



Mansfield Elementary School Take Home Notices Week Ending January 09, 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome back from winter break! We hope your time with loved ones was restful and filled with joy. As we step into the remainder of the school year, we're excited to continue celebrating growth, learning, and the many magical moments that make MES so special. Please remember to check the take home notices for important updates, including this month's First Friday Memo. Here's to a fantastic start to the new year—filled with joy, learning, and community connection!

Warmly,
Kate & Becky

[MES Website](#)

[MES Save the Dates](#)

[MES 6 Day Rotation](#)

[Lunch Menu](#)

[MPS District Calendar](#)

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MES First Friday Memo - January 2026



Dear MES Families,

Happy New Year and welcome to January! We hope everyone enjoyed a restful and joyful winter break. As we settle back into routines, we're grateful to see that illnesses have slowed. As always, we appreciate your partnership in keeping our community healthy. Please be sure to review this week's notices for guidance on when students should stay home versus when it's appropriate to return to school.

We are excited to share an incredible story recently featured in Education Week that highlights the inspiring work happening at Mansfield Elementary. We are in awe each day of what our students are doing and the creativity, care, and dedication of our teachers. MES truly is magical, and we're proud to see that magic shared with an even wider audience.

Please join us in welcoming Jacob Orcutt to our MES office team! Jacob will be greeting families each day and supporting our school community. You can learn more about him in our staff slide deck.

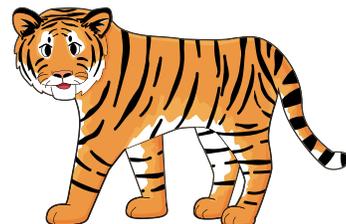
It's hard to believe that we are already halfway through Year 3 at MES. January is full of opportunities to connect and celebrate:

- January 12 - PTO Meeting (see notices for details)
- BOE Budget Meetings - Please refer to the BOE calendar
- January 19 - No School in observance of MLK Jr. Day
- January 22 - Grades 3 & 4 Strings Concert
- January 24 - MES Snow Ball

Please continue to ensure a timely arrival at school before 8:55 for all students. Additionally, with a bit of a January thaw expected. We know students will get muddy at recess, please send in extra socks, sneakers, and even a change of clothes.

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership and support. We look forward to connecting with you throughout the month.

Warmly,
Kate McCoy
Principal, Mansfield Elementary School



Maraiah Popeleski-Tilley

Food Service Director

Subject: **Important Update:**
Temporary Change to School Menu (Sun Butter to Peanut Butter)

Dear Families,

I am writing to share an upcoming temporary change to our school meal program. Due to a national manufacturer shortage of Sun Butter (sunflower seed butter), Mansfield Elementary will be switching to peanut butter for our daily sandwich options, effective January 15, 2026.

We expect to return to serving Sun Butter sandwiches in **late February**, as soon as our regular supply chain stabilizes.

Our Commitment to Safety

We understand that for families of children with peanut allergies, this news may bring concern. Please be assured that student safety remains our absolute highest priority. To protect our students, we are implementing the following enhanced protocols:

- **Strict Identification:** Our cafeteria staff has been retrained on allergy alerts to ensure students with documented peanut allergies are identified.
- **Designated Nut-Free Zones:** We will continue to maintain and strictly enforce "Nut-Free" seating areas in the cafeteria to provide a safe environment for students with sensitivities.
- **Clear Labeling:** All items containing peanut butter will be clearly labeled, wrapped and served separate from other menu items.

How You Can Help

If your child has a newly developed allergy or if you have specific questions regarding their individual meal plan, please contact our school nurse (860) 423-1611, Ext.2178, or the food services department (860) 429-7824.

We appreciate your patience and partnership as we navigate this supply chain challenge. We look forward to bringing Sun Butter back to our kitchen soon.

Sincerely,

Maraiah Popeleski-Tilley, RDN

Food Service Director, Mansfield Public Schools



MANSFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOE Meeting and Committee Meeting Dates

BOE Meetings are held on Thursdays in Council Chambers at 6:30PM
Committee Meetings are held on Thursdays in the Superintendent's Office at 5:30PM

