

WELCOME BACK

IMPORTANT DATES

August 17: Homeroom teacher assignments accessible by end of the via Infinite Campus

Week of August 16: Transportation Information accessible via Infinite Campus (Look for email)

August 20: Orientation for New Students/Returning HOA at 1:00 pm (specifics were emailed)

August 26: First Day of School (grades 1-5) and Kindergarten Orientation

Central Elementary School
From the Desk of Dr. Amy Kern

August 2021



Important Information

Please look for the following important information that will come home with your child the first day of school:

- Additional Central Calendar Dates
- Authorization for Release Form
- Arrival/Dismissal Procedure
- Free/Reduced Lunch Program Info.

The below items are sent digitally:

- Health Card
- PTO Family Packet

Are you ready? We are.

Summer fun will soon be turning into school fun! I hope all our students and families are having a wonderful and memorable summer. August 26th is the first day of school for students in grades 1-5 and it is Kindergarten parent/student orientation.

This summer we have been very busy at Central planning for another great and hopefully closer to normal school year. We are creating homeroom rosters, teacher's schedules, hiring staff, scouring and polishing the school, purchasing and organizing supplies, setting schedules, upgrading technology, and reviewing all procedures. We have also planned several opportunities to help our students transition back to school.

Please join us for the opportunities that pertain to your child listed on the next page.

Save the Date!

PTO Meeting

September 23rd

9:00 am

Via Zoom

We would love for you to join us!

Let's Get Acquainted (LGA) – Parents only event

Parents are invited to meet in person or join a live Zoom with grade level faculty and learn about the curriculum and teacher's classroom procedures and expectations.

September 1st from 6:00- 7:00 pm Grades 3, 4, and 5

September 2nd from 6:00- 7:00 pm Grades K, 1, and 2

Transitioning Back to School

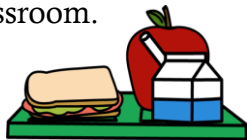
New Student Orientation, August 20th @ 1:00 pm: For new incoming students entering Grades K-5 and returning HOA. Students and families will have the opportunity to learn about Central, tour the school, and meet other new students. A separate invitation was sent via email explaining families can visit at 1:00 and listen to Dr. Kern's general overview of Central and then tour or visit at 1:30 for a self-guided tour.

Kindergarten Orientation, August 26th: Held on the first day of school. Parents and their child should plan to attend the timeframe your child is assigned to attend kindergarten.

9:15-10:00 am Morning Kindergarten
1:15-2:00 pm Afternoon Kindergarten

We look forward to working in partnership with you to achieve a successful school year.

Let's Get Acquainted (LGA): Please note the date of your child's grade-level information night on page one. I encourage you to attend because the homeroom teachers will provide a brief overview of the curriculum and their expectations. We will also have some key support personnel available so that you can become familiar with the services in place to support student success in the classroom.



First Day of School, August 26th: We spend the first several days of school assisting children to become acclimated to the location of their new classroom and other important spaces in the building. We review bus room procedures and what to do when arriving and leaving the building. Faculty and staff are stationed at doors and hallways to escort our students to their designated bus room until they become comfortable. Students sit by homerooms, then teachers escort their classes to their rooms. Bus/Van riders will enter in the front of the school and students who are car riders will enter on the left side of the building. It is helpful if students know their assigned homeroom teachers name. Don't worry if they forget, we have rosters to help us organize everyone.

Grade 1: Homeroom teachers of all grade one students will review and explain all lunch procedures before lunch on the first day of school. We will have several staff on hand during lunch to ensure a smooth transition and make sure all students become comfortable with the procedures. Again, if they forget their number we will have our lists with us.

Lunch Time... We have officially increased student lunch times by 5-minutes. As always, students are permitted to stay in the lunch room beyond the scheduled time if they need more time to eat. Menus are posted monthly on our website.

New School Times Beginning in 2021-2022 (15-minute change)

Regular Times

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Grades 1-5 | 8:45 am - 3:30 pm |
| Kindergarten AM | 8:45 - 11:25 am |
| Kindergarten PM | 12:50 - 3:30 pm |
| *Side Lobby Doors will open at 8:00 am | |

Early Dismissal Times

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Grades 1-5 | 8:45 am - 1:45 pm |
| Kindergarten AM | 8:45 - 10:45 am |
| Kindergarten PM | 11:45 am - 1:45 pm |

2-Hour Delay Times

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Grades 1-5 | 10:45 am - 3:30 pm |
| Kindergarten AM | 10:45 am - 12:40 pm |
| Kindergarten PM | 1:30 - 3:30 pm |

Parent/Teacher Conference Times

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Grades 1-5 | 8:45 am - 12:45 pm |
| Kindergarten AM | 8:45 - 10:30 am |
| Kindergarten PM | 11:15 am - 12:45 pm |

