



New Student Frequently Asked Questions

We hope that these FAQs provide you some insight into your transition to Elmore Park Middle School.

Communication- The school does not do much paper printing to send home because middle school aged students have a tendency to not communicate well between school and home. Therefore, parents can best stay informed by staying connected with the multiple sources of information available to them:

1. School Website: epms.bartlettschools.org

The calendar link on the website is continuously updated and an excellent source to help you stay in know of the many school activities taking place. Also, all teacher email addresses can be found here.

2. PTSA Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/266672006770923/?fref=nf>

This is an active and happening place. You may not always get the quickest response due to school personnel not having access during the school day, but many parents are able to chime in with help. Many staff members will post pictures of different events as well.

3. Mr. Randall's Email Group: epmseagles@gmail.com

About once a week, Mr. Randall sends an email to provide an update to a variety of happenings. Flyers and other attachments are also frequently included.

4. Individual Teachers: Most teachers maintain email groups or Remind 101 groups to communicate with parents.

We realize that you may feel electronically bombarded with all of these sources, but the parents who stay connected with these sources are usually in the know.

Organization- Most middle school students seem to all struggle with keeping up with their belongings and managing their time effectively. These characteristics are age appropriate and something we strive to develop in all students.

1. Lockers: All students are issued lockers. The locks are built in and these are assigned during the first week of school. For our incoming 6th graders, we will hold a "Locker Night" the week before school starts to give you as parents a chance to help your child get acclimated.

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2. **Lost & Found:** Located in the cafeteria. Student belongings are placed here daily and accumulate very quickly. Unfortunately, most items are never claimed and cannot be returned to their rightful owners because there is no name listed. We often receive calls of “stolen” items that are later found here. Encourage your child to always check the Lost & Found. It is also a good idea to label your child’s jackets, hoodies, gym clothes, and lunch boxes.

3. **Supplies:** Grade level supply lists have not been developed at this time because of the district’s initiative for providing laptops to all middle school students. We do not want your family to spend money on supplies that will not be needed once laptops are distributed. These lists will be ready by the 1st week of June and posted through the various sources listed in the communication section above.

4. **Class Changes:** The school operates on a bell system and runs smoothly from hour to hour. At the 6th grade level, teachers give more time early in the year between class periods, but in about a month all students know how to get from place to place.

5. **Restroom Breaks:** 6th grade teachers provide class restroom breaks and therefore students are not expected to take care of this during class changes. Also, during lunch students are able to use the restroom.

6. **Lunch:** Students are escorted by their teachers to the cafeteria each day. The teachers are also required to assign student seats. We have a cafeteria monitor and administration also monitors the cafeteria daily. Students are given free seating and music on some Fridays based upon good behavior and cleanliness of the cafeteria.

7. **PE Uniforms:** All students are required to dress out for PE. This means athletic shorts, t-shirt, and athletic shoes. The school does sell PE uniforms, but they are not required. The cost is not readily available at this time. However, these will be on sale in August and the cost is usually less than \$20. Most students carry a small bag with their uniform in it. Please label all bags and gym clothes.

Discipline- Our students are generally well behaved and more students than not demonstrate positive behaviors. Below are a few details.

1. **Life Skills:** Teachers focus on a program known as life skills and assign conduct checks for not meeting expectations. The conduct checks do not follow students from class to class and each nine weeks is a fresh start.

2. **Detention:** Detention is held before school at 8:00am. Detention is a result of receiving 3 conduct checks in a single class. While this is a consequence, it is a low-level intervention and we simply ask for your support when it is issued.

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3. **Eagle Bucks:** Teachers use Eagle Bucks as a form of positive reinforcement for students demonstrating the appropriate behaviors. These can be cashed in for a variety of treats, prizes, or privileges.

4. **Behavior Incentive Parties:** At the end of each nine weeks, we hold a school-wide party for students who have demonstrated positive behavior over the course of the nine weeks. In the past, we have had picnics, concerts, and even a bowling trip.

Parent Involvement- Parents are encouraged to take an active role here at EPMS. Parent involvement begins to look differently at the middle school level as the students search for greater independence. They like to feel “grown up” and tend to shy away from being seen with their parents during the school day.

1. **Lunch:** Parents are welcome to come up for lunch with their children any day of the week. Simply check in at the office for a visitor’s badge. *This is probably the most popular option among the students.*

2. **PTSA:** Our PTSA is the school’s largest support group. Please consider joining and getting involved with this group.

3. **Conferences with Teachers:** All conferences need to be scheduled. All teachers can be reached via email through the school website: epms.bartlettschools.org

4. **Classroom Visitation:** We do not receive many requests for classroom visits, but visits must be scheduled with the teacher. All visitors are required to sign-in at the front office.

As a reminder, parents are not able to walk their children to class. Our wonderful PTSA provides volunteers during the first few days of school to help new students find their way or carry supplies they may bring.