

Trailblazer Happenings

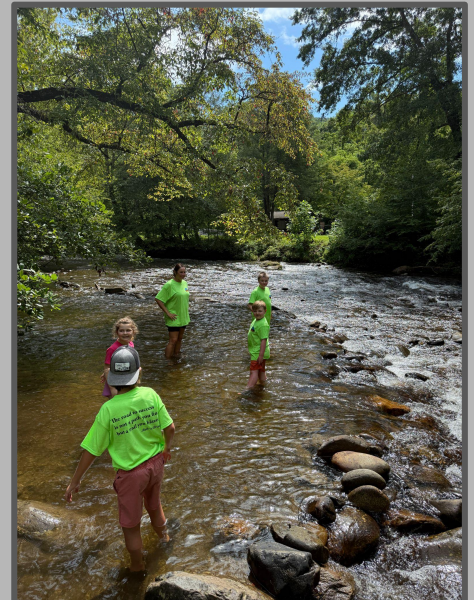
www.mountaindiscovery.org

<https://mountaindiscovery.org/2021/08/23/mdcs-weather-station/>

Date of Issue: Monday, September 8, 2025



Ms. Lendy's class has enjoyed many fun adventures over the last few weeks! Deep Creek, gem mining, Waynesville Inclusion park and more.



We are CREW, not passengers!



Miss Brook's Weekly Health and Physical Challenges

1 minute of squats

Who can do the most squats in 1 minute? Who's squats looked the best?

Screen Time

Can you view less screens this week? Can you be done looking to screens one hour before you go to bed? (phones, tablets, televisions)

**Biggest Fundraiser of the Year,
the MDCS Fund Run
Thursday, September 25th**

STUDENTS, get ready for our 5th annual Fund Run. How many laps can you run in 30 minutes? Can you beat last year's goal?

FAMILIES, come cheer on the MDCS Trailblazers as they reach their goals. All money raised goes directly to your child's classroom.

More details coming soon!

The Responsibility for Learning

Learning is both a personal process of discovery and a social activity. Everyone learns both individually and as part of a group. Every aspect of an expeditionary learning school encourages both children and adults to become increasingly responsible for directing their own personal and collective learning.

MOUNTAIN DISCOVERY

CHEERLEADING

Tryout Camp

Attention
Middle School!!

LET'S
DANCE

SHOW
YOUR
PRIDE!

ALL 6TH - 8TH GRADERS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR CHEER TRYOUT CAMP. YOU MUST ATTEND ALL THREE DAYS OF CAMP TO TRY OUT. PLEASE HAVE YOUR PHYSICAL TURNED INTO THE FRONT OFFICE BY 9/15. PLEASE WEAR A BLACK PAIR OF ATHLETIC SHORTS, BLACK T-SHIRT, AND ATHLETIC TENNIS SHOES. OFFICIAL TRYOUTS ARE 9/23 STARTING AT 3:30 (MORE INFO TO COME).

9/16 - 9/18 *at* **3:30-5:00**
IN THE CAFETERIA

PLEASE REACH OUT TO MS.KESTRAL OR MS.JEN WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS.

KWELCH@MOUNTAINDISCOVERY.ORG

JTHOMAS@MOUNTAINDISCOVERY.ORG

BUS NEWS



As of Tuesday, September 2, the bus schedule has been revised, please take note of the new bus stop departure times. All morning route times have been changed so that the students arrive before 8:05 am. Remember, all times listed are departure times. The best strategy is to arrive at least 5 minutes before the times listed. Per NCDOT regulation, once a driver shuts the door and turns off the red lights, they cannot reopen again until the next bus stop.

Please do not unload children in any area other than the drop off zones. Last week, during morning drop off a few children walked up beside bus 4 after the driver was done unloading and beginning to drive off. The children were in the driver's blind spots. This is extremely unsafe for the students and drivers.

Change of dismissal?

As a reminder, please call the front office if you need to change your child's dismissal. Drop off and pick up times are hectic so the best practice is to call 488-1222. Thank you!



DRIVERS, PLEASE REMAIN TO THE LEFT OF THE DRIVEWAY TO GIVE BUS DRIVERS PRIORITY ON THE HILL.



Kids! Want to whitewater kayak?
Learn to kayak with Need More
Outdoors.
Open for ages 7-14
<https://needmoreoutdoors.org/nantahala-kids-club/>

Things to do

Basketball Skills Development

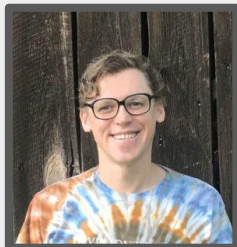
Any 5th-8th graders interested in basketball skills development are welcome to join Coach Crystal Simmons, Swain Middle School basketball coach on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the MDCS gym from 5-7pm



**Junior
Appalachian
Musicians®
Swain County**

Open to 3rd - 8th graders

**Beginning guitar starts
Monday, September 15th**

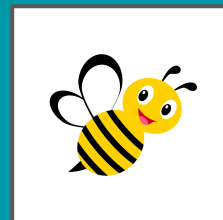


Mr. Jonathan
JAM program director



Mr. Luke

Pick up an enrollment form from the front office and return to Mr. Jonathan at easternredbud@gmail.com.



