



September Newsletter from Principal Pauls

September 5, 2024

Dear Mills Park Families,

We have had a wonderful first week and a half of school! It brings us so much joy to have the children back in the building!

As staff returned back to school after their summer break, I had the privilege of sharing with them that their hard work and dedication to growing each student made MPE history! For the first time since the building opened in 2008, Mills Park Elementary students EXCEEDED their growth target. Not only did we feel and see success in student growth, the overall school growth score moved from -0.19 in 2022-23 to +5.18 in 2023-24.

For the remainder of the year, you will receive my Parent Newsletter on the last Thursday of the month. It will be posted on our school website and texted via SchoolMessenger. Please take a few minutes to read my parent newsletters as they contain important information, updates, and upcoming events.

I'm excited to work with you this year to help make your child's school year a success. If you need any assistance throughout the year, feel free to reach out to me or Chris Lewis, our assistant principal. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Sincerely,

Anne Pauls
Principal, Mills Park Elementary

Upcoming Events for September 2024

Sept. 10: Girls on the Run Begins

Sept. 12: K-5 Open House, 5:30-6:15 PM, Classrooms

Sept. 12: 4th/5th Grade AIG Identification Process Overview, 6:00-6:15 PM, Room 2401

Sept. 12: General PTA Meeting, 6:20-7:00 PM, Media Center

Sept. 20: Teacher Workday, No School for Students

Sept. 23: MPE Fall Fundraiser Kick Off

Sept. 25: Spirit Night – Dairy Queen 4:00PM – 8:00PM

Sept. 27: 1st Quarter Interim Reports Sent Home

[2024-2025 WCPSS Traditional Calendar](#)



Open House – September 12, 2024

Parents, please join us on September 12th for MPE's Open House Night (see schedule below). During Open House, you can expect to hear information about curriculum, grading, expectations, etc.

Thursday, September 12, 2024

5:30 – 6:15 PM: K-5th Grade Open House

6:00 – 6:15 PM: 4th/5th Grade AIG Identification Process Meeting (Room 2401)

6:20 – 7:00 PM: PTA General Meeting (Media Center)

Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Fall Nomination Window

The AIG fall nomination window for fourth and fifth grade students is open through **September 27th**.

What does this mean?

You may nominate your child to be considered for an AIG (Academically and/or Intellectually Gifted) referral. However, this does not mean your child will automatically be referred for AIG.

1. All nominated students are considered for referral by the School Based Committee for Gifted Education (SBCGE).
2. The committee reviews the academic history of each nominated child to determine if a referral is appropriate.
3. If the committee determines a referral is appropriate based on the student's academic history, the student will be referred for an evaluation.
4. If the committee does not find evidence to support a referral, then the student will not be referred for an evaluation.
5. You do not need to nominate your child if he or she is already identified, but you may nominate your child if you would like your child considered for a second area of identification (ELA or Math).

How do I know if I should nominate my child?

Some considerations:

- Does my child consistently perform above grade level expectations? (some examples may include scoring a Level 5 on EOGs and/or earning level 4s on classroom assessments)
- Does my child enjoy learning for its own sake?
- Is my child a motivated and curious student?

How do I nominate my child for AIG?

Please complete this [form](#).



Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Fall Nomination Window Cont'd.

Please know that nominations for the Fall nomination window will not be accepted after September 27th but may be added to the Spring nomination window.

If you have further questions, please contact us as mblewett@wcpss.net or dbarnett@wcpss.net.

Sincerely,
Melani Blewett and Dyane Barnett

MPE Fall Fundraiser - Boosterthon

Our Mills Park Elementary Boosterthon Fun Run fundraiser kicks off on 09/23/2024. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Our students register online then get pledges from friends and families for running laps during the Fun Run on October 1st. Boosterthon staff will be at the school from kick-off until the event day running a character education program during the beginning of specials block. You may also see them at carpool - getting the kids pumped up with music and dancing. Every share and donation makes a difference! And, don't forget...

- All students get to participate in the event day, regardless of financial participation
- All students will receive a free t-shirt
- Students will experience an incredible character development program.
- Students receive a prize just for registering
- Register before 9/23 to be entered in a drawing

The fun run is a great community event. Parents are invited to come cheer for their students and be part of the fun!

Register your child at mybooster.com - every registered student automatically receives a reward, and students can receive a reward just for sharing.

Our school has always relied on fundraising to provide exceptional opportunities to enhance student learning and we need YOUR HELP registering your student(s) and sharing with friends and family.

Key dates to remember:

Kick Off - 09/23/2024

Event Date – 10/01/2024 (There will be three runs, by grade level. Look for the times announced in Panther Press and teacher newsletter.)



SCHOOL CASH ONLINE - NEW FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Wake County Schools now uses School Cash Online (SCO) for all school items and activity fees, including field trips. This is a secure online payment platform to manage field trips and other items in one location.

Every family will need to create a SCO account. Here is a QR CODE you can scan to set up a School Cash Online Account. Once scanned, click REGISTER to create an account. Or click this link:

<https://wcpss.schoolcashionline.com>



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.



*****Reminders from August 12, 2024 Newsletter*****

Visiting the School – Verkada Visitor Management System

All exterior doors will remain locked during the school day. When visiting the school, our front desk receptionist, Mrs. Mucciaccio, will routinely engage with you through the speaker before buzzing you into the building. The Verkada Management System is used district wide. To sign in, you will be asked to provide identifying information, including name, date of birth, and have your photo taken. For an easier check-in process, *please have your driver's license or state-approved ID from any state ready* each time you enter the building. Please make sure that as you enter the building you are not holding the door for others to enter behind you.

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.

Early Arrival Program

Mills Park offers an on-site Before-School Care program run by Mills Park staff members. Enrolled students in the program may be dropped off as early as 7:00 am. The cost per month for each child is \$94.65. You may enroll your child during Meet-the-Teacher Day or online [here](#). The non-refundable registration fee is \$15.00 per child

After School Program

The Northwest Cary YMCA runs an on-site After-School Care program at Mills Park ES from 3:45PM-6:00 PM. Information about the After-School Care program can be found [here](#).

Breakfast/Lunch Prices

- Breakfast = \$1.75 Lunch = \$3.50
- [Click here to apply for free/reduced meals](#)
- [Click here for Information about school meals and menus](#)
- [Click here to Pre-pay for Meals Online](#)

Volunteer Information

As a valued member of our volunteer community, we would like you to register or renew your volunteer status for the 2024-25 school year before October 1, 2024. Please follow the instructions provided by following this link:

[Volunteer Registration](#)

[Volunteer Renewal](#)



PTA

You belong in PTA. Connect at our events, volunteer to help, or attend a meeting. MPE PTA welcomes and encourages everyone to be part of our amazing community! Click [here](#) to check out the MPE PTA website.