

**2023-2024**

**SYMONS  
ELEMENTARY  
HANDBOOK**



# Welcome

## Welcome to a new school year at Milan Area Schools!

Dear Families,

As the new school year begins, we want to extend a warm welcome to all of our students and families. Whether you are returning to our school or starting your journey with us for the first time, we are excited to have you as part of our community.

Our staff has been working hard to prepare for the new year, and we are eager to help your child grow academically, socially, and emotionally. Our commitment to excellence is reflected in everything we do, from our curriculum to our extracurricular activities.

We believe that education is a partnership between the school, families, and the community. Our goal is to work together to create a positive and supportive learning environment where all students can thrive. We encourage parents to get involved in their child's education by attending school events, volunteering, and communicating regularly with teachers.

We are also committed to ensuring that our school is a safe and inclusive place for all students. We will continue to promote respect, kindness, and empathy throughout the school year, and we encourage parents to reinforce these values at home.

We look forward to getting to know each and every one of our students and families throughout the year. Thank you for choosing our school, and we wish you a successful and enjoyable school year.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Bookout  
Symons Principal  
(734) 439-5300



Sean Desarbo  
Paddock Principal  
(734) 439-5100



Jessi Kishiyama  
Preschool Director  
(734) 439-5159

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## Vision – Mission Statement – Belief Statements

**Vision:** Partnering together as a community, all individuals will achieve their greatest potential.

**Mission:** Milan Area Schools prepares individual learners to realize the best version of themselves, by creating a supportive, caring, and inclusive educational community.

### We believe...

- All individuals have equal value and unique gifts
- In providing a safe and nurturing environment that contributes to successful learning
- In utilizing instructional strategies that are based on best practice
- In offering relevant learning
- In fostering an inclusive and affirming school culture
- In investing in student capacity to learn and in personal success
- In engaging the entire community to maximize student learning and preparedness

# Milan Area Schools

Founded on Tradition. Focused on Excellence.

## General School Information

### **Symons Elementary**

**420 S. Platt Rd., Milan, MI 48160**

**(734) 439-5300**

Start Time: 9:00 a.m.

End Time: 3:45 p.m.

Half Day: 9:00 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

### **Paddock Elementary**

**707 Marvin St., Milan, MI 48160**

**(734) 439-5100**

Start Time: 8:50 a.m.

End Time: 3:35 p.m.

Half Day: 8:50 a.m.-12:00

### **Paddock Early Childhood Center**

**707 Marvin St., Milan, MI 48160**

**(734) 439-5114**

Half-Day Preschool: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Full-Day Preschool & Childcare: 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Great Start to Readiness Preschool: M-Th: 8:50 a.m. – 3:35 p.m.

Infant/Toddler Program at Symons Elementary: 7 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Breakfast Club (Before School Childcare): 6:30 a.m. – 8:40 a.m.

Primetime (After School Childcare): 3:35 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

## 2023-2024 Calendar for Milan Area Schools

### **August**

28 First Day (FULL DAY)

### **September**

1-4 No School – Labor Day

### **October**

18 Evening PT Conferences

19 District Half Day; Afternoon/Evening PT Conferences

20 District Half Day

### **November**

1 No School – Staff Professional Development

22-24 No School – Thanksgiving

### **December**

8 No School – Staff Professional Development

25-29 No School – Winter Break

### **January**

1-5 No School – Winter Break

15 No School – Martin Luther King Day

### **February**

2 No School – Staff Professional Development

16-19 No School – Mid-Winter Break

### **March**

8 District Half Day

25-29 No School – Spring Break

### **April**

1 No School – Spring Break

### **May**

3 No School – Staff Professional Development

27 No School – Memorial Day

### **June**

7 Last Day (HALF DAY)

## Frequently Called Phone Numbers

District Nurse	439-5858
Milan Middle School	439-5200
Milan High School	439-5000
Before/After School Child Care	439-5118
Community Education	439-5278
Superintendent's Office	439-5050
Bus Garage	439-5900
Food Services	439-5011

### Stay connected with us:

Milan Area Schools

Facebook: [Milan Area Schools - Connected](#)

Twitter: @masbigreds

Symons Elementary

Facebook: [Symons Elementary](#)

Symons PTO

Facebook: [Symons PTO](#)

Paddock Elementary

Facebook: [Paddock Elementary](#)

Paddock PTO

Facebook: [Paddock PTO](#)

