



# HOGAN CEDARS

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

***“Create a dynamic learning community where every student is valued and supported on his/her educational journey.”***

August 2023

Dear Hogan Cedars Families,

### **Welcome Back to the 2023-2024 School Year!**

I hope you all have had a relaxing and fun summer break. I am extremely proud to serve as the Principal of this amazing learning community for the 3rd year and to continue to support the students of Hogan Cedars! This new school year brings the promise of a renewed dedication, focus, and energy to the mission of teaching and learning. With that said, the Hogan Cedars staff and PTSO are ready to kick this year off in true Hawk fashion!

I would like to welcome all of our new families, whether you are joining us from another school in the district or have relocated from another city, state, or country. We are excited to share all that Hogan Cedars has to offer with you and believe you will soon feel as we do, that Hogan Cedars is a special place for *all* children. Our teachers, support staff, and families are ready to welcome you into the Hogan Cedars family.

As I have always said, Hogan Cedars outstanding staff create the foundation for your child's academic success. Our dedicated staff has worked tirelessly to finalize schedules, fine-tune our instructional models, engage in professional learning opportunities, and update class routines and expectations, all with the goal of fostering academic success. Our teachers are eager to meet their new students and begin this year's journey with them. Our primary goal is to ensure

student proficiency in core academic subjects, so we will continue to refine Tier I instruction, analyze data, conduct observations, and review classwork to guide instruction and intervention. Additionally, we will continue placing a focus on social and emotional support strategies into our students' daily school experience. We work together to create a solid foundation for our students so that they have the opportunity to become self-directed learners, collaborative teammates, critical thinkers, and responsible citizens. We will continue to offer intervention services through specialized programs, counseling when appropriate, and the implementation of Tier II and Tier III programs and learning strategies.

I look forward to the start of the new school year and to continuing our collaboration of providing your children with an effective and engaging educational experience. As always, we look to our families to be positive partners in this year's journey. The Hogan Cedars staff has always made a priority of working together as a caring and compassionate learning community with professionalism, teamwork, action, and expertise. We will always put the best interests of our students at the center of our purpose. Join us in ensuring the success of all of our students. Stay healthy, stay positive, and stay connected.

### **Arrival and Dismissal**

Our first day of school for students in grades 1-5 is Tuesday, September 5th. (Kindergarten families will receive more information in a separate letter.) Classes begin at 8:35 am. Students can come into the building at 8:15 am each day. *We will continue with our arrival procedures of having students enter the side front doors (side back doors if coming from buses), go to breakfast as needed, and line up in the cafeteria (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes) and gym (Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes) until teachers come to walk their classes to the classrooms.* In the report card mailing last June, families were informed of their children's teachers for the 2023-24 school year. All students, grades K-5, will be dismissed at 3:05 pm each day.

**The safety of your children is our number one priority.** Hogan Cedars is a very busy place at arrival and dismissal times. Ensuring the safety of our students is our top priority at Hogan Cedars we kindly request your cooperation in following the designated safety procedures during drop-off and pick-up times. *Please review the following safety information before the first day of school:*

- *In the mornings, all cars that are dropping off students will need to enter the parking lot at the far entrance. For everyone's safety, it is important that every car stays in the line (regardless if the student has gotten out of the car or not) until they have reached the drop off area. We will work as efficiently as possible to move vehicles while keeping safety in mind.*
- *Prioritizing safety requires that when dropping students off and when picking students up, students exit and enter cars at the curbside.*
- *At dismissal, cars will again enter into the parking lot from the far entrance and will need to wait in line until their respective children are released to the vehicle. We will work as efficiently as possible to get students to their vehicles.*
- *Daycare vans will be permitted to enter into the first entrance at arrival and dismissal and drop off or wait for their respective students in the circle area.*
- *Please call the school office by 8:30 AM if your student will be late or absent. The phone number is 503-261-4500. After hours you can leave a message.*

### **Late Starts**

We continue to have Late Start for all grades on Wednesdays, with school starting at 9:35 am on these days, beginning on Wednesday, September 6th (students can enter the building at 9:15 am). Buses pick up students one-hour later in the mornings on Wednesdays.

## **Bus Information**

Bus information is posted on our school website. Go to the *Parents* menu along the top of our homepage and scroll down to *Student Transportation*. Hogan Cedars website is [www.gresham.k12.or.us/hces](http://www.gresham.k12.or.us/hces).

## **School Breakfast and Lunch Program**

As students get ready for the school year, families can check lunch off their list this fall as the district welcomes Chartwells K12 as the new food service provider. By serving food kids love to eat, offering innovative programs that encourage fun and discovery, and creating a place where students can connect and recharge with others. Over the course of the upcoming school year, Chartwells will be introducing new menu options, gathering student feedback, and making other changes to enhance the mealtime experience. Some of the things kids can look forward to when it comes to mealtime include new recipes, concepts, and programs. Chartwells K12 is dedicated to ensuring students leave the cafeteria happier and healthier than when they came in.

