



October 2024 Activities Calendar



1-Oct	IHSA Regional Girls Golf HS Cross Country Volleyball JH Football JH Girls Basketball	OPEN TRAC Conference at Monmouth Park V. Orion HS V. Orion Middle School Home v. ROWVA-R/W Coop	TBA 4:30 PM 5:00 PM 5:30 PM 5:30 PM
2-Oct	Boys Golf-IHSA Regional SIP DAY Volleyball	OPEN Early Dismissal Home v. Farmington	TBA 2:00 PM 5:00 PM
3-Oct	Homecoming Parade	Downtown Aledo	6:00 PM
4-Oct	Varsity Football	Home v. Newman Central Catholic	7:00 PM
5-Oct	HS Cross Country JH Football MCHS Homecoming Dance	Elmwood Invite at Maple Lane Co. Club V. Colona Grade School MC Fairgrounds	9:30 AM 10:00 AM 8-11 PM
7-Oct	IHSA Sectional Girls & Boys Golf JV Football JH Girls Basketball	OPEN V. Newman HS Home v. Kewanee Central JH	TBA 5:30 PM 5:30 PM
8-Oct	Volleyball	V. Monmouth-Roseville HS	5:00 PM
9-Oct	Picture Retakes SIP DAY JH Girls Basketball JV/V Volleyball	JH Early Dismissal V. Knoxville JH V. Elmwood HS	TBA 2:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM
10-Oct	Picture Retake Day Volleyball JH Girls Basketball	ELC Home v. Illini West Home v. Wethersfield JH	TBA 5:00 PM 5:30 PM
11-Oct	IHSA State Finals Girls and Boys Golf Varsity Football	OPEN V. Rockridge HS	TBA 7:00 PM
12-Oct	ISHA State Finals Girls and Boys Golf JH Cross Country IESA Sectional Mind over Miles 5K	OPEN OPEN Downtown Aledo	TBA TBA 8:00 AM
14-Oct	HS Cross Country Finance Committee Meeting JV Football	V. Amboy District Office Home v. Rockridge HS	10:00 AM 5:00 PM 5:30 PM
15-Oct	Volleyball JH Football JH Girls Basketball	Home v. Rockridge HS Home v. Monmouth-Roseville JH V. Stark Co. JH in Wyoming	5:00 PM 5:30 PM 5:30 PM
16-Oct	Picture Retakes SIP DAY Volleyball JH Girls Basketball Board of Education Meeting	NBE Early Dismissal Ridgewood Coop @ Cambridge Home v. Rockridge JH Music Room	TBA 2:00 PM 5:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:30 PM
17-Oct	Volleyball JH Girls Basketball Athletic Booster Meeting	V. Riverdale HS Home v. Orion Middle School MCHS Library	5:00 PM 5:30 PM 5:30 PM
18-Oct	End of First Quarter Varsity Football	V. Princeton HS	7:00 PM
19-Oct	JH Cross Country-IESA State Freshman Volleyball Invite JH Football HS Cross Country	Maxwell Park, Normal, IL V. Farmington V. Kewanee HS Patriot Invite @ Detweiller Park	TBA 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 1:00 PM



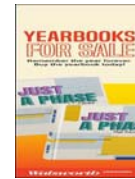
October Activities Calendar Cont.



21-Oct	Finance Meeting	District Office	5:00 PM
	JV Football	Home v. Princeton HS	5:30 PM
	NBE PTO Meeting	NBE	6:30 PM
22-Oct	JH Girls Basketball	V. AlWood JH in Woodhull	5:00 PM
	Volleyball (Senior Night)	Home v. Sherrard	5:00 PM
23-Oct	Picture Retakes	MCHS	TBA
	SIP DAY	Early Dismissal	2:00 PM
	JH Girls Basketball	V. Sherrard	5:30 PM
24-Oct	NO SCHOOL	PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE	12:00 ~ 7:30 PM
	Volleyball	Home v. Rock Falls	5:00 PM
	JH Girls Basketball	@ Monmouth-Roseville	5:30 PM
25-Oct	NO SCHOOL	PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE	7:30 ~ 12:30 PM
	Varsity Football	Home v. Mendota	7:00 PM
26-Oct	IHSA Regional Cross Country	OPEN	TBA
28-Oct	IHSA Regional Volleyball	TBA	TBA
	JV Football	V. Mendota	5:30 PM
	JH Girls Basketball	V. Kewanee Central	5:30 PM
30-Oct	SIP DAY	Early Dismissal	2:00 PM
	JH Girls Basketball	Home v. Knoxville JH	5:30 PM

Yearbooks for Sale

The MCHS yearbook is now \$60. To order yours, please visit:
<https://yearbookforever.com/school-store/OYnKo9EV5MKhDXJvaz8T8kS7>



Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conference Days will be held as they were last year with no student attendance. Please contact your student's school to set up conferences. Times are 12:00 PM to 7:30 PM on Thursday, October 24th, and 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM on Friday, October 25th.

