



From the Principal....

August 31, 2022

Dear Parents,

We are off and running! It was a truly wonderful first two days of school. We are thrilled to welcome our 685 students to MPE for the 22-23 school year. 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 my parent newsletters as they contain important information, updates, and upcoming events.

Reminders from August 8, 2022 Newsletter

Early Release Days 22-23

In 2021, the NC General Assembly passed a law requiring elementary teachers to complete the LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) Professional Learning. The Professional Learning consists of 8 units with each unit requiring up to 8 hours of asynchronous work before a full day of live training. To provide some time for teachers to complete this asynchronous work, the WCPSS Board of Education designated six early release days during the 22-23 school year (Sept. 2, Nov. 10, Dec. 5, Dec. 21, Mar. 24, & May 9). These days will be a 2- hour early release (1:45 pm dismissal).

Friday, Sept. 2, 2022 is our first Early Release Day!

[2022-2023 WCPSS Traditional Calendar](#)

Possible Changes After the 20th Day of School

Teacher allotments are based on the number of students who show up within the first twenty days of school. After the twentieth day of school, we may need to make changes to class assignments due to an increase or decrease in student enrollment.

Breakfast/Lunch Information

- Breakfast = \$1.50 Lunch = \$3.00
- Applying for free/reduced meals: <https://www.wcpss.net/Page/1849>
- Information about school meals and menus: <http://www.wcpss.net/domain/1047>



New Information

Breakfast/Lunch Information

- Pre-Pay for Meals Online: www.MySchoolBucks.com or call (855) 832-5226 to enroll. You'll need your child's NCWISE ID number, available in your registration materials or at your school. Once your account is established you may:
 - Securely deposit funds to your child's account
 - Check balances
 - Set spending limits

- During the 22-23 school year, meals are not free for students as they were during the past two years. In the event that a student is unable to pay for a meal on a particular day, the student may charge a reimbursable meal so long as it does not create a negative account balance that exceeds the value of three (3) days of meals (breakfast and lunch) based on current student meal prices. If a student is unable to pay for or charge a meal, the student will be served a designated alternate meal (fruits and vegetables) which will be provided at no cost to the student.

Late Check-in/Early Check-out

We are implementing a new check-in/check-out system this year. When your student is late or when you need to check your student out early, please scan the QR code posted in front of the main doors. The QR code will lead you to a brief form to complete.

1. Using your smartphone, scan the QR code
2. Complete the form
3. Ring the intercom bell
4. Ms. Burnet will assist you

Just a reminder....when visiting the school, our front desk receptionist, Mrs. Burnet, will routinely engage with you through the speaker before buzzing you into the building. Additionally, she will regularly check IDs when signing your child out early.

Afternoon Carpool Dismissal

As we work to improve our carpool efficiency over the next couple weeks, you can assist us by...

- helping your child(ren) remember their carpool number.
- keeping the carpool tag hanging from your rearview mirror throughout the duration of carpool.
- not parking and walking up to check your child out of carpool.



MPE Fall Fundraiser - Boosterthon

Our Mills Park Elementary Fun Run fundraiser will kick off in just 2 weeks on Sept. 13, 2022. Our goal is to raise \$25,000 for enhancing specials programs, funding schoolwide technology needs, and strengthening our school community.

Our school has always relied on fundraising to provide exceptional opportunities to enhance student learning and we need YOUR HELP registering your student(s). Donations will go toward supporting our school and can be given throughout the entire experience. There is no pressure to give, but we invite you to help our school by sharing our fundraiser with your family and friends! Sharing IS supporting! Every share and donation make a difference! And don't forget regardless of financial participation...

- All students get to participate in the Fun Run Event Day
- All students will receive a free t-shirt
- All students will experience an incredible character development program.

Just for registering, you can enter our PARENT SWEEPSTAKES to win a gift basket that includes spirit wear! In order to be eligible for the drawing, you must register before kickoff on Sept. 13, 2022.

Thank you for supporting Mills Park Elementary through the Mills Park Elementary Fun Run!

