MONROE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jennifer Levinson, Principal
Gaosang Xiong, Learning Director
Jennifer Baker, School Operations Officer

July 31, 2026

Dear Mustang Families,

It is with great anticipation and excitement that I welcome you to the 2026-2027 school year! **Our first day of school is Wednesday, August 12, and it will be a minimum day.** Dismissal times can be found on the following page. We look forward to welcoming our new Mustangs and reconnecting with our returning students. This is going to be a wonderful year filled with meaningful learning, memorable experiences, and opportunities for every student to grow. I hope this letter provides you with the essential information needed for a successful start to the school year. Throughout the year, I will continue to keep our Monroe community informed through our "Mustang News," which will be shared via HESD CONNECT. The Monroe office will be open to the public beginning Monday, August 3, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at (559) 585-3745.

We are excited to continue the transformation of our Monroe campus! In the spring of 2026, we celebrated the completion of our beautiful new Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten building. This fall, the renovation of our 10s and 20s classroom wings is expected to be completed in early September, allowing some of our students to move into fully remodeled classrooms that have been completely rebuilt from the inside out. Construction will continue throughout the 2026-27 school year as crews move on to the 30s and 40s classroom wings and the remaining phases of our campus modernization project. Throughout this process, our construction and Facilities teams have been working tirelessly to keep the project moving while preparing Monroe for another successful school year. We appreciate your patience and support as Monroe continues to transform, and we cannot wait to share the finished campus with our students, staff, and families.

As we begin another school year, we are proud to reflect on Monroe's continued success. Last year, our school was once again recognized as an Educational Results Partnership Honor Roll School, adding to the recognition our staff and students have earned in recent years, including the National Blue-Ribbon Award and recognition as a U.S. News & World Report Top Elementary School. While we are grateful for these accomplishments, our focus remains where it has always been: providing every student with an exceptional education and continuing to build on the tradition of excellence that makes Monroe such a special place.

As we begin the new school year, I would like to introduce you to a few new faces you will see on campus:

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- **Teresa Niblett** – *2nd Grade Teacher (veteran HESD teacher)*
- **Kelsey Cantrell-** *1st Grade Teacher (veteran HESD teacher)*
- **Veronica Chavez** – *Roving RSP Teacher (shared with other school sites)*
- **Mia Cooper** – *Co-READY LEAD*

2026-2027 Daily Instructional Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

- Transitional Kindergarten & Kindergarten: 8:00 a.m. – 2:07 p.m.
- Grades 1-3: 8:00 a.m. – 2:27 p.m.
- Grades 4-6: 8:00 a.m. – 2:47 p.m.

Wednesday (Minimum Day)

- Transitional Kindergarten & Kindergarten: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Grades 1-3: 8:00 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.
- Grades 4-6: 8:00 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

Morning Drop-Off

- School gate opens at 7:15 am
- Monroe office opens at 7:30 am
- All students can be dropped off at the front of the school, near the Monroe office.

To ensure a safe and efficient arrival each morning, please keep the following reminders in mind:

- Please use the designated drive-thru lane when dropping off students. Drivers should remain in their vehicles, and students should exit from the passenger (right) side whenever possible.
- If your child needs assistance or you would like to walk them to the front of the school, please park in a designated parking space and use the marked crosswalk.
- Students should not be dropped off in other areas of the parking lot and walk to campus alone.
- After your child exits the vehicle, please continue moving forward to help keep traffic flowing. If you would like to watch your child walk onto campus, please park and walk with them.
- Please follow the directions of Monroe staff members who are assisting with traffic. They are there to help keep students safe and ensure traffic moves as efficiently as possible.
- For everyone's safety, always use the marked crosswalk and never walk between parked or moving vehicles.
- Traffic is heaviest between 7:50 and 8:00 a.m. Arriving a few minutes earlier can help reduce congestion and help your student arrive on time.
- Students should be in their class line by the first bell at 7:57 a.m.

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End-of-Day Dismissal & Pick-Up

- Please make arrangements for your child to be picked up at their designated dismissal time.
- All students may be picked up at the front of the school near the Monroe office.
    - Please use the designated drive-thru lane when picking up students. Drivers should remain in their vehicles, and students should enter the vehicle from the passenger (right) side whenever possible.
    - If you prefer to meet your child at the school gate, please park in a designated parking space and use the marked crosswalk.
    - Please follow the directions of Monroe staff members who are assisting with traffic. They are there to help keep students safe and ensure traffic moves as efficiently as possible.

Bus Transportation

- Bus transportation will be available beginning on the first day of school.
- Bus routes and pick-up/drop-off times will be shared via HESD CONNECT, posted outside the Monroe office, and available inside the office.
- If you have any questions regarding dismissal, pick-up, or bus transportation, please contact the Monroe office.
- *Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten students must have an adult present at their bus stop in order to be released. Students in grades 1-6 will be released at their designated bus stop regardless of whether an adult is present. If you are not comfortable with your child being dropped off without an adult, please make arrangements for someone to meet them at the bus stop.*
- Returning Monroe students should bring their bus cards on the first day of school. Students who are new to Monroe will receive their bus cards during the first few weeks of school.

