

HIPPO MONTHLY

BACK TO SCHOOL FDITION



UNITED IN EXCELLENCE FOR **202**2-23

Dear Hutto ISD Families, Staff & Community,

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- GIVING AT THE
- **JAYWALKING**
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- **PARENTSQUARE**
- HIPPO NATION **FRIDAY**
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- AND MORE!

It's hard to believe we are in our fourth week of the 2022-23 school year! We hope our parents. teachers and community have adjusted to new routines, energy and excitement that comes from being together again.

Hippo Nation inspires excellence in academics, character, and community. We do this in part by engaging the community to enhance the student experience. We launched a new communication tool. ParentSquare and have seen our campuses open back up for lunch and events following the pandemic's restrictions of the past few years. We invite you to join us applying to serve as a volunteer or mentor in Hutto ISD. By volunteering once per week, month or year, you can make a difference in our students' education and their lives. You will receive an email when your volunteer application and background check are approved.

If you haven't accepted your ParentSquare invitation, please do. You'll find valuable information shared by your teachers, your student's school and the district. Be sure to adjust your notification and language settings to meet your personal preferences. continued on page 2



UNITED IN EXCELLENCE FOR 2022-23 continued

It's also a good time to remind you of our schedule for regular and timely communications to keep you informed. All parents, staff, and subscribed community members receive the following:

- Monthly communications from Hutto ISD's Hippo Monthly newsletter the first Wednesday of every month.
- Regular communications from your student's campus distribution schedules vary by campus, primarily through ParentSquare via email, text and within the app.

Additionally, we use social media as an official outlet to share routine news and information, and also for timely emergency notifications such as inclement weather updates, power outages, etc. in addition to sharing via our local news stations when appropriate. Consider following @HuttoISD_on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Our teams regularly monitor these platforms to help you stay informed and engaged.

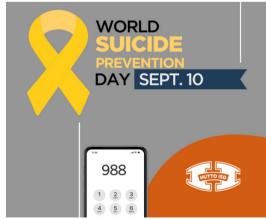
Thanks to so many of you for joining in on our Hippo Nation Fridays by sporting orange and sharing your pictures with us. It's fabulous seeing our entire community united in Hutto ISD orange! This year's theme is "United in Excellence, Unidos!" We truly believe we are better when we are united. We are grateful for your partnership in building the character, academics and sense of community of our students

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, which helps promote resources and awareness around the issues of suicide prevention, how you can help others, and how to talk about suicide without increasing the risk of harm. We use this month to reach out to those affected by suicide, raise awareness and connect individuals with suicidal ideation to treatment services. It is also important to ensure that individuals, friends, and families have access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention.

In an effort to be proactive in preventing teen suicides, we would like to share some information on the warning signs and risk factors of teen suicide. Suicidal thoughts, much like mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or background. In fact, suicide is often the result of an untreated mental health condition. Suicidal thoughts, although common, should not be considered normal and often indicate more serious issues.

If you or someone you know is experiencing suicidal thoughts or emotional distress, please call or text the three-digit Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Line—988. It routes callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800-273-8255). You may also call 911 immediately.



Join our Board President on this special webinar: Protect Your Kids From Cyberbullying, September 19, 2022



NAMING OF MIDDLE SCHOOL #3

GUS ALMQUIST MIDDLE SCHOOL

After seeking community recommendations for the naming of Hutto ISD's third middle school, the school board voted unanimously on August 25 to approve the name: Gus Almquist Middle School. Mr. Almquist was a native of Hutto, with his ancestors settling in Hutto from Sweden. Mr. Almquist and his three siblings, four children, and so far, four grandchildren, graduated from Hutto High School. Mr. Almquist served on the Hutto School Board for 17 years, including leading as board president.





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Paula Martin, Almquist's daughter, shared stories with the trustees, including a time when Hutto had no money for band uniforms, and Almquist enlisted his wife to make band uniforms for 7th-12th grade band members. Almquist's wife also created Hutto's first Hippo mascot costume.

