

August 19, 2013

Dear Families,

Summer is nearing an end! We are very excited about the start of the school year and have been working hard to get ready. First grade is such an amazing year as the kids learn and change so much. Good communication and cooperation between the home and school is essential for the success of your child. We look forward to getting to know your child, and working with you, this year. Following you will find some general information that may be helpful as we begin our new year. If at any time during the year you have any questions, please call 921-5500 or send an e-mail to your child's teacher at:

- carolyn_carr@hboe.org
- deb_frazier@hboe.org
- cathy_mere@hboe.org
- marie_nixon@hboe.org

Sincerely,
First Grade Teachers

School Hours:

Entry: 8:35
School Begins: 8:50
Dismissal: 3:15

Arrival/Dismissal Tags:

If you did not attend open house please fill out your child's transportation card with his/her name, as well as the address and phone number of where your child will be going *AFTER* school. Please send the card to school and it will be placed in your child's nametag.

Please be sure to include the names of anyone who has permission to pick up your child after school, we are unable to send a child with someone not listed without a written note from you. Thank you for your help in getting your children safely where they need to go.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures:

On the first day of school, please encourage your child to board a bus if bus transportation is available from your home. It is often easiest for children to follow the school routine right from the start of the new school year. The buses drop off children in front of the school each morning.

All students walking to school will enter through the front doors of the building. If you bring your child to school, please follow traffic along the curb to the rear of the building. Please make sure your child exits your car on the side of the curb closest to the school, and not into passing traffic.

At the end of each day, bus students and walkers will exit through the front of the school; car riders will exit through the back doors.

Please note: *“due to serious student safety concerns, no one will be permitted to park their vehicle and escort their child across the parking lot unless the parent has a previously scheduled appointment with a staff member. Students are not permitted to walk across the parking lot.”*

Dismissal Changes:

In order that we can help assure the safety of your child upon dismissal, please keep dismissal routines as consistent as possible throughout the school year. A note from you is required if there are any changes in your child's after school routine. This includes changes in destination or people that may be coming to pick your child up at the end of the school day. If you send an e-mail, please try to send it before 11:30 as we may not have an opportunity to check our e-mail again in the afternoon.

*****If we do not have a note indicating the change, then the established routine will be followed.*****

Absence Procedures:

Please notify the office by 9:00 a.m. if your child is ill and will not be coming to school. (Please see the attendance section in the Hilliard City Schools handbook.) Remember to send a note to your child's teacher on the day he/she returns. Much of the work that is done in the first grade classroom requires a great deal of support, and is often “hands-on”. For that reason, it is difficult to send work home in the event of an absence. However, if your child is going to be out for several days, please contact the office or e-mail the teacher, and we will get work ready to be picked up after 3:30 that school day. The work sent home is only a small part of what has been accomplished in our classroom on a given day. Regular attendance is the best way for your child to progress.

Lunch:

Students may pack lunch or buy in the cafeteria. Packed lunches are kept in a basket in our classroom until lunch time. Student lunch is \$2.50. Milk may be purchased for \$.50. Parents are encouraged to send cash or a check to be deposited into their child's account. You may also visit www.mealpayplus.com to pay online. (See Hilliard City Schools handbook & current menu.)

We have included lunch numbers on student nametags so children can wear them to lunch. This will help them to get through the line until they learn their code. Practicing this code at home is VERY helpful.

Emergency Forms:

Please be sure all emergency contact information for your child is up-to-date. You can access more parent information at <http://www.hilliardschools.org/audience/parentsCorner.cfm>.

School Fees:

This year you are able to pay school fees online using EschoolPlus. Fees for first grade are \$30.00. When you log into the MealPay site to view your student, you will be able to see all fees that have a balance due. You can select the fees you wish to pay and put them in your cart for check-out.

School Supplies

We will be sharing consumable supplies during the school year, so please DO NOT write your child's name on them.

Each child needs a backpack to bring papers to and from school each day. Please put your child's name on the backpack.

Each child will be given a folder to help bring papers to and from school.

Your child will need this folder for school each day. Please check the folder **each** evening. If you are returning papers, or have an important note, place it inside the folder. Your child will then place this note in a special basket for the teacher to see.

Birthdays:

Birthdays are a special time. If you wish to share a special treat with the class, please make arrangements *ahead of time*. Birthday snacks should be something that is **healthy** and can be served quickly. **(Please visit our website for suggestions of healthy snacks and birthday "treat" alternatives.)** Because our time each day is limited, please do not send a drink as part of your child's birthday treat. If your child has a summer birthday, we will be celebrating his/her "half" birthday during the school year (July 22nd would be celebrated on January 22nd) or towards the end of the year.

Please do not send birthday invitations to school to be passed out unless everyone is invited. While we understand that it is often not possible to invite an entire class to a party, select invitations passed out to only some children usually result in hurt feelings. Children's addresses may be found in our school directory.

Book Orders:

Throughout the year your child may bring home book club order forms. These are good books available at excellent prices and can help build your libraries at home. Please make sure your child's name is on the order and return it to school by the date written on the form. Make checks out to the name of the book club (for example: Scholastic Book Co.). **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH!** Additionally we are looking into making it possible for parents to order online. Watch for details.

News:

News about our classroom will be kept on our website and updated as needed. The website can be reached through our district site: www.hilliard.k12.oh.us. Just go to the Darby Creek site and click on your teacher's name. We will talk more about this on curriculum night. Periodically, we will send reminders about important events or dates to your e-mail address as well. It is often easier to communicate using the internet so if you do not have internet access, please let us know so we can send you hard copies of important information.

Time For Kids Magazine:

Each year, we order a subscription for each child to the Time For Kids Magazine. This is used as a tool in our classroom to help students learn about Science/Social Studies/Health topics. Every issue is written on a First Grade reading level and covers topics in our curriculum. Please send in a **check made out to Time For Kids** in the amount of **\$4.42**. (Please contact your child's teacher if you are unable to cover this cost, and arrangements can be made.)