

Greetings Mill Street Families,

Welcome to Mill Street Elementary for the 2025-26 school year! We are so excited to have you as part of our school community and can't wait for all the learning, growth, and memories ahead.

At Mill Street, our staff is deeply dedicated and committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive environment where every child feels safe, valued, and celebrated for who they are. We believe that when students are able to be their true, authentic selves, they are best able to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

It is our mission to foster a love of learning that lasts a lifetime, while nurturing each child's unique strengths and helping them reach their fullest potential. We are honored to be on this journey with you and look forward to an incredible year of growth and discovery together.

The 2025-2026 Back to School Update Information can be found on our [website](#) by clicking on Our School and the "Back to School Updates".

If you are new or returning to Mill Street, several opportunities will be available to you during August to meet other families and find out about our school. We invite you to celebrate the new school year through participating in these exciting happenings!

Classroom/Teacher Assignments:

Classroom and teacher assignments for kindergarten through fifth grade will be posted through Infinite Campus on Wednesday, August 6 at 3:00 p.m. Parents will access their child's classroom assignment via the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Visit the District 203 website (<http://www.Naperville203.org>) and click on the Resources tab on the far right in the gray banner and then click on the Infinite Campus Parent Portal link on the right side. Follow the prompts to create your parent account. If you have difficulty with your account, contact the help desk by email at parentsupport@naperville203.org.

Kindergarten and New Family Events:

To jump start the transition to a new school year, we are offering school tours for new families on August 8th from 9:00-11:00 am. Additionally, our Kindergarten students and families are invited to enjoy "Popsicles on the Playground" from 1:00-3:00pm also on August 8th.

Back-to-School Ice Cream Social and Meet & Greet:

Join us for an afternoon filled with fun, food, and Andy's frozen custard on August 12th from 1:00 - 3:00 pm! It's a family affair where you can meet your child's teacher, reconnect with old friends, and make new ones too! This is an informal gathering with fun for the whole family! More detailed information about classroom activities and curriculum will take place during Curriculum Night on August 28th. Don't miss the chance to save time and money by purchasing your tickets in advance. Reduced pricing is through Friday, August 8th. Your tickets will be ready for pick-up at the will call table on the day of the event. Feeling lucky? Test your luck in our 50/50 raffle for a chance to win some extra cash. At our last ice cream social, Mill Street families took home over \$450 in winnings!

First Day Arrival Procedures:

As we welcome our 600 plus students on the first day, staff will be assigned at the parent drive and bus lanes to direct all students to their teachers. K-2 teachers will be stationed in the MPR/lunchroom and this is where our primary students will be directed. Our 3-5 teachers will be stationed in the gym and our intermediate students will meet the teachers there. We will follow this same procedure on our 2nd day of classes and then move to our typical arrival procedures the following week. Staff will have name signs to help students identify them. Please work with your students to ensure they know their teacher's name as they arrive and staff will direct them to their assigned teacher.

New Literacy Resource Implementation

During the 2025-2026 school year, District 203 will be implementing a new elementary literacy curriculum supported by a Board adopted resource. The literacy resource is entitled Into Reading. Our revised curriculum addresses all of the essential elements of literacy, including phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, handwriting, and grammar. It supports the Illinois Learning Standards and provides a rigorous structure that aligns with the Science of Reading Research. Students will engage with authentic, complex texts that are infused into daily instruction and include both fiction and nonfiction that are connected to rich themes.

The implementation of this new resource will reflect current best practices in literacy instruction, which emphasize the integration of reading, writing, word study, and comprehension as essential components of a comprehensive and effective literacy block from kindergarten through fifth grade. Due to the change of the elementary literacy curriculum being implemented this coming school year, the literacy instruction for our 4th and 5th grade students in the Project Idea (PI) Program will mirror the core literacy block and PI students will engage in a literacy block with the same teacher for both reading and writing.

To implement this new structure and ensure that all students continue to receive the dedicated support they need, we're strategically utilizing the expertise of an additional talented staff member, along with our PIHM teacher. This approach allows us to maintain the high quality of instruction across all critical areas, providing the best possible learning environment for your children. **At Mill Street, the following teachers will be instructing our Project Idea students and Honors Math students as a result of our new literacy block structure:**

- 3rd Grade Honors Math: Ann Widlacki, Mill Street Math Interventionist
- 4th Grade Project Idea: Mary Burland, PIHM Teacher
- 4th grade Honors Math: Mary Burland, PIHM Teacher
- 5th Grade Project Idea: Mary Burland, PIHM Teacher
- 5th Grade Honors Math: Mary Burland, PIHM Teacher

School Supplies:

Families who ordered school supply kits this past spring and early summer, can expect their child's supplies to be delivered to their classrooms prior to the start of the year. Families who did not pre-order supplies can find a copy of our school supply lists on our website and in the weekly Mustang Minute Parent newsletter that comes out each week on Monday morning via email.

Bus Transportation

All bus riders will be met by staff members at the start of the school year to guide children to their grade level classrooms. While transportation information can be accessed in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal (<http://www.Naperville203.org>) starting on August 6 at 3:00 p.m., please check back frequently, including the day before school starts, as changes can occur in routes, pick-up times, and/or drop-off times. If you need assistance regarding transportation information, call the Transportation Department at 630-420-6464.

Important August Dates

- ★ **New Family Tour:** Friday, August 8th from 9:00am - 11:00am
- ★ **Kindergarten Families: Popsicles on the playground:** Friday, August 8th from 1:00pm - 3:00pm
- ★ **Back-to-School Ice Cream Social and Meet & Greet:** Tuesday, August 12th from 1:00-3:00pm
- ★ **First Day of School K-5:** Thursday, August 14th from 8:15am-2:30pm
- ★ **New Families Coffee Event:** August 22nd from 8:30am - 9:15am
- ★ **Parent/Curriculum Night:** Thursday, August 28th 5:00pm - 7:00pm (grade level schedule TBA)

Thank you for your support and dedication to the Mill Street School community. If you have any questions or feedback about Mill Street, please contact me by phone at 630-420-6353, drop a note in the office, or email at sthurman@naperville203.org.

Sincerely,

Sima Thurman
Mill Street Principal