

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

JONATHAN PARISH, individually and :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:24-CV-1868
on behalf of all other similarly :	
situated, :	(Judge Neary)
Plaintiff :	
v. :	
THE HERSHEY COMPANY, :	
Defendant :	

JADA NETTLE, individually and on	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:24-CV-1891
behalf of all others similarly situated,	:	
	:	
Plaintiff	:	(Judge Neary)
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
THE HERSHEY COMPANY,	:	
	:	
Defendant	:	

BERNADETTE BEEKMAN,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:24-CV-2234
individually and on behalf of all others	:	
similarly situated,	:	(Judge Neary)
	:	
Plaintiff	:	
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
THE HERSHEY COMPANY,	:	
	:	
Defendant	:	

ORDER

AND NOW, this 31st day of January, 2025, upon consideration of the unopposed motions filed by defendant The Hershey Company to consolidate the above-captioned putative class actions, see Parish v. The Hershey Co., No. 1:24-CV-1868 (Doc. 12) (M.D. Pa.); Nettle v. The Hershey Co., No. 1:24-CV-1891 (Doc. 16) (M.D. Pa.); and Beekman v. The Hershey Co., No. 1:24-CV-2234 (Doc. 8) (M.D. Pa.), each of which recently was reassigned to the undersigned, and it appearing that the individual actions involve common issues of law and fact, common claims, and a common defendant, and therefore are appropriate candidates for consolidation, see FED. R. CIV. P. 42(a), and the court concluding that consolidation would serve the interests of justice and judicial economy, it is hereby ORDERED that:

1. The motions for consolidation filed by Hershey in Parish, No. 1:24-CV-1868 (Doc. 12), Nettle, No. 1:24-CV-1891 (Doc. 16), and Beekman, No. 1:24-CV-2234 (Doc. 8), are GRANTED.
2. The above-captioned matters are CONSOLIDATED and shall proceed under the title In re Hershey Chocolate Litigation, which shall be docketed at No. 1:24-CV-1868, the first of the three dockets to be opened in this court.
3. Upon notice to the court by counsel in the above-captioned actions, any future cases filed in or transferred to the Middle District of Pennsylvania alleging the same or similar claims against Hershey shall be consolidated into In re Hershey Chocolate Litigation, No. 1:24-CV-1868.
4. To the extent that any counsel in any of the above-captioned actions has filed a special admissions form that was approved by the court, that approval will extend to the consolidated action going forward, such that renewed special admissions forms are not required.
5. Plaintiffs shall move for the designation of interim class counsel for the consolidated action within 14 days of the date of this order.

6. Plaintiffs shall file a consolidated amended complaint within 60 days of the entry of an order designating interim class counsel.
7. Hershey's deadlines to answer or otherwise respond to the complaints in each of the above-captioned matters are STAYED.
8. Hershey shall answer or otherwise respond to the consolidated amended complaint within 60 days of the date plaintiffs file it.
9. In the event Hershey timely moves to dismiss the consolidated amended complaint, plaintiffs shall file their opposition brief within 30 days thereafter, and Hershey may file a reply brief within 21 days of the filing of plaintiffs' opposition.
10. The case management conferences scheduled for February 13, 2025, in Parish and Nettle are CANCELLED, and any filing deadlines related thereto are VACATED.
11. All other case deadlines, including discovery deadlines and the deadline for plaintiffs to move for class certification in each of the above-captioned actions pursuant to Middle District Local Rule 23.3, are STAYED pending resolution of the consolidated pleadings.
12. The court will schedule a case management conference and set a deadline for the parties to file a joint case management plan in the consolidated action by further order upon notice from counsel that they are ready to proceed.

/S/ KELI M. NEARY

Keli M. Neary
United States District Judge
Middle District of Pennsylvania