



# 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 before 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](http://www.emerson-school.org).
- **RenWeb Parent Portal:** This is where you can log in to see grades, and assignments (varies by grade), manage your account, view your medical records, and use the parent directory. 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](http://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?

This year, we will continue our partnership with HotLunch to provide hot lunch meals and milk options Monday through Thursday. New this year, Pizza Fridays will also be included on the HotLunch platform—not billed through FACTS. All hot lunch and pizza orders will be placed directly through the HotLunch platform, and payments will be processed via credit or debit cards through Stripe.



To participate, please log in at [emersonlunch.ahotlunch.com](http://emersonlunch.ahotlunch.com), create an account using the campus code: **emersonlunch**, and place your orders. If you are planning to order lunch or milk at any time during the school year, you must create a HotLunch account.

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

Parents of Young Fives through 5th grade students will receive their student's class assignment by email in mid-August. Students in 6th through 8th grade 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.

#### **How are medications handled at school?**

If medications cannot be administered at home, families can coordinate with Emerson's nurse 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](#) (FACTS/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](mailto: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](http://www.emerson-school.org/carpool). Ann Arbor Public School District (AAPS) students are also eligible to ride the AAPS busses which stop at 3-4 AAPS buildings but are subject to the AAPS school schedule and cancellations.

#### **Should we purchase a yearbook?**

Emerson orders yearbooks in bulk to reduce costs. 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?**

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