

Martinez Elementary



**1250 Merchant St
Abilene, Texas 79603
325-794-4160**

School Mascot: White Tiger

School Colors: Maroon/Black

Principal – Mildred Petty

Assistant Principal – Simon Guerrero

Instructional Coordinator – Yolanda Morales

Counselor – Brittany Robinson

School Nurse – Traci Wasmer

School Secretary – Christina Cortez

Parent Coordinator – Linda Piazza

Office Assistant – Elsa Rivas

Cafeteria Manager- Rosemary Rocha

Martinez Elementary Mission Statement:

Our mission is to prepare Martinez students to be productive citizens in our diversified and changing society. To do this, we must meet the educational, emotional, and social needs of all students.

Martinez Elementary School Motto:

We will Rise to the Challenge

Welcome Martinez Tiger Families to the 2021-2022 school year. We are so happy that you will be a part of our family in this next year! We will learn and grow together! We are all so excited to come together this year!

Martinez Elementary Specific Information for 2021-2022

Arrival, Dismissal and Traffic Procedures

Early Arrival

When arriving before 7:40am, students will be dropped off in the front driveway on Merchant Street. Please be aware that cars enter in the north driveway entrance and exit through the south entrance. Monitors will be on duty to help students to the cafeteria or computer labs. All students that walk, ride a bicycle, or ride in a car and arrive at school before 7:40am, will wait in the cafeteria (grades 1-5) or computer labs (kinder) seated by homeroom class.

To ensure a calm start to the school day this is a quiet time with zero voice level.

Arrival

Students who do not arrive early may be dropped off and enter the cafeteria entrance to the building on Merchant Street to go to class at 7:45. Please plan for time in the driveway. Students are tardy after the 7:50am bell and a parent will escort their student(s) to the cafeteria for a pass. Morning announcements are at 8am.

School Dismissal

Students who ride the bus, must go straight to the school bus, Day Care bus, Boys' and Girls' Club, their bike, or walk home. Car riders will be called to their ride. Teachers and staff are on duty at all pick-up points. Students are not allowed to play on campus after school. Students are not allowed to re-enter the building after dismissal. Students will not be allowed to wait for parents to pick them up across the street. The students who are not walkers, will be with their class in front of the building and parents can pick them up with a car tag in their vehicle, or park across the street and walk up to pick up their child. Any changes regarding how a child is to get home should be discussed with your child/children before school or called in to the office by 2:30pm so that we may give a message to the student/students.

All Kindergarten to 2nd grade students picked up by cars or by a parent/designee in person will exit through the cafeteria doors. Students will wait seated by class with their teacher. Kinder students picked up by a parent or designee in person must be signed out with their teacher. Staff will be on duty to make sure students get into their car safely. Kinder students who ride a school bus or daycare bus will be taken to the bus lane on Clinton St. Walkers will be escorted out of the building by staff members.

All 3rd-5th grade students picked up by a parent/designee or a car will exit through the library or cafeteria doors facing Merchant St. Students will wait seated by grade level with their teacher. The parents picking up their student by car must have a CAR TAG indicating the name and grade of their student as well as the teacher. If you do not have a CAR TAG,

we will gladly help you with obtaining one by asking that you pull forward through the drive and walk into the building to obtain a CAR TAG. At times we will have staff available with CAR TAGS in hand to assist you. All daycare and bus riders will go directly to Clinton St to board the bus or van. Boys' and Girls' participants will go straight to the club through the PE gym doors. Walkers will be escorted out of the building by staff members.

Traffic and Parking

Parents that park in the Merchant Park parking lot, or in the street (be aware of which sections of the street have No Parking signs) should walk across the crosswalk on the street and parking lot to pick up students. Please stay on the crosswalk. Do not cross through traffic in the drive through lane or across the parking lot. Staff is on duty to direct car and pedestrian traffic. A crossing guard is stationed on Merchant St. We will not let students cross the driveway or street alone. Parents must walk up to the teacher.

Parents will not be allowed to park in the Faculty parking lot, the lot on North 12th, this parking lot is for faculty and staff only. We do have some of our student walkers cross through the parking lot, so we want them to be safe.

Parking spaces in the front main parking lot on Merchant St are blocked off every afternoon between 2:00-2:30 in preparation for afternoon dismissal. All cars must be in the drive-through lane only. All cars must have a student pick up sign.

Change in after school plans

Please call the office by 2:30pm if you need to change the plans for after school dismissal. It is imperative you call prior to 2:30pm so that we can be certain to get the message to your student on time.

