




# Communications Tools Guide

Methacton School District offers a variety of customizable options for parents and community members to receive updates and news via your preferred methods of communication – text, email, phone, web or mobile app. From the district website to social media to various e-publications, news about our schools, staff, students, programs, events and school resources will always be at your fingertips.

<i>Tool</i>	<i>Communication Type and Use</i>
<i>PowerSchool (required contact information)</i>	<p>In order to receive timely and effective communication, it is essential for parents to maintain up-to-date contact information including email and phone numbers in the <a href="#">PowerSchool Parent Portal</a>. PowerSchool is the district's student information system. PowerSchool is designed to provide families with "single source" access to all of your student's education information, including contact and family information, transportation information, and more.</p> <p>This program provides families with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to PowerSchool’s parent portal.</li> <li>• A parent portal app to follow your student’s success in school from your mobile device.</li> <li>• The ability to display lunch balances, meal transactions, and add money to a food service account.</li> <li>• Access to busing information.</li> </ul>
<i>SchoolMessenger</i>	<p><a href="#">SchoolMessenger</a> is the district's notification software used for emergency information (e.g. weather-related or other), school news, student and staff accomplishments, upcoming events, current issues affecting Methacton families and other district/school communication. Family contact information entered into PowerSchool is automatically uploaded to SchoolMessenger allowing e-news to be shared via phone, text and email.</p>
<i>Mobile App</i>	TBD

<p><b><i>Social Media</i></b></p>   	<p>Methacton’s social media sites keep families and the community updated with school news and provides a forum for connecting and sharing accomplishments, photos and videos of our students, staff and school community.</p> <p><b>Facebook</b> - <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MethactonSchoolDistrict">https://www.facebook.com/MethactonSchoolDistrict</a></p> <p><b>Twitter</b> - District/School News <a href="#">@Methacton</a> Many Methacton School District teachers are also on Twitter – ask if they have a page &amp; what their handle is!</p> <p><b>YouTube</b> - <a href="#">Watch us on YouTube</a></p> <p><b>Search our Hashtags</b>  #MSDLearns (classroom/learning highlights)  #MSDCares (community service/character education)  #WarriorPride (staff, student, school, athletic achievements)</p>
<p><b><i>Lower Providence Community Access Channel</i></b></p>	<p>The Lower Providence Community Access Cable Channel is broadcast on <b>Comcast Cable channel #28</b> and on <b>Verizon FIOS channel #42</b> where community messages are posted by the Lower Providence Township Administration department, the Methacton School District and the Lower Providence Township Library.</p> <p>Aside from the website, this channel will serve as an excellent point of contact for up-to-date MSD information, including important announcements like school closings, delays and early dismissals.</p>

	MSD began utilizing Channel 28 as a method for communication during the 2004-2005 school year.
<i>Smore</i>	School administrators and some educational departments use the Smore app to create newsletters which contain interesting and important information. Links to these newsletters are shared with district families via email through Schoolmessenger. The newsletters contain such items as school board notes, principal updates, Cafeteria Highlights, and “ <a href="#">Methacton Happenings</a> ” which is a two-week review of upcoming events.
<i>Konstella</i>	<p>All Methacton Home and School Associations use Konstella for communications with parents. By registering with Konstella, parents can receive emails with information about events at their child’s school, can view calendars-at-a-glance, search the directory, send messages, and depending on the school, receive morning announcements, volunteer for class parties, lunch duty, and more.</p> <p>To sign up, go to <a href="http://konstella.com">konstella.com</a> and click on “Find Your School” in the upper right-hand corner. Search for your child’s school and then ask to join. Have a child at more than one school? Repeat the process.</p>
<i>Key Contacts</i>	<p><a href="#">Amanda Kelly</a> Coordinator of School and Community Information</p> <p><a href="#">Christa Fryling</a> Communications Secretary</p>