

Merrill Mustangs Frequently Asked Questions

1. How many class periods are there?

Next year we will move from a 7-period day to a 6-period day where students will experience and engage in the courses listed below. Each period will be approximately 56 minutes in length, an increase of approximately 10 instructional minutes per class, per day.

- Language and Literature
- Math
- Science
- Individuals and Societies
- A/B Schedule - Music/PE and Health
- A/B Schedule - Spanish/Wheel Classes (Art, Business)

2. What time does school start?

The main doors to the building are unlocked at 8am. Students then go to the gymnasium or the cafeteria for breakfast and then to the gym after you eat. At 8:20, students are dismissed to go to their locker to put away their things. Students are expected to be in their first period class and ready to begin by 8:30.

3. Is there a supply list?

Yes, there is a 6th grade supply list, and you can check it out at merrill.dmschools.org There is a page in the drop-down under Parents for “2020-21 School Supplies Lists for All Grades” with a link to a PDF of each grades’ list or click [HERE!](#)

4. Can we use our cell phones at school?

Cells phones and other personal electronic devices (ear buds, tablets, etc.) need to be off and put away for the duration of the school day. We define “put away” as locked in a locker, checked-in to a trusted teacher at the start of the day, or left at home. We define “school day” as the time from when the student enters the building until 3:25. [Merrill’s Electronic Policy](#)

5. How long are passing periods?

Passing periods are 4 minutes long. Locker, drink and restroom.

6. Can I carry my backpack between class?

The halls are very busy during passing, and thus very congested. There just is not enough room for students and backpacks to travel through the hallways safely.

7. Is a PE uniform required for gym?

No, just be sure you wear comfortable clothes and tennis shoes on PE day.

8. Will there be assigned seats in the lunchroom?

In response to feedback from students and families regarding the crowded cafeteria, we will be hosting two, 30-minute lunch periods per grade level to allow for a more relaxed, less congested cafeteria. To make this work, half of the students in each grade level will be in Mustang Minutes while the other half will be at lunch. Along with this, we have been piloting deliberate, student intervention/extension time during Mustang Minutes and will continue to build off of this pilot next year. When students finish lunch, they have the choice to remain in the cafeteria or head outside to get 10-15 minutes of fresh air – even when it is cold outside.

9. Will I have my own locker?

You will be assigned a locker and a locker mate, the first week of school. Each locker will have a locker combination, unique to your locker. There will be lots of opportunities to practice opening and closing your locker combination, and teachers will be available to assist you as well. It is recommended that you:

- Do not share your locker or locker combination with others
- Keep your locker organized and clean
- Keep valuable items at home and not bring them to school

10. Are after school activities available for 6th graders?

Intramurals is a popular physical/sport related activity that includes: Ultimate frisbee, basketball, broom ball throughout the year.

Clubs: Some of our most popular clubs are Harry Potter, Minecraft, Everyone Can Change The World, History, Yearbook, Coding, Art Club, Recycling, Mustang TV, Journalism, GSA, Girl's Voices, Sisters for Success, & Battle of the Books(BOB)! You can find out more about Merrill Clubs on our website [HERE!](#)