Absences and Tardies

Reporting Absences

If your child/children will be absent, please call the school as early as possible to report your student absent. When your student returns to school, please have your student bring a doctor's note and/or a note from a parent stating why the child was absent with a signature and date.

If your child/children will have an appointment and they need to be picked up, please come to the office and request for your child to be picked up. Be sure to pick your child up prior to 2:30 if they have a late afternoon appointment. Students, after 2:30, are moving and preparing for dismissal and it may take a longer period of time to round up your student. We just want to prevent any delays in getting to your appointments. As always, please have your student turn in his/her doctor's note the following day. Please make every effort to have your student at school every day.

Tardies

Tardies will cause your student to miss important instruction time that is vital to his/her education. Your students school day begins at 7:50am and ends at 3:15pm.

5 tardies- letter will be sent to parent or guardian

10 tardies- phone call to parent or guardian

15 tardies- parent conference with principal

20 tardies- letter to parents stating that this has become an attendance issue which could result in a possible citation and transfer revocation if applicable.

Please ensure that your students get to school on time, every day.

Release and Return of Students During the School Day

Students who need to leave school for a period of time during the day, must be signed out in the office and upon your return, they must be signed back in through the office before returning to class. Please have your student return with a doctor note so that the absence can be counted as an excused absence.

Contacting the Teacher/Conferences

Contacting the Teacher- Parents, if you are wanting to meet with your child's teacher, you can either call their extension or communicate via email. Remember, that during the day, teachers may be teaching and may not answer phone calls, but leave them a voicemail and they will return your calls as soon as they can.

Conferences- We encourage parent/teacher conferences at least one time a year. If you are needing it more often, that is not a problem. In fact, we encourage it! Parents, to schedule a conference you can call or email your student's teacher and set up a time that will be convenient for you to meet.

School Nurse- Our nurse is Traci Wasmer. Nurse Wasmer will be available from 7:15-3:30 every school day. You can leave medication at school for your student, but you will need to visit with the nurse and fill out the appropriate paperwork. Your student can not keep medication on their person or their backpack. All medication must be kept in the clinic. When the nurse feels that your student is too sick to be at school, she will call to have your child picked up as soon as possible.

Visitors- Every visitor to our campus must check in at the front office with a picture ID. If a visitor does not have a picture ID with them, we will ask them to retrieve their picture ID so we can allow them on campus. If you will need to go to another area other than the office, we will scan your picture ID and give you an ID to stick on your clothing for identification. The office staff will hold on to your ID until you conclude your business on campus.

We enjoy having parents come to eat lunch with their children. You can bring outside food for your student, but only for your student, not for any other student, even if they are related to you in some way. We want to be careful with other students' allergies. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Student Behavior Management- Martinez Elementary uses the CHAMPS and Foundations program for managing discipline. Every teacher, instructional aide, and administration personnel have been fully trained on the discipline management program. The teachers teach and model expected behaviors and work with students daily so they can be successful in the classroom.

When a student is sent to the office for a behavior infraction, parents will be contacted and talked to about the infraction and what plan is in place to help the student get back on track. Here at Martinez Elementary we know and understand that it is a team effort when it comes to educating and growing our students socially and emotionally.

Birthdays and Celebrations Parents can bring store bought cupcakes for their students on their birthday to share with their class. You can drop the cupcakes off in the office and we will make sure they get to your child's classroom. Teachers will distribute the cupcakes at the end of the day, to not interrupt instruction time.

If you want to have the teacher pass out birthday party invitations, please have an invitation for each student in the class. You can ask the teacher how many students are in the class, to have enough invitations.

Please do not send flowers, or balloons to your child on their birthday or any other holiday.

Recess Every student at Martinez Elementary will get a set time for recess every day. At Martinez Elementary, we know the importance and the value of letting students run and play during their educational day. When the weather is under 40 degrees and over 90 degrees, students will not go outside. Teacher's will come up with alternative break time for students.

Lost and Found The lost and found is in our cafeteria in a bin that is labeled "Lost and Found." Parents, please label all coats/jackets, lunch boxes, and string sacks so if an item is left, we can get it back to your student as quickly as possible.

Dogs and animals on campus Please do not bring animals of any kind on campus without prior approval from the Principal. We appreciate your understanding.

Volunteering Parents, you can volunteer on campus, we will need you to obtain a background check prior to starting your volunteer service. The office can help you with information on volunteering on our campus.

When your student's class goes on a field trip, your child's teacher will let you know if parents are needed to attend or if parents can attend. Some field trips do not have the space for parents to accompany their student. When parents can attend, parents must check in at the office and receive a sticker identification to place on their shirt/blouse. This will show the teacher that the parent was checked in by the office. We appreciate your understanding of our policies to keep everyone safe.

