



Student & Family Handbook

Maple Run Unified School District

2025 - 2026



[Early Education Programs](#)



[St. Albans City School](#)



[St. Albans Town Education Center](#)



[Fairfield Center School](#)



[Bellows Free Academy - St. Albans](#)



[Northwest Career & Technical Center](#)



[MRUSD District Office](#)



[Collins Perley Sports Complex](#)

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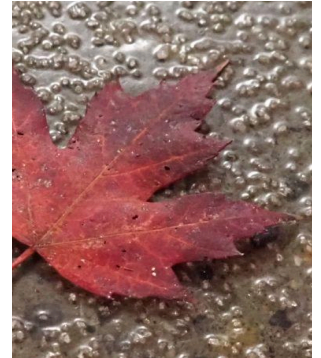
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Mission, Vision, and Core Values

Vision

At Maple Run Unified School District, we are committed to cultivating a welcoming environment where our students and community can tap into their love of learning.



Mission

Maple Run ensures a meaningful, flexible, rigorous, and safe education for all to thrive and excel.

Core Values

In partnership with our families and community, we value:

<i>Children - First and Foremost</i>	<i>Safety and Security</i>
<i>Collaboration and Relationships</i>	<i>Joy and Curiosity</i>
<i>Relevance and Rigor</i>	<i>Independence and Perseverance</i>
<i>Flexibility and Adaptability</i>	<i>Respect and Diversity</i>
<i>Accountability and Integrity</i>	<i>A Commitment to Provide Equity in Access to a Quality Education</i>

Who Are We?

Maple Run Unified School District is the education district for Fairfield Center, St. Albans City School, and St. Albans Educational Center, as well as Bellows Free Academy/Northwest Technical Center. These were formerly four separate school districts, and the communities of Fairfield, St. Albans City, and St. Albans Town voted to unify in March of 2016.



Central Office Administration

Bill Kimball	Superintendent	bkimball@maplerun.org
Megan Grube	Assistant Superintendent	megan.grube@maplerun.org
Brianne King	Business Manager	bking@maplerun.org
Rebecca Greenough	Human Resources Director	rgreenough@maplerun.org
Stephanie Ripley	Early Childhood Director	sripley@maplerun.org
Andrea Racek	Special Education Director	aracek@maplerun.org
Alexis Hoyt	Student Support Director	ahoyt@maplerun.org
Martin Kattam	Director of Technology & Innovation	mkattam@maplerun.org

MRUSD District Calendar

2025-2026

MAPLE RUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL CALENDAR

2025-2026

Bellows Free Academy - Northwest Career & Technical Center - Fairfield Center School - St. Albans City School - St. Albans Town Educational Center

July 2025				
M	T	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

August 2025				
M	T	W	Th	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

September 2025				
M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	*23*	24	25	26
29	30			

8/21-8/26 Staff Inservice Student Days: 3
8/27 - First day for K-12 Staff Days: 7

9/1 Labor Day Student Days: 21/24
9/2 First day for preK Staff Days: 21/28

October 2025				
M	T	W	Th	F
		1	*2*	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	*23*	24
27	28	29	30	31

10/2 Non Student/Staff Day Student Days: 20/44
10/23 Staff Inservice Staff Days: 21/49
10/24 Non Student/Staff Day

November 2025				
M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

11/24 Parent Teacher Conferences Student Days: 15/59
11/25-11/28 Thanksgiving Break Staff Days: 16/65

December 2025				
M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

12/24-1/2: Winter Break Student Days: 17/76
Staff Days: 17/82

January 2026				
M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

1/1-1/2 Winter Break Student Days: 18/94
1/19 Martin Luther King Day Staff Days: 19/101
1/20 Staff Inservice

February 2026				
M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

2/23-3/3 Second Winter Break Student Days: 15/109
Staff Days: 15/116

March 2026				
M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	*20*
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