Paddock Early Childhood Center

Facebook: [Paddock Early Childhood Program](#)

Instagram: Paddock Early Childhood Program

# Arrival and Dismissal

## Arrival Procedures

- **Students may enter the school beginning at 8:50.** For safety reasons, students should not be dropped off before this time. If a student arrives before 8:50 they will be sent to the Before School Care and parents will be charged a fee.
- Bus transportation is available for any student living one mile from the school. Students must ride their assigned bus unless arrangements are made with the transportation department.
- Students who take the bus will be dropped off in front of the school.
- Students arriving by car should only be dropped off at the **back** of the building. Please pull as far forward as possible and follow the directions of staff members to help us provide a safe and orderly arrival and dismissal for our students and families.
- **If a student arrives after 9:00, an adult must call the office and the student can ring the bell by the front door for entry to the building.**

## Dismissal Procedures

- **Dismissal at Symons is at 3:45.**
- Students riding buses will be dismissed by bus number.
- Students walking should exit through the back doors and walk around the building by the playground.
- We use the DriveLine system for students who will be picked up. Each family will be given a hang tag with a number. When you arrive at the back of the school, display this tag and a staff member will enter it into our system. Your child will be notified that you have arrived and will exit out the back doors. Once your child is safely in your vehicle, you may pull out of line and exit the parking lot. Please use caution and drive slowly as other vehicles may be moving as well.

## Changes in Your Child's Dismissal Routine

For your child's safety, please try to stick to your regular transportation plan whenever possible. In the event that you need to change the dismissal procedure that your child normally has, please inform your child's teacher **and** the main office. If you need to change your child's bus route, contact Transportation directly. Their number is 439-5900. Once the change has been approved, please contact the office at Symons and let us know. **Phone calls cannot be accepted after 3:10 for end of school dismissal**



**changes, except in an emergency.** Please also make sure your child knows how they will get home at the end of each day, especially in situations that change frequently.

### **Riding the Bus**

Any child living 1 mile or more from Symons Elementary School may take the bus to school. Bus routes start at 7:35 a.m. and bring all children to school by 8:50 a.m.

- To find out the time and location of your child's bus stop, please call the Transportation Manager, Jeannie Baber, at 439-5900. Bus routes change every year to accommodate new students.
- Students must ride the bus to which they are assigned unless parents make specific arrangements with the transportation department (439-5900) and notify the teacher and office of any change.
- By your request, **in emergency situations only**, your child can get off the bus at a different bus stop or ride a different bus. You must call the Transportation Department first at 439-5900.
- For your child's safety, a parent or guardian must be present when he/she arrives home by bus. If the bus driver cannot locate a parent or guardian, he/she will bring the child back to the After School Child Care Program. There will be a charge for this service.

### **School Bus Safety Procedures**

The right of a student to ride school buses is contingent upon good behavior and observance of rules and regulations. Students who violate the rules will be subject to disciplinary action at the bus driver's discretion. Students shall obey the directions of the driver promptly and courteously. Students will occupy the seat designated for them by the driver.

The first responsibility of bus drivers is the safe transportation of passengers. If any student(s) behavior endangers the safety of others, the driver will issue misconduct reports. These reports can result in bus suspension. Every student who rides the bus will receive a list of rules as well as contact information.

#### **Students shall observe the following bus rules:**

- Walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic, and stand 20 feet off the roadway while walking.

- If you must cross the street, wait for the bus to stop completely and turn on the flashing red lights. Wait for the driver to signal that it is safe to cross. Look both ways and then walk around the front of the bus to get on.
- Do not throw waste paper or other garbage on the floor.
- Do not mark or deface the bus.
- Do not eat on the bus.
- Avoid unnecessary conversation with the driver.
- Keep arms and head in the bus at all times.
- Report any damage to the bus driver.
- Never bring glass objects on the bus.
- Carry all food and beverages in a closed lunch box or bag.
- Never bring animals, including reptiles and rodents, on the bus.
- Do not bring medicine on the bus.
- No balloons or other items that might block the driver's view.
- Roughhousing or fighting on the bus is cause for disciplinary action.
- Obey the school bus driver at all times.

### **Walkers and Bikers**

Students who walk or ride their bicycles to school should cross Platt Road **only** at the crosswalk at the intersection of Platt Road and Riverbend Drive. Crossing Guards are provided by the Milan Police Department. Students riding their bikes should lock their bikes in the bike racks provided by the playground.

