

What makes MSMS different?

200 Day School Calendar

By adding an additional 20 days to the school calendar, students retain more, so less remediation is necessary. Teachers also have more time to teach and can use the time to provide enriching activities as well as opportunities for re-teaching. Over a six-year period of time, children at MSMS will have gained 2/3 of a typical 180-day school year of additional learning opportunities.

Boundless Explorations' (BE) Time

Boundless Explorations is a 40-minute weekly time for children to explore offerings of their interest over a 5-week period. By allowing students to choose a goal, accomplishment or project from a list of choices and then guiding the students through the process, we can give them the foundation of successful autonomous learning. (20% Time, 2013)

Why do Boundless Explorations Time? Boundless Explorations allow students to join with other grade level students who have similar interests, it inspires and brings back the love of learning for learning's sake, it's differentiation at its best, a perfect way to model life-long learning, something students remember for a lifetime and it is fun. (Genius Hour, 2013)

French Language Instruction starting at Kindergarten

French Language is taught in each classroom 3 times weekly for 30+ minutes by an expert World Language teacher who incorporates oral language learning with music, technology and the history, culture and traditions of France.

Why do we teach French instead of other world languages? The magnet school teaches French because of the strong French heritage and culture right here in Rochester. With that in mind, it was thought that children who have relatives in the area could use their French to speak to relatives and neighbors.

Why teach a world language? Children should start learning a world language in kindergarten and continue through high school. Learning languages helps increase listening ability, memory, creativity and critical thinking - all of which are thinking processes that increase learning in general. In addition to developing thinking skills, world language study exposes children to other ways of looking at the world. To those who consider world language study in elementary school a frill, world language education supports the core curriculum. When done right, world language instruction

uses themes that support the elementary curriculum including math, science, social studies and language arts. (Mary Redmond, Wake Forest University, 2012)

Full Day Kindergarten 8:30-3:00

Although full day kindergarten is offered at the other Rochester elementary schools, magnet school kindergarten students have Art, Music, P.E., French, and Technology offered to them.

Project Based Learning (PBL) Time

Project Based Learning is offered a minimum of 4 days per week for 45 minutes based on the themes of community and sustainability. A service learning piece will be incorporated into at least one project per year.

In Project Based Learning (PBL), students go through an extended process of inquiry in response to a complex question, problem, or challenge. While allowing for some degree of student "voice and choice," rigorous projects are carefully planned, managed, and assessed to help students learn key academic content, practice 21st Century Skills (such as collaboration, communication & critical thinking), and create high-quality, authentic products & presentations. (Buck Institute for Education(BIE), 2010)

Rigorous, meaningful and effective Project Based Learning: is intended to teach significant content; requires critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and various forms of communication.; requires inquiry as part of the process of learning and creating something new; is organized around an open-ended "Driving Question"; creates a need to know essential content and skills; allows some degree of student voice and choice; includes processes for revision and reflection; and involves a public audience. (BIE, 2010)

If we are serious about reaching 21st Century educational goals, PBL must be at the center of 21st Century instruction. The project contains and frames the curriculum, which differs from the short "project" or activity added onto traditional instruction.

Why use PBL? Students gain a deeper understanding of the concepts and standards at the heart of a project. Projects also build vital workplace skills and lifelong habits of learning. Projects can allow students to address community issues, explore careers, interact with adult mentors, use technology, and present their work to audiences beyond the classroom. PBL can motivate students who might otherwise find school boring or meaningless. (BIE, 2010)

Parent/School/Community Partnership Team

The mission of the Maple Street Magnet School Family/School/Community Partnership Team is to foster a community that promotes meaningful, satisfying partnerships within our school and with the larger community of Rochester, NH.

Our family engagement vision is that families and school personnel engage in regular, two way, and meaningful participation in and communication regarding student learning and other school activities. We value families as an integral part of student learning. We encourage families to be actively involved in their child's education at school. We believe families are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision –making to plan for their education.

The Partnership Team believes that by building partnerships within the larger community relationships can be fostered. The mission of the team is to give back to the community with the hope that outside businesses and agencies will also form partnerships with the school.

