



# MMS School Counseling

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER ABOUT OUR SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM



WEEK OF MARCH 19

## THIS WEEK

ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 24 WE WELCOME LAURI VOLKERT, CONNECTICUT STATE FIRE MARSHALL TO OUR CAREER CAFE. MS. VOLKERT WILL BE SHARING WITH STUDENTS HOW HER CAREER STARTED AND THE IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF BEING A FIRE MARSHALL.



## FROM THE STUDENTS..

“ I AM EXCITED FOR THIS UPCOMING CAREER CAFE, I AM INTERESTED IN BEING A FIRE FIGHTER WHEN I AM OLDER”  
~MMS 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADER

## CONNECTING

CONGRATULATIONS TO EILEEN MELODY, THE CONNECTICUT SCHOOL COUNSELING ASSOCIATION'S 2026 SCHOOL COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR! THIS STATE ASSOCIATION LOOKS AT COUNSELORS FROM ALL OVER THE STATE. IT IS A WELL DESERVED HONOR FOR EILEEN.



## STAY IN TOUCH

- MRS. EILEEN MELODY  
melodyem@mansfieldct.org  
7th and 8th Grade Counselor
- MRS. KRISTINA LEE  
leek@mansfieldct.org  
5th and 6th Grade Counselor
- MRS. JENNIFER ROBERTS  
robertsj@mansfieldct.org  
5th-8th Grade Counseling Support



## CONSIDER THIS

SPRING IS OFFICIALLY HERE, AND JUST LIKE THE GARDENS AROUND US, OUR KIDS ARE READY TO BLOOM! THIS SEASON OF RENEWAL IS THE PERFECT TIME FOR STUDENTS TO SHAKE OFF THE WINTER CHILL, RESET THEIR GOALS, AND CHANNEL THAT NEWFOUND ENERGY INTO THEIR PASSIONS. WE'RE SO EXCITED TO WATCH THEM GROW, LEARN, AND "SPRING" INTO THEIR FULL POTENTIAL THESE NEXT FEW MONTHS.



Mansfield Middle School Presents

**DARE TO  
DREAM**  
A **Disney** MUSICAL REVUE 

Music Adapted and Arranged by  
**PATRICK SULKEN**

Orchestrations by  
**PATRICK SULKEN**

Additional Vocal Arrangements by  
**BRITT BONNEY**

With Songs by (in alphabetical order):

Kristen Anderson-Lopez, Howard Ashman, Frank Churchill, Phil Collins, Mack David, Mikkel Eriksen, Sia Furler, Terry Gilkyson, Leigh Harline, Tor Hermansen, Al Homan, Elton John, Phillip Lawrence, Jerry Livingston, Robert Lopez, Alan Menken, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Larry Morey, Davy Nathan, Randy Newman, Tim Rice, Stephen Schwartz, Richard M. Sherman, Robert B. Sherman, Glenn Slater, Ned Washington, David Zippel

-Friday, March 27 at 7pm

-Sunday, March 29 at 1pm

-Saturday, March 28 at 7pm

-Doors Open ½ Hour Before

All Tickets are \$10 (children 3 and under free) and are available at the door or in advance online for purchase through the Event Brite site using this link:

[Dare to Dream Jr](#)

## Notes from the Health Office about Head Lice

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We want to share some information about head lice (pediculosis). Finding lice can happen to anyone; it is not related to cleanliness. It is very common in school-aged children. The key is catching it early and acting fast!

Lice are transmitted most commonly by head-to-head contact. Lice cannot fly or jump; they only crawl. Lice can also spread when sharing items that touch the head, such as hats and brushes. Focusing on avoiding close head contact and limiting the sharing of these items is the best prevention.

### How to Check Your Child's Hair:

We recommend checking your child's head routinely, especially around the neck and ears. A thorough check only takes a few minutes and is the best way to keep things under control.

What to Look For: Use bright light to look closely at the hair near the scalp.

- Nits (Eggs): These look like tiny yellowish or white specks that are cemented tightly to the hair strand. If you try to slide them off and they don't budge, they are likely nits.
- Lice (Bugs): These are small, fast-moving insects, often brown or grayish.

