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MP23SCHOOLS.COM



GO TOPPERS!



UPCOMING EVENTS

First Day of School

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Board Meetings

August 19, 2026 – 7 PM
@ Grade School Learning Center

September 16, 2026 – 7 PM
@ Grade School Learning Center

October 21, 2026 – 7 PM
@ Grade School Learning Center

A Message from the Superintendent

Jason Spang

Welcome Back, Hilltoppers!

Here's to another exciting school year at Mt. Pulaski CUSD #23! We hope our students and families enjoyed a safe and relaxing summer and are ready for a year filled with learning, growth, and new opportunities.

This summer brought many reasons to celebrate, from outstanding national and state accomplishments by our students to campus improvements, including a new elementary gym floor and air conditioning, progress on our high school solar project, upgrades at Veterans Park, and new sidewalks that help make getting to school even safer.

As we begin the 2026–2027 school year, our staff remains committed to providing every student with an exceptional educational experience. Together with our families and community, we will continue building on the momentum of our District Strategic Plan to help every Hilltopper reach their full potential.

Thank you for your continued support of Mt. Pulaski CUSD #23. We look forward to another great year together!

Jason Spang
Superintendent
Mt. Pulaski CUSD #23

RECENT MEDALLION WINNERS

RALPH ALLEN

JAMES ANDERSON



Mount Pulaski High School Welcome back!

By Mrs. Fricke, MPHS Principal

What an exciting time of year! After spending so much time alone in the office this summer, I always look forward to the faces I'll see in the hallways when school is back in session. I'm looking forward to another amazing year at MPHS and to all of the exciting things our students will do during the 2026-2027 school year.

The first week of school is a great time to refresh important information for all parents and students. Attendance is a critical aspect of success in high school and is an indicator of success in both college and the workforce. Now is the time for students to develop good sleep habits, wake habits, and consistency in being at school on time on a daily basis.

As a reminder, parents are allotted only 9 call-outs/notes (without a medical note from a medical professional) for each child for the entire school year. Parents will be notified via communication from my office on the 5th, 7th, and 9th parent call-outs/notes. Once those are all exhausted, unexcused absences are assigned which accrue disciplinary consequences, and in many cases, intervention by the truancy officer from the Regional Office of Education.

If you choose to take a vacation during the school year, only up to 5 consecutive school days in a row will be approved (as long you have at least 5 parent call-outs/notes remaining for the school year). Vacations do count in the 9 allotted parent absences. In addition, a pre-arranged absence form is to be completed at least 2 weeks in advance. This form should be picked up in the office by the student in advance. If you have attendance policy questions, please call my office. Success in school begins with being at school.

I'd like to welcome new staff to the building as well. Mrs. Emily McCubbin will be joining us this school year as a paraprofessional. Mr. Sam Luckenbill will be joining us as a teacher in the Physical Education department. I wish them both an amazing journey this school year. I know they'll love being a part of the Hilltopper family as much as I do.

Have a great school year, Toppers!



Back to school fun!

We will start the year off on Thursday, August 13, 2026, with our Back to School Bash! High School students will have a picnic and spend some time enjoying the pool in Mount Pulaski. In addition, time will be spent that day in class meetings electing Student Council representatives, in fun games and events, in a school-wide social contracting activity, and in class meetings for policy and handbook updates. Should the weather be uncooperative, the event will be moved to Friday, August 14, 2026.

New Staff at MPHS

We are excited to welcome two new staff members to MPHS this school year. Mr. Sam Luckenbill (pronounced "Luke-N-Bill") is our new Physical Education teacher. He is a graduate of Millikin University and has some fresh ideas for our PE classes.

Mrs. Emily McCubbin helped out at the end of the year at MPHS last school year. We are fortunate enough to have her on full-time this year as a paraprofessional. She has built a great rapport with students already.

Best wishes for an awesome year!



Mt. Pulaski HIGH SCHOOL

FALL VOLLEYBALL CAMP

LOCATION: MT. PULASKI HIGH SCHOOL

DATES: AUGUST 19TH & 20TH

K-4TH GRADE
4:00PM-5:30PM

5TH-8TH GRADE
5:30PM-7:00PM

RECOMMENDED DONATION OF **\$20** AT THE DOOR
CAN BE PAID VIA CASH OR CHECK (MPHS VB)
ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TO **ST. JUDE**

WAIVER MUST BE SIGNED BEFORE CAMP.
Available via Google Doc (on app/facebook post) or available at the door.