3/2-3/3 Second Winter Break Student Days: 19/128
3/20 Parent Teacher Conferences Staff Days: 20/136

April 2026				
M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

4/20-4/24 April Break Student Days: 17/145
Staff Days: 17/153

May 2026				
M	T	W	Th	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

5/25 Memorial Day Student Days: 20/165
Staff Days: 20/173

June 2026				
M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

6/16 Planned Last Student Day Student Days: 12/177
6/19 Juneteenth Staff Days: 13/186
1 day after last student day - Staff Inservice

Non-Student Days		Other Days	
	Holiday/Vacation		First & Last Day for Students
	Staff Inservice		Possible Snow Day Make Up
	Parent Conferences	* *	No evening events - 9/23, 10/1, 10/2 10/23, 3/20

MRUSD School Board of Directors

Name	Representation	Contact
Nilda Gonnella-French, Chair	Saint Albans City	ngonnellafrench@maplerun.org
Charles Books, Vice Chair	Saint Albans City	cbrooks@maplerun.org
Karlie Gunderson	Saint Albans City	kgunderson@maplerun.org
Suzanne Kenyon	Saint Albans City	skenyon@maplerun.org
Joanna Jerosse, Clerk	Fairfield	jjerosse@maplerun.org
Marianne Dubie	Fairfield	mdubie@maplerun.org
Jessica Frost	Saint Albans Town	jfrost@maplerun.org
Amanda Giroux	Saint Albans Town	amandagiroux@maplerun.org
Jack McCarthy	Saint Albans Town	jmccarthy@maplerun.org
J. Nakuma Palczewski	Saint Albans Town	jnpalczewski@maplerun.org

Additional School Board Information

2025-2026 School Board Meeting Schedule

The Board of Directors believes that the quality of the educational program is enhanced when the district considers differences of opinion, listens to complaints, and actively resolves disagreements through an established, objective process. When appropriate, Maple Run uses Restorative Practices so all affected people can learn from individual differences. Using these protocols to both heal and grow relationships within Maple Run will make a stronger and safer community.

For more information, please visit the [MRUSD School Board of Directors Website](#).

Maple Run Unified School District #57		
Board Meeting Agendas <i>Regular meetings are the first and third Wednesday of each month</i>	Bellevue Free Academy (BFA)	71 South Main Street, Saint Albans
	Central Office (CO)	28 Catherine Street, Saint Albans
	Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center (CPSC)	890 Fairfax Road, Saint Albans
	Fairfield Center School (FCS)	57 Park Street, Fairfield
	Northwest Career & Technical Center (NCTC)	71 South Main Street, Saint Albans
	Saint Albans City School (SACS)	29 Bellevue Street, Saint Albans
Saint Albans Town Educational Center (SATEC) 169 South Main Street, Saint Albans		
Date	Location	Changes (if any)
July 16, 2025	Central Office (CO)	Cancelled
August 20, 2025	Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center (CPSC)	
September 3, 2025	Central Office (CO)	
September 17, 2025	Fairfield Center School (FCS)	
October 1, 2025	Central Office (CO)	October 8, 2025
October 15, 2025	Northwest Career & Technical Center (NCTC)	October 22, 2025
November 5, 2025	Central Office (CO)	
November 19, 2025	Saint Albans City School (SACS)	
December 3, 2025	Central Office (CO)	
December 17, 2025	Saint Albans Town Educational Center (SATEC)	
January 7, 2026	Central Office (CO)	
January 21, 2026	Bellevue Free Academy (BFA)	January 14, 2026
February 4, 2026	Central Office (CO)	
February 18, 2026	Fairfield Center School (FCS)	
March 4, 2026	Central Office (CO)	
March 18, 2026	Northwest Career & Technical Center (NCTC)	
April 1, 2026	Central Office (CO)	
April 15, 2026	Saint Albans City School (SACS)	
May 6, 2026	Central Office (CO)	
May 20, 2026	Saint Albans Town Educational Center (SATEC)	
June 3, 2026	Central Office (CO)	
June 17, 2026	Bellevue Free Academy (BFA)	

Required Notices

Agency of Education (AOE) Notices

Mandated Reporting

As educators and mandated reporters, it is our duty to help protect students from abuse and neglect. Any mandated reporter who reasonably suspects abuse or neglect of a child shall report to DCF within 24 hours of the time information regarding the suspected abuse or neglect was first received or observed. Mandated reporters are not required to notify parents/guardians when a report is made.

