



# Mill Creek Elementary

## Family Handbook 2023/2024

### Mill Creek Elementary

3400 148th Street SE  
Mill Creek, WA 98012

**Cindy Foster**, Principal  
**Kristin Dickert**, Assistant Principal  
**Becky Hitchcock**, Office Manager  
**Natalie Bray**, Office Assistant

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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<b>24 hr. Attendance Line</b>	<b>MCEAttendance@everettsd.org</b>
Information Line	425.385.6811
Fax Line	426.385.6802
Health room	425.385.6806
Kitchen	425.385.6807
Counselor	425.385.6810

### Office Hours

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

### Student Hours

**9:10 AM – 3:30 PM**

### Friday Early Release Hours

9:10 AM – 2:15 PM

### Early Dismissal Schedule

9:10 AM – 1:00 PM

## Staff List

### **Administration**

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Kirsten Henrikson, <a href="mailto:KHenrikson@everettsd.org">KHenrikson@everettsd.org</a>	C 1

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## Welcome to Mill Creek Elementary!

This Family Handbook is a collection of the most important procedures, routines and expectations we have established over time which are intended to improve your child's and family's experience at school.

Many of the procedures are related to student expectations and some are for family information. Please take time to read this document and discuss items with your child. We will teach and reinforce these procedures throughout the school year.

Thank you for supporting these common procedures and for helping your child understand what is expected at Mill Creek. Having a common understanding of the information shared here helps us all work more effectively together. Thank you, too, for being an involved partner in our shared responsibility to raise happy, healthy, well-educated children.

Sincerely,

Cindy Foster  
Principal

### NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Everett Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Designated to handle inquiries about nondiscrimination policies are:

Affirmative Action Office, Joi Odom Grant - 425-385-4137

Title IX Officer, Kevin Allen - 425-385-4168

Section 504 Coordinator, Dave Peters – 425-385-4063

ADA Coordinator, Randi Seaberg – 425-385-4104

District Address: 3900 Broadway, Everett, WA 98201

### STUDENT SAFETY TIP LINE

**Children's safety is everyone's primary responsibility. Please contact the school office to report a safety concern. Everett Public Schools maintains a safeSCHOOLS ALERT line which parents may call if the school office is not available.**

**Online** <http://1350.alert1.us>

**Email** [1350@alert1.us](mailto:1350@alert1.us)

**Call** 855.637.2095

**Text** 855.637.2095

**To report an immediate threat, call 911.**

## **WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT AT MILL CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

We are glad your child is attending Mill Creek School. It is our goal to provide students with an education which enables them to reach their greatest potential. Because of this, you may have the following expectations of us:

1. Teaching Staff – The teaching staff at Mill Creek Elementary is a skilled group of professional educators committed to assisting each student reach his/her/their greatest potential. Though their styles may differ, they work as a team in providing a variety of learning experiences for students. They emphasize positive motivational techniques, and they are resourceful in their ability to adapt strategies when problems arise. They are also responsive to your questions and concerns about your child. They welcome contact with parents so there can be sharing between home and school.
2. Support Staff – This includes the secretary, custodians, educational assistants, cooks, noon-duty supervisors, nurse and counselor who are all here to help accomplish our goals. They contribute significantly to our overall educational program and help us achieve our goals.
3. Curriculum – The staff is committed to providing a solid foundation of basic skills instruction for each student. We use a District-adopted program of studies and materials. Each student is encouraged to progress at his/her/their own pace in reading and math, and teachers closely observe and record student growth in skills. The growth is periodically reported to parents through the use of parent conference and progress reports.
4. Materials – Teachers use materials selected through the district's selection process to meet their teaching objectives. These materials include textbooks, library books, video, music, educational games, software, equipment and charts. All students have access to these at school.
5. Special Services – Assistance is provided through the District's Special Services. With the recommendation of the Special Services Team and your permission, your child may be eligible to receive services from the following: nurse, psychologist, speech-language pathologist, specialist for visually impaired, physical therapist, occupational therapist or special education teacher.
6. Attitude – We are interested in everyone feeling a part of the "Mill Creek Family." It is our genuine desire to approach things with a positive frame of mind, with a smile and with an effort to do what's best for "our kids."

**Thank you for taking the time to read this. If you have questions, you may call us at the school.**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACCIDENTS	7
AFTER / BEFORE - SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	7
ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL	7
PARKING LOT DIAGRAM	8
ATTENDANCE	9
BICYCLES AND WALKING	9
BIRTHDAYS	10
BULLYING, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION	10
BUS RIDING	11
CHANGES IN TRANSPORTATION	11
CAFETERIA FOOD	12
CELL PHONES	12
COMPUTER USE	12
DELAYED START OF SCHOOL AND EARLY CLOSURES	13
DISCIPLINE POLICY	13
DISMISSAL	13
DRESS AND APPEARANCE	14
ELECTRONIC DEVICES	14
EMERGENCIES	15
FIELD TRIPS	15
FINES	15
FOOD	16
FRAGRANCES	16
HALLWAY AND WALKWAY PROCEDURE	16
HEALTH AND SAFETY	16
HIGHLY CAPABLE PROGRAM	17
HOMEWORK POLICY	17
INSURANCE	18
LATE START	18
LIBRARY	18
LOCKERS AND DESKS	18
LOST AND FOUND	18
LUNCH	18

MEDICAL COVERAGE AND HELP FOR FAMILIES	19
MISSED WORK	19
MISSION STATEMENT	19
PARENT INVOLVEMENT	19
PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)	19
PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES	19
PARTY GUIDELINES AND INVITATIONS	20
PERSONAL INFORMATION	20
PETS	20
REPORT CARDS	20
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	20
SAFETY PATROL	21
SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (Before/After School)	21
SCHOOL SUPPLIES	21
SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS AND ROLLER BLADES/SHOES	21
SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES	21
STUDENT APPOINTMENTS	21
STUDENT SAFETY TIP LINE	21
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES	22
TELEPHONE/MESSAGES	22
TOYS	22
VIEWING RECORDS	22
VISITORS	23
VOLUNTEERS	23
VOTER REGISTRATION	23
WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENTS	23

