



## WARRIOR ACADEMY

# Handbook for Students and Parents

Montoursville Area School District  
Montoursville, PA

<https://www.montoursville.k12.pa.us>

**Ms. S. Jean Cohick**

**Warrior Academy Counselor**

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Welcome to Warrior Academy (Online Learning)

We wish all of our Warrior Academy families a successful school year. We hope this handbook provides you with useful information about our online learning program and our school district.

Warrior Academy students are students of Montoursville Area School District and are expected to abide by all MASD policies. Please consult the handbooks of our various brick-and-mortar schools. Should you have any questions about our program, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

S. Jean Cohick  
Warrior Online Counselor  
[jcohick@montoursville.k12.pa.us](mailto:jcohick@montoursville.k12.pa.us)  
570-368-2491 ext 6111

### Quick Reference List

MASD Website: [www.montoursville.k12.pa.us](http://www.montoursville.k12.pa.us)

District Office Phone: 570-368-2491

District Office Fax: 570-368-3501

### MASD Mission Statement

The mission of Montoursville Area School District is to provide comprehensive programs that emphasize the Pennsylvania and National Academic Standards. This will empower all students to use their individual abilities and capabilities to be life-long learners and successful contributors to a global society.

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## Warrior Academy

Warrior Academy is a K-12 online learning option for families who reside in the Montoursville Area School District. For elementary school students and middle school students, courses in Warrior Academy align with the in-school curriculum. Once students enter grade 9, they have required core courses, but may choose from a variety of electives each year. Students must earn a total of 26 credits in order to graduate.

## Before Enrollment

The process of enrollment in Warrior Academy begins at home with a student and their parents/guardians. The student will require different skills when moving from in-person to online learning such as having increased self-discipline to keep pace with assignments and from families to provide a learning space in the home. It is important for families to discuss the reasons behind the student switching to online and the student's ability. We want all students to find success. We believe the best option for this begins in school with teachers and peers. For some students in certain situations, online learning offers many opportunities. After talking it over, schedule a meeting with the Warrior Academy Counselor, Ms. Jean Cohick, at [jcohick@montoursville.k12.pa.ua](mailto:jcohick@montoursville.k12.pa.ua) or 570-368-2491, ext. 6111.

## Initial Enrollment

The following **eligibility and procedures** will be followed by the student and/or parent/guardian:

1. The student must be a Montoursville Area School District resident.
2. Student and Parent/Guardian must follow district enrollment procedures, policies, and guidelines.
3. Student (and Parent/Guardian, when possible) must meet with the Warrior Academy counselor to enroll in the program and review the student's educational record to develop an online program of study.
4. Students must be able to participate in virtual or in person meetings when individual support is needed.
5. For students receiving special education services, an IEP team meeting will be held prior to enrollment to determine if modification to the IEP is needed and to make certain that goals can be met in the online program.
  - a. As a student with an IEP attending Warrior Academy, it is required that students **MUST** participate in weekly IEP goal progress monitoring sessions. Goal progress will be assessed every 2 weeks. Progress monitoring sessions will be arranged with a Special Education teacher. Students can come to school to work with that teacher at a designated time or meet virtually.
6. Students and Parent/Guardians must sign the Warrior Academy Handbook.

## **Continuation of Enrollment**

### **Student Expectations**

Continuation of enrollment will be evaluated each marking period based on the criteria below:

1. Meet all established course deadlines.
2. Actively participate in coursework by meeting the minimum number of assignments per week (varies by student). Athletic eligibility will be determined as outlined in the MAHS Handbook every Friday by 10 AM.
3. Make a good faith effort in all academic areas, and reach out to online teachers for help when needed.
4. Maintain regular contact with online teachers and the Warrior Academy Counselor.
5. Take the PSSA or Keystone Exam at the appropriate grade levels.
6. If progress is not being made, the student will be required to check in weekly with the Warrior Academy counselor.
7. Students who fail to make adequate progress after weekly check-ins may be required to report to their designated brick-and-mortar school, during normal school hours, to complete their online work. If progress is still not made, the student may be removed from Warrior Academy.