2026

| MONTH | BOE | BOE Meeting Focus | FINANCE | PERSONNEL | POLICY/ CURRICULUM | TRANSPORTATION/ COMMUNICATIONS |
|--------------|-----|--|---------|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| JANUARY 15 | X | Report of Progress Budget Orientation | | | | |
| JANUARY 22 | X | Budget Presentation | | | | X(Comm.) |
| JANUARY 29 | X | Budget Presentation | | | | |
| FEBRUARY 5 | X | Budget Vote | X | | | |
| MARCH 5 | X | | | | | X (Comm.) |
| APRIL 9 | X | | | | X | |
| MAY 7 | X | | X | | | |
| JUNE 4 | X | Report of Progress | | | | |
| JUNE 11 | X | | | | | X (Transp.) |
| SEPTEMBER 10 | X | | X | | | |
| SEPTEMBER 24 | X | Report of Progress | | | | X (Transp.) |
| OCTOBER 8 | X | | | | X (Policy) (4:30PM) | |
| NOVEMBER 12 | X | | | | X (Curric.) | |
| DECEMBER 10 | X | | X | | | |

Superintendent Evaluation Meetings – June and October tbd

*VEGETARIAN ITEM

JANUARY 2026 LUNCH MENU

MANSFIELD ELEMENTARY



YOU CAN ADD FUNDS TO YOUR STUDENT'S ACCOUNT ONLINE (FEES APPLY) AT LINQCONNECT.COM OR AVOID THE FEES BY SENDING CASH OR CHECK IN TO SCHOOL.

COMPLETE LUNCH \$ 3.50
MILK ONLY \$0.50

ALL ENTREES ARE SERVED WITH:

- FRUIT (FRESH, CANNED AND DRIED) AND
- ASSORTED FRESH VEGGIES AND
- LOCAL MOUNTAIN DAIRY MILK CHOICES: FAT-FREE CHOCOLATE FLAVORED MILK, OR 1% PLAIN MILK

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

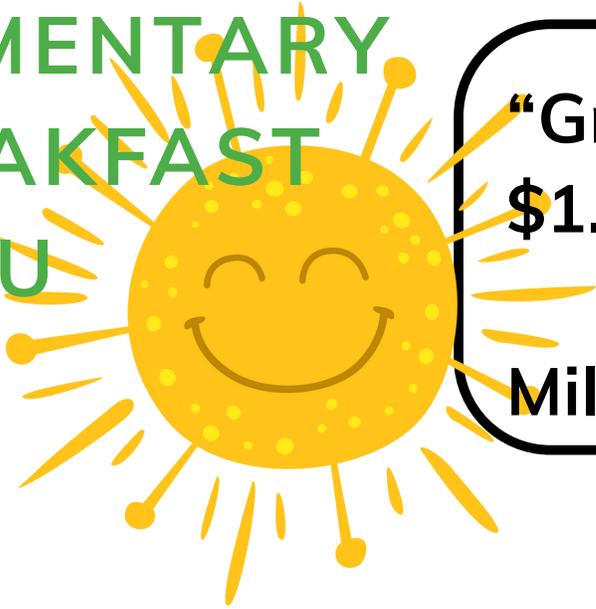
| | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|---------------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | SCHOOL CLOSED | SCHOOL CLOSED |
| 5 ALL BEEF OR VEGGIE BURGER* ON A BUN WITH ROASTED LOCALLY GROWN BUTTERNUT SQUASH | 6 SEASONED, SHREDDED CHICKEN OR JUST CHEESE* WITH LETTUCE IN A HARD TACO SHELL WITH SALSA & MILD SPICY BEANS | 7 PASTA* & MARINARA WITH BEEF MEATBALLS, GARLIC BREAD STICK AND RANCH SALAD | 8 PERSONAL CHEESE* PIZZA SERVED WITH LOCAL RAINBOW CARROTS AND RANCH DIP | 9 CHICKEN CREOLE STEW WITH BROWN RICE AND GARLIC GREEN BEANS | |
| 12 CRISPY CHICKEN OR PLANT BASED* TENDERS WITH ROASTED SWEET POTATOES AND HOMEMADE CORNBREAD | 13 DEEPLY ROOTED PLANT BASED CHILI* WITH CORN TORTILLA CHIPS AND SEASONED BLACK BEANS | 14 OUR OWN MACARONI AND CHEESE* WITH ROASTED ZUCCHINI | 15 PEPPERONI OR CHEESE* PIZZA SLICE SERVED WITH STRAWBERRY SPINACH SALAD | 16 CT MAPLE FRENCH TOAST BAKE* WITH OUR OWN SEASONED HOME FRIES | |
| 19 SCHOOL CLOSED | 20 CHICKEN FAJITA WITH ROASTED PEPPERS & ONIONS AND MEXICAN INSPIRED GREEN BEANS SERVED WITH SALSA, SOUR CREAM & CHEESE | 21 OUR OWN RAMEN NOODLE BOWL* WITH CHICKEN OR STEAMED EDAMAME* AND BROCCOLI | 22 CHEESE FILLED BREAD STICKS* WITH OUR HUMMUS AND VEGGIES TO DIP | 23 CHICKEN POT PIE WITH BISCUIT TOPPING AND ROASTED POTATOES | |
| 26 CRISPY CHICKEN OR PLANT BASED* TENDERS WITH ROASTED LOCAL BUTTERNUT AND BUTTERED NOODLES | 27 BEEF OR JUST BEAN* CHILI WITH CORN TORTILLA CHIPS AND CONFETTI CORN SALAD | 28 BALSAMIC & BASIL CHICKEN IN MARINARA WITH FUSILLI PASTA AND ROASTED ZUCCHINI | 29 CHEESE PIZZA BITES* WITH LOCAL LETTUCE & RANCH SALAD | 30 ALL BEEF HOT DOGS ON A ROLL WITH NEW ENGLAND STYLE BAKED BEANS* | |

