

MIFFLIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
***Lewistown Elementary School***

1 Manor Drive

Mrs. Jennifer L. Esh  
Principal

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Assistant Principal

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Dear Grown-ups,

This is a really exciting time for you and your child! They're almost ready to begin their academic journey which will hopefully lead to a lifelong love of learning. Our goal is to provide your child with the best possible start to that learning adventure and this year, we are excited to announce that the Kindergarten team at LES will be piloting a Flexible Start for incoming Kindergarteners.

A Flexible Start will not affect your child's school routine, including their first day of school or the length of their school day. How the students are grouped to begin the school year and how they move about their day will change.

Here are some of the new things you'll see with a Flex Start:

- Students will be assigned a **color group** before school starts, not a teacher. You will receive this information before the first day of school.
- The **color groups** will rotate through classrooms, meeting different kindergarten teachers each day, and completing various activities based around a storybook.
- This process will repeat daily, with changes being made to the color groups as needed.
- On **Thursday, August 29th**, a letter will be sent home with your child and you will find out who their teacher will be for the 2024-2025 academic year.
- Wednesday evening, **September 4th** from 6:00 – 7:00 pm, you are invited to return to school for **Meet the Teacher night!** You can come in with your child, meet their teacher, and check out the classroom! [This will be for KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS ONLY. No other grade levels are participating in this. It replaces our traditional Kindergarten Orientation].

The benefit of a Flexible Start is that it allows for the creation of academically, socially, and behaviorally well-balanced classrooms. Not all students attend K Camp, so we don't have the opportunity to see many of the students we're placing in classes. Our goal is to create a learning environment that we believe will best suit the unique needs of each learner and set all students up for success. At the end of each school year, we have a wealth of information that we can use to create classes for the following school year which allows us to continue to provide the best learning environment for each learner. We believe that a Flexible Start will allow us to give that opportunity to Kindergarteners as well.

We are very excited to pilot this program and will be anxious to hear what you think about the experience!

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns!

Mrs. Esh  
Ms. O'Donnell  
The LES Kindergarten Team  
[Mr. French, Mrs. Gaffney, Mrs. Kehler, Mrs. Siddons, Ms. Wyland and Mrs. Yoder]

***Educate each student to meet life's challenges.***