



## Mill Creek Elementary School Frequently Asked Questions

### **Why is Mill Creek Elementary opening as a K-2 school for the 2023-24 school year?**

Due to delays in the construction schedule, KCS has been notified by our contractor that the school building will not be completely finished in time for all our students in August. The district will be able to open the school in partial capacity that would allow us to serve kindergarten, first, and second grades.

Students who are zoned for Mill Creek Elementary and will be a rising 3rd, 4th or 5th grader will remain at their current school for the 2023-24 school year.

### **Will ongoing construction have an impact on my child's learning environment?**

The majority of building construction is expected to be completed in July. The footprint of Mill Creek Elementary is designed to have two separate wings. The K-2 wing will operate as a standalone school with temporary walls installed. Workers will not have access to this part of the building. Any worker on-site is required to have completed and passed a state-required background check.

### **If construction is completed mid-year, can more grades open at Mill Creek Elementary?**

There are many decisions (including hiring staff and transportation) that must be made weeks before the opening of a new school and would prohibit the district from moving staff and students to Mill Creek Elementary after the start of the school year.

Mill Creek Elementary will open as a kindergarten through 5th grade (K-5) school for the 2024-25 school year.

### **Will there be a grandfather option for families?**

Knox County Schools will offer a one-time "sibling stay" to families who have a rising kindergartner, 1st, or 2nd grader AND a rising 3rd, 4th or 5th grader zoned for Mill Creek Elementary. This would allow a K-2 student to remain at their current school with their older sibling *for the 2023-24 school year only*. If your family qualifies, transportation will be provided.

### **How do I apply for a "sibling stay?"**

Families who are eligible for a "sibling stay" will receive a ParentSquare message on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, that includes a form to apply. The deadline to take advantage of this one-time option is Wednesday, March 1, 2023.

**Will there be a grandfather option for the 2024-25 school year?**

Mill Creek Elementary will open as a kindergarten through 5th grade (K-5) school for the 2024-25 school year. A grandfather option will be available to rising 5th graders only. If your family qualifies, transportation will NOT be provided.

**Will after-care be offered for Mill Creek Elementary?**

Yes, Mill Creek Elementary will have on-site, after-care and the administration is working to compile a list of additional providers.

**What encore classes will be offered to students at Mill Creek Elementary?**

Physical education, art, music, and library

**Will Mill Creek Elementary be ready with the educators, staff and services needed for special education students who will attend in the fall?**

Yes, we are currently in the process of hiring staff for all positions, including special education staff.

**Will improvements to Coward Mill Road be made prior to the start of school?**

The first phase of the road widening will be completed by July 2023, according to Knox County Engineering, which is overseeing the project. Phase one includes the portion of the road in front of the school.