

2026-2027



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Introduction

Welcome to the School Town of Munster Mini-Mustang Program! We are thrilled to embark on this exciting educational journey with you and your child. We aim to foster an environment where students can demonstrate academic growth and social responsibility within a supportive and intellectually stimulating setting.

We believe that early childhood education lays the foundation for lifelong learning and success. Our dedicated team of educators is committed to nurturing each child's unique potential, helping them develop essential skills and a love for learning. We strive to create a warm, inclusive, and engaging atmosphere where children feel safe, valued, and inspired to explore their world.

We look forward to partnering with you to ensure your student's positive and enriching pre-kindergarten experience. Together, we can help them build a strong foundation for future academic success and social responsibility.

Program Overview

Program Locations 2026-27

Building	James B. Eads Elementary School	Frank H. Hammond Elementary School
School Address	8000 Jackson Ave., Munster, IN	1301 Fran Lin Parkway, Munster, IN
Phone Number	(219) 836-8635	(219) 838-2060
Building Administrators	Mrs. Linda Bevil, Principal Ms. LaToya Edwards, Assistant Principal	Ms. Kelly Boersma, Principal Mr. Anthony Sanchez, Assistant Principal

Curriculum

The School Town of Munster utilizes the Frog Street Preschool Curriculum, which is fully aligned to the [Indiana Department of Education Early Learning Standards](#). Our curriculum is uniquely designed to provide a rich academic foundation while promoting young children's independence, decision-making, cooperation, creativity, and problem-solving. This comprehensive, research-based program is thoughtfully designed to prepare young learners for success in kindergarten and beyond. We provide a strong academic foundation while fostering independence, decision-making, cooperation, creativity, and problem-solving. Built around the philosophy of "learning through play," the curriculum integrates the cognitive, language, physical, and social-emotional domains into a rich, engaging, and developmentally appropriate learning experience.

Our curriculum is focused on the following ten learning domains:

- Physical Development
- Social and Emotional Development
- Language and Communication
- Emergent Literacy Reading
- Emergent Literacy Writing
- Technology Applications
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Fine Arts

Each month, the program introduces a thematic unit such as “All About Me,” “Community Helpers,” or “Animals,” which integrates learning across subjects like literacy, math, science, and social studies. A key component of the program is Conscious Discipline, which helps children develop essential social-emotional skills by teaching them how to express their feelings, resolve conflicts peacefully, and build a caring classroom community. Finally, play-based learning is at the heart of the curriculum, with hands-on, center-based activities that make learning fun, developmentally appropriate, and meaningful as children build foundational skills through exploration and play.

Rest Time

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Sleep Medicine recommend 11-13 hours of sleep per night for preschool-age children. Some children get all of their sleep in one long stretch at night, while others sleep in increments. Please provide your child’s teacher with as much information as possible about your child’s nap and sleep habits. Our ultimate goal is for children to learn to recognize their body’s own signs of tiredness. During the day, teachers will allow a designated “rest time” in the classroom. Each child will be provided with their own cot to rest or nap comfortably during this period.

Enrollment, Tuition and Attendance

Ensuring proper enrollment and consistent attendance is essential to your child’s success and development in our program. Below, you will find important information and guidelines to help you navigate enrollment requirements, understand our tuition and attendance policies, and learn how we work together to create a positive and enriching learning experience for every child.

Enrollment Requirements

Students enrolled in the Mini-Mustang Program must meet the following requirements:

- Students must be four years of age by August 1st of the current school year.
- Students must be able to use the toilet independently.
- Students must complete the pre-kindergarten screener.

- Parents/guardians must sign off on the Discipline Policy.
- Students must be legal residents of Munster or eligible children as outlined in Board Policy 5111.

Tuition

Program	2026-27 Tuition	August Payment	9 Monthly Payments	Registration Fee
Full Day	\$6,175	\$325	\$650	\$65

Monthly payments can be made by check, payable to the School Town of Munster, and sent via mail or delivered in person to your Mini-Mustang site location. Please include your student's ID number in the memo section of the check. Cash payments will also be accepted in person at the same location from 8:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Parents may opt to pay in full or follow our monthly payment schedule listed below. Additionally, parents may opt to make online payments through the Powerschool Parent Portal. A transaction fee of approximately 4% will be applied to all online credit card payments.

