

GETTING STARTED AT EASTOVER ELEMENTARY



Welcome to the Eastover Family!

Our unique neighborhood school serves as a catalyst for student achievement and personal excellence, where *great minds take flight.*

Written by Eastover parents and staff, this guide provides important information for new families about our school.



EASTOVER



schools.cms.k12.nc.us/eastoverES



OUR MISSION

To serve as a catalyst for student achievement and personal excellence through rigorous and relevant core content as we sculpt responsible citizens in a 21st century global learning environment.

EASTOVER LEARNER'S CREED

As an Eastover student,
I promise to believe in myself,
to do my best at all times,
to do the right thing,
to make the right choices.

I will use my senses and abilities.
I promise to make the most of this day.

SCHOOL VISION

To provide a learning environment that builds proficient students to succeed in a progressive community. Eastover is a school that families actively seek because students will be prepared to adapt and participate in an evolving world.

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After School Enrichment Program (ASEP)

Eastover has a tuition-based after school program for working parents. This is a program that is managed by the CMS ASEP department and located at Eastover. Only Eastover students can participate in this program. Because there are a limited number of students served, parents are urged to register early. Information about this program will be sent to you prior to the start of school, or you may contact the school office (980-343-5505) and ask to speak to the ASEP director. Information is also available on the Eastover Elementary School web site.

After-School Activities

You will receive information during the school year via your child's Tuesday folder regarding special after-school activities, including Play Spanish, soccer, golf, Mad Science, Lacrosse, Girls on the Run (3rd grade +), Boys' Let Me Run (4th grade +) and Chess Club (1st grade +). All of the activities take place on campus, and the teachers do an excellent job of getting the children from their classrooms directly to the activities. Most programs have a fee of some kind and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please look out for this information, and feel free to ask some of the more seasoned parents about their past experiences with these excellent programs.

Cafeteria

Children may either purchase lunch from the cafeteria or bring lunch in a bag or lunch box. Please clearly label all lunch boxes with your child's name. The monthly lunch and breakfast menus may be found online on the CMS website. For K-5th grade, lunch is currently \$2.15 or .40 (reduced fee). Breakfast is available free to ALL students between 7:45 and the 8:15 bell. Drink options (including bottled water) and fresh fruit are also available. Prices are subject to change.

There are two payment options for purchasing lunch and/or drinks. You may send in money or you may use the Pay PAMS system to set up a secure on-line account. This can be done at www.paypams.com. If you choose to send money, please submit a check made payable to Eastover Cafeteria in your child's Tuesday folder. The teacher will make sure that the cafeteria receives the check and credits his/her account. You may send in money on a daily basis; however it is easier to send in a lump sum sufficient to get your child through longer periods of time, such as several weeks or a month.

Each child is assigned an individual cafeteria number for his/her account. Your child will key his/her number into a number pad at the end of the cafeteria line. They are able to memorize their number quickly, and assistance is provided if they forget. When the balance is low, your child will be notified and/or you may receive a reminder call or note from the cafeteria staff. An email reminder is sent to Pay PAMS users.

Lunch is also a great time to visit your child at school. Eastover has 25-minute lunch periods and parents are always welcome to come and eat with their child. When you come to lunch, please sign in at the office and either meet your child in the cafeteria or go to his/her classroom shortly before lunch. When the weather is nice, you and your child may choose to eat at a table on our outdoor patio, located behind the cafeteria.

Carpool & Bus

You will fill out a transportation form indicating how your child will go home in the afternoon: bus, carpool, walk/bike or the after-school care program (ASEP). Please communicate your child's after school plans directly with his/her teacher and the front office by the first day of school. Expect bus and carpool delays the first two weeks of school as CMS bus drivers sort out routes, and parents get the hang of Eastover carpool procedures.