### **Childcare Services**

MAS has before & after-school childcare programs to offer families attending Young 5's/Kindergarten - age 12. Programs start the first day of the school year and continue until the last day of school. All dates follow the district calendar but are open for care on district half-days and district closure days for Professional Development. These programs are **not in service when the school is closed** for any reason, such as holidays, emergency weather closures, or summer break. MAS runs a separate Summer Camp during summer months. Call 439-5118 or visit the [PECC website](#) for more information.

# School Safety

## Building Security

All building doors are locked. Please use the bell at the main entrance to request entry to the building. Once buzzed in, you are required to sign in and out at the office. **Please understand that for the safety of our students and staff, we will ask for photo identification and the reason for your visit.** Visitors will be given a badge to wear while in the building.

## Early Pick Up

Parents who need to pick up a child from school during the instructional day must contact the office. Children will be called to the office when you arrive. **Photo identification is required when signing a child out of school.** If you would like a friend or relative to pick up your child, their name must be on the data form that you completed at the start of school. In case of an emergency, you may also call or send a note to the office listing the full name of the person picking up your child. Please sign and date the note. Your child will only be released to those listed on the form. Please notify those you have authorized that they will need to show a photo ID when picking up your child.

## ICHAT

For the safety of our students, all adult volunteers and chaperones must undergo a yearly background check before volunteering, chaperoning, or visiting the building. This check is good for all 4 schools. The background check that Milan Area Schools requires is the Internet Criminal History Access Tool (ICHAT), the sex offender registry list, and the offender tracking information system provided by the Michigan State Police. In order to ensure that you are cleared to volunteer, chaperone, or be in our school come to any school office and request an ICHAT background check form. You must fill out the form while in the office and sign the form in the presence of a staff member. You will also need to provide photo identification such as a driver's license so that staff may make a photocopy.

## Animals on School Grounds

While we love our pets, there is a Milan Area Schools district policy that prohibits animals to be on school property unless they are licensed service animals or prior permission is obtained. This is to protect students who may have allergies or are fearful

of dogs or other pets. In addition, animals can at times display unpredictable behavior and we want our students to remain safe.

## **Emergency Procedures**

Fire, tornado, and lockdown drills are held regularly throughout the school year so that students and staff can practice how to quickly and safely respond to emergency situations. These drills are conducted using calm, developmentally-appropriate, age-appropriate strategies. In the event of a real emergency, please understand that our staff will strictly follow emergency procedures to keep children as safe as possible. In the event of a real lockdown, children will not be released from school until it has been established by the proper authorities that the surrounding areas are safe.

## **Cancellations and Delay of School**

If school is canceled, the announcement will be made on local TV stations. Information will also be available at [www.milanareaschools.org](http://www.milanareaschools.org), through the School Messenger System, and on our school and district social media pages. School delays will be for the amount of time announced and will affect all students.

# Health and Wellness

## Snacks

The decision to have a snack is set by each classroom teacher. When sending a snack with your student, please make sure the snack can be managed by your student without adult assistance (they can easily open it by themselves), they have all the proper utensils (spoon, straw, napkin), and they can clean up by themselves.

### **Snacks provided must be healthy and can include:**

- Protein- hard-boiled eggs, cheese, yogurt/gogurt, meat sticks, rolled lunch meat
- Fresh fruit or fruit cups
- Fresh vegetables
- Pretzels
- Single serving crackers (wheat thins, goldfish, triscuit)

## No Pop/Energy Drink Policy

Please do not send soda pop or energy drinks to school with your child. These types of beverages will be sent home. We encourage students to help parents pack a lunch with healthy choices.

## Water Bottles

**Water is the only beverage allowed** for students outside of the cafeteria. Students are strongly encouraged to bring a water bottle to school. There are multiple water bottle filling stations available.

## Birthday Celebrations

Birthdays are very special and exciting days for everyone. It is a time to celebrate with friends and family. As a school, we want to continue recognizing our students' special day while being sensitive to guidelines in Milan Area Schools Health and Wellness Policy, student allergies, equity for students, and the loss of instructional time.

**We respectfully ask that you do not send in any food, drinks, or toys for the class on your child's special day.** This is a policy that our school has adopted for **all** classrooms.

Teachers will continue to make sure your child is recognized in special ways on their actual birthday. Summer birthdays will be included in these celebrations. More specific

information will be provided by your child's teacher. Birthday and other invitations should be sent from home unless every student in the class gets an invitation.