### If You Find Lice:

- Treat the Head: Pick up an over-the-counter lice treatment from the pharmacy and make sure to follow the instructions carefully.
- Comb Every Day: Daily combing with the metal lice comb is the key to success. Keep combing every day until you haven't seen any nits or live lice for three days straight.
- Second Treatment: Mark your calendar! Many treatments require a second application in about a week (7–10 days) to kill any eggs that hatched after the first treatment.
- Home Cleanup: Wash bedding, towels, and clothes used recently in hot water and dry them on the hot cycle. Vacuum the areas where your child rests their head (like couches and car seats).
- Bag items that can't be washed for at least two weeks.

If you find live lice or nits, please call or email the Health Office.

Thank you for helping to keep our school community comfortable and healthy. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Danielle Caro, RN

Mansfield Middle School Nurse

[carod@mansfieldct.org](mailto:carod@mansfieldct.org) 860 429-9341

# Help *Shape the Future* of Mansfield Public Schools



The district's goal is to better understand the perceptions, hopes, and dreams our community holds for Mansfield Public Schools and the youth we serve.

***Your Voice Matters***

Please use the QR code below to give us your input, or visit our website:

[www.mansfieldct.gov/schools](http://www.mansfieldct.gov/schools)

**MANSFIELD**  
CONNECTICUT

Public Schools





**Let's show our thanks for  
all they do for our kids  
and community.**



**Donate by visiting:**

**[www.givebutter.com/supportmmsstaff](http://www.givebutter.com/supportmmsstaff)**

# Helping the Planet, One Bag at a Time!



**MMSA**

Mansfield Middle School Association

Buy a bag that's better for all. When you purchase this \$2.50 reusable Community Bag at our designated Big Y store during our selection month, it will send our organization a \$1 donation to help us further our work. Thank you for your support!

