



509 Mills Park Drive  
Cary, NC 27519

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

August 8, 2022

Dear Mills Park Families,

Welcome to Mills Park Elementary for the 2022-2023 school year! This year we are celebrating 15 years of excellence. On behalf of all the teachers and staff who have worked here over the last 15 years, I want to thank you for your unwavering support and partnering with us to make Mills Park Elementary the best school in North Carolina!

I hope this letter finds you well rested and excited to start a new school year. 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.

### **Class Lists**

Class lists have been completed. Parents will receive a welcome email from their child's new teacher by 4:00 pm on Wednesday, August 24, 2022.

### **Meet-the-Teacher Day (Aug. 25, 2022)**

We will host one session for grades 1-5 on Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. This is a drop-in time, so please come anytime during these two hours.

### **Visiting the School**

All exterior doors will remain locked during the school day. 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.

### **Possible Changes After the 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

**\*\*\*Please see below for important dates and additional information\*\*\***



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### Important Dates

- **Aug. 25, 2022:** Meet-the-Teacher Day for Grades 1-5 (4:00 pm – 6:00 pm). During Meet-the-Teacher Day, the following information stations will be set up in the gym, cafeteria, and main hallway:
  - Transportation (bus info)
  - PTA Membership
  - Lunch Payments
  - Carpool Tag Number
  - Early Arrival Program
  - YMCA After School Program
  - School Spirit Wear
- **Aug. 29, 2022:** First Day of School for Grades 1-5
- **Aug. 29 – Sept. 1, 2022:** Kindergarten Staggered Entry
- **Sept. 2, 2022:** Kindergarten Meet-the-Teacher Day (10:00 - 11:00 AM)
- **Sept. 6, 2022:** First Day of School for all Kindergarten Students
- **2022-2023 WCPSS Traditional Calendar**
- **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).

### Additional Information

#### **School Hours (9:15-3:45)**

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 office.

#### **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 into the building. Also, please refrain from using your cell phone while in the carpool line.



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### **Carpool Afternoon Dismissal**

Carpool tags must be displayed on your rearview mirror for pick-up. **We have new carpool tags this year, so please discard old carpool tags. You may pick up a new carpool tag during “Meet-the-Teacher” Day or at the main office at other times.** To ensure a safe and smooth carpool dismissal, please adhere to the following carpool dismissal procedures:

1. Hang carpool tag on rearview mirror.
2. Follow the carpool line.
3. Do not park and walk up to check your child out of carpool.
4. Pull up to a designated loading zone.
5. Students will be loaded by an adult or safety patrol.
6. If you do not have a carpool tag, you will be asked to sign your child out at the main office.
7. Refrain from using cell phones while in the carpool line.

### **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 Before School program will begin on Monday, August 29, 2022. The cost per month for each child is \$94.65. You may enroll your child during Meet-the-Teacher Day. 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, which will begin on Monday, August 29, 2022 from 3:45-6:00 PM. Information about the After-School Care program can be found at:

<https://www.ymcatriangle.org/schools/mills-park-elementary-after-school>

### **Bus Transportation**

Bus transportation assignment approvals for the 2022-23 school year, which include a service start date, will be sent via email to each family. As routes are posted, WCPSS Transportation will notify families individually. Notifications will start Aug. 19, 2022 for traditional schools.

### **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 and need your child’s transportation changed, please call the school office before 1:00 pm.



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### **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.

### **Mills Park 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. Your child's teacher will also email it to you. My newsletter will provide you with important dates, events, and news for the upcoming month.

### **Breakfast/Lunch Prices**

- 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>

I hope you enjoy the last few weeks of summer break. We look forward to seeing you on August 25<sup>th</sup> at Meet-the-Teacher Day! Please feel free to contact us at (919)466-1466 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael Regan  
Principal