PLEASE ENCOURAGE KIDS TO ASK IF THEY NEED SOMETHING. WE ARE HAPPY TO HELP!
NO SAD LUNCHESES!

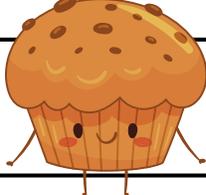
MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER.
DAILY ALTERNATES: SUN BUTTER & JELLY OR TURKEY & CHEESE SANDWICHES

MANSFIELD ELEMENTARY BREAKFAST MENU

January to June 2026



**“Grab & Go Breakfast”
\$1.50 (includes Milk)
Milk only \$0.50**

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Monday | ZEE ZEE’S BREAKFAST BAR |
| Tuesday | MUFFIN  |
| Wednesday | GLAZED HONEY WHEAT BAR |
| Thursday |  WARM CINNAMON ROLL |
| Friday | SEASONAL BREAKFAST BREAD |

Breakfast Includes:



1. *Milk Choice**
2. *Fruit*
3. *100% Fruit Juice*



*fat free chocolate or 1% plain milk





Calling all creative inventors!



Would you like to participate in the Mansfield Elementary School Invention Convention?

You may be wondering:

“Am I an inventor?” If you have a new way to fix a problem or improve a product, then you are an inventor!

“Am I allowed to participate?” Any PreK-4 student at Mansfield Elementary School can participate! You can even work with a partner if you would like. You will need to find some time at home to work on it.



- All inventions will be displayed during school, and they will be available for viewing during March student-led conversations and celebrations.
- A team of MES judges will decide which inventions will go on to the Connecticut Invention Convention.
- All participants must have a model of their invention, a display showing how it works, & a log with pictures showing the invention process.
- INVENTIONS DUE BY 9 AM ON MONDAY, MARCH 9TH, 2026

If you are interested, see Ms. Mather or Mrs. Irvine, return this note back to school, or have your family email them at irvinesb@mansfieldct.org or mathermj@mansfieldct.org.

Find more information on our [Invention page](#) on the MES website (take home notices for 01/09/2026)



I would like to participate in the MES Invention Convention!
Return to Ms. Mather or Mrs. Irvine by Feb 12

Inventor's Name: _____

Guardian Email: _____

Inventor's Grade: _____ Teacher: _____



_____ I would like more information about participating in the MES Invention Convention.

_____ I need workshop time at school to work on my invention.

MES AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS EARLY SPRING 2026

We are excited to announce our Early Spring 2026 After School Club offerings for MES students! Clubs provide a fun and enriching way for students to explore their interests, build new skills, and connect with classmates after school.

Most early spring clubs will run from the **week of February 2, 2026, through the week of March 23, 2026, from 3:55 PM to 5:00 PM**. Exact dates will be shared with families once club rosters are finalized and before the first day of clubs.

When signing up for a club, please ensure students are able to participate in all meetings for the entire duration. We are not able to accommodate early dismissals from clubs.

To register, please complete the MES After School Club Sign Up & Permission Slip at the following link: <https://bit.ly/MESClubSignUpsEarlySpring26>



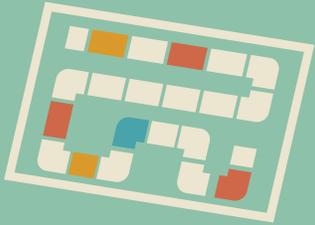
Early Spring Club Sign Up Deadline: Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 4:00 PM (Eastern Time).