[bigy.2givelocal.com](http://bigy.2givelocal.com)  
Community Bag Program



## Benefiting Organization:

Mansfield  
Middle  
School  
Association

## Our Benefiting Month:

March  
2026

## Big Y Location:

Big Y  
141B Storrs Road,  
Mansfield CT



# MARCH MADNESS

## TEEN NIGHT

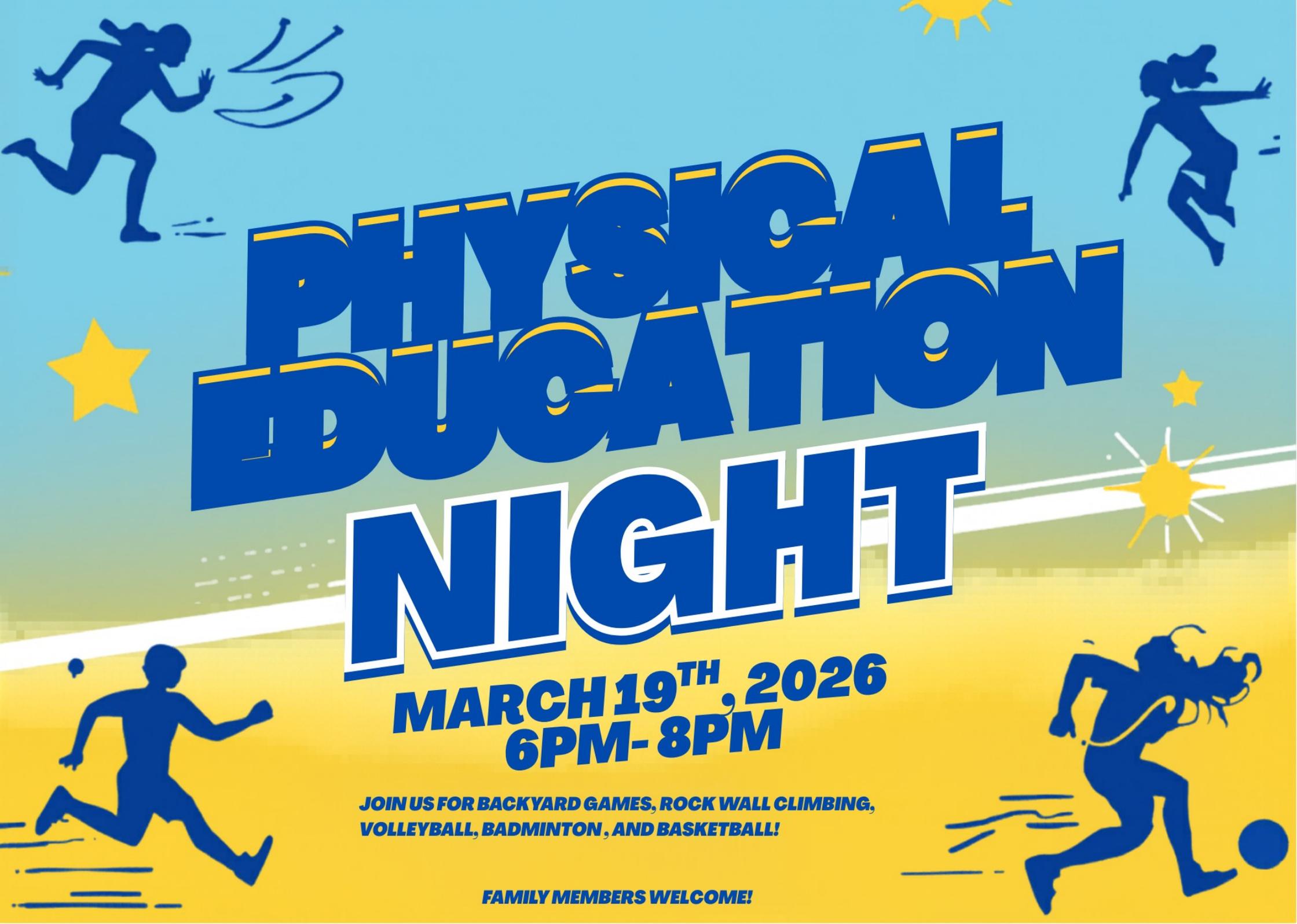
**MARCH 19**

**6-7PM**

Buchanan Auditorium  
Mansfield Library

**FREE PIZZA!**

Minute-to-Win-It Challenges, Snacks &  
NBA 2K25 on Nintendo Switch



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION NIGHT

**MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2026  
6PM-8PM**

**JOIN US FOR BACKYARD GAMES, ROCK WALL CLIMBING,  
VOLLEYBALL, BADMINTON, AND BASKETBALL!**

**FAMILY MEMBERS WELCOME!**

MMSA INVITES ALL FAMILIES TO  
**ROLLERSKATING  
DAY!**

PARENT SUPERVISION  
REQUIRED

March 22, 1-4pm

Ron-A-Roll

85 S. Frontage Rd.,

Vernon, CT

- \$13 ENTRY
- \$5.65 SKATE RENTALS
- FOOD COURT



**PARENTS CAN SKATE, TOO!**



SCAN THE QR CODE  
WITH MOBILE DEVICE

TO SAVE TIME,  
PLEASE SIGN WAIVER  
AHEAD OF YOUR VISIT

**(NOT A FUNDRAISER- JUST FOR FUN!)**

[WWW.RONAROLL.COM](http://WWW.RONAROLL.COM)



# MMS Athletic Clearance for School Sports

**To: Parents/Guardians of students in Grade 7 and Grade 8**

I hope everyone has had a great Winter. We are looking forward to the start of the Spring athletic season. Baseball, Softball and Track will begin on Monday, March 23. Baseball and softball will have three days of tryouts, 3/23-3/25. Track & field is a non-tryout team. There will be an informational meeting with students interested in being on one of the teams in early March during school. Below are links with information about the teams and season. The season schedules can be found on our athletic page on the school website. If you have additional questions please reach out to me at [bucktr@mansfieldct.org](mailto:bucktr@mansfieldct.org) and if a follow up phone call is needed I would be happy to do that as well.

The sports registration process at MMS will be as follows. Students who plan to participate in school sports must have the required forms listed below on file **prior to tryouts and practices**.

