

Hoose Hawks – Family Newsletter

April 25, 2022

Hello Hoose Hawk families. I hope you had a great weekend. Here are some pieces of information that are important for you to know.

Playground Update - Construction is set to begin the week of May 15th. This schedule will mean a couple changes will be necessary to complete our school year. Please read the information below as there will be portions of our grounds that will be accessible and portions that will not be accessible until the Fall:

- The blacktop area (basketball hoops) on the south side of the building will NOT be available for drop off or pickup
- There will be fencing surrounding our grounds as construction crews, trucks, and earth movers will be active and moving
- For families who have students in the Normal Parks and Rec before and/or after school program, pickup will ONLY be available by the Main Office off of Vernon Street. The south bus lane will be close to all traffic.
- *Our black and orange playground on the south side of the building by the flagpole will not be available for students starting the week of May 15th and throughout the summer.*
- Pickup and Dropoff will ONLY be available at the Main Office area off of Vernon Street. We anticipate that traffic will be heavier, so please plan accordingly. We apologize for the inconvenience as this project gets started.
- Our grounds will not be accessible during the summer months as construction will be very busy during this time.
- Finally, once the project is complete, you will notice many changes to our grounds and outdoor areas. We appreciate your patience as this large and amazing project gets underway!

Assessment Windows - As the end of the year begins to come into focus, our students will be completing multiple assessments. These assessments help us see growth and determine next instruction steps. Students will be completing aReading and aMath (FastBridge Assessments taken district-wide), and the District Writing Assessment. Additionally, students will be reading with their teacher(s) looking at reading growth and skills. Recently, our 3,4,5 students completed the IAR, and 5th grade also completed the Illinois Science Assessment. It is a busy time for our students and staff. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Teacher Appreciation Week - We would like to thank our PTO and learning community in advance for celebrating Teacher Appreciation week during the first week of May!

Yearbooks on Sale Online - Be sure to order your child's yearbooks through Jostens online! Click the link to purchase online: [Hoose Yearbook Online Portal - Order Here](#)

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Registration Open - Registration for the 22/23 school year is open for returning students and incoming Kindergarten students. Listed below are links to begin the registration process:

- [Registration for Returning Students](#)
- [Kindergarten Registration](#)

COVID and/or Symptoms Reporting - If your student tests positive, or is a close contact to someone who tests positive, or has symptoms of COVID, please email or call us (309) 557-4414 here at school so we can contact you with any protocols. Please email Mrs. Blemler (School Nurse) at blemler@unit5.org

COVID Update - If your child has received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine we encourage you to send a copy of their vaccination card to the school nurse to keep on file. It can be sent electronically to the school nurse or a copy can be dropped off in the school office. A COVID vaccine is not required for children to attend school and submitting proof is voluntary.

Bus ID Cards (Z Pass) - A reminder to all families that students will be using their Bus ID cards (Z-Pass) to swipe on and off the bus each day. Please be sure to check your child's backpack for this ID. If your child is missing their ID, let us know and we will make sure they get a new one as soon as possible.

Student Devices - A quick reminder that student devices continue to use school filters and security measures 24 hours per day. Please help us continue to monitor student use and searches. The Main Office is alerted to inappropriate use/searches. We appreciate your support and partnership!

FirstView App - Unit 5, in partnership with First Student, is launching FirstView®, a bus tracking and parent communications app for your smartphone or desktop to help you track your child's bus.

Live Tracking: The FirstView® map screen shows you the location and direction of your student's bus, your student's stop schedule for the current day and timestamps for school arrivals and departures. You'll know when the bus arrives or departs from school. (It is important to note that the tracking system may not work if your child's bus has been combined with another route.)

Predictive Stop Arrival Times: Analyzing route and real-time GPS data, it determines an estimated time of arrival to your stop provided on the FirstView® map. The app is designed to provide parents with a better guideline for bus location and ETA. Students should still be at their assigned bus stop 10 minutes prior to the estimated or scheduled arrival time.

Custom Alerts and Messages: Set up push or email notifications alerting you when your student's bus is a chosen distance or number of minutes away from your stop.

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Multi-Stop View: Buses for all your students can be tracked with FirstView®. Using individual colors for each student, every selected stop appears on the map simultaneously for easy viewing.

Additional User Notifications: Connect up to three additional email accounts (including your own) to receive email alerts. This is a great feature for grandparents or caregivers!

