



Redbird Review

August 2026



Dear MGS Families-

Similar to the old adage that it takes a village to raise a child, it takes many people and partnerships to make MGS a great place to learn. Each role impacts students on a daily basis. As we gear up for the 26-27 school year, please consider if one of our current vacancies is something of interest to you or someone you know. As always, we encourage volunteers as well! Our employment webpage is linked below and is updated regularly. If you have any questions you can contact me or the Director of the appropriate department.

Daily Pay Rate

 **Bus Drivers** \$110 / daily route

 **Substitute Teachers** \$125 / day

 **Substitute Teacher's Aides** \$105 / day

👉 Check out our employment page on www.mgsredbirds.org for updates or contact the department director estephens@mgsredbirds.org with questions!



Key August Dates & Reminders

- 🗓️ **Summer Office Hours:** Aug 3rd – Aug 18th | 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM (Mon–Fri)
- 🖋️ **Aug 17th:** Teacher Inservice & **Back To School Night**
- 🚫 **Aug 18th:** Teacher Inservice (*No School*)
- 🎉 **Aug 19th: First Day of School!** (11:30 AM Dismissal)



Quick Links:

- 📅 [2026–2027 District Calendar](#)
- 🖋️ [2026–2027 School Supply List](#)
- 📝 [Online Registration & Payment Instructions](#)

Surgeon General's Warning: Effects of Screen Use

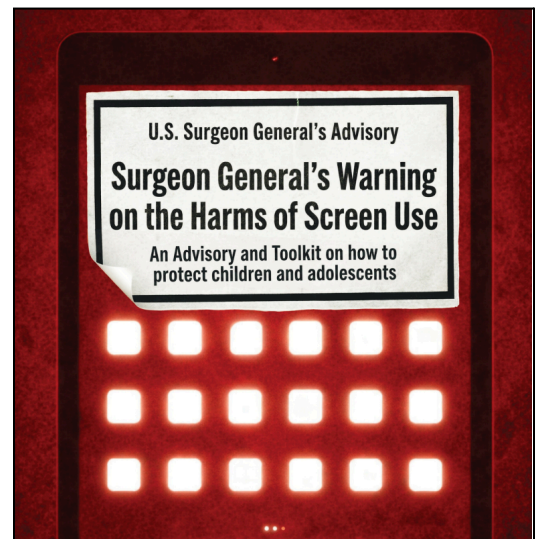
Screens are ubiquitous: exposure often starts before age 1 and rises sharply with age. Toddlers average ~2 hours daily; preteens/teens often exceed 4 hours—potentially more time than sleeping or in school. Nearly 50% of adolescents lose track of their phone time.

[For the complete article click here](#)

From Evidence to Action: The 5 Ds

Practical strategies for families and individuals:

- **Discuss:** Set household rules, review content/interactions, use parental controls.
- **Delay:** Postpone introduction as long as possible; set age-appropriate limits.
- **Divert:** Prioritize chores/homework/sports; offer non-screen alternatives for boredom.
- **Disconnect:** Screen-free times (meals, bedtime); model healthy behavior.
- **Do:** Real-life activities, exercise, social connection (“touch grass”), digital detoxes.



Calls to Action

- **Youth:** Protect privacy, report issues (e.g., sextortion), track time, seek help, prioritize IRL activities.
- **Families/Caregivers:** Model balance, co-use, enforce limits.
- **Healthcare Providers:** Screen for issues, counsel families.
- **Policymakers/Tech Companies:** Support safe spaces, age-appropriate design, data protections, restrictions on harmful features.

MGS BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT!

MONDAY, AUGUST 17TH

K-2ND	4:00-5:15
3RD-5TH	5:00-6:15
6TH-8TH	6:00-7:15

COME CONNECT, EXPLORE, & GET READY FOR A GREAT YEAR!

- ✓ BRING YOUR SCHOOL SUPPLIES
- ✓ MEET YOUR TEACHER
- ✓ MEET BUS DRIVER AND LEARN YOUR PICK UP TIME
- ✓ DROP OFF ANY FILES FOR OFFICE STAFF
- ✓ DROP OFF MEDICATION/ SPEAK WITH THE NURSE

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!

BE SURE TO STOP BY THE PLAYGROUND BLACKTOP TO ENJOY DINNER OR A TREAT!

ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM:

EL TACO RICO • BIG PAPA JAKE'S • TONY'S ON WHEELS • TOM'S TRAVELIN' COFFEE
KONA ICE • RUBI'S BRICKOVEN PIZZA • GRAMMA NANA'S KITCHEN • SECE'S MINI DONUTS

THE FOOD TRAILERS WILL BE HERE 4:00-7:30



***FIRST HALF DAY OF SCHOOL IS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19TH!**





Notes From The Nurses:

Ashley Kline

Leslie Hodgen



Medical forms needed for the 2026-27 School Year

All incoming Kindergarteners need:

1. Dental exam - on State of IL school form
2. Eye exam - on State of IL school form
3. Physical exam - on State of IL school form
4. Kindergarten [immunizations](#)

All incoming 2nd graders need:

1. Dental exam - on State of IL school form

All incoming 6th graders need:

1. Dental exam - on State of IL school form
2. Physical exam - on State of IL school form

****A sports physical does not meet the state requirement for the 6th grade physical exam.**

However, the 6th grade physical can be used for a sports physical if needed.

3. Tdap and Meningococcal vaccines (on or after 11th birthday)

All exams must be conducted within one year prior to the start of the incoming school year. Forms can be submitted at any time but should be turned in no later than the first week of school in August.

Options for turning in forms:

1. Scan and email to nurse@mgsredbirds.org
2. Fax directly to nurse at 309-367-2999
3. Give to the secretaries in main office

Medication Reminders:

All medication must be dropped off in the main office by an adult.

Medication must have a doctor's note or medication authorization form in order to be given at school.



Food Allergy Precautions

All student classroom snacks, party treats or other class-wide treats must be nut-free. Per teacher approval, students may be permitted to bring a nut-free snack for themselves to eat in the classroom. Food containing nuts may only be brought in student lunches and consumed in the cafeteria during lunchtime only. Designated nut-free

tables are available in the cafeteria for all grade levels. Students are not to share food at any time.

Party treats or birthday treats must be store bought and pre-approved by the teacher. See below for a list of ideas. Other treats may be approved only if clearly labeled as "peanut/tree nut free" or "made in peanut/tree nut free facility."

***NO FRESH BAKERY ITEMS** (cupcakes, donuts, cookies, muffins, etc) unless specifically labeled by the manufacturer as nut free or manufactured in a nut free facility.

*Please check labels as manufacturing processes and ingredients can change

*Parents and teachers should communicate with each other about the child's food allergy and any special treats that may be distributed.

Nut free snack/treat ideas (not an exhaustive list)

Applesauce/fruit cups

Fresh fruit/veggies

Yogurt

Cheese sticks

Pudding cups

Goldfish

Snyder's pretzels

Veggie Straws

Skinny Pop or Pirate's Booty popcorn

Original or Golden Oreos

Original Rice Krispy Treats

Lofthouse cookies

Haribo gummy bears

Jelly Belly jelly beans

Smarties

DumDums

Annie's, Katz, MadeGood, Nature's Bakery, and Benton's brands have several nut free snack option.



on-site at your school

RIGHT CLUB

Before & After School

a place to
BE A KID!

HOSTED AT METAMORA GRADE SCHOOL

Next year's Right Club lineup is going to be the talk of the playground. Your kid will thank you—and so will your schedule when you've got reliable, enriching care you can trust. Win-win—but only if you're in!

This year's going to be the best yet with:



Hundreds of brand-new games, STEM experiments, and Disguised Learning® challenges to keep your kid on their toes (and off their screens!)



We're embarking on Language Adventures™, where younger learners (K-1) will say ¡Hola! to Spanish while grades 2+ will take on the challenge of French!



Endless take-home arts and crafts – clear some space on your fridge for these masterpieces!



Daily homework time with educator support – so you can reclaim the weeknight for family fun!

BEFORE SCHOOL

Starts at 7:00am

5 Days/Week \$110/Month
4 Days/Week \$101/Month
3 Days/Week \$87/Month
2 Days/Week \$65/Month
1 Day/Week \$40/Month

AFTER SCHOOL

Ends at 5:30 pm

5 Days/Week \$221/Month
4 Days/Week \$202/Month
3 Days/Week \$174/Month
2 Days/Week \$130/Month
1 Day/Week \$81/Month

BEFORE/AFTER COMBO

5 Days/Week \$303/Month
4 Days/Week \$275/Month
3 Days/Week \$239/Month
2 Days/Week \$180/Month
1 Day/Week \$110/Month

DISCOUNTS: Sibling: 10% • Military: 10%

REGISTER NOW!

