

Myers Park Traditional Elementary School

Glossary

Details are subject to change.

Before and After School Clubs and Activities: MPTS offers a variety of before and after school clubs and activities including Play Spanish, Chess, Girls on the Run, Let Me Run, creative writing, golf and others. Some clubs are year-round and others vary by season. Teachers will send information home about clubs and activities, and the information can be found on the PTA's website: <http://www.mptspta.com/clubs.html>

Beginners' Day: An event held in early May for students and families who have gained admission to MPTS through the lottery process. Students are given an opportunity to spend time in a Kindergarten classroom with a Kindergarten teacher, while parents are provided information about the school.

Beta Club: Service club open to fourth and fifth graders by teacher recommendation and supervised by our school's counselor, Ms. Kraft. Students with strong academic and behavior records may be asked to join this group, which plans and implements service projects and takes trips during the school year.

Birthday Books: Families may purchase a book to be donated to the media center to honor their child's birthday. At the beginning of the school year, parents will receive a form to fill out indicating interest and a reminder will be sent closer to the child's birthday. Students will be given an opportunity to select a book and a permanent sticker will be placed inside the front cover with the student's name and birthday donation date. In addition, the student will be able to check out his/her Birthday Book from the media center before anyone else.

Birthday Celebrations at School: Parents may purchase birthday celebration treats (cookie cakes, cupcakes, ice cream, etc.) from the school cafeteria for birthday celebrations at school. Birthday treats will be delivered to the class during lunch or at a time designated by the child's teacher. Due to (potential) food allergies, homemade treats brought in from outside are not permitted. To order birthday treats please <http://schools.cms.k12.nc.us/myersparkES/Pages/Cafeteria.aspx>. Please download and print the form and e-mail to our school Cafeteria Manager, Pam Edwards at pam.edwards@cms.k12.nc.us approximately one week before the celebration. Please note that the money will be deducted from your child's PayPams account. To setup a PayPams account please visit <https://paypams.com/HomePage.aspx>.

Black Box Theatre (Hadley Theatre): Theater space in the MPTS building, located next to the gym. This space is owned by Queens but is occasionally used for special events at MPTS such as the Spring Book Fair, assemblies, and grade level events.

Blacktop: The parking lot closest to the playgrounds where students often play basketball etc. during their recess time.

Blue Ticket Program: This program celebrates all students and is based on exhibiting excellent behavior that embodies the Leader in Me program. Students can receive a blue ticket from any adult in the building at any time. All tickets are collected daily and at the end of each week Mrs. Fowler selects two winners in grades K-2 and two winners in grades 3-5 from the collection box (in the front office). This is a new program, implemented in the 2016-17 school year.

BOG Tests (Beginning of Grade): A standardized literacy test given to all third graders within the first few weeks of school. It is a pre-test to determine if students have mastered any third grade standards before standards have been introduced in the classroom. A score is given and is used as a growth model for each individual child. This score helps teachers understand where individual third grade students demonstrate academic strength and areas for growth in literacy.

Box Tops: Coupons appearing on some grocery products, including many cereal boxes that can be redeemed by the PTA for cash. Box Tops are collected year round and are submitted periodically by a PTA committee chair for redemption. You may send in Box Tops all year to your child's teacher.

Carpool: Students may be dropped off in the carpool line from 8:45am – 9:15am. If you are picking up your child from school via carpool at the end of the day please be in line no later than 4:15pm. For additional information on carpool flow please visit <http://www.mptspta.com/mpts-car-pool-map.html>.

Carpool Number: Each student or family (if more than one child attends MPTS) being picked up via carpool will be assigned a number which will be printed on half sheet of cardstock. Each vehicle needs to display/hold up the carpool number for Mrs. Horner at the corner of the parking lot by the playground. If you are new to MPTS and do not have a carpool number you will be assigned one by Mrs. Horner during the first week of school.