Become a Music Booster Member

The Mercer County Music Boosters would like to thank all of our supporters who generously donated to the Marching Band Uniform project. Through your help, we raised \$38,000! Be sure to check out the new uniforms on George Pratt Memorial Field this football season.



Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, October 9th** at 5:30 PM in the High School Band Room. The Music Boosters help supplement the Music Department to best support our music programs. Email Janel Reed with any questions at reedja@mercerschools.org.

Feel free to like the Golden Eagle Music Booster Facebook page for updates.

MCHS Fall Play



Mark your calendar for the MCHS Fall Play which will be "Lend Me a Tenor". Performances are scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, November 14-16, 2024 and 2:00 p.m. Sunday, November 17, 2024 in the MCHS Auditorium. Stay tuned for more info to come!

Contact Information

Mercer County School District Office

309/582-2238
844/975-1215 fax

Mercer County High School

309/582-2223
844/990-4134 fax

Mercer County Junior High

309/584-4174
844/990-4129 fax

MC Early Learning Center

309/584-5001
844/990-4127 fax

New Boston Elementary

309/587-8141
844/990-4126 fax

Apollo Elementary

309/582-5350
844/972-1553 fax

Mercer County Transportation Office:

Ernest Dillie, Supervisor
Office Phone: 309/584-4630
Cell Phone: 309/371-6354

Jodi O'Leary, Secretary
Office Phone: 309/584-4630

Johannes Bus Service:
Kim Lloyd
Office Phone: 309/582-2922
Cell Phone: 309/738-9423



What head lice are

Head lice are tiny insects that feed solely on the blood of people, and are most common on children of early elementary school age. Head lice grasp the head hair with their claws and insert their tiny mouthparts into the skin for just a minute or so to drink a tiny droplet of blood. **Lice cannot burrow into the skin and do not play a role in transmitting any disease-causing organisms. Thus, head lice are rarely anything more than a nuisance.** These insect pests are most commonly shared by direct head-to-head contact. Activities such as hugging, play wrestling, and sharing a bed all offer opportunities for lice to spread between friends and family members. Regardless of the wealth of the community or family, the cleanliness of the home, or the month of the year, however, **---only about one in every 100 U.S. elementary school children will be infested with head lice, of those infested children, only a few will spread" lice to others.**

How to manage and prevent head lice at school

Head lice infest people, *not* school buildings or buses. A louse that falls from the hair will very likely die within hours, and almost certainly die by the next day. Thus, applying insecticides in the school or bus to control or prevent head lice is unnecessary and wasteful. It may also be prohibited by law. If a child does have lice, only the child's parent or guardian should or need be notified—ideally at the end of the day. The parent should be offered scientifically and medically sound information on how to manage the problem. Divulging the child's medical condition to the teacher or principal, or to other students and their parents, would violate confidentiality. **Head lice may be an annoyance, but they are neither a serious medical problem nor a public health issue.** The school's efforts regarding lice is to educate students, parents, and school personnel with up-to-date information. **Unjustified actions include screening children for lice or nits, treating children at school, treating the school building, and excluding from school children who are infested or presumably infested.**

Much ado about nits

Lice eggs seem to cause more panic among parents and school staff than does nearly any other problem associated with head lice. Dead eggs and the remnants of hatched eggs remain firmly glued onto the hair for weeks, months, or even years. If nits are discovered, look for a live (crawling) louse. If none is found, then the logical conclusion is that the child is likely no longer infested. Check again occasionally, but do not treat unless a live louse is found. The vast majority of objects presumed to be nits are simply bits of debris. But because bits of debris are frequently misidentified as lice eggs, many children are misdiagnosed, sent home, and treated unnecessarily.