Prohibition Against Suspension/Expulsion of Students Younger Than Eight

Act 35 of 2021 prohibits suspension and expulsion of students under eight years old, except in cases of imminent harm or danger to others. For more information, please read the recently issued [memo](#) by the Agency of Education.

Title 1

Title I is the largest federally funded program for public schools in the United States that provides additional support to help students who are at risk of not meeting academic standards. Schools may offer either a schoolwide program for all students or targeted assistance for eligible students, providing support beyond regular classroom instruction. All MRUSD schools qualify to run schoolwide programs. In addition, under Title 1, participating school districts must provide supplemental educational services for eligible private school students.

Purpose of Title 1 Funding

Title I aims to ensure all children have a fair and equal opportunity to receive a high-quality education and meet state academic standards.

What Services Does Title I Provide?

Small group instruction in or outside the classroom
Additional time and support for skill development
Differentiated teaching strategies
Supplemental materials and instruction
Individualized learning goal
Professional learning opportunities for staff

Title I Parental Rights

Teacher Qualifications

- You have the right to request information about your child's teachers, including:
 - Whether they are state-certified for the subjects and grades they teach
 - If they are teaching under emergency or provisional status
 - Their degrees and areas of study
 - Qualifications of paraprofessionals working with your child

Assessments

Parents may request information about policies regarding state or local assessments. For more information, visit the Curriculum page on the MRUSD website or contact your school principal.

School Nutrition Program

Vermont's Child Nutrition Program ensures that all students have access to healthy, nutritious meals at school, often at no cost to families. Many schools across the state offer free breakfast and lunch to all students, regardless of household income, through state and federally supported programs. These meals follow USDA nutrition guidelines and support student health, learning, and well-being. Families are encouraged to complete meal benefit forms, as eligibility may also provide access to other supports and help schools receive vital funding. Additional programs offer meals during summer and after-school hours to ensure children are nourished year-round. For more information, please visit the [Vermont Agency of Education website](#).

Annual Notices

Child Find 504	FERPA (Student Records)
New Americans	Child Nutrition Programs
Transgender and Nonconforming Students	Nondiscrimination
Seclusion and Restraint & Rule4500	

MRUSD Policies and Procedures

Effective student policies within school districts are crucial for creating a safe, supportive, and enriching learning environment. These policies encompass a wide range of areas, including but not limited to, Safety and Security; Equity and Inclusion; Academic Standards; Behavioral Expectations; Health and Wellness; Parent and Community Engagement; and Technology Use. In essence, well-crafted student policies reflect the values and priorities of the school district, aiming to provide every student with the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed in a supportive and inclusive educational environment.

For a full list of all the policies and procedures, please visit the [MRUSD website](#).

<u>Bus Rules and Discipline</u> (Procedure)
<u>Civil Rights Complaints</u> (Procedure)
<u>Displaced Students</u> (Procedure)
<u>Drug and Alcohol Abuse</u> (Procedure)
<u>English Language Learners</u> (Policy)
<u>Field trips</u> (Procedure)
<u>Firearms</u> (Policy)
<u>Firearms</u> (Procedure)
<u>Fundraising</u> (Policy)
<u>Hazing, Harassment, Bullying or HHB</u> (Policy)
<u>Hazing, Harassment, Bullying or HHB</u> (Procedure)
<u>K-8 In-District Transfer</u> (Procedure)
<u>Protection of Pupil Rights</u> (Policy)
<u>Responsible Computer, Network and Internet Use</u> (Policy)