Monthly Tuition Payment Due Dates			
1	Friday, August 7, 2026	6	Friday, December 11, 2026
2	Friday, August 28, 2026	7	Friday, January 29, 2027
3	Friday, September 25, 2026	8	Friday, February 26, 2027
4	Friday, October 30, 2026	9	Friday, March 19, 2027
5	Friday, November 20, 2026	10	Friday, April 30, 2027

Tuition payments received after the due date will result in a \$50 late fee. Failure to pay tuition by the due date may also result in your student being excluded from class or removed from the program entirely until the account is up to date. If your account is not paid in full by the last day of the school year, the Business Office will forward it to collections.

Attendance

Consistent attendance in the Mini-Mustang Program is essential for building a strong foundation for future academic success, developing routines, and fostering social skills. It maximizes learning opportunities, allows for early intervention, encourages parental involvement, and helps children understand the importance of responsibility and commitment.

1. **Building Foundations:** Regular attendance helps young children build a strong foundation for future academic success. Each day in the Mini-Mustang Program is filled with activities that promote cognitive, social, and emotional development, setting the stage for lifelong learning.
2. **Establishing Routines:** Consistent attendance helps children develop a sense of routine and structure. These routines are essential for creating a stable and secure learning environment, which in turn supports children's ability to focus, follow directions, and engage in classroom activities.
3. **Social Skills Development:** Attending school regularly provides children with numerous opportunities to interact with their peers and develop crucial social skills. These interactions help children learn to share, cooperate, and resolve conflicts, which are essential for building positive relationships.
4. **Maximizing Learning Opportunities:** Each day in the Mini-Mustang Program offers unique and valuable learning experiences. Regular attendance ensures that children do not miss out on key lessons and activities that contribute to their overall development and readiness for kindergarten.
5. **Early Intervention:** Consistent attendance allows teachers to closely monitor each child's progress and identify areas where they may need additional support or intervention. Early identification and support can address potential learning or developmental concerns before they become more significant challenges.
6. **Parental Involvement:** Regular attendance fosters a strong partnership between families and the school. It allows parents to stay informed about their child's progress and participate more actively in their education, creating a supportive network that enhances the child's learning experience.
7. **Building Responsibility:** Attending school regularly helps young children understand the importance of responsibility and commitment. These values instilled early on, can positively impact their attitudes toward education and other responsibilities in the future.

Absences

If your child will be absent from school, please notify the main office before 9:00 a.m. on the day of the absence. If the absence will be extended (such as due to a hospital stay or prolonged illness), you only need to inform the main office on the first day of the absence and state the date the student will return to school.

If you must pick your student up from school before dismissal, please provide a note in the morning stating the time and reason for the early dismissal. A parent or guardian must sign a student out of school from the main office when being dismissed early. An adult must walk students arriving late to school into the main office before going to class.

Arrival and Dismissal

To ensure the safety of children, parents or approved designees must accompany their child to the entry door. Please ensure that your child does not arrive before the assigned arrival time and is picked up no later than the designated dismissal time.

Changes in Dismissal

If there are any changes in the dismissal procedures for your child, the parent/caregiver must notify the classroom teacher in writing immediately. This will help ensure the safety of the child. A child will not be released to anyone who is not listed on the enrollment form or emergency contact form unless the principal or classroom teacher is notified in writing by the parent or caregiver that an additional person is picking up the child. Powerschool records must contain written authorization provided by the parent or legal guardian, stating the name, address and phone number of those persons who have been authorized to pick up the child from school. Updated address and phone numbers are needed throughout the school year. Please contact your school secretary and classroom teacher when phone numbers change. Children may only exit the school with a parent/guardian or other designated adult. Persons other than the parent picking up the child must present photo identification.

Late Pick Up

If a child has not been picked up within fifteen minutes of dismissal time and the child's family member has not contacted the school, a staff member will attempt to contact all family members or emergency contact persons listed for the child. Repeated late pick-ups may result in discontinuation of enrollment.

Before and After School Care

Before and after school care may be available at a daily fee for families through Adventure Club. Capacity is limited so early enrollment is encouraged.

For more information, contact us or visit <https://theadventureclubs.com>

School Calendar

Our Mini-Mustang Program follows the STM District Calendar for scheduled early release days, holiday observances and winter, spring, and summer breaks. The calendar is available on the district website at <https://www.munster.us>.

School Closings and Delays

education, addressing individual student health concerns, administering emergency first aid, communicating with parents, and consulting with staff members to support student well-being.