Friday Morning Bi-Weekly Meeting

Friday Morning Bi-Weekly Meeting is the time when we celebrate the highlights of the last two weeks with each other. Please know that you are invited to share in the bi- weekly acknowledgements of kind, safe and responsible behavior. Students, staff and families share in the accomplishments. Students also have a chance to show off their French by reciting the Pledge in French and by ending the meeting with a French song. Morning meeting is at 8:30 and lasts about 20 minutes.

The First and Third of the Month is Friday Parent Talk

On the first and third Fridays of the month Parent Talk follows the meeting. Again, all parents are invited to attend. Parent Talk is an opportunity for families to connect and share ideas. Some topics are school related and some are not. If you would like a topic covered, please feel free to suggest the topic to the principal.

Blizzard Bags

Blizzard bags are ways for students and teachers to use snow days for learning opportunities. By no later than Nov.15 of each school year, the children will come home with Blizzard Bags containing a long term assignment procedure. The topic they study for the long term project is their choice. The first snow day is off for everyone –no school work needs to be done. On the second snow day of the year, students will work on their chosen project from the bag and so forth each time there is a snow day.

Teachers will collect all Blizzard Bag work by a date in March .MSMS staff is committed to keep learning opportunities fluid as well as fulfill the obligatory 200 days.

Parents will be informed of the Blizzard Bag procedures in an email or formal letter sent by their classroom teacher.

Applying for the Magnet School

Students are accepted to Maple Street Magnet School by lottery. Please contact the district office at (603)332-3678 for information on the lottery.

Calling in an Absence

If your child is absent for any reason, please call the school at 332-6481. This is the most accurate way to get the information to our attendance secretary. Please, always call the school, if your child is going to be out. Thank you. We want to make sure all students are safe, so if we do not receive a call, the school calls the family. Thank you for your help with this matter. We have voicemail, so an early morning call is fine too.

Good attendance at the elementary level is vital. Good school attendance correlates with better student achievement.

Absence Due to a Family Vacation

In this instance, please notify the principal and the classroom teacher by either email or a note as much ahead of time as possible. This allows the teacher to prepare work for the child to complete while absent.

Arrival Expectations

The drive in the front of the building is closed to all but emergency vehicles. Please, do not drive through this area. Students should not arrive to school prior to 8:00 am unless attending before school program. There is no supervision for students before 8:00 am.

Walkers: Walkers should enter school grounds one of two ways. If a student is walking from the lower end of Maple and is approaching the school on the school side of the street, the student should walk in driveway opening closest to North Main Street. If a child is walking from any other direction, he or she should enter school grounds in the driveway nearest the playground. Children must always cross in the crosswalk.

Children should not walk through the parking lot, nor should they use the front walkway.

Car Riders: To allow for a safe arrival for all students we ask that parents do not approach the school from Maple Street. Maple Street is a congested one-way street that cannot accommodate a queue of cars. We ask that drivers please use Lafayette or Chestnut Street then turn on to Waldron. If approaching from Washington Street drivers may want to enter through Cleveland or Sylvain and turn onto Pine, then unto Waldron. At the intersection of Waldron and Maple, please turn onto Maple and drive three car lengths along the playground side of the street. Car riders should remain in the vehicle until the designated drop off area is reached. A staff member will be there to guide students.

Bus Riders: A staff member will greet bus riders. Bus riders will be dropped off at the bottom of the driveway near the playground. Bus riders will immediately enter the building upon arrival.

Breakfast

Children who have breakfast can enter the building at 8:00 am. We have supervision in the café at that time. Children should never go on the playground before the start of the school day, since there is no supervision. Children arriving after 8:15 will be offered a breakfast to take back to their classrooms. Late students arriving at 8:25 will not be allowed to get breakfast. The only exception is a bus student whose bus has arrived late.

On delayed openings (when school starts at 10:30), breakfast will not be served!

Dismissal Expectations

The dismissal procedures have been designed for the safety of all students. Please, help us keep all children safe by complying with these procedures. A form must be completed for each child by a parent or guardian indicating how the child will be getting home. If your child is to leave school grounds with any person other than the parent or caregiver, it is necessary for the parent or caregiver to give the school written permission.

