

Maitland Middle School Frequently Asked Questions

Updated October 2020

General School Related Questions:

1. What time does school start and what are the office hours of operation?

Students are allowed on campus at 9:00 a.m. The first bell rings at 9:25 a.m., and the tardy bell rings at 9:30 a.m.

The office hours are from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

2. What time does school end?

Students are dismissed at 3:57 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Students are dismissed at 2:54 p.m. on Wednesday.

3. How many minutes do students have during transition?

Students have four minutes passing time between class periods and lunch.

4. How do I update my contact information or address?

Contact Ms. Hannon in the front office at extension 5172221 to update phone numbers and your contact list. All address updates must go through Ms. Bressler (ext. 5172241) to determine if the new address is still in the Maitland attendance zone.

5. My child takes prescribed medication during the school day, what forms do I need to complete?

All OCPS medical forms are located on the MMS website under the Clinic tab. The nurse can distribute medication during the day as long as the proper forms have been previously completed. Please feel free to contact Nurse Pfeiffer at ext. 5172269 with questions.

6. Where do I find teacher email addresses?

Teacher email addresses are found on the MMS website under the Faculty and Staff tab.

7. How does lunch work?

Students have 25 minutes to eat lunch. There are three lunch shifts organized by grade level during the day. Students walk to and from lunch on their own and can sit where they would like. Outside seating is available as long as trash is thrown away at the conclusion of each lunch shift and lunchroom procedures are followed.

8. How do I apply to receive Free/Reduced lunch?

Information about Free/Reduced lunch and Food and Nutrition services can be found at the following link: <https://www.ocps.net/cms/one.aspx?pageId=98642>

9. Where can I find my child's bus number?

Bus routing information will be posted during device pick up as well as in the cafeteria during the first week of school. You can also find your child's bus by going to the Transportation Services page on the OCPS website: <https://www.ocps.net/cms/one.aspx?pageId=100375>

10. Where does my child go at dismissal?

*Bus riders will exit out of the gate by the gymnasium. A board with bus locations is available to help student locate a bus.
Car riders, walkers, and bike riders exit campus through the gate by the cafeteria.*

11. Will my child receive a student ID badge?

Yes! Following picture day, students will receive one free, student ID badge. This will help students move quickly through the lunch lines and check out books in the media center.

12. Where can I find the Student Code of Conduct?

The Student Code of Conduct will be available as an icon on the desktop of student computers. Additionally, the Student Code of Conduct can be accessed on the MMS website, School Information tab, Polices.

13. Where can I find the MMS dress code?

Maitland Middle School adheres to the county dress code outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, you can view the dress code on the MMS website, School Information tab, Polices. The code of conduct is also available on student computers as an icon.

14. Does MMS have a School Resource Officer (SRO)?

Yes! MMS has a great relationship with the Maitland Police Department. Currently, Officer Travis Washington serves as our SRO and is on campus daily.

15. How do I signup for the school newsletter?

Simply text the word 'Maitland' to 22828 and follow the direction. The newsletter is released every Sunday afternoon.

16. Is there a school dance?

Yes! MMS, in conjunction with the PTA, hosts the SnowBash Winter Dance in December. All grade levels are welcome to attend.

17. Can my child have a cell phone on campus?

Yes, but it should be off and away during school hours.

Academic Questions:

18. Where can I find the full OCPS course progression?

The complete OCPS course progression can be found on the Student Services section of the OCPS website. Follow the provided link and select Student Progression Plan on the left:
<https://www.ocps.net/cms/One.aspx?portalId=54703&pageId=87989>

19. What academic classes does my student take?

All students will take: English Language arts, science, math, and social studies. Advanced and Standard classes are available. Additionally, you can view the suggested course progression on the Maitland Website.

20. How is my child's schedule created?

Student schedules are created through a number of different data points. FSA/State assessment data, iReady scores, formative assessment data, teacher input, parent input, and student learning needs are all reviewed when developing academic schedules. Students will have the chance to select elective classes for scheduling consideration. Please note, elective classes are not guaranteed and can change depending on various factors.

21. What is the OCPS grading scale?

- A – 90 to 100%
- B – 80 to 89%
- C – 70 to 79%
- D – 60 to 69%
- F – 59% and below

22. What are the Middle school promotion/retention requirements?

State law requires that by the end of 8th grade, students will have passed courses in English Language arts, Math, Social studies and Science for each of the three years of middle school. Students also need to successfully complete one semester course in career and educational planning.