Medication will be administered by the school nurse upon receipt of:

- A physician's written order with the student's name and medication, dosage amount and time schedule for administering the medication, and dates during which the order is in effect.
- A written request from the parent/guardian.
- The medication must be in a container with a pharmacist's label and contain no more than four weeks' supply.

Student Illness

To reduce the spread of germs, which can cause colds, flu, etc., please use the following guidelines when determining whether to keep your child home:

1. If your child's temperature is 100 degrees F or greater, he/she should stay home and remain home until he/she has not had a fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.
2. If your child is vomiting or has diarrhea, students should remain home for 24 hours past the last episode.
3. If your child has drainage from an ear or eye, it may indicate infection. Please keep your child home until drainage has stopped or you have a doctor's note stating your child may return to school.
4. If your child has a severe, uncontrollable cough.

Meal and Snack Information

Students may purchase breakfast and lunch at school. The Food Service Department follows the guidelines of the National School Lunch Program, and hot lunches are served each day. Breakfast and lunch menus are posted on the School Town of Munster website. The school will provide one snack per day to Mini-Mustang students.

There are two methods to fund your student's meal account.

- Option 1: Cash and checks to add money to your student's lunch account should be sent in an envelope marked with the child's full name and teacher's name and labeled "Lunch Money." Checks should be made payable to the school.
- Option 2: Parents may create a secure online account at www.MySchoolBucks.com to add funds to their student's lunch account.

Food Allergies & Sensitivities/Substitutions

If your child has a food allergy or sensitivity, please note this on enrollment forms, and notify staff upon enrollment, so that we can make appropriate accommodations. If a special food or substitution is

required, you may have to supply that food. All Mini-Mustang classrooms remain a “peanut/nut-free zone” at all times.

What does this mean for me?

- Please do not send in any food items to be consumed in the classroom that contains peanuts, nuts, peanut butter, nut butters, or peanut products. This includes almonds, cashews, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios, and walnuts.
- Read labels carefully to make sure the products are nut free. This includes labels that read “may contain traces of peanuts/nuts” or “processed in a facility that processes products that contain peanuts/nuts.” Food labels and ingredients change over time, so always read the label each time before purchasing snacks.

Safety Procedures

Each school has established an emergency plan to handle various situations. Inclement weather drills are conducted twice a year, one earthquake shelter drill is held annually, fire drills take place monthly, and two lockdown drills are conducted each year. Students are notified of these practice drills and are prepared for the drill by the classroom teacher.

School Attire

Students are expected to be appropriately dressed for both indoor comfort and outdoor play. Students should wear clothing that allows them to move freely and safely throughout the day. We strongly discourage open-back or open-toe shoes (such as flip-flops), jackets or sweatshirts with long drawstring, as these items can pose safety hazards on playground equipment.

Outdoor play is part of our daily routine, so children should be dressed appropriately for the weather. If a child is not dressed safely or suitably for the conditions, they may be required to remain indoors during outdoor activities. Because young children may have bathroom accidents or engage in messy play, parents or guardians are required to provide a clean change of clothing to be kept at school at all times. If your child comes home wearing this extra set of clothes, please be sure to send a replacement set the following day.

Child Find

Child Find is a program to identify, locate and evaluate all children who are suspected of having a disability. Any individual (parent, teacher, principal) that suspects a child may have a disability and could benefit from special education services should initiate a referral by contacting the building principal. You may also contact the Exceptional Achiever’s Office directly at 219-836-7256.

Communication and Parent Involvement

The School Town of Munster values effective and consistent communication with students and families. Parental involvement is essential to the success of the individual student and the school community.

Communication

Mini-Mustang teachers utilize Canvas to communicate daily and/or weekly learning and activities to parents. We recommend that all parents download the Canvas app and allow push notifications to receive messages consistently. Additionally, many of our teachers opt to use Dojo as an additional mode of communication with families.

PowerSchool is the Student Information System for the School Town of Munster. As your child progresses through grades K-12, their grades and attendance will be stored here and accessible to you using your unique username and password. While students in the Mini-Mustang Program do not receive grades, parents will still receive progress reports throughout the year. Parents will have the opportunity to meet with teachers during parent/teacher conferences to discuss their child's progress. Both parents and teachers may also request meetings at any time during the school year to discuss student progress.