Please note: Completing the form does not guarantee your student a spot in an after school club. The form is intended to indicate interest and provide the necessary sign-up information. If interest in a club exceeds the number of available spots, students will be selected through a lottery system, and families will be notified once club placements are finalized.

Students may sign up for more than one club and may participate in multiple clubs if they meet on different days, provided there are available spots. If a lottery system is needed due to high interest and a student is selected for two or more clubs that meet on the same day, the student will be placed in the club that ranked higher on their preference list (for example, their first-choice over their second-choice).

We look forward to a great season of creativity, learning, and fun at MES!

If you have any questions, please reach out to the MES After School Program Coordinator at mes-clubs@mansfieldct.org



Monday: Grades 3-4

BOARD GAME CLUB

Prepare for thrilling adventures where you'll get to strategize, laugh until your sides hurt, and prove that you are the reigning champion of games like Checkers, Candy Land, and maybe even a quick, high-stakes round of Jenga. You'll make new friends, learn how to be an awesome teammate (and a graceful winner!), and use your super brainpower to conquer challenges, all while having an unbelievably fun time every single week!

THE FIELD-TO-TRAY EXPLORERS

A hands-on cooking and gardening club where students learn how food grows, prepare healthy snacks, and practice safe kitchen skills. Students will explore nutrition, science concepts, sustainability, and foods from different cultures while building teamwork, creativity, and practical life skills.



Monday: Grades 3-4



**Monday: Grades K-4
Tuesday: Grades K-4**

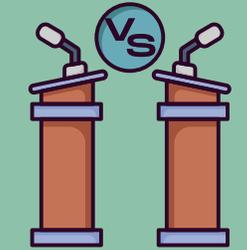
INVENTION CONVENTION WORKSHOP CLUB

Calling all MES Inventors! Do you have an idea for an invention? Would you like some help creating your invention or working on your log or display board? Mrs. Irvine and Ms. Mather would love to help you make your ideas become a real invention!

MES AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS EARLY SPRING 2026

DEBATE CLUB

Is cereal a soup? Should school start later? If you love fun debates like these, join Debate Club! You will learn how to research topics, take notes, and debate both sides of an issue in a respectful way. Build confidence, practice speaking in front of others, and share your opinions like a pro!



Tuesday: Grade 4



Tuesday: Grades 2-3

LITTLE TIGERS, BIG HEARTS

A club focused on cultivating a sense of connection & belonging, encouraging compassion & improving the emotional well-being of its members through random acts of kindness.

COMIC CLUB

This club will utilize comics to grow as a writer. There will be 4 components: reading comics, studying the textual structure of comics, creating original comics, and utilizing peer editing.



Thursday: Grade 4



Thursday: Grade 4

FELT SEWING CLUB

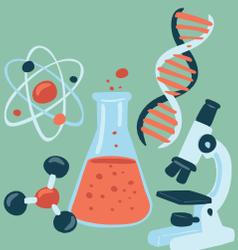
If you are a 4th grader who knows how to sew, or wants to learn, join us for Felt Sewing! We'll go over basic skills, create quick easy projects, and get you inspired to design your own felt creations.

RECYCLED ART CLUB

Would you like to learn how to make baskets with previously used chip bags? How about making beads with paper or journals with recycled paper bags? This club will explore and create the art of making usable items with materials that we use everyday.



Thursday: Grades 3-4



Thursday: Grade 4

SCIENCE EXPERIMENT CLUB

Ready to explore the amazing world of science? Join our 4th Grade Science Experiment Club where we'll mix, measure, and observe awesome things! Come make new discoveries and have fun with hands-on projects every week!

MES Early Spring Club Sign Up Deadline: Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 4:00 PM (Eastern Time).
<https://bit.ly/MESClubSignUpsEarlySpring26>

Save the Dates!

Music Department Concerts

2025-2026

- January 22, 2026 - 5:30 PM = Gr. 3&4 Strings only
- February 11, 2026 = Gr. 2 Concert*
*due to space constraints, we will divide this concert into two performances as follows -
 - 5:30 PM = Harbec & Irvine
 - 6:30 PM = Cackowski, Hodge, & Sroka
- April 8, 2026 - 5:30 PM = Gr. 3 Concert
- May 21, 2026 - 5:30 PM = Gr. 4 Concert

We're looking forward to seeing our MES students and families at the performances!

Christa Berezowskyj, strings

Ethan Lippert, band & gr. 4 general music

Julie Frascarelli, general music PK-3, choir



Coming up soon....
Winter Concert!
Thursday, January 22nd



WHO: Grades 3 and 4 Strings Students (violin and cello)

WHEN: Thursday, January 22nd, 2026 at 5:30pm.