## **ACCIDENT**

If your child is injured at school, he/she/they will be given first aid by the school health assistant or someone who is trained in first aid. The parents will be called immediately if the situation is serious. If parents are not at home, the person listed for emergency will be contacted. IF THERE IS ANY CHANGE OF EMERGENCY INFORMATION DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR, PLEASE INFORM THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

## **AFTER / BEFORE - SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

At various times throughout the school year students are given an opportunity to participate in specially planned before or after-school activities. Participation in these is optional. Parents will be sent a written notice of activities and will need to sign a permission slip as well as provide transportation to school or home for their children.

## **ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL**

**Parents should not drop students off at school until 9:00 a.m.** when supervision is available. All students should be at school before 9:10 a.m. when the bell rings. We recommend students ride their assigned school bus or walk to and from school. If it is not possible for your child to ride the school bus, or if you do not receive bus services, there are two options for dropping off and picking up your child at Mill Creek.

### **Parent Drop off/Pick Up Lane:**

- The only access to the Parent Drop Off/Pick Up Lane drop-off lane will be from the west, by making a right-hand turn into the parking lot from 148<sup>th</sup> Street S.E. **You may not access the Parent Drop Off/Pick Up Lane by making a left-hand turn.** The left-turn (Westbound) lane from 148<sup>th</sup> is used for cars that enter the parking lot to park their cars, so access to the Parent Drop Off/Pick Up Lane is not possible.
- Students may exit and enter the cars curbside while in the “Drop-off/Pick-up Zone” only.
- If your child needs assistance getting out of the car in the morning or getting in the car in the afternoon, please utilize the parking lot and escort your child across the crosswalk.
- Drivers may not exit their cars for any reason while in the Parent Drop Off/Pick Up lane.

### **Park and Walk:**

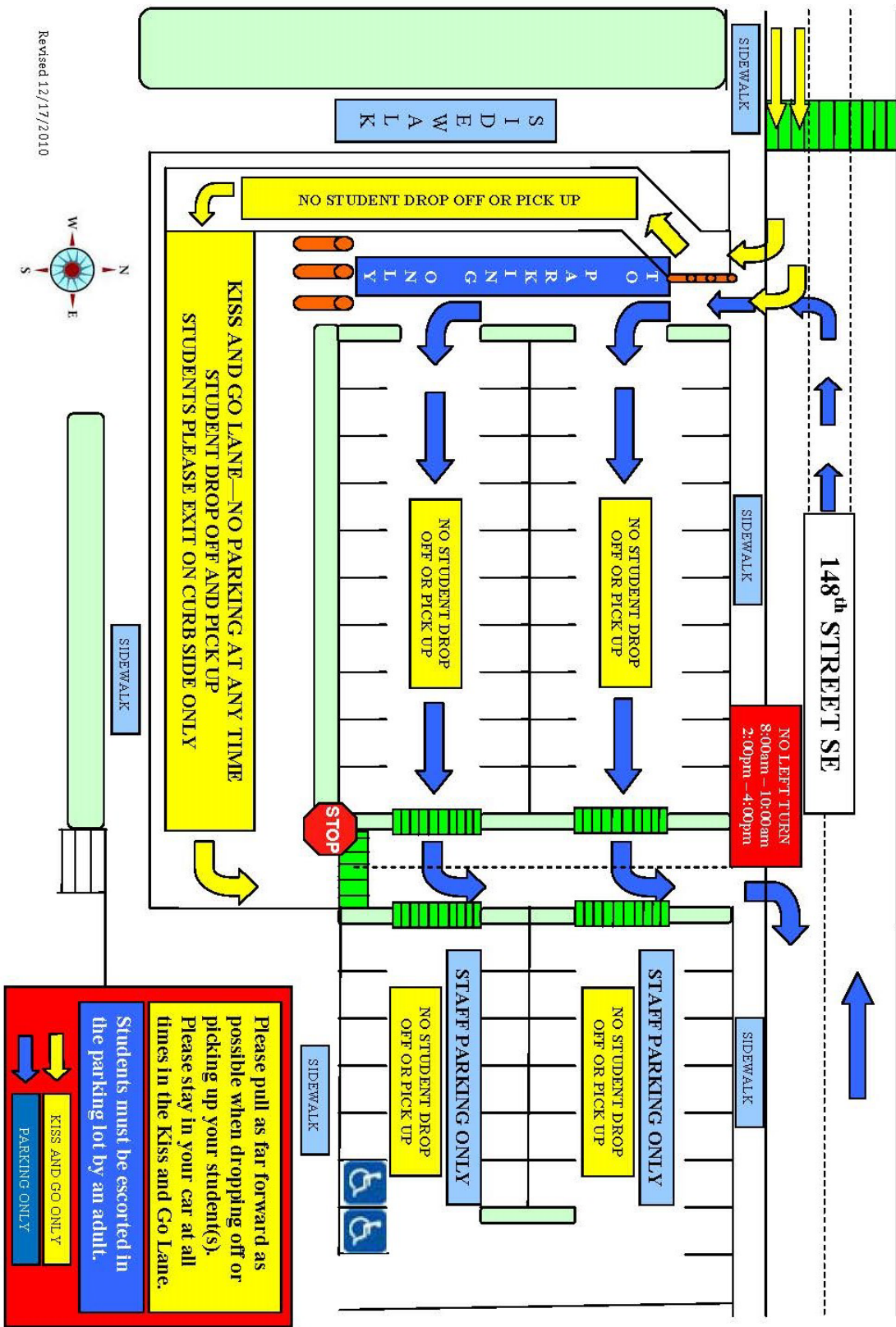
- The Parking Lot should be used only by adults that are parking and walking their children across the crosswalk to the school building.
- **Students may not walk through the parking lot unless accompanied by an adult.**
- Parents and students should cross be using the crosswalks only.