<u>Restrictive Behavior Intervention- Rule4500</u> (Procedure)
<u>Search and Seizure by School Personnel</u> (Policy)
<u>Search, Seizure, and Interrogation of Students by Law Enforcement or Other Non-School Personnel</u> (Procedure)
<u>Section 504 and ADA Grievance Protocol</u> (Policy)
<u>Student Alcohol, Marijuana and Drugs</u> (Policy)
<u>Student Attendance</u> (Policy)
<u>Student Cell Phone Use</u> (Procedure)
<u>Student Conduct and Discipline</u> (Policy)
<u>Student Conduct and Discipline</u> (Procedure)
<u>Surveillance Policy</u> (Procedure)
<u>Title I</u> (Policy)
<u>Title I</u> (Procedure)
<u>Title IX Sexual Harassment</u> (Policy)
<u>Transportation</u> (Policy)
<u>Vermont Special Education Procedures and Practices Manual</u> (Policy)
<u>Visitors</u> (Policy)
<u>Visitors</u> (Procedure)
<u>Weapons</u> (Policy)
<u>Wellness</u> (Policy)

Attendance Matters

“Be here. Be engaged. Be inspired.”

Regular school attendance is essential for your child’s academic success and overall well-being. We expect all students to attend school every day, on time, and ready to learn. MRUSD is required by Vermont law to record, code, and report all student absences regardless of reason (including both excused and unexcused absences).

If you need to report an absence, please contact your child’s school with their full name, grade, date of absence, and reason.

<u>Attendance Contact Information</u>		
School	Attendance Line	Attendance Email
FCS	802-827-6639 *Press 1*	fcsoffice@maplerun.org
SATEC	802-527-7191 *Press 1*	satec-attendance@maplerun.org
SACS	802-527-0565 *Press 4*	sacsattendance@maplerun.org
BFA	802-527-6555 *Press 1*	bfaattendance@maplerun.org
NCTC (Non-MRUSD students only)	802-527-0614 *Press 0*	nctcadminasst@maplerun.org

Thank you for partnering with us to support your child’s learning!

Health Information

General Health Practices for Illness

In alignment with general health practices for illnesses, MRUSD will adhere to the following guidelines for both staff and students.

Fever of 100.4 Degrees or Higher

Students can return to school once they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

Vomiting and/or Diarrhea

Students can return to school once free of vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours.

Serious, Sustained Coughing, Shortness of Breath, and/or Difficulty Breathing

Individuals experiencing these symptoms are advised not to attend school.

Anyone exhibiting any of the above symptoms must refrain from attending school.

Head Lice

If a student is identified with live head lice, parents/guardians will be notified. The student may remain in school for the rest of the day. Parents are expected to begin proper treatment that evening and may request a follow-up head check by the school nurse.

Presence of nits alone is not a barrier to continued attendance, as head lice do not pose a public health risk and are not grounds for immediate exclusion.

Medication

All medication needs to be turned into the health office in the **original, labeled container** from the pharmacy or manufacturer. Please contact your health office and/or school nurse to complete the required form and address any additional inquiries. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to maintaining a healthy school environment.

COVID 19

There are no district and/or school-specific COVID-19 prevention or mitigation procedures. We encourage students, staff, and families to adhere to the [Vermont Department of Health's recommendations](#) for all Vermonters.

