



MEADOWSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

80 Seeman's Lane • Milford, CT 06460
203.783.3555

Gail V. Krois
Principal

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August 9, 2019

Dear Meadowside Families,

I hope you had a wonderful summer and that you are as recharged and ready to start the new school year as we are. All signs point to another GREAT year at Meadowside. Our dedicated front office team is busy registering new families, ordering needed materials and coordinating schedules. Our incredible custodians are finishing their school wide summer cleaning. Our phenomenal teaching staff is already planning and preparing for meeting the needs of our students. And, our much-appreciated PTA is organizing a full year of exciting programming. Together we are all committed to providing a responsive learning community and are so looking forward to the positive energy and dedication to learning that our students and families will bring upon their return!

This year we will be talking a lot about empowering our students-- #MeadowsidePOWERSup -- as we focus on strategies for helping students understand and take ownership of their own learning. We even have our Meadowside mascot Cooper on board with our school wide theme -- and are anticipating seeing Cooper at school and family events as well as on our first day of school.

Speaking of our first day of school, school begins for all students this year on Wednesday, August 28. For our Kindergarten Students - Kindergarten Orientation is scheduled the day prior, Tuesday, August 27 at 2:00pm.

To prepare you and your children for the first day of school and beyond, we have posted *Important Back to School Information* on our Meadowside website. You can access the information directly through the link <https://www.milforded.org/schools/me> or by clicking on Meadowside under the Our Schools tab on our Milford Public Schools district website www.milforded.org. Please read through the entire packet carefully so you and your children are prepared for the start of the school year. If you do not have internet access and would like a paper copy, please call the school directly at 203-783-3555. The online link will provide you with important information on the following:

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| ✓ Meadowside School Hours | ✓ Bus Routes |
| ✓ Everyday Arrival Procedures | ✓ Parent Student Handbook |
| ✓ Everyday Dismissal Procedures | ✓ Academic Calendar |
| ✓ Classroom Materials, Snack, etc | ✓ Free & Reduced Cost Meal Program |

Beginning Friday, August 16th, you will be able to log into our Powerschool Parent Portal to receive and sign off on important information for this school year. This must be done prior to the first day of school. Portal: <https://www.milforded.org/parents>. Once logged in, you will need to:

- 1. Review and update your child's Emergency Card.** It is important that we have all the correct information on our Emergency Cards - so please ensure your email and phone numbers are updated so that we can reach you as needed.
- 2. Sign off on the district Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) that addresses and allows for your child's use of district technology.** This is critically important for all of our students, but especially for our students in Grades Three through Five as we are expanding our 1:1 chrome book rollout into these grades this year! In addition to the information posted online, more information will be coming from our staff during the opening week of school.

3. Answer a Few Key Questions. There are also few items additional questions that you must respond to -- for example, acknowledgement of the Parent Student Handbook and the Free and Reduced Cost Lunch program.

Problems logging into the portal? Call Information Systems at 203-783-3446 or email powerschoolhelp@milforded.org.

While you will learn more about our school happenings through our weekly communications, we would like to take this opportunity to share some key reminders and hold the dates:.

- Our school hours are 8:40 - 3:25. Our doors open at 8:20 for students with the expectation that all students are in their seats ready to learn at 8:40. We recommend that all parents drop off students prior to 8:30 so they can be in their classrooms on time.
- We are continuing to follow our A - D Day rotating schedule. Our letter day is always posted online and we will again be sending home a “specials” calendar that includes both our regular and extra specials.
- We are also continuing to promote our HEART program -- Once school starts, ask your children to tell you what HEART means and to describe to you how they show HEART at school and at home.
- Our PTA sponsored Back to School Picnic is scheduled for Friday August 30th from 5:30 - 7:30.
- Our Open House is scheduled for Tuesday, September 24th - more information to follow.

Please enjoy the remaining days of summer vacation. If you have any questions after reading the information online, do not hesitate to reach out. We are all looking forward to welcoming our students to Meadowside very soon.

Sincerely,



Gail V. Krois

In this envelope, there are some important items that need to be returned to us the first day of school.

1. Dismissal Information Form: This form is extremely important as it tells your child’s teacher how your child will be dismissed on the first day and beyond, as well as who is authorized to pick up your child. **This form must be completed and returned on the first day of school.** You will also enter some of this information online, but it is very helpful for us to have the paper copy in hand on our first day. (Kindergarten Parents you can bring you completed Dismissal Information Form with you to Orientation)

2. Blank Name Tag: Please use a marker to fill out the name tag like the example to the right with your child’s first name, teacher’s name and room number as well as Grade. **Have your child wear the name tag to school on the first day;** it will help arrival to run more smoothly. But please – do not worry if they lose it on the way to school—we know where every student belongs—the name tags just help us identify students and their teachers more quickly. **All K-2 students will be given lanyards on their first day of school with their dismissal information on the lanyard.** These lanyards must be worn to school every day for the first few weeks of school. Although the classroom teachers organize the students for dismissal, the lanyards give us a double-security check to make sure students are being dismissed properly and getting on the correct buses. Once teachers are confident students are comfortable with dismissal, they will collect the lanyards to be used with substitute teachers. If at any point in the year the lanyard comes home, please make sure it is returned the next day.

