



August 2026

Dear Tamarack Families,

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer filled with laughter and memory-making! First, I want to extend a warm welcome to all of our new community members. I look forward to getting to know your families, as well as continuing to grow our relationships with all of our returning Otters! Beginning a new school year is a big milestone. Please know that we view your trust as a gift. I am right there with you in navigating transitions this year; I will be sending my own son, Zack, off to college later this summer. I am feeling all the emotions right now, and I bring that exact level of empathy and understanding to your family's new adventure here at Tamarack! I will be using ParentSquare to send out a monthly school newsletter. Keep an eye out for our first edition, which will arrive before the first day of school. It will contain important safety reminders and our dismissal procedures (which can always be a touch hectic at first, so thank you in advance for your patience!).

School Supplies: We like to keep things simple and equitable for our families. Please provide a backpack and a water bottle (please label both with your child's name). Need assistance? If purchasing these items presents a financial hardship, please do not worry—we have you covered and can supply them for your child. Optional Donations: If you are able and wish to contribute supplies, we would be incredibly grateful. Please note that all school supplies are pooled for schoolwide use. We are currently in need of: Ticonderoga #2 pencils, Copy paper, Hand sanitizer, Glue sticks & Highlighters. Thank you for your incredible support as we kick off another fantastic year. Enjoy the remaining days of summer!

Here are some important dates for your calendar:

- August 14 School office re opens 7:30am-3:30pm
- August 26 - Family Connection Day (Welcome Outreach- we call you!)
- August 27 @ 4:30-6:30 pm Meet the Teacher, Family Social here at Tamarack; this is when you can also drop off any school supply donations
- September 7- Labor Day Holiday
- September 1- First Day of school for grades 1-6th
- September 2- All Students; First day of school for Kindergarteners

School Hours: Our school hours are 7:30-2:20pm M/Tu/Th/F and 7:30-1:50 pm on Wednesdays; the office is open till 3:30pm daily

- Students may enter on either side of the building (Reed or Kinnaman parking lots) any time after 7:30 am *please arrive by 7:55am so they can make their way to class on time for a prompt 8am start of our school day
- Students who ride the bus will enter in on the cafeteria side of the building
- Once inside they may eat breakfast in the cafeteria (free) or wait supervised with classmates in our gym



- If your child arrives after 8am, a parent/caregiver will need to walk them in the front doors (Kinnaman parking lot) to check them in

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. You can view menus at <https://linqconnect.com/public/menu/ERRCAH> or [Hillsboro School District Menus](#).

Family Involvement Opportunities: All volunteers need to be approved in advance through our school district. Fill out the volunteer application or update/renew/check the status of your current application by visiting <https://www.hsd.k12.or.us/volunteering>. You can also connect with the Tamarack Community Group, for opportunities to support our evening events and schoolwide socials: <https://www.facebook.com/tamarackcommunitygroup/> - a wonderful team of families working hard to build and sustain a positive community!

School Attendance is a top school wide priority: 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. 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 **503-844-1893**. You'll receive an automated call if we don't hear from you at 8:15 am. Please leave your child's name and reason for absence, including symptoms if they are ill.

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.

Going home plans: You will receive a paper copy to complete at the beginning of the school year to confirm your child's plan for getting from school to their after school destination. Once returned to our office, this document will serve as the daily plan for your child. If day-of changes need to be made, please call the office during the school day to inform us of the change.

ParentVUE: 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](#).

In Service & Appreciation,

Christy Walters, Principal Tamarack Elementary

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