



From the Principal....

August 14, 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Mills Park Elementary for the 2020-2021 school year! On behalf of all MPE teachers and staff, I want you to know how honored and excited we are to teach, guide, and love your children this year.

By now, you have received your child's assigned teacher and met them yesterday during Meet-the-Teacher. As you can imagine, the teachers are working feverishly scheduling and planning for the first few weeks of school.

Please find in this newsletter a few updates and important information. I apologize for any repeated information that you may have already received from WCPSS.

Orientation – First Two Weeks of School

As a reminder, the first two weeks of this year will be an orientation period. There will be a tremendous amount of flexibility involved during these two weeks, as students settle into this new learning environment and teachers work to prepare students for everything they need to do so. If your child is having issues with scheduling and other needs, we need you to know that that is OK. We will work with students to ensure their learning is progressing appropriately. By now, you should have received your child's specific schedule for the first two weeks of orientation.

Full core instruction and the full instructional schedule will begin the week of Aug. 31st

Instructional Materials and Edukit Distribution Schedule

Instructional materials (math and ELA) distribution will take place August 19-21. Edukits will also be distributed at this time for those who purchased one. [Click this link to see the schedule.](#)

- Please display a sign on the passenger side window with your child's name (first/last) and the teacher's name clearly visible.
- All pick-ups will occur in the bus loop except for Pre-K, ECS I, and ECS II classes.
- The make-up date and time for material pick-up is Monday, August 24 from 10:00 to 12:00 in the bus loop.
- We ask that you please make every attempt to come during your assigned date and time.



What is Different this Year?

What will be different this year than from when we switched to remote learning in March:

- Attendance will be taken daily. Please read [MPE Attendance Guidelines](#)
- Grades will be given. Please read [MPE Grading Norms](#)
- The schedule will be more like a regular school day (beginning in Week 3) with 2.5 hours of live instruction per day and 2.5 hours of non-live instructional opportunities per day. Teachers will increase hours of live instruction during the first three weeks of school.
 - Week 1: Live instruction will occur 1 hour per day
 - Week 2: Live instruction will occur 2 hours per day
 - Week 3+: Live increase will occur 2.5 hours per day
- Here is a [sample master schedule](#). By August 21st, your child's teacher will share a specific schedule for their class, which will begin in Week 3 (August 31st).

Device Distribution

Device distribution is being handled by WCPSS Tech Services and will begin on Monday, Aug. 17. Some devices will be ready to be picked up then, but not all will be ready on that date.

- Parents who indicated they needed a device in the device request survey **will receive a notification via email when their device is ready to be picked up.**
- Please **wait until you receive a notification** before going to a distribution site to pick up your device.
- If you go to distribution site prior to receiving a notification, there will not be a device available for you.
- Parents will be notified three days before their pick-up date. You can pick up any time on or after that date.
- Please do not come to Mills Park ES to try to secure a device.
- If you need a device but did not submit a survey, please contact Mrs. Pauls at apauls@wcpss.net and she will submit your request to WCPSS Tech Services.
- We know that not every student will have connectivity the first day of school. Our teachers and support staff will work with students to catch them up once they are connected.

Tech Support

Information about how to support online learning is available at wcpss.net/techguides. The resources on this site show students how to log into their Wake IDs and student email, how to set up and use Chromebooks and Internet hotspots, how to connect to WiFi, how to use learning systems such as Google Classroom and much more. You can also find how to contact WCPSS Tech Services Help Desk for direct support.



Again, welcome to MPE! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Michael Regan
Principal