

"EVERY CHILD, ONE VOICE" – CIDER MILL PTA

# Cider Mill School FAQs

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**(203) 762-3351 – Main School Number**

**(203) 834-4950 – Absence Line**

***August 27th is the first day of school.***

***It will be a full day, School Hours are 7:40 am to 2:10 pm.***

**Cider Mill is made up of four houses, what's that all about?**

The house system helps make a big school seem smaller. The children will stay on one side of the school for the duration of their time, but may switch between the two houses on that side. Our current 3rd grade has 3-4 classes in each house. The houses are:

**On the South Side of School – closer to Comstock Community Center**

Belden Hill – House Color - **YELLOW**

Kent – House color – **GREEN**

**North Side of the School – closer to High School Stadium**

Nod Hill – House color – **RED**

Cannondale – House color – **BLUE**

**When will I find out who my child's teacher is?**

You can expect an email from the school letting you know teacher and house in August.

**When will I find out about the bus for next year?**

Bus assignments with estimated time of arrival in the a.m. & the designated bus stop will be available online the weekend before school starts through the Parent Portal on [PowerSchool](#).

Be sure to be at your stop at least 5-10 minutes before the scheduled arrival.

**Is there a calendar of events somewhere?**

The Cider Mill School calendar is available at <http://www.wiltonps.org/cider-mill/cider-mill-information/calendar>

Where you'll also find a link to the Wilton School District Calendar.

**What's the trick for remembering email addresses?**

Staff members may be reached by email using the following format: last name then first initial @wiltonps.org

**How do I figure out drop off and pick up?**

There are two drop off/pickup lines -- North, which enters to the right from our main parking area and South, which enters to the left as you enter our driveway. Drop off runs from 7:20am to 7:40am. After 7:40am, parents must park and sign their child in at the Main Office. In the afternoon, children are dismissed to the pickup areas at 2:10 pm. Please remain in your car and remain in line at all times. **North** drop off/pick up is for Cannondale and Nod Hill houses. **South** drop off/pick up is for Belden Hill and Kent houses. If there are siblings, the designated drop off/pick up line *should* default to the youngest child. The school is a no idling zone and cars must be turned off when waiting in the pick-up line.

**How does School Dismissal Manager Work at Cider Mill?**

Before the start of school, parents will receive an email from School Dismissal Manager with their activation codes to set up their account. Children's dismissal plans **MUST BE ENTERED BY 12:30 PM** for each day. The site does provide the capability to enter plans for multiple days. Children will be sent on their home bus if no other plan is not entered. If parents miss the 12:30 pm deadline, a note must be brought to the office. For the students' safety, changes to a child's plans will not be accepted over the phone, fax or through email to the teacher. Pick-ups at the office are allowed only for appointments, illness or family emergency. Notes should only be sent to the teacher if the child is getting picked up early (before 2:10 pm) for an appointment.

**What does the PTA do at Cider Mill?**

We organize an annual Walkathon Fundraiser in October. We are so grateful to have the support of over 85% of families at the school for our one major fundraiser of the year! We also mastermind Bingo Night, Pizza & Paint Night, River Study Volunteers, School Store, Spirit-wear, Turkey Trot, participate in a creative competition called Odyssey of the Mind and our hugely successful Cider Mill's Got Talent! We also still have all the old favorites – visiting author, fun nights, field days, a parent directory, class parents, box tops, gifts and grants, library volunteers, reflections, children's enrichment programs, startup grants for teachers and our Hot Cider Newsletter. We have monthly meetings typically the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 9:15am in the cafeteria. During these meetings reports from the teacher representative and the principal are given as well as any new items that need to be brought to attention of parents.

**Does joining the PTA mean volunteering?**

NO! Although everyone is welcome to volunteer. Joining the PTA means that you appreciate what we do for ALL the students at Cider Mill, you get access to our online parent directory MobileArq and are able to hold Committee chair positions in the PTA and vote during meetings. You can sign up to join the PTA from Meet The Teacher day onwards. Sign up is all online.

**Does the PTA have a website?**

Yes! [www.cidermillpta.org](http://www.cidermillpta.org) you can find out who does what on our committees, find archived minutes, Hot Cider Newsletters, every form you could ever need relating to the PTA plus lots more.

**School Supplies. What do I need to get?**

The [supply list](#) is posted on the school's website. Alternatively, you can order all supplies you need in one handy kit. Our kits are through Edukit - [www.edukitinc.com](http://www.edukitinc.com) Order by June 30th to ensure you get the best price. Late ordering is available but for an additional fee.

**Is there a Facebook Group I can join to connect with other Parents?**

YES! Our group is called Cider Mill Parent Community. It's a great way to get your questions answered quickly and has quick links for helpful info pinned to the top.

**Is there anything I  
can do now to sup-  
port the school?**

-Fill in our [volunteer form](#) for next year. Email Jelueh Peck with any questions. [peckjelueh@gmail.com](mailto:peckjelueh@gmail.com)

-Save your box tops.

-Join our Facebook page.