**\*All forms should be handed in to Mr. Buck ASAP but no later than Monday, March 23. Forms can also be filled out and emailed to Ted Buck (Athletic Director) at any point beginning immediately. Forms can be sent to [bucktr@mansfieldct.org](mailto:bucktr@mansfieldct.org).**

**\*\*Students who participated in athletics during the Fall or Winter do not need to complete new forms unless something has changed with health, personal information or contacts.**

Required Forms Include:

1. **Sports Permission Form**-completed by parent/guardian and signed by parent/guardian.
2. **Concussion & Cardiac Arrest Consent Policy**- To review our current Concussion and Cardiac Arrest Consent Policy please click on this link:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Siw9xh8CqtBgQ33bTmVy9yEOWY1aAyRY8\\_IC1r7Cr0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Siw9xh8CqtBgQ33bTmVy9yEOWY1aAyRY8_IC1r7Cr0/edit?usp=sharing) After reviewing the policy please sign the disclosure at the bottom of the **Sports Permission Form**.
3. **Sports Participation Health Record**-completed and signed by a parent/guardian and student.
4. **Physical Exam**-Completed by an MD, PA or APRN. **Physicals are valid for 2 calendar years and may expire during the school year. This will be verified and checked by the school nurse prior to tryouts. Families have been notified if they need a new physical.**

If students fail to hand in the forms to Mr. Buck **prior to tryouts or practice**, they will not be permitted to participate until they do so.

<b>Fall Sports</b>	<b>Winter Sports</b>	<b>Spring Sports</b>
<i>Tryouts in September</i>	<i>Tryouts in December</i>	<i>Tryouts in March</i>
Boys & Girls Soccer	Boys & Girls Basketball	Boys Baseball
Boys & Girls Cross Country (no tryouts)		Girls Softball
		Boys and Girls Track & Field (no tryouts)

Copies of the required forms can be found at the following links as well as on the Athletics page:

**Sports Permission Form:**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qgD6LdxO-4OSDmca4yQq-cotGE4paDM-/view?usp=sharing>

**Concussion and Cardiac Arrest Consent Policy:**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Siw9xh8CqtBgQ33bTmVy9yEQWY1aAyRY8\\_ICl1r7Cr0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Siw9xh8CqtBgQ33bTmVy9yEQWY1aAyRY8_ICl1r7Cr0/edit?usp=sharing)

**Sports Participation Health Record:**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FkONRHkxmXU2q6mhV2ArBR5mSeJxvMOZ/view?usp=sharing>

**Physical Examination:**

**Only needed if expired or will expire prior to conclusion of season (nurse will contact if needed):**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1K6dWpKCJwbpJ9ZKxv-ffysU7jxnWagFYD1RMHO DgZZO/edit?usp=sharing>

Sincerely,

Ted Buck  
Athletic Director

**STATE REGULATION FOR SPORTS PARTICIPANTS REGARDING MEDICATION:**

Student medications (inhaler or EpiPen) from the health room cannot be shared with coaches for use during interscholastic sports. If your child has an authorization for these medications on file in the health room, an additional inhaler or EpiPen must be provided for use during interscholastic sports.

**Important Note to Parents/Guardians:**

The MMS Health Room closes daily at 3:00. There is **no nursing coverage** for after school clubs, sports or activities. If your child has a known medical need (such as; asthma, severe allergy, seizures, diabetes...) and may need medication or medical supervision during after school sports, a parent/guardian must contact the school nurse in order to make the necessary plans or arrangements. The appropriate care and guidelines will be delegated to the coaches. MMS does not provide nursing coverage beyond the school day. These arrangements will need to be updated for each sport your child participates in each quarter.



# Eastern CT Maple Festival

**SATURDAY MARCH 28, 10 AM-4 PM**

**SUNDAY MARCH 29, 10 AM-4 PM**

**EAST BROOK MALL**

**95 STORRS RD, MANSFIELD**



## **FAMILY FESTIVAL WITH A MAPLE THEME**

### Inside the mall:

Artisan/Craft/Makers fair (kids projects, clothing, jewelry, soap, candles, spices, oils)

### Outside the mall:

Food truck festival (Lobster, Thai, Polish, Tex-Mex, BBQ, Beef)

Maple treats (cookies, cakes, cotton candy, kettle korn, fudge, cannoli, pies, & more!)