Wireless Communication Device

In accordance with IC 20-26-5-40.7 and to ensure a safe and developmentally appropriate learning environment, students are not permitted to use or access cell phones during the school day. If a child brings a cell phone to school, it must remain powered off and inaccessible during the school day. This policy helps minimize distractions and supports students' focus, social development, and engagement in learning activities. Families may contact the school directly if communication is needed during the day.

Celebrations

Three classroom parties are held annually, with additional information being provided by the school.

1. Fall Party: Parade and parties will be held in the afternoon following the regular lunchroom schedule. Costumes that depict violence, including those that are bloody, gory, or make use of weapons, are prohibited at school. Any weapons, even pretend ones, are not allowed at school.
2. Winter Holiday Celebration: Classroom parties before the December Winter Break.
3. Valentine's Day: The exchange of valentines is customary during this event.

All food items brought in for classroom parties must be peanut/nut-free. All food items brought into the classroom must adhere to the allergy guidelines distributed to parents by school administration prior to the parties in order to allow for a safe environment for all students to actively participate in the festivities.

Birthday Celebrations: Due to food allergies and the wellness of our students, if you feel you would like to celebrate your child's birthday at school, please only use non-food items for birthday treats. Pencils, stickers, pens, bookmarks, and other similar items make great individual gifts for all of the students in the classroom.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer parents assist with classroom parties, field trips, special projects, and other activities when extra help is needed. Volunteer parents must accept the responsibility of supervising students to facilitate learning and enhance safety during the assigned activities. All parent volunteers must have a current background check on file with the school district in order to participate in school activities.

Student Behavior

In the School Town of Munster, we recognize that all children develop social skills and adjust to the school environment at their own individual rate, and that there is a wide range of typical behaviors in adjusting to the Mini-Mustang setting. Our teachers and staff strive to work collaboratively with our families to meet the individual needs of each student in order for them to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. Each of our Mini-Mustang classrooms will establish rules of conduct, however, our basic expectations for the Mini-Mustang program are as follows:

- Respect one another: Students may not cause harm to others physically or verbally.
- Respect our environment: Students may not intentionally damage equipment or property.
- Keep everyone safe: Students may not act in a way that could be dangerous to themselves or others.

Parent support is an integral part of our Mini Mustang Program. We ask that parents/guardians reinforce the rules outlined above at home. We welcome parental input as to what works best for each child and encourage open communication with parents/guardians.

The following techniques are used according to age-appropriateness and the individual needs of each child:

- Distraction and redirection: Suggest appropriate behavior.
- A quiet, private talk: Showing respect for children's feelings, getting down on the child's level, looking at the child directly in the eye and giving him or her our undivided attention.
- Praise: Teachers identify children making "good choices" and praise them for their actions.
- Indirect praise: Praise the child who is next to the child who may be having difficulty.
- By using examples: When asking children to use calm voices, use a whisper voice.
- Arrange contingencies (if/ then statements): For example, we might say, "If you finish putting the blocks away, then we can..."
- Redirection to another area.
- Staff guide children in learning and expressing socially appropriate behavior that is individual to that child.

- Children are given a 5-minute warning when transitioning from one activity to another.

The following guidelines may be followed when additional action is needed in response to inappropriate or unsafe behavior:

- Separation from the group with a warning.
- Separation from the group with a call to parent or guardian.
- Parent/guardian conference to discuss corrective action and steps to address any future incidents.
- Modified school day for the student.
- Early pick-up by the parent.
- Suspension from program: 1 to 2 days separation from the program.
- Repeated aggressive/inappropriate behavior may result in removal from the program with approval from the building Principal and Director of Elementary Education.

If a student's day is shortened or the student receives a removal from the program for a period of time, no reimbursements or credits will be provided. While every effort will be made to work with families to address behavioral concerns with students, there are instances where a reduction of time in the program and/or removal from the program may be necessary. The information below includes our general guidelines for ongoing behavioral concerns within our preschool classrooms:

1. **Implementation of Positive Behavior Reinforcement Strategies:** The teacher will implement the behavior strategies outlined above. We ask that parents reinforce the rules outlined by the classroom teacher while at home with their child.
2. **Parent Involvement:** The teacher will communicate with the parent/guardian about the behavior, and together they develop strategies to support the child's behavior improvement at home and at school.
3. **Behavior Support Plan:** If the behavior persists despite interventions, a behavior support plan may be developed in collaboration with parents and possibly a school social worker or psychologist. This plan would outline specific goals and strategies to address the behavior.
4. **Review Committee:** In extreme cases where maladaptive behavior continues to pose a significant challenge to the child's learning or the learning and safety of others, a review committee involving teachers, parents, and school administrators may be convened to discuss additional support or options, including the possibility of reduced time in the program or removal if necessary.

