

Welcome Back, Cooper Families!

“Building a New Chapter!”

August 6, 2025

Dear Cooper Families,

My name is Kristin Hinds, and I am excited to introduce myself as the new principal of Cooper Elementary. I know I am following a legendary Principal and am excited to continue the Cooper legacy.

I have 28 years of experience in education, having served as principal, assistant principal, curriculum implementor, restorative practice leader, literacy coach and teacher all in Milwaukee Public Schools. My passion for student success, strong leadership and commitment to building inclusive school communities is what I strive for.

Throughout my career I have focused on fostering a positive school culture, strong academic opportunities, supporting and coaching teachers, partnering with organizations and engaging families as partners in learning.

I am eager to get to know the families and work alongside staff, students and the broader community to continue making Cooper Elementary a place where every student feels known, challenged and supported.

Please join us at Cooper's Open House on Wednesday, August 27, 2025, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. I look forward to meeting you then. If you have an immediate need prior to then please contact me at 414-304-6305.

I am thrilled to begin building this new chapter together!

Warmly,

Kristin Hinds

Principal

Important Information

Our Cooper mission statement is Do the Right Thing! The Cooper staff lives and breathes this simple expectation. I expect nothing but the best from our students as well. I believe in holding our children accountable and responsible for their learning experience. I promise to continue to uphold the safe, orderly, and inviting learning environment at Cooper. I look forward to nurturing and

continuing the strong home-school connection already established.

Open House

The open house will be on **Wednesday, August 27, 2025, from 5:30-7:00 p.m.** Families will meet the teachers, drop off supplies, gather needed forms, and enjoy some ice cream. Please note that students will **not** be taking their pictures this year during the open house due to a scheduling conflict with Lifetouch.

First Day of Classes

The first day of classes will be **Tuesday, September 2, 2025.** Click on the link for the [MPS School Calendar](#) 25-26 school year. **Cooper's start and end time has changed; the new time is 7:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.**

Visitor Policy

I want to remind you of the procedures we are required to follow regarding visitors to our school:

- Use the main entrance on 21st Street. Use the doorbell to the right of the door. You will be greeted by the office staff
- Report to the office
- Show picture identification
- Sign in the MPS visitor record
- If you have a scheduled appointment and you need to go to a location other than the school office, you will need an MPS Visitor pass, and you will be escorted by a staff member to that location

Classroom visits will only happen if there is a scheduled appointment. All business should be done in the main office unless there is a scheduled appointment to go elsewhere in the building. Teachers are teaching and we want to preserve instructional time. Any birthday treats/pizza etc. will be dropped off at the office and the office staff will make sure the items are delivered to the classroom. Thank you in advance for following these procedures as we strive to keep all students and staff safe and learning.

Student Fees

\$10.00 for K4-8th grade will be applied to expenses toward classroom materials and supplies.

Picture Day

Due to scheduling conflicts picture day will take place Friday, September 5, 2025, and makeup/ retake will be Tuesday, October 7, 2025. As in the past,

Lifetouch, will be onsite to take school pictures.

Entry / Dismissal

Only buses will be permitted to drop off and pick up on 21st Street. Please avoid traveling north on 21st Street. Parents will pick up and drop off only on Abbott. Parents escorting students may park on the south side of Abbott or along the side streets. Please do NOT park in the “No Parking” zone as you may be subjected to a ticket by MPD. Parents are expected to turn right or head South on 21st Street. **Please note that to ensure safety and to honor instructional time any early release must occur before 1:45 pm. Between 1:45 pm and 2:15 pm families will not be able to enter the building to pick up students and will be required to wait in the pick-up line.** Dismissal is an extremely busy time of the day and to have smooth running systems there will be no calls to classrooms to release children between 1:45-2:15. If your child has an appointment and must leave early, please let the office know in advance.

Camp Cooper

Camp Cooper’s before (6:30-7:15a.m.) and after (2:15-5:00p.m.) program is in the process of returning for Cooper students ages 4-12. However, we are looking for an additional camp instructor. To accommodate all interested families, we need to increase the number of instructors. **If you are interested in applying for a camp instructor position, please call my direct line at 304-6305 ASAP.**

New Faces

We are pleased to introduce the following staff at Cooper:

- Ms. Teresa Reilly (5th grade)
- Mr. John McMahon, Jr (5th grade)
- Ms. Catherine (Kate) Saldana (4th grade)
- Ms. Emily Arneson (3rd grade)
- Ms. Carly Chiappetta (2nd grade)
- Ms. Kelly Tanem (K5)
- Ms. Elizabeth Schlehlein (K5)
- Ms. Jennifer Torres (Paraprofessional)
- Ms. Jan Novarra (Guidance Counselor)

Thank you for your commitment and support as we work together for the successful learning and well-being of all our children in our school community. I encourage you to stop and see me when you get an opportunity. I anticipate an extraordinary year!

May the remainder of your summer be amazing! Get ready to write the next chapter at Cooper! I am looking forward to seeing families on Wednesday,

August 27, 2025, for the open house and welcoming you back to Cooper on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, for the first day of school. Remember the school day has changed to 7:15-2:15.

Respectfully Yours,

Kristin Hinds

Principal

hoelzkm@milwaukee.k12.wi.us

414-304-6305 (direct office number)