### **Holidays and Celebrations**

Classroom celebrations may be held at the teacher's discretion to celebrate learning successes and holidays. The food and drink during these celebrations shall comply with the food and beverage standards approved by the building principal. If your child has a dietary restriction, please alert your child's teacher and the office so a note can be added to your student's profile to ensure there are options available.

## Attendance

One of the most important things families can do to support their child's academic success is to ensure that their child has consistent attendance. In fact, research has shown that your child's attendance record may be one of the biggest factors influencing their success in school. For this reason, we encourage families to do what they can to limit absences and make school attendance a priority. Whenever possible, please plan medical appointments and trips outside of school hours, as it is difficult to make up missed instruction and negatively impacts your child's academic growth

### Reporting Absences

If a student is unable to come to school, the parents must notify the school and leave a message as soon as possible. If the school is not notified, a call will be made from our system to alert you. If your child is absent due to illness, please report symptoms, especially respiratory concerns, fever, and vomiting as well as any confirmed diagnosis (strep throat, pink eye, impetigo, etc.) to the office. This helps us know when to notify other families about illness and also aids us in tracking illness trends at school and in the greater community.

### Excused and Unexcused Absences

A student's first 5 absences from school are considered excused when the absence has been called in by the parent/guardian. If a parent/guardian does not call the school to report the absence, it is unexcused.

A student's 6th and subsequent absence(s) from school are considered excused **only** for the following reasons when documentation has been submitted and approved.

- Medical (MD) - Absence due to a student's illness/medical reason or medical appointments (including, but not limited to, medical, counseling, dental, or optometry) **with a signed doctor's note**
- Religious (R) - Absence due to student's observance of a religious holiday
- Funeral (FN) - Absence due to death in the student's family
- Court (CT) - Absence due to mandated court appearance
- School Business (SB) - Absence due to school business or activity approved by school administration
- Military (MT) - Absence due to student's parent/guardian's military service
- Homelessness (H) - Absence due to a student's status as homeless (communicated by the district's McKinney-Vento liaison)



After the 5th absence, absences due to illness/medical reasons that are not confirmed by a doctor's note are considered unexcused, even if the parent/guardian calls it in.

### **Chronic Absences and Truancy**

A student is considered chronically absent when a student is absent for 10% or more of the days in a school year, whether absenteeism is due to unexcused, excused, or disciplinary absences. Students are considered chronically absent when any of the following occurs:

- missing 3 days of school within the first month of the year
- missing 7-8 days of school within the first half of the year
- missing 18 days of school in the entire school year

A student is considered truant when they have 10 or more unexcused absences at any point in the school year.

### **Attendance Notification Letters**

When a student reaches 8 unexcused absences, a letter will be sent informing a student's family of the number of absences their child has missed and serve as a reminder of the district's attendance policy.

When a student reaches 15 unexcused absences, the student will be referred to the Washtenaw Intermedia School District's Education Project referral for case review and additional support. In addition, a meeting should be scheduled with the school principal, social worker, and parent to complete an Attendance Improvement Plan to discuss how the school and the student's family can work together to improve student attendance for the remainder of the school year.

Once a student has had 20 unexcused absences within a school year, the student's parent/guardian will be notified by a third letter that the school will be filing for truancy. The student's information will be sent to Washtenaw County's Prevention, Education, & Permanency Unit for additional support.

### **Tardies, Late Arrivals, and Early Dismissals**

According to the Milan Area Schools Attendance Policy, a student who arrives later than 15 minutes past the school start time is considered absent for the morning. If a student arrives after the designated school start time up to 14 minutes past the school start time is considered tardy. A student who leaves school 30 minutes prior to the end of school is considered absent for the afternoon.

- Students arriving between 9:01 - 9:15 will be marked tardy.
- Students arriving after 9:15 will be marked half-day absent.
- Students leaving prior 3:30 will be marked half-day absent (prior to 12:00 on half-days).
- Students leaving after 3:30, but prior to the end of the day, will be considered an early pickup.