After retiring from the Board and from farming, Gus Almquist worked at Hutto ISD in groundskeeping and maintenance and became known to all as "Mr. Gus." He had a loving heart, was giving, caring and became a good friend to the teachers. He could be seen carrying boxes and hanging bulletin boards for teachers, and giving hugs to students who grew to call him "Mr. Gus," or "Pawpaw Gus" as his own grandchildren also called him.

Trustee Shannon Jacobs, said "He went above and beyond for our community. When we see those shining lights of people who stepped up even though they didn't have to, I think it's important in picking the name." Board Vice President Amy English read a quote that Paula Martin shared, originally stated by Coretta Scott King: "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

Trustee Terrence Owens, said, "Your dad and the emails we received remind me of the goodness in our community and Hutto especially. His name will go along with the Kerleys and the Howard Normans, and the Nadine Johnsons ... and I hope that whoever becomes the principal of the new middle school will embody your dad's name and his work and it will become part of the teaching at the school." Billie Logiudice, Board President, said, "May Gus Almquist Middle School be a reminder that we can all be the caring, giving people in today's world."

The district looks forward to working with the family during the construction process to bring special touches to the campus to best recognize Mr. Almquist's memory. The naming of a school says so much about a school community. I am thrilled to know the school's namesake, Gus Almquist, exemplifies the wholesome character traits that we all want students and future residents to model," said Celina Estrada Thomas, Ph.D, Superintendent.

HUTTO MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

CHARLES RODRIGUEZ NAMED

Charles Rodriguez joins Hutto ISD from Cox Elementary in Leander ISD where he served as principal for four years. Before that, Mr. Rodriguez held the position of principal at A.V. Cato Elementary in Castleberry ISD for two years, assistant principal at Whitley Road Elementary in Keller ISD, and academic associate at Hillwood Middle School, also in Keller ISD.

Mr. Rodriguez earned a bachelor's and master's degree from Texas Wesleyan University. He attended Lamar University to work on his superintendent certification, and is currently attending Texas Tech University in pursuit of his educational doctorate degree. Mr. Rodriguez and his wife Amy have four children: Christian-13, Alyssa-12, Matthew-5, and Eli-4.



"I am honored and excited for the amazing opportunity to serve and lead as the principal at Hutto Middle School," said Rodriguez, "Hutto is a great place to live and learn. I look forward to meeting our wonderful teachers, staff, students, families, and community. I am excited for this upcoming school year and look forward to serving you and Hippo Nation."





GIVING AT THE PUMP

FILL-UP FOR GOOD

The Hutto Education Foundation is proud to partner with Refuel at 408 Highway 79 W, Hutto, TX 78634, for the Shell USA (Shell) "The Giving Pump" as part of its Force For Good initiative to drive positive change in local communities by giving back. Until October 31, a portion of the purchases made by consumers who use the designated pump at the Shell station Refuel at 408 Highway 79 W, Hutto, TX 78634 will support the Hutto Education Foundation.

"The Giving Pump" at Shell stations across Hutto, Texas will be specially marked with colorful signage to inspire consumers to fuel up and support this local charity. It's easy to participate in the program, and it costs customers nothing extra.



HUTTO EDUCATION FOUNDATION

DONORS MAKING WAVES

On August 25, Kitchell presented Cottonwood Creek Elementary with a check for \$1,200 dollars for needed supplies for the school year. Cottonwood Creek Elementary plans to use their donation to help stock the new Science Lab with hands-on supplies.

Thanks to the Hutto Education Foundation and Kitchell for supporting Hutto schools. As Claudia Cardwell said, "These donations make ripples, which makes waves for students!" Not only did Kitchell do this, but they signed on as a Bronze Annual Corporate Partner with HEF to enrich educational opportunities throughout the year across the district.