Parent/Guardian(s) expectations are as follows:

1. Assure compliance with Montoursville Area School District requirements.
2. Provide an appropriate work environment for the student at home.
3. Make a commitment to assist and monitor your student throughout their learning time.
4. Monitor student progress using the provided parent portal login information – compulsory attendance laws apply to Warrior Academy students.
5. Ensure that the student is checking in, if required, with the Warrior Academy Counselor..

Montoursville Area School District expectations are as follows:

1. Provide a rigorous and relevant online learning program that meets student needs and aligns with the district grade-level curriculum sequence.
2. Monitor student progress and communicate with the student and parent/guardians as needed.
3. Provide students with guidance in regards to credit and course selection.
4. Track credit towards graduation.
5. Assure compliance with special education regulations.
6. Account for the student within child accounting and other state reporting requirements.
7. Provide health, counseling, and other district services for the student to remove barriers to learning.

### **Finding Success in Warrior Academy**

The goal of Warrior Academy is for students seeking this option to achieve success. Success will be measured by:

- 1) Maintaining course progress following the timeline prescribed for the student
- 2) Completion of coursework materials within the marking period dates
- 3) Passing of courses
- 4) Acquiring grade level credits towards graduation (9-12)
- 5) Appropriate and regular communication with the Warrior Academy counselor and online teacher

If a student is struggling to meet the indicators of success at any point in time during a marking period, or at any time during the school term, the Warrior Academy Counselor is here to assist. Not only will the district monitor progress and connect with the student as needed, but students and parents can also ask for assistance when needed.

Contact is [jcohick@montoursville.k12.pa.us](mailto:jcohick@montoursville.k12.pa.us) or 570-368-2491, ext. 6111.

### **Academic Calendar**

Warrior Academy students will follow the regular school district calendar for start and end of the year as well as marking period end dates. This includes vacation, inclement weather or other school closures. For example, if school is closed on a Friday, Warrior Academy students may, but are not required to complete courses. Core courses may be divided into 2 semesters or be a full year. Electives vary, but students will need to carry a full course load (usually 6.5 credits) in order to stay on track to graduate. Students have access to their work any day or time.

### **Extra Curricular Sports & Activities**

Warrior Academy students have access to all athletic and extracurricular activities provided by MASD. All MASD students are required to remain academically eligible, according to PIAA and any other organization that oversees the activities in order to participate. Warrior Academy students are welcome to participate in on-site clubs and activities; however, transportation will not be provided by the district. When considering coming on the campus of any school, the student must comply with the Health & Safety Plan of the district fully.

### **Costs**

Warrior Online Learning is a Montoursville Area School District public school program. There are no enrollment fees, tuition, or charges for textbooks to the parent/guardian.

**General Supplies, Equipment & Tech Support**

As with in-person learning, families are required to provide many general supplies students need for classes. For example, items such as glue sticks, paper, pencils, scissors and calculators are not supplied by the school.

K-1 students will be given an iPad and grade 2-12 students will be given a Chromebook to use for their coursework. Acceptable use of equipment is governed by the Board Policy. Tech support will be provided during regular school hours.

**Transportation**

Transportation to and from the home to school building for educational opportunities, co-curricular, athletic, and social opportunities is the responsibility of the family.

**Attendance**

In Pennsylvania, parents/legal guardians are responsible for ensuring that their school age children attend school. It is the responsibility of the family to ensure the student logs onto the courses to maintain appropriate pacing requirements.

Online students are Montoursville Area School District students who are expected to comply with state, district, and school policies and guidelines. As online students, they assume a special responsibility to actively participate in the courses because of the unique independence that is offered to them. Time spent daily on coursework should be similar to the time spent in school. The district and its partner will actively monitor a student's daily engagement in courses with the expectation that the course will be successfully completed within the time prescribed by the district and the online school.

Students who are not meeting the required academic progress will be supported with an attendance improvement plan. If necessary, students may be required to return to the school in-person for additional support.

As in-school, parents/guardians are required to submit an excuse to the Warrior Academy counselor for every day their online student is absent from instruction. Excused absences, for online, as with in-person learning, follow normal district policy and state law. This would also include lack of connectivity issues. Excuses shall be emailed to Warrior Academy personnel. Truancy charges are applicable when regular attendance requirements are not met.