Key Dates to Remember:

- Registration is open TODAY (Register on MYBOOSTER.COM)
- Sept. 13, 2022: Mills Park Elementary Fun Run **Kick Off**
- Sept. 21, 2022: Fun Run **Event Day** – SAVE THE DATE

Open House – Sept. 15 & Sept. 22

Parents, please join us on Sept. 15th and Sept. 22nd for MPE's Open House Nights (see schedule below). During Open House, you can expect to hear information about curriculum, grading, expectations, etc.

Thursday, September 15, 2022

5:45 – 6:20 pm: PTA General Meeting

6:30 – 7:15 pm: K, 1st, and 2nd Open House

Thursday, September 22, 2022

5:50 – 6:20 pm: 4th Grade AIG Parent Meeting (media center)

6:30 – 7:15 pm: 3rd, 4th & 5th Open House (classrooms)

7:20 – 7:50 pm: 5th Grade AIG Parent AIG Meeting (media center)



Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Fall Nomination Window

The AIG Fall nomination window is open through Sept. 28, 2022. Families may nominate fourth or fifth grade students who are not already identified by filling out this [form](#). Please visit the [MPE AIG website](#) for more information.

Volunteer Registration 22-23

Volunteers are visitors who may or may not be alone with students at any point. Volunteers do require background checks. There are no "levels" of volunteer status. Typical examples range from a community volunteer who reads with a child to an overnight chaperone, as well as field day workers, testing proctors, field trip chaperone and volunteer coaches. The same background check is done for every type of volunteer.

- Current volunteers, who were approved for the 2021-22 school year, do not have to register again this year.
- New Volunteers for 2022-23
 - All new volunteer applicants must register and have an approved criminal record check prior to engaging in volunteer work. New volunteer applicants may go to any WCPSS work site and register through wcpss.net by selecting the Community tab, and then selecting Volunteer. Applicants will be notified by email once their application has been approved. Applicants who are not approved will receive notice from Employee Relations.

Here Comes the Bus

WCPSS Transportation provides families of students who ride a yellow bus to school 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/parents/get-started/>. You will need the district code and your student's ID number to sign up. For your smartphone or tablet, download the **Here Comes the Bus** app from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

The WCPSS school code for Yellow Bus is **67500**. The WCPSS school code for Vendor Transportation Services is **67501**. [Learn more about Here Comes the Bus for Vendor Transportation Services.](#)

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. If your name is, *Yellow-School Bus Wake*, you will enter *Yellow-School Bus* in the last name field.



COVID-19 Health Guidance for 22-23

It is recommended that students and staff stay home if they are sick, not feeling well, or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 and recommend getting tested for COVID-19. People who are at risk for severe illness with COVID-19 who test positive are recommended to consult with a healthcare provider right away for possible treatment, even if their symptoms are mild.

To learn when to return after COVID-19 diagnosis or symptoms, see: www.wcpss.net/whentoreturn

WCPSS COVID-19 Metrics

To find the most current data on COVID-19 cases at all WPCSS school, please go to [WCPSS's COVID-19 Metrics site](#)

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Michael Regan
Principal

*****Please see below for the upcoming event for September 2022*****

Upcoming Events for September 2022

- Sept. 2: Kindergarten Meet-the-Teacher, 10:00-11:00 am
- Sept. 2: Early Release Day – Students dismiss at 1:45 pm
- Sept. 5: Labor Day Holiday – No School for Students and Staff
- Sept. 6: First Day for all Kindergarten Students
- Sept. 7: 3rd Grade Beginning-of-Year Reading Test (BOG)
- Sept. 8: Spirit night at Romeo's Pizza
- Sept. 13: MPE Fall Fundraiser Kick Off
- Sept. 15: General PTA Meeting, 5:45-6:25 pm
- Sept. 15: K-2 Open House, 6:30-7:15 pm, Classrooms
- Sept. 21: MPE Fun Run, times TBD
- Sept. 22: 4th Grade AIG Parent Meeting, 5:50-6:20 pm, Media Center
- Sept. 22: 3-5 Open House, 6:30-7:15 pm, Classrooms
- Sept. 22: 5th Grade AIG Parent Meeting, 7:20-7:50 pm, Media Center
- Sept. 26: Teacher Workday, No School for Students
- Sept. 30: 1st Quarter Interim Reports Sent Home