Upon arrival at school, your child will be greeted at the bus or at the carpool line by an Eastover staff member and directed to his/her classroom. Buses drop the children off in the morning in front of the school, along Cherokee Road. Carpoolers are also dropped off in front of the school for 30 minutes prior to the start of the school day. Students may not enter the school prior to 7:45 a.m. Parents are welcome to park in spaces away from the carpool line and walk their children to the front door. Please allow plenty of extra time to do this on the first day of school since there are limited places to park and many other parents will be doing this as well.

NOTE: Parking is not allowed on the school side of Cherokee Road during drop off and pick up.

In the afternoon, teachers escort the bus riders to their assigned buses based on the number provided by the school office. Please help familiarize your child with his/her bus number and bus stop, and remind him/her to get off the bus at your designated stop.

Our Assistant Principal is in charge of the buses and can be reached at the front office phone number: 980-343-5505. The CMS Bus Transportation hotline is: 980-343-6715 and the website address is <http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/cmsdepartments/transportation/Pages/default.aspx>

The afternoon carpool line will begin on Cherokee Road after the buses have departed. Cars line up prior to dismissal time on Cherokee. Teachers escort carpool riders to the gym (carpool area) where they wait until their car arrives. Parents are issued a carpool sign with the student's name, which should be hung on the rearview mirror through the carpool process.

Children who walk home from school also gather in the gym (carpool area) and are released independently or to a parent or other designated adult from there.

If your child will be changing how he or she will be getting home from school on any day, you must provide written notice to the classroom teacher by a note in your child's backpack or an email.

Contacting Your Teacher

There are several ways to contact your child's teacher. Check with your child's teacher to establish his/her preferred method of communication:

- Send a note in your child's backpack or in the Tuesday folder
- Email your teacher (email addresses can be found on the Faculty & Staff page on the school website, as well as in the Eastover Directory, published late in the fall of each school year)
- Call the school office at 980-343-5505

Conferences or meetings with teachers should be arranged by appointment so as not to disrupt instructional time.

Fun for the Whole Family

The Eastover PTA sponsors many events throughout the school year designed to unite Eastover students, families and faculty. These events include our Fall Fun Day, Student vs. Staff Basketball Game, Fall and Spring Book Fairs, Mother-Son Bowling, Father-Daughter Dance, the Eastover Talent Show and much more!

Fundraising

Money raised through our major fundraising campaigns is used primarily to provide much-needed items not provided by CMS, such as additional classroom technology, chess, exploratory Spanish, library books, classroom supplies, staff training, cultural arts and STEM programming and much more.

The Eastover PTA generally executes two major fundraisers per year. Invest in Your Child is Eastover's direct giving campaign that allows family and friends to contribute at any level. We encourage everyone to participate. Every donation counts, and no donation is too small. One-hundred percent of the money raised through Invest will be used in support of the school during the school year in which it is donated. If you are going to participate in only one fundraiser each year, we ask that you support Invest in Your Child!

A second fundraiser is held each year, this may include Boosterthon, a nine-day character education and fitness program or SOAR, a summer reading program. Throughout the year, the PTA also hosts several other optional fundraisers, such as our Book Fairs and Spirit Nights at local restaurants.

There are other non-PTA sponsored fundraisers you may hear about throughout the year. Student Council often sponsors non-uniform days to support various local charities. On designated days, children may wear an appropriate non-uniform outfit and may choose to bring in an optional donation to support a charity chosen by the student council. Information is sent home in the Tuesday communication folders. Our 5th grade students may host additional fundraisers to support the annual 5th grade overnight field trip.

Library Books

Once each week, your child will have the opportunity to check out a book from the media center. Loaned books should be returned to school the following week on the assigned library day. Your child may choose to keep the same book for more than one week, but he/she will not be able to check out another book until the book on loan is returned. Parents are also welcome to open an account and check out books. Our library has more books than our local Myers Park branch, so please take advantage of this great resource!

