CAREERS WORTH EVERY MINUTE

Life-changing employment opportunities at Milton Hershey School
I joined the Milton Hershey School community when I was five years old because my mother saw greater opportunity for me and my brothers outside of Philadelphia. When I first arrived on campus it wasn’t the large buildings or the picturesque scenery that drew me in, it was my teachers, houseparents, bus drivers, and the staff who taught me, cared for me, and helped me see a vision for my future.

Over the years, I have come to know MHS not only as a school, but as home to me and the more than 10,000 students who have graduated since the school’s founding in 1909. Now, as president, I understand more than ever the magic that is Milton Hershey School and the importance of each staff member to the success of our students. As a team we are dedicated to working together with parents and sponsors to positively impact the lives of the students in our care.

As a part of our strategic plan, the school is committed to igniting staff engagement and service along with exceptional performance. Here we all have the ability to make a difference in the life of a student and inspire them to dream, achieve, serve others, be compassionate, and leave a lasting legacy—much like the one Milton and Catherine Hershey have left for all of us.

Milton Hershey once said, “It isn’t much unless love is thrown in—any more than a boy’s home with his own family is worth much without love. I wanted men and women who love children to care for and educate them.” It was his dream to have people like you, who love, care, and want the best for our students, to be a part of his legacy.

When we—as educators, houseparents, mentors, and staff—help our students become their greatest selves—we, too, become our greatest selves. I know that I learn just as much from our students every day as they do from me. For that, I am honored to lead Milton Hershey School forward with a clear vision of how we can serve as many students as possible while helping each of them to grow into young men and women who are ready to lead productive and fulfilling lives. I hope you’ll join me on the journey.

Sincerely,

Peter G. Gurt ’85
President
I was a poor boy myself once.

But Milton Hershey didn’t let his story end there; he knew the best chapters were yet to come.

Welcome to Milton Hershey School, where we have a way of bringing out the best in each other—just as Milton Hershey set in motion both for himself in the late 1800s, and for more than 10,000 boys and girls over the years.

A self-made man, Milton, and his wife Catherine, have made dreams come true through generosity that sustains us still today.

Milton Hershey School is one of the world’s best private schools, offering a top-notch education and positive home life to more than 2,100 children in pre-K through 12th grade from families of lower income at no charge. From our Career and Technical Education program to our college and career readiness support, we care for students in need by helping them transition into lives and careers beyond MHS. That’s the ending Milton Hershey always dreamed of.

And we can write it together.

“I wanted to give as many [children] as possible real homes, real comforts, education and training, so they would be useful and happy citizens.”

— Milton Hershey, September 1924

WORDS TO LIVE BY

Our Sacred Values guide our every action. Commitment to Mission, Integrity, Positive Spirit and Mutual Respect. These four areas were inspired by Milton’s own life experiences. Combined, they help our students grow up to become the kind of people who make the world a better place.
What do a Wall Street banker, a former NASA engineer, and a bus driver have in common? A mission.

One mission, many roles

We’re all here because we believe our students deserve the ability to keep reaching for more. And our employees have come from some pretty incredible backgrounds to make that happen. Some once roamed the Milton Hershey School campus as students and came right back to continue carrying on the legacy of giving. Others boast resumes and talents that could take them anywhere, but chose to follow their hearts here to share their talents with our community. And some found fulfillment they didn’t even know they were missing.

The job description doesn’t matter. Our educators aren’t the only ones with something to teach. We’re seamstresses and hairdressers helping our students look and feel their best. We’re world-class professionals creating programs that help them see the world in new ways. We’re bus drivers getting them from one opportunity to another.

At our core, we all share the same goal: to create an atmosphere in which all kids feel inspired, empowered, and equipped to be the strongest versions of themselves. We are united by the school’s mission and a duty to carry the torch for Milton, Catherine, and the children who count on us.

“I want to show our kids they are supported—seeing a familiar face in the crowd does that.”
– Perry Tolbert
Director of Safety & Security, on attending student events

EVERY MINUTE MATTERS

77 staff members volunteered to help new elementary students adjust to MHS

230 staff members mentored high school students
Life is the lesson

Residential Roles

Houseparents are married couples who live in private apartments attached to our student homes. Here, they care for eight to 12 students by preparing them for school each morning, cooking dinner, helping with homework, and more. Houseparents are essential in managing each student’s home away from home.

