



**509 Mills Park Drive
Cary, NC 27519**

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

August 12, 2025

Dear Mills Park Families,

Welcome Back, Mills Park Family!

We hope you've soaked up every bit of summer sunshine and joy, and that your hearts are ready for another wonderful school year together. The first day of school is Monday, August 25th, and we are already buzzing with excitement as we prepare to welcome our staff, students, and families back for the 2025–2026 school year!

This message includes helpful details to guide you through the back-to-school season, and you can also find everything on our school website for easy reference.

Our families are at the heart of who we are. Your care, energy, ideas, and support help our school grow stronger each year. I welcome your questions, your feedback, and the chance to connect with you whenever you need.

Thank you for allowing us to be part of your child's journey. Together, let's make 2025–2026 a year filled with curiosity, growth, and celebration.

Sincerely,

Anne Pauls
Principal, Mills Park Elementary School

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

Class Lists

Parents will receive a welcome email from their child's new teacher by 12:00 pm on Thursday, August 21, 2025. We will also have class lists posted at Meet the Teacher.

Meet-the-Teacher Day (August 21, 2025)

We will host one session for grades 1-5 on Thursday, August 21st from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. This is a drop-in time, so please come anytime during these two hours.



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2025-26 Supply Lists

School supply lists for each grade level are linked [here](#) and are also posted on our website for everyone to access.

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.

Welcome New Staff

School Psychologist – Justine Ward

Important Dates

- **Aug. 21, 2025:** Meet-the-Teacher Day for Grades 1-5 (3:00 pm – 5:00 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
 - School Cash Online
 - Early Arrival Program
 - YMCA After School Program
 - School Spirit Wear
 - School Nurse
- **Aug. 25, 2025:** First Day of School for Grades 1-5
- **Aug. 25 – Aug. 27, 2025:** Kindergarten Staggered Entry
- **Aug. 29, 2025:** Kindergarten Meet-the-Teacher Day (12:00 - 1:00 PM)
- **Sept. 2, 2024:** First Day of School for all Kindergarten Students
- **[2025-2026 WCPSS Traditional Calendar](#)**

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 using the Verkada visitor management system. *If there are no adults at the carpool line, please do not drop your child off and leave without bringing them to the door to sign in.*



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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.

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. Please drive slowly and follow the blue carpool line to ensure the safety of everyone.

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. Returning families may use last years' carpool number. 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.

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 25, 2025. 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.



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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 25, 2025 from 3:45-6:00 PM. Information about the After-School Care program can be found [here](#).

Infinite Campus Parent Account

We're excited to share that families began receiving Campus Parent Portal notifications at the address we have on file, with instructions for creating a Campus Parent account from SIS-Notifications@wcpss.net. If an account hasn't been created yet, the email will be re-sent weekly until the process is complete. Didn't receive the email? Contact our school's data manager, Kim Hesen at khesen@wcpss.net to check or update your contact information.

- [Campus Parent portal website](#)

Elementary students will receive information regarding their accounts from their teachers. This will begin once the elementary level begins using Infinite Campus applications.

Bus Transportation

Notifications will start August 15th, 2025, for traditional schools. If your child(ren) plans to ride the school bus and were not assigned on August 15th, please complete this [bus registration form](#) to ensure that they are assigned a bus route and bus stop.

Find your transportation information

- Families can view current transportation details, such as route numbers and stop locations, in their Campus Parent account.

Request bus service for current students (2025-26)

- If your student is enrolled and assigned to a school with neighborhood or express bus service, you can request regular transportation.
- [Register as a bus rider](#).

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**. We will utilize the Verkada visitor management system for early check-outs so please remember to bring your ID with you.

Take-Home Folder

Each child is assigned a take-home folder. This is the folder in which you will receive your child's work folder from school 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 Thursday of each month. My newsletter will provide you with important dates, events, and news for the upcoming month.

Specials Schedule

We will rotate on a 4-day specials schedule. (A-D) Students will attend PE, Art, Media, and a Music/STEM special in the rotation. Ms. Pyon will teach both STEM and Music to our students. She will rotate quarterly between the STEM and Music curriculums, so students receive each of their favorite units in both subjects.

Breakfast/Lunch Prices

- Breakfast = \$2.00 Lunch = \$3.75
- Please refer to Wake County's website, <https://www.wcpss.net/domain/1047> for more information about school meals, menus and eligibility for free/reduced meals.

Volunteer Information

As a valued member of our volunteer community, we would like you to register or renew your volunteer status for the 2025-26 school year before October 1, 2025. 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.



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New WCPSS Policy on Cell Phones and Smartwatches

Students' personal cell phones must be silenced and kept in backpacks throughout the school day. Smartwatches may be worn and used as watches throughout the school day, but any features that require wireless connections to a smartphone must be disabled including texting and gaming. If you need to reach your child during the school day, please call the office and if students need to reach you during the day, they will notify their classroom teacher or office so we can call you from a school phone.

WCPSS Student/Parent Handbook

The WCPSS [Student/Parent Handbook](#) will be sent home with every student. This guide helps students and families understand the rules and expectations for behavior in school, on the way to and from school and during school sponsored activities. *Please be sure to tear off the last page, sign, and return to the teacher.*

Please contact us at (919) 466-1466 if you have any additional questions or concerns. We look forward to welcoming all our Panthers back to school!