JAYWALKING PREVENTION

USE THE CROSSWALKS

The City of Hutto and Hutto Athletics Department, Hutto Police Department and Hutto ISD Police have jointly produced a Jaywalking public service announcement to encourage students to make a plan, stay safe, stay smart and cross streets at crosswalks.

We ask parents take one minute to watch this <u>Public Safety Announcement</u> with their student. After watching, we ask that you go over these important reminders:

- Using a designated crosswalk is the safest and legal way to cross the road.
- Jaywalking is illegal and can result in a fine.
- If you are caught jaywalking at HHS, off campus lunch privileges could be revoked.

MAKE A PLAN. STAY SAFE. STAY SMART.



Use The Crosswalks.









FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES

FOOD SERVICE FOR 2022-23

All Hutto ISD students will receive free breakfast in our cafeterias. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress authorized spending that allowed schools to serve free meals for all students. Those funds are not authorized to continue for the 2022-2023 school year. As a result, Hutto ISD must return to charging for lunch, offering free and reduced-price meals based on student eligibility.

Starting on August 15, 2022, Hutto ISD began distributing letters and applications to the households of the children in the district about eligibility benefits. Families are encouraged to complete the Application for Free and Reduced- Price School Meals, and return the completed form online or to any school office. View more information here.

Please note the following rate increases in lunch service:

SCHOOL	2021-22	2022-23
Elementary	\$2.55	\$2.65
Secondary (6-12)	\$2.80	\$2.90



Meal payments can be made at myschoolbucks.com or at any cafeteria register.

TRANSPORTATION RECOGNITION

A PERFECT 10

Transportation Services employee, Bradley Alders is well recognized by anyone who has students at Cottonwood Creek Elementary or Hutto Middle Schools. Rightly so, after all, he hasn't missed a day, rain or shine, in 10 years of service. Bradley was recognized by the Hutto ISD board members at the August 25 board meeting.

Parents love that Brad learns each of the kid's names and students miss Mr. Brad in the summer months. Thank you for your dedicated service to keeping our students safe!



PARENTSQUARE-PROMISING PLATFORM



PEAK PERFORMERS

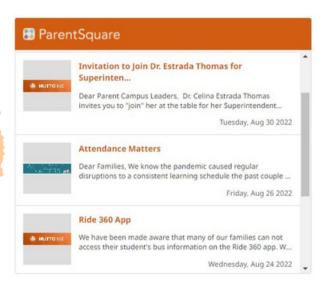
The feedback we have received on ParentSquare to date from parents, teachers and staff has been overwhelmingly positive! We seem to be on target with providing a tool that fosters a partnership with parents, staff and teachers. KUDOS to the early adopters who have jumped in there to enhance the student experience. To date we have had 243 post authors in ParentSquare. Topping the list is:

- Ryan Winkelmann, Hutto Elementary School
- Dr. Tonesha Holland, Nadine Johnson Elementary School
- Marc Schwarz, Hutto High School
- Kathleen Rodriguez, Hutto Elementary School
- Celina Lewis, Hutto Elementary School

Vanessa Lewis of Child Nutrition Services also has shown great initiative in helping our parents know when their student's meal balance is low.

NEW ADD-ON LAUNCHED

Recently we activated a ParentSquare widget on each of the school websites. This widget publishes posts from ParentSquare and makes them viewable without a login. Look for it on your school's website to stay in the know.





ParentSquare provides easy-to-follow in-depth training courses for parents, teachers and admins. All are available here.

Have questions? There's many sources of support.

- 1. Click the question mark in the top right corner of the desktop version or the Help tab on the app (tap the triple bar icon at the top left) to find answers to most of your questions
- 2. Use the Chat Feature or other resources.
- 3. View any of the 400+ help articles online.
- 4. Call 888-496-3168.
- 5. Submit a ticket with ParentSquare tech support.
- 6. Reach out to one of the Hutto ISD <u>campus trainers</u> once school starts back.
- 7. Email parentsquare@huttoisd.net

STUDENTS RETURN

#FIRSTDAYHIPPOS

Monday, August 15 was the start of school at Hutto ISD. We were pumped up from Convocation and ready. After a practice run with transportation and food services, and countless hours of setting up rooms, in-services, and prepping, the day had come. We got to welcome back the 2022-23 herd of Hutto ISD Hippos!

