When exiting the parking lot there is **no left turn allowed between 8 and 10 a.m. and between 2 and 4 p.m.** This restriction prevents the conflict with the Brighton traffic, crosswalk traffic, and the delay in traffic that results from waiting to make a left turn when traffic is so heavy.

If a student is not picked up, they will be escorted to the office. Parents must then park in the parking lot and report to the office for their child.



# MILL CREEK ELEMENTARY PARKING LOT



### **Checking out students before the end of the school day:**

If it is necessary for a parent/guardian to pick their child up before the 3:30 p.m. dismissal time, a note is required stating the specific date and time requested. Students who are dismissed during the school day must be signed out from the school office, by their parent/guardian, before leaving the school grounds. Whenever possible, we ask your assistance in scheduling your child's appointments outside of the school day. A student leaving early from school will be considered as having a partial absence for that day.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is a critical component to your child's success at Mill Creek Elementary School. We expect all students to attend every day on time. Please understand that when your child is absent, we cannot duplicate what has been accomplished in the classroom during the school day.

School hours at Mill Creek are 9:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The first bell rings at 9:10 a.m. Instruction begins promptly at 9:15, at which time your child should be in his/her/their classroom. If your child is going to be absent from school, send an email to the attendance office at [mceattendance@everettsd.org](mailto:mceattendance@everettsd.org) to report the day and reason for his/her/their absence. Student absences must be excused either by written note or email. Once your child returns to school following an absence, he/she/they is expected to participate fully in school activities, including outside recess.

The state of Washington has a Compulsory Attendance Law, Chapter 28A.225RCW which requires parents to have their children, ages 8 through 18 in attendance. The law requires us:

1. to inform you in writing or by telephone whenever a child has one unexcused absence during any month.
2. to schedule a conference with you after two unexcused absences within any month.
3. Take steps to reduce or eliminate the absences.

If an extended absence is being considered, please contact your child's teacher and the office for permission.

Letters informing parents/guardians of excessive absences and/or tardies will be sent home as required by Washington State Law. Students missing four or more hours in a day will be marked as absent for the entire day.

### **Tardy**

Students who arrive after the second morning bell (9:15) will be marked tardy and must come to the school office to receive a tardy slip to enter the classroom. Parents are requested to notify the office in the event their child will be late. Students who are chronically late miss many learning opportunities and disrupt the classroom. Students who arrive within 30 minutes of the start of school will be marked as tardy, arriving after 30 minutes will be marked as a half day absence. The same is true for students leaving early.

### **BICYCLES AND WALKING**

As per Everett Public School Policy, students in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades are welcome to ride their bike without parent/adult supervision. Bicycle riders must abide by the following rules: (1) Ride on the right-hand side of the road; (2) Walk the bicycle on school grounds, physically

dismounted from the bike. (3) Park bikes in the bike stand; (4) Secure or lock the bike with a bicycle lock; (5) Students are asked to follow all safety rules while riding to and from school, including wearing a helmet. Your student is also required to complete a Safe Bike Club form and turn it in to the school office.

**Parents: Please make sure your child has the adequate skill to ride his/her/their bike to school before allowing them to do so.**

If your children walk to school, make sure that you familiarize them with the route at the beginning of the school year. It would also be a good idea to actually walk with them the first few days. If possible, have them walk each day with other children.

Remind them not to talk to a stranger, and of course to never accept a ride from anyone they don't know, even if they are running late. Please report any problems to the school and to the police immediately. Stress to your children the need to stay on the sidewalk/pathway, and to walk directly to school. Teach them traffic safety procedures.

### **BIRTHDAYS**

Birthday parties are delightful and give many pleasant memories to children. However, not being invited to a party can be a very unhappy experience for children not receiving an invitation. In consideration of the feelings of children not receiving invitations, we request that no invitations be handed out at school unless each child in the classroom is receiving one. In order to preserve the instructional integrity of the classroom, celebrations in the classroom will be limited to 10 minutes in length. Treats must be store purchased. Since many students have food allergies, it is suggested you speak with the teacher prior to bringing food into the classroom. Flowers and balloons will not be delivered or brought to the classroom.

### **BULLYING, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION**

It is the policy of Mill Creek Elementary School to maintain a safe, respectful, and secure learning environment for all students, which is free from harassment, intimidation, and bullying. Harassment, intimidation, and bullying of students by other students, staff members, volunteers, parents, or guardians are prohibited. It shall be a violation of the district's student discipline policy for any student of the district to harass, intimidate, or bully another student through verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct, as defined by this policy on school property (or in reasonable proximity thereto), school transportation, or at school-sponsored activities off school property.

Bullying is defined as one or more individuals repeatedly inflicting physical, verbal or emotional abuse on another or others. Harassment, intimidation, or bullying can take many forms, including but not limited to, slurs, rumors, name calling, jokes, innuendoes, demeaning comments, drawings, cartoons, pranks, gestures, hazing, physical attacks, threats, or other written, verbal, and nonverbal, or physical actions.

