



509 Mills Park Drive
Cary, NC 27519

<http://millsparkes.wcpss.net>
(919) 466-1466

August 11, 2021

Dear Mills Park Families,

Welcome to Mills Park Elementary for the 2021-2022 school year! I hope this letter finds you healthy, well rested, and excited to start a new school year. We are thrilled for your children to return to the building on August 23, 2021. Although we are returning under difficult circumstances, we are committed to providing your children with a safe and healthy learning environment. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with important information and dates that will help you start the year on a positive note.

Please know Wake County Schools is not allowing new admissions or transfers into or out of virtual academy. We fully understand concerns regarding the recent increase in delta variant cases. We will continue to implement all health procedures and protocols as outlined below.

If a student attending school in-person must quarantine due to exposure to COVID, 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.

Important Information

- **Class Lists/Teacher Assignments**

Class lists have been completed. Students will receive a welcome email from their assigned teacher by noon on **August 18, 2021**. In this email, your teacher will provide a short video and a Google Meet link to the Virtual Meet-the-Teacher.

- **Virtual Meet-the-Teacher Day**

Due to the recent increase in COVID cases, we have changed our Meet-the-Teacher to a virtual Meet-the-Teacher. We invite you and your student(s) to our Virtual Meet-the-Teacher Day on Thursday, **August 19, 2021** (times listed below). As mentioned above, your teacher will provide a Google Meet link for your Virtual Meet-the-Teacher.

1st Grade: 3:30 -4:00

2nd Grade: 4:00-4:30

3rd Grade: 4:30-5:00

4th Grade: 5:00-5:30

5th Grade: 5:30-6:00

ECS Classes: The teachers will let you know the time of your Virtual Meet-the-Teacher



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- **First Day of School – August 23, 2021**

- **School Hours**

9:15 am – 3:45 pm. Students may be dropped off as early as 8:45 am (first bell). The second bell rings at 9:10 followed by the tardy bell at 9:15. The instructional day begins promptly at 9:15 am. After 9:15, parents must sign their child in at the main office.

- **[Supply Lists](#)**

- **Carpool Morning Arrival**

During arrival time (8:45-9:10), please follow the carpool line to the designated unloading zones in front of the building. When you reach the unloading zone, a staff member or safety patrol will open your car door to welcome you and let your child out. For the safety of all students and parents, please do not park and walk your child to the building. Also, please refrain from using your cell phone while in the carpool line.

- **Carpool Afternoon Dismissal**

Carpool tags must be displayed on your rearview mirror for pick-up. You may pick up a carpool tag during “Meet-the-Teacher” Day or at the main office at other times. You may use last year’s carpool tags. To ensure a safe and smooth carpool dismissal, please adhere to the following carpool dismissal procedures:

- 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.

- **Early Arrival Program**

Mills Park offers an on-site Before-School Care program run by Mills Park staff. If your child is enrolled in the program, you may drop him/her off as early as 7:00 am (park along bus loop and walk student into the cafeteria). The Before School program will begin on Monday, August 23rd. The cost per month for each child is \$94.65. There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$15.00 per child. You can enroll your child(ren) in Before School Care now by completing this [Before School Care Registration form](#). Please complete the registration form by August 18, 2021 if you plan to use the program the first week of school. You may [pay online](#) beginning the morning of August 20, 2021 or pay by check on August 23, 2021.



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- **After School Program**

The NW Cary YMCA runs an on-site (at Mills Park) After-School Care program, which will begin on Monday, August 23rd, from 3:45-6:00 PM. More information and online registration can be found at <https://www.ymcatriangle.org/schools/mills-park-elementary-after-school>.

- **Bus Transportation – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

If your child(ren) plan to ride the bus, please complete this [Bus Registration Form](#) in order for them to be added to a bus route and bus stop. At least 10-days before the start of school, parents may access the Transportation Tab in Homebase-Powerschool to see route and stop information. Bus routes are also available at www.wcpss.net/routes. Bus rider families will receive an email with stop information one week before school starts. A stop marked “doorside” means the student does not cross the street to board the bus. Transportation will begin receiving requests for Dual Stops for Joint Custody, Alternate Stop (Before and After-School Care) and Transportation–Ineligible students on October 1, 2021.

