8.31.2026 Edition

Smoke Signals Newsletter

Travis Rohrig, Principal

Trina Schutte, Dean of Students

School website: https://www.milan.k12.in.us/o/mes
Link to Milan Spirit Store:
http://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/indiana/milan/milan-high-school

MILAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

Weekly Breakfast and Lunch Menu
Link to the folder of cafeteria menus: https://bit.ly/3h9v1ju

Tuesday1	Wednesday 2	Thursday 3	Friday 4	Monday 7
French Toast Sticks Sausage Link Salisbury Steak Mashed Potato Carrots Roll Fruit	Breakfast Pizza Graham Cracker Hard Shell Tacos Corn Salsa & Chips Fruit	Cereal Buttered Toast Corn Dog Baked Beans Mixed Vegetables Applesauce	Pop Tart Sausage Link Grilled Cheese Tossed Salad Peas Fruit	LABOR DAY PIC NO SCHOOL
Tuesday 8	**Wednesday 9**	**Thursday 10**	**Friday 11**	**Monday 14**
Breakfast Bar Sausage Link Cheeseburger Baked Beans Corn Fruit	Cereal Buttered Toast Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potato Carrots Roll Fruit	Mini Pancakes Sausage Link Pizza Crunchers Tossed Salad Cucumber Slices Applesauce Cookie	Pancake/Sausage Stick Graham Cracker Pizza Tossed Salad Cucumber Slices Baked Apples	Muffin Sausage Link Steak Hoagie Potato Wedges Green Beans Fruit

IF YOUR CHILD HAS A TRANSPORTATION CHANGE, **PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE**. DO ***NOT*** RELY ON JUST SENDING A MESSAGE OR EMAIL TO THE TEACHER. WE CAN NOT GUARANTEE THAT THE TEACHER WILL SEE THE MESSAGE BEFORE DISMISSAL.

812-654-2922

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Important Dates

⭐ Character Counts - wear ORANGE - Sept 1
⭐ Character Counts - wear RED, MES School Picture Day - Sept 2
⭐ Character Counts - wear PURPLE, Vision Screenings - G1, G3, New Students,- Sept 3
⭐ G3/4 Girls Bball Camp 1-2pm MES gym - Sept 6
⭐ Labor Day - No School - Sept 7
⭐ School Smiles - Sept 8
⭐ School Smiles - Sept 9
⭐ Evening K-4 Parent Conferences - Sept 10
⭐ eLearn Day/Conferences - Sept 11
⭐ G3/4 Girls Bball Camp 1-2pm MES gym - Sept 13
⭐ Early Dismissal/PLC (extended), MCT Kindergarten Vision Screenings - Sept 16
⭐ G3/4 Girls Bball Camp 1-2pm MES gym - Sept 20
⭐ September Birthday Celebration - Sept 24
⭐ G3/4 Girls Bball Camp 1-2pm MES gym - Sept 27
⭐ Fall Break begins - No School - Oct 2

bloomz	We apologize for any connection issues from Bloomz. If you have Bloomz connection issues, email Travis Rohrig at travis.rohrig@milan.k12.in.us for assistance. Mr. Rohrig will work with you to get things corrected or organized for you. Several of you have done so already, and that has been super helpful!
LABOR DAY OBSERVANCE MILAN SCHOOLS	Just a reminder that Milan will not be in session on Monday, September 7th. We will be observing Labor Day.

	The deadline for parents to sign up to be volunteers or chaperones for field trips is October 1st. If you would like to volunteer or chaperone, you will need to fill out and complete our Volunteer and Chaperone Form. You can access it here.

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PLEASE help our bus drivers!

If your child has a note to ride the bus to a different location (ex Grandma's, babysitter, etc) PLEASE include the address so we do not have them on the wrong bus!

Yearbooks are in!!!

There were several yearbooks ordered, so they will be passed out this coming week.

Also, we have a few extra yearbooks for sale. The price is $20 and they are first come, first served.

These yearbooks are quite impressive!!





Get ready—the Scholastic Book Fair is coming to our school!
Dates: SEPT. 10, 2026 (3-7PM) & SEPT. 11, 2026 (8-3PM) at the MES LIBRARY
School homepage:
https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/milanelementaryschool
This is a great opportunity to build your child's home library with new books that will get them excited
about reading, while also earning funds for our school.
The easiest way to let your child shop the Fair independently is by creating a Book Fair eWallet through
our school homepage. It's easy to set up and easy for family and friends to add funds.

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DRESS CODE UPDATE

As the weather stays warm, I wanted to have a few reminders about our dress code.

- Shoes need to have a back on them.

OK	NOT OK
	 
Any other sandals with a back on them. This is a safety measure.	
	Any other sandal or shoe that does not have a back on them.