Student Classroom Assignments & READY Rosters

- Student classroom assignments will be posted by student ID number only (no student names) at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, August 7, on the Monroe office windows.
- Families who have already completed the HESD Annual Update may already be able to view their child's teacher assignment through the HESD Connect app.
- Families who applied for the READY after-school program will be notified of their child's enrollment status through the HESD Connect app on Wednesday, August 5. Families will be informed if their child has been accepted into the program or placed on the waiting list.
- Questions regarding READY enrollment should be directed to the HESD READY Department at (559) 585-3629.

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Breakfast and Lunch

- Breakfast and lunch are served daily on campus.
- Breakfast and lunch are provided at no cost for all students. Students who bring a cold lunch from home may purchase milk for $0.30. Milk is provided at no cost with a school lunch.
- Breakfast is served each morning from 7:20 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. Students must arrive before 7:50 a.m. to receive breakfast.
- Students are welcome to bring a cold lunch from home. They may also bring a small, healthy snack to enjoy during morning recess.
- Students are not permitted to share food with other students. Please do not send extra food intended for sharing.

School Supplies

- Monroe Elementary provides all students with the essential classroom supplies they need for learning, including notebooks, pencils, and other instructional materials. We do ask that each student comes to school with a backpack. If your family needs assistance obtaining a backpack, please don't hesitate to contact the Monroe office. We are happy to help.

Dress and Grooming

- Please see information/table below.

TK, Kindergarten and Special Day Class Meet and Greet

- On Tuesday, August 11, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., we will be hosting a Meet & Greet for all Transitional Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and Special Day Class students and their families. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your child's teacher, visit the classroom, and help your child become familiar with their new learning environment before the first day of school. Your child's teacher will also be collecting important information regarding how your child will be getting home on the first day of school and each day thereafter. Families should enter campus through the gate near the Monroe office on Monroe Drive.

HESD CONNECT

- All school communication will be shared through our primary communication platform, HESD Connect. If you are not successfully connected to the app or need assistance accessing your account, please contact the Monroe office. We encourage all families to ensure they are connected so they don't miss important school updates and announcements.

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To help ensure a safe and efficient first day of school, only parents/guardians of Transitional Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and Special Day Class students will be permitted to walk onto campus to assist their child to their classroom line. We kindly ask that this be limited to no more than two adults per student. Additional Monroe staff members will be available throughout campus to greet and assist our 1st-6th grade students as they make their way to their classroom lines.

If you have any questions about the information included in this letter, please don't hesitate to contact the Monroe office at (559) 585-3745. We are happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Levinson
Principal
Monroe Elementary School
(559) 585-3745
jlevinson@hanfordesd.org

U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School
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CELEBRATING 2024 EXCELLENCE

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Garment Type	Requirements	Examples of Prohibited Apparel
Tops	• Bare stomachs or bare backs may not be exposed • Must always conceal undergarments	• Underwear tops • Oversized tops • Sleepwear • Tank tops /tube tops • Swimwear/Beachwear • Fishnet/see-through/revealing tops • Bare midriff/crop tops • Low-Cut • Off the shoulder tops/halter tops • Muscle tops • Spaghetti straps
Bottoms	• Must fit properly (no sagging or bagging) • Pants must be hemmed at least one inch off ground. • Shorts, skirts and dresses may not be above mid-thigh. Bike shorts may be worn and cannot be above mid-thigh • Shorts are to be hemmed and not form fitting	• Radically altered bottoms • Oversized, saggy or baggy • Sleepwear • Bike shorts (spandex) • Wide leg style • Stapled, taped, pinned, rubber bands, elastic around bottom of pant leg
Outer Garments	• May not be more than one size too large or one size too small	• Hoods allowed but may only be worn outside in inclement weather
Shoes	• Shoes must be worn at all times • Closures must be properly secured • Closed toe and heel strap *Crocs must be worn with socks and with strap behind the heel. Charms on crocs must be school appropriate.	• Shoes with cleats • High heels • Sandals • Shoes with rollers • Military style or steel toed boots • Backless shoes • Slippers • Thongs
Belts	• May not hang down • Must be worn through belt loops	
Headwear	• Hats may be worn outside during inclement weather or for sun protection. Sun protection hats must have a 2-inch brim all the way around.	• Hats, caps, visors • Sweatbands and head bands (except for participants in sporting events) • "Do-rags" and bandannas
Jewelry/ Tattoos	• Earrings must be small and worn in the ears • No visible tattoos	• Body piercing (eyebrows, septum, lips, tongue, etc.) ear plugs, visible tattoos • Earrings that alter the shape of the ear are not allowed • Jewels on teeth

Grooming: Hair that causes undue attention to the wearer or is a distraction is not acceptable, i.e., unusual designs, symbols, messages, Mohawks, or "tails" or unusual razor cuts

Verbal Warning:	All students will receive a verbal warning during the first week of school via the schoolwide expectation's assembly and the classroom review of the Student Code of Conduct
First Violation:	Home contact; student may be sent home to change clothing or other violation
Second Violation:	Home contact; student will receive a Notice of unacceptable Behavior (NOUB), home contact will be made; student may be sent home to change clothing, or other violation
Third+ Violation:	Student shall be issued a Level A or B Citation for Defiance of Authority/School Rule

300 Monroe Drive ● Hanford, California, 93230
(559) 585-3745 ● Fax (559) 585-2288
Website: www.hanfordesd.org