This school year we will continue to offer a healthy breakfast and lunch to students at no cost during the school day, we will also need to collect household applications as in years' past.

What does this mean for you and your child(ren)?

- Your children will still be able to eat breakfast and lunch at no cost for the 2023-24 school year.
- Every family will need to complete a [free meal application](#). Reference this [link](#), go to our school website under the **Parents** menu to get an electronic link, or get a paper form at the school office.

If you have any questions, or need assistance completing your application for free lunch, please contact the Nutrition Services Department, at 503-261-4595.

## **New Staff**

As with any summer, there are some changes regarding staffing to share. We are very excited for our new staff members and welcome them to the Hogan Cedars family!

We are delighted to welcome Michelle Brown to our office as a secretary. Michelle Brown will be an integral asset to our office team and will work side-by-side with Heidi Kaplan. Feel free to stop by, or call us at 503.261.4500 if you have questions about the upcoming school year. Our office hours are 8:00AM-4:00PM.

Marinela Ionescu is joining Caroline Hiscox in our Emergent Language Learners (EML) program supporting of our English learners at Hogan Cedars. She comes to us from Powell Valley with a rich background and will be an asset to our team.

We are excited to have Linda Klobas, Jenny Caudle, Cristina Kiriak, and Sarah Brown joining our amazing educational assistant support staff who work collaboratively to make sure our students have small group learning opportunities and are safe at recess.

In addition to new staff, we have a couple of classroom assignment changes. Hope Newport, one of our second grade teachers, has moved to our Title I program as our lead teacher. Annie Stowe, a kindergarten teacher, has moved to second grade.

## **Grade Level Teachers**

Kindergarten:	Lucy Arreola, Shaari Cohen, Emily Woolworth
First Grade:	Wendy Hutchings, Martha Kahler, Blair Thomas
Second Grade:	Katy Druffel, Kim Fast, Annie Stowe
Third Grade:	Josue Gonzalez, Jamie Henderson, Martin Martinez
Fourth Grade:	Katrina Copenhaver, Hannah Hohbach, Tori Swartz
Fifth Grade:	Alissa Iranon, Elijah Lee, Kristy McKenzie

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## **Student Placement**

A great deal of time, effort and thought has gone into the process of student placement for the 2023-2024 school year. Creating classes that are balanced to meet the varying needs of students is a tremendous undertaking that we take great pride in at Hogan Cedars. School staff analyze student performance data, monitor enrollment, and plan for instructional programming that will best meet the needs of our students. We also balance our classes by students' performance data, gender, race, and provide inclusion for students who access special education services, ESOL services and other considerations. Classrooms are balanced academically and socially. Our class lists are structured to provide equitable class sizes at each grade level. We have worked hard to ensure that all of our students are placed in optimal learning environments. **To that end, we do not accept any requests for changing teacher assignments.** All of our staff members are incredible educators, and all of our students will learn at high levels with them! We are strongly committed to building relationships and remain focused on social emotional learning as we welcome our students back to school.

Thank you so much for being positive with your child and helping him or her understand that it is impossible to place all students with a preferred best friend or teacher. ALL of our staff works hard to make school a positive experience for ALL students. Hogan Cedars is eagerly looking forward to enriching your child's life. Thank you for understanding that it can take a few weeks for a child to acclimate to a new grade, peer group, and teacher.

## **Back-To-School**

Your partnership and support are key elements to ensuring we are able to maximize each student's educational and personal development. To that end, we encourage a positive home to school relationship based on the mutual goal of providing the best learning experience possible for all students. Our talented faculty brings a diverse set of approaches to instruction in order to address a variety of student learning styles. You will have the opportunity to meet the faculty at our Back-To-School Night on Tuesday, September 26th from 6:00 p.m.

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to 7:00 p.m. You will be invited to visit your child's classroom, meet the classroom teacher, as well as learn about the grade level curriculum, specials, and classroom activities.

**Important Dates**

August 28	Popsicles and Play for incoming Kindergarten students, 5:30 - 6:30 pm on the playground
September 2	Teddy Bear Parade-Downtown Gresham
September 5	First day of school for grades 1st-5th
September 5-8	Kindergarten Gradual Entry
September 11	First full day of Kindergarten for all
September 12	PTSO meeting, 6:00 - 7:00 pm, Media Center
September 26	Back to School Night, 6:00 - 7:00 pm
September 29	No School-Curriculum and Instruction Day

As always, my door is open and our team welcomes your input. Please feel free to contact me via email at the address below or call to make an appointment to speak with me to discuss any ideas you feel will make this the best year yet!

Educationally yours,

Heidi Blakley  
Principal  
Hogan Cedars Elementary  
blakley@gresham.k12.or.us