# Student Illness and Absence

## When To Keep a Sick Child Home

Children are most successful in school when they are present for as many days as possible. However, children who are sick need to stay home if they will not be able to concentrate sufficiently on learning or if they may cause others to become sick. To help reduce the spread of illness to students and staff, please keep your child home for the following reasons:

1. **Fever:** Your child should be fever free (without being medicated) for 24 hours before returning to school.
2. **Rash:** Check with a doctor before bringing a child to school with a rash.
3. **Vomiting:** A child may return to school after s/he has not thrown up for 24 hours and is back on a regular diet.
4. **Diarrhea:** A child who has a loose stool more than two times in 24 hours, should stay home. S/he may return to school after being diarrhea free for 24 hours.
5. **Cough/Cold:** A child with a severe or frequent cough and a runny nose is likely not to feel well enough to concentrate sufficiently on learning. S/he would benefit from more rest and fluids at home.
6. **Lice:** A child with head lice should stay home until there are no live lice and a decreasing number of nits.
7. **Doctor Recommendation:** If a child has been prescribed an antibiotic, check with the doctor to see if the child needs to be on medication 24 hours prior to returning to school.

## Medication Administration

Whenever possible, medications should be given at home either before or after school hours. We understand that there are times when it is necessary for students to take medication at school.

Medications, prescription, and non-prescription, **(including cough drops, Tylenol, and cough medicine)** require a medication permission form to be filled out before medication can be administered at the school. The [Medication permission form](#) is available in the main office or can be found online on the Milan Area Schools website.

Important information regarding medications:

- All medication must be brought to school by a parent/guardian in the original container and stored in the school office.
- Any changes in medication or dosage must be accompanied by written instructions from the doctor and a doctor's signature.
- Students may be allowed to carry and self-administer certain medications at school, such as inhalers, epi-pens, and insulin. Written permission from the parent/guardian and physician is required.
- **Students cannot possess or use any medication, even non-prescription medication such as cough drops, Tylenol, or cough medicine, without a signed medication permission form.**
- Medication cannot be stored in the school office over the summer months. A parent/guardian must pick up the medication at the end of the school year. Medications not picked up will be disposed of according to Washtenaw County Waste procedures.

## **Injuries**

Emergency procedures are in place for injuries that occur during school hours. Whenever an injury occurs at school that is serious enough to require referral to a healthcare provider, the parent or guardian will be contacted. Parents will also be contacted for head injuries. In the event of a life-threatening emergency or serious injury, emergency medical services will be contacted first.

## **Immunizations**

The Michigan Public Health code requires that a student must have an up-to-date certificate of immunization or a waiver **at the time of registration or no later than the first day of school** for entry into kindergarten and 7th grade, and for enrollment into a new school district, grades 1-12. Please refer to [Vaccines Required for School Entry in Michigan](#) for more detailed information and talk with your child's primary care provider to ensure that vaccines are up to date. If you need help obtaining free or low-cost vaccines for your child, please contact our district nurse.

## **District Nurse**

The school nurse is available to discuss health concerns and answer student/parent questions. Please contact the nurse at 734-439-5858 or through email. The duties of the nurse include follow-up on health concerns and medication, individual counseling regarding health concerns, co-facilitating groups, and teaching classes related to health. Please contact the school nurse if your child has a health condition that requires an emergency plan to be in place for his/her care and treatment. Examples of such

conditions include: insulin-dependent diabetes, seizure disorders, severe asthma, anaphylactic reactions to foods or insect stings, etc. The nurse is on call for medical concerns/injuries such as asthma attacks, sprains, strains, etc. In the event of a serious emergency, 911 is called. Parents are always contacted in the event of an injury or an emergency.

### **Health and Medical Limitations**

A letter from a doctor must be submitted to the school office requesting a change in a student's schedule at school if a student cannot participate in physical activity because of health or physical limitations. A letter from a doctor must also be on file if a child needs to stay inside the school building during recess.

## Code of Conduct

We believe in using positive behavior intervention supports. As an elementary team, we have a consistent set of positive behavior expectations: BE Respectful, BE Safe, and BE Responsible.

