

# MCES Pirate News

Miller County Elementary School

August 2024

## NEWS FLASH

Tuesday, August 6th: Parent Orientation Meetings 5:00 to 6:30 (PK-5th)

Friday, August 30th: Wendy Martin Awards @ 2:30

Monday, September 2nd: Labor Day



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Miller County Elementary Pirate News



Class Dojo: Join Today!

Check out our website!  
<https://mes.miller.k12.ga.us/>

## WELCOME TO MCES!

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school term at Miller County Elementary! It was a pleasure to see all of our students and their families at Open House, and everyone seemed so enthusiastic for what promises to be a fantastic year! The faculty and staff are dedicated to making this a memorable year for your child. Your involvement is vital to your child's success! We want to assure you that we are fully committed to ensuring your child's achievements. We welcome parents who wish to make a positive impact on the learning community at Miller County Elementary.

Miller County Elementary: "Ordinary people united to achieve the extraordinary."

## NOTES REGARDING CHANGE IN TRANSPORTATION

If your child has a change in the way he or she goes home in the afternoon, please send a note or e-mail to the classroom teacher. **Your child's safety and well-being is of great importance to us, so we will only accept phone calls changing transportation in the case of an absolute emergency. This should NOT be a daily occurrence. If we do not get a note and/or an e-mail, we will send your child home the way he or she normally goes home. We will not take a child's word for how he or she will go home.**

# Students Entering the Building in the Morning

Your child's safety is important to us. Therefore, in an effort to keep our building safe and secure, students will need to walk into the building without being accompanied by a parent. Staff members are posted throughout the building to ensure the safety of students as they enter the building independently. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

## PRP NEWS

The PRP Board would like to wish all faculty, staff, and students a great 2024-2025 school year!



## Nurse News

Welcome back everyone! We are looking forward to having the best year ever!

August is National Immunization Awareness Month and is used to highlight the importance of all immunizations. Immunizations are very important, not only to protect your health, but also the health of everyone around you. If students have not had the recommended immunizations, they will not be able to attend school without a religious exemption form (2208 form) or an annual medical exemption form. Please contact your child's pediatrician or our local health department to be sure your child is up to date. Each student will be given ample amount of time to return all the information. Do not hesitate to contact our office if you have any questions.

Nurse Michelle's e-mail: [msiefker@miller.k12.ga.us](mailto:msiefker@miller.k12.ga.us)

## Drop Off and Pick-Up Guidelines

For your child's safety, please do not drop students off at school prior to 7:30. Please contact Ms. Brown in writing, via DOJO or via email, regarding any circumstances (i.e. work hours) that would create a need for you to drop your child prior to 7:30. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.



Please abide by the following pick-up guidelines each day:

- \* Please remain in your car and allow staff members to load students.
- \* No early sign-outs after 2:30 p.m.
- \* Please do not use your cell phone while waiting to pick up. That creates an unsafe situation for the students, staff, and other drivers.
- \* Be courteous to other drivers in the line. Please treat others as you wish to be treated.
- \* Please put your child's name on paper on the dash of your vehicle.
- \* Tobacco usage on campus is not allowed at any time (including during pick-up).

## Grade Level News

### Kindergarten News

This Kindergarten school year is off to a great start! We are very excited to be a part of this milestone in your child's education. We have many new materials to enhance your child's learning experiences. As you know, the students will be undergoing a period of adjustment. Most have not been in a structured learning environment for an extended time period. As teachers, our initial goals will be to help students learn to maintain focus and self-control in order to become better listeners, enhance their ability to follow routines and procedures, and ensure that **ALL** students are given the opportunity to learn in a stable, secure, and productive learning atmosphere. Please assist our efforts by reminding your child daily to do his or her **best work** while making **good choices**. With your support, this year will be a huge success.