- Pants with holes should have something under them or no holes above the middle of the middle finger.
- Shorts length should be to the middle of the middle finger.



This is a great guide for short length.

Not allowable

Holes higher than allowable shorts.



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CARES Central
TEACH SKILLS, OFFER SUPPORT, WATCH THEM GROW

CARES TUTORING UPDATE

We begin **on Monday 08/31**, and will follow every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday unless otherwise noted. Permission forms were sent home with previous CARES students. Please return those to the office ASAP.

If you are interested in your child participating in CARES, contact Sara Hill at sara.hill@milan.k12.in.us .

School Smiles Mobile Dentist will be back at Milan Elementary.

The Mobile Dentist will be returning to our building on September 8th and 9th.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Nurse Helen Hixson.



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It's time to get ready for **Milan Football Homecoming 2026!** 🏈🖤💛

The Indians will take on the **Edinburgh Lancers**, and we'd love to see our community showing their Milan pride!

Shirt options:

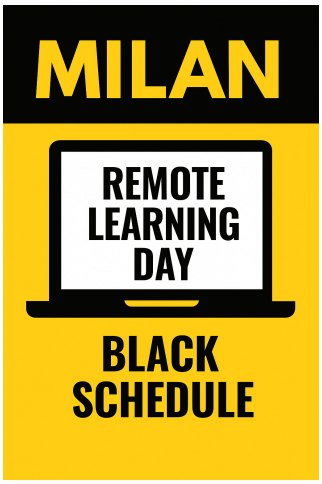
- Short Sleeve — $20
- Long Sleeve — $22
- Crewneck — $27
- Youth & Adult Sizes Available

📅 **Orders are due Tuesday, September 8.**

LINK TO ORDER







Parent Teacher Conferences/Remote Learning Day

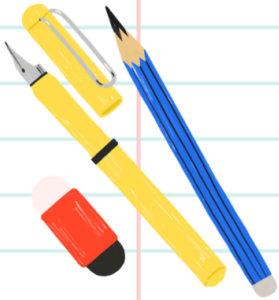
We will be having a planned e-Learning day on 9/11. We will be using this day for Parent Teacher Conferences.

Your teacher might have you sign up for a conference on Wednesday 9/9 or Thursday 9/10.

CHARACTER COUNTS AT MILAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The Six Pillars of Character

August 27th - wear blue (trustworthiness)
August 28th - wear yellow (respect)
August 31st - wear green (responsibility)
September 1st - wear orange (fairness)
September 2nd - wear red (caring)
September 3rd - wear purple (citizenship)



This is a great time to discuss what each character trait means and how we can show them in our daily words and actions.

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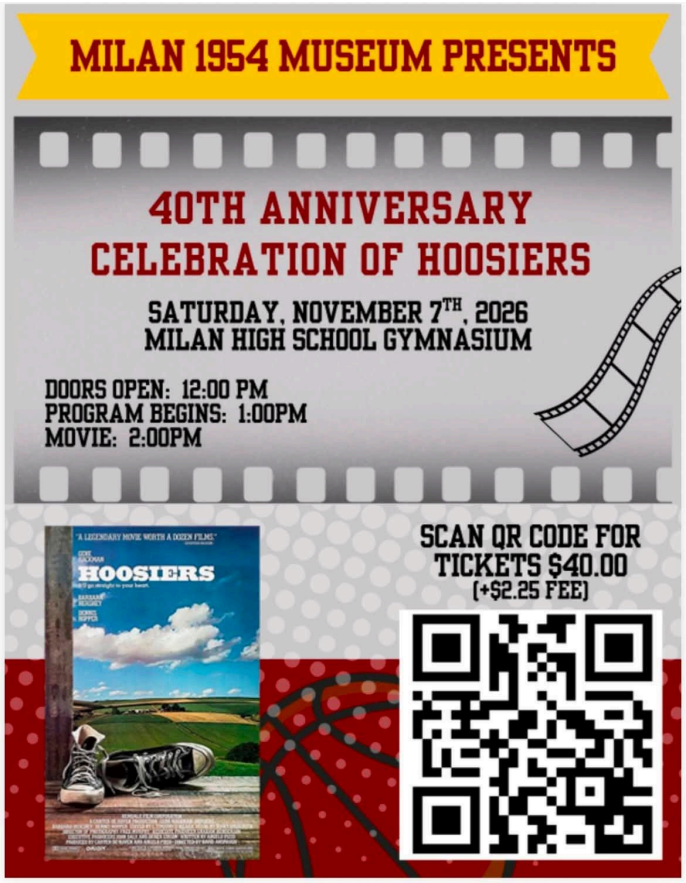
PTO NEWS

	COMING SOON!!!! START ASKING YOUR REPEAT SOAPY JOE BUYERS. WE WILL LOOK TO SELL SOAP AGAIN THIS FALL. STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS!	