Performers and their families should arrive by 5:15.

WHERE: MES Gym

WHAT TO WEAR: MES Blues (can be an MES shirt, but doesn't have to be).

WHAT TO BRING: Your instrument and binder

Bring family and friends to fill up our audience!

Contact Mrs. B at berezowskyjc@mansfieldct.org with any questions.





MANSFIELD
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL PTO

MONDAY
06:30 PM - 07:30 PM

AGENDA

01.12.2026

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Lauren Valentin, President

Welcome, Overview of meeting agenda, Brief PTO highlights since November meeting, Yearbooks

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Principal Kate McCoy

Winter & Spring Look Ahead with key dates, Learning Journeys overview, Introducing new team member, Late Winter/Spring after-school clubs update (*Cindy Fan, Club Coordinator & 4th Grade Teacher*)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Candace Morell, Superintendent

Water system update, Community feedback for next five-year strategic plan, Budget update

FUNDRAISERS/EVENTS

Emily Potz, Fundraising Co-Coordinator - Papa Ginos, Hartford Wolf Pack, Disney on Ice, Uconn, and upcoming fundraisers

Katie Clauson, Event Chair - Winter Welcome winners, links of our connected MES community

Justina Ingerson & Katie Clauson, Snow Ball Chairs - Saturday, January 24, updates

BUDGET

Michelle Trevino-Talbot, Treasurer
PTO budget overview

OPEN FLOOR

Open time to share ideas, ask questions, speak with administrators, and let us know how we can help our school community



2026

MES PTO



SNOW BALL DANCE

PHOTO BOOTH | HOT COCOA & SNACKS | LIVE DJ

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24TH @MES

Snow date: Saturday, January 31st

1:30 - 3:00 PM PRE-K - 1ST

3:30 - 5:00 PM 2ND - 4TH

*Families may attend either or both waves.
These times are only suggestions.*

More than just a dance—it's an afternoon of fun, laughter and MES community spirit!



In the spirit of giving, we encourage attendees to bring a non-perishable food item to support the Covenant Soup Kitchen.



RSVP

RSVP is required

Scan to RSVP by January 20

Questions? Email: events@mansfieldtigerspto.org





MES PTO

Snow Ball Dance **SIGN UP TO HELP**

2026

WHAT WE NEED:



VOLUNTEERS! Help needed with selling snacks, picture booth, clean up, and help needed the Friday night before for set up and decorating (Adults only!)



Water



Snacks



Quick individual sized refreshments



Please take a moment to review the SignUp Genius for more details!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084AAAAD2DA3F5CE9-54679224-mespto>

2025-26

MES YEARBOOKS

ORDERS DUE BY APRIL 25TH
DELIVERY TO STUDENTS LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL

SCAN THE QR CODE TO ORDER YOUR 2025-26
MES YEARBOOK!

4TH GRADERS DON'T NEED TO ORDER!



No tip or extra fees
needed. With these
settings on, Givebutter
covers everything and
100% of your donation
supports the MES
PTO.



[HTTPS://GIVEBUTTER.COM/MESYEARBOOK](https://givebutter.com/mesyearbook)

MES PTO FLYERS

AVAILABLE IN:



English



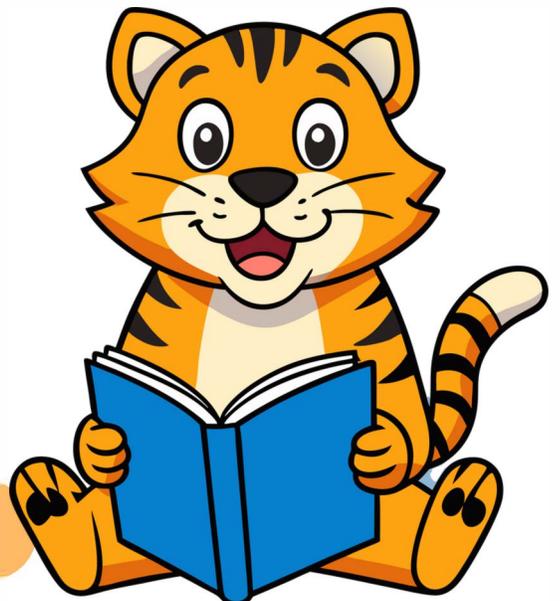
Español



中文



Visit the PTO website to find Mandarin and Spanish versions of all our PTO flyers



<https://mansfieldtigerspto.org/flyers/>