

MILL HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

635 MILL HILL TERRACE, SOUTHPORT, CONNECTICUT 06890

KEVIN CHASE, PRINCIPAL

PHONE 203.255.8320 • FAX 203.255.8205

WEBSITE: <http://fairfieldschools.org/schools/mh>

August 24, 2016



**FAIRFIELD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I am so excited to welcome you to the 2016-2017 school year at Mill Hill Elementary School! I've been busy over this summer getting ready for that first day which is just around the corner! I'd like to share some information with you to help make the school year begin successfully.

Our first day of school is **Thursday, September 1, 2016**. **All students** will begin at **8:55 AM** and will be **dismissed at 3:30 PM, including kindergarten students**. There will be a PTA First Day Parent Reception in the APR at 9:15 AM.

Bus service to and from school will begin for all children on the first day of school. The bus routes will be posted on Infinite Campus. Please be aware that the buses are often late the first few days, as the drivers typically are working to become familiar with their routes.

Students who ride the bus will enter the building through the front entrance where they are dropped off and walk directly to their classrooms. The one exception to this is on the first day when all kindergarten students will meet their teacher on the cement pad outside the doors of the kindergarten wing. This is only for the first day, however. If you are driving your child, please be sure to use the *student drop-off area on the rear side of the school (to the right)*. Staff members will be at both entrances to greet students and to help them find their classrooms. Students should not arrive at school prior to 8:45 AM. At the end of the day, all students will be dismissed to their buses. You must notify your child's teacher ahead of time if there is an alternate plan in place for dismissal (afterschool program, pick-up). If you plan to pick up your child at dismissal time, please park your car in a **legal parking spot or on Mill Hill Road in front of the school** and pick your child up from the rear entrance to the gymnasium. While we have the new addition of the completed security fencing, this should not hinder or change our arrival and dismissal routines. I will have staff posted at the gate to provide access to children in the morning and parents picking up their children in the afternoon.

Our staff have worked diligently on the class placement process. It is thoughtful, collaborative, and takes into account your child's needs. **We will not entertain any requests for a change of class placement**. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. **Class assignments will be posted on Infinite Campus (IC) Wednesday, August 24, prior to the end of the day**. There is not a specific time as to when on Wednesday. We are planning a scattered release among all elementary schools so as to not overwhelm the IC servers.



MILL HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

635 MILL HILL TERRACE, SOUTHPORT, CONNECTICUT 06890

KEVIN CHASE, PRINCIPAL

PHONE 203.255.8320 • FAX 203.255.8205

WEBSITE: <http://fairfieldschools.org/schools/mh>



**FAIRFIELD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

The three days before school starts are very busy for the teachers and staff. We have several meetings planned, and we ask that you respect this as time for teachers to use to get ready for our students. We will have an opportunity for families to come to school prior to the first day. On Wednesday, August 31, from 11:30 – 12:00, we will be opening the school for students to visit their new teachers and see their classrooms. The PTA will be hosting an ice cream social at the playground immediately after at 12:00.

Additionally, you are all invited to join representative members of the PTA and me in the APR for a welcome-back reception, beginning at 9:15 on the first day of school. Our Open House will be another opportunity to learn about our initiatives for the upcoming school year as well as a highlight of some of our goals for school improvement. Open House is also your opportunity to meet your child's teacher and learn more about your child's grade level curriculum. It is scheduled for September 14, at 7:00 for all grades.

I will see you all very soon!

Regards,
Kevin Chase
Principal

**National
PTA®**



**SCHOOL OF
EXCELLENCE**

everychild.one voice.®

MILL HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

635 MILL HILL TERRACE, SOUTHPORT, CONNECTICUT 06890

KEVIN CHASE, PRINCIPAL

PHONE 203.255.8320 • FAX 203.255.8205

WEBSITE: <http://fairfieldschools.org/schools/mh>



**FAIRFIELD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Opening Information

Meet & Greet: On Wednesday, August 31, from 11:30-12:00, we will have an open house for all students to meet their teachers and classmates.

Parent First Day PTA Reception: Everyone is welcome to join us for refreshments in the All-Purpose Room at 9:15 A.M. on the first day. This is a perfect opportunity to say hello to everyone and sign-up for some great volunteer opportunities for the year. Volunteers add a wonderful dimension to our school community. We hope you'll be able to join us.