HIPPO NATION FRIDAY

UNITED IN ORANGE

The City of Hutto and Hutto ISD have teamed up for Hippo Nation Friday, a community-wide display of unity and pride!

#HippoNationFriday kicked off on Friday, August 19. Everyone in the entire community - from Hutto businesses and workers, to students and alumni, families and friends - is encouraged to wear Hutto orange each and every Friday to show your shared love for Hutto.

Any orange shirt will work! It's that simple! No, really, that's all you have to do. Unless of course, you want to get competitive and challenge a school, department, club or organization to see who has the most spirit. We've got spirit, how 'bout you?

If you spot great Hippo Nation gear, let us know and we'll add it to our website at:

Hipponation.org/hipponationfriday

























COMMUNITY ED CALENDAR

The fall lineup of Hutto ISD's Community Education is full of personal growth courses. For students there are fine arts, STEM, and athletics classes. For adults, there are classes ranging from rock painting, to health and fitness, to computer software and English as a second language (ESL). Hutto ISD is even offering classes for the whole family including Zumba, emotional wellness, and advocacy courses.

See the <u>full lineup online</u> and look for our special insert in Community Impact Newspaper.

The community can register for many classes until October 11, however classes have limited spaces, so we encourage you to not delay and register now!







hipponation.org/CommEd

HIPPO NATION SPIRIT



The Team Spirit Store will be open during all events at Hutto Memorial Stadium and when gates open for the event.

9/9 - vs Cibolo Steele, 7:30 PM

9/16 - vs Converse Judson, 7:30 PM

10/7 - vs Harker Heights (Pink Out), 7:30 PM

10/21 - vs Copperas Cove (Homecoming), 7:30 PM

11/4 - vs Weiss (Senior Night), 7:30 PM

See Athletic event schedules at <u>RankOne</u>. Stock up on your Hutto Orange for #HippoNationFriday.











A MESSAGE FROM COACH LAPLANTE, HUTTO ISD ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

As we begin another exciting year of athletic events at Hutto Middle School, Farley Middle School, the Hutto 9th Grade Center, and Hutto High School, we want you to be prepared as you enter our athletic facilities for yet another HIPPO WIN!

Know Before you go Middle School and High School Gymnasiums, Baseball and Softball

- Employee Badge gets employee +1 free into athletic events
- Students K-8th grade MUST have a parent with them in order to attend the event. Dropping off students will no longer be allowed.
- No Yeti Cups or similar style containers are allowed
- · No outside food or beverage will be allowed
- Hutto ISD has gone cashless for tickets and concessions
- Umbrellas allowed (baseball and softball); please be courteous to other fans' views in bleachers and behind home plate
 - Please use top rows of bleachers, or stand in the grass off to the side
- The Clear Bag Policy is in effect for all athletic events (See details on the next page)
- No backpacks of any sort will be allowed
- Doors open 30 minutes before the game
- No animals are allowed with the exception of service animals to aid guests with disabilities

Know Before you go Hutto Memorial Stadium

- Employee Badge gets employee +1 free into athletic events
 - Badge +1 for varsity football is general admission seating, not reserved
- Students K-8th grade MUST have a parent with them in order to attend the event.
 - Dropping off students will no longer be allowed.
- No Yeti Cups or similar style containers are allowed
- No outside food or beverage will be allowed
- Hutto ISD has gone cashless for tickets, concessions and Team Spirit Store
- Team Spirit Store will open at the same time gates open to the general public
- No umbrellas allowed at any time
- The Clear Bag Policy is in effect for all athletic events (See details on the next page)
- No backpacks of any sort will be allowed
- Gates open 30 minutes before the game
 - (Junior High Football/Soccer, Freshman/JV Football, JV/V Soccer, All Track)
- Gates open 90 minutes before the game for Varsity Football
- No animals allowed with the exception of service animals to aid guests with disabilities

Thank you for supporting our student-athletes and our coaching staff. We hope all teams have an awesome 2022-23 season.