Available in Multiple Languages: English, French (Canadian), Spanish, Vietnamese, Oromo, Chinese, Amharic, Tagalog, Somali, Tigrinya are available based on your phone's language settings.

Secure and Easy Access: FirstView® requires a password-protected account for app set-up. This way, only you can view your student's stop! These codes are provided to you by your district. Here is a [link](#) on how to find the information for your student in Infinite Campus that is needed to register in the First View app.

Dedicated Customer Support: We are here to help you. Whether you are having trouble getting started with FirstView®, not seeing correct data or have an idea to make FirstView® better, we want to hear from you!

Contact FirstView® Monday - Friday (Support provided in English only):

Calling the toll-free phone number 888-889-8920 from 7:00 a.m. EST to 5:00 p.m. EST

Emailing Customer Support at support@firstviewapp.com

For more information and to download the app, please go to www.firstviewapp.com.

These links will help with set up:

[Parent App FAQ](#)

[Parent App Flyer](#)

[Parent App Quick Start Guide](#)

[Instructions to find student registration information](#)

Menu Changes - Due to a nationwide shortage on some materials, and some food items, the necessity to change the breakfast or lunch menu does arise. I would encourage families to check the menus regularly to be sure you know if any updates or changes to menu items daily. The link to the menus is below: [Unit 5 Food Service Menus](#)

Weather - As the weather changes daily, please be sure to send your child to school with a coat, hat, and gloves. We will continue to go outside for recess unless the wind chill is below 20 degrees. We use the Weather Channel to determine this each day before recess times.

Reporting Absences - If your child does have symptoms, please be sure to call the Main Office (557-4414) to report the absence. Our School Nurse may follow up with families to help determine the best course of action.

Attendance - Attendance is one of the most important components of student achievement. Please remember that learning begins at 7:45 each morning. Students arriving after 7:45 may be marked tardy. We appreciate your help as we get students into the learning routines of school.

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PTO Meeting – The next Hoose PTO meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 25th starting at 6:00 pm in the IMC or virtually (we will be offering both options).

Late Start Dates – Our next late start date is approaching. Please mark the following date on your calendars: Wednesday, May 4th. On late start days, school starts one hour later at **8:45 am**. PLC teams begin meeting at 7:15 am.

Pick-up and Drop-off – Pick-up and drop-off of students can take place in two areas around Hoose. The Circle drive near the Main Office on the North end of the building and the large parking lot on the south end of the building are available for families.

- Circle Drive – For AM drop-off, please be sure to proceed slowly through the circle drive for the safety of all of our students and staff. There are visitor parking spots if parents need to park, please use these instead of parking in the drive. **Once you have entered the circle drive, please pull up to the curb (do not drop off in the drive lane) and have your child exit the vehicle on the sidewalk side.**
- Circle Drive – For PM pick-up, the circle drive will be open for parents to pick up their student(s) at 2:15. We do have a few specialized transports that pick up and depart between 1:55-2:15. **Please wait until 2:15 to pull into the circle drive** so we can get our buses in and out of the drive as quickly as possible. **Once you have entered the circle drive, please pull up to the curb (do not pick up in the drive lane) and have your child enter the vehicle on the sidewalk side.**
- ~~South Parking Lot~~ – ~~The south parking lot is available for pick-up and drop-off at all times before and after school. Our large transport buses do drop-off and pick-up in the driveway nearest the building on the south end of the building near the flagpole. Please park your vehicle in the middle of the parking lot near the basketball hoops.~~

Hoose/District Website - We will continuously update our website throughout the year and add important and pertinent information for our families to use. We also want the website to be a resource and help make connections to the community. The site will be ever-developing, but please use it to help plan referencing our calendar, look for new items added, volunteer requirements, etc. Thanks Hoose!

Calendar Additions – Please add the events/dates below:

- 4/25 - PTO Meeting @ 6:00 pm (IMC or virtual)
- 4/29 - Popcorn Day (Student Council)
- 5/1 - Unit 5 Foundation Fun Run
- 5/4 - Late Start Day - learning begins at 8:45 am

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- 5/ 8 - Mother's Day
- 5/13 - Popcorn Day (Student Council)
- 5/15 (week) - Construction of Natural Playground Begins
- Please be sure to check the Hoose Building Calendar for dates