### Elementary Behavior Expectations

	<b>Be Respectful In our language and actions</b>	<b>Be Responsible With our things and time</b>	<b>Be Safe With personal and physical space</b>
<b>Arrival and Dismissal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Follow adult directions</li> <li>-Use an inside voice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Take care of your belongings</li> <li>-Go directly to your destination</li> <li>-Know your plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Watch out for others</li> <li>-Stay in your own space</li> </ul>
<b>Hallways</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Use quiet voices and actions</li> <li>-Close lockers quietly</li> <li>-Enjoy displays with eyes only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Go directly to your destination</li> <li>-Go only where you have permission to go</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Walk</li> <li>-Keep hands and feet to yourself</li> <li>-Stay a safe distance from others</li> </ul>
<b>Lunch Room</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Follow adult directions</li> <li>-Use inside voices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Clean up after yourself</li> <li>-Get what you need in line the first time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Stay in your seat until dismissed</li> <li>-Walk and carry your food with both hands</li> </ul>
<b>Bathroom</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Respect the privacy of others</li> <li>-Keep the bathroom clean</li> <li>-Use quiet voices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Flush toilet</li> <li>-Wash hands with soap</li> <li>-Throw trash in the trash can</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Use the designated bathroom</li> <li>-Keep body and objects to self</li> <li>-Return directly to class</li> </ul>
<b>Recess</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Take turns and share</li> <li>-Include others</li> <li>-Use kind language</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Resolve conflicts peacefully or seek adult help</li> <li>-Take care of belongings and equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Stay in play areas</li> <li>-Use equipment appropriately</li> <li>-Line up when called</li> <li>-Follow safe play rules</li> </ul>

## **Discipline**

Student misbehavior may result in the student being verbally corrected/warned, the sending home of a disciplinary referral for parent information, a phone call to parents, restorative practice measures, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or expulsion. When administering discipline to a student, the following factors must be considered:

- The student's age
- The student's disciplinary history
- Whether the student has a disability
- The seriousness of the behavior
- Whether the behavior posed a safety risk
- Whether restorative practices are a better option
- Whether lesser interventions would address the behavior

Additionally, before suspending a student for any length of time, the building administrator must provide the student with due process. If the student is a student with a disability, the student's discipline is also subject to additional considerations.

## **Dress and Grooming**

Elementary School students are expected to come to school in clean and comfortable clothing appropriate for the classroom.

- Hats and hoods need to be removed during the school day.
- Please make sure your child has tennis shoes for daily trips to the playground and for PE class. Slides, sandals, or open-toed shoes can be a safety hazard when students are playing at recess or during PE.
- Please consider the "two-finger rule" for tank tops. Straps should be at least the width of two fingers.
- Please consider the "fingertip rule" for shorts and skirts. These items should be no shorter than a child's fingertips when arms are extended down their sides.
- Shirts and sweaters should cover the midriff; no crop tops.
- Please review any sayings and images on your child's clothing before sending him/her to school. Those that are disrespectful or contain inappropriate language or references should not be worn to school.
- Please help your child consider the weather when choosing clothes for the day. Layers are often a good choice as classroom temperatures can fluctuate during the day.

We do not want any child to become embarrassed or uncomfortable while at school. If needed, a small supply of clean used clothing is available in the office in case your child's clothing becomes soiled during the day. Please wash and return any borrowed clothing as soon as possible to the school office.

### **Dress for Safety**

Certain clothing items have caused some children injuries. Cords hanging from hoods on jackets and "flip-flop" type sandals can make playing hazardous.

- For your child's safety, **flip-flops are not allowed** as they are a hazard on the playground.
- **NO WHEELIES** are allowed on shoes.

### **Electronic Device Policy**

Cell phones, smart watches, gaming systems, and other electronic devices are not allowed to be used during the school day. If a student brings a personal communication device to be used before or after school hours, it must be turned off and kept in his/her backpack in their locker. Students should not call or text from their cell phones or watches during the school day. All messages to and from students should be routed through the office.

The school assumes no responsibility for theft, loss, damage, misuse, or unauthorized use of personal communication devices brought onto our property. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in the loss of this privilege, additional disciplinary action, and confiscation of the personal communication device to be returned to the parent or guardian only.

### **Toys and Personal Items**

Toys or personal items should not be brought to school without specific permission from the classroom teacher. Toys are by nature of high interest to children and can be very distracting to our learning environment and often cause conflicts among students. Classroom rules will guide this practice with special permission granted as needed by the classroom teacher for defined items. We appreciate the assistance of all parents in making sure that toys or personal items do not come to school.

### **Technology/Email Use**



Students are expected to be safe, responsible, and respectful when using technology in our classrooms. Students should only use the technology for educational purposes assigned by the teacher. If a student chooses not to use technology safely, responsibly, respectfully or for a purpose other than what is assigned by the teacher, the student will lose the privilege to use technology for an amount of time to be determined by the teacher and/or the principal and may experience other consequences if deemed appropriate. Cyberbullying, which includes the use of technology to bully someone, will result in consequences to be determined by the teacher and/or the principal. The complete [Student Acceptable Use Policy](#) is available online.