**Regular Contact**

In addition to maintaining regular course work and pacing, it is essential for students and families to maintain regular contact with Warrior Academy personnel. For students, the communication is via school issued email. For parents, email will also be used.

**Graduation Requirements**

Online students must meet board approved requirements for graduation as posted in the MAHS Handbook at [www.montoursville.k12.pa.us](http://www.montoursville.k12.pa.us),

**Drop/Add/Withdraw**

Students who decide to withdraw from a class, must decide within five (5) days of the start of the course.

**Course Completion**

Online students must be finished with all course requirements one day before the last day of the marking period as set on the district academic calendar. See academic quarter end dates listed on the district calendar. One day prior to the end of the marking period is necessary so the Warrior Academy counselor can request finalized grades from the online school.

**Acknowledgement of Understanding**

Please sign below indicating that you have read, discussed, and will commit to the expectations and responsibilities of participation in Warrior Academy as a Montoursville Area School District student.

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Student Name (Print)

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Student Signature

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Parent Name (Print)

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Parent Signature

## **ELEMENTARY COURSE SEQUENCE**

### **ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies**

English/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies are required each year in the elementary schools. Students must meet grade standards for promotion to the next grade. Parents and students in this situation must work closely with their Counselor and Principal to review options for retained students.

### **Related Arts and Special Areas**

In addition to the core instruction students receive in language arts, reading, mathematics, science, and social studies, all students will have the option of selecting Special Areas such as Music, Art and Computers.

## **McCALL MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE SEQUENCE**

### **Dual Enrollment with the High School**

Each year, students may earn high school credit at the middle school through certain courses. Those courses are: Algebra I – 7 = 1.0 Credit Algebra I – 8 = 1.0 Credit Geometry = 1.0 Credit Marching Band = 0.5 Credit Grade Point Average The grades and credit do not count in the high school GPA but are used towards graduation requirements and allow students to start high school courses in an earlier grade.

### **Course/Subject Requirements**

ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies English/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies are required each year at the middle school. Students must pass at least 3 core classes to be considered for promotion to the next grade. Parents and students in this situation must work closely with their counselor and principal to review options for retained students.

### **Advanced Courses**

Advanced course opportunities are available in English Language Arts, Math and Science. A student must meet criteria in order to be eligible for the advanced courses. Contact your child's school counselor for more information on eligibility.

**Band, Chorus, and Music Lessons**

Membership in the Middle School Band is based on a level of playing ability reached through school or private lessons. The band has regular rehearsals and performs several times yearly. Beginning instrumental students may join the training band. Membership in the band is for the year, and a contract must be signed. Chorus is open to any interested student. Upon entering into membership of chorus, each student is asked to prove himself/herself musically by having an acceptable singing voice. Membership in chorus is for the year. Due to the concert schedule, students who decide to join chorus must sign a contract to be in all year. Junior musical performances are held every other year at the middle school. Instrumental lessons will be assigned on a rotating basis to all band students upon teacher availability. Some school-owned instruments are available. Voice lessons will be given in the school's voice studio to interested students upon teacher availability.

**Family and Consumer Science and Technology Education/Engineering Design/Fine Arts**

These courses are required as part of a rotation for 5th and 6th graders. They become an elective for 7th and 8th graders. Materials for Family & Consumer Science, Tech Education, and Fine Art projects are provided to each student by the school. Upon completion, these projects become the property of the students, and they may take them home. Parental permission must be granted before a student is permitted to use power equipment in the technology education/engineering design area.

**Health 7 and Health 8**

McCall schedules a Health course for each 7th and 8th grade student taught by Mr. Ethan Showers and Mrs. Ashton Hackenberg, our health and physical education teachers. If you do not want your child to participate in the course, simply inform us in writing. Be sure that you specify your child's name and that you sign the note and send it to the building principal or assistant principal. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you approve of your child's participation in the program

**Physical Education**

Students are scheduled for physical education each year. In 5th and 6th grade, students have it 2 days/6-day cycle.