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Milan Elementary School is pleased to share information about local clubs, organizations, and community activities that may be of interest to our students and families. Please note that the inclusion of an organization or event in this newsletter does not indicate that Milan Elementary School is affiliated with, sponsors, or endorses the organization or activity. We share these announcements simply to help keep our school community informed and connected to opportunities in the greater Milan community.



You can also purchase tickets at this LINK.



The Scouting Edge

Whether it's tackling a tough problem or rendering aid during an emergency, Scouts excel. They have the skills, confidence, and character traits necessary to become better students, friends, neighbors, and citizens.

98% 98% of alumni and 93% of current youth ***Scouts agree that Scouting gives them an "edge" in life.***

99% 99% of alumni and 95% of current youth Scouts agree that ***Scouting helps character development.***

96% 96% of alumni and 96% of current youth Scouts agree that ***Scouting has had a positive effect on their leadership abilities.***

95% 95% of alumni and 85% of current youth Scouts agree that ***Scouting has positively influenced their ability to overcome adversity.***

Source: The Scouting Edge Study by The Harris Poll, 2023

9

Shoot-O-Ree
October 17th

Overnight Option Available

NEW SCOUTS ATTEND SATURDAY ACTIVITIES FOR FREE!



Starting a Scouting unit provides **benefits to the community** and to **you!**

- Local families delivering local impact
- Prepared and responsible citizens
- Environmental stewardship
- Support of school, civic, and religious organizations
- Stronger future leaders
- Safer and more connected communities
- Increased community service and engagement

10

Preparing America's Youth for Lives of Impact and Purpose!

Scouting America
Hoosier Trails Council

BIG SIS / LIL SIS

BASKETBALL PROGRAM

PRESENTED BY
MILAN LADY INDIANS BASKETBALL

BUILDING CONFIDENCE. CREATING FRIENDSHIPS. LEAVING OUR MARK.

WHAT IS BIG SIS / LIL SIS?

Big Sis / Lil Sis pairs Milan Lady Indians basketball players (High School) with elementary school girls for a year of mentorship, fun, and friendship!

High school players will be great role models and help encourage you to be the best version of yourself — on and off the court!

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Shirts & Tie-Dye Warm-Ups
- Locker Decorations
- Reading & School Visits
- Social Media Features & More!

COST TO JOIN:

$25

Helps cover a portion of expenses such as shirts, basketballs, etc.

Financial hardship waivers available if necessary.

WHO CAN JOIN?

All girls in 3rd – 6th grade are welcome!

WHEN?

Throughout the 2026–2027 Basketball Season

WHERE?

Milan Elementary Schools & Milan High School

NO OFFICIAL DEADLINE; HOWEVER, TO GET THE MOST TIME AND BENEFITS PREFERRED REGISTRATION BY OCTOBER 1ST.

YES! I WANT TO BE A PART OF BIG SIS / LIL SIS!

NAME: _____ GRADE: _____

SCHOOL: _____ TEACHER: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

SHIRT SIZE (YOUTH): ☐ YS ☐ YM ☐ YL ☐ YXL | ADULT S ☐ ADULT M ☐

TELL US ABOUT YOU! (What are your hobbies? What do you like to do?) _____

_____

☐ I give permission for my child to participate in the Big Sis / Lil Sis Basketball Program and activities.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

QUESTIONS? → Blake.davis@milan.k12.in.us | Follow us: @Milanindianswbb

BE A LIL SIS. LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER.

LEAVE YOUR MARK.

MILAN LADY INDIANS

ELEMENTARY/ INTERMEDIARY BASKETBALL CAMP

PLAY. MAKE FRIENDS. GROW TOGETHER. LEAVE YOUR MARK.

COACHED BY

High School Staff, trusted members of our community and our High School Varsity/JV players.

AGE GROUPS

3rd & 4th Grade
ELEMENTARY

5th & 6th Grade
HIGH SCHOOL

CAMP DETAILS

Skill development, competitive games, teamwork, and tons of fun in a positive environment!

CAMP DATES

4 WEEKEND SESSIONS

9/6
9/13
9/20
9/27

WHAT TO EXPECT

Instruction from HS Staff & Players

Fun, Competitive Environment

Camp T-Shirt

Skill Development

COST TO JOIN:

$25

PER ATHLETE

SESSION TIMES & LOCATIONS

3RD & 4TH GRADE — MILAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | 1 HOUR

5TH & 6TH GRADE — MILAN HIGH SCHOOL GYM
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM | 1.5 HOURS

OFFICIAL DEADLINE: AUGUST 31, 2026

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP WAIVERS AVAILABLE IF NECESSARY.
Please indicate on the registration form if you need assistance.

