



# HIGHLAND HILLS ELEMENTARY

Principal; Jake Bacon

Lead Secretary; Cathy Michael

Counselor; Elizabeth Morgan

## September Newsletter 2017-2018 School Year

Husky Pride is Alive!



### How To Receive School Information

- School's Facebook - Search Highland Hills Elementary
- Remind 101 App - Text @4h9gd to number 81010
- School Web Page - <http://hhes.hermiston.k12.or.us/>

### Husky Events

#### **2017-18 School Year**

Welcome back to school! What a great start to the school year! I would like to let you know methods to stay in contact with our school. We now have a Facebook page, along with a Remind 101 app for parents to receive text messages on important information and our monthly newsletters.

Facebook – search Highland Hills Elementary  
 Remind 101 – Text @4h9gd to number 81010  
 School Web Page - <http://hhes.hermiston.k12.or.us/>

Sincerely,

Jake Bacon, Principal

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

- 9-7-17 – PTO Meeting 6:00 PM in the Gym
- 9-21-17 – Activity Day, Pictures and Bus Evacuation
- 9-21-17 – Family Night
- 9-22-17 – Non-Student Day
- 10-4-17 – Bike and Walk to School Day!

#### **Community and School PTO Meetings**

6:00 PM on the following dates:  
 9-7-17, 11-2-17, 2-1-18, 4-5-18 and 5-24-18  
 Please come and join as we take a focused approach and committee format to reach our goals!

#### **Attendance Update**

Winter was not our friend last year and HHES managed to still achieve 94% attendance rate! We are proud of our families and are excited to work together to achieve 96% attendance rate this year!

Have a great school year!

Parents,

Please feel free to contact us! We value your input, and will continue to work alongside one another to help our students achieve to the best of their ability! We can't make it better if we don't hear from you. ☺

Sincerely,

and Team Husky!

450 South East 10<sup>th</sup> Street ▪ Hermiston, OR 97838 ▪ Phone: 541-667-6500 ▪ Fax: 541-667-6550

**Unified team fostering growth for all students and staff alike, in a positive learning environment through rigor, relevance and relationships!**



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### Attendance Matters - <http://www.attendanceworks.org>

Thank you for bringing your children to Highland Hills! As a staff we are so happy to see them as well as you. ☺ September's newsletter will focus on attendance, helping families be aware of our attendance policy, chronic absenteeism.

1. What is Chronic Absenteeism?
  - a. Oregon Department of Education has defined chronic absenteeism as missing 10% of school days during a school year. This number includes absences that are unexcused or absences where parents have notified the school.
  - b. Excused absences are defined by Oregon Department of Education as the following:
    - i. Illness of the student (after three absences a doctor note must be provided)
    - ii. Illness of an immediate family member when students' presence is necessary
    - iii. Emergency situations that require the student's absence
    - iv. Field trips and school approved activities
    - v. Medical or dental appointments, confirmation of appointment maybe required
  - c. Being absent for any other reason than those listed above will be coded as unexcused. Parents who call in to notify (recommended) of a student's absence will still be unexcused but coded as Notified.
2. Students who fall below 90% attendance will fall into our attendance program. I will provide a brief overview of the program. Attendance data will be ran each month and is cumulative throughout the year.
  - a. Step 1 – the first time a student falls below 90% a letter will be sent to the family notifying of falling below 90% and asking if there is anything the school can do to help.
  - b. Step 2 – the second time a student falls below 90% in the school year a certified letter will be sent with a meeting date and time to develop a plan for the family to support improved attendance.
  - c. Step 3 – when the student falls to 80% attendance a citation will be issued under ORS 339.925.
3. We want to support families and hope to never get to step 3. The staff at HHES will welcome your children no matter when they come to school. Research shows that students who attend school 90% - 100% are stronger readers and have a greater chance of graduating from high school. These habits are helpful and will be stronger if established early.
4. Being Tardy also plays a significant part in your child's learning. When students arrive late, please know this disrupts the whole classroom environment impacting all students within the room.
  - a. Should you find traffic challenging arriving at 7:55 AM to drop students off, come earlier. We have staff supervising the cafeteria and playgrounds starting at 7:30 AM for Cafeteria and 7:35 AM for playgrounds.

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