Child Nutrition Services: The CMS department that provides breakfast and lunch to our students every day. CMS provides free breakfast for all students. Detailed information regarding Child Nutrition Services can be found online at <http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/cmsdepartments/cns/Pages/default.aspx> Menus can be found online and are also posted on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CMSChildNutrition/> and Twitter @CMSnutrition regularly.

Community Nights (AKA Spirit Nights): The PTA organizes Community Nights, typically once a month, at local restaurants, attractions or sporting events where MPTS families can get to know each other outside of school and raise money for MPTS in the process.

Competitive Chess Team (Young Master Competitive Chess): This is one of two chess clubs offered at MPTS. This group, which is typically limited to first grade and higher, practices weekly and attends local, state and national competitions throughout the year. Look for flyers at the start of the year to sign up, or visit the MPTS PTA website for additional ways to sign up. This club is instructed each week by two or more professional chess instructors, therefore there is a charge for joining the team. Team members are expected to participate in a few tournaments each year.

Curriculum Handbook and Parent Resource: A document created and maintained by the School Leadership Team (SLT) to inform parents of Myers Park Traditional curriculum and other school resources. It can be downloaded here: <http://schools.cms.k12.nc.us/myersparkES/Pages/ParentNightInformation.aspx>

Curriculum Nights: Parents have the opportunity to hear from teachers about the method and content of material covered in their classrooms during Curriculum Nights. Curriculum Nights are divided by grade level into Kindergarten through Second and Third through Fifth; you need only attend the Curriculum Nights that apply to the grade(s) in which your children are enrolled. The first curriculum night of the year, held in mid to late September, is particularly important because teachers go over classroom schedules, rules and expectations. There may be one or more additional Curriculum Nights scheduled during the school year. If you are not able to attend, follow up with your teacher to get copies of any handouts provided or presentations that were made so you can stay informed of what is happening in your child's classroom.

Dana Auditorium: A performance space on Queens University's campus (at the corner of Selwyn and Wellesley), which MPTS uses in lieu of an auditorium. Children attend

cultural events at Dana Auditorium. Additionally, the school's holiday performances and Fifth Grade Graduation take place at Dana.

Daughters' Dance (formerly Father/Daughter Dance): A community-building social event held on a Friday evening in the winter or spring. Daughters can invite a parent/guardian of their choosing, often their Father. This event is not at the school. There is a ticket charge for this event.

Directory (see My School Anywhere)

Dismissal: The school bell rings at 4:15pm. At 4:05pm students that are carpool, walkers, or those that attend the ASEP at MPTS are dismissed to the school gym and bus riders shortly thereafter. Please note that any student requiring early dismissal must be picked up no later than 3:30pm. This ensures the safety of our students during end-of-day release procedures.

EOG Testing (End of Grade): Standardized tests given to third, fourth, and fifth graders in the areas of Literacy, Math, and Science (fifth grade only) at the end of the school year. This test measures what students have learned throughout the school year according to the Common Core Standards. It determines if students are proficient in Literacy, Math, and Science (fifth grade only) and helps teachers know if students are prepared to be successful in the next grade level.

Field Day: The Physical Education teacher stages Field Day in the spring for students in grades K-5. Children have picnic lunches on the field in conjunction with Field Day. Parents are welcome to volunteer for this event and/or to eat lunch with their children on the field.

Field Trips: Each grade level at MPTS has several field trips during the year. Some take place on the MPTS or Queens campuses while others involve walking or taking buses to locations off campus. Most have costs associated with them and require signed permission slips.

Fifth Grade Graduation: The Fifth Grade Graduation ceremony takes place in Dana Auditorium on the Queens University campus, normally a day or two before school dismisses for the year. Fifth graders dress up for this event, and each fifth grader is presented with a "diploma" on stage. In addition, various academic and character awards are given to members of the graduating class. This is a very special event and families of fifth graders are encouraged to attend.

Fifth Grade Reception: A MPTS committee arranges a cookie and lemonade reception following Fifth Grade Graduation.