Houseparents are there for their students before and after school, ensuring they have the care, structure, and opportunities to thrive in all areas. These couples provide transportation, home oversight, scheduling, and everything else that goes into raising kids. They also serve as role models, guiding, correcting, encouraging, nurturing, and inspiring their students.

MHS also hires individuals to oversee our Transitional Living (TL) program. In their senior year of high school, students live in apartment-style housing to develop independent living skills. TL staff live in private apartments within our TL buildings and provide teaching, advising, mentoring, and supervision to students as they prepare for life after MHS.

With over 2,100 students and a growing enrollment, we always are searching for dedicated staff to fill these vital and impactful roles.

Teachers

It’s no secret that education is best received when students feel understood and cared for. That’s why our educators go beyond the lesson plans and the walls of the classroom for their students. They mentor students, engage in activities to establish deeper connections, and meet students where they are, both academically and personally.

For Milton Hershey School educators, lessons come in all shapes and sizes. Some are found in the pages of a book, and others—if you ask middle school English teacher Tony Sedun—can be found on a chessboard in the Catherine Hall cafeteria. Mr. Sedun uses the principles of chess and integrates them into the development of his students by challenging them to a game during lunch. Together, he and his students learn the life lessons of confidence building, concentration, and stamina—while getting to know each other at a meaningful level.

“We don’t ever approach houseparenting as a job—it has to be our passion.”
—Phil Clark, Houseparent

Houseparent couples earn at least $72,000 annually, plus a rent-free apartment, meals, and utilities.

“It is my hope that I can be a true believer in their absolute and abundant worth as intelligent and curious people, whose gifts unfold with each move, each word, and each new invitation to play.”
—Tony Sedun
Middle School English Teacher
Caring for every aspect

Health Care Professionals

As a home and a school, Milton Hershey School provides comprehensive care for our students—including medical, dental, and psychological services. MHS staffs medical clinics in each school building and maintains a health center with an infirmary. Additionally, there are dental clinics and psychological services offices in each school. We collaborate with Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and other health care providers for complex student medical needs.

That means that we employ nurses, CNAs, office support personnel, drivers, dentists, hygienists, dental assistants, psychologists, behavioral support specialists, and interns. Both full-time and part-time staff contribute to providing cost-free health and wellness care for our students.

“It takes a village.” – African Proverb

Indeed, Milton Hershey School is a village—dedicated to changing the lives of students from disadvantaged settings. In addition to our residential staff, teachers, and health care professionals, we hire people in many different capacities to help us provide a holistic and healthy community within which students can live and learn. Take a look at a few of the many diverse areas of employment represented here at MHS:

Coaches, Driving Instruction, Mechanical Trades, Cooks, Dining Room Workers, Custodians, Facilities and Operations, Information Technology, Campus Safety, Barbers/Stylists, Administrative Support, Finance, Summer Staff, and more.
Hershey, PA: A sweet new home

A career change is a big decision with lots to consider beyond the job itself. Where will I live? Will my family like it? What will we do for fun?

Lucky for you, Hershey is as great a place to live as it is to work.

Here for the Whole Family

You won’t be the only one making a change for the better. Central PA has excellent public and private schools with terrific state rankings, and employment opportunities for your family in manufacturing, health care, hospitality, government, and, of course, education. With an affordable cost of living and nice, safe neighborhoods, it won’t be long before Central PA becomes home and your favorite people will want to visit.
Yes, we provide competitive salary and generous plans to support the professional and personal lives of our employees—but a career here offers intangible benefits not every employer can. The MHS staff is a diverse team of some of the most committed, qualified, and compassionate people you will ever meet. Our top-notch facilities are incubators for success, where everyone is encouraged to innovate and go beyond to facilitate student success.

Explore Opportunities at MHS

A career at Milton Hershey School is as limitless as the possibilities you can help our kids see in themselves. It truly does take a village, and there aren’t many out there who could do what we do—both for ourselves and for our students.

When we strive for our own greatest potential, as Milton Hershey did over a century ago, we open the opportunity for others to follow in our footsteps. With hard work and dedication, our students’ lives are transformed.

Why work here?

Working at Milton Hershey School is as much a lifestyle as it is a job, and so the benefits aren’t limited to health care and time off.

Moved by the Mission?

It’s easy to get started.

Connect with us and find the perfect opportunity:

mhskids.org/careers

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Milton Hershey School does not discriminate against applicants or employees, in hiring, promotion or any terms or conditions of employment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, sex, age, religion or religious creed, veteran status, disability or use of a guide or support animal because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals, or any other status protected under applicable federal or Pennsylvania law.