New ELA Program for Grades K-5: Wonders

Last spring, the District approved a new English Language Arts program, *Wonders* 2020, as its elementary curriculum resource. *Wonders*, a McGraw Hill product, is designed to help students meet high academic standards and prepare them for future success. *Wonders* is designed to help students:

- Master foundational skills of phonics, vocabulary, spelling, and word study
- Engage in close reading of complex text and finding evidence
- Become proficient in academic writing
- Take part in daily academic conversations with peers

With *Wonders*, your student will be close reading, writing analytically, and practicing foundational skills using *Wonders* books and support materials in class. Students will also read and reread short, complex texts in the Reading/Writing Companion. They will learn to take notes, ask and answer text-dependent questions, and cite text evidence. Then, students will apply what they have learned as they read and reread the longer Anchor Texts and Leveled Readers.

Additionally, you and your student will be able to access *Wonders* digital content online from home. Each student will receive an online account that will give you access to

- Homework assignments
- Digital copies of all *Wonders* resources
- Games and other classroom activities

We will continue to communicate additional information for *Wonders* through your student's classroom teacher. We are excited about this transition and look forward to welcoming you back!

Technology...

All students K-5 will receive a District issued device during the first few week of school. Look for an email from the District regarding insurance and technology agreements. Teachers will explain to students all the expectations, how to log into the device, and how to use the school related software/apps.

Building Updates...

Painting: Over the course of the next few years, Central will be phasing in a new painting scheme. We started in the Grade 2, Grades 3 and 4 hallways.

Courtyards: We are adding more landscaping and our Garden Club will design a Butterfly garden for us.



Parent/Teachers Conference Days

The schedule for November parent/teacher conference days are as below. Homeroom teachers will send out a Signup Genius late September to schedule conferences.

Thursday, November 11: Student Early Dismissal at 12:45 pm and Conferences scheduled in the afternoon and evening.

Friday, November 12: No School for Students and Conferences scheduled all morning.

Communication Venues

It is our desire to keep families informed of the plethora of timelines, activities, opportunities, and general information that occur over the course of a school year. We use many different venues to communicate this information.

Infinite Campus: Hampton uses this system to communicate information such as teacher assignments, report cards, attendance calls, and outreach/ emergency information for ALL students. In-progress grades are regularly posted for students in grades 2-12. If you have not received information to **set up your Parent Account, the please call** Central Elementary, 412-492-6320. **Please note:** If you have older children and have already activated your Parent Portal account, you do not have to do it again. Your account, once activated, is your account for all of your HTSD children. If you previously activated your account, but forget your user name and/or password, please contact Jennifer Hearn in Administration at: Jennifer.Hearn@ht-sd.org or 412-492-6340.

The Central Scoop: Central's online weekly communication with all updated information and calendar changes. It is published on Central's website every Thursday. From the District website choose Central under the Schools choices, scroll down to Featured Information and click "The Central Scoop" to see current and past editions of our Scoop. Each Thursday, Central will use Infinite Campus to send the link to the current Scoop. If there is a flyer that would need sent home in paper form, we typically send these home on Thursday's.

Wall Calendar: They are mailed to all families with District information and events that are similar to all three elementary schools. Always refer to the Scoop or our website in the event a change has been made.

Central Calendar Dates List: Central specific event dates provided at the beginning of the year. Also, found on Central's website.

Email Addresses/Phone Numbers:

Please don't hesitate to call/email if you have questions or concerns. Email addresses and phone numbers are found on our website.

PTO (Parent Teacher Organization): Information regarding PTO membership, opportunities and meeting schedule will be posted on the Central Scoop early September.

Student Safety

Transportation Changes: The safety for our children is always paramount. Arrival and dismissal is the busiest time of day on the property. It is paramount that you help us by sending all transportation changes in note format or call Central's main office in the morning but no later than 2:30. We send out all dismissal changes to teachers by 2:45.

Visitors: Just a friendly reminder that we use School Gate Guardian as our visitor tracking and badging system. For entry into the school, visitors will have their driver's license scanned so please remember to bring your driver's license with you if entering the building.

Drills: Student safety always remains our top priority. Students participate in monthly fire drills, semi-annual ALICE/lockdown drills, evacuation, and severe weather drills each school year. ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training will be explained and noted in the Scoop prior to practicing.

Positive Behavior Support (PBS)

The elementary schools worked together to create a Positive Behavior Support Program which we named PAWS. This is a matrix of behavioral

PAWS

Personal Best

Act Responsibly

Work and Play Safely

Show Respect

expectations that will taught and reinforced. More information can found on the website under Behavior Expectations and at Let's Get Acquainted.