Flag Pole Ceremony: A longstanding tradition at MPTS, this is an event where all students gather around the flagpole on the first day of attendance for all students (after staggered entry for kindergarten). During the ceremony, faculty, students, and staff say the Pledge of Allegiance, sing the school song, and sing patriotic songs together. Our music teacher leads this event.

Gold Level Activity: Designated days during the school year for students who have maintained a “gold” behavior level during the designated period. These events may be school-wide (ex: trip to Queens to attend a special event) or determined within individual classrooms. There are 3-4 Gold Level events per year.

Grounds Day: A school-wide event held to clean up the MPTS campus. Families participate by pulling weeds, cutting grass, laying mulch, planting flowers, etc. There are two Grounds Days, one in the fall and one in the spring.

Honor Roll: Students in third through fifth grades who earn all As and Bs can find their names on the Honor Roll board after each of our six grading periods, located in the hallway to the left of the school’s main lobby.

Instructional Fees: These fees are collected in the fall and are used for purchasing classroom materials, student planners in the upper grades, and cover various technology costs. Instructional Fees are essential and provide teachers with classroom items they need over and above what CMS provides. These fees are typically collected in conjunction with PTA Dues, and may be paid at the same time.

Kindergarten End-of-Year Program: A program held at Dana Auditorium on the Queens University campus in early June that highlights our Kindergarten students. This is a musical program and all family members are invited to attend.

Leader in Me: A program developed by Stephen Covey to help students learn leadership qualities. MPTS teachers have been trained in the 7 Habits that are part of the Leader in Me program, and teach students to learn and practice those habits in their studies and in their lives. Both MPTS and Elizabeth Traditional School are teaching the Leader in Me curriculum.

Leader of the Month: Teachers select the Leader of the Month from among their Leaders of the Week for a given month. These students are recognized by administration with a special breakfast in the Eagles' Nest area of the cafeteria. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend the event; however, breakfast is only provided for the students.

Leader of the Week: Teachers select one student each week who has exemplified the leadership skills being taught. These students are recognized during the morning announcements on WMPT and are eligible to become Leader of the Month.

Leadership Day: A student-driven celebration of the leadership that is woven into our school. This is a day that enables our MPTS students to showcase how the 7 Habits of Leadership are incorporated organically into their learning. Students may apply for leadership roles in or out of the classroom to help in the production of our Leadership Day.

Lois B. Lee Award: This award is given each year to an outstanding teacher at MPTS. Named for a much-loved former MPTS teacher and principal, the award includes \$1000 for the winner to use for professional development and classroom materials. Nominations are accepted from any current or former MPTS student or parent.

Media Center: Students visit the media center (library) during their specials rotations in each grade level. The media center is also used for parent and staff meetings, prospective parent open houses, and book fairs throughout the year.

Memberhub: North Carolina PTA required directory where PTA dues can be made.

Million Minutes: A summer reading incentive program for MPTS students. Students pledge to read a certain amount over the summer, keep track of their minutes read, and achieve incentives at certain levels. Students may also obtain financial pledges and raise money from friends and family to benefit MPTS based upon the amount of reading they accomplish during the summer.

MySchoolAnywhere (see also *Directory*): Online database maintained by the PTA. All families can access the database and generate class rosters or locate contact information for other participating families. All families should review their contact information so that they will be accurately included in class rosters and the PTA will be able to send them information such as the Traditional Times and special PTA notices. The directory is only available to MPTS families, as it requires an invitation to view and a secure login. The web address is: www.myschoolanywhere.com

New Family Orientation: An informational event, held on the Friday before school begins, which provides relevant information for new families. Information includes: transportation, cafeteria purchases (PayPams), introduction to key MPTS staff, PTA events and calendar, and time for questions. After the event, families will proceed to their student's classrooms to meet their teacher and receive important beginning of year information. All incoming families, grades K through 5, are encouraged to attend.

New Family Webpage: This page, located at <http://www.mptspta.com/new-families.html> is your "go-to" place for all new family information.

Online Directory (see MySchoolAnywhere)

Online Store: The PTA allows payments to be made online through the MySchoolAnywhere application. Parents may use this system to pay Instructional Fees, Community Night tickets, Yearbooks, and many other items. <http://bit.ly/MPTSPTAStore>

Online School Payments (OSP): An online system used by CMS to pay for field trips. <http://osp.osmsinc.com/cms/>

Open House: An event held one afternoon at MPTS, typically the Friday before school begins, in which children and parents are invited to visit their classroom for the upcoming year and meet their teacher. Children are encouraged to bring school supplies with them to the Open House if they have already purchased them. Families should receive a postcard notifying them of the date of the Open House and the name of their teacher about a week before the event.

PayPams: An online payment program used by CMS to manage all cafeteria purchases. Your child is given an identification number and all payments are made through this system. You may set up automatic payments through this system so your child can make purchases through the cafeteria. <https://paypams.com>

PeachJar: An online digital flyer management system used by CMS. Local organizations will post digital flyers to this website as a means of advertising a before/after school activity, summer camp, or other local event. Parents may subscribe at: www.peachjar.com

Parent Room: The PTA has a room just past the main office on the right and contains the mailboxes for all PTA board members and committee chairs, as well as supplies for PTA activities.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA): Parent and teacher organization that all members of the MPTS community are invited to join at the beginning of each year by paying a small amount of dues (usually around \$6). In addition to its general membership, the PTA is comprised of a governing Board and Committee Chairs. The PTA identifies needs of the school community and sets up committees to enrich all areas in the life of the school, including planning community building activities, producing the yearbook, and organizing tutors to meet the needs of our teachers, to name a few. All are encouraged to attend general PTA meetings, which are advertised in the Traditional Times and take place 4 to 6 times per school year, to hear the school's administrators report on developments and plans and to participate in voting on the PTA's budget and its plans.

PowerSchool: An online student management system that maintains student records for CMS (and the entire North Carolina public school system). This system tracks enrollment of all students, their attendance, and grades for students in grades 3-12. There is a parent portal, which may be accessed by downloading the PowerSchool app from your phone's app store, or online at <https://cms.powerschool.com/public/>

PTA Dues: A small membership fee (usually around \$6) which is solicited at the beginning of the year, along with Instructional Fees. A portion of the PTA dues are sent to the North Carolina PTA to support our membership, which provides insurance, services, and support for our local PTA.

Prospective Parent Open House: MPTS holds several events in the fall and winter to attract new families to our school. Each open house features presentations by school administrators, a Kindergarten teacher, PTA leadership and others. Families are offered tours of the school during these Open Houses.

Reading Celebration Day: Traditionally held in early October, this is a school-wide event where students dress as their favorite character from a book. Teachers, administration, and local celebrities participate and rotate among classrooms to read books to the students. The event culminates with lunch on the MPTS lawn for all students and any parents or family members who would like to attend.

Recreational Chess: This is one of two chess clubs offered at MPTS. Students in grades 1-5 are eligible, and meet before school in the Media Center twice a month to practice their chess skills. Parent volunteers are required for this club, and game materials are provided by the PTA. No chess instruction is given; this is a free, non-competitive, peer-led learning environment.

Remind App: This is a mobile phone application used by MPTS Administration to notify families of bus transportation delays. To install and sign up, enter rmd.at/cdkf6 in the web browser of your iPhone or Android phone and follow the prompts.

Room Parent: Designated parents in each classroom who are responsible for communicating on a weekly basis. Communications may come from the teacher, the administration, or the PTA. In addition, Room Parents are responsible for coordinating class parties, special events, and act as a liaison for any parents with questions about MPTS procedures.