Any student who believes that he or she has been subjected to harassment, intimidation, or bullying in the educational environment, is encouraged to bring his or her complaint to the immediate attention of a Mill Creek staff member for assistance in resolving the matter. Students are encouraged to report school-related harassment, intimidation, and bullying of which they have knowledge. Staff members and school administrators will use both informal

remedies and disciplinary actions as appropriate to the goal of ending harassment, intimidation, and bullying and to prevent its reoccurrence. Such disciplinary action will be consistent with District policy and State and Federal law. For more detailed information, please refer to Everett Public School District's policy 3204 P: Prohibition of harassment, intimidation, and bullying.

## **BUS RIDING**

A list of District Bus Rules and Regulations are distributed to and discussed with all students at the beginning of the school year. These rules are also available in the school office. The following basic rules help ensure safety for all who ride school buses.

- The driver is in charge and the students must follow the rules established by the driver.
- If a student is a bus rider, he/she/they is to ride the bus to which he/she/they has been assigned each and every school day to and from school. **Any student riding a different bus home or getting off at a different bus stop must have a signed note describing the change, given to his/her/their teacher. Then the student will receive a bus pass from the school office.** A continuing bus pass may be issued for such activities as Scouts, dance lessons, etc.
- Students who ride buses should not arrive at the bus stop more than 10 minutes prior to the bus pick-up time. While waiting for the bus or walking home after getting off the bus, children are expected to follow Mill Creek's behavior expectations.
- Consequences for inappropriate behavior may include a referral to the office, reteaching opportunities or suspension from bus privileges.
- ***If a student is a regular bus rider, a note must be sent to school if a student is going to be picked up or walk home rather than ride his/her/their bus.*** A child without a note will be put on his/her/their regular bus.
- Kindergarten students will not be allowed to get off the bus without an adult to meet them. If a parent needs to pick up a child at school who normally rides the bus, the parent must first come to the office. Office personnel will communicate to the classroom teacher or the bus supervisor that the child needs to come to the office to be picked up. Students are released from the office only. Parents should not go to the bus area – supervisors are not authorized to sign out any student at the bus loading area.
- Large packages, glass items, or pets are not permitted on the bus. Small items brought to school, such as for Show and Tell, are to be kept in containers and out of sight. All food must remain in a closed backpack or lunch box and is not to be eaten while riding the bus.

## **CHANGES IN TRANSPORTATION**

When a student (at parent request) is to go home with another student or any other place that is out of their ordinary routine at dismissal, he/she/they must have a note from the parent brought to the office in the morning. **Phone calls from parents must be received by 2:30 pm. to assure ample time to get the message to your child.** Teachers are directed to send students home via the usual transportation if there is no note from the parent. One note at the beginning of the year will suffice for bus riders who remain at school or go elsewhere on a scheduled basis such as Scouts, Camp Fire, etc. An individual note should be sent for one-time activities. Arrangements for after school play dates must be made prior to the school day. Students will not be allowed to use the school phones to arrange play dates. Children are not

permitted to leave the school grounds for any reason unless given special permission by an administrator or designee.

**CAFETERIA FOOD**

<b>MEAL PRICES</b>	Breakfast Price	Lunch Price
Elementary Student	\$1.75	\$3.50
Adult	\$2.50	\$4.75

Meals can be paid online at **Mealpayplus.com**. For more information on this program go to the district website at [www.everett.k12.wa.us/everett](http://www.everett.k12.wa.us/everett) select Departments, then Food & Nutrition. You may also send in cash, or a check made out to Everett Public Schools. Our lunch system is computerized, and student will enter their student number in the computer as they go through the line. If you DO NOT want your child to use the account to purchase snacks, cookies or ice cream please notify the cafeteria.

Parents whose family income falls within specified guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture should apply for free or reduced price meals for their students; see if you qualify by checking the [Income Guidelines](#). Applications for free/reduced meals can be found on the district website [Free/Reduced Meal Application](#)

**CELL PHONES**

Everett Public Schools provides students with the technology they need during the school day to access digital and online learning experiences. Elementary students who choose to bring cell phones and other Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs) to school may only use them before or after the school day. During the school day, all cell phones and other PEDs must be powered off and stored (e.g., in the student’s backpack, locker, other district provided storage). For more information about PED use at school, please refer to [Policy 3246](#) and [Procedure 3246P](#).

The bus ride to and from school is considered part of the school day. Phones must remain in student backpacks while on the bus.

Improper use of a cell phone, including taking pictures will result in it being confiscated, and a parent will be required to pick it up from the office.

**COMPUTER USE**

Students in Everett Public Schools use technology to support learning in many ways. They can access the Internet for instructional purposes only. Student Internet use is planned and monitored by teachers. Any intentional misuse of Internet access by students will result in disciplinary action and may lead to the loss of Internet privileges.

## **DELAYED START OF SCHOOL AND EARLY CLOSURES**

Occasionally weather and other emergency conditions may require school delays or closures. Most area TV and radio stations announce school cancellations, delays of starting time or emergency early dismissal. **No announcement means normal operations.** Announcements are for one day only. Do not call the school, the District or TV/radio stations about school closures. Check the media, including the district web site: [www.everettsd.org](http://www.everettsd.org). The district will notify the media of changes before 5:30 a.m. Information is also placed on the district information line: 425-385-4636.

Each family must have a plan of action in case students are dismissed before parents are home. Families should address these questions:

- What is the best route to and from home if your child cannot be dropped off at the normal bus stop?
- Where should your child go if he/she/they needs help?
- Who will care for your child until you arrive?
- Is there someone your child could call to calm fears?

## **DISCIPLINE POLICY**

The Everett Public Schools' Student Responsibilities and Rights Policy booklet will be sent home during the first week of school. A copy can be downloaded at <http://docushare.everett.k12.wa.us/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-23084/>

The staff encourages and supports appropriate behaviors as well as the concept that we are all working as a team.

Our school motto is Cougar PRIDE:

**Be Safe**  
**Be Responsible**  
**Be Respectful**  
**Be Kind**

Cougar PRIDE is a part of our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program that is focused on teaching students how to manage themselves in a responsible, productive and positive way.