<u>School Nurse Contact Information</u>		
School	Nursing Line	Nursing Email
FCS	802-827-6639 <i>*Press 1*</i>	hkane@maplerun.org
SACS	802-527-0565 <i>*Press 3*</i>	sacsurses@maplerun.org
SATEC	802-527-7191 <i>*Press 3*</i>	satec_health@maplerun.org
BFA/NCTC	802-527-6555 <i>*Press 2*</i>	bfanurses@maplerun.org

Rigorous Academics, Behavior Expectations, and Supportive Measures

Curriculum

Maple Run Unified School District strives to provide a curriculum that allows students and teachers to meet or exceed the Vermont School Quality Standards. Some of the ways we do this are:

Design, implement, and evaluate PreK-12 curricula, instructional, and assessment programs

Coordinate professional learning experiences for professional staff

Development, coordination, and management of state and federal grant programs

Coordinate and report out on Supervisory Union assessment and accountability results

Coordinate services for English Language Learners

Coordinate services and supports for homeless students

For more information, please visit the [curriculum page](#) on the MRUSD website.

MRUSD Goals and Key Objectives for 2025-2026

Objective #1

Build a supportive school culture of high expectations for behavior, engagement, and academics.

Objective #2

Building a guaranteed and viable curriculum with a concentrated focus on literacy and math.

Objective #3

Ensure consistent and aligned operational integrity and efficiency.

Our Commitment to Professional Learning

Our district is deeply committed to continuous improvement and professional growth for all staff. To support this commitment, we have designated one early release day each week, Wednesday, for students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth and protected early morning time at our high school, BFA: St. Albans. By investing in regular professional development, we ensure that our

educators are well-equipped to meet the diverse needs of all students, along with staying current with the latest research and best practices in education.

Report Cards

Grades PK-8

All report cards for students in grades PreKindergarten through eighth are now aligned across the district in English Language Arts and Math. Report cards will be distributed to PK-8 families in November, March, and June each year.

Grades 9-12

BFA operates on a semester system. Progress reports will be sent out in the fall and spring, prior to parent-teacher conferences. Report cards will be distributed in January and June. These will include progress updates for year-long courses and final grades for semester-long courses.

Northwest Career and Technical Center (NCTC)

NCTC produces its own report cards based on BFA's reporting schedule. Please review the NCTC handbook section for more details and information.

PowerSchool

PowerSchool is our comprehensive student information system that helps bridge the gap between home and school. Through PowerSchool, parents and students can access real-time information on grades, attendance, and schedules. This platform empowers families to stay informed and engaged in the educational journey. You can access PowerSchool anytime by visiting [PowerSchool's login page](#) or its mobile application. Should you encounter any errors or need assistance, please contact your students' school directly.

Restorative Practices

MRUSD is committed to building and fostering restorative school and district communities. Restorative practices in schools represent a shift from traditional disciplinary approaches towards fostering a supportive and inclusive school culture. Key aspects of restorative practices in the educational context include building relationships, conflict resolution, accountability and responsibility, community building, social-emotional learning, prevention, and educational equity. Overall, restorative practices in schools promote a holistic approach to discipline. They support a positive school climate where all members of the school community feel valued, respected, and empowered to contribute to a safe and inclusive learning environment. Please see the following table for a comparison of traditional discipline and restorative practices. Also, for more information on restorative practices, please visit the [International Institute for Restorative Practices](#) website.

Paradigm Shift

Traditional Discipline	Restorative Practices
<i>School and rules violated</i>	<i>People and relationships violated</i>
Justice focuses on <i>establishing guilt</i>	Justice identifies <i>needs and obligations</i>
Accountability = punishment	Accountability = understanding impact, repairing harm
Justice directed at offender, while victim is ignored	Offender, victim and school all have direct roles in justice process
Rules and intent outweigh whether outcome is positive/negative	Offender is responsible for harmful behavior, repairing harm and working toward positive outcome
No opportunity for remorse or amends	Opportunity given for amends and expression of remorse

Note: Fix School Discipline. (n.d.). *Restorative practices toolkit for educators*. <http://www.fixschooldiscipline.org/toolkit/educators/restorative>

Dress Expectations

Students are expected to dress appropriately while at school. It is expected that each student's clothing and appearance meet generally accepted standards of taste and common sense. In specific instances, a building administrator will determine the suitability of a student's attire. Styles of clothing that are disruptive to the educational process or pose a threat to the safety and health of self or others will not be permitted in school.

The Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) provides schools with best practices for school dress, which is equitable to all students, limiting restrictions to those necessary to support the overall educational goals of the school. The basic principle is that there are certain body parts that must be covered for **all** students. A school dress expectation should not create an unnecessary barrier to school attendance, should never embarrass or shame a student, particularly in front of others, and should not be disproportionate due to race, gender, body size, or body maturity. The expectations listed are consistent with supporting our educational goals.

Students are Required to Wear:

- Top: A shirt or upper garment (with fabric covering the chest, back, and sides under the arms).
- Bottom: Pants, shorts, skirt, dress, or leggings.
- Footwear: Shoes appropriate for a school environment (activity-specific footwear may be required for PE, science labs, or extracurriculars).
 - Students should consider safety and mobility when selecting footwear due to stairs, outdoor recess, and transitions.
- Please know that there are programs and/or locations in the district that may have additional clothing requirements for students to follow in order to participate in certain programs or activities.
 - These requirements will be communicated by the supervising staff.
 - Example(s): Northwest Career and Technical Center (NCTC) Programs and Collins Perley Sports Complex

Students May Wear:

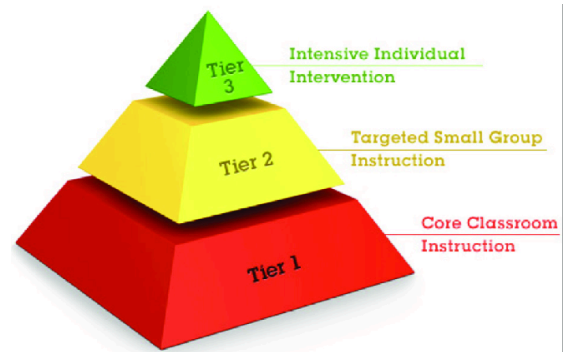
- Hats, scarves, head and/or religious head coverings, or hooded sweatshirts, as long as the face and ears are visible for safety and communication.
- Please note that to ensure safety, visibility, and identification when necessary, staff may request the temporary removal of headwear, while being mindful and respectful of cultural, religious, or medical considerations.

Students May Not Wear:

- Clothing, accessories, or grooming that depicts, promotes, or advertises:
 - Violence or weapons
 - Drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or illegal activity
 - Hate speech, racism, sexism, or gang affiliation
 - Pornographic or profane content
- Clothing, accessories, or grooming that:
 - Exposes private parts (i.e., genitals, buttocks, or nipples).
 - Creates a hostile, intimidating, or disruptive environment, as determined by the administration based on context and intent.
 - Presents a safety concern as determined by the administration based on context and intent.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

The Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is used to provide targeted support to all students based on their individual needs. It involves multiple tiers of interventions, with increasing levels of support at each layer. It starts with high-quality classroom instruction and universal screening for all students. Those who need additional help receive more targeted interventions in small groups (Tier 2), and students requiring intensive support receive individualized interventions (Tier 3). Continuous monitoring of student progress ensures that interventions are effective and adjusted as needed. MTSS aims to address academic, behavioral, social, and emotional needs, ensuring that every student can succeed. For more information, visit the [Vermont Multi-Tiered System of Supports](#) from the Agency of Education website.



Note: Stockley, Naomi & Tatana, Rianna & Kaur, Roshni & Reynolds, Alice. (2022). The Pavilion School, Melbourne, Australia. 10.14705/rpnet.2022.55.1366.

Aligned Behavior Definitions

Aligning behavior definitions in schools is critically important for creating a consistent, restorative, and supportive learning environment. Alignment within our behavior systems supports consistency across staff and classrooms, improved student understanding, equity, data accuracy for decision-making, enhanced communication with families, and professional collaboration and calibration. For a detailed breakdown of this information, please refer to this [document](#).