Thank you,  
Kindergarten Teachers and Staff  
Parent Partners in Education

Kaitlyn Smith- [ksmith@miller.k12.ga.us](mailto:ksmith@miller.k12.ga.us)

Janell Grant - [jgrant@miller.k12.ga.us](mailto:jgrant@miller.k12.ga.us)

Kristy Smith - [kperkins@miller.k12.ga.us](mailto:kperkins@miller.k12.ga.us)

### 1st Grade News

Welcome to 1<sup>st</sup> grade! We are excited about having the opportunity to teach your 1<sup>st</sup> grader. Our goal is to provide your child with a positive and enriching environment in which they will thrive and grow academically.

Reading with your child nightly is an important part of helping them become successful readers.

We look forward to working with you this year!

The first grade team members are:

April Brown- [abrown@miller.k12.ga.us](mailto:abrown@miller.k12.ga.us)

Anna Belle Spooner- [anna.spooner@miller.k12.ga.us](mailto:anna.spooner@miller.k12.ga.us)

Bridget Peterson- [bridget.peterson@miller.k12.ga.us](mailto:bridget.peterson@miller.k12.ga.us)

### 2nd Grade News

**Welcome to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade!** We look forward to an exciting year with your child. There are so many wonderful and new things your child will learn this year. We plan for them to grow as readers, writers, mathematicians, and thinkers. Let's enjoy the journey!

This month in **Reading/Language Arts**, our focus will be building phonics and fluency skills. We will also work on identifying story elements in texts, understanding captions in texts, and identifying the author's purpose. In grammar, we will focus on capitalization and punctuating sentences.

In **Math**, our focus will be on using tables, graphs, and charts. Students will be adding and subtracting while working with data. Students will collect data, create graphs, and interpret data using several types of graphs and tables. Students will also build fluency in addition and subtraction.

In **Science**, students will be studying star sizes and brightness. We will study the patterns of the sun and learn how and why our shadows change throughout the day. At the end of the month, we will begin learning why we have the different seasons.

In Social Studies, students will be learning the importance of rules and laws. We will also be learning about the

### 3rd Grade News

**MATH:** Welcome to 3rd Grade Math! My name is Dana Durden, and I will be teaching your child math. I am anticipating an amazing year learning so many new and exciting math concepts! If you ever have any questions, please contact me on Class Dojo or email me at [dnewsome@miller.k12.ga.us](mailto:dnewsome@miller.k12.ga.us). I will be glad to help you any way that I can! We will begin the year building on previous understandings of place value, addition, subtraction, and statistical reasoning.

**ELA:** Welcome to 3rd Grade Reading/ELA! My name is Kittie Houston, and I am looking forward to teaching your child this year. Your child will learn how to improve their reading and writing skills throughout this year. We will start the year by learning about narrative nonfiction, author's purpose, compound words, short vowels (a,i,e,o,u), and synonyms. If you need anything, please DoJo or email me. I am excited about the year ahead.  
[kdepriest@miller.k12.ga.us](mailto:kdepriest@miller.k12.ga.us)

**SCIENCE/SOCIAL STUDIES:** Welcome to 3rd Grade! My name is Mandy Griffin, and I will be teaching your child Science and Social Studies this year. I'm looking forward to an amazing year of learning a variety of new and exciting things! We will begin the year by learning about rocks. We will perform some labs in Science, and learn about the early settlement of America. We will also be utilizing Write Score and integrating it with our

president, governor, and mayor, and we will learn where they work. We will then begin studying about Jimmy Carter and how he demonstrated positive citizenship traits when he was president.

Kem Earnest - [kem.earnest@miller.k12.ga.us](mailto:kem.earnest@miller.k12.ga.us)

Jacki King - [jackking@miller.k12.ga.us](mailto:jackking@miller.k12.ga.us)

Michelle Bruson - [mbrunson@miller.k12.ga.us](mailto:mbrunson@miller.k12.ga.us)

Science/Social Studies curriculum to help our students become better writers. If you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact me via Class Dojo or email me at [mandy.griffin@miller.k12.ga.us](mailto:mandy.griffin@miller.k12.ga.us). I will be glad to help you in any way I can!