**Toy guns, weapons, ammunition or any object that could reasonably be considered a weapon are not permitted by state law on any school property and will result in disciplinary action.**

## **DISMISSAL**

School ends at 3:30 PM. Students are expected to go directly home from school when classes are dismissed. They are to walk as they leave the buildings and are to remain on the sidewalk areas. Students going to a friend's house after school should make arrangements with their parents before going to a friend's house. A clear understanding should exist between parents, school and child when a change in a regular pattern of dismissal is to occur. If a regular non-bus riding student wished to ride a school bus, a note must be sent to school and cleared through the school office. Often busses are loaded to capacity so it may be impossible to accommodate extra riders.

## **DRESS AND APPEARANCE**

Student dress will be regulated, as needed, to preserve a positive and focused learning environment and to assure the safety and well-being of all students. Dress which presents a health or safety hazard, damages school property, or which creates a material and substantial disruption of the educational process is prohibited as per Everett Public Schools policy 3224. School officials will work with students, parents, and teachers to communicate descriptions of dress considered disruptive to the educational process. The following are general guidelines for appropriate dress:

**All Clothing/Accessories:** No obscene, vulgar or suggestive logos or slogans, or tobacco, alcohol, drug or gang references are allowed.

**Tops:** Shirts should cover the shoulders and be long enough to cover the mid-section of the body.

**Pants/shorts/skirts:** Pants must be secured at the waist and cover the stomach and underwear. Shorts and skirts must reach below the child's fingertips when his/her/their arms are extended downward.

**Hats:** All hats, stocking caps and hoods are to be removed while inside the building. The exception would be crazy hat day, if scheduled.

**Shoes:** Please help your child make good, safe choices for school. Heels and flip flops may interfere with activities or play. Rollers in shoes are not allowed inside the building or on the playground during school hours.

**Fragrances:** Perfume is discouraged or should be used in moderation so as not to distract, disrupt or offend others. Many people are allergic to perfume. These standards will be applied in a consistent and nondiscriminatory manner.

**PE: PE:** Physical Education is a part of the basic education curriculum required for each child. Your child will have PE each week. Your child's teacher will notify you of scheduled PE days. Students must wear lace-up, Velcro, or "**athletic**" pull on running shoes with non-marking soles to PE class. Due to the safety of your child and other students, a student cannot wear non-athletic, slip-on shoes. (Slip-on shoe styles such as Vans, are not considered athletic shoes.) A special pair of sport shoes may be kept in your child's locker at school. Clothing should allow for a wide range of motion and strenuous physical activity.

- If your child is not able to participate in PE for any health reason, they can be excused for 5 school days with a written note from a parent/guardian. If after 5 school days, the child is still not able to fully participate in PE, a note of excusal is required from a medical professional with a start and end date. Please send either a handwritten excusal note with your child to PE to be given to the PE teacher or email the PE teacher and Health Room by 9:00am on the day of your child's PE so the PE teacher and Health Room are aware of the physical limitations.

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Everett Public Schools cannot be responsible for personal property that is lost, stolen or damaged at, or in transit to or from school. Therefore, students should refrain from bringing non-educational items to school without the express permission of parents and/or school staff. Specific information about cell phones on campus is listed under **CELL PHONES**.

## **EMERGENCIES**

Mill Creek has Emergency Procedures prepared for earthquake, fire, shelter-in-place and lockdown or lockout situations. Whole school practices are regularly scheduled.

Depending on the type of disaster event, our school may evacuate students to a safe location outside the school buildings or may impose a lockdown where children remain in the building throughout the duration of the emergency. Whether our students have been evacuated from the building or remain inside the school, a process exists for your child to be released from our care to you or your designee. To assure this goes smoothly:

- Update all emergency phone numbers with the school office. This includes home phone, cell phones, parent work numbers, email addresses, daycare, and emergency contacts. Be sure that all your emergency contacts are aware of their responsibility to your child.
- Listen to the radio/TV for school information. Please do not call the school, as phone lines may be jammed and staff are managing children.
- If bus service is not available in an emergency situation, we will keep children at school until parents or the child's designated emergency contacts arrive.

In the event of a true emergency, please be patient. Our first priority will be to ensure student safety. Office personnel will be busy helping students, directing emergency crews, etc., and may not be able to answer your calls promptly. If you choose to pick up your child, you must first come to the office to sign-out the student. Our staff is trained to deal with emergencies and will not release any child until an authorized person arrives. It is important for parents/guardians to review, with their children, procedures to use if any emergency occurs on their way to and from school, or if an adult is not at home when they arrive home from school.

### **FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN**

Each family must have a plan of action in case the start of school is delayed or students are dismissed earlier than expected. Families should address these questions:

- With whom will your child stay in the morning if the start of school is delayed and you cannot remain at home?
- Who will pick up your child from school if buses are not available due to an emergency and/or if school is dismissed early?
- If children are held at school due to an emergency, who might we have your child contact to calm his/her/their fears?

### **FIELD TRIPS**

Field trips may be taken as a part of our educational program. Parents are required to complete their child's permission form and have an up-to-date emergency card on file before students are allowed to participate in the field trip. Teachers often seek parent volunteers to chaperone on field trips. **In order for parents to be considered as field trip chaperones, they need to have a completed volunteer form on the EPS school district website.** Don't wait until your child's field trip is announced to complete your volunteer online form. Volunteer forms take **two to three weeks** to be processed at the district office. We encourage every parent to complete a volunteer form early in the school year. **Siblings are not allowed on field trips.**

### **FINES**

Students and their parents/guardians are responsible for lost textbooks and fines.