2021 COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies

As per the Board approved Health and Safety Plan, below are some of the general adjustments that we will use to start school, but as you know the impact of COVID-19 is continually changing and we will adjust as directed by the Allegheny Health Department.

Updated Mitigation Efforts:

*Students will continue to be taught how to social distance, appropriate hand washing techniques, and how to sneeze/cough into the elbow. Reminder signage will be posted throughout the building.

*At the District's Elementary Schools all students, staff and visitors are required to participate in mask-wearing when indoors except those students who have a documented medical condition, disability, or religious exemption. Masking is not required when outdoors.

*Students and bus drivers will be required to wear facemasks on District transportation, regardless of vaccination status, as per the federal order issued in January of 2021.

*Use of outdoor courtyards and playground spaces will be used for instruction as much as weather permits.

*Families are asked to continue to monitor for COVID-19 symptoms prior to sending children to school.

Classrooms:

Student desks will be arranged 3 feet apart to the extent possible. Teachers will promote frequent handwashing and/or sanitizing. Teachers will continue best instructional practices that may include movement, partner work, and centers. Sanitizing supplies to support healthy hygiene practices are available in all classrooms. Bipolar air ionization units have been added to all classroom ventilation systems.

Breakfast/Lunch:

District purchased breakfast and lunch will be in the cafeteria. Students will sit with their assigned homeroom, 3 feet apart to the maximum extent feasible. All students will wash their hands prior to lunch.

The District is once again able to provide “**universal free meals**” for all students. Any extra meals or a la cart items will need to be purchases.

Breakfast \$1.25

Lunch \$2.40



Transportation . . .

District Transportation:

Students riding a bus or van will be expected to wear a face covering.

AM Arrival

Although the elementary school start time has been pushed back by 15 minutes, **school doors will continue to open at 8:00am**. Bus Rooms will be supervised daily beginning at 8:00 and until students are dismissed to homerooms at 8:45am.



Car Riders: For detailed Procedures see the Central Scoop Flyers or click [here](#).

AM Drop-Off: Use the North entrance and drop children at the side lobby doors.

PM Pick-Up: We will dismiss in two waves, A-O at 3:25 and P-Z at 3:30. Students will wait inside. Families are asked to park and wait outside. A staff member will dismiss students from the building and will keep record that students have been picked up. Please bring your ID. If you are picking up your student on a regular basis we will make a pick up sign for you. Please send in a note at the beginning of the year indicating that your student will primarily be a car rider.



Elementary ONLY Early Release Dismissal Days

Please note that elementary students will be dismissed at **1:45 pm** on the following days as noted on the District calendar and website. **AM Kindergarten = 8:45-10:45 am PM Kindergarten = 11:45-1:45 pm**

September 17 (Fri.) October 8 (Fri.) November 24 (Wed.) December 21 (Tues.)

January 14 (Fri.) February 17 (Thurs.) March 17 (Thurs.) April 13 (Wed.) May 13 (Fri.)

In addition, there will be at 12:45 pm early dismissal on Thursday, November 11 for parent-teacher conferences.

STAFF UPDATES: 2021-2022

The Elementary Administrative Team initially used the Applitrack system to screen over 500 applications for elementary contract and substitute positions. After those applications were screened and reviewed, a portion were invited for an initial interview. Of those, a select group were invited back for a more extensive Round 2. A select few participated for contract positions in Round 3, which was teaching a lesson to students and completing a writing sample. I am excited and proud to announce the prevailing candidates.



New to Central:

Physical Education: Mr. Holler

Grade 5: Mrs. Hogan

Grade 4: Ms. Funtal

Reading Support: TBD

Building Substitutes: Ms. Ioannou

Paraprofessional: TBD

Changes to Central:

Grade 3: Mr. Rice

K-AM: Mr. Weiss

Reporting Absences



Please call the Attendance Line 412-486-6000 by 9:15 am, listen to the directions for reporting a student absence and leave a voicemail message. Please include the following information: child's name, teacher's name, reason for absence. *Note: you will still receive an automated attendance call.*

If your student has been absent for more than 2 days you may request homework. Please indicate whether you want to pick it up or have it sent home and to whom it should be given.

PLEASE REVIEW

Please review the following documents and forms found on Central's website, click **Parent Resources:**

- ✓ Arrival and Dismissal Procedure
- ✓ School Supply List
- ✓ Parent Handbook
- ✓ Behavior Expectations
- ✓ Official Note to Central Elementary
- ✓ Travel Form
- ✓ Cafeteria online payment information

If you are interested in the YMCA Kindergarten WRAP and/or (Before / After) school programs, please contact their Youth Development Business Office directly at 412-573-4166. Both programs will be housed at Central Elementary this school year. Neither of these programs are run by HTSD, we offer our facilities for your convenience.



We are looking forward to a great year!