

Orchard Hills Elementary School News:

2nd Grade & 3rd Grade

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STAY IN TOUCH WITH WHAT IS HAPPENING AT ORCHARD HILLS:

Facebook: [Orchard Hills Elementary Facebook](#)

Twitter: @OrchardHills23

Messengers on Parent Portal

We have a lot of uncertainty with the pandemic, but our goal is to provide a positive and safe learning environment for students and staff. Here is the Orchard Hills Return to Learn Plan describing how this will look starting in the fall: [OH RTL for Families](#)

Orchard Hills Staff for 2020-21:

This link has a listing of all Orchard Hills staff for the 2020-21 school year: [OH Staff 2020-21](#)

Orchard Hill staff new to the Norwalk District:

- We have two new custodians joining the OH family: **Mr. Doug Metzger** is a Norwalk resident, served in the Army for three years and served in law enforcement for the Norwalk Police Department. **Mr. Danny Shepherd** served in the Airforce for twenty-two years having experience working on the Stealth Bomber.
- **Mrs. Megan Greenslade** is a Norwalk graduate and resident. She is coming to us from the ADM School District where she taught 2nd grade for the past four years. Megan will be teaching second grade in the blue hall this year.
- **Miss Jaclyn Replinger** student taught in Norwalk and has been teaching kindergarten and 2nd grade in Marshalltown for the past three years. Jaclyn will be teaching second grade in the purple hall this year.
- **Miss Amanda Robinson** is a Norwalk resident. She is coming to us from the Des Moines School District where she taught kindergarten, 2nd grade and 3rd grade for the past seven years. Amanda will be teaching second grade in the green hall this year.
- **Mr. Grant Hobin** will be teaching music at Orchard Hills. He is coming to Norwalk from the West Des Moines and Ankeny School Districts where he taught elementary music for nine years.
- **Mrs. Katie Stewart** is a Norwalk graduate and resident. She is coming to us from Indianola, 4th grade for five years, and Montezuma, 6th grade for two years. Katie will be teaching third grade in the purple hall this year.

Class Placements:

We have a process for creating class lists that involves teacher input and creating a heterogeneous classroom.

This comes from our handbook:

POSTING OF CLASS LISTS Due to safety concerns for our students, we do not post class lists on the entry of the school building. This will help us assure that the child's parent/guardian is the only person to know the child's teacher and classroom placement within the building. Parents will be able to get classroom placement through their Parent Portal account or by calling the school in mid-August.

You can view your child's teacher on parent portal starting August 14th.

This comes from Norwalk Board Policy:

All regular students enrolled in grade first through 5th grade shall be placed in classes heterogeneously by random assignment with gender and cultural equity. Parents are not allowed to request a certain teacher for their child, however, a parent with a child immediately following another sibling who is placed with the same teacher, may request a change. This request must be IN WRITING and submitted to the principal by the third Friday of May.

Orchard Hills Open House:

This year we will host a virtual open house. We will send out a video introducing you to our teachers and staff and giving you a glimpse of the building and how it is organized (including where classrooms are located). We will also be sharing videos on the new procedures for the beginning of the year including: coming in to school; leaving at the end of the day; transitions; recesses; lunch; specials; bathrooms and drinking fountains; lockers; etc. We have a lot of new procedures with the pandemic, but we will have staff support students to help them learn the new routines.

Classroom Supply Lists:

Supply lists can be accessed on the district website: Click on “Schools,” “Orchard Hills,” and under “Quick Links” you will find the 2020-21 Preschool-5th Grade Supply List. If you are not able to access the listing, contact the office and we will send you a paper copy. This year each student will have their own materials and we will not be sharing. We would encourage you to label your student’s materials so they are easy to identify who they belong to if dropped on the floor.

School Hours:

7:30 Doors open for students (students should not be dropped off before 7:30 because there isn't any supervision of students before that time.)

Students will put items in their lockers and then go directly to their classroom when they arrive at school.

8:00 Tardy Bell

3:05 Dismissal

1:25 Wednesday Staff Development Early Out Dismissal

Dropping Off/Picking Up & Parking Procedures:

There are only 2 entrances to Orchard Hills:

- North lane is a bus lane so only staff and buses may enter this lane and enter the building.
- East lane is a longer lane to allow for traffic to get off of the highway. This is the main entrance for students, staff and visitors.

Dropping off:

- Pull in the east lane (next to the Orchard Hills sign). Drive in following the arrows. Pull up all the way to the south end of the sidewalk to allow for multiple cars to let out their child at the same time. Once you get to the drop off zone, have your child get out of the car quickly to keep the line flowing smoothly. Say your good-byes at home and work with your child to get out of the car on their own. Do not park along the drop-off lane and leave your vehicle unattended at any time. Students should wear a mask as they enter school.

Picking up:

- Cars picking up students should remain in the pick up lane using both lanes. We will alternate cars moving into the pick-up lane from the two lanes of cars. To help keep our students and staff safe, we ask that all people picking up a student to use the pick-up lane and remain in their car.
- Each vehicle will have a sign with your child(ren)’s names displayed in the front window to make it quicker for pick-up. If you do not have a sign for your vehicle, please notify the office and we will create one for you.

Visiting Orchard Hills:

- Drive in the east lane following the arrows.
- Park in the lot & then come in the main entrance on the east side.
- Do not park along the drop-off/pick-up lane and leave your vehicle unattended at any time.
- Visitors will only be allowed in the office/nurse’s area. All visitors should be wearing a face covering.

Fall dates:

Mon., August 3	Building secretaries return
Fri., August 14	Class placements can be viewed in Parent Portal
Tues., August 18	Teachers return
Mon., August 24	First day of school for students; 1:25 dismissal
Tues., August 25	1:25 dismissal
Wed., August 26	1:25 dismissal (every Wednesday is an early dismissal)
Mon., Sept. 21	Lifetouch Picture Day