Head lice are acquired mainly by *direct head-to-head contact* with an infested person. Inanimate objects (such as combs, brushes, hair accessories and other such items) serve little, if any role in the transmission of head lice. Louse combs used to remove lice should be rinsed in hot water and wiped clean with a towel or a small brush. Generally, hot water from the water faucet will be sufficient to kill lice and their eggs with just a few seconds of exposure. If the water is too hot for washing hands, it is likely adequate to kill lice and eggs quickly on combs. Boiling the water is excessive for this purpose, and risks causing burns and damaging some combs. **Shared helmets and headphones in schools or recreational settings would rarely, if ever, harbor an occasional head louse or nit.** The effort necessary to effectively inspect and clean these devices, however, is not warranted. **Shared lockers or coat hooks pose even less risk as sources of contamination.**

What parents can do to eliminate and prevent head lice

Before considering any kind of treatment, find a live (crawling) insect and make sure it is a louse. If lice are found on one family member, then all other children and adults in the home should be checked as well. If the hair is fairly fine and not tangled, then a lice or nit comb can be useful in detecting and removing these insects and their eggs. Some, but not all, infestations can be eliminated by this method. If combing is difficult, impractical, or has been unsuccessful, then pediculicides can prove valuable. Pediculicides are special insecticide products registered by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat lice. Most over-the-counter (OTC) pediculicides contain pyrethrins (extracts of chrysanthemum flowers) or their synthetic equivalent. Used as directed on the package, these products can be effective at killing lice. A repeat treatment, about 10 days after the first, is often needed.



Mercer County School District #404

District Office: 203 N Washington Street, Joy, IL 61260

Phone: 309.582.2238

Fax: 844.975-1215

www.mercerschools.org

Dear Parents/Guardians,

With the cold and flu season upon us, and our rising cases of respiratory illness in the district, please keep the following guidelines in mind when deciding whether or not to send your student to school.

This will help to control the spread of infectious diseases at school and allow your student to be available for learning. Students should remain home for the following reasons:

Students should remain home for the following reasons:

- For a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees. Students should be fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen before coming back to school.
- If diagnosed with a strep infection. Students need to be on an antibiotic for a minimum of 24 hours, fever free, and feeling well before returning to school.
- If your student has vomited or had persistent diarrhea (3 times or more in a day). Students need to be free from vomiting and/or diarrhea for 24 hours before coming back to school.
- If your student has a heavy, moist productive cough, chest congestion, or discolored nasal drainage.
- If your student has been diagnosed with Influenza or other respiratory illnesses, please keep them home until they are fever free for 24 hours without medications and symptoms have improved.

Please continue to remind your student of the importance of frequent hand washing, healthy eating, avoiding sharing drinks and food, covering their coughs and sneezes, and proper use and disposal of tissues during this cold and flu season. When notifying the school of your child's absence, please give us the reason for the absence along with the symptoms your student is experiencing.

Mercer County High
1500 S. College Ave
Aledo, IL 61231
309-582-2223
Fax: 844/990-4134

Mercer County Jr. High
1002 SW 6th Street
Aledo, IL 61231
309-584-4174
Fax: 844/990-4129

Apollo Elementary
801 SW 9th Street
Aledo, IL 61231
309-582-5350
Fax: 844/972-1553

New Boston Elementary
301 Jefferson Street
New Boston, IL 61272
309-587-8141
Fax: 844/990-4126

MC Early Learning Center
203 N Washington Street
Joy, IL 61260
309-584-5001
Fax: 844/990-4127



Counselor's Information

Contact Information

Mercer County High School

1500 South College Ave

Aledo, IL 61231

Phone: 309-582-2223

Ext. 1

Fax: 844-990-4134

School Counselors

Tami Hains

haindst@mercerschools.org

Catherine Staker

stakerc@mercerschools.org

Counseling Secretary

Ashley Clark

clarka@mercerschools.org



Like us on
Facebook!!!

Mercer County HS Counseling
Office



Follow us on
Twitter!!

@mercocounseling

Mark Your Calendars

October 16th MCHS College & Career Day

October 18th End 1st Qt

Oct. 24th-25th No School P/T Conferences

MCHS College & Career Day

Mercer County High School will be hosting a College/Career Day on Wednesday, October 16th during school in the high school gymnasium. We are excited to announce that we will have a mixture of colleges, universities, local unions, local businesses, trade schools, and military personnel on hand. We really want to make sure that we have something for everyone. They will be available in an "open house" format, with a table set up, to answer questions or obtain information from. Right now, we have over 40 tables that will be set up but are expecting a few more.

There will be a scholarship opportunity/opportunities for senior students just for attending and signing up.

Mind Over Miles 5K Run/Walk

Do you love to run/walk AND care about mental health awareness? Join The Gray Matters Collective for our first 5K run/walk: Mind Over Miles.