RIGHTATSCHOOL.COM

You may be eligible for financial assistance!
Visit our website to learn more.





SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATION DRIVE

- The Supply Closet is open to Students in need and Teachers
- Donations supplied through public donation+ PTO
- Drop off locations: 8/7 at Metamora Pool and 8/17 at the PTO table on blacktop at Back2School Night
- Shop online and have sent directly to the school



KINDERGARTEN KICKOFF

- Sunday, August 16th 3:30PM-5:00PM
- All incoming K students and parents are welcome
- Meet classmates, get familiar with the playground
- Scavenger Hunt and Coloring Station



BACK TO SCHOOL POOL PARTY

- Friday, August 7th 6:30-8:30PM
- Metamora Community Pool
- Free admission for all MGS students and families
- Weather permitting



PTO OPENINGS FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR

- Chair/Co-Chair Openings: Family Fun Night, Staff Appreciation, Parent Outreach, Craft Show
- Nearly ALL committees have spots for committee members/volunteers
- YOU decide your commitment level!
- FIRST MEETING: August 24th at 6:00PM in Library



♥ It Takes A Village-- Welcome to Ours ♥

August 2026

Foundation NEWSLETTER

TOGETHER, WE INVEST IN EXCELLENCE.



METAMORA
GRADE
SCHOOL
FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



What is the Foundation?

Metamora Grade School has two separate organizations, the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and the Foundation for Education Excellence (Foundation). The mission of the Foundation is to generate financial resources for the purpose of providing Metamora Grade School with programs and other projects designed to enhance and expand the quality of education and learning opportunities available to students.

Each year the Foundation hosts one large fundraiser with the gracious help of local business sponsors and the support of parents and community members. The proceeds from this event are then distributed to the classrooms of MGS as teachers submit grant requests twice a year for educational extras as approved by the Foundation Board.



Join the Foundation

The Foundation is seeking new members for this school year. There are open board positions as well as vacant trustee positions.

Monthly meetings are held at MGS the 3rd Monday of every month during the school year. From January–March additional time is needed to plan/execute the annual fundraiser which can be done from home/at your convenience.



1ST MEETING:
Monday, August 10th at 7:00PM at MGS

Save the Date!



Mark your calendar's and line up babysitters now! The date for this year's fundraiser has been set for **Friday, March 19th** at Par-a-Dice Hotel!



Fundraising Results

2023: \$87,000
2024: \$85,000
2025: \$85,000
2026: \$75,000



Recent Purchases

- ✓ Smart Screen Boards
- ✓ Science Labs
- ✓ Math Labs
- ✓ Playground Improvements
- ✓ Innovation Lab
- ✓ Library Renovation



Other Ways to Give

Don't have time to volunteer? No problem. Donations are always welcomed and tax-deductible. The Foundation also seeks business sponsorships and silent auction items for the annual fundraiser. Please reach out to learn more!

Questions?



mgsfundraising@gmail.com



YOU CAN

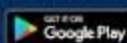
MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR
METAMORA GRADE SCHOOL

GET STARTED TODAY



1

DOWNLOAD APP IN
YOUR APP STORE



2

CREATE AN
ACCOUNT

SCHOOL ID: 401845

3

BUY BOX TOP
PRODUCTS
(IN PERSON OR
ONLINE)

