



August 2026

Dear South Meadows Families,

The staff at South Meadows Middle School hopes our students and families have enjoyed the summer break so far! We are excited to welcome our Hawks back for the 2026-2027 school year. This year, we are focusing on academic habits that prepare our students for high school success as well as improving our community's sense of belonging. Our goal is for students to feel seen, valued, and empowered as they learn about themselves and the world around them. The middle school years move very quickly, and during these short years students begin to explore who they are and who they can be. Working with families as partners, we can help them to make safe and positive choices about themselves and their futures. It takes a team, and we are happy to partner with families to support our Hawks in their success.

One important key for academic and personal success in middle school is attendance. Consistent attendance is strongly linked to academic and school success. Our goal is for students to be at or above 90% attendance for the school year. We ask that families help their students to be more successful by encouraging regular attendance and timely arrival to school. Each day matters and contributes to positive habits that help sustain school connection and academic success. We appreciate your partnership in helping our students to thrive at South Meadows Middle School.

Here are some important dates to remember:

- August 14- School office opens 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- August 26 - Family Connections and Transitions (Welcome Outreach- we call you!)
- August 27 - Back-to-School Night 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- September 1- First Day of school for 7th Grade Students
- September 2- All Students; First day of school for 8th Grade Students
- September 7- Labor Day Holiday

School Hours:

Our school hours are 8:45 a.m. -3:15 p.m. M/Tu/Th/F and 9:06 a.m.-3:15 p.m.on Wednesdays. The school is open to students by 8:15 a.m. Breakfast is served by 8:15 a.m. Students are expected to wait in the Commons (cafeteria) or Gym until the first morning bell rings.

School Meals:

We are pleased to announce that Hillsboro School District is approved to offer meals at no cost for all students through June 2028 under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). All students attending any of HSD's 36 school sites are eligible to receive a healthy complete breakfast and lunch at no cost. No further action is required of you. Your children will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay for meals or submit a meal application. You can view menus at <https://lingconnect.com/public/menu/ERRCAH> or [Hillsboro School District Menus](#).

School Attendance:

Every minute of every day matters in your child's education. Research suggests missing fewer than 9 days a year helps students succeed in school and later in life. Our goal is for every student to attend at least 90% of the school year. Missing school—whether excused or unexcused—means missing important learning and connections. Please help your child arrive on time daily, plan vacations around the [district calendar](#), and use the [Too Sick for School guidelines](#) when they're ill. If your child is absent, call **503-844-1238**. You'll receive an automated call if we don't hear from you **by 10:30 a.m.** Please leave your child's name and reason for absence, including symptoms if they are ill.

Chromebook Distribution

At South Meadows Middle School, we are 1:1 with technology distribution and access. We will assign students a Chromebook within the first two weeks of school. Friendly reminder that the first repair for the device is free, followed by charges with each subsequent repair.

Bus Routes:

Schedules and walk zone information are developed by the school district's Transportation department. They will send you directions on how to access this information online at the end of August. Please let us know of any childcare or address changes right away. You may call Transportation at 503-844-1123 if you have specific questions.

ParentVUE and ParentSquare

The email addresses and phone numbers in our student information system are what we use to send families important news and updates, information about your child's attendance, and safety and emergency communications. Please verify your information by logging into [ParentVUE](#).

The Hillsboro School District uses Parentsquare for increased communication between school and home. While it's not necessary to have the app on your mobile device to communicate, it is a lot easier to manage multiple messages and students! [You can login using the website here](#). Please let us know if you have any questions or need support with using the Parentsquare App!

Cell Phones

Once a student enters the building, cell phones are to be put away for the day. Before the first bell rings, we expect cell phones to be kept in backpacks or in students' pockets. Students are not allowed to use their phones once they enter the school. During the school day we expect students to keep their phones in their lockers.

We look forward to connecting with students and families at our August 27th Back-to-School Night and when the school year begins. Please let us know if you have any questions about the upcoming school year.

Thank you,

Chris Benz
Principal
South Meadows Middle School

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