### **4th Grade News**

Welcome to fourth grade! We are excited to start this new school year!

We will be using ClassDojo as our main form of communication. Please be sure to connect as soon as possible so you will be informed of upcoming school events, important dates, tests, etc. Parental involvement is very important to ensure that your child succeeds academically this year.

Ms. Kendall Green is the social studies and science teacher, Mrs. Kristin Godfrey is the math teacher, and Ms. Glenda Smith is the ELA teacher.

Progress Learning, Reading Wonders, Google Classroom, and iStation are some of the programs and resources we will be using this year.

We have many exciting activities planned! We are looking forward to helping our new students learn and grow this year!

Kristin Godfrey - [kgodfrey@miller.k12.ga.us](mailto:kgodfrey@miller.k12.ga.us)

Kendall Green - [kendall.green@miller.k12.ga.us](mailto:kendall.green@miller.k12.ga.us)

Glenda Smith - [gsmith@miller.k12.ga.us](mailto:gsmith@miller.k12.ga.us)

### **5th Grade News**

Welcome to 5th Grade!!

We are looking forward to a WONDERFUL school year. We ask that all parents stay involved as much as possible. Parental involvement is key in your child's academic success this year. We will be utilizing Class Dojo, and we strongly urge you to connect as soon as the information is shared.

We will also be utilizing the following computer programs this year: iStation (reading and math), Progress Learning, Xtra Math, Online components of Reading Wonders, and Google Classroom.

Kaley Moates- ELA [kmoates@miller.k12.ga.us](mailto:kmoates@miller.k12.ga.us)

Collin Morrison- Sc/SS-[collin.morrison@miller.k12.ga.us](mailto:collin.morrison@miller.k12.ga.us)

Jessica Sexton- Math [jsexton@miller.k12.ga.us](mailto:jsexton@miller.k12.ga.us)

### **Pre-K News**

Welcome to Pre-K! We are super excited to have your little ones join our Pirate family and to be a part of their growth and development. This year is sure to be a fun and rewarding time for your child.

Our focus for the beginning of the year is getting to know our school and classroom routines. This month's topics are All About Pre-K and All About Me, My Friends, and My Family.

- Please send in a family photo for our family wall.
- Please make sure you sign-up for ClassDoJo. This is our parent-teacher communication app.
  - Please check your child's folder daily.
- Make sure you send an extra change of clothing that is weather appropriate for your child.
  - Please label all clothing, food containers, water bottles, etc. with your child's name.

Thank you,  
Pre-K Teachers

Joni Cook [joni.cook@miller.k12.ga.us](mailto:joni.cook@miller.k12.ga.us)

Letiana Miller [letiana.miller@miller.k12.ga.us](mailto:letiana.miller@miller.k12.ga.us)



## MILLER COUNTY ELEMENTARY

### Grade Level Orientation Nights

Dear Parents/Guardians:

**IMPORTANT, IMPORTANT, IMPORTANT!! PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!!**

We will host grade level orientation night on Tuesday, August 6th from 5:00 to 6:30. Teachers will take time to explain grade level curriculum and expectations, and they will answer questions that parents and/or guardians may have. Two sessions will be held per grade level. Session 1 will begin at 5:00 and will conclude at 5:40. Session 2 will begin at 5:45 and will conclude at 6:30. We hope this will allow parents with students in multiple grade levels to be able to visit all applicable grade levels for orientation sessions.

**These are very important meetings, and we strongly urge our students' parents to attend.** We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, August 6th!

Educationally yours,

Temika Brown  
MCES Principal

**Please remember: No dresses or skirts, sandals, boots, or anything with a heel on P.E. days. Please wear tennis shoes on P.E. days!**