Kids fun center (bouncy houses, carnival games, crafts, face painting)

**FREE ADMISSION  
ONSITE PARKING**

Check with us before the event to see more details at [MapleFestival.info](http://MapleFestival.info).

For vendor information email [info@windhamchamber.com](mailto:info@windhamchamber.com) or text/call 860-423-6389

Thanks to the Town of Mansfield and the East Brook Mall for their support!



# PJ Run For a Cause

## 5K Run/Walk & Kids Fun Run

Supporting the Betsy Hamill Campership Program.  
Providing the experience of summer camp to families in need.

**Saturday, March 28th, 12:30 Start**

**Mansfield Middle School**

(205 Spring Hill Road, Mansfield, CT)

Register by February 28<sup>th</sup> for lowest price.

First 100 registrants get a FREE T-shirt.

**Register Here**

Or by scanning the QR code

For more race information:

[www.runsignup.com/Race/CT/StorrsMansfield/PJRunForACause5K](http://www.runsignup.com/Race/CT/StorrsMansfield/PJRunForACause5K)

### **Contact Human Services**

Phone: 860-429-3315

Email: [human.services@mansfieldct.org](mailto:human.services@mansfieldct.org)

<https://www.mansfieldct.gov/2716/Giving-Donations>

Scan me



**2025-2026**  
**Mansfield Middle School**  
**YEARBOOK**  
**On Sale Now - Order Before April 11, 2026**  
**Yearbook price \$28.00**

You can purchase yearbooks online now!

Simply go to <https://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A01085650> and select Mansfield Middle School as your school. Just follow the prompts to order your yearbook!

Order online at <https://jostensyearbooks.com>  
Click on Yearbook then click on "**Buy Your Yearbook**"  
Enter the school name, city and state, then place your order.

If you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to contact yearbook advisor Jenny Roberts via email at [robertsj@mansfieldct.org](mailto:robertsj@mansfieldct.org)

You can order a yearbook by sending in a check made payable to: MMS STUDENT ACTIVITY FUND

***Please print and return to homeroom teacher with payment***

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ HR # \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person ordering \_\_\_\_\_

Number of yearbooks ordered \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Cash or Check \_\_\_\_\_

# MANSFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

THE CIRCUS IS HERE!

**RINGLING**  
BROS. & BARNUM & BAILEY  
presents

THE  
**GREATEST**  
SHOW ON EARTH

**PEOPLESBANK ARENA  
HARTFORD, CT**

**LOWER BOWL TICKETS: \$49.87**

**UPPER BOWL TICKETS: \$32.58**

**THURS. APR. 23<sup>RD</sup> | 7 PM**

**TO ORDER PLEASE SCAN THE QR  
CODE OR USE THE URL**

**[https://www.gofevo.com/event/  
MMSA26RBBC](https://www.gofevo.com/event/MMSA26RBBC)**



**\*\* This offer is NOT available at The Hartford Ticket Office at PeoplesBank Arena or on date of show \*\***

**FINAL DATE TO ORDER: MON. APR. 13<sup>TH</sup>**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ORDER CONTACT**

**JULIA BABCOCK**

**CONTACTMMSA@GMAIL.COM**



PRESENTED BY MMSA

# FLOWER POWER FUNDRAISER

Spring will be here soon and you know what that means! You will need beautiful flowers to plant in your garden. Please purchase some bulbs and seeds to help support the Mansfield Middle School Association.