Safety Patrol: Rising 5th grade students who have strong behavior records can apply to be part of the school's Safety Patrol, helping to ensure that students are moving safely about the school between arrival (8:45am - 9:15am) and dismissal times. Safety Patrol members are also included in the school's tours during Prospective Parent Open Houses.

School Leadership Team (SLT): The primary mission of the SLT is to assist with the design and implementation of the annual School Improvement Plan. Parent members provide feedback to the principal and staff about initiatives at the school. Parent members also have the opportunity for input regarding the varied academic and community experiences at MPTS. Meetings are scheduled throughout the academic school year, and can be found on our school calendar.

School Store: MPTS has an online school store offering spirit wear and other items with our school's logo. From time to time, school store volunteers will offer spirit wear for order or purchase at school events or in the lobby of the school in the morning.

<http://mptseagles.com/>

School Supplies: School supply lists are provided by each grade level on the school's website and can be individually purchased or purchased through SchoolKidz.

SchoolKidz is a school supply kit program where you can purchase a kits online, and the kits are delivered to your student's classroom the week before school begins. This also serves as a fundraiser for the PTA.

Sons' Event (Formerly Mother/Son Event): A community-building social event organized by the PTA and held in the Fall. Son's can invite a parent/guardian of their choosing, often their mother. We have done bowling and dances in the past. There is a ticket charge for this event.

Staggered Entry (for kindergarten only): In the first week of school, kindergarten students attend only one day out of the first four, then all students attend together on the fifth day. This gives each child time to transition, and allows teachers to get to know your child in a smaller group setting. There are typically five or six students on each of the four staggered entry days. You will receive a postcard with your child's staggered entry date, along with teacher assignment, in mid-late August.

Summer Playdates (formerly Popsicle Playdates): Social events held during the summer hosted by the PTA at the MPTS playground. These events are a great opportunity for new and rising Kindergarten families to get to know each other.

Spirit Nights (see Community Nights)

Spring Carnival: Traditionally held on the MPTS field on a Friday afternoon in mid-May, the Carnival features attractions like bounce houses, face painting, a DJ and a dunking booth. Dinner, drinks and dessert are available for purchase. Tickets must be purchased for admission to the event.

Staff Appreciation Week: Typically in March, this is a PTA-sponsored week of special events for the entire MPTS staff. Events typically include breakfasts, lunches, snacks, and raffle prizes throughout the week. In addition, the Lois B. Lee Award Luncheon is held during Staff Appreciation Week. Parents are asked to volunteer in classrooms during the luncheon so that all teachers and assistants may attend. Parents are also asked to send in gifts and/or other donations for the teachers during this week.

Traditional Giving: This is the MPTS annual giving campaign and is held in the fall. With the exception of the Million Minutes summer reading fundraiser, this is the only formal MPTS fundraising event. Funds raised provide our children with an enriched education, exciting materials, and engaging programs. Alongside the MPTS administration and teachers, the PTA assists in providing much of the curriculum that our children receive on a daily basis. Contributions are tax deductible and matching gifts are accepted from several area businesses and corporations.

Traditional Times: The PTA's weekly e-newsletter, sent to all parents each week. This email provides relevant information about school events, PTA and community news, and messages from administration. You must provide your email address to directorympts@gmail.com to receive this newsletter.

Tuesday Folders: Yellow Tuesday folders are sent home on Tuesdays with papers from teachers, school staff, and PTA. The left pocket of the folder includes items to return in the folder by Thursday. The right pocket of the folder includes items to remain at home.

Volunteers: All family or community members must be registered through CMS before they may volunteer at any school, including MPTS. The process for registering can be found at <http://www.mptspta.com/cms-volunteer-registration.html> or you may contact the MPTS front office for further details.

WMPT: Closed-circuit television broadcast of the morning's announcements from the studio in the Media Center. The broadcast goes out to all classrooms. Ms. Graham, the school's Media Specialist, coordinates the broadcast with a team of fifth graders who operate the equipment and are on-air personalities.