

NEW PARENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Welcome to Emerson! As a new family, we're sure you have a lot of questions. This document should answer many of them and help you feel prepared for the exciting school year ahead.

What materials will I receive?

In addition to this mailing, a packet with general information will be sent home on the first day of school. This will contain your family handbook and additional information about what to expect during the year.

What is ESPO (Emerson School Parent Organization)?

ESPO (pronounced 'es-poe') is a parent-run organization that coordinates programs, activities, and fundraisers that directly benefit students. ESPO meets monthly and is a great way for new families to connect with other families and get involved.

How else can we get to know other Emerson families and integrate into Emerson?

You will be invited to a new family orientation prior to the start of school. ESPO is also coordinating a Back-to-School Picnic on September 6, where you can meet other families, faculty, and staff. Many ESPO grade representatives will also coordinate their own event during the summer and will contact you directly.

What are lunch options?

The majority of families pack a lunch for their child. Lunches can also be ordered directly through Main Dish, an independent caterer that delivers to Emerson Monday through Thursday. On most Fridays, Pizza lunch is available through ESPO, and the revenue generated goes right back into the school. You will receive order forms for these optional services at the start of the year.

Should we purchase a yearbook?

You'll see the option to order a yearbook as part of your online enrollment. While completely optional, most families order a yearbook to reflect upon the school year, and to allow their student to have them signed by others at the end of the year.

When do we find out our child's teacher/schedule?

Lower School parents will receive their student's class assignment by email in mid-August. Middle School students receive their schedule on the first day of school.

What kind of school supplies do we need?

This varies by class and most teachers will send their own list of supplies home at the beginning of the year. To simplify the purchasing and take advantage of quantity discounts, whenever possible Emerson will order these supplies for you and charge them directly to your account.

All families are asked to purchase a new pair of gym shoes to leave at school for physical education classes.

What clothing is appropriate for school?

Students should arrive neat, clean, and ready to learn. Play clothes are encouraged so students feel comfortable whether in physical education or in core curriculum classes. The Family Handbook will go into more detail about what should not be worn.

How are medications handled at school?

If medications cannot be administered at home, families can coordinate with Emerson's office to administer them. Students cannot keep/administer medications themselves and it is their responsibility to report to the office when medications are to be given.

Is there a school directory?

Yes, you can find Emerson's family directory online through the Parent Portal (RenWeb). Paper copies will also be available for purchase early in the fall. Contact info found in the directory should only be used for communicating with other families about topics relating to Emerson School.

Who should we contact with feedback, questions, or concerns?

For anything non-critical, your child's teacher is always the best person to contact. If you need to speak with an administrator, please contact the Lower School or Middle School office to be connected with the appropriate person.

When are before- and after-school programs and how do we learn more?

Morning Care is available from 7:30 to 8:15am, and the After-School Program is available from 2:45 to 6:00pm. The Emerson School website provides much more information, or you can contact After School Program Director Rose Hacker directly at rhacker@emerson-school.org or 734.665.4942, ext. 333.

Are carpools or buses available?

Many families do carpool, and you can join/find other families interested in carpooling at www.emerson-school.org/carpool. Ann Arbor Public School District (AAPS) students are also eligible to ride the AAPS busses, but are subject to the AAPS school schedule and cancellations.

Where can I find more detailed answers?

More detailed answers to the questions above and much more are provided in the Family Handbook you will receive on the first day of school. If you have an urgent question, please contact Emerson School after August 1 at 734.665.5662.