Your day is quickly approaching...

It will be here before you know it!

**These tips will help ensure you get the best pictures on your special day...**

**1.) The more time you give me, the more creative and better the pictures will be.**When planning your ceremony and reception times, I ask brides to give me as much time as allows for pictures. Ideally, I ask for 2-1/2 to 3 hours prior to ceremony for pics of bridal party getting ready, detail shows of dress, jewelry, shoes, flowers, invitation, rings, etc, as well as bride/groom alone, and bridesmaids and groomsman. If things are rushed, there is less time for creativity and tension can affect the quality of pics.

Then after ceremony, i typically ask for approx. 2 hours for family shots, bridal party outdoors and bride/groom together outdoors. If family is larger or time after ceremony is limited, we can do family pics before ceremony. In certain situations, i recommend bride and groom seeing each other ahead of time, allowing me to catch pictures of this encounter, and then taking pics of bridal party and bride/groom together prior to the ceremony. This is often a great choice that gets most of pics finished before ceremony, leaving the rest of the day to be more relaxed and fun for the bride/groom. If you have questions regarding any of this, don’t hesitate to give me a call or email me to discuss what will work best for you.

**2.) The more organized we are the better the day will go...**Approx 2-4 weeks before the wedding i will contact you and schedule a time to meet in order to develop a timeline for the day. It is important that after we develop this timeline, we follow it as closely as possible. This includes you communicating it to your family and bridal party. Timeliness is really important... if people aren’t there, i can’t take pictures of them. This is especially critical for larger bridal parties. If one person is missing, we can’t take the shot, etc. Approx. 2 weeks before ceremony, I will email list of family pictures I usually take. At that time, look over the list and add/subtract any groupings from the list as well as add in names of people within each grouping. Then email back to me a.s.a.p. This will allow the family pics to go more smoothly.

**3.) Any creative ideas for pics or specific pics you would like are welcomed...**I will try my best to accommodate you with any pics you desire, but i can’t guarantee that i will get all of them. If you want to print off pics you like from online or my website that works well or you can email them directly to me. It’s also important that you think of an outdoor location for your bridal party pictures. This should be an interesting place; it may be meaningful to the bride and groom; it may also be an nontraditional place; examples include: field, interesting architecture, old shed, bridge, railroad tracks, brick wall, old doorway, downtown street, fence. If you need help with this, i can give more ideas. Typically we have time for one location for bridal party and possibly another for bride and groom depending on time allowed.

**4.) Communication with me is key for me to get to know you and what you are looking for in your pictures.** I am excited to be working with you. Feel free to contact me with any questions/concerns you have. You can call me at 715-453-592 or email me at mnels288@yahoo.com at any time. My work days are currently Tuesdays and Thursdays so those are the days that i typically return calls.