23. What is the difference between advanced and honors classes?

Honors classes are high school level classes. These classes will count for high school credit and reflect on a student's high school transcript/GPA. Advanced classes are middle school classes presented in an accelerated format

24. What high school classes are offered at MMS?

*Algebra
Geometry
Earth Space Science Honors
Physical Science Honors
Digital Information Technology
Digital Video
Spanish 1
Spanish 2*

25. How do I schedule a parent/teacher conference?

Parent/Teacher conferences can be scheduled through Ms. Griffin at ext. 5172277

26. Can I request a schedule change?

Schedule changes may be requested at the beginning of the school year for certain reasons. For example, the child is in a standard level math class but should be in an advanced math class. We do not grant schedule changes because the student does not 'like' the teacher or he/she wants to be in a class with friends.

27. What state tests does my student have to take?

*6th grade – FSA Reading and Math
7th grade – FSA Reading and Math (7th grade Math, or Algebra 1 EOC), and Civics EOC
8th grade – FSA Reading and Math (8th grade Math, Algebra 1 EOC, or Geometry EOC), and Science*

FSA Reading and Math do not count toward a student's grade. Algebra 1, Geometry, and Civics EOC count for 30% of a student's grade.

Additionally, any class not associated with a state assessment, will take a Common Final Exam, which accounts for 20% of a student's grade.

28. What tutoring options are available?

Almost all teachers will provide additional support for those students who are in need of further academic support. Additionally, targeted tutoring support is offered beginning in February. Finally, all students can take advantage of free online tutoring offered through the Orange County Library System. Simply follow the steps posted on the MMS website by clicking on the Academics tab, Tutoring options.

29. Will my child receive physical textbooks?

No, student do not receive physical textbooks for English Language arts, math, science, and social studies. These textbooks are digital and available via the OCPs Launch Site. Certain elective classes may still have class sets of text books that have not been provided digitally.

Elective Questions:

30. Will my child get his/her first elective choice?

Guidance counselors work hard to provide students with either his/her first and/or second elective request. Unfortunately, due to scheduling restraints and academic needs, elective classes cannot be guaranteed.

31. Why does my child have to take Physical Education (PE)?

Under state law, all students are required to take PE unless a PE waiver has been completed. A PE waiver is only granted to those students who are participating in physical activities outside the school day, which are equal to or in excess of the mandated requirement.

32. Where do I find the PE waiver?

PE waivers will be made available on the MMS website or from Mr. Singer or Ms. Barnett.

33. How do I purchase a PE uniform?

PE uniforms will be on sale during the first week of school. Students can purchase during the school day directly from his/her PE teacher.

Technology Questions:

34. Does my child get a computer, and if so, does he/she take it home?

MMS is a one to one, digital school. This means all students receive a laptop computer to use during the school day and take home at night. Students are asked to charge the device every night and bring to school every day.

35. What is OCPS Launch?

<https://Launch.ocps.net> is a one stop shop to access student learning applications. The Launch site opens when students open the web browser. Here, students can access digital textbooks, Canvas, and a wide array of student learning applications. Almost everything a student will need to access during the school day is located through the Launch site.

36. What is Canvas?

Canvas is the digital learning platform the county has adopted for our one-to-one initiative. Students will have a Canvas page for all classes where teachers can upload assignments, course information, and administer assessments.

37. How do I become a Canvas Observer?

Parents have the ability to become an observer through Canvas to stay up-to-date on what's happening in the classroom. To become an observer, please follow the directions below:

Students:

- 1. Login to your Canvas by going to Launch.ocps.net*
- 2. Click on "account" in the upper left hand corner of your screen once you are in Canvas.*
- 3. Click "settings."*
- 4. Once in settings, click "pair with observer" and write down the code that is generated.*

Parents:

- 1. Login to canvas.ocps.net and click on "parent login."*
- 2. Register for a canvas account, and then enter the "student pairing code" from step four from the student section above.*
- 3. You should now have access to view your student's courses*

38. My child is having computer problems, what does he/she do?

Students should always check to see if his/her device is charged and then try re-starting. If the problem continues, we offer student tech support in the media center during 2nd and 6th periods every day. Students should always enter a student tech ticket before heading to the media center.

