

Dear EMC Families:

Next week, EMC Elementary School will welcome students back to school! The faculty and staff are so excited to have students return! As teachers prepare their classrooms, we know that parents and students have questions regarding the beginning of the school year. Please know that our primary goal is to create the safest possible learning environment for our students attending school in-person! We hope that you find the following information helpful as you prepare to send your child(ren) back to school!

### **Welcome to School Video**

Our [EMC Welcome to School Video](#) was recently sent out, and will also be posted on our website soon. The video provides students an inside glimpse as to what school will look like when they return next week. Keep in mind that the opening weeks of school ([Hybrid Weeks](#)) / ([Special Education Calendar](#))– September 8th through September 25<sup>th</sup>, we will be spending a lot of time and attention on creating relationships and establishing routines which teachers will continue to build upon throughout the school year. Also during the opening weeks, teacher will help students navigate Schoology, our online learning platform, feel comfortable with their new device and introduce them to learning applications they will use. This will help our students to be more successful as academic demands increase later in September and throughout the school year.

### **Morning Arrival Procedures**

Our school doors open at 8:20AM. School Lane is a busy place during Arrival and Dismissal times. School Lane is a [One Way street](#) during school days and hours. Please check out our website for traffic pattern information.

- Students arriving via school bus will exit their bus and enter the school using the Main Lobby Doors.
- Walkers or Car riders will enter through the APR Lobby Doors.
- Faculty and staff will be present to direct students to the appropriate entrances.
- Students will report directly to their classrooms. They will no longer report to the gymnasium as in previous years.
- All students, whether arriving via school bus or parent drop-off, should be wearing a mask upon their arrival to school.
- We are offering breakfast every morning in the cafeteria, social distant, for any student who would like it.

### **Mid-Day Kindergarten Arrival and Dismissal Procedures**

- AM Kindergarten parents will drive through our bus circle to pick up your child. AM dismissal time is at 11:30am. Please stay in your car and pull up to the front porch. Your child will be brought out to you by a staff member and we will assist them into your car. On Sept.8 or 9, you will receive a car placard with your child's name on it. This will help expedite the dismissal process, but more important provide a safe dismissal.
- PM Kindergarten parents will drive through the bus circle to drop of your child. Arrival time is 12:30pm. Please stay in your car, a staff member will assist your child out of your car and supervise them as they line up to enter the building.

## **Lunch**

All students will wash their hands, in their classrooms, prior to lining-up to report to the cafeteria. In addition, a hand sanitizer station is available in the cafeteria. As mentioned in our EMC Welcome Video, students will be seated 5 per lunch table. Tables will be marked with a blue X, so that students know where to be seated. On the first day of school, teachers will take their students to the cafeteria prior to lunch to show them their assigned tables and learn cafeteria procedures.

On a related note, EMC Elementary is hiring cafeteria and recess monitors for Monday through Fridays from 10:30 to 1:45. Please contact Mrs. Petrov in the main office 215-723-5949, if you are interested in applying.

## **Back to School Night**

EMC Elementary takes pride in creating strong relationships between parents and teachers. Back to School Night provides teachers with the opportunity to introduce themselves, review classroom routines, and discuss learning expectations for the year ahead. This year's Back to School Night will not be held in person. Rather, teachers will prepare a video to be posted on their Schoology site. This video will be posted on the evening of **Wednesday, September 16th**. As always, EMC teachers are available via e-mail or phone call, if you have any questions or concerns.

## **School Attendance Expectations during Hybrid Weeks**

Details regarding school [attendance expectations](#) are on the EMC website. It is important for you to review our district's attendance policy, since some changes have been implemented due to [Covid-19](#). During the two Wednesday Virtual Days (Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>), students will be logging in to Schoology in the morning between 8:30-9:15 to answer a Discussion Post from their teacher and join a virtual Morning Meeting. Your teacher's teacher will communicate more about these two virtual class meetings as we get closer to Sept.16.

## **Devices**

Students will be receiving their device in school the week of September 8<sup>th</sup>. Parents, please sign up for a device completing the Agreement and payment, prior to September 8<sup>th</sup>. The district issued device is pre-loaded with all of the application and learning platforms that your child will need for learning this year. These devices will be traveling back and forth to school daily. Please help/remind your child to charge the device at home, each night. The devices and charging cord should be labeled with your child's name. If the device is not fully charged, please send their charger to school with them.

Students will receive their login/password when they receive their computer. Please ask your child for this paper, so you can keep it in a safe place at home. We really appreciate your help with this!

## **Afternoon Dismissal Procedures**

School Lane is busy with car, bus and foot traffic. Please be safe and patient for our students. Please review our [traffic patterns](#) and the attached dismissal map. Dismissal will be as follows:

- 3:20: Students participating in the YMCA after-school care program are dismissed to the cafeteria via PA announcement.

- 3:20 – 3:30: Buses are dismissed, via PA announcement, in the order in which they arrive in our Bus Circle out front.
- 3:30-Walker Dismissal-  
Kindergarten-will be dismissed from the Kindergarten Doors to parents. Parents picking up must have a placard with their child's name on it. Placards will be given to parents on the first day of pick up (Sept. 8 or 9). Please use the crosswalk when crossing School Lane.  
Grade 1- will be dismissed from the Main Lobby Doors to parents. Parents picking up must have a placard with their child's name on it. Placards will be given to parents/guardian on the first day of pick up (Sept. 8 or 9). Please use the crosswalk when crossing School Lane.  
Grade 2- will be dismissed out the APR lobby doors. Students will use the crosswalk when crossing School Lane.  
Grade 3- will be dismissed out the Main lobby doors, AFTER Grade 1 leaves. Students will use the crosswalk when crossing School Lane.  
Grade 4-5- will be dismissed out the Kindergarten doors, AFTER Kindergarten leaves. Students will use the crosswalk when crossing School Lane.
- Bike riders (Students in Gr 2-5 only) will need to obtain a bike permission slip from the office. Students must wear a helmet and lock their bikes up at our bike racks each day.

Preparing for the beginning of this school year has been a unique and interesting challenge. EMC parents have been wonderful; I greatly appreciate your kind words, encouragement and understanding. I look forward to seeing you all again and welcome your children back to school!

Sincerely,  
Tamara M. Callahan  
Principal  
EMC Elementary School