MDCS honey won 1st place in the youth division at the Swain County Fair! Thank you to Fred Crawford of Dogwood Farms for your mentorship with our bees.

Dates to Remember	** Students MUST wear field trip shirt
Monday, September 8	Volleyball Scrimmage MDCS Gym
Tuesday, September 9	5th Grade to Barber's Orchard**
Wednesday, September 10	1st Grade to Barber's Orchard**
Wednesday, September 10	2nd to Whitewater Landing Cherokee
Wednesday, September 10	8th Grade CPR training, on campus
Thursday, September 11	Pizza Lunch Fundraiser, supports Middle School Library
Thursday, September 11	NCSSM to visit MDCS 8th Grade
Saturday, September 13	XC to Kituwah, 9:00 start time
Monday, September 15	Volleyball to Heritage Christian 3:30pm
Monday, September 15	JAM Begins
September 16 - 18	Middle School Cheer Tryout Camp
Wednesday, September 17	Kindergarten to Barber's Orchard**
Wednesday, September 17	3rd Grade to AMOS**

Dates to Remember	** Students MUST wear field trip shirt
Wednesday, September 17	5th Grade to Purchase Knob**
Thursday, September 18	EC to JPL and Sylva Park**
Thursday, September 18	2nd to Mingus Mill & Farmstead**
Thursday, September 18	MDCS Board Meeting, 5:30 Jackson Public Library MDCS Board Google Meet Link
Friday, September 19	7th Grade to Smokemont Riding Stables**
Friday, September 19	Subway Lunch Fundraiser
Saturday, September 20	XC to Murphy
Monday, September 22	Lock Down Drill (See Page 8 for more details)
Tuesday, September 23	K, 1,2,3, and EC to Swain Arts Center**
Wednesday, September 24	8th to Fontana Dam**
Wednesday, September 24	Volleyball @ Catamount
Thursday, September 25	FUND RUN!!
Friday, September 26	Community Circle

Reminders and Planning Ahead



A Message to our Families:

On Monday, September 22, MDCS will be conducting a state mandated Lockdown Drill Practice. The purpose will be to teach students how to seek shelter/safety quickly in case of danger. The police will be on campus to help and to advise us on best practices. This is NOT an active shooter drill. In advance of the drill, teachers will discuss with students the procedures for seeking safety and that this is just like our Fire Drill practice. Our philosophy is to teach students strategies for seeking safety but not to stress or scare the students. Teachers will also debrief the students after the drill. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the Co-Directors.

After School Care Families:

The front office closes at 4:00pm. If you need to reach the after school program, please call **828-371-0601**.

If you'd like to support our MDCS Trailblazer athletes by purchasing a banner, please contact **Miss Brook, Mr. Micheal, or Ms. Lisa** for more information.

We LOVE our volunteers! If you'd like to volunteer at MDCS, please contact Ms. Mary Sue at **volunteer@mountaindiscovery.org**.

Middle School Dance

Friday, October 3
\$5.00 in advance
(Pay by Oct. 1st)
\$8.00 at the door
Contact **Mr. Micheal** for more information

Subway and Pizza Lunch Fundraisers

Thursday, September 11th ~

Pizza lunch supports the 6th grade library.
Purchasing books and supplies

Friday, September 19th ~

Subway lunch supports the capital campaign.

Friday, October 3rd ~

Subway lunch supports the capital campaign

Cross Country Schedule

Day	Date	Location	Start Time	Departure Time
Sat	9/13	Kituwah	9:00 am	Meet there
Sat	9/20	Murphy	8:00 am	Meet there or carpool from MDCS
Wed	9/24	Hiwassee Dam	4:00 pm	2:00/gym
Wed	10/1	Robbinsville	4:00 pm	2:15/gym

It's not too late to sign up for Cross County or Volleyball! You must have a NC sports physical on file. Parents, you can find the forms online or pick one up at the office.

Trailblazer Middle School Volleyball Schedule

Date	School	Home & Away	Location	Start Time
9/8	Catamount	Home Scrimmage	MDCS gym	3:45
9/15	Heritage Christian	Away	Jackson Rec	3:30
9/24	Catamount	Away	Reid Gym, WCU	4:00
10/2	Catamount	Away	Reid Gym, WCU	4:00
10/6	Heritage Christian	Away	Jackson Rec	3:30