Bus riders and car riders will be dismissed at 2:55.

Car Riders: Car riders will follow the same procedure for pick-up as for drop-off. Drivers please remain in your vehicle. Children will be escorted to the vehicle by a staff member. This procedure is for the safety of your child. Please help us keep your child safe.

Walkers: Walkers will be dismissed at 3:00. Students who have permission to walk home alone will be dismissed. Children who are being picked up by an adult will remain at the top of the drive behind the white line. Please walk to the white line and your child will be released to you.

We must have a note and/or phone call if your child is being dismissed differently than previously arranged. Without written notice or a phone call of a change in routine, attempts will be made to contact the parent, but if the parent cannot be reached, the child will follow their regular procedure for dismissal.

Recess and Lunch Schedule

Grades K, 1 and 2- Lunch 11:30-11:50 Recess 11:50-12:10

Grades 3, 4 and 5- Lunch 11:50-12:10 Recess 12:10-12:30

Recess

During good weather, recess will be outside. During periods of inclement weather students will either go to the library or remain in their classroom. Appropriate indoor activities will be supervised by the duty persons.

All children will be expected to go outside for recess and should be dressed appropriately. If there is a special case (e.g. crutches, cast, asthma) a **doctor's note** is needed to keep the student in.

The School Store

The school store is operated by the secretary with help from grade 5 students. It is open on Fridays during recess time and sells school related items.

Security and Visitors

Our school has an emergency management plan that is reviewed yearly. Procedures such as fire drills, secure location and lockdowns as well as reverse evacuations are practiced

We also have a video security system. Visitors will have to press the call button located to the right of the front door. Office staff will ask you to identify yourself if they do not recognize you before you are “buzzed” in.

We welcome parents in the building, but for safety reasons we require **all** visitors (no matter how quick you plan to be) to sign in and take a badge.

If you wish to speak with a teacher, please call or email and make an appointment. Teachers will not be able to talk with parents during instructional time. If parents would like to visit their child’s class, by calling ahead, a mutually convenient time for all can be set up.

Honeywell Instant Alert

Honeywell Alert System is a highly effective automated notification system and helps to provide vital information using the following media: e-mails, phones and text messaging devices. All students enrolled in Rochester schools are automatically signed up. For changes to the way you receive notification or if you have questions about the program you can go on the [website](#), email Honeywell at InstantAlertHelp@Honeywell.com or contact our office at 332-6481.

Medication

Most prescription medication can be regulated around school hours. When this is not possible, all medications need to be brought to the office in the morning by an adult along with correct forms. See secretary for details. Cough drops and other over the counter medications **are not allowed at school.**

Dress Guidelines

The dress code at Maple Street Magnet School is a flexible one that allows parents and students together to determine the type of clothing and personal grooming appropriate

for school. The district's handbook addresses the formal code, but the school emphasizes the following guidelines:

- Appropriate and safe footwear that allows for active outdoor play
- Clothing that fits comfortably and covers students adequately
- No clothing with offensive/obscene words or pictures

Field Trips

Field trips are considered enrichment to the curriculum and correlate to the classroom instruction. Permission must be received in writing from the parent or guardian before the trip or the child will not be allowed to go. Field trips are planned as a group activity and so students are expected to be transported as a group unless a special circumstance, such as a medical reason exists. Parents are encouraged to chaperone. However, please be aware that we are sometimes limited to the number of chaperones due to space on the bus or by the place being visited. Siblings or other students from other schools are not allowed on field trips.

Publicity

We enjoy showing off our students and their work. We are given opportunities during the school year to publicize their successes by having photographs published in the local newspaper(s), school newsletter and portfolio, and other print and electronic media (e.g. our school website). Our own pictures, plus any that you may donate, will contribute to our yearbook and other efforts to promote communication between the school and the community. **If you do *not* wish to have your child's picture or name in the newspaper, you must notify us by using a form that will be sent home. This information will be kept confidential and will only be released to your child's teacher**