

the

Central Scoop

Back to School Edition

From the Desk of: Dr. Amy Kern



Important Dates

August 11: Homeroom teacher assignments accessible via Infinite Campus

August 13: Transportation/Bus information accessible via Infinite Campus

August 14: New Student Orientation for new students entering grades K-5 at 10:00 am in Central's Gym (enter Door 4)

August 17: Faculty and Staff First Professional Development Day

August 20: First Day of School (grades 1-5) and Kindergarten Orientation

Welcome Back!

The first day of school is quickly approaching. I hope all our students and families are having a great summer. The summer has been very busy at Central planning for another great school year. We are creating homeroom rosters, teacher schedules, hiring staff, cleaning the school, purchasing and organizing supplies, upgrading technology, and reviewing all procedures. We have several opportunities to help our student's transition back to school. They are outlined on the next page.

Save The Date

PTO Meeting **Sept. 15, 7:00 pm Central Cafeteria** Learn about PTO and Volunteer training immediately following.

Open House

Please join us in the Spring for our open house!

March 11, 2026 – Gr. K, 2, 4

March 18, 2026 – Gr 1, 3, 5



TRANSITIONING BACK TO SCHOOL

New Student Orientation, August 14 @

10:00 am: This is for new incoming students entering Grades K-5. Students and families will have the opportunity to learn about Central, tour the school, and meet other new students. Kindergarten students are welcome to attend especially if you could not make our Spring into Kindergarten event in April or your family is new to Central and wants to learn more about the school in general.

Kindergarten Orientation, August 20: Held on the first day of school. Parents/Guardians and their child should plan to attend the timeframe your child is assigned to attend kindergarten.

9:15-10:15 am Morning Kindergarten
1:15-2:15 pm Afternoon Kindergarten

We look forward to working in partnership with you to achieve a successful school year.

First Day of School, August 20: We spend the first several days of school assisting children to become acclimated to the location of their new classroom and other important spaces in the building. We review bus room procedures and what to do when arriving and leaving the building. Faculty and staff are stationed at doors and hallways to escort our students to their designated bus room until they become comfortable. Students sit by homerooms, then teachers escort their classes to their rooms. Bus/Van riders will enter in the front of the school and students who are car riders will enter on the left side of the building. [The side lobby door will be open at 8:15 for car riders.](#)

It is helpful if students know their assigned homeroom teacher's name. Don't worry if they forget, we have rosters to help us organize everyone.

Grade 1: If your child attended our Kindergarten, they had the opportunity last May to stay for lunch and practice going through the lunch line and entering their lunch number. It is helpful to review this with your child until they have memorized their number. Homeroom teachers of all grade-one students will explain all lunch procedures before lunch on the first day of school. We will have staff on hand during lunch to ensure a smooth transition and help all students become comfortable with the procedures. Again, if they forget their number we will have our lists with us.

Let's Get Acquainted (LGA): Please note the date of your child's grade level information night on page one. I encourage you to attend because the homeroom teachers will provide a brief overview of the curriculum and their expectations. We will also have some key support personnel available so that you can become familiar with the services in place to support student success in the classroom.

Let's Get Acquainted (LGA)

August 26 from 6:00-7:00 pm Grades K,1,2

August 27 from 6:00-7:00 pm Grades 3,4,5

Parents are invited to meet with grade level faculty and learn about the curriculum, classroom procedures, and expectations.

Elementary ONLY Early Release Dismissal Days

Please note that elementary students will be dismissed at **1:45 pm** on the following days as noted on the District calendar and website: **AM Kindergarten = 8:45-10:45 am PM Kindergarten = 11:45-1:45 pm**

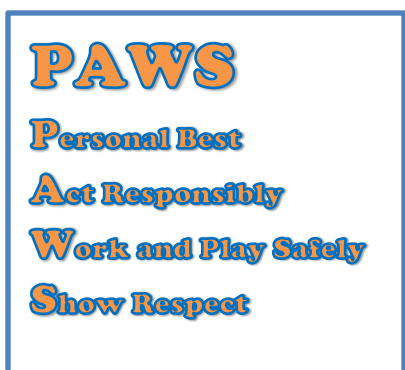
September 11 (Fri.)	October 9 (Fri.)	November 25 (Wed.)	December 22 (Tue.)	January 15 (Fri.)
February 12 (Fri.)	March 19 (Fri.)	April 16 (Fri.)	May 7 (Fri.)	

In addition, there will be at 12:45 pm early dismissal on Thursday, November 5 for parent-teacher conferences.

New This Year...

Multi-Tiered System of Supports

We are excited to announce our formal transition to a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), combining our existing Response to Intervention and Instruction (RtII) and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) frameworks. While MTSS continues to build on our familiar three-tiered model, it expands our focus to support the whole child proactively. By integrating academics, behavior, social-emotional learning, and attendance under one umbrella, MTSS reinforces our commitment to early intervention, comprehensive support, and educational equity.



Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS)

Central's PBIS team worked to refresh and expand our Positive Behavior Support Program which is named PAWS. This is a matrix of behavioral expectations that will be taught and reinforced in all main areas of the school. In addition, we will give tickets to students as we notice positive behavior. Students can drop their tickets in our Talbot Tower to help our school win a fun reward for positive behavior. More information can be found on the website under Behavior Expectations and at Let's Get Acquainted.

Building Updates

Before school starts, playground fencing will be added to connect the back fence with the side playground fence. Several rooms were painted, concrete patched, and a new basketball hoop and a piece of playground equipment are on order. Thank you to our PTO for helping to fund the new addition to our playground.

School Picture Update

We are excited to announce that Madia Photography has partnered with "PhotoDay" to give families a stress-free picture day experience! This will eliminate paper ordering for access to simple, online ordering. Look for updates in the Central Scoop.

Elementary Safety Coordinator

We are excited to welcome Mr. Jim Miller as our new Elementary Safety Coordinator. In this role, Mr. Miller will oversee and implement safety and security operations across our three elementary schools, helping to ensure a safe, secure, and welcoming environment for students, staff, and visitors.

Working closely with our elementary principals, the School Resource Officer (SRO), and the District Safety Coordinator, Mr. Miller will help maintain consistent safety protocols across our elementary schools and will be a regular, visible presence in each building.

Substitute Teacher Service (STS)

Hampton Township School District partnered with Substitute Teacher Service, