



# Hillside Elementary School

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Dear Hillside Families,

Thank you for joining us last night for our first ever Virtual Hillside Back to School Night. We hope you found the evening informative and left feeling excited about the great year of learning ahead! If you were unable to attend our Welcome session, please feel free to review the presentation [here](#).

## Dismissal/Arrival

As we shared last night, we will be revising our dismissal process slightly. Beginning on Monday, instead of requiring families to sign their students out for Student Pick Up, we will be asking parents/guardians to hold up signs on the field each day with their child's name and grade level typed in BOLD for easy viewing. This will help us to quickly dismiss our children to the proper adults and not require our staff members to approach parents who have forgotten to complete the form.

In addition, we would like to remind all parents/guardians who opt for Circle Pick Up to please put a sign in your passenger side window or dashboard with your child's name and grade level. This allows us to have children ready for you, thereby reducing time in the line.

Please also note that our arrival times are 8:20-8:30 AM and 12:30-12:40 PM. We do not have supervision available before these times, so we ask that you please drop your child(ren) off within these time windows. All of our systems are created with safety and efficiency in mind and we very much appreciate your cooperation.

## Student Illness Protocols

We would like to help answer your health questions, as we recognize that there are many different scenarios this year that could impact the health and safety of everyone. To that end, our school nurses, Gina Kowalski and Trisha Feeney, have created our [Hillside Illness Protocols](#) cheat sheet as a reference tool for you. We suggest you print

it out and hang it on your refrigerator or save it on your computer for easy answers. We hope you find it helpful.

#### Instrumental Music for 4th Graders

Mr. Rubino and Mr. Carini shared a letter today asking 4th grade students to select instruments that they would like to play. If you have a 4th grade student, please review their [letter](#) and complete their [instrument survey](#) by Thursday, October 22nd so that we can get our Hillside Band and Orchestra started.

#### Halloween at Hillside

This year, Halloween falls on a Saturday. However, we would still like to celebrate at Hillside! We invite our students to wear their costumes to school on Friday, October 30th. Costumes should be comfortable enough to wear all day, as there will not be any time for changing. In addition, make up, props, and masks (other than COVID masks) will not be permitted. We will not be celebrating Halloween with any food in the classrooms, as we want to avoid any reason to take off our masks. However, please know that grade levels are collaborating on Halloween themed activities to keep the day festive and fun!

As you know, this year has been like no other. We speak for all of us- teachers, administrators, and staff- when we say that we would like to thank you for all of your kind words of gratitude, support, and encouragement. Receiving a positive email or comment lifts us up when we are working tirelessly to do what is best for children. We are grateful for your constructive feedback and solutions that continue to push us to think creatively, consider important perspectives, and refine systems. Finally, we are most appreciative of your involvement in your child's learning experience. This work has always been a partnership between the home and school, and COVID has increased that partnership tenfold. Thank you for all of your help in our important work of educating children.

Wishing you a fun-filled weekend with your families,

Amy Cazes  
Principal

John DeKams  
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