Changes in Staff to Date: Mrs. Hellthaler has moved to 5th grade. We wish Mrs. Mis the best in her retirement! Her shoes have been so ably filled by Ms. Nikki Wocl. Nikki has written a few words to tell you about herself: *My name is Miss Nikki Wocl and I am so excited to join the Mill Hill family. I completed my Bachelor's degree with honors in elementary and special education at Providence College in 2013. I immediately began my studies to obtain a Master's degree in elementary education with a concentration in reading. I graduated with honors from Sacred Heart University in August of 2014. During this time, I interned at a K-2 school in Milford. I taught kindergarten in Milford for the following two years. For the 2015-2016 school year, I was voted my school's Teacher of the Year. I am thrilled to join the kindergarten team at Mill Hill and am looking forward to meeting my new students! We are very excited to have Nikki on our team!*

Summer News: Thank you to the Town of Fairfield and Board of Education for installing a newly paved main parking lot. In addition, Mill Hill was selected as a school site for solar panels and energy conservancy. Look for our monitor that will be installed in September that will display energy savings and our contribution to acquiring power for the area!

The school is sparkling clean thanks to the efforts of Mr. D'Andrea, Mr. Herman, and Mr. Avila. In my eight previous years I have never witnessed a summer cleaning like that that was done this summer! We will, of course, remember to S.O.A.R. and keep it that way!

Our last bit of news is for our 5th graders. We will continue to departmentalize our 5th grade. However, this year we will have four sections of 5th grade, with each teacher having a homeroom class. The 5th grade teacher assigned to your child in IC will be their homeroom teacher. The remaining subjects will be taught with each teacher teaching one subject. Mrs. Fulton will be teaching Reading, Mr. Shire will be teaching Math, Mrs. Hellthaler will be teaching Science and Social Studies, and Mr. Zankel will be teaching Writing.



MILL HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

635 MILL HILL TERRACE, SOUTHPORT, CONNECTICUT 06890

KEVIN CHASE, PRINCIPAL

PHONE 203.255.8320 • FAX 203.255.8205

WEBSITE: <http://fairfieldschools.org/schools/mh>



**FAIRFIELD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

First Day of School Arrival: The first day of school is an exciting day for students, parents and staff at Mill Hill. All teachers, except Kindergarten teachers, will greet students at their classroom doors. The classroom banners that are hung outside the classroom doors clearly indicate your child's assigned class and teacher. Kindergarten teachers will greet their students in the front of the school by the entrance to the kindergarten wing. Bus students will be asked to remain seated until a staff member boards the bus and dismisses them into the building. After kindergarten children are escorted from the bus to their teacher, older students will then be let off the bus by grade. Students whose classrooms are in the back of the school will enter the school through the main entrance and proceed through and exit in the APR. Staff will be available with class lists to help children who have doubts as to where to go. First through fifth grade students will be invited into their classrooms as they arrive.

Open House/Curriculum Night: Save the Date!!! We invite parents join us on Wednesday, September 14, at 7:00 PM, beginning in classrooms. So, please mark your calendars to attend this important evening to meet with your child's teacher and hear about the curriculum expectations for the year.

FPS & Mill Hill Policies and Procedures: You can find a link to the most recent *Family Handbook* on <http://fairfieldschools.org/parent-resources/family-guide/>. In it you will find important information regarding the operation of the Fairfield Schools. You will find supplemental materials, more specific to the operation of Mill Hill, in our Family Handbook on our website. In order to maintain a safe and secure environment for everyone, please follow the guidelines and procedures established by the school administration. Thank you all in advance for your support in this matter.

Infinite Campus: It is important for you to sign in to Infinite Campus and regularly monitor your account. This is our regular means for communication.

Absentee Call-In Program: Please call 255-8415 if your child is going to be absent.



MILL HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

635 MILL HILL TERRACE, SOUTHPORT, CONNECTICUT 06890

KEVIN CHASE, PRINCIPAL

PHONE 203.255.8320 • FAX 203.255.8205

WEBSITE: <http://fairfieldschools.org/schools/mh>



**FAIRFIELD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Beginning Dates to Remember

Wednesday	8/31	11:30-12:00	“Meet & Greet” your teachers and classmates
		12:00-?	PTA Ice Cream Social at Playground
Thursday	9/1	8:55	First Day of School-Full Day
		9:15	PTA First Day Parent Reception in All-Purpose Room
Monday	9/5	----	Labor Day – No School
Wednesday	9/14	7:00PM	Open House/Curriculum Night for Grades K-5

**National
PTA®**



**SCHOOL OF
EXCELLENCE**

everychild.one voice.®