



Mechanicsville Elementary School

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Joshua Lynch
Principal

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Kindergarten Families,

Hello and welcome to Kindergarten at Mechanicsville Elementary School! Our Mechanicsville Kindergarten team is excited to welcome you to the Mustang Family. For parents and children, starting Kindergarten is a time of mixed emotions from excitement to worry. The Kindergarten Team is committed to helping you and your child have a positive Kindergarten experience.

Come visit us:

On August 14th, we welcome you to visit and have Popsicles with Principal Lynch on the MES playground from 6-7 PM.

We look forward to seeing families at the **Open House on August 21st**. Kindergarten families will meet briefly in the Cafeteria at 1:30 PM and then proceed to their homerooms. Class lists with homeroom teachers and specialists will be posted in the [Home Access Center](#) on **August 18th at 5 PM**, and available at Open House. Be sure to meet your special area teachers (Art, Music, Media, P.E.) in addition to your homeroom teachers. Bring school supplies with you and drop them off so students do not have to carry them in on the first day. [Click here for the supply list](#), and contact our Counselor, [Stephanie Hall](#), if you need financial assistance with school supplies.

A few helpful tips:

Our [Parent Handbook](#) provides essential information; especially if you are a new Mustang Family. It will bring you up to speed on school communication, attendance, receiving progress updates, joining our [PTO](#), picking your child up, and much more.

We recommend you regularly visit our [School Website](#). We make efforts to keep it up to date. You will find recent newsletters, important links and announcements, reporting absences, staff contact information, and more.

School Starts August 23rd at 9 AM. School attendance is critical, even as early as Kindergarten. While we know illnesses and absences happen, we encourage all families to set

a goal of 90% or better school attendance. Research shows this will set your children up for success throughout their school career.

[Use this link](#) to apply for financial assistance with school lunches.

Using the bus is convenient and safe. Use the [Bus Stop Locator](#) to find your child's bus stop information. Rest assured, the Kindergarten Team meets your child in the morning until they are comfortable getting to class and walks them to the bus door in the afternoon. Be sure to be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before the bus arrives. There may be minor delays on the first few days of school as routes and routines are established.

It's important to discuss bus expectations with your child regularly. Students are expected to stay seated in their assigned bus seats, use a normal talking voice, listen to the driver's directions at all times, and follow all relevant school rules. Parents can help by discussing bus expectations with children and showing them the bus safety video on the [SMCPS Transportation Website](#). Kindergarten students must have a responsible person at least 13 or older at the bus stop in the morning and afternoon.

If you will be picking your child up daily, complete [this form](#) to receive your car placards.

Finally, know that you are not alone. Adjusting to school is hard and often results in tired children and increased crankiness and tantrums. A few simple ways to help your child include:

- Develop a special goodbye and welcome home ritual. It can be simple. Hugs, smiles, and a few minutes of attention from a parent go a long way.
- Provide downtime after school. Avoid talking about the school day right away and allow for play and relaxation. Healthy snacks help, too!
- Send a family picture or a note in your child's backpack or lunchbox.
- Learning to calm our bodies is a skill that can be taught. For more information about helping your child learn calming strategies, read [Self-soothing Techniques for Kids](#).
- Know that no matter what you do, tantrums will still happen and are a normal part of childhood. For more information about this topic and your child's development check out the helpful resources at [Understood](#).

See you soon!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Josh Lynch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Josh Lynch
Principal