



## From the Principal....

August 31, 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your family are safe and healthy. We are thrilled to welcome our 730 students back to MPE for the 21-22 school year (92% in-person, 8% virtually). We've had a successful first week of school. The students are doing an amazing job following all expectations and health safety procedures. For the remainder of the year, you will receive my Parent Newsletter on the last Tuesday of the month. It will be posted on our school website, emailed to you by your student's teacher, and texted via SchoolMessenger. Please take a few minutes to read it as it contains important information, updates, and upcoming events.

### WCPSS Virtual Academy 2021-22

Registration in the WCPSS Virtual Academy is closed. Registration ended in May, followed by a review of students with extenuating circumstances. Further reviews are no longer possible due to a shortage of teachers.

### Lunch Updates

- Given the large number of in-person students this year, students are eating either in the cafeteria or their classroom. By splitting the students up, we can follow the same eating guidelines as we implemented throughout the 20-21 school year...
  - students are seated 6 ft apart
  - facing the same direction
  - masks are removed at the same time and put back on immediately after eating.
- Please be aware that we are currently experiencing supply/delivery issues with food orders. As a result, the lunches served are not always what is listed on the monthly menu. If your child has dietary restrictions, it may be best for you to send a lunch from home, if possible.

### Afternoon Dismissal

Thank you for patience during afternoon dismissal as we work to improve upon our times.

- This year afternoon carpool is double its normal size. As students learn their carpool numbers, it should speed up.
- We are hopeful afternoon bus times will improve a little bit each week as routes are consolidated and more bus drivers are hired.
- We have several parents parking on the road leading to the bus loop and walking up to carpool. **This is not allowed.** Please follow the carpool procedures as outlined below.
  - Hang carpool tag on rearview mirror
  - Follow the carpool line.
  - Do not park and walk up to check your child out of carpool.
  - Pull up to a designated loading zone.
  - Students will be loaded by an adult or safety patrol.
  - If you do not have a carpool tag, you will be asked to sign your child out at the main office.
  - Refrain from using cell phones in the carpool line.



### **Virtual Open House – Sept. 21 & Sept. 28**

Please join us for MPE's Virtual Open House on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> (see schedule below). You can expect to hear information about curriculum, grading, Google Classroom, etc. The Google Meet link will be shared with you by your child's teacher as we get closer to the date.

#### **Tuesday, September 21, 2021**

**K: 5:00 pm**

**Grade 1: 5:30 pm**

**Grade 2: 6:00 pm**

**General PTA Meeting: 6:30 pm**

#### **Tuesday, September 28, 2021**

**ECS I & II: 5:00 pm**

**Grade 3: 5:00 pm**

**Grade 4: 5:30 pm**

**Grade 5: 6:00 pm**

**4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> AIG Parent Meeting: 6:30 pm**

### **MPE Fall Fundraiser – Building Blocks of Success**

We are excited to kick off our Mills Park DanceFit on 9/13. Our goal is to raise \$25,000 for building Blocks of Success initiative- funding the needed supplies & online subscriptions that help our students and teachers succeed and to strengthen our school community.

Our school has always relied on fundraising to provide exceptional opportunities to enhance student learning. And this year, we have more needs than we've ever had before, which means we need your support more than ever.

We completely understand if your family is not in a position to financially support the school right now. You can still be involved by simply SHARING about our fundraiser with friends and extended family online at mybooster.com. Sharing IS supporting!

Just as we worked to safely return to school this year, we are also safely hosting this essential fundraiser based on our school's current guidelines. We'll send more details, as we get closer to our kickoff.

#### **Key Dates**

- Registration Opens - 8/30 Register on MYBOOSTER.COM
- Donating Starts - 9/06
- Fundraiser Kick Off - 9/13
- Event Day - 9/22 SAVE THE DATE!

### **Volunteers/Visitors 2021-2022**

NC DHHS guidelines currently limit non-essential visitors and activities involving external groups or organizations. At this time, the only essential visitors allowed in Mills Park Elementary are MPE PTA Board members. I will let you know when visitors are permitted in the building.

### **Here Comes the Bus**

WCPSS Transportation provides bus rider families with a free bus tracking system called *Here Comes the Bus*. *Here Comes the Bus* translates GPS data into an easy-to-use customizable map that works on a computer, tablet, or smartphone. The app allows you to see where the bus is and how close it is to your stop. Get started with *Here Comes the Bus* at <https://herecomesthebus.com/getting-started/>.



You will need the district code and your student's ID number to sign up. The **WCPSS school code is 67500**. For your smartphone or tablet, download the *Here Comes the Bus* app from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#). When entering your student's last name on the app, spell it as it appears on your Home Base/PowerSchool account. If there is a hyphen in the name, make sure you include it. Only enter the first 18 characters of your student's last name. Once activated, you can customize or edit features, including how the app will communicate with you and the size of the notification radius.

### **Students Experiencing COVID-19 Symptoms**

Students must stay home if experiencing any of the following COVID-19 symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If a student is experiencing one of the COVID-19 symptoms listed above, he/she must meet 1 of 3 pathways to return after COVID-19 symptoms:

- negative PCR/Molecular COVID-19 test
- alternate diagnosis
- presumed positive

View [wcpss.net/WhenToReturn](http://wcpss.net/WhenToReturn) for requirements to return after a COVID-19 diagnosis, exposure, or symptoms.

### **Isolation/Quarantine**

As mentioned in my last newsletter, if a student attending school in-person must quarantine due to exposure to COVID or isolate due a positive test, accommodations will be made to ensure that the student's learning continues (work sent home, etc.). In these situations, it will not be possible to accommodate a transfer into Virtual Academy. We are currently working on a plan to enhance this process.



### **WCPSS COVID-19 Metrics**

During the 2021-2022 school year, WCPSS Communications Department will not be sending a SchoolMessenger email to parents when there is a confirmed positive case at your student's school. This is different from last year. To find the most current data on COVID-19 cases at all WPCSS school, please go to [WCPSS's COVID-19 Metrics site](#)

### **Instructional Assistants Needed**

We are currently looking for two instructional assistants. If you are interested or know of someone that might be interested, please email me at [mregan@wcpss.net](mailto:mregan@wcpss.net).

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Michael Regan  
Principal

### **Upcoming Events for September 2021**

- Sept. 6: Labor Day Holiday – No School for Students and Staff
- Sept. 6: Mills Park DanceFit – Donating Begins
- Sept. 7: Teacher Workday – No School for Students
- Sept. 9: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Beginning-of-Year Reading Test (BOG)
- Sept. 13: MPE Fall Fundraiser Kick Off
- Sept. 16: Teacher Workday – No School for Students
- Sept. 21: K-2 Virtual Open House
- Sept. 21: Virtual General PTA Meeting, 6:30 pm
- Sept. 22: Mills Park DanceFit Event
- Sept. 24: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Interim Reports Sent Home
- Sept. 28: 3-5 Virtual Open House