

QUESTIONS OFTEN ASKED BY PARENTS.

1. May I observe a kindergarten class in session?

You are welcome to observe for thirty minutes in a kindergarten classroom at Forest Trail. We ask that you make an appointment by calling the school (512-732-9160.) Please bring your driver's license so we can enter you into our system, wear a visitor badge, and refrain from talking with the teachers during their instruction time.

2. My child has a summer birthday and/or appears to be very immature. Should I hold my child back?

The answer to this question is very individual. If your child attends a preschool and the current teacher is making this recommendation, seriously consider his/her opinion. Children entering school should be able to sit and engage in any given task for a minimum of six minutes.

3. How will I receive information regarding school events and other important matters?

Your child will need to bring a backpack to school every day. Your child's teacher will put important information in a take-home folder on a daily basis. School-wide handouts will come home every Thursday. If you have questions about an upcoming event, please check our FTE website/calendar or call the school office at 512-732-9160.

The Forest Trail newsletter, and other pertinent information will come to you electronically. Please review the "Stay Connected" handout to learn how you can sign up to receive all forms of communication. We encourage everyone to participate to

- Ensure you receive important information.
- Reduce staff/volunteer time and effort.
- Save our trees and EISD tax money.
- Establish an efficient and prompt way for us to communicate emergency information.
- Preserve teacher time for our students

4. How can I get information about my child's bus name and route?

Go to the Forest Trail website (fte.eanesisd.net) click on Quick Links/Bus Routes and enter your street address to see your child's bus information, routes and pickup/drop off times.

5. How do I inform the school if my child is absent?

If your child is absent for any reason, please use the Parent Portal of the Smart Tag Campus Dismissal Manager (CDM) at <https://parent.smart-tag.net>. Be sure to include information about any communicable diseases your child may have (i.e. strep throat, head lice, chicken pox, pink eye, etc.). You may want to talk to our school nurse to discuss the best time to return your child to school.

6. What if my child needs to take medication at school?

All prescription and over the counter medications must be in the original container with the child's name written on it. Bring the medication to the nurse's office and complete a medication permission form. The nurse will dispense the medication. This includes throat lozenges, cough drops and inhalers. **A child may not take any medication on his/her own.** The nurse cannot dispense any medication without your permission.

7. What about school lunches?

Our cafeteria provides nutritionally balanced lunches for purchase. Currently, the cost per student lunch is \$3.00, but is subject to change for the 2019-2020 school year. You may send a check with your child (payable to Eanes Child Nutrition) to cover several weeks of meals at a time. To make a payment online go to the Forest Trail website (fte.eanesisd.net) click Quick Links/Online Payments. Each day your child purchases his/her lunch, the cashier debits the account. Sandwiches and salads are available if your child doesn't want to purchase the hot lunch. Parents are strongly encouraged to set buying and option limits.

Many young children enjoy carrying a lunch box. If your child wants to bring a lunch, or if he/she is a picky eater, it may be easier to send them with a homemade lunch each day.

Please be sure your child can independently open any packaged food you include in his/her lunch. You are welcome to join your child for lunch.

8. What services are available through the school if my child has special needs?

Children sometimes need additional assistance to be successful. Eanes ISD provides support including speech therapy, adaptive physical education, occupational therapy and special resource classes. Early in the school year, the nurse will screen all kindergarten students for vision and hearing. Our speech therapist will screen children upon request by parents or teachers. For further information about the services offered, please go to the Forest Trail website (fte.eanesisd.net) and click Resources at the top of the home page.

9. How and when should I purchase school supplies for my child?

Please refer to the School Supply handout for instructions on how to purchase supply kits online. We are hoping for 100% participation. Booster Club provides scholarships to those in need. Kits are priced very reasonably (reduced significantly from prior years.) Booster Club supplements supplies such as music recorders, sketch pads, and planners. This is not a fundraiser for the school, but a service that provides teachers with high quality supplies they have chosen at a convenience to parents. Kits are delivered directly to the classroom prior to the first day of school.

10. Does the school have a Gifted and Talented program?

Eanes ISD has a Gifted and Talented program that identifies and serves children who show gifted potential in general academic ability and creativity. The screening for kindergarten students will be held next spring. Stay connected to learn about the GT parent meetings that will take place next spring.

11. What are the hours that my child will be in school?

Classes begin promptly at 8:20 a.m. and dismissal is 3:30 p.m. Kindergarten students are dismissed at 3:20 p.m. to allow extra time to get to the buses and the car line. Children arriving at school after 8:20 must obtain a tardy slip from the office. **Remember please use the Parent Portal of the Smart Tag Campus Dismissal Manager (CDM) at <https://parent.smart-tag.net> if your child will be absent.**

12. How will I know who my child will have as a teacher?

Teacher assignments are tentatively scheduled to post on Monday, August 17th at 10:00 a.m. Parents can go to the Forest Trail website (fte.eanesisd.net), click Parents/Skyward Family Access and log in to see who their child will have as a teacher.