2025-26 Back to School News

HILLSBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT

IF YOU READ NOTHING ELSE, PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING!

Please pay particular attention to these items that require your **ACTION**:

- We need **your current information** to ensure we can reach you in the event of an emergency.
  - Please log on to your ParentVUE account and review your information to see if we have your correct address, phone numbers, and email address (your school can provide you with ParentVUE registration information).
  - The number you indicate as your PRIMARY contact phone number is the one that will be called by our auto-dialer system for announcements, emergency messages or when your child is absent.
  - *Please note that while you may not opt out of emergency notifications, you do have the right to opt out of other communications from the District and/or your child's school*. Email addresses can be updated by parents within ParentVUE. To change phone numbers, home addresses, or if you need assistance, please call or stop by the school.

- We need to know about **permissions for your student**.
  - **Photos, Website, Media, etc**. We love to showcase the great things our students are doing by displaying photos and write-ups on our District website and social media pages. We do understand, however, that there are situations in which a parent might not want their child's photo taken. Please know that our **STANDARD PROCESS IS TO ALLOW PHOTOS**. If you are ok with this, no action is necessary. If you want to opt your child out of photos, please fill out a Release of Information Opt Out Form, or from your school's office, and return it to your school's office for entry into Synergy.

FERPA ANNUAL NOTIFICATION

The Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires a yearly notification to all parents and eligible students that they have the right to inspect educational records, seek amendment of those records, consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information (Board Policy JOB), file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education, and potentially opt out of having directory information (Board Policy JOA) shared with other individuals or organizations (e.g. post-secondary institutions, news organizatios, etc.). This includes HSD's requirement to provide student directory information to military recruiters per federal law.

Directory Information includes a student's name, address, telephone listing, photograph, participation in sports and activities, weight and height of athletic team members, grade level, diplomas, honors or awards received, and the most recent school enrollment.

To opt out of the release of Directory Information, you must complete the official Release of Information Opt Out Form on our website and return it to your school's main office.

Contact your school administration to exercise any of these rights.

2025-26 SCHOOL CALENDAR

On Wednesday, August 27, teachers and other school staff will make connections with students and families and arrange for any needed supports.

The first days of school for students will be:

- **Wednesday, Sept. 3**-*Grades 1-6, 7, 9. (**Note**: on this and all Wednesdays, schools will be on an **Academic Seminar** schedule, meaning **K-6 students end their day 30 minutes earlier than normal** and **7-12 students start their day 30 minutes later than normal** so staff can collaborate in Professional Learning Communities.)*
- **Thursday, Sept. 4**-*Grades K, 8, and 10-12*

School is projected to conclude on Thursday, June 11, 2026. However, in case inclement weather requires the District to close schools during the year, make-up days may be added after June 11. Any changes to the calendar will be communicated directly to families, as well as announced on the District website and social media sites.

ATTEND, ACHIEVE

Regular, on-time attendance is critical to your student's success. Did you know that if a student is 15 minutes late to school every day they will miss two weeks of learning each year? Or that for every day of school a student misses, it takes at least two days to catch up? Please reinforce your expectation for strong school attendance!

PARENTSQUARE COMMUNICATION PLATFORM

Our district, schools, and staff use the ParentSquare communication platform to contact families with important announcements and emergency notifications. ParentSquare messages can be received as push notifications through the ParentSquare app or as a text message or email for those who do not have the app. Learn more at hsd.k12.or.us/parentsquare.

WEEKLY HOT NEWS E-NEWSLETTER

Each week of the school year, the Communications department produces an electronic newsletter called Hot News. The newsletter is automatically sent to all active parents in our student information

system at the beginning of the year. If you do not receive it, and would like to subscribe, please click the Subscribe Now! button on the Communications Department page, and fill out the form. The newsletter is available in both English and Spanish, in print and podcast form.

ERIN'S LAW

Oregon Senate Bill 856 - also known as Erin's Law - mandates that students receive age-appropriate instruction to help them recognize and respond to unsafe situations, and to increase awareness of child sexual abuse. Learn more at hsd.k12.or.us/erinslaw.

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Your child's school checks out a Chromebook to each student and can assist with internet access resources as needed. Technology assistance is available from 7:30 a.m. through 4 p.m. , Monday through Friday, by calling 503-886-8956 or by submitting a request via email to techhelp@hillsboro. incidentiq.com.

MONITOR AND CONTROL CHROMEBOOK USAGE WITH BLOCKSI

The Blocksi Parent Dashboard and App allows parents to monitor their child's browsing history, control internet access at home, and view frequently visited websites. This provides a better understanding of students' browsing behavior and encourages more effective internet usage habits at school and home. Additionally, the Parent App allows parents to manage school-issued devices during out-of-school hours.

Blocksi Parent Dashboard Features:
- Monitor your child's activity on their district-issued device
- Allow parents to view Cyberbullying and self-harm detection
- Access the entire web & YouTube history
- Access time control at home for streaming, gaming, and social media

To explore features of this app as well as access how-to guides, please visit the Parent Resources portion of the Blocksi site. The Parent Hub has links to download mobile apps and login from a computer. Parents will be able to access Blocksi for their HSD students at the start of school.

SAFETY STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL

Our District utilizes the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) for safety-related and other incidents that may impact our students, staff, and schools. The SRP is based on five actions: *Lockout*, *Lockdown*, *Evacuate*, Hold, and *Shelter*. In the event of an emergency, the action and appropriate direction will be initiated:
- **Lockout** - *Secure the Perimeter*. Hazard is outside the building, classes continue as normal.
- **Lockdown** - *Locks, Lights, Out of Sight.* Hazard is potentially inside the building; staff lock their doors, turn off the lights, and move students away from doors and windows while waiting for First Responders to provide the all-clear.
- **Evacuate** - *To the Announced Location*. Follow directions provided to move from one space to another (e.g. in the event of a fire).
- Hold - Clear the hallways or other location so staff/first responders can deal with a situation that requires a level of privacy.
- **Shelter** - Isolate students and staff from dangers in the environment or to prevent injury or exposure to airborne contaminants (e.g. wind storm, earthquake, hazardous chemical spill).

For more information, please visit hsd.k12.or.us/safety.

NEW VOLUNTEER APPROVAL & SIGN-IN PROCESS

Visit hsd.k12.or.us/volunteer to complete the new district-wide volunteer application. Once approved and fingerprinting has been cleared, you'll be ready to support your school community.

Already approved to volunteer through the previous system? You're set to check in for your volunteering session. Simply sign in at the HelpCounter kiosk in the front office. Find your name, select your activity, and grab your printed badge. When you're done, just scan the QR code on your printed badge to sign out.

Previously approved volunteers have been loaded into the new volunteer management system. If you'd like to confirm your approved status, visit hsd.k12.or.us/volunteer and click on the Check Volunteer Status link.

Thank you for giving your time. Our students and staff appreciate your support.

INDIAN EDUCATION ELIGIBILITY

Parents of students who are members or descendants of an Indian tribe or band, including any tribe or band terminated since 1940, are encouraged to complete an Indian Education 506 Eligibility Form to see if their student qualifies for additional supports and opportunities throughout their K-12 education. The form can be found at hsd.k12.or.us/enrollment.

RESTRICTION ON CELL PHONES AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

In order to keep the focus on learning, cell phones and other personal electronic devices are generally not allowed in school. Devices must be off, away, and out of sight. Limited exceptions may be allowed at the high school level for use during passing periods and at lunch. See the handbook for your school/level at hsd.k12.or.us/handbooks for additional details. Thank you in advance for supporting these expectations.