My Child is Absent

You can report your child's absence directly to the office through the Eastover web site, by clicking on the link Absent, Who to Contact. You may also send an email to your child's teacher. Extended absences of three days or longer due to illness require a doctor's note. Absences for scheduled family trips that are educational opportunities must be approved with the Principal. Approval forms are available in the office and must be submitted two weeks prior to the trip.

Parking

Parking is available along Cherokee Road, on the large playground side of the street, all day. Teachers also park here, so it can be crowded. Parking is available on the school side of Cherokee Road only between 8:45 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., when there are no buses using this area. The parking in the rear of the school is for teachers only. Please be courteous of our Eastover neighbors when you park on the street near their homes. Avoid parking too close to their driveways.

Physical Education (PE)

Once a week, your child will attend PE, as shown on the schedule provided by your child's teacher. Students must wear tennis shoes on their designated PE day, and they may choose to wear an Eastover logo t-shirt or SOAR t-shirt on their PE day.

School Directory

The PTA publishes a directory with student addresses and telephone numbers in the fall. Your consent will be required to have your child's information included in the directory. The consent form will come home in your child's Tuesday folder prior to the directory's publication.

School Hours

The starting bell is at 8:15 am and the closing bell is at 3:15 pm. Students arriving after 8:15 will be tardy and will need to check at the front office. If you need to pick up your child before the dismissal bell, the staff requests that you do so before 2:45 to ensure that the dismissal process runs safely and smoothly.

School Leadership Team (SLT)

The SLT is comprised of parents and school staff. The primary goal of this team is to monitor Eastover's school improvement plan. This plan, mandated by CMS, is developed by the SLT and serves as a guideline for continuous school improvement. The team meets monthly to discuss the school's progress, make revisions and discuss school-wide issues. You will receive further information on the SLT when school begins.

School Supplies

You can find the list of school supplies required for each grade on the Eastover PTA website. In the spring, you will be given the opportunity to pre-order your upcoming grade's supplies through EduKit. This is a convenient, but completely optional, resource. All preordered supplies will be delivered directly to the classroom on the first day of school. If you do not preorder supplies, please bring in all of your child's school supplies to the back-to-school open house, or send them in on the first day of school. Since some of the items are bulky, you may want to walk in and drop them off with your child. Please note that most of the items will be shared with the rest of the class and should not be labeled individually with your child's name. Book bags with wheels are not allowed for Kindergarten-3rd grade. They also do not fit well in classroom cubbies and cabinets.

Snacks

Each class may have a daily snack at a time designated by the teacher. Your child's teacher will inform you of your classroom snack policy at the beginning of the year.

Specials

"Specials" are what we call the weekly classes that the children attend away from their regular teachers: Music, Physical Education, Art, Technology and Media. Each class visits one Special per day. Chess instruction is given to 1st and 2nd grade classes during math. Exploratory Spanish will be offered once a week at different times in each grade level for 30 minutes.

Staggered Entry (Kindergarten only)

All kindergartners begin the school year with staggered entry. During the first four days of school, all incoming kindergartners will attend only one of the four school days. On the 5th day (Friday), all kindergartners attend, officially starting the year. On your staggered entry day, your child will be in class with a small number of other students. This gives our teachers the opportunity to spend time with and learn about your child, and to conduct informal assessments.

You will receive a letter from the school in the summer indicating your child's teacher and his or her staggered entry day. On your child's assigned day, he or she will report to the assigned kindergarten classroom. There will be staff members and parents available to assist with getting children to the classroom. Permanent teacher assignments will be made by the 20th day of school.

Tuesday Communication Folder (Tuesday Folders)

On Tuesdays, a communication folder is sent home with each child. It contains relevant forms and information from the classroom teacher, the school and/or the PTA. Please make sure that you review this information and sign the work samples, permission slips and forms as needed, and return the folder in your child's backpack the following day.

Uniforms

Eastover is a uniform school. Uniforms strengthen school unity and foster a sense of pride among Eastover students. Students wear white Eastover shirts with blue shorts, pants or skirts. Athletic shoes are preferred; boots are not permitted. The Uniform Chart is available from the PTA link on our school website and describes appropriate uniform attire.

