

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

December 12, 2005

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)

The Hershey Company
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

1-183

(Commission File Number)

23-0691590

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

100 Crystal A Drive, Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033
(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (717) 534-6799

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

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INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN REPORT

Item 1.01 Entry Into a Material Definitive Agreement

On December 12, 2005, The Hershey Company (the "Company") announced that it had entered into an agreement ("Agreement") with Hershey Trust Company, as Trustee for the benefit of Milton Hershey School (the "Milton Hershey School Trust"), dated December 12, 2005, under which the Milton Hershey School Trust intends to participate on a proportional basis in plans approved by the Company's Board of Directors ("Board") to repurchase the Company's outstanding Common Stock, par value one dollar per share ("Common Stock"). The Board had approved the repurchase of \$250 million of its Common Stock in April 2005, and on December 6, 2005 approved the repurchase of an additional \$500 million of its Common Stock. The Company expects to complete both

authorizations by the end of 2006. The initial term of the Agreement will commence on December 13, 2005, and will expire on January 30, 2006 (the "Term"). The parties, by mutual consent, may renew the Agreement for subsequent additional terms.

Under the terms of the Agreement, the Milton Hershey School Trust will sell to the Company on a weekly basis during the Term the number of shares of Common Stock equal to the product of the aggregate number of shares of Common Stock the Company has purchased on the open market from persons other than the Milton Hershey School Trust during the preceding calendar week (the "Prior Week Shares") multiplied by .44. The purchase price for each weekly purchase will be the volume weighted average price ("VWAP") paid by the Company for the Prior Week Shares. The VWAP is calculated by dividing the total consideration paid by the Company, without taking commissions into account, for the Prior Week Shares by the Prior Week Shares, excluding any transaction involving the purchase of shares of Common Stock directly from affiliates of the Company. The Milton Hershey School Trust is not required to sell shares to the Company if the VWAP for the shares for such week is less than \$55 per share.

A copy of the Agreement is attached hereto and filed as Exhibit 10.1. The description of the Agreement contained herein is not complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Agreement which is incorporated by reference herein.

Item 7.01 Regulation FD

The Company issued a press release on December 12, 2005 reaffirming its 2005 and 2006 earnings expectations and announcing the \$500 million stock repurchase and entry into the Agreement with the Milton Hershey School Trust. A copy of that press release is attached hereto and furnished as Exhibit 99.1.

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Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

- | | |
|------|---|
| 10.1 | Agreement dated December 12, 2005 between The Hershey Company and Hershey Trust Company, Trustee for the Benefit of Milton Hershey School |
| 99.1 | Press Release dated December 12, 2005 |

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Date: December 12, 2005

THE HERSHEY COMPANY

By: /s/David J. West
David J. West
Senior Vice President,
Chief Financial Officer

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EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
10.1	Agreement dated December 12, 2005 between The Hershey Company and Hershey Trust Company, Trustee for the Benefit of

AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT, is entered into on December 12, 2005 by The Hershey Company (the "Company") and the HERSHEY TRUST COMPANY, as Trustee for the benefit of Milton Hershey School (the "Trust").

RECITALS

- I. The Company's Board of Directors has authorized a stock repurchase program (the "Stock Repurchase Program") for the purchase of shares of the Company's outstanding Common Stock, par value one dollar per share ("Shares").
- II. The Trust desires to sell Shares to the Company, and the Company desires to purchase Shares from the Trust, in connection with the Stock Repurchase Program as provided in this Agreement.
- III. This Agreement is being entered into in good faith and not as part of a plan or scheme to evade the prohibitions of Rule 10b5-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "1934 Act").

IN CONSIDERATION OF the mutual promises contained in this Agreement, the Company and the Trust agree:

A. Purchase and Sale

1. The Company shall deliver to the Trust a completed notice in the form attached to this Agreement as Exhibit "A" (a "Notice") at or before 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time each Monday or, if Monday is not a business day, on the next business day setting forth, with respect to the calendar week preceding the date on which the Notice is delivered, the Prior Week Shares (as described below) and the VWAP (as described below) for such calendar week. The Trust shall, after receipt of the Notice, deliver and sell to the Company, and the Company shall buy from the Trust (each such transaction, a "Sale"), at or before 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the second business day following receipt of the Notice (a "Closing Date") a number of Shares (the "Sale Shares") equal to 0.44, multiplied by the aggregate number of Shares the Company has purchased on the open market from persons other than the Trust or any affiliate of the Company during the calendar week ending immediately prior to the date of the relevant Notice (the "Prior Week Shares"). On each Closing Date, (a) the Trust shall deliver to the Company's transfer agent stock instructions to transfer the Sale Shares to the Company, together with such stock powers and other instruments as may be necessary to give effect to such instructions, and (b) the Company shall pay the purchase price for the Sale Shares in immediately available funds to such account as the Trust has designated in writing.
2. The price per Share to be paid by the Company under each Sale shall be the Volume Weighted Average Price ("VWAP") paid by the Company for the Prior Week Shares. For purposes of this Agreement, VWAP is calculated by dividing

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the total consideration paid, without taking commissions into account, for the Prior Week Shares by the Prior Week Shares; provided, however, that the calculation of the VWAP for any Sale shall not take into consideration and shall exclude any transaction involving the purchase of Shares directly from affiliates of the Company.

3. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Trust shall not be required to effect any Sale if the VWAP for the Shares applicable to such Sale is less than \$55.00 per Share. The Company shall not be obligated to deliver a Notice and neither the Company nor the Trust shall be required to effect a Sale if the performance of their respective obligations would violate applicable law; without limiting the foregoing, the Trust shall not be obligated to effect any Sale at (i) any time that any officer or director of either the Company or the Trust is in possession of material non-public information regarding the Company, or (ii) any time after the Company has purchased Prior Week Shares when an officer or director of either the Company or the Trust was in possession of material non-public information regarding the Company, unless, in either case, the Company's purchases of Prior Week Shares are made pursuant to the provisions of a plan adopted by the Company under SEC Rule 10b5-1(c). Only one Notice may be delivered and one Sale may be effected each week.
4. Any fractional amounts of Shares required to be sold to the Company under any Notice shall be rounded up to the nearest whole number.
5. For purposes of this agreement, (a) "business day" means a day on which the New York Stock Exchange is open for trading, and (b) "affiliate" has the meaning given it in Rule 12b-2 under the 1934 Act.

- B. Term. The initial term of this Agreement shall commence on December 13, 2005 and the Prior Week Shares for the calendar week commencing on December 12, 2005 shall include only Shares the Company has purchased on the open market as described in Section A.1. from and including December 13, 2005 to and

including December 16, 2005. The initial term of this Agreement shall continue through January 30, 2006 with respect to the Prior Week Shares for the calendar week ending January 27, 2006. The parties, by mutual agreement, may renew this Agreement for additional terms, subject to mutual agreement on the floor price in Section A.3. with respect to such renewal period. It is the intent of the parties that the Trust participate in the Stock Repurchase Program on a pro rata basis with the public stockholders. Accordingly, the parties agree that upon renewal the multiplier contained in Section A.1., i.e. "0.44" will be adjusted, if necessary, to properly account for the then current ownership position of the Trust and the public stockholders.

C. Representations and Warranties.

1. The Trust represents and warrants to the Company that (a) each Sale will have been duly authorized by the Board of Directors of the Trust, (b) no Sale will

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contravene, or require any consent, notice or filing which has not been obtained, given or made, under (i) any law applicable to the Trust, (ii) the organizational documents of the Trust or (iii) any judgment, order or decree or any contract or agreement to which the Trust is subject, (c) the Trust has or will have valid title to the Shares to be sold to the Company and the legal right and power to sell, transfer and deliver such Shares, and (d) the delivery of the Shares under each Sale will, upon payment of the purchase price therefor, pass valid title to the Company to such Shares free and clear of any security interests, claims, liens, equities, and other encumbrances.

2. The Company represents and warrants to the Trust that (a) each Sale will have been duly authorized by the Board of Directors of the Company, and (b) no Sale will contravene, or require any consent, notice or filing which has not been obtained, given or made, under (i) any law applicable to the Company, (ii) the organizational documents of the Company or (iii) any judgment, order or decree or any contract or agreement to which the Company is subject.

D. Third-Party Beneficiaries. This Agreement is intended solely for the benefit of the Company and the Trust and may not be assigned.

E. Arbitration. All disputes that may arise between the parties regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement and the legal effect of this Agreement shall, to the exclusion of any court of law, be arbitrated and determined by a board of arbitrators, unless the parties can resolve the dispute by mutual agreement. Either party shall have the right to submit any dispute to arbitration ten (10) days after the other party has been notified as to the nature of the dispute. If the dispute goes to arbitration, each party shall select one arbitrator and the two arbitrators shall jointly select a third arbitrator. The arbitration shall be governed by the rules of the American Arbitration Association and the laws of the State of Delaware. The proceeding shall be held in Hershey, Pennsylvania. The parties consent that any papers, notices, or process necessary or proper for the institution or continuance of, or relating to any arbitration proceeding, or for the confirmation of an award and entry of judgment on any award made, including appeals in connections with any judgment or award, may be served on each of the parties by registered mail addressed to the party at the principal office of the party, or by personal service on the party. The Company and the Trust consent to the jurisdiction of the arbitration panel and agree that its decision shall be final and not subject to appeal.

F. Sales Plan. It is the intent of the parties that this Agreement comply with the requirements of Rule 10b5-1(c) under the 1934 Act and this Agreement shall be interpreted to comply with the requirements of Rule 10b5-1(c) under the 1934 Act.

G. Complete Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties with respect to its subject matter and supersedes all prior agreements, oral or written, with respect to such subject matter.

