



Laura M. Rodriguez, Principal

August 15, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you continue to have a safe and enjoyable summer. **The first day of school is August 30, 2022**, and it is rapidly approaching.

I am including a list of this year's teachers at the end of this letter. I know you will enjoy working collaboratively with our talented staff members. As you are probably aware, classroom placements were made based upon many factors and our staff did an excellent job of placing students where they believe they will be most successful. We do not make changes or accept parent requests.

It is our obligation to teach math, language arts, science, social studies, the arts, physical education, health, and other related subject areas to our children with different cultural backgrounds, races, socio-economic levels, family structures, learning styles and beliefs. The BOE and our administration continue to be aligned in our work to support every child and every staff member to engage in the pursuit of learning. Therefore, our staff will continue to be provided professional development in providing equitable teaching practices to all students. Our school community and district are deeply committed to our work around diversity, equity and inclusion. We intend to continue to show our Hamden P.R.I.D.E. to showcase and honor the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of all students and staff.

Our **Open House** will be held on **Wednesday, September 14, 2022 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM** and it will be in person at the school. More details about this event will be shared in the coming weeks.

Important Information:

We want to remind you that doors open at 8:00 AM and students are dismissed by 3:04 PM.

Please familiarize yourself with the school handbook. It will be available on our school website. It will also be distributed to students on the first days of school. While cell phones are not allowed in school, students can bring them for emergency reasons only. They must stay off and in their backpacks all day. Failure to do so will result in a parent coming to retrieve the phone. We also ask that you monitor cell phone usage at home.

Included in this packet is the HPS calendar for 2022-23 with important dates.

You can find Dunbar Hill School PTA information on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DunbarHillSchoolPTA/ . We are encouraging **all** families and staff to become members. Sarah Morrill returns as our wonderful PTA president. She can be reached at president@dunbarhillpta.org. Meeting dates, committee members and more can be found on the website.

Right at School will also be offering before and after school programming again this year. You can register on their website at www.RightAtSchool.org .

Any child assigned to a bus will be placed on that bus unless you state otherwise in writing on the enclosed Transportation Form. Additionally, no child will be released to an adult who is not listed on your Emergency Form (also enclosed). Your child's safety is our paramount concern and we must know where they are at all times. If you

have a dismissal change during the day, we ask that you make every effort to contact us by 10:00 AM. This year, we will NOT be allowing students to ride home on the bus with other students. Bus routes will be located on our district website as soon as they are available.

Lunch and breakfast will continue to be **free** for all students, but we still encourage families to complete free-reduced lunch forms, which will be sent home at the beginning of the school year. There are more services available to those who qualify for free or reduced lunch through the application process. Information about food services is available on the district website: <https://www.hamden.org/district-information/lunchmenu> . Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria and also have recess each day.

Every child entering kindergarten is required to have a physical including an updated immunization record, which will be reviewed by our school nurse. Students new to Hamden Public Schools will also need to be medically cleared by our school nurse. Children not in compliance **will not** be permitted into school. This and any other outstanding registration paperwork must be submitted to the school **prior to August 30th** .

Parents dropping off and picking up their children by car **must** do so from the Benham Street parking lot. Additionally, if your child is getting dropped off, please drive around the parking loop and drop your child off at the curb by the Benham Street entrance. Children should exit the car onto the sidewalk and not walk in the parking lot. Staff will greet the students and direct them to their classroom. Children may **NOT** be dropped off earlier than 8:00 am, unless they are officially enrolled in the Right at School morning program. Information for the Right at School program was included in Friday's email. There are to be no children dropped off by car unattended in the Benham Street lot. Children being picked up by car from the Benham Street lot will be checked out by staff when picked up **at the Benham Street entrance**, just as we have done in the past. Children may be dropped off at the Lane Street and Sandquist Circle intersection and cross the street with the crossing guard on duty. **No cars are permitted in the Lane Street lot or the circular driveway between the times of 7:45-8:30 AM and 1:15-2:55 PM.**

If your child is in a classroom with a student who has severe allergies, the teacher will give you specific information on what is allowed in the classroom for snacks. Please read our handbook for information on our wellness policy and birthday celebrations.

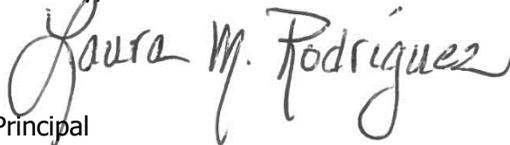
If you plan to pick your child up from school early, please send in a note or email to your child's teacher in the morning. We also ask that any early dismissals are done prior to 2:30 PM, avoiding the last half hour of the school day. Students will be brought to the main entrance for pick-up while you wait outside.

Please complete the enclosed Emergency and Transportation Forms for each of your children, sending them in with your child(ren) on their first day of school. If at all possible, please return these forms prior to the beginning of school per the instructions on the back of the forms, as it is especially helpful to have this information before school starts to ensure our staff knows how to reach you in an emergency, as well as how to dismiss your child safely and properly.

To stay up-to-date on what's happening throughout the year, please be sure that you provide us with your current email address on the enclosed Emergency Form in order to receive weekly newsletters containing calendar information, celebrations of student learning, and more, sent by SchoolMessenger. Please check the DHS website frequently for additional news and notes.

Best wishes for a wonderful school year.

Sincerely,

Laura M. Rodriguez

Principal

For Dunbar Hill School Updates

Text **81010**

With the message **@dunbarhil**

to get Remind Text Alerts

PLEASE NOTE:

We will continue using SchoolMessenger, the District's automated notification system. Please do not unsubscribe to the emails or block phone calls you receive from the system, as this will be our primary form of communication with you. Voice messages from this system will come from 855-318-0291.

<i>Dunbar Hill Staff</i>	
Taylor Bova	Kindergarten
Christina Tescione	Kindergarten
Shannon Searles	K-3rd Grade/High Roads
Lori Maslowski	1st Grade
Janet Manukas	1st Grade
Trish Avitable	2nd Grade
Jennifer Methot	2nd Grade
Allison DiCrosta	3rd Grade
Angela Varca	3rd Grade
Rachel Ferruggia	4th-6th Grade/High Roads
Heather Page	4th Grade
Christine Simon-Patafio	4th Grade
Renee Mooney	5th Grade
Chris Prevost	5th Grade
Jennifer Wassmer	5th Grade
Jeff Chudoba	6th Grade
Lauren Chudoba	6th Grade
Marc Alongi	Art
Jackie Church	Library/Media
Emma Sheffer	Music
Laura Choquette	Instrumental Music
Tom Cottiero	Physical Education

*Email addresses are first initial, followed by
last name@hamden.org*