You may order uniforms from Lands' End on their website at www.landsend.com or by calling 1-800-963-4816. The Eastover school code for Lands' End is 9000-2799-6. Locally, you can purchase uniforms at Educational Outfitters on Tyvola Road. Other good places to find uniform items include Target, Gap, and Old Navy.

You can also order spirit wear (t-shirts, hoodies, etc.) by sending an order form to school with your child or by mailing it to the address indicated on the form. Order forms are available in the front office and on the PTA website. Clothing orders will be placed in your child's backpack when he/she comes home from school. Spirit wear is also sold at special events, such as Fall Fun Day and the book fairs.

Eastover has a donation program called Used Blues for gently worn uniform items. Be sure to label everything that your child brings/wears to school that may come off or get lost, such as jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, backpacks, lunch boxes, etc.

Visiting the School Campus

You are always welcome to visit Eastover. During school hours, the main entrance doors are locked. All visitors will have to ring the bell located outside the entrance door for admittance. You must then sign in at the computer in the office, using a government issued ID or driver's license. Once you are checked in, you will receive a visitor's badge to be worn for the duration of your visit. When you leave, please sign out through the front office computer. This is a CMS-wide policy that is in place to protect our children and teachers.

Volunteering (Classroom and PTA)

There are many opportunities to assist both your child and Eastover. These opportunities range from one-time commitments to more extensive ongoing volunteer positions.

The goal is to have some level of involvement by all parents and guardians, recognizing that we all have varying levels of work and other commitments. You will quickly discover that one of the distinguishing features of an excellent school like Eastover is that a significant number of parents are involved on some level with their child and the school.

All volunteers must first be registered through CMS. You can do this on the Eastover PTA web site: www.eastoverpta.cmswiki.wikispaces.net. Click on the link "Register to Volunteer" to complete the process.

Classroom Volunteering

Room Parent: This is a great way for you to get involved. Each classroom usually has two room parents who assist the teacher with coordinating volunteers for classroom parties, special events and field trips, etc.

Let your child's teacher know if you are interested in becoming a room parent. Room parent volunteers will receive a detailed explanation of responsibilities, and there is an overall room parent coordinator who is available to answer questions and assist throughout the year.

Classroom opportunities: We urge you to get involved with your child's class. These are generally limited or even one-time commitments, and your child will love having you participate!

One way to get involved is through helping the teachers with classroom-related tasks, including workshop, photocopying, filling Tuesday folders and chaperoning class field trips. Please contact your child's teacher directly if you are willing to help with these responsibilities.

Other volunteer opportunities include helping your child's class with holiday parties or school-wide activities. At the beginning of the year, room parents will send out a volunteer sign-up form detailing the year's activities for you to complete.

Based on this, your room parents will create and send out a schedule of the year's volunteers.

PTA Volunteering

Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) Volunteer

Eastover is proud to have a large, active PTA of over 300 members. The general membership dues are \$6 per person per year. You will receive a form at the beginning of the school year to sign up for the PTA.

The PTA has regularly scheduled meetings throughout the year. You will be notified of the specific meeting dates in your child's Tuesday folder, weekly Eastover Express emails, and through our website. All parents are encouraged to attend all PTA General Membership meeting.

There are many established Committees that provide valuable support to our school, and we would love to have as many parents involved as possible. For a list of PTA Committee opportunities, please visit our PTA website. The link may be found on the general Eastover website.

There is also a PTA Board of Directors that meets monthly. Its members are elected and hold positions as officers and standing committee chairs.

EASTOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Where great minds take flight!



Dr. Susan Nichols, Principal

Eastover Elementary
500 Cherokee Road
Charlotte, NC 28207
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schools.cms.k12.nc.us/eastoverES

School Bell Schedule:
8:15 am-3:15 pm

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