Packet pick-up begins at 8am | Race starts at 9am

\$10 for students | \$20 for adults

All attendees must register before October 5th and registrants ages 17 or under must be registered by an authorized adult or legal guardian.

Register with the QR Code:



Please park in the Mercer County High School parking lot and follow signage to the registration tables.

We will have a speaker to start the race and QC CAN therapy dogs. We will see you there!

THEGRAYMATTERSCOLLECTIVE



College Representatives at MCHS

College representatives meet with interested students September through December. . College visits are held during advisory. Students must report to their class before leaving to meet with a representative. The following representatives will be at Mercer County High School:

U of Dubuque	Oct 7th
Trinity Nursing	Nov 8th
ECC	Nov 18th
Blackburn	Nov 21st

Post-Secondary Plans for Seniors

- Ms. Hains & Mrs. Staker held Senior Jump Start on Wednesday, September 25th for seniors and their parents. They hopefully answered any questions anyone had about post grad planning but if you have additional questions please email or call the counseling office.
- Seniors are encouraged to submit college applications at this time. Seniors should submit post-secondary school applications to the school of their choice by mid October.
- Seniors needing a transcript sent to a college should log in to their Parchment account and make their requests. Please stop by the counseling office or email Ms. Hains, Mrs. Staker or Mrs. Clark with any questions.

Please stop by the counselor's office with any questions or concerns you may have about Post-Secondary plans.



Post-Secondary Visits

Juniors & Seniors get three TOTAL college visit days that are excused to visit post-secondary schools. Forms may be picked-up in the counselor's office and must be returned to the main office at least one day prior to the visit, for the absence to be excused. Keep in mind that most post-secondary schools have special fall preview days on Saturdays and encourage parents/students to make private appointments if they cannot attend a preview day. Several colleges are currently offering scholarships to students who attend the preview days. Scholarship eligibility is often based on a qualifying essay or a drawing.

SAT Test Dates—SAT.org

SAT No Essay—\$68

(late fee required—\$34)

The following SAT test dates are available for all high school students who wish to take the test. *Please note the SAT will be given here at the high school in April to all Juniors.

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
October 5, 2024	September 20, 2024
November 2, 2024	October 18, 2024
December 7, 2024	November 22, 2024
March 8, 2025	February 21, 2025
May 3, 2025	April 22, 2025
June 7, 2025	May 27, 2025

*Fee waivers are available if you qualify. See the Counseling office with questions



ACT Test Dates ACT Plus Writing

ACT No Writing—\$69

ACT Plus Writing—\$94

Test option change - \$25

(late fee required—\$38)



The following ACT test dates are available for all high school students who wish to take the test:

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Fee Deadline</u>
October 26, 2024	September 20	October 7
December 14, 2024	November 8	November 22
February 8, 2025	January 3	January 20
April 5, 2025	February 28	March 16
June 14, 2025	May 9	May 16
July 12, 2025	June 6	June 20

Students may register on-line at www.act.org and use a credit card for payment. REMEMBER to include Mercer County High School's code 140008 on the registration information so the school has your ACT scores for your transcript. Keep in mind that the ACT can be taken multiple times & colleges do not care if scores go down on retakes. Colleges will not pull the highest scores from multiple dates but do take the highest scores from one single test date regardless of the number of times the test has been taken. **Fee waivers are available if you qualify.

School Counselors

Tami Hains

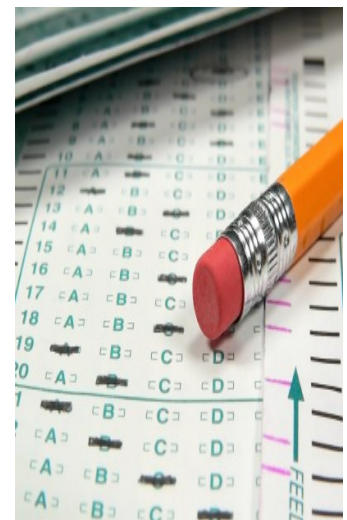
Catherine Staker

Secretary

Ashley Clark

(309) 582-2223

Ext. 1



THEGRAYMATTERSCOLLECTIVE

5K RUN / WALK

**MIND
— OVER —
MILES**
■ THEGRAYMATTERSCOLLECTIVE



SATURDAY
OCT, 12 2024
REGISTER WITH THE QR CODE

MERCER COUNTY H.S.
1500 S COLLEGE AVE, ALEDO, IL 61231



PACKET PICK-UP BEGINS AT 8 A.M.
RACE STARTS AT 9 A.M.
\$10 FOR STUDENTS | \$20 FOR ADULTS
*ALL ATTENDEES MUST REGISTER BEFORE OCTOBER 5
AND REGISTRANTS AGES 17 OR UNDER MUST BE
REGISTERED BY AN AUTHORIZED ADULT.*

QUESTIONS? EMAIL THEGRAYMATTERSCOLLECTIVE@GMAIL.COM.

FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH

ALEDO, ILLINOIS

Annual *Winter Coat* Giveaway

At First Baptist Church of Aledo



Oct. 14th, 6-7:30pm

Oct. 15th, 5:00-6:30pm

800 NE 6th Ave, Aledo, IL 61231

SAVE!
THE DATE!

There are no income or age guidelines. Items will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. No early distribution.

*Donations being collected now until Oct. 13 for New or Gently Used coats, hats, mittens, snow pants, etc.

Questions, contact the church office at 309-582-7812.




October Breakfast Menu 2024

Skim Chocolate and 1% White milk served everyday.

Menu Subject to Change



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1 Burrito Yogurt cup Fruit/milk	2 Biscuit and gravy Fruit/milk	3 Cereal Donut Fruit/milk	4 Breakfast Sandwich Fruit/milk
7 Pancake Sausage link Fruit/milk	8 Oatmeal w/ brown sugar Pop Tart Fruit/milk	9 Ham/Egg/Cheese bar Fruit/milk	10 Sausage link Hashbrown Fruit/milk	11 Cereal Muffin Fruit/milk
14 Waffle Sausage link Fruit/milk	15 Sausage link Hashbrown Fruit/milk	16 Cereal Nutri-Grain Fruit/milk	17 Breakfast pizza Fruit/milk	18 Ham/Egg/cheese bar Fruit/milk
21 Cereal Donut Fruit/milk	22 Breakfast sandwich Fruit/milk	23 Pancake Sausage link Fruit/milk	24 NO SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES	25 NO SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
28 Cereal Muffin Fruit/milk	29 Oatmeal w/ brown sugar Pop Tart Fruit/milk	30 Biscuit & gravy Fruit/milk	31 Burrito Yogurt cup Fruit/milk	Nondiscrimination: In the operation of USDA Child Nutrition programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. If you feel you have been, please call (309) 582-2238.




October Lunch Menu 2024

Skim Chocolate and 1% White milk served everyday.

Menu Subject to Change



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1 Crispito Refried beans Carrots/lettuce Chips/salsa Fruit/milk	2 Cheeseburger on a bun Yogurt cup Green beans Fruit/milk	3 Walking Taco Romain lettuce Tomatoes/chips Cheese Fruit/milk	4 Pizza Broccoli/carrots Tomatoes Churro Fruit/milk
7 Chicken patty on a bun Carrots/tomatoes Rice Krispie treat Fruit/milk	8 Ribette on a bun Beans Chips Fruit/milk	9 Breakfast sandwich Hashbrown Yogurt cup Fruit/milk	10 Pizza pasta Cottage cheese Breadstick Broccoli/carrots Fruit/milk	11 Shrimp poppers Spinach/Romaine lettuce Tomatoes/green pepper Cheese stick Fruit/milk
14 Salisbury steak Potatoes with gravy Carrots Dinner roll Fruit/milk	15 Mini corn dogs Beans Goldfish crackers Fruit/milk	16 Mac & cheese Little smokies Broccoli/carrots Fruit/milk	17 Chicken pasta Bread Peas Fruit/milk	18 Tenderloin on a bun Spinach/Romaine lettuce Broccoli/tomato/green pepper Fruit/milk
21 Deli sandwich Romaine salad w/ Broccoli/tomato/cucumber Chips; Fruit/milk	22 Hot dog on a bun Baked beans Carrots Fruit/milk	23 Pizza Broccoli/carrots Red & green peppers Pudding Fruit/milk	NO SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES	NO SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
28 Biscuit & gravy Hashbrown Carrots Fruit/milk	29 Chicken nuggets Baked beans Cherry tomatoes/red peppers Fruit/milk	30 Chicken nacho Romaine lettuce Tomatoes/cheese sauce Chips Fruit/milk	31 Chef Salad Meat/spinach/romaine lettuce/tomato Broccoli/cucumbers Breadstick; cheese; cookie; Fruit/milk	Nondiscrimination: In the operation of USDA Child Nutrition programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. If you feel you have been, please call (309) 582-2238.