See you at the game! BE LOUD, BE POSITIVE, and HAVE FUN.



#BuildingChampions







A clear bag policy is in effect for all Hutto ISD athletic home events at Hutto Memorial Stadium. Approved and unapproved bags are shown below.

Approved Bags

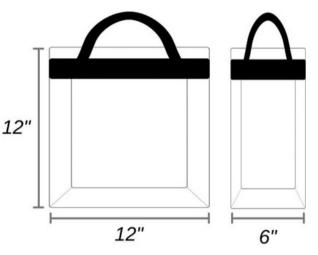
Large Bags

To bring bags to an athletic event at Hutto Memorial Stadium, bags must be clear and not exceed 12 inches. One per person. Bags must be clear plastic, vinyl, or PVC and have a maximum of one logo imprint not exceeding 4.5 inches tall x 3.4 inches wide.



Clear one-gallon resealable plastic storage bags are allowed.





Small Bags

Small clutch bags or purses do not have to be clear, but cannot exceed 4.5" x 6.5"







Unapproved Bags

All non-clear and/or larger than those shown above.



Backpack



Large Tote Bag



Printed Pattern Plastic Bag





Camera Case



Reusable Grocery Tote



Mesh or Straw Bag



Duffle Bag



Diaper Bag



Colored Plastic Storage Bag





Solid Color Cinch Bag

Exceptions to the clear bag policy will be made for credentialed media and those with necessary medical items after proper inspection at designated areas.





LONG-RANGE FACILITIES PLANNING

COMMITTEE TO PRESENT RECOMMENDATIONS IN DECEMBER

Hutto ISD convened a Long Range Facilities Planning Committee in August of 2022. The committee, comprised of approximately 60 members which includes parents, students, community members, and staff, is charged by the Hutto ISD Board of Trustees to:

> Prioritize the needs of all students and make decisions that will enable students to receive a premier education;



- Represent the expectations and values of the community:
- · Consider projects that will provide a safe and secure educational setting for students and staff; and
- Make recommendations that enhance the District's capacity to provide conditions for quality teaching and learning within the parameters of fiscal capacity and responsibility

Facilitated by Dr. Lizzy Johnson, founder of TransCend4, committee meetings will be held throughout the fall semester at the Hutto Ninth Grade Center multi-purpose room. Representatives from the Long Range Facilities Planning Committee will present their recommendations to the school board on December 8, 2022. While these meetings are not open to the public, the community is invited to view the presentations and all attachments by visiting the planning website.

HIGH SCHOOL MEET THE TEACHER

EVENT WILL BE ON SEPT. 7

The Hutto High School Meet the Teacher was rescheduled to Sept. 7.

We invite all High School parents to come to tour the high school, and meet their student's teachers. The evening will begin with a short introductory meeting in the PAC at 5:30 p.m. See you there!

> Dr. Rhonda McWilliams, Hutto High School Principal 2022-23





HUTTO MIDDLE SCHOOL HOSTING EVENT

Eight grade students at Hutto Middle School design, create and host the annual district-wide Robotics competition. This year's theme is, "Meltdown," and we always enjoy a fabulous turnout. Mark your calendar and come out to see why Hippo Nation is so known for our robotics program. October 22 from 9-1:30 p.m.