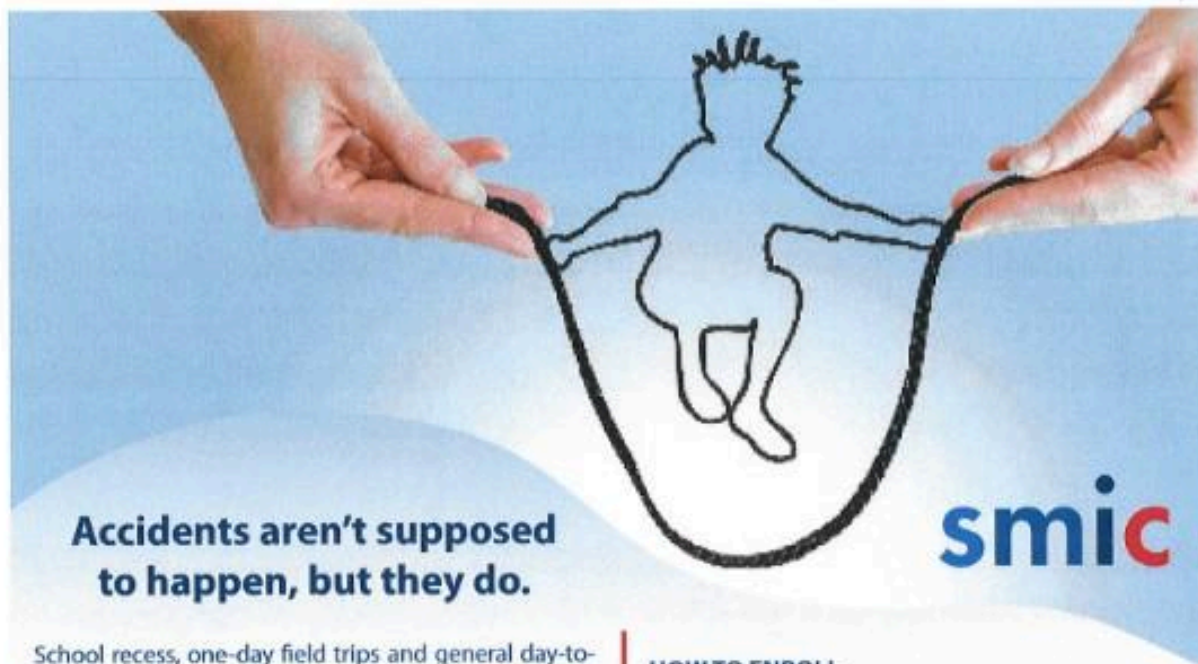
4

SCAN RECEIPT OR
SUBMIT DIGITAL
RECEIPT WITHIN 14
DAYS OF
PURCHASE

Scan the QR code or use code
X72U6NB8 to join.



SCHOOL ID: 401845



Accidents aren't supposed to happen, but they do.

School recess, one-day field trips and general day-to-day activities can all lead to injuries. Having coverage during school hours, or around the clock can insure your loved ones get the care they need without financial hardship to your family.

ELIGIBILITY

Any enrolled student is eligible for coverage.

K-12 ACCIDENT PLANS THAT ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH YOUR SCHOOL:

- School Time Accident Only
- 24-Hour Accident Only
- Interscholastic Sports
- 24-Hour Dental

All available plans are offered by Special Markets Insurance Consultants, Inc. To research which plans are being offered by your school, please visit our website's online enrollment tool at www.k12specialmarkets.com

PAYMENT

Parents or guardians of students are responsible for enrollment and premium payment.

HOW TO ENROLL

Enrolling is easy and only takes a few minutes.

Go to www.k12specialmarkets.com.

1. Click on Coverage Details at the top,
2. Select State and click "Look Up"
3. Click on School or District
4. Click on link to display plan details.

Parents can either print and complete the enrolment application to mail with check or money order or:

You can enroll online:

1. Enroll online by clicking "Enroll Now"
2. Select State and click "Look Up"
3. Click on School or District
4. Select school location name (if applicable)
5. Check the plan options
6. Complete online application (more than one child can be enrolled on the same application)
7. Pay by credit/debit
8. Print ID card

FOR QUESTIONS, CALL (800) 727-7642 ext. 6103

For further details of the coverage outlined above, including costs, benefits, exclusions and any reductions or limitation, and the terms under which the policy may be continued in force, please refer to www.k12specialmarkets.com. Students are able to purchase coverage only if his/her school district is a policyholder with the insurance company.

2026 – 2027 STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

Dear Parent,

Your School chose to carry medical insurance for students injured in accidents on school premises. The School has also approved a medical and dental accident insurance plan worthy of your consideration to add to coverage purchased. This coverage will extend the hours your child is covered and also may cover your child during certain activities not covered in the school purchased plan. We urge you to consider the benefits described in this brochure.

