



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?

During the first week of school we send out an email containing our digital first day packet. This will contain links to the 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 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 also coordinates a back-to-school event at the beginning of the school year, 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 technology resources do parents use?

Individual grades/classrooms may use their own resources, but some of the technology all parents should know about include:

- **Website:** Most of what current families need is available in the Current Family section of www.emerson-school.org.
- **RenWeb Parent Portal:** This is where you can log in to see grades, assignments (varies by grade), manage your account, choose electives (middle school), etc. Find the login link on the top right of Emerson's website.
- **Calendars:** You can find a general school calendar, as well as individual calendars for band and orchestra, athletics, and theater arts on Emerson's website at emerson-school.org/calendar. You can also subscribe to Emerson's calendars for Google and iCal, or download and import them into Outlook.
- **Social Media:** Get a glimpse of what's happening at Emerson.
 - **Facebook** @theemersonschool [+ Link Here](#)
 - **Instagram:** @emersonschool [+ Link Here](#)

What are lunch options?

The majority of families pack a lunch for their child. Lunches can also be ordered directly through [Harvest Kitchen](#), an local 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.

**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.

For Middle School students, supply lists can be found on our website under the "current families" tab. Or you can follow this [direct link](#).

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). Printed copies will also be available 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 homeroom teacher, or middle school advisor is always the best person to contact. If you need to speak with an administrator, please contact the Main 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 Carly Meloche directly at cmeloche@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.

Should we purchase a yearbook?

Emerson orders yearbooks in bulk in order to reduce cost. Your child will automatically be ordered a yearbook unless you fill out the opt-out form that is distributed before we place our order. Your account is automatically billed and yearbooks are distributed during the last week of school.

Where can I find answers to questions not listed here?

Much more information will be provided in the Family Handbook, which you will receive digitally during the first week of school. The Handbook can also be found on our website under the "current families" tab. If you have an urgent question, please contact Emerson School at 734-665-5662.