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H. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Delaware.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be duly executed as of the day and year first above written.

THE HERSHEY COMPANY

By: /s/Richard H. Lenny

Name: Richard H. Lenny

Title: Chairman, President and CEO

HERSHEY TRUST COMPANY

By: /s/Robert C. Vowler

Name: Robert C. Vowler

Title: President, CEO and Secretary

EXHIBIT "A"

THE HERSHEY COMPANY STOCK PURCHASE NOTICE

Date: _____

Item 1. Prior Week Shares: _____.

Item 2. Sale Shares to be purchased by The Hershey Company in connection with this Notice (Prior Week Shares times 0.44): _____.

Item 3. Volume Weighted Average Price under Sale effected in connection with this Notice: _____.

Item 4. Total amount payable under Sale effected in connection with this Notice: _____.

**HERSHEY REAFFIRMS 2005 AND 2006 EXPECTATIONS AND ANNOUNCES
NEW \$500 MILLION STOCK REPURCHASE AUTHORIZATION —
MILTON HERSHEY SCHOOL TRUST TO PARTICIPATE**

HERSHEY, Pa., December 12, 2005 — In a series of presentations to be given to investment analysts in Hershey on Tuesday, December 13, The Hershey Company (NYSE:HSY) will reaffirm its expectations for the full-year 2005, stating that net sales will increase at a rate above the long-term goal of 3-4 percent, and diluted earnings per share from operations should increase at a rate greater than the long-term range of 9-11 percent.

In addition, the Company will highlight major growth initiatives including benefit-driven innovation, continued expansion within the U.S. snack market, and a disciplined approach to achieving profitable growth in key global markets. To support these growth initiatives, Hershey will provide a comprehensive review of productivity and cost savings efforts which will be implemented in 2006 and beyond. In this context the Company will reaffirm its expectations for 2006, calling for sales growth somewhat above its 3-4 percent long-term goal, with increased diluted earnings per share slightly above 9-11 percent, excluding the previously announced business realignment charges.

Stock Repurchase Program

The Company also announced today that its Board of Directors has approved an additional \$500 million stock repurchase authorization. The Company continues to execute the \$250 million buyback authorized in April 2005 and expects to complete both authorizations by the end of 2006.

In this connection, The Hershey Company and Hershey Trust Company, as trustee for the Milton Hershey School Trust (School Trust), have entered into an agreement under which the School Trust intends to participate on a proportional basis in the Company's stock purchases. The terms of the agreement are described in a Form 8-K to be filed with the SEC this afternoon.

"We're very pleased with the continued momentum across our business," said Richard H. Lenny, Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer. "We remain on track for another record year in 2005 in terms of sales growth, market share gains, and earnings from operations. Equally as important, our plans for 2006 have been finalized and will enable Hershey to continue to deliver top-tier performance. Regarding the stock repurchase authorization, the Hershey Board of Directors is confident in the future growth prospects of the Company. This authorization underscores our commitment to rewarding shareholders over the long term."

Reconciliation of Items Affecting Comparability

For the Year ended December 31, 2004

-----	Per Share-Diluted	
In millions of dollars except per share amounts		
Net Income	\$590.9	\$2.30
Tax provision adjustment	(61.1)	(.24)
	-----	-----
Income excluding item affecting comparability	\$529.8	\$2.06
	=====	=====

For the nine months ended October 2, 2005

-----	Per Share-Diluted	
In millions of dollars except per share amounts		
Net Income	\$335.1	\$1.34
Business realignment charges [after-tax]	65.8	.27
	-----	-----
Income excluding items affecting comparability	\$400.9	\$1.61
	=====	=====

Based on current estimates, the cost to implement the current business realignment program will result in total pre-tax charges of approximately \$140 million to \$150 million, or \$.41 to \$.44 per share-diluted on an after-tax basis. Approximately 90 percent of the charge will be recorded in the second half of 2005, with the remainder recorded in the first half of 2006.

Safe Harbor Statement

This release contains statements which are forward-looking. These statements are made based upon current expectations which are subject to risk and uncertainty. Actual results may differ materially from those contained in the forward-looking statements. Factors which could cause results to differ materially include, but are not limited to: the Company's ability to implement and generate expected ongoing annual savings from the business realignment program to advance its value-enhancing strategy; changes in the Company's business environment, including actions of competitors and changes in consumer preferences; customer and consumer response to selling price increases; changes in governmental laws and regulations, including taxes; market demand for new and existing products; changes in raw material and other costs; pension cost factors such as actuarial assumptions, market performance, and employee retirement decisions; changes in the value of the Company's Common Stock; and the Company's ability to implement improvements to and reduce costs associated with its supply chain, as discussed in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for 2004.

Webcast

Broadcast of the Company's presentations will be available on Hershey's corporate website, www.hersheys.com. Please go to the Investor Relations Section of the website for further details.

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