# Food Service Program

## School Breakfast and Lunch Information

Breakfast and lunch are served daily to students. Milk is available to students who bring their lunch from home for an additional charge. Menus are available online at [Nutrislice](#), which you can access through the Milan Area Schools website.

### Online Deposits

Parents may deposit funds in their child's account using the [Meal Magic](#) online system. Please allow 24 hours for funds to appear in the account. Families can receive a weekly notification if their child's lunch account runs low. To turn on the email notification, follow these steps:

- Log in to Meal Magic
- Click the 3 lines in the top right corner
- Click Settings
- Click Notifications
- Unselect the box that says Do not send email
- Emails should be sent on Thursdays to alert you if the balance is low

### Student Accounts

Families who do not have online access may deposit funds in their child's account using cash or check. Please put the deposit in a **sealed** envelope with your **child's name** and **room number** on it and return it to your child's classroom. The cafeteria will not be responsible for lost cash, so a **check is preferred**. Checks should be made out to **Milan Area Schools Lunch Program**.

### Lunchroom Rules

1. Please remain in your seat while eating.
2. Speak quietly while in the lunchroom.
3. Do not share your lunch or eat food outside of the lunchroom.
4. Remember to clean up after yourself. Don't leave anything on the table or benches.
5. Breakfast and lunch are important meals! Eat a healthy meal and don't waste food.
6. Use your best table manners and respect other students.
7. Pack your lunch bag with healthy food and drinks. Pop and energy drinks are not allowed at school.

## **Recess**

It is important that students go outside for recess. Fresh air and an opportunity for exercise and unstructured play complement curriculum and daily activities. Be sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather conditions. When the weather is extremely cold, we refer to the current temperature and wind chill factor. Students will go outside for recess if the temperature is 10 degrees F or above including wind chill. As a general rule, we feel that if students are well enough to be in school, then they are well enough to go outside for recess. Requests for indoor recess must be accompanied by a physician's statement.

### **Playground Rules**

1. Wear the right clothes for the weather!
2. Be respectful of others. Don't interrupt other children's games.
3. Only safe play is allowed. That means no throwing snowballs, sticks or stones, no pushing, shoving, fighting, tripping, wrestling, tackling, or pulling on clothes.
4. Be careful on swings and slides. Stay seated!
5. Use the slides correctly. Do not run up the slide. Wait for other students to get off the slide before going down
6. Do not play tag on any of the play structures.
7. Do not pick up stones or sticks.
8. Stay outdoors for the entire recess period, except for emergencies.
9. Tell the teachers or supervisors if you see an accident or misbehavior.
10. Talk nicely to each other! Bad language, teasing, and harassing other students are not permitted at any time during school.
11. Please do not bring toys to school. No toys or trading cards are allowed on the playground.
12. Electronic games and phones, even though may be allowed on school busses, are not allowed out of school bags in school.
13. Line up quickly when the adults end recess

### **Inside Recess Rules**

1. Students must remain within their own classroom.
2. Loud talking, shouting, and running are not permitted.
3. Remember to use indoor behavior: move about the classroom slowly and quietly.

# Parent Involvement & Communication

## Visitors and Volunteers

Parent visitors are always welcome at our school. We do request that you first arrange for the visit with the classroom teacher or the school principal. Scheduling visits by all volunteers and visitors will limit the random interruptions during your child's instructional time. In addition, safety and security are easier to monitor when the office can quickly identify any visitors in the building. We have a sign-in clipboard in the office where you may also pick up a self-adhesive Visitor Badge. Please remember that all adult visitors to the building must be ICHAT approved.

Teachers individually determine the number of volunteers needed in their class. We cautiously guard the confidentiality of each family and sincerely ask all who work in our schools to abide by privacy regulations.

As teaching time is limited valuable time, and the teacher's attention must be on the students at all times, we ask that you not visit with the teacher during a time when the class is in session.

## Communication

We encourage positive and frequent communication between home and school. All certified staff have a school email account, as well as a phone with voicemail. Please understand that there is a 24 hour return-call policy, except on weekends and holidays. Emergency messages for students should not be left on a voice mailbox. These calls are best directed to the school office where someone is available to answer calls in person.

