rubber stamps- any design or holiday  
Electrical wire (copper) 3"+ in length  
Metal bottle caps  
Jewelry findings, glass beads, old costume jewelry, etc.  
Leather or suede pieces –1" x 8" or larger  
Embroidery floss  
Masonite or thin plywood – 8 ½" x 11" or larger



Items can be dropped off at the high school office. Thank you for supporting the MAHS Art Department!

## High School Students Participate in C o m p e t i t i o n

Sophomore Isaac Miller and senior Kendra Parke participated in Pennsylvania School Press Association's, or PSPA's, Student Journalism Competition at Penn State University's Carnegie Hall, the home of its College of Communications. Miller and Parke qualified for the March 6 state-level competition after placing first in the regional level in News Writing and News Features Writing, respectively.

The competition, which, according to PSPA, included the "Pennsylvania's most elite" student journalists, allowed Miller and Parke to participate in a press conference with Penn State football quarterback Christian Hackenberg and wide receiver DaeSean Hamilton.

Miller is a news writer and reporter, and Parke is a features co-editor of The Arrowhead, the official school newspaper of the high school.

## COUNSELING SUPPLEMENT

### Scholarships:

Seniors should still be seeking out scholarship opportunities. Please continue to check on the counseling website for updates and additional information. An updated list can also be found in Mrs. Albert's office. Contact Ronda Albert at 570-368-2611, ext. 5031 with any questions regarding scholarships.

### Senior High School Summer Programs:

The Senior High School Summer Programs will tentatively begin on Monday June 15, 2015. Registration is required prior to the starting date. Please contact Mrs. Mussina in the high school counseling office at 570-368-2611, Ext. 5030, for further details beginning around mid-April.

Remedial classes to be offered include Algebra IA, Algebra IB, English 9, English 10, Civics, and American History. Remedial courses are four hours per day (Monday-Friday) for three weeks.

Enrichment courses typically offered include Contemporary Social Science and World Cultures. Enrichment classes meet four hours per day (Monday-Friday) for six weeks.

### Advanced Placement Testing

Students taking AP courses were encouraged to take the Advanced Placement test by their classroom teachers and by the Counseling Department. The students paid \$82.00 per test. Registration for the tests was due March 6<sup>th</sup>, and the tests will be administered by Mrs. Rupert/AP Coordinator, over a two week period from May 4 to May 15, at the high school.

### Seniors – End of the Year Final Transcripts

Seniors that plan to attend college in the fall need to be aware that they will have a **"Final Transcript" list to sign**. This is also the list to sign for **NCAA final transcripts**. The form is sent to the English teachers usually sometime in May. In addition, a "Senior Survey" will need to be completed by all seniors stating post graduate plans during April. Students that miss the opportunity to complete the forms in class may see Mrs. Mussina in the high school counseling office.





## Academic Decathlon

Montoursville's Academic Decathlon team had a very successful 2014-15 season, even with a very young team. The themes this year involved Innovation, Energy, and Nature, and the material in most subjects revolved around these topics. Montoursville came in 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> of nine teams in each of the Central Pennsylvania competitions, and our 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at the Regional Competition earned us a seat at the State Finals for the 7<sup>th</sup> straight year. Montoursville came in 13<sup>th</sup> place at the State Finals, with five of our eight students winning medals there.

Individual highlights at the state finals include seniors Amelia Deacon and Haylee Young winning two medals each, Amelia in Math and Economics, and Haylee in Math and Social Science. Junior Joe Rose won a bronze medal in Economics, Sophomore Matt Marks won a bronze in Math, and Freshman Cierra Frantz took a bronze medal for her essay. Matt also took medals in six of ten events and the silver medal for overall score at the Regional Competition, and Cierra won the bronze medal for overall score at the first competition of the year.

Other Montoursville students who won medals through the year were junior Kyra Anthony and freshmen Rebecca Fortney, Arielle Rood, and Adam Stugart.

Also competing throughout the year for Montoursville: Junior Ashley Cipicic; Sophomores Cassandra Crouse, Maranda Garwood, and Keely Houseknecht; and freshmen Abe Deacon, Joel Rehn, Sophie Smith, Annie Watts, and Courtenie Young.

## Summer of 2016 - Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands

Turtles here we come! In June of 2016 I would like to lead a trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. The trip would include a tour of Quito, the capital, visiting the equatorial line (stand with a foot in both the northern and southern hemispheres!), visiting the Charles Darwin Research Station, exploring 3 of the Galapagos Islands, taking several boat excursions, visiting the Twin Craters, and ending the trip with trips to the Cotacachi leather market and the world famous Otavalo handicraft market.



The trip is open to all Montoursville High School students and their parents, teachers in the district, and alumni of MAHS. You can check out the details, price, and what is included at [www.eftours.com](http://www.eftours.com) and enter the tour number - 1616744YJ. If you have any questions e-mail or call me at the high school!

Submitted by Tammy Morgan, High School Spanish Teacher

Mu Alpha Theta, the Montoursville chapter of the National Mathematics Honors Society, is excited to announce its membership for the 2014-2015 academic year. Members this year: Jamie Atondo (new), Ashley Cipicic (new), Isaac Davis (new), Amelia Deacon, Alex Fischer (new), Marissa Folk, Kimberly Foster (new), Sean Little, Sarah Nields (new), Collin Payne (new), Nevan Schulte, Mikala Shaffer (new), Staci Shoemaker, Megan Stoner, Cayla Treaster, Cheyenne Wood (new). Induction ceremonies were held this fall for the new members. General requirements for membership in the society include completion of Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry by the end of the junior year with a minimum average in all mathematics courses of 92%. There are additional requirements and benefits of membership that we encourage all students to explore as they build their resumes and experience for the future.



# Contacting Us...

**Lyter Elementary School**

900 Spruce Street  
Montoursville, PA 17754  
Phone: 368-2614

**Loyalsock Valley Elementary School**

3790 Route 87 Highway  
Montoursville, PA 17754  
Phone: 435-0446

**C. E. McCall Middle School**

600 Willow Street  
Montoursville, PA 17754  
Phone: 368-2441

**Montoursville Area High School**

100 North Arch Street  
Montoursville, PA 17754  
Phone - Main Office: 368-2611 \* Guidance: 368-3547 \*  
Athletics: 368-3513

**Montoursville Area School District**

**Administrative Offices**

50 North Arch Street  
Montoursville, PA 17754  
Phone - Superintendent: 368-2491 \* Taxes: 368-7564 \*  
Business Manager: 368-3500 \* Curriculum: 368-3552 \*  
Special Education: 368-3502

*If you wish to anonymously report suspicious or illegal activities on district property or at district events, call the School Resource Office at 570-368-3554 or e-mail [mstorms@montoursville.k12.pa.us](mailto:mstorms@montoursville.k12.pa.us) . If an immediate response is necessary, please call 911. All information will be kept confidential.*

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