**FOOD** (snacks from home, birthday treats, etc.)

Everett Public Schools' focus is on providing nutritious food for students through their meal programs. In keeping with this goal, we request that you consider sending healthy food options with your child and when sharing food with the entire class during celebrations. This includes midday snacks (if part of the classroom routine), birthday goodies, and holiday treats. **All food shared with other students must be store bought.**

### **FRAGRANCES**

**Fragrances must be worn in moderation so as not to distract, disrupt or offend others.**

Some members of the school community have health conditions that are negatively affected by fragrances worn by others. In those circumstances students will be asked to refrain from wearing fragrances to school. Parents are asked to comply as well.

### **HALLWAY AND WALKWAY PROCEDURE**

The hallways and walkways will be a safe and quiet environment where people interact with courtesy and respect. Teachers will teach proper hallway procedures and escort their classes throughout the school day. Students will move safely in the hallways and walkways by walking on the right-hand side.

Students needing to enter the school building prior to the bell must have a pass from their teacher.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

#### **Accidents**

If an accident occurs, a child should report the incident to the duty supervisor immediately. If a child is injured at school, a staff member competent in first aid will give the student emergency first aid treatment. Parents (or their emergency contact) will be notified immediately. 9-1-1 will be contacted should the emergency be life threatening.

#### **Communicable Diseases**

If your child has been diagnosed with a communicable disease, please notify the health room at 385-6806. The student will need a doctor's written permission to return to class.

#### **Illness**

When a student becomes ill at school, Mill Creek's nurse, health room assistant, and office staff will follow these procedures:

The student reports his/her/their symptoms and his/her/their temperature is taken. At that time, a decision is made whether or not the child should go home. Often a short rest in the nurse's room is all that is needed. However, if a child's temperature is 100 or above, the student will need to be sent home. If it is determined that the student needs to go home, parents/guardians will be notified by phone. The parent/guardian or emergency contact person must come to the school and pick up the sick student. Sick children will not be sent back to class or home on the bus. In the event of a serious or life-threatening illness, 9-1-1 will be called.

**Please do not send an ill child to school.** Children are welcome back at Mill Creek when they are able to take part in the full-school program, including recess. Supervision of students

is not available in classrooms during recess.

### **Immunization**

A list of the minimum requirements is available in the school office. These immunizations must be recorded on a Washington State form showing the month and year of each dose and signed by a parent/guardian. Exemptions are available for medical, personal or religious reasons. If an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease, for which the student is exempted, should occur, the student will be excluded from school for the duration of the outbreak.

### **Medication at School**

State Law requires a doctor's signed authorization to dispense medication at school. Medication must be in its original container and properly labeled by the licensed prescriber. Over the counter medications such as Tylenol, eye drops, antacids, cough drops, cough and cold medications, etc. are subject to the same regulations. Students are not allowed to carry medications on their person; parents are required to bring medications to the health room. Parents are allowed to come to the school office to dispense medication if they so choose.

### **Screenings**

Everett Public Schools provides vision, hearing and scoliosis screening during the school year. For more information, please contact the Health Room Assistant at 425-385-6806 this number is different than the one listed for the health room in an above section.

### **HIGHLY CAPABLE PROGRAM**

In accordance with the philosophy of the Everett Public schools to develop the special abilities of each student, an instructional program for high achieving students that have been identified from testing and meet the criteria, is offered. This program is offered for grades second through fifth at Mill Creek, Cedar Wood, Tambark Creek, Penny Creek and View Ridge Elementary Schools.

Students may be referred for the Highly Capable Program by either parents or teachers. Eligibility is determined by assessment data and observation of the student. If you have questions about the program, please ask your child's teacher.

The framework for the program encompasses, but is not limited to the following:

- a. Expansion of academic attainment and intellectual skills
- b. Stimulation of intellectual curiosity, independence and responsibility
- c. Development of a positive attitude toward self and others
- d. Development of originality and creativity

### **HOMEWORK POLICY**

Parents can assist students with their homework by providing a specific place for them to work. It should be comfortable, well-lit, and free of distractions such as the television, electronic games, and stereo. A regular time set aside for completing assignments, reading, or writing will go a long way to help establish good study habits.

Homework might include:

- Reading each evening. Students should read or be read to for at least 20 minutes each day. Reading will increase your child's success in life.

- Practicing Math Facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division) for approximately 10 to 15 minutes. Encourage them to problem solve with you.
- Finishing any work not completed in class or other assigned work.

Parents are encouraged to check their child's backpack for notes from the teacher regarding incomplete assignments, make-up work, or special projects which may require additional time at home. Many teachers require a parent's signature on a nightly or weekly homework sheet or planner. Assignments are expected to be turned in on time.

### **INSURANCE**

The Everett School District provides each family with information on low-cost student insurance. Contact the office staff for additional information.

### **LATE START**

See Student Hours for regular, early dismissal and 75-minute release start and end times.

Students entering the building before school must have a pass from their teacher.

In the event the school day is delayed by an hour or two (due to inclement weather), buses will also run late, delayed by the same number of minutes as the school start.

School will end at the regular time on late start days.

### **LIBRARY**

Our library is the hub of our school. Each week classes rotate through the library for lessons and students are provided time to browse the extensive book collection for check out.

### **LOCKERS AND DESKS**

Lockers, desks, and storage areas are the property of the District. No right or expectation of privacy exists for any student as to the use of any space issued or assigned to a student by the school. Lockers and other spaces are subject to search in accordance with district policy.

Lockers are assigned by classroom teachers. Each teacher will establish a procedure for student to access their lockers in a quiet and safe manner. Combination locks or padlocks are not allowed on school lockers.