YES! I WANT TO REGISTER!

ATHLETE NAME: _____ GRADE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

CIRCLE GRADE GROUP: ☐ 3RD & 4TH GRADE (ELEMENTARY) ☐ 5TH & 6TH GRADE (HIGH SCHOOL)

SHIRT SIZE (YOUTH): ☐ YS ☐ YM ☐ YL ☐ YXL | ADULT S ☐ ADULT M ☐ ADULT L ☐ ADULT XL

☐ I give permission for my child to participate in the Elementary/Intermediary Basketball Camp.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

blake.davis@milan.k12.in.us | QUESTIONS? REACH OUT!



This league is in Versailles for anybody interested. You can register HERE.

Fall Basketball Camp registration is now open! There are dates for 1st & 2nd and 3rd & 4th.
1st & 2nd: Sept 28th & 29th
3rd & 4th: Sept 21st& 22nd



CAMP IS FREE! Please complete the flyer that was sent home to reserve your spot.

If you have questions, contact joe.kirkhoff@milan.k12.in.us

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Here are some best practices and reminders for attendance.

- If you have attendance questions, call our Attendance Secretary, Mrs. Jodie Hooker.
- If your child is not going to be at school, **CALL IN TO MRS. HOOKER**. If you only send a message to your teacher, it will not count as a parent call in absence.

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- You get six parent call-ins a year. Even if your child is not going to be there and you have used all of your parent call-ins, still call in to let us know that your child will not be there.
- Tardies add up! Three tardies count as an absence!
- If you live outside the district, attendance could be a reason for having a transfer revoked.
- Attendance is a factor for attending field trips!

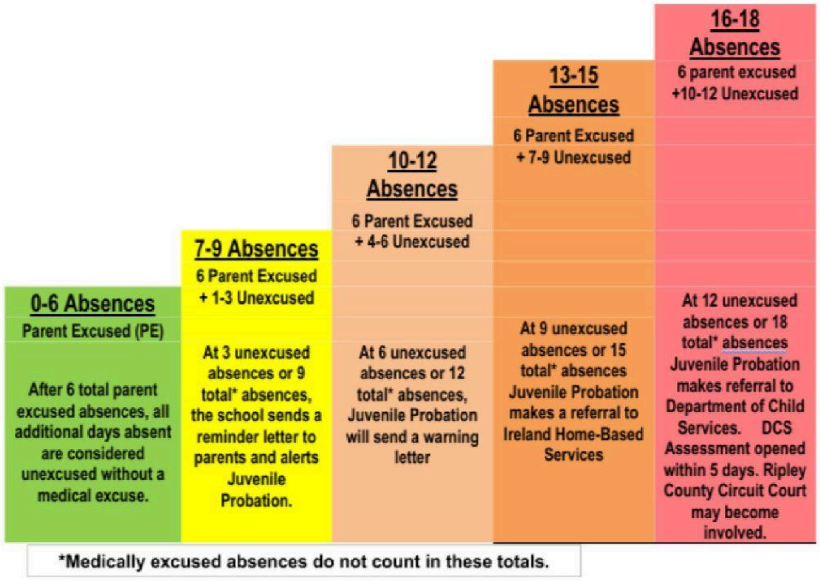
ATTENDANCE MATTERS AT MES!!!

Every MES student is able to have six parent call-in (PCI) days for unexcused absences this school year. In order to use a PCI day, the parent must call in to the office. After these six days have been used, parents will be notified on their 3rd, 6th, 9th, and 12th unexcused absences. It is a best practice to still call in to the office when your child is going to be absent.

Note:
STUDENTS WHO ARE OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFER STUDENTS ARE AT RISK OF HAVING THEIR TRANSFER REVOKED DUE TO POOR ATTENDANCE.
STUDENTS WHO HAVE 12 UNEXCUSED ABSENCES MAY LOSE ELIGIBILITY TO ATTEND FIELD TRIPS. THIS WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE PRINCIPAL'S DISCRETION.

Best Practices for Attendance:

- ★ If your child is not going to be at school, call the office and let them know. If you do not call the office, it will not be considered a PCI.
- ★ If your child is at an appointment, make sure you bring in an excuse slip.
- ★ Know the attendance policy. You can read the student handbook on the school website.
- ★ Try not to be late to school, as three tardies count as one unexcused absence.



Attendance Reminder:

The graph to the left shows the method that is used for unexcused absences for students.

Please note that students who have previously reached the 100% threshold in previous school years will be subject to a lower threshold of unexcused absences