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Competency Guide

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is the development of competencies or skills that support healthy development, mental health and wellness; these skills also underlie students' academic success. MRUSD strives to create safe and supportive learning environments by utilizing evidence-based social emotional learning competencies and restorative interventions to foster optimal student growth. For more information, please see the [MRUSD Social Emotional Learning \(SEL\) Competency Guide](#) and/or the [Universal Screening for Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Needs and Strengths in Vermont Schools](#) document from the Vermont Agency of Education.

Panorama Education Data Platform

All schools within MRUSD now utilize Panorama Education as their data platform. It is designed to help schools and districts collect, analyze, and act on feedback from students, educators, and families. All students' attendance, academic, behavior, and social-emotional progress are recorded and measured within Panorama. If you are interested in learning more, please visit the [Panorama website](#).

Internet and Technology

Responsible Technology Use

MRUSD recognizes the essential role of information technology in preparing students for success in a global society. The district supports responsible access to electronic resources for both students and staff.

District and school guidelines aim to:

1. Promote technology use that enriches learning and encourages collaboration.
2. Ensure safety when using district devices, networks, and web resources.
3. Comply with all applicable federal and state laws governing internet access in schools.

Students are granted the privilege of internet and network access to enhance learning. While these tools offer vast benefits, they also carry risks. To reduce misuse and promote accountability, students and families must review and follow the MRUSD Computer Use Agreement and related policies.

Students who bring personal electronic devices (e.g., phones, tablets, laptops) must secure them when not in use. MRUSD is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use & Academic Integrity Expectations

Purpose: This establishes expectations for the ethical and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools by students, ensuring the development of original thinking and academic honesty throughout all grade levels.

Prohibited Use: Use of AI is not allowed for completing assignments or submitting work without teacher permission. Submitting AI-generated content as your own—without disclosure—is considered plagiarism and a violation of the district’s academic integrity policy.

Teacher Role & Assessment Practices: To uphold academic integrity and ensure learning:

- Teachers may design AI-informed or AI-free assessments.
- Assignments may require drafts, process work, or in-person components.
- AI use will not replace student thinking or mastery of grade-level standards.

AI Detection: To support academic integrity, the district may use AI-detection software and/or other detection tools to help identify when work appears to have been generated by artificial intelligence.

However, these will not be used as the sole determining factor for academic dishonesty, and other means of detection may include, but are not limited to:

- Considering the full context of student work, including prior writing samples, student interviews, and classroom performance.
- Use professional judgment and collaboration with other educators, in conjunction with any software indicators.
- Provide students with an opportunity to explain or revise their work if concerns arise.

Student Privacy & Data Protection: All use of AI tools must follow district technology and privacy policies, as well as state and federal student data protection laws (e.g., FERPA and Vermont’s Student Data Privacy Law). Students are strictly prohibited from entering any of the following into AI tools—especially those not approved by the district:

- Full names, ID numbers, or birthdates
- Home addresses or contact information
- Medical or mental health details
- Names or information about other students or staff
- Any content that could personally identify themselves or others

Academic Integrity Consequences: Misuse of AI or plagiarism may result in:

- Notification to families/guardians
- Redoing the assignment with teacher supervision
- Receiving a reduction in score, a zero on, and/or a loss of credit on the final assignment grade
- Additional academic intervention or disciplinary consequences

Final Note: This policy will evolve alongside changes in technology and education. Students and families are encouraged to ask questions and seek clarity on the use of AI in each classroom/school setting.

Google Workspace for Education Parental Consent

Maple Run Unified School District provides students with Google Workspace for Education accounts to support learning. These accounts include tools such as Gmail, Drive, Docs, Slides, Sheets, Calendar, and Classroom. Students use them to complete assignments, collaborate with classmates, and communicate with teachers.

Privacy & Safety

To create and manage these accounts, Google collects limited information:

- Student’s name, school-issued email address, and password
- Assignment and communication activity

- Device/browser type and IP address

Google does not use student personal information for advertising in core educational services.