### **LOST AND FOUND**

Articles of clothing or other items found on the school grounds are taken to our Lost and Found located in the cafeteria foyer. Smaller items are often brought to the office. Typically, a school collects numerous lost and found items. Please try to mark clothing and encourage your children to check the Lost and Found if they lose something. At the end of every semester, unclaimed items will be taken to charity. **Please label all coats, backpacks, lunchboxes, bike helmets, etc. with a permanent marker.**

### **LUNCH**

Lunch is served at school each day. Students can select the main entrée, a yogurt or sandwich. Milk or juice is included in each option. All food must be consumed in the cafeteria and is not allowed on the playground. Students will be given approximately 20 minutes to eat lunch.

Several students have food allergies. A special table is designated for those with peanut or tree nut allergies. Because of the concern for allergies, food should not be shared with anyone during lunch.

For additional information, please see Cafeteria early in this handbook.

### **MEDICAL COVERAGE AND HELP FOR FAMILIES**

In Washington State there are two medical programs available to children. Families may be eligible for Medicaid (a free insurance plan) or the Children's Health Insurance Plan (a low cost state insurance plan). Coverage for eligible children includes immunizations, doctor and dental visits, hospital care, glasses, prescriptions, etc. More detailed information is sent home with each child at the beginning of the school year and can also be requested from the Health Room or main office.

### **MISSED WORK**

Students who were absent will be given a reasonable amount of time to complete missing assignments. Homework for an ill child can be requested by contacting the office prior to noon. Homework will be ready for parent pick-up in the office after the school day. For reasons other than illness, it may not be possible to provide the materials for missed class work.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Inspire, educate, and prepare each student to achieve to high standards, contribute to our community, and thrive in a global society.

### **PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

Make a commitment to listen to your child talk about his/her/their schoolwork and to give your child some time each day when he/she/they has your undivided attention.

Contact your child's teacher by message or phone call if you have any concern regarding his/her/their assignments.

Encourage your child to be responsible about asking questions about the assignment before leaving school.

Provide a special place, proper supplies, and a regular planned time when your child can study without distractions or television, telephone, or other siblings.

Provide your child the opportunity to go to the library and other resource areas in your community.

Be sure to frequently check with your child on the progress of completion of long-term assignments.

Help your child develop a system so that homework will not be left at home. Your child should take the responsibility of remembering his/her/their homework.

Participate with your child in the enrichment activities that are related to school projects.

### **PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)**

Mill Creek Elementary Parent Teacher Association encourages you to join and participate in its many activities. A membership drive will be held in the fall and membership information is available in the school office throughout the year.

### **PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Mill Creek Elementary School's parent teacher conferences are scheduled twice a year in November and March. Students will be released from school early during these two weeks. You will receive an invitation to meet with your child's teacher. This is an important way in which parents and teachers can get to know each other and to work toward the child's

success. Conferences provide parents and teachers an opportunity to discuss the child's special needs and interpret his/her/their progress.

### **PARTY GUIDELINES AND INVITATIONS**

Classroom celebrations are intended to be brief, to be tied to our district learning standards and to be considerate of the needs and values of all Mill Creek Families. Treats must be store purchased. Since many students have food allergies, it is suggested you speak with the teacher prior to bringing food into the classroom. No private party invitations will be handed out at school unless each child in the classroom is receiving one.

### **PERSONAL INFORMATION**

It is imperative that you keep us informed of any changes in your telephone number, residence or workplace. In the event of an emergency, student illness, or teacher concern, we need to be able to reach you. Please remember to verify your emergency contact numbers as well.

### **PETS**

Please keep pets off Mill Creek's playground and school campus. This includes bringing pets on a leash when dropping off or picking up students. At Mill Creek, we have students who are allergic and/or afraid of animals. We also discourage any mess a pet may make. Pets are not allowed at school, even for "show and tell", unless they are a service animal. If an animal or pet is on our campus, every effort will be made to contact the owner. If we can not identify the owner, the pet will be impounded.

District Policy 3418P states:

- The principal shall approve the instructional purpose for each animal in the school. No animal shall come into schools without the principal's approval.
- Prior to introducing any animals into the classroom, teachers shall ascertain that: students and school personnel are not allergic to the animal; the animals will present no physical danger to students; and students will be instructed in the proper care and handling of the animals.
- Animals shall not be allowed to roam freely.
- Animals shall be housed in suitable, sanitary self-contained enclosures appropriate to the size of the animal or kept on a leash.
- Teachers will be responsible for ensuring enclosures are kept in a sanitary condition.
- Animals shall not be left in schools during holiday periods where practical (fish in tanks are an exception). Teachers are responsible for making arrangements for their care.
- Animals brought to school must have a current (within 30 days) health certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian.

### **REPORT CARDS**

Report cards are issued in February and June.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Physical Education is a part of the basic education curriculum required and provided for each child. Your child's teacher will notify you of scheduled PE days. Since our gym floor is hardwood, students must wear lace-up or Velcro (not slip-on) sport shoes with non-marking

soles on their PE days. (A special pair may be kept in your child's locker at school.) Clothing should allow for a wide range of motion and strenuous physical activity.

### **SAFETY PATROL**

Responsible students are selected and trained to help our children cross safely at designated crossings. The crossings are inspected from time to time by local law enforcement personnel. All students are expected to use the designated crosswalks and to follow the directions of the safety patrols. Student patrols are supervised by a Mill Creek Elementary staff member.

### **SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (Before/After School)**

At various times throughout the school year students may have an opportunity to participate in planned activities before or after school. **Participation is optional.** Parents will be sent a written notice of activities. If they want their student to participate, parents must sign a permission slip and provide or arrange transportation to school or home for their student.

### **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

Specific grade-level supply lists are available from the school office and on the Mill Creek website. Please label your child's personal supplies.