- **Here Comes the Bus**

Yellow bus rider families can use Here Comes the Bus tracker app. More information can be found here: www.wcpss.net/hercomesthebus.

- **Change of Transportation**

Please send a note to your child’s teacher if there is a change in transportation. If the teacher does not receive a note, your child will be sent home by his/her regular mode of transportation. If you forget to send a note, please call the school office before 1:00 pm.

- **Checking Students Out Early**

If you need to check your child out early for an appointment, please do so before 3:15 pm. The end of the day is a very busy time for us, so we would like to take care of early check-outs before 3:15 pm.

- **Tuesday Take-Home Folder**

Tuesday is the day when you will receive your child’s work folder from school. Be sure to check book bags on Tuesdays for your child’s schoolwork and any teacher/school communication.

- **Monthly Principal Newsletter**

I will post my monthly principal’s newsletter to the school website, <http://millsparkes.wcpss.net/>, on the last Tuesday of each month. It will provide you with important dates, events, and news for the upcoming month. Also, please refer to our school’s Google calendar found on the school website for important dates and events.



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- **Breakfast/Lunch Prices**

Breakfast and lunch are free to all students this school year. Please refer to Wake County's website, <http://www.wcpss.net/domain/1047> for more information about school meals and menus.

- **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, there is a possibility that we may need to make changes to class assignments due to an increase or decrease in student enrollment.

- **Student Device Program**

WCPSS is launching a new student device program for the 2021-22 school year. All WCPSS students will be issued a Lenovo 300e Chromebook. This device will be a part of the student's daily required materials to have with them at school. Some students received a Lenovo 300e Chromebook last year and will continue to use it. Students without a WCPSS device will receive one in the first few weeks of school. This device will be fully supported by the district while personal devices will not. We strongly encourage all students to accept this device and bring it to school each day fully charged.

- **Instructional Materials Pick-up for Virtual Academy Students**

- Instructional materials distribution will take place August 20, 2021 at 1:30 in the bus loop.
- Please display a sign on the passenger side window with your child's name (first/last) and the teacher's name clearly visible.

COVID-19 Health Guidance/Protocols/Procedures

- **Masks**

Students and adults must wear masks at all times inside the building and on WCPSS transportation, except when eating and drinking.

- **Special Classes**

Students will attend specials in the Art, Music, STEM, Media, and PE spaces. Social distancing will be practiced to the extent possible in the special area spaces.

- **Lunch**

- Students will eat lunch either in their classroom or the cafeteria to minimize the number of students in the cafeteria at one time.
- Social distancing will be practiced to the extent possible.
- Students will face the same direction.
- Masks will be worn at all times except when eating and drinking.



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- **Recess**
 - Masks are optional during recess.
 - Playground equipment is open.
 - Social distancing will be practiced to the extent possible.
 - Recess times are staggered to minimize the number of people in a space at one time.

- **Transitions - Bathrooms/Hallways/Stairwells**
 - 6 ft. of social distancing will be practiced in hallways, stairwells, and bathrooms.
 - Only the number of students allowed in a bathroom for the use of every other toilet/urinal/sink.
 - Students will utilize floor markings for social distancing guidance.
 - Schedules (lunch/recess/specials) have been created to minimize the number of students in transition during any given time.

- **Classrooms**
 - Social distancing will be practiced to the extent possible.
 - All students will be assigned an individual student desk (no tables).

- **Care Center**

For the 2021-2022 school year, every school must have a Care Center, where students will wait for someone to pick them up from school if they start experiencing DHHS-identified Covid-19 Symptoms:

 - fever or chills,
 - sore throat,
 - a new cough,
 - shortness of breath or difficulty breathing,
 - new loss of taste or smell,
 - diarrhea or vomiting,
 - severe headache, especially with fever.

- Click [here](#) to read WCPSS's most up-to-date information related to COVID and health protocols.
- If you are not receiving the WCPSS Family Emails, please click on this [link](#) to sign up.

We look forward to seeing you on August 23rd! Please feel free to contact us at (919)466-1466 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Michael Regan
Principal