COLLEGE BOARD NATIONAL RECOGNITION

HUTTO HIGH SCHOOL AWARDEES

Hutto High School students have earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Programs. These National Recognition Programs grant underrepresented students with academic honors that can be included on college and scholarship applications and connect students with universities across the country, helping them meaningfully connect to colleges and stand out during the admissions process. Colleges and scholarship programs identify students awarded National African American, Hispanic, Indigenous and/or Rural/Small Town Recognition through College Board's Student Search Service.

The following student(s) have been awarded recognition (award key below):

Alana Nunez: NHRA

Ashlynn Albiter Dominguez: NHRA

Ayana Snow: NAARA

Bianca Stubbs: NAARA, NHRA Gabriel Aguilar-vega: NHRA Ines Chognika: NAARA Isabell Delarue: NHRA

Jessica Solis: NHRA Kusonah Fohtung: NAARA Lukas Harboure: NHRA Michelle Udenenwu: NAARA Nicole Revtor: NHRA

Talia Simpkins: NAARA, NHRA

Award Key: National African American Recognition Award - NAARA; National Hispanic Recognition Award - NHRA

Hutto ISD leadership is thrilled that these students have earned this recognition. We are very proud of them for their achievements in their classrooms and on College Board assessments. These programs help students from underrepresented backgrounds stand out to colleges during admissions.

EQUITY, RACISM AND INCLUSIVENESS



COLLABORATING FOR UNITY

After only two months officially on the job, the new DEI Director has loved every minute of this humanizing, collaborative work. Thymai Dong, Ph.D. (tee-my) feels fortunate that the Equity, Racism, & Inclusiveness (ERI) Task Force has already established the groundwork for how we will create a district culture of equity and safety. Dr. Dong is honored to work with parents/guardians, teachers, Board/community members, and administrators, and looks forward to expanding membership soon. She has delighted in connecting with people, listening to their stories, and letting them get to know her so they know who they have entrusted with diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. The DEI vision for the district is truly all-encompassing in that it is:

- collaborating around how to remain united, unidos, in our beautiful diversity,
- committing to educational equity so that access, learning, and success are not destined by any race/ethnicity/gender/class-based indicators, and
- interacting with one another in strength-based ways as an undivided community and family, always prioritizing inclusion.

Thank you to the community who attended the ERI Public Forum in June and to the teachers who attended the DEI session at HippoCon in August. Your compassion for all Hippos alike will continue to inspire Hutto ISD as we glide forward together. We look forward to see everyone at our future community events!

As you go forward and inspire excellence this year, please remember to take care of yourself while you take care of others, because who you are matters!





Join our 3D event!

Donuts with the Director of DEI





UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 7 HHS MEET THE TEACHER, 5:30-7 PM
- 8 BOARD MEETING, 6-10 PM
- 20 3D EVENT: DONUTS WITH DIRECTOR OF DEI 7:30-9 AM
- 20 BOARD MEETING, 6-10 PM
- 28 ERI PUBLIC FORUM, 8 PM
- 30 HEF'S ROWDY & RUSTIC

OCTOBER

- 4 SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL, 5 PM, BOARD ROOM
- 6 SUPERINTENDENT TABLE TALK, 7:30 AM, LAMPPOST COFFEE
- 7 HHS FOOTBALL-PINK OUT GAME, 6-10 PM
- 10 STUDENT/STAFF HOLIDAY
- 13 BOARD MEETING, 6-8 PM
- 21 HHS FOOTBALL HOMECOMING 6- 10 PM
- 27-BOARD MEETING, 6-10 PM
- 31 STUDENT HOLIDAY/STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY



NOVEMBER

- 1- STUDENT/STAFF
 DEVELOPMENT DAY
- 2 SUPERINTENDENT TABLE TALK, 7:30 AM, VIRTUAL
- 4 HHS FOOTBALL SENIOR NIGHT, 6-10 PM
- 8 SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL, 5 PM, BOARD ROOM
- 10 BOARD MEETING, 6-8 PM
- 11 VETERANS' DAY -STUDENT/STAFF HOLIDAY
- 21 25 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY -DISTRICT CLOSED