



Frequently Asked Question for the Beginning of the School Year

What does my student need for the 1st day of school? Besides a 1st day photo of your student ... A roomy backpack is helpful to keep things together and to make sure things get to school from you and get home from us. Packing an extra set of clothes (pants, socks, underwear and shirt) is helpful for those unexpected “spilled-my-milk” days. Later, you can include rain gear and heavier clothing.

Will I be getting a supply list for my student? No, we will be providing all the supplies necessary for learning.

How will my student know where to go on the 1st full day of school? Teachers be will be meeting and greeting the children as the buses arrive at school, and the School Staff is anxious and ready to welcome all the children every day, and most especially everyone is looking out for our Kindergarten and New Students.

What about snacks? All classes have a snack time or break. A small healthy snack is appropriate and is much appreciated by your student, as the children have only a few minutes for a snack. In years past, our schools have been part of a Healthy Snacks Grant, through which fresh fruits and vegetables are provided to all students. We will send out a notification when this may be happening.

Can my student buy breakfast and lunch on the 1st day? As part of our Breakfast for Learning Program ALL STUDENTS will receive a FREE breakfast every day, if they would like. You will receive more detailed information during the first week from the school regarding the lunch program, prices and the monthly menu.

Should my student wear anything special to school? Yes. We ask that every child wear closed-toe, comfortable shoes every day for safety on the playground and Gym. We go outside every day, so please be mindful of sending your child in weather and temperature appropriate clothing. PLEASE put your child’s First Name or Initials on everything! Most of us think that our children will recognize their own clothing, but sometimes they don’t OR another friend might have the same size, color and style clothing. But check the Lost & Found in your school, because it will be overflowing by October!

Can we volunteer in school? Absolutely! We would love to have you! Volunteers support the students and their learning in many ways such as library work, field trips, special events, making materials and there are projects that can be done at home for those who are unable to come to school. After Teachers and the students get settled into a daily routine, Teachers will let you know about specific classroom work that might need volunteers. All volunteers are required to complete a volunteer form and undergo a background check.

Can someone else pick my student up at school? Yes they can, but only with written permission or if you have named specific individuals on the “Student Information Form.” Please understand for safety reasons, if our Staff does not recognize the person picking up your child, he/she will be asked for identification. All students picked up prior to the regular dismissal time must be signed out at the office.

Can my student go home with a friend on the bus? Your child can only travel on the bus/car assigned to them by GBSD and the Transportation Department. All bus/car questions can be directed to their transportation source or by contacting MECDHH/GBSD at 781-3165. K-12 Transportation: Safe Care, 542-3859 voice or text.

What if I want to pick up my student at the end of the day or take him/her out of school for an appointment? Please call the Main School Office (East End Community School at P/874-8228; Lyman Moore Middle School at P/874-8150, Portland High School at P/874-8250 and Portland Arts & Technology School (PATHS) at P/874-8166) and TRANSPORTATION to alert them to your request. If you come in early to pick up your child for an appointment, you will need to sign out your child, and the Main Office will call your child down to the Office to meet you.

Can I walk my student down to the classroom? For safety reasons, we ask that you drop off and pick up your student at the designated areas at the school or the Main Office. The beginning and end of the day are very busy for Teachers and Staff as they are greeting and dismissing students to get them to their destinations. If you want to communicate with Teachers, please email, text, call or leave a detailed message in the Main Office and the Teacher will get back to you.

Can I bring a special snack for my student's birthday? Yes, but know that each class develops ways to make this a special day for your child. Please be aware that other students may have special dietary needs and/or restrictions.

Can my student hand out birthday party invitations? We ask that no invitations to parties be passed out at school. This helps prevent hurt feelings.

Can medications be given at school? There is a strict process for doing this. Please complete the "Medication Form" and you may also want to check in with the School Nurse as to how you would like them to handle your student's medication. NO prescriptions or over-the-counter medication of any kind may be sent in with the student. This is a safety issue.

Any Emergency or Sick Days Please notify us at MECDHH/GBSD at 781-3165 or your Teacher, the Main Office, or Transportation as soon as possible if your student will be absent or away.

IMPORTANT: Please Notify Us Immediately if any of your information changes during the school year. It is extremely important that our records be kept up-to-date so we can contact you in case of sickness or other needs.

Thank you Parents and Guardians for your support, enthusiasm and interest in your student's education. The importance of your support is immeasurable.

Please contact us with any additional questions.

Have a wonderful, fun-filled learning experience this year!