39. What do I do if my child's device is lost or stolen?

Anytime a school issued device goes missing, it is important to alert Ms. Delaney in the Media Center. If a device is stolen, a police report will need to be filed.

40. Is my child responsible for damage to his/her digital device?

Yes. Students are responsible for these devices and may be fined depending on how the damage occurred. To review the complete Family Technology Handbook, please follow the provided link: <https://ocps.net/cms/One.aspx?portalId=54703&pageId=166332>

Extracurricular Questions:

41. Does MMS offer a before school supervision program?

Due to low enrollment, the YMCA Before School program has been cancelled for the 2020-2021 school year.

42. Does MMS offer an after school supervision program?

Yes. MMS partners with the YMCA to offer the Afterschool Zone, which is a free program available to all students. Applications are found in the front office. Hours of operation are 4:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Students not picked up after 6:00 p.m. will be assessed a late fee. Bus transportation is NOT available at the conclusion of this program.

43. Where can I find information on extracurricular activities?

A full list of extracurricular activities is available on the MMS website by selecting the Clubs tab, Extracurricular Activities.

Parental Involvement Questions:

44. What is the School Advisory Council (SAC)?

Each Orange County public school invites parents to get involved. One of the ways parents can get involved is through the School Advisory Council (SAC). This council is a group that brings representatives of stakeholders together to assist the school principal with developing and evaluating a school improvement plan. Each school must have a SAC that is ethnically, racially and economically representative of its community. Members of the SAC are selected according to procedures established by the school and school board in compliance with the requirements of state statutes. Each SAC is composed of the principal and representatives of teachers, education support employees, parents, community members, and students. High schools and technical centers must have students as part of their SAC membership. Student membership on middle and

elementary school SACs is optional. Teachers, education support employees, students and parents are elected to the SAC by their peer groups. Community members are appointed by the principal.

The MMS School Advisory Council currently meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month (excluding December). If you are interested in serving on the SAC or have questions, please contact Ms. Delaney at 5172284.

45. How do I sign up for the Parent Teacher Association (PTA)?

Signing up is easy! Simply visit the MMS website and select the parents tab, PTA. Forms, Contact Information, and PTA committees are there for your convenience.

46. What is the Maitland Fund?

The Maitland Fund is the fundraising arm of the school. The Fund Board works in conjunction with the school to address academic and operational needs. Recently, the fund raised over \$13,000 to help MMS purchase new teacher desktop computers, which were not included in our digital overhaul. Those interested in being part of the Maitland Fund, please contact Mr. Leftakis at Andrew.leftakis@ocps.net

Student Support

47. My child has an IEP, who is my point of contact?

Mr. Bloom is our staffing specialist. Parents can reach him at david.bloom@ocps.net or ext. 5172261.

48. Who do I contact to obtain counseling referrals for my student?

Parents can contact their child's guidance counselor (6th grade – Mr. Singer, randon.singer@ocps.net), or our SAFE coordinator, Ms. Rauls at cherrie.rauls@ocps.net or 5172273

49. What is CHILL?

CHILL is a counseling program offered through the Winter Park Health Foundation. Parents must complete a consent application to receive services. We have a CHILL counselor who is on campus two days a week working with students who are dealing with social/emotional challenges. Consent applications can be found in the front office. Please be advised that our CHILL counselor is an employee of the Winter Park Health Foundation and not OCPS.

50. My child is dealing with student conflict, who do I contact?

From time to time, students may have to deal with peer to peer conflict. When this occurs, we encourage students to reach out to a grade level dean or guidance counselor, to help find a peaceful resolution.

Athletic Questions:

51. What sports are offered at MMS?

Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, and Track are offered at the middle school level. Due to Covid-19, all sports have been delayed until the 2nd semester.

52. How does my child tryout for an MMS athletic team?

A three day tryout is held before the start of each season. Tryouts are advertised to students and the community, and will take place before or after school. The first two days of tryouts are open to all students with a 'cut' taking place for the third day before final selections are made. An OCPS physical form must be completed before a student can tryout. For more information regarding athletics, please visit the MMS website and click on the Athletics tab.

53. Where can I find the OCPS athletic physical form?

To find the OCPS athletic physical form, go to the MMS website, click on the Athletics tab, athletic forms. A physical form must be completed before a student can tryout.