

AUGUST 2022

the Central Scoop

Back to School Edition

From the Desk of: Dr. Amy Kern



Welcome Back!

The first day of school is quickly approaching. I hope all our students and families are having a great summer. The summer has been very busy at Central planning for another great school year. We are creating homeroom rosters, teacher schedules, hiring staff, cleaning the school, purchasing and organizing supplies, upgrading technology, and reviewing all procedures. We have several opportunities to help our student's transition back to school. They are outlined on the next page.

Save the Date!

PTO Meeting

Sept. 22, 7:00 pm

Location TBD

Learn about PTO and Volunteer training immediately following.

Let's Get Acquainted (LGA)

August 31 from 6:00-7:00 pm Grades K,1,2

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

Parents are invited to meet with grade level faculty and learn about the curriculum, classroom procedures, and expectations.

Important Dates

August 16: Homeroom teacher assignments accessible via Infinite Campus

By **August 19:** Transportation/Bus information accessible via Infinite Campus

August 19: New Student Orientation for new students entering grades K-5 at 9:00 am in Central's Gym (enter Door 4)

August 22: Faculty and Staff First Professional Development Day

August 25: First Day of School (grades 1-5) and Kindergarten Orientation





Technology: 1-1 Devices

Students in Grades 1, 2 and 3 will each be assigned an iPad. Students in Grades 4 and 5 will each be assigned a HP ProBook. Students in Kindergarten will have access to iPads during school day, they are not personally assigned.

After the start of the school year, we will distribute student devices during the school day to new students and students in grades 1, 2, 3, and 4 who turned in their device at the conclusion of last school year. Just a reminder that students in Grades in 2 and 3 should still have their power cords at home. Students in Grade 5 should bring their device charged on the first day of school. In addition, families will need to complete and return a “Student Device User Agreement” form that will be sent home at the start of the year. You should have already received an email about securing insurance for the district issued devices.

Conference Days

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

Thursday, November 10: Student Early Dismissal at 12:45 and Conferences scheduled in the afternoon and evening.

Friday, November 11: No School for Students and Conferences scheduled all morning.

PLEASE REVIEW

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
- ✓ Birthday Celebration and Classroom Parties
- ✓ Travel Form
- ✓ Cafeteria online payment and menu information

YMCA

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.



Math Program Review

We will work to research and analyze a new math program. The timeline for piloting and adoption is pending the comprehensive review process.



WELCOME BACK

New Student Orientation, August 19 @ 9:00 am: For new to Central incoming students entering grades K-5. Students and families will have the opportunity to learn about Central, tour the school, and meet other new students.

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 25: 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. [The side lobby door will be open at 8:15 for car riders, adjusted from last year.](#) It is helpful if students know their assigned homeroom teacher's

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 1st grade 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.

Kindergarten Orientation, August 25: Held on the first day of school. Parents and their child should plan to attend the timeframe your child is assigned to attend kindergarten.

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

We look forward to working in partnership with you to achieve a successful school year for all of our children. I hope you and your family enjoy your final days of summer. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions (412) 492-6320.

Lunch Time... 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. The cost of a meal is:

Breakfast \$1.25 Lunch \$2.50

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 16 (Fri.)	October 7 (Fri.)	November 23 (Wed.)	December 21 (Wed.)
January 13 (Fri.)	February 16 (Thurs.)	March 16 (Thurs.)	April 5 (Wed.) May 12 (Fri.)

In addition, there will be at 12:45 pm early dismissal on Thursday, November 10 for parent-teacher conferences.

New This Year...

Morning/Class Meeting

While many of the elementary homeroom teachers have always held a regular classroom meeting to welcome students, discuss the day's agenda etc, we are using this school year to work together and across buildings to learn about and share strategies and fun games and follow a similar structure in an age-appropriate way in all K-5 classrooms. Holding a Morning/Class Meetings is a great way to build community, set a positive tone, increase excitement about learning, and improve academic and social skills. Be sure to ask your child about their class meetings this year!

Portrait of a Talbot

The Comprehensive Planning process is a PDE-mandated planning process (with specific requirements) designed to support district growth and improvement. A committee of District and Community members met several times this summer to engaged in professional development about Whole Child Learning and Innovation, The Future Workforce of the Pittsburgh Region, and begin the process for Comprehensive Planning. There is still much work to do and once it is completed it will be communicated.

School Supplies

Central PTO has created Amazon lists and also partnered with Office Depot make it easier to fill all of your school supplies needs. Find grade level lists, links, and instructions on The Central Scoop webpage. Happy shopping!

Building Updates

Additional bottle fillers, new Stage Curtains should arrive by October, and new carpeting in a few classrooms to name a few. The most exciting project is we finally have removed the last of the wallpaper and finished painting the entire school to reflect a fun Hampton motif.



Doors Open at 8:15

Car Riders: For detailed Procedures, [click here](#).
AM Drop-Off: Use the North entrance and drop children at the side lobby doors, Door 4.

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.

Health & Safety Plan

We are excited to begin this school year in the same manner as we ended in June. Masks remain optional and teaching and instruction will operate as normal. For updated information the District Health and Safety Plan can be found on our website.



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, attendance calls, grades for students in grades 2-12, and outreach/emergency information. 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 Hampton Township School District children. If you previously activated your account, but forget your user name and/or password, please contact Lisa Riddell in Administration at: lisa.riddell@ht-sd.org or 412-492-6340. She will be able to assist you.

Scoop (Weekly Packet): Central's online weekly communication with all updated information and calendar changes. It is published on Central's website every Thursday afternoon. Go to Central's webpage, on the left click on weekly packets to see current and past editions of our Scoop. [New this year, each Friday, a District communication called "Hampton Headlines" will be emailed with all the schools weekly communicaitons.](#) If there is a flyer that would need sent home in paper form, we typically send these home on Thursdays.

Wall Calendar: 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 and Phone Numbers are available on our website, please don't hesitate to call if you have a question or concern.

PTO (Parent Teacher Organization):

Information regarding PTO membership opportunities and meeting schedule will come home the first week of school.

Student Safety / ALICE

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 three elementary schools worked together to create a Positive Behavior Support Program which we named PAWS. This is a matrix of behavioral expectations that will be taught and reinforced by faculty. More information can be found on the website Behavior Expectations and at Let's Get Acquainted.

PAWS
Personal Best
Act Responsibly
Work and Play Safely
Show Respect



Back to School Packet

Look for the following information that will come home with your child the first day of school.

- ✚ Free/Reduced Lunch Program Information (return only if needed)
 - ✚ Authorization for Release Form (needs returned)
 - ✚ Student Device User Agreement (needs returned)
 - ✚ Arrival and Dismissal Procedures
 - ✚ Additional Central Calendar Dates
- The below items are sent digitally:
- ✚ Health Card
 - ✚ PTO Family Packet



STAFF UPDATES: 2022-2023

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, about 40 were invited for an initial interview. Of those, a select group were invited back for a more extensive Round 2. A select few participated in Round 3 competing for a contract position, 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:

- Grade 1: Mrs. Skidmore
- Grade 2: Ms. Feehan (Long-term Sub)
- Grade 4: Ms. Janeda (1st Semester Long-term Sub for Mrs. Frankel)
- Central Building Substitute: Ms. Wehler
- Elementary Building Substitute: Ms. Hodil
- Paraprofessional: Mrs. Szramowski

Changes to Central:

- Math Support: Mrs. Mytinger switched from Grade 4
- HMS Acting Assistant Principal - Mr. Rice
- Grade K-AM: Mrs. Griffith switched from Grade 1
- Grade 4: Mrs. Hogan switched from Grade 5
- Grade 4: Ms. Funtal will teach Math, Science and SS

Looking forward to a
great school year!

Reporting Absences



Please be sure to read the Attendance information in the “Handbook for Families with Elementary School Children” available on the [Parents](#) page of the district website.

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.