



## New Family FAQ's

Welcome to Eakin Elementary School! We are so glad that you are here! You probably have lots of questions as you look ahead to joining Kindergarten in the Fall. We have compiled some of the most frequently asked questions within this document, but it is not exhaustive. Please don't hesitate to reach out as the start of school approaches.

### **Q: What is IB?**

A: IB refers to International Baccalaureate, a globally recognized, nonprofit education organization that offers challenging academic programs. The IB develops inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through education that builds intercultural understanding and respect. Eakin officially became an IB school in April of 2012 offering the Primary Years Programme to all students.

### **Q: When does school start?**

A: The first day of school is Tuesday, August 5; this will be a full day of school for grades 1-5. Kindergarten students will have a half day of school on August 5 & 6, dismissing at 11:30. The first full day of school for Kindergarten will be Thursday, August 7. The full MNPS calendar can be found on the MNPS website, including all school holidays.

### **Q: Is there a new student orientation?**

A: Yes, there will be an orientation for Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade families on Tuesday, August 19 at 6:00pm and for Grades 3-5 on Tuesday, August 26, at 6:00pm.

### **Q: What are the hours of the school day?**

A: School starts at 8:00am and dismisses at 3:00pm. Morning drop-off begins at 7:40am for car riders and 7:45am for walkers.

### **Q: Are there extended care programs at Eakin?**

A: Yes, Eakin offers a multitude of extended care options both onsite and offsite.

- **Onsite**

- **Eakin Care Program (ECP):**

A parent-run, non-profit before- and aftercare program at Eakin offering recreation-focused activities (not homework help), gym/playground time, and limited spots with a waitlist and sibling/staff priority.

- **Hours:** Before Care: 7:00-8:00a, After Care: 3:00-6:00p, Summer:7:00a-6:00p

- **Contact:** Wendy Porter – [eakincareprogram@gmail.com](mailto:eakincareprogram@gmail.com)
- **Registration and pricing:** contact directly
- **YMCA Fun Company:**

An aftercare-only program held at Eakin providing healthy snacks, physical activity, homework time, and financial assistance, operated by the YMCA with registration online.

  - **Hours:** Aftercare only: 3:00–6:00 p.m. (No morning care), summer care available at other locations
  - **Contact:** Tashia Wells – [twells@ymcamidtn.org](mailto:twells@ymcamidtn.org)
  - **Registration:** [ymcafunco.org](http://ymcafunco.org)
  - **Pricing:** See website
- **Offsite**
  - **Eakin Harris Hillman (EHH):**

A non-profit before- and aftercare program in the adjacent Harris Hillman School focused on play and social time, with staff escorting students to/from Eakin and a history of frequent new enrollments.
  - **Boys & Girls Club (at Andrew Jackson Club Site):**

An aftercare program offering transportation from Eakin to the Boys & Girls Club on 16th Ave. N, with structured activities in a supportive environment

    - **Hours:** 2:00–6:00 p.m.
    - **Features:** Aftercare only
    - **Contact:** [smapphumphrey@bgcmt.org](mailto:smapphumphrey@bgcmt.org) | 615-320-5106
    - **Registration:** Visit [bgcmt.org/locations](http://bgcmt.org/locations)

### Q: How does drop-off and pick-up work?

A: Students generally come and go three different ways: by school bus, by car or by walking.

- **Bus:** All Metro students who attend their zoned school, and who live more than 1.25 miles from school, are eligible for school bus transportation. To find your bus route, go to: [www.mnps.org/transportation](http://www.mnps.org/transportation).
- **Car:** You may drop off and pick up your child by car. More detailed information on how the lines work will be provided before the first day of school.
- **Walk:** Families that live within walking distance may choose to walk to school. Our walker entrance is on Fairfax Ave. Doors open at 7:45am.

### Q: What does my child need to wear to school?

A: All students must wear standard school attire (SSA) to school. The SSA requirements at Eakin are:

- **General:** Students may wear Eakin-logo clothing (“Eakin Wear”) any day.
- **Tops:** Short- or long-sleeved shirts with a collar in any solid color or an Eakin-logo shirt.
- **Bottoms:** Solid-colored shorts, pants, jumpers, or jeans in blue, navy, black, gray, or khaki. Items must fit properly and be free of rips or holes.
- **Sweatshirts:** Crew-neck sweatshirts are fine. Hoodies may be worn only during recess and must be stored with personal belongings indoors. A top that meets the shirt guidelines must be worn underneath.

**Q: Where do I buy standard school attire?**

A: You can purchase SSA from any retailer that you choose. Target, Wal-Mart, Old Navy, GAP, Lands' End and many more retailers have a large selection of SSA clothing. Students are permitted to wear Eakin Wear every day. To purchase Eakin Wear, please visit the school store on the PTO website at <https://eakinpto.givebacks.com/shop>. Purchased items are assembled by the PTO and you will be notified when your order is ready for pick up.

**Q: What about school supplies?**

A: The school supply lists are available on the school and PTO website. Kindergarten school supplies are being provided by the district this year.

**Q: Speaking of lunch, how does that work?**

A: All students will eat lunch daily in the cafeteria. Students may bring a lunch from home or get lunch in the cafeteria. Students are provided both breakfast and lunch free of charge every day. Most teachers also request that students bring a water bottle for use throughout the day.

**Q: May I come have lunch with my child?**

A: Family and friends are welcome to come for lunch at Eakin in our "Eagle's Nest." However, we ask that you wait until we are a few weeks into school before joining your child for lunch. This allows the students to adjust into their new routines as a class.

**Q: When do we find out my child's teacher?**

A: Eakin will host its annual roster party on Wednesday, July 30, 2025. Rosters will be posted at 12pm. In order to provide more individual time with teachers, students with a last name of A-L are invited to attend from 4:30 to 5:30. Students with a last name of M-Z are invited to attend from 5:30 to 6:30. Drop by the event to come meet your teacher, drop off school supplies, and shop school spirit wear.

**Q: How can I get information about all things Eakin?**

A: All of our information is disseminated by your contact information from Infinite Campus. Information is pushed out through a number of different channels:

- Email: During the school year, we send out a weekly newsletter every Sunday at 4pm called the "Eagle Eye" that includes pertinent school information. There are additional informational emails as needed.
- Call-Outs: You will receive phone call outs from the district and Eakin administration using your current phone number in Infinite Campus. These phone calls go out at 4pm weekly on Sunday.
- Website: Check [eakinpto.org](http://eakinpto.org) (PTO-maintained website). There is additional information at the MNPS-maintained website: <https://eakin.mnps.org>
- Facebook: Follow "Eakin Elementary PTO"
- Instagram: @eakinpto