

Frequently Asked Questions

1) **What is the difference between Full-Day Kindergarten and Half-Day Kindergarten?**

The Full-Day and Half-Day programs cover the same curriculum. Full-Day runs from 8:30am-2:50pm. The Half-Day program runs from 8:30am-11:05am or 12:05pm-2:50pm depending on if you are in the morning or afternoon session. The extra time of the Full-Day program allows us to horizontally expand the curriculum. Parents of children in the Half-Day program should take advantage of this additional time with their child to participate in social, physical and educational activities, such as the library story time and arts and craft projects with a focus on fine motor skills. The Millis Recreation Department offers a variety of classes for young children.

2) **Why does the AM Half-Day Kindergarten stay the same all year and not switch to PM half way through?**

Studies have shown that when children make the switch from mornings to afternoons or afternoons to mornings, there is a time period lost of upwards to three week as the children adjust to the change. It is also helpful to parents when scheduling activities or childcare to have a consistent schedule.

3) **Can I request the AM or PM Half-Day Kindergarten class?**

AM/PM classes are determined by the numbers of families who request half-day Kindergarten programming for their children. Studies show that young children are most alert and ready to learn early in the day, so an AM class will be developed first, based upon interest in half-day programming; an additional section of half-day Kindergarten programming may be created should numbers of students exceed recommended guidelines.

4) **Do we have to pay for the bus?**

There is a bussing fee. It will be mailed to you.

5) **If I drive my Kindergarten child to school, where do I park?**

Parking for all parents is in the Spring Street Lot off Spring St. This is detailed more clearly in the Kindergarten Guidebook.

6) **Why is there a lottery for Full-Day Kindergarten?**

The state requires the school district to provide Half-Day Kindergarten. As an option for parents, we have provided Full-Day Kindergarten, which is tuition and lottery based, even with the Kindergarten Grant.

7) **Why do I pay tuition for Full-Day Kindergarten?**

The town legally has the responsibility to provide Half-Day Kindergarten. The Full-Day Kindergarten tuition pays for part of the teacher's salary.

8) What is the sliding fee scale?

The sliding fee scale is used to see if you qualify for a reduced tuition rate. We want the Kindergarten Full-Day to be an option for all parents regardless of their income.

9) Where do I send my payments for Full-Day Kindergarten?

Payments for the Full-Day Kindergarten are due the beginning of each month and can be sent in with your child or mailed directly to the school to Joanne McCarter, Kindergarten Clerk.

10) What happens if I fall behind in my tuition payments?

*Your tuition payments are an important part of paying for the extended day of the Kindergarten teacher. If an unforeseen emergency happens and you will be late with your monthly payment, contact the principal as soon as possible. Families who do not honor their tuition commitment **must** contact the principal as soon as possible for an alternative payment plan or, if necessary, a part-time kindergarten schedule will be arranged.*

11) What is Extended Day?

The Extended Day Program is a department of the Millis Public Schools and is in session Monday-Friday, including school vacation weeks, with the exception of holiday closings. In conjunction with the Before and After school Programs, and a Summer Program, Extended Day offers a variety of wrap-around childcare programs for kindergarten students, preschool students and young children ages 15 months-four years. Please visit the website at <http://mpsnet.millisps.org/~ktocci/> to view all the options, or contact the Director, Jeanne Noonan, at jnoonan@millisps.org or call 508-376-8042.

12) Why is attendance important in Kindergarten?

Attendance is very important in Kindergarten. It sets the standard for their academic success. The Kindergarten classes cover a large curriculum to prepare the children academically, socially and emotionally for first grade.

13) How do I know when to keep my child home from school?

A child with a fever should remain at home for 24 hours after the fever has subsided or for 24 hours after being placed on antibiotics as in the case of Strep Throat. This is required for everyone's health and safety. This topic is covered in depth in the Kindergarten Guidebook.

14) What immunizations does my child need for Kindergarten and what if my well child check-up isn't until the summer?

A list of immunizations is included in the Kindergarten registration packet. If your child's Well Child Check-Up is scheduled over the summer before Kindergarten, you can mail or drop off the physical to the Clyde Brown School in care of the school nurse.

15) When will my child meet his/her teacher and see the classroom?

There is a scheduled visit on the first day that the district starts school. Meaning on the first day of school for the district, kindergarten come in for a 45minute visit/screening and start school the following week. During the scheduled visit, you and your child will come to the school together. The teacher will go through a variety of materials and give you an overview of the classroom while your child has his/her screening. Together you will board a school bus and take a short ride around town. This concludes your visit. If you feel your child will need an additional visit, please contact you child's teacher.

16) What is Kindergarten Screening?

Every child in Massachusetts is screened before entering Kindergarten or shortly thereafter. The screening tool the Millis Public School uses is the ESI-K Early Screening Inventory-Revised. If the staff feels that there is a concern, we will contact you to set up a meeting. The children are told they are going to play some games with the teachers and this is how they perceive the screening process, as a fun game. Kindergarten Screening will take place on the first day that the district starts school during the classroom visit. Your child will be assigned a time over the summer.

17) What are “fire drills”?

Fire Drills and Code Reds are our safety practices that the whole school district participates in. Fire Drills are done in conjunction with the Millis Fire Department to practice safety procedure in the event of a fire.

18) How do I communicate with my child's teacher?

There are numerous ways to communicate with your child's teacher. A weekly newsletter goes home from Kindergarten teachers to update you on class and school events. Periodic listserve emails go home from the principal as well as from the Home and School Association with additional school wide information. You can communicate directly with your child's teacher through notes and e-mails. If you need to talk to your child's teacher via the phone, it is best to schedule a time for a telephone conference, as the classrooms are not equipped with outside telephones and the teacher cannot always leave the children to take a telephone call. You can also schedule a meeting with your child's teacher.

19) What if I disagree with my child's teacher?

If this happens, we want you to feel comfortable and have put a policy in place. It is called the Clyde Brown School Negotiating Policy. This is covered in the Kindergarten Guidebook.

20) Can I volunteer in my child's classroom?

Volunteering in your child's classroom and school is welcome! There are many opportunities that are outlined in the Kindergarten Guidebook more clearly and the teachers have sign-ups during the Kindergarten Open House.

21) Do Kindergarten students receive report card?

Yes. You will receive report cards for three reporting periods and will have a portfolio meeting with your child's teacher in October/early November.

22) Why does my Kindergarten student have homework?

Homework helps to reinforce the activities learned at school and set the tone for the later years as homework time increases. This is outlined more clearly in the Kindergarten Guidebook.

23) What kinds of activities should I be doing with my child to get them ready for Kindergarten?

*Read, read, and read to/with your child with an aim at **20 minutes a day**. Really it's easy. Think of it before your child goes to sleep at night, waiting at dentist/doctor appointments, books that are made for bathtubs. Be creative, have fun. Other activities are: exposing your child to nursery rhymes and chants; exposing your child to coins, counting/number games, fine motor activities (cutting, coloring, painting, crafts); engaging in gross motor activities (climbing, balancing, pedaling etc.); encouraging imaginative play both indoors and outdoors.*

24) When will I receive the Kindergarten Guidebook?

When you come for the Kindergarten visit the first day of school with your child, you will receive the Kindergarten Guidebook.