OPTIONAL 24-HOUR ACCIDENT COVERAGE (EXTENSION) – Insurance coverage is extended to provide for covered injuries that occur other than during the hours and days when school is in session and/or while attending or participating in school sponsored and supervised activities on or off school premises. The Extended Accident Coverage provides coverage during the weekends and vacation periods, including the entire summer. No coverage is provided for participation in interscholastic tackle football. No coverage is provided for participating in Interscholastic Sports or school sponsored/supervised activities covered under the Student Accident Insurance Program purchased by the school.

OPTIONAL 24-HOUR DENTAL COVERAGE (Can be purchased separately or with other coverage) – Insurance coverage is in effect 24 Hours a day. Injury must be treated within 60 days after the Accident occurs. Benefits are payable within 36 months after the date of Injury. The maximum eligible expenses payable per covered Injury is \$10,000. In addition, when the dentist certifies that treatment must be deferred until after the Benefit Period, deferred benefits will be paid to a maximum of \$2,500. The Student must be treated by a legally qualified dentist who is not a member of the student's Immediate Family for Injury to teeth. Coverage is limited to treatment of sound, natural teeth.

COVERAGE PERIOD – Coverage under the Optional 24-Hour Accident Coverage (Extension) and the Optional 24-Hour Dental Coverage begins on the date of premium receipt by the Plan Administrator but not before the start of the school year. Optional 24-Hour Accident Coverage (Extension) and Dental Coverage ends when school reopens for the following school year. Coverage is available under the plan throughout the school year at the premiums quoted (**no pro rata premiums available**).

SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS Coverage for Injuries due to Accident only		
Maximum Benefit:	PLAN A	PLAN B
24-Hour Option (Extension)	\$50,000	\$25,000
Injuries Involving Motor Vehicles	\$10,000	\$10,000
Death Benefit/Double Dismemberment	\$20,000	\$20,000
Single Dismemberment	\$10,000	\$10,000
Loss Period for Medical Benefits	Treatment must begin within 60 days from the date of Injury	
Benefit Period for Medical and AD&D/Loss of Sight Benefits	1 Year	1 Year
Excess Coverage Applicability	\$100 Primary Excess	\$100 Primary Excess
Other Plan Reduction Percentage (see Excess Coverage Provision)	50%	50%
Hospital/Facility Services - Inpatient		
Hospital Room and Board (Semi-Private Room Rate)	100% RE*	100% RE*
Hospital Intensive Care	100% RE*	100% RE*
Inpatient Hospital Miscellaneous	\$1,200 Per Day	\$600 Per Day
Hospital/Facility Services - Outpatient		
Outpatient Hospital Miscellaneous (Except physician services and x-rays paid as below)	80% RE*	\$1,000 Maximum
Day Surgery Miscellaneous	80% RE*	\$1,500 Maximum
Hospital Emergency Room	80% RE*	\$100 Maximum
Physician's Services		
Surgical	80% RE*	80% RE* to \$1,000 Maximum
Assistant Surgeon	25% of Surgical Benefits	25% of Surgical Benefits
Anesthesiologist	25% of Surgical Benefits	25% of Surgical Benefits
Physician's Non-surgical Treatment (Except as below)	80% RE*	\$30 Per Day
Physician's Outpatient Treatment in connection with Physical Therapy and/or Spinal Manipulation	80% RE* / 10 Visits Maximum	\$30/Visit / \$300 Maximum
Other Services		
Registered Nurses' Services	100% RE*	100% RE*
Prescriptions - outpatient	\$300 Maximum	\$100 Maximum
Laboratory Tests - Outpatient	\$500 Maximum	\$150 Maximum
X-rays, includes interpretation - outpatient	80% RE*	\$300 Maximum
Diagnostic Imaging (MRI, CAT Scan, etc) includes interpretation - outpatient	80% RE*	\$150 Maximum
Ground Ambulance	\$1,000 Maximum	\$500 Maximum
Air Ambulance	\$1,000 Maximum	\$500 Maximum
Durable Medical Equipment (includes Orthopedic Braces & Appliances)	\$500 Maximum	\$250 Maximum
Replacement of eyeglasses, hearing aids, contact lenses, if medical treatment is also received for the covered injury.	\$400 Maximum	\$200 Maximum
Dental Treatment to sound, natural teeth due to covered injury	\$1,500 Maximum	\$750 Maximum
*RE means Reasonable Expense GER_0318 24HR EXT (0040)		