**CLICK LINK BELOW OR SCAN  
QR CODE TO PURCHASE**

<https://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com/index.php/marketplace/seller/profile/show/mmsroadrunners>



**Sale ends on May 15th . All purchases are shipped directly to the buyer.  
If you have any questions please email [contactmmsa@gmail.com](mailto:contactmmsa@gmail.com)**



Meeting is March 10th, 2026 at 7pm  
Google Meet link: <https://meet.google.com/uym-qjcn-jxu>

1. Welcome
2. Updates and info from Principal Barlow and/or Vice Principal Vliet

[Click here for MMS Slide Show](#)

- Grade 5 DARE/Good Decisions graduation took place on Friday, February 20th.
- Winter Orchestra Concert
- Tom Varano: Emotion into Art Assembly: Feb. 12, 2026
- MMS Pep rally february 12 2026
- On February 21, MMS's two Science Quiz Bowl teams competed in the Southern New England Regional Quiz Bowl competition in Glastonbury.
- 7th Grade Water Treatment Field Trip 7th grade concluded their study of groundwater, surface water, and natural

resources by visiting UConn's Water Reclamation Plant and the Windham Water Works facility, the two primary water management agencies in town.

- 7th and 8th grade winter party
- CT history day regional round at UCONN - 32 students competed with 300 student from northern CT
- CAS middle grade leadership conference - student council officer attended
- MMS Science Quiz Bowl Team 2/21
- On February 14, 14 students competed in the Math Counts Chapter competition in New Haven. Some of our students participated as members of our school teams, and others competed as individuals against over 100 other students. 7 of our students scored high enough to qualify for the State Competition in March.
- 8th grade food trucks in LCS/tech ED - they design a food truck, mini business plan, and recipes
- MMS Future city - first ever MMS competitors in the western new england future city competition. Won five special awards
- Read across America - 42 kids went to elementary school to read to the classes.
- MMS spirit week - days are decided by student council and lots participated
- MMS basketball team make to NEMSAC playoffs with the boys team lost in semi-finals and girls team made it to the championship
- 8th grade model congress - students discussed, created, and debated many bills
- Comfort critter visit to MES 7th & 8th grade bring to life the

stuffed-animal drawings made by 1st graders and deliver to the students

- 7th graders meet with MES kindergartens class in preparation for writing their children's book
- MMS logo robotics team - competed against 17 schools and two awards were received
- MMS Choirs - worked with consonare, community choir in mansfield
- Community cares program - 7th & 8th graders with local areas that need help such as Willimantic soup kitchen
- March 27 - 29th Dare to Dream musical

3. Approve the [Meeting Minutes from January 13th](#) (Christina) - approved

4. Budget Discussion (Molly) - Start balance \$4,673.33 and end balance \$5,822.71

5. Staff Grants - [8th Grade Field Trip Grant](#) (Rochelle Marcus)

- Voted to give 8th grade \$800 towards field trip

6. Past MMSA Events/Fundraisers

- a. Womans Uconn Basketball Game 2/1/26
- b. Wolf Pack Hockey Game on Saturday 3/7 at 6pm

7. Upcoming MMSA Events/Fundraisers

- a. Plan another day for Movie Night (4/25) - (Terrence) - Need volunteers
- b. Student Led Conference Bake Sale 3/11, 3/12 & 3/13
- c. Big Y Community Bag Program for the month of March - mansfield location for bi y reusable bags with helping hand on it MMS will get \$1
- d. Ron A Roll 3/22 (Molly)
- e. Fishing Derby - End of May/June (Molly)
- f. Maplefest March 28th & 29th - at Eastbrook mall 9am-4pm  
MMSA will be sitting there on Sunday March 29th with a photobooth opportunity.
- g. Ringling Brothers Show at the Peoples Bank Arena Thursday April 23rd 7pm
- h. 50/50 Raffle- Online May 1st - May 22nd. In Person - May 6th, May 13th & May

20th

i. Flower Power Fundraiser Ends May 15th

Can purchase online and it gets directly shipped to you. No worrying about picking it up

j. Staff Appreciation Week- Mon, May 4, 2026 – Fri, May 8, 2026

Monday - Continental Breakfast

Tuesday - Coupon Books for Staff

Wednesday - Snack Delivery

Thursday - Special Treat Day

Friday - Pizza Party

k. 8th Grade Gift for graduation

Looking into doing a photo booth for class night for the 8th Grade. Going to check with Lauren about a photo printer or possibly renting one for the evening.

l. Retirement Gifts

Come back to this at the Meeting in May.

8. Agenda items for next meeting (anyone can suggest a future topic for discussion)

9. Other business