### **SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS AND ROLLER BLADES/SHOES**

Scooters, skateboards, roller blades or roller shoes will not be allowed at school during school hours. They present issues of safety, storage, and a distraction to the learning environment.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**

Students may be provided special education services in the areas of reading, written language, and math. Speech & language and occupational/physical therapy services are also available for students with specific needs. Students are assessed for qualification in these programs by the District Special Services Department. Contact your child's teacher with any concerns and to discuss a possible referral.

### **STUDENT APPOINTMENTS**

We discourage student appointments, during the school day, because we believe that each school experience is valuable to a child, however, we do recognize the need for doctor and dental appointments and that sometimes emergencies come up. Because we are concerned about the safety of our students, please come to the office and sign your child out of school. All students leaving during the school day must be picked up in the office, not the classroom or cafeteria. Once you have signed your child out, the secretary will call for the student to meet you in the office or give you a pass to pick up your child on the playground if it is during recess time.

### **STUDENT SAFETY TIP LINE**

Children's safety is everyone's primary responsibility. Please contact the school office to report a safety concern. Everett Public Schools maintains a safeSCHOOLS ALERT line which parents may call if the school office is not available.

Online <http://1350.alert1.us>

Email [1350@alert1.us](mailto:1350@alert1.us)

Call 855.637.2095

Text 855.637.2095

To report an immediate threat, call 911.

### **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

Mill Creek's Multi Tiered System of Supports Team (MTSS) meets regularly to discuss students who have been identified by their parents or teachers as experiencing difficulty with learning. The team will invite parents to participate or inform them when specific goals or changes in routine are recommended for a student. Parents with concerns are encouraged to speak directly with the teacher who may recommend a team meeting.

This team is responsible for recommending students to the Evaluation Team for special education consideration. Parents are required to be notified and invited to participate in all Evaluation Team meetings.

### **TELEPHONE/MESSAGES**

Phone calls into the classroom disrupt student learning, so teachers may not answer the phone during instruction. When calling with a message for your child, please limit calls to emergencies only and call the school office by 2:30 p.m. in order to assure their delivery before the end of the school day. Student use of telephones is for emergencies **only**. If there is a change to your child's schedule, please talk to them **before** they are sent to school. Students without a written note will follow their regular dismissal routine. Delivery of forgotten items (lunches, books, etc.) should be brought directly to the school office. They will be delivered to your child at an appropriate time. Students needing to contact their parents/guardians during the school day will receive permission, from a staff member, to use the student emergency phone in the office.

### **TOYS**

Students are to bring appropriate "learning tools" to school and leave all personal play items at home (toys, sports equipment, trading cards, stuffed animals, etc.). When prearranged and for learning purposes, students are welcome to bring items from home. Items for a class project or sharing will remain in a backpack or closed bag until the appropriate time for use. Toys and/or personal play items inappropriately brought to school may be taken away by any staff member and held until the end of the day, end of the year, or until a parent comes to school to retrieve the item. **Cell phones are to be turned off any time a student is on campus or school bus.** Students must keep cell phones in a backpack and in the locker and should not be taken out while at school. Improper use of a cell phone may result in it being confiscated, and a parent will be required to pick it up from the office.

### **VIEWING RECORDS**

Many records and documents in the school district are available to the public. Parents and other citizens have the right to ask the school district to view or have copies made of records defined as "public" under state and federal laws including their own student's records and public records about discipline of school employees. Everett Public Schools' public records requests are handled by the District's Communications Office. Records can be requested by writing that office at 4730 Colby Avenue, Everett, WA 98203, or by sending an e-mail to [PublicRecords@everettsd.org](mailto:PublicRecords@everettsd.org)

## **VISITORS**

Mill Creek parents/guardians are more than welcome to visit their child's classroom. Please contact the teacher/administrator at least one day or more in advance of your visit to confirm the day and schedule a time. When you arrive at school on the day of your visit, please sign in at the office and obtain a visitor's badge before going to your child's classroom. If you are stopping by school to drop something off, we ask that you leave it in the office unless the teacher is expecting you. We want to honor instructional time with as few interruptions as possible. If you plan to volunteer in the classroom and/or interact with children, you must complete a volunteer application available through the Everett Public Schools website.

To assure safety and maintain the best environment for learning, only parents with students enrolled in Mill Creek will be allowed to visit classrooms unless arrangements have been made with the principal. Siblings or young children are discouraged from visiting while class is in session. School-aged friends and/or relatives are not allowed to attend school with Mill Creek students. They are welcome to come for lunch. Please notify the cafeteria if additional school lunches will be purchased.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers are important partners at Mill Creek Elementary School! We have a continuing need for volunteers in classrooms and around school. **In order to volunteer for any student-related activity, please complete a current Everett Public Schools' volunteer application.**

Forms can be completed and submitted online, through the Everett Public Schools website. Volunteer forms take up to three weeks to be processed at the district office. We encourage every parent to complete a volunteer form early in the school year. Approval is valid for three years. Volunteers must sign in at the school office when they arrive and will be given a volunteer badge to wear. If you are interested in volunteering in a classroom or on a field trip, please let your child's teacher know.

## **VOTER REGISTRATION**

The only requirement to vote in Washington State is that registration is completed at least 30 days prior to an election. It is possible to register to vote immediately upon moving into the state. You may register to vote online at the following website;  
<http://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/myvote/olvr.html> .

## **WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENTS**

Parents who are withdrawing their children from Mill Creek Elementary should let the school office know in advance. You will be asked to sign a withdrawal form and it is also suggested that you request a copy of your child's immunization status record from Mill Creek's health room assistant prior to withdrawal. This will assist you when enrolling your child at his/her/their new school.

**If your questions have not been addressed in this document, please let us know so it can be included. Email [Rhitchcock@everettsd.org](mailto:Rhitchcock@everettsd.org)**