School Communication When important information needs to relay to parents, we will do so by letters and/or a phone call via our district school messenger as well as the use of Remind. Please be sure that your phone number is updated in Frontline so that you will always have the latest information from Martinez Elementary.

Face Coverings

All students are required to use non-medical grade face coverings that cover the nose and mouth. We will provide masks if a student or visitor does not have one prior to entering the campus. Gaiter type masks are recommended for our younger students as they are easier for students to keep up with their face masks throughout the school day. Another benefit of gaiter type mask is that they are more breathable.

Visitors

Myra P. Martinez Elementary will limit visitors to our campus to those essential to school operations. Parents and/or visitors will not be allowed in the cafeteria during breakfast or lunch hours. Parents and/or guardians will not be permitted to eat breakfast or lunch on campus with their child.

Visitors allowed to enter the campus will be required to wear masks and will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms.

Meetings with parents and/or guardians, to the greatest extent possible, will be done by appointment or through a virtual format.

Parents needing to drop off items for their student during the day, can do so by labeling and leaving on a designated table in the front foyer of our school. Our receptionist will be happy to assist when necessary.

Arrival

Parents and/or guardians can drop their students off starting at 7:15 by car, or either by walk up via the crosswalk. Parent/guardians will not be allowed in the building, but can walk there student up to the door. All students will be supervised by campus faculty and staff starting at 7:15.

Kinder students will enter the outside door leading to the LRC. The kinder students will sit in the two computer lab rooms, by teacher. Staff will be supervising students until teacher picks up their class at 7:35. This time is a quiet time for your student to get ready for the school day. Students can read quietly or study.

First grade students will enter through the cafeteria doors and sit in their teacher line. Staff will monitor students until teacher picks up their class at 7:35. This time is a quiet time for your student to get ready for the school day. Students can read quietly or study.

Second through fifth grade students will enter through the cafeteria doors and go directly to their homeroom class where staff will be monitoring students. This time is a quiet time for your student to get ready for the school day. Students can read quietly or study.

Dismissal

Every parent and/or guardian will need to have 'CAR TAG' whether they are car pick up or walk up. You can obtain a CAR TAG from your student's teacher or from the front office. The CAR TAG will have your student's name, grade, and teacher name. This will expediate the process of dismissing your student from their teacher.

Every parent and/or guardian is encouraged to use the app REMIND in order to let teachers know that you have arrived to pick up your student. If you are unable to download the app, that is perfectly fine, the CAR TAG will suffice.

If you have a kinder student, they will be in the cafeteria. Teachers will be at the door and you can either send a message through REMIND or show your CAR TAG and the teacher will dismiss your student.

First grade through fifth grade students will remain in their classes until they are notified via REMIND or called from the CAR TAG.

We will have Martinez ADMIN outside if you are a parent/guardian of a student and do not have REMIND. Please have your CAR TAG, and the ADMIN assisting you will call for your student.

Please practice social distancing and wear your face masks.

Martinez Elementary will have two car rider's pickup lines this year. Mrs. Petty and Mrs. Stewart will supervise the car lines and crosswalk. We ask for everyone to be watchful of our children who may not be paying attention.

If your student is a bus rider, walker, or will attend Boys & Girls Club, they will be escorted by staff to those locations at 3:15.

We ask that if your pickup for your student will change for the day, please notify the office at 325-794-4160, so that we can make those changes on our end as well.

Transition

When students are moving about the building, only one class will be in the hallway at a time to maintain social distancing. All students, along with faculty/staff, will wear their masks.

The grade levels that teachers team teach; the teachers will move instead of the students having to move from one class to another.

Students will have a recess time during their school day. We are blessed here at Martinez Elementary, by having such a large outside area so that our students can spread out. We have four different areas that will accommodate four classes per grade level. The classes will rotate throughout the week, so all students will see each area during the week.

Breakfast

Breakfast will begin to be served to our students at 7:35 in their hallway. Teachers will limit the number of students in the hallway to receive their tray in order to maintain social distancing. Our students will eat their breakfast in the classroom with their teacher. Please remember, parents/guardians will not be allowed to eat lunch with their student.

Lunch

We will have two locations for our students to eat lunch in order to maintain social distancing. The cafeteria will occupy 50% of our students and the other 50% will eat in the Franklin Gym. The cafeteria will deliver lunches to students who will eat in the Franklin Gym in order to avoid spills, and travel time. Students will be supervised by staff and administration during their mealtime.

Please remember, parents/guardians will not be allowed to eat lunch with their student.