MPGS KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP!

Let's get ready for a **GREAT** year!

Monday, August 10

Choose between:

10-11 AM OR **1-2 PM**

DROP OFF & LET THEM STAY FOR AN HOUR!

Meet their teacher and prepare for a fun year of learning!

WE CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU! GO TOPPERS!

Mount Pulaski Grade School Welcome back!

By Mrs. Lora, MPGS Principal

Wow—summer certainly flew by! It is hard to believe that it is already time to welcome our students and families back into the building. I hope everyone had a wonderful, relaxing summer filled with fun, family, and special memories. Our staff has been working hard to prepare for a fantastic school year, and we are excited to see our hallways filled with smiling faces once again!

We are also excited to share a few updates and welcome some new members to our MPGS family. Our building is looking fresh with a brand-new gym floor, and we can't wait to see all the activity and school spirit that will take place on it this year!

Please join me in welcoming our new staff members:

- Shannon Cabit will be joining us as our new Music and Choir Teacher. Shannon is a recent graduate of Millikin University, and we are thrilled to have her sharing her talents and passion for music with our students.
- Gracie Becker will be our new Art Teacher, serving students in PreK through 7th grade. We are excited to see the creativity and inspiration she brings to our classrooms.
- Ashley Sanders will be joining our paraprofessional team, and we are excited to welcome her to MPGS!

We are also very happy to welcome back Bridgett Thomas to our school family. We are so glad to have her back and look forward to all she will contribute this year.

As we begin a new school year, I am filled with excitement for all that is ahead. Thank you for your continued support of our school, our staff, and most importantly, our students. Together, we are ready to make this a wonderful year of learning, growth, and memories!

Welcome back, MPGS families! Let's make it a great year!



ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT NEWS

By Mr. Washko, Activities Director

The spring season was another outstanding one for Mount Pulaski athletics. Hilltopper student-athletes achieved success at both the IESA and IHSA State Track & Field Finals. The IESA 4x1600 relay team earned a 5th-place finish, while several other athletes recorded top-15 finishes. At the IHSA State Meet, Piper Tyson and Carter Clark qualified in the discus, with Piper placing 7th.

The Hilltopper Shotgun Sports Team continued its dominance by winning its second consecutive State Trifecta, capturing state championships in Skeet, Trap, and Sporting Clays, while several athletes also earned individual state honors. The team concluded its season by competing in the national trap tournament in Michigan.

Our FFA chapter also celebrated an outstanding year. Eric Cooper, Dean Martin, Luke Martin, and Claire Bobell earned their FFA Degrees. The Greenhand Quiz Bowl team of Elliott Cooper, Maebri Bender, Haylee Cowan, and Jackson Hebenstreit earned a Top 10 finish at the Illinois FFA State Convention in June.

This summer has been a busy one across the district as we continue to improve our facilities. Summer facility improvements included a new gym floor at the grade school, cleaning and recoating both high school gym floors, and new the sod around the baseball backstop at Veterans Park.

As we look ahead to the new school year, junior high fall sports are already underway, and high school fall practices begin on August 10. Best of luck to all of our student-athletes, coaches, and activities participants this year!



MPHS FCCLA Members Shine on the National Stage this Summer!

Our FCCLA members capped off an outstanding summer by representing their school and Illinois at the FCCLA National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

The chapter competed in two national STAR Events, with the Parliamentary Procedure Team earning a Gold rating and finishing second in the nation after advancing to the Top 10 finalists. The Promote and Publicize Team also qualified for nationals and earned a Bronze rating, an impressive accomplishment that included two first-time national competitors.

Throughout the week, students attended leadership workshops, educational sessions and networking events. Illinois State Officer Juan Andrade served as a voting delegate, participated in the FCCLA Rally on the Hill at the U.S. Capitol and toured the Capitol while representing Illinois FCCLA.

The summer concluded with Andrade representing Mount Pulaski and Illinois at the ICCCTSO Conference, where he participated in a mock debate in the Illinois Senate Chamber.

The chapter's national success and leadership opportunities reflect the hard work and dedication of Mount Pulaski FCCLA members and the adviser, Mr. Wyatt Waterkotte, while bringing pride to our school and community. Way to go, Toppers!