

Mill Stream Elementary School

Sticking our necks out for kids!

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Robert Rodrigue, Principal
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August 1, 2023

Dear Mill Stream Families,

I hope you all were able to enjoy your summer spending time with your families and friends and are as excited as we are to return to school in just a couple of weeks. The weather has been wonderful thus far this summer! I hope you have found some time to enjoy the summer activities Maine has to offer. This letter is intended to provide you with beginning of year information as well as your child's placement for the fall.

Countless hours have gone into planning for the return to school. Teachers have put a great deal of effort into preparing for your child. Additionally, the maintenance and custodial staff have worked extremely hard to clean and sanitize our building thoroughly, making it ready for your child's return. I want you to know we will all be working together to ensure that your child has the best experience possible at MSES.

Return to School: Our first day of school will be on Wednesday, August 30th for students entering grades K-5. The instructional hours for school will occur from 8:15 am to 2:15 pm. Furthermore, our annual Kindergarten Practice Bus Run is taking place on Tuesday, August 29th.

Kindergarten Practice Bus Run We invite students and one parent/guardian to ride the bus to school with their child. Pick up will take place between 7:00 a.m. and 8:10 a.m. Your child's bus driver will be contacting you with more specifics regarding pickup times. Additionally, more specific bus route information will be published locally in upcoming weeks. Additional family members may meet their child at the school at 8:30 a.m. If your child will not be taking the bus or will be walking to school, please meet us at the school at 8:30 a.m. Teachers will share what a typical day will look like for your child. At 9:30 a.m., all students will re-board the bus with their parents/guardians for the ride home. Please feel free to contact the school after August 15th with any questions you may have about this event.

Arrival and Dismissal: Students are permitted to arrive at school no earlier than 7:45 am. Supervision for students begins at this time, and when students arrive earlier they are unsupervised and several safety concerns arise. If you happen to arrive a bit earlier than 7:45 am, please wait with your child until school supervision is on site to ensure the safety and well being of your child. Once on campus, students will enter the school and move to their designated areas to start the academic day beginning at 8:15 am. There will be occasions when specific grade levels access the playground, but as a general rule students will enter the building once on school property unless instructed differently by their teachers. Finally, Pre-K students should arrive at school starting at 8:00 am and will enter through the cafeteria doors, supervised by our preschool staff.

The dismissal process will look very similar to last year, students will begin being dismissed at 2:15 pm. Students being picked up will be dismissed to the cafeteria. We ask that family members stay outside on the sidewalk and once you are seen, your child/children will be signed out and dismissed via the back cafeteria door. We will have additional staff on duty to ensure that this process is as efficient as possible. Furthermore, buses will arrive at Mill Stream via our bus loop and our bus students will be dismissed beginning at approximately 2:20 p.m or shortly after. Lastly, our PreK students will be dismissed from the playground at the end of the day. Ms Kayla and Ms. Welch's students without siblings at Mill Stream will be dismissed at 2:00 p.m, while her students with siblings at Mill Stream will be dismissed at 2:15 p.m.

School Supplies: Mill Stream will be providing a majority of the required school supplies for our students, but we also understand that students like to bring their own new supplies to school. If you choose to send in supplies, our only request would be that supplies come to school in a plastic pencil box so they can be easily organized. If you are in a position to provide extra supplies it would be greatly appreciated (pencils, erasers, crayons, colored pencils, glue sticks, and tissues). Lastly, please send your child with a water bottle to school if possible to utilize the filling stations located around the school

Lunch and Breakfast: All students are eligible for a free breakfast and lunch!! Please be certain that you are completing our lunch forms to support the district in continuing with the free breakfast and lunch program. You can reach out to our main office with any questions regarding this process.

Open House: Our Open House will occur on August 28th (PreK-2 students) and August 29th (grades 3-5 students) from 5:00-6:00 pm. This is a time for you to visit your child's classroom and teacher prior to the start of school. Please take advantage of this evening and I hope to see everyone there.

Student Placement: I appreciate your patience with the student placement process. We had a great deal of changes that needed to be made once all student registrations had been submitted by our families. Below you will find a label with the name of your child's homeroom teacher for the 2023-2024 school year:

Your child's classroom teacher will be:

The Mill Stream staff is extremely excited to welcome students back from their summer vacations. We have missed each and every one of you so much and look forward to seeing all of our new and returning students in just a couple short weeks.

The Mill Stream office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day. You are welcome to reach out to us at 634-3121. You are also able to reach out directly to me with your questions at rrodrigue@msad54.org Enjoy the remainder of your summer and I look forward to meeting you all when you return to school.

Sincerely,

Rob Rodrigue
Principal Mill Stream Elementary School