School staff will remain in contact with families during each step of the process. Our goal is to work collaboratively with families towards a resolution that allows a student to remain in our Mini-Mustang Program, however, there are circumstances which may arise that would warrant an immediate removal from the program in order to ensure the safety of all students in the classroom. During the enrollment process, parents and guardians will be required to review and acknowledge the Mini-Mustang behavior guidance policy.

Appendix

STM Mini-Mustang Behavior Guidance Policy

In the School Town of Munster, we recognize that all children develop social skills and adjust to the school environment at their own individual rate, and that there is a wide range of typical behaviors in adjusting to the preschool setting. Our teachers and staff strive to work collaboratively with our families to meet the individual needs of each student in order for them to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. Each of our preschool classrooms will establish rules of conduct, however, our basic expectations for the Mini Mustang program are as follows:

- Respect one another -- Students may not cause harm to others physically or verbally
- Respect our environment -- Students may not intentionally damage equipment or property
- Keep everyone safe -- Students may not act in a way that could be dangerous to themselves or others.

Parent support is an integral part of our Mini Mustang Program. We ask that parents/guardians reinforce the rules outlined above at home. We welcome parental input as to what works best for each child and encourage open communication with parents/guardians. The following techniques are used according to age-appropriateness and the individual needs of each child:

- Distraction and redirection: Suggest appropriate behavior
- A quiet, private talk: Showing respect for children's feelings, getting down on the child's level, looking at the child directly in the eye and giving him or her our undivided attention.
- Praise: Catch the child making "good choices"; praising the child when behaving appropriately.
- Indirect praise: Praise the child who is next to the child who may be having difficulty.
- By using examples: When asking children to use calm voices, use a whisper voice.
- Arrange contingencies (if/ then statements): For example, we might say, "If you finish putting the blocks away, then we can..."
- Redirection to another area.
- Staff guide children in learning and expressing socially appropriate behavior that is individual to that child.
- Children are given a 5-minute warning when transitioning from one activity to another.

To ensure the safety of all participants and staff, Mini Mustang staff will implement positive behavior management strategies as outlined above. The following guidelines may be followed when additional action is needed in response to inappropriate or unsafe behavior:

- Separation from the group with a warning
- Separation from group with a call to parent or guardian
- Parent/guardian conference to discuss corrective action and steps to address any future incidents.

- Modified school day for the student
- Early pick-up by the parent
- Suspension from program: 1 to 2 days separation from the program
- Repeated aggressive/inappropriate behavior may result in removal from the program with approval from the building Principal and Director of Elementary Education.

If a student's day is shortened or the student receives a removal from the program for a period of time, no reimbursements or credits will be provided. While every effort will be made to work with families to address behavioral concerns with students, there are instances where a reduction of time in the program and/or removal from the program may be necessary. The information below includes our general guidelines for ongoing behavioral concerns within our preschool classrooms:

1. **Implementation of Positive Behavior Reinforcement Strategies:** The teacher will implement the behavior strategies outlined above. We ask that parents reinforce the rules outlined by the classroom teacher while at home with their child.
2. **Parent Involvement:** The teacher will communicate with the parent/guardian about the behavior, and together they develop strategies to support the child's behavior improvement at home and at school.
3. **Behavior Support Plan:** If the behavior persists despite interventions, a behavior support plan may be developed in collaboration with parents and possibly a school counselor or psychologist. This plan would outline specific goals and strategies to address the behavior.
4. **Review Committee:** In extreme cases where behavior continues to pose a significant challenge to the child's learning or the safety of others, a review committee involving teachers, parents, and school administrators may be convened to discuss additional support or options, including the possibility of reduced time in the program or removal if necessary.

School staff will remain in contact with families during each step of the process. Our goal is to always work collaboratively with families towards a resolution that allows a student to remain in our Mini-Mustang Program, however, there are circumstances which may arise that would warrant an immediate removal from the program in order to ensure the safety of all students in the classroom. During the enrollment process, parents and guardians will be required to review and acknowledge the Mini-Mustang behavior guidance policy.

- ☐ I have read and understand the Mini Mustang Behavior and Discipline Policy and fully understand the process to be used for discipline issues

Student's Name

Parents Printed Name

Signature

Date