For a staff directory of teachers and extensions, please visit our district directory:  
<https://www.milanareaschools.org/page/85>

Please provide an email that can be added to our School Messenger system to receive frequent internet notices and communication. If you change your email address during the school year, please notify the office.

The classroom teachers will do their best to keep you informed on school-wide activities. Please **check your email** and **child's backpack** daily for notes or flyers.

## **Resolving Problems at School**

Parents who feel there may be a problem at school should contact their child's teacher. Many times what a parent perceives as a "problem" turns out to be no more than a misunderstanding regarding what is actually happening at school.

Be watchful for problems and don't let too much time pass before taking action. You may leave a message on the teacher's telephone voicemail, leave a message with the school secretary, or email the teacher. If the teacher doesn't respond to your message within a day or so don't hesitate to call or email again. If you are not able to resolve the issue with your child's teacher, please contact the building principal.

Issues regarding transportation should be addressed with the transportation director by calling (734) 439-5900. Issues regarding food services should be addressed with the food services manager by calling (734) 439-5011.

## **Report Cards and Conferences**

Paddock and Symons Elementary Schools send home report cards three times a year. You will see report cards come home at the end of each trimester. Parent and Teacher conferences are held twice a year. We require that all students are represented by a parent or guardian at fall conferences. Spring conferences are scheduled per the request of the parent and/or the teacher.

## **Standardized Testing**

Testing is an important part of the school program. Parents can help their child do their best by ensuring that students are in attendance the day of the test, go to bed early the night before, and have a good breakfast. Students in Kindergarten-5th grades take the Reading and Math NWEA test in the fall, winter, and spring. Parents will be notified of the test dates by their child's teacher. The State of Michigan also requires all students to participate in the state assessments (M-STEP) in Math, English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies beginning in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (assessments given vary by grade). In addition, all students will be tested in literacy (reading and writing) and math using alternative assessments administered in the classroom throughout the year.

## **Homework**

Homework expectations vary by school and grade level and will be communicated by your child's teacher. When homework is given, it is expected to be a reinforcement of content taught during the school day and should not be an unmanageable burden on families. If your child struggles with homework, please contact your child's teacher.

## Reading At Home

Research shows that students who practice reading at home have much greater success academically. **We encourage all students to read for at least 20 minutes each night at home.** Reading can include listening to someone else read to you, listening to an audiobook, reading to a family member, or reading independently. If you do not have access to books at home, please contact your child's teacher or our office and we will provide them.

## PTO

Our schools have a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) that meets regularly and invites parents to join in on the fun! Together this parent group plans and organizes a variety of events for the student body. Membership in the PTO is open to all parents, guardians, and family members.

## Field Trips

Many wonderful field trip experiences are provided for students. These field trips are educational experiences that enhance our curriculum. Field trips make concepts alive and more meaningful to our students.

## Chaperones

We appreciate and need parent chaperones for field trips. The number of adults needed will be dictated by the age of the children, and the requirements of the facility visited. Many times the number of adults interested in chaperoning exceeds the number needed. In this case, the classroom teachers will conduct a random drawing to determine chaperones. At all times, our first priority is the safety and comfort of our students. Parents selected to chaperone a field trip **may not** bring siblings on the trip as chaperones need to give their full attention to the students. All chaperones must be ICHAT approved at least 5 days prior to the field trip.

Field trips are instructional activities. All students are expected to ride the transportation provided by the school to and from the trip. In extenuating circumstances, if the parent wishes to transport the child home from the field trip, he/she must sign out the child on the form provided by the classroom teacher. When space is a problem on the bus, we ask adults to drive in their vehicles and meet the group at its destination.

When there is a cost related to a field trip, we ask for donations to cover admission and/or transportation. If a family is unable to make a contribution, PTO and school funds are available to help in these situations. Be assured that these matters are handled in a confidential manner. Please contact your child's teacher regarding these situations.

When field trip notices come home from your child's teacher, please return them on or before the date requested. Our staff spends considerable time planning for these meaningful trips. Returned permission slips, contributions (if needed), and acknowledgment of special needs such as appropriate dress and lunch/snack needs are important to a safe and smooth experience for students.

## District Policies

1. [Board Policies on Bullying](#)
2. [Board Policies on Search and Seizure](#)
3. [Board Policies on Smoking on School Grounds](#)
4. [Board Policies on Weapons](#)
5. [Board Policies on Harassment](#)
6. [Board Policies on Animals on School Grounds](#)