## HIGH SCHOOL COURSE SEQUENCING

### Graduation Requirements

Graduation requirements of the Montoursville Area High School, which is accredited by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, must meet the graduation requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Montoursville Area School District graduation standards.

The graduation requirements of the Montoursville Area High School require each student to complete at least 26 units of credit in certain specified areas in grades 9 through 12 in order to be awarded a high school diploma. In addition to completing the 26 credits, students shall meet all requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Education for high school graduation.

<i>Units of Credit</i>	<i>Course/Subject</i>
4	<p><b>English:</b></p> <p>Must satisfactorily complete four (4) English credits.</p>
3	<p><b>Math:</b></p> <p>Must satisfactorily complete three (3) math credits taken while the student is in grades 9-12. All students must take and pass Algebra I or Algebra IA and IB.</p>
3	<p><b>Science:</b></p> <p>Must satisfactorily complete three (3) science credits. All students must take and pass a Biology course and a Chemistry or STEM or Agriculture Science course to graduate.</p>

4	<p><b>Social Studies:</b></p> <p>Must satisfactorily complete four (4) Social Studies credits. All students must take and pass Civics &amp; Government, US History, World History, and CSS. One (1) credit in Social Studies may be waived for LycoCTC students.</p>
2	<p><b>Health and Physical Education:</b></p> <p>Must satisfactorily complete 2.0 credits Physical Education. Freshmen will have Intro to Physical Education/Health to fulfill 0.5 credits of this requirement.</p>
2	<p><b>Arts* or Humanities**:</b></p> <p>Must satisfactorily complete two (2) credits in any of the options below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 2 credits in Art</li> <li>b. 2 credits in Humanities</li> <li>c. 2 credits total in Arts &amp; Humanities with part in Arts and part in Humanities</li> </ul>
8.0	<p><b>Additional Credits:</b></p> <p>The student elects enough other credits such that at least the eight (8) credits are accumulated to total the 26.0 required by the Montoursville Area School District. Financial Literacy must be 0.5 credits of the 8.0.</p>
<b>26.0</b>	<p><b>Total credits</b> required for graduation.</p>

Course credit is earned starting in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Students must meet a minimum of 26 credits to graduate (approximately 6.5 credits per year). Specific course requirements include Algebra I, Biology, Health, and a Physical Education course. Students must take at least 4 credits of English, 4 credits of Social Studies, 4 credits of Math, and 3 credits of Science. The remaining credit requirements can be fulfilled through elective courses. The Class of 2020 and 2021 will also be required to demonstrate proficiency on the Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams. These exams will be administered at the high school in the Winter and Spring at dates to be determined.

Other local and state requirements include ensuring students are well-prepared for any post-secondary options. This may involve taking a career-based online course for credit towards graduation. See our district handbook for more information about our updated graduation policies.

Online learning is not intended to be a short-term placement; it is a path in which students continue through to graduation. Transfers between school settings and the online setting may impact a student's ability to graduate on time.

### State Graduation Requirements

1. Scoring proficient or advanced on each Keystone Exam - Algebra I, Literature, and Biology.

*or*

2. Earning a satisfactory composite score on the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams. The passing composite score will be available in August 2019.

*or*

3. Earning a passing grade on the courses associated with each Keystone Exam, and satisfactorily complete one of the following: an alternative assessment (SAT, PSAT, ACT, ASVAB, Gold Level ACT WorkKeys), advanced coursework (AP, IB, concurrent enrollment courses), pre-apprenticeship, or acceptance in a 4-year nonprofit institution of higher education for college-level coursework.

*or*

4. Earning a passing grade on the courses associated with each Keystone Exam, and pass the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) or the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS) assessment in an approved Career and Technical Education concentration.

*or*

5. Earning a passing grade on the courses associated with each Keystone Exam, and demonstrate readiness for postsecondary engagement through three pieces of evidence from the student's career portfolio aligned to student goals and career plan. Examples of evidence will include ACT WorkKeys, SAT Subject tests, AP, IB and concurrent coursework, higher education acceptance, community learning project, completion of an internship, externship or co-op or full-time employee.