For more details, see Google's Education Privacy Notice:

https://workspace.google.com/terms/education_privacy.html

Consent and Account Management

By allowing your child to use these services, you consent to the collection and use of their information as described. If you have any questions, wish to manage your child's account, or need more information, please contact your school administrator.

Community, Family Engagement, and Communication

At Maple Run Unified School District, we believe that strong family and community partnerships are essential to student success. We are committed to fostering open, two-way communication and building trusting relationships with families, caregivers, and community members.

MRUSD Supports Meaningful Engagement By:

Providing clear, consistent, and accessible communication through PowerSchool, Google Classroom, BrightArrow, BrightChat Email, school newsletters, websites, and social media

Offering opportunities for families to participate in school events, planning, and decision-making through surveys, open houses, and family meetings

Ensuring communication is welcoming, inclusive, and available in a format and language that all families can understand

Encouraging collaboration across schools and with community partners to support the well-being and growth of every student



Whether it's attending a school event, connecting with teachers, or joining a district conversation, your involvement matters. We're here to listen, partner, and grow together!

For district-level communication questions and/or feedback, please contact:

Erin Rocheleau
MRUSD Communications Specialist
(802) 370-3937 | erocheleau@maplerun.org

For school-specific communication, please visit their website for more information.

Early Education Programs	St. Albans City School
St. Albans Town Education Center	Fairfield Center School
Bellows Free Academy - St. Albans	Northwest Career & Technical Center

Bright Arrow Automated Communication - Notifications and Messages to Families

MRUSD schools utilize the PowerSchool Bright Arrow System© for mass notifications to enhance communication with parents and guardians. This system enables the schools to send voice, text, and/or email messages to all parents and guardians within minutes in case of emergencies, such as school cancellations (i.e., snow day), delays, attendance, early closings, Superintendent updates, or other urgent situations. BrightArrow also assists in communicating important information about school events and reminders efficiently, thereby conserving resources. Accurate and up-to-date contact information is crucial for the successful delivery of these messages. Families are responsible for providing current contact details, including phone numbers and email addresses, and must notify the school of any changes throughout the year. The system's effectiveness depends on families ensuring that their students' school has their most current contact information.

To receive text messages, parents need to OPT IN by sending “Yes” to 87569. To opt-out, text “Stop” to 87569 or reply with “Stop.” If you have already opted in or out of BrightArrow, no changes are needed. If your contact information has changed, please contact the registrar at your child’s school.

BrightChat

BrightChat is a secure messaging platform that allows teachers and school staff to communicate directly with students and families in real time. It supports two-way messaging, translation into multiple languages, and is designed to ensure privacy and safety for all users. BrightChat helps strengthen school-home connections by allowing families to stay informed about classroom updates, assignments, and important school announcements. All communication is monitored for appropriateness and follows federal and state statutes. For more information, please visit the [BrightChat](#) website.

Vidigami

Vidigami is a private, school-managed photo sharing platform that allows teachers and staff to securely share photos and videos of student learning, events, and activities with families. Only approved users (such as parents and guardians) can access content related to their school community. The platform helps celebrate student experiences while maintaining privacy and safety by allowing parents to manage their child’s visibility and opt out of media sharing in accordance with federal and state statutes. For more information, please see the [Vidigami](#) website.

Recommendations and Guidance on Inclusive Celebrations

[Memo from Superintendent, Bill Kimball](#)

Effective Communication Expectations

[Memo from Superintendent, Bill Kimball](#)

Partnership with Law Enforcement

[MRUSD District Liaison Memorandum](#)

Links to School-Specific Handbooks

All information that is specific to your student's school is contained in the handbook link below.



[Early Education Programs](#)



[St. Albans City School](#)



[St. Albans Town Education Center](#)



[Fairfield Center School](#)



[Bellows Free Academy - St. Albans](#)



[Northwest Career & Technical Center](#)