



**SAMUEL J. PRESTON SCHOOL**  
**50 TAYLOR AVENUE**  
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LOUIS N. WOOL, Ed.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

DENNIS KORTRIGHT  
PRINCIPAL

August 2019

**WELCOME LETTER**

Dear Preston Families,

Greetings! I hope you've been relaxing and enjoying time with family and friends during these wonderful days of summer.

I am so incredibly proud of Preston Elementary School. The school continues to be recognized as a warm and inviting place where all students and families feel welcome. Our children are so incredibly special. Our teachers are so incredibly talented. Our support staff is so incredibly caring. Our PTA and our supportive families are so incredibly giving of their time. I'm so honored to lead a school that is a wonderful place for children to learn and grow.

As educators, we know that students need language to do just about everything, especially school work. Therefore, as a school, we continue to emphasize and develop a robust approach to the teaching and learning of vocabulary. To achieve this, students are taught essential words in units of study in all content areas. They engage in routines and protocols that help them to master the proper usage of words. We are explicit with teaching parts of speech, and we help students to see the connections among words. As a result, students continue to achieve academically, and they enjoy learning and using sophisticated words and phrases in their talk and writing. We also strongly believe that learning about academic language will continue to have a powerful impact in their schooling and everyday lives.

Another goal this school year is to empower students with becoming effective problem solvers. We strive for students to become individuals that are compassionate and skilled with resolving issues they may encounter in and out of school. During the school day, we see problems as opportunities for students to practice highly effective habits such as, persisting, thinking flexibility, listening with understanding and empathy, and managing impulsivity. A habit is developed with lots of practice. We hope that with the language for effective problem solving, students will be able to resolve issues they face successfully. You can find more information about Habits of Mind at: <http://www.habitsofmindinstitute.org/>.

We are eager and enthusiastic to begin the school year!

**IMPORTANT**

**Please note that in the coming days, families will receive an e-mail communication from the district prompting you to set up a parent portal account. In addition to this, all families are required to update, or confirm contact and emergency information, as well as read and acknowledge important school documents. Please update your information through the online portal as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. This information must be updated every year, and is absolutely necessary for effective school to home communication. All technical questions about the parent portal may be directed to Brian Seligman, Director of Information Systems, Data and Technology, at [seligmanb@harrisoncsd.org](mailto:seligmanb@harrisoncsd.org).**

There are some changes for this school year:

- We have three new teachers to Preston: **Ms. Angela Fultz (4<sup>th</sup> grade)**, **Ms. Lauren Masi (5<sup>th</sup> grade)**, and \_\_\_\_\_ (**2<sup>nd</sup> grade**)
- Ms. Jennifer Skrzypek will be teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- We have a new nurse, \_\_\_\_\_

### **Breakfast and Lunch**

Breakfast will be offered for students from 8:15 – 8:40 am. The cost for breakfast is \$1.50, and the cost for lunch is \$2.00, except for those students who qualify for free and reduced meals (there is no additional cost). If you would like to pay for your child's lunch by check, please make your check payable to *Harrison Central School District* and include your child's name and student ID number (located on the class placement letter). Cash is also accepted. You will be receiving the 2018-2019 Food Service Information Packet in a separate mailing to your home, which will outline the Harrison Central School District's school lunch program.

### **Arrival and Dismissal Procedures**

The school day **begins at 8:55 am** and **ends at 3:05 pm**. All students can begin arriving to school at **8:00 am** using the Kindergarten doors on Harrison Street and the center doors of the bus circle on Taylor Avenue. Students in kindergarten, first, second, and third grades will report to the auditorium and sit by class. Fourth and fifth graders will report to the cafeteria, and depending on the weather, will be given morning recess on the playground, but they should always report to the cafeteria first. Please note that the colored cones on both Harrison Street and Taylor Avenue indicate drop off areas only. If you need to park, please do so outside of these indicated areas. This will ensure that the drop off procedures are efficient and safe.

During the first week of school, parents are welcomed to walk their child into the building. Beginning September 12th, all adults entering the building will be asked to sign in, wear a visitor's pass, and report directly to the main office. This encourages students to become independent, lessens the traffic flow in the building, and helps us monitor who is in the building at all times.

Students are dismissed at 3:05 pm at the following locations:

**Kindergarten:** Kindergarten doors on Harrison Street, **1<sup>st</sup> grade:** Cafeteria Doors, **2<sup>nd</sup> grade:** Doors facing bus circle on Taylor Avenue closest to cafeteria, **3<sup>rd</sup> grade:** Main Entrance (Center Doors) on Taylor Avenue, **4<sup>th</sup> grade:** Door facing playground closest to Harrison Street, **5<sup>th</sup> grade:** Handicapped Entrance on Harrison Street.

### **After School**

If you require after school care, our after school program is available for all grades and is provided through the Harrison Children's Center. For more information, please contact Ms. Jayne Lapadula at (914) 826-6899. For your convenience, after school packets are available in the main office.

### **Attendance**

Students who have high attendance rates and arrive to school on time are more likely to make high academic gains than students who do not. Students need to arrive on time, as this helps them to develop routines and prepare for the school day. When students arrive late, they lack routine, disrupt their learning and that of their peers. Therefore, we encourage you to do your best to have your child arrive to school on time each day, and please avoid planning vacations when school is in session. If your child needs to be absent for any reason, please call our 24-hour Attendance Line at (914) 630-3165 and leave a message.

### **Calendar**

The district will not be mailing the school calendar to your homes; therefore you will need to print a copy from our district website at <http://www.harrisoncsd.org/>. If you are unable to print a copy, additional copies will be available in the main office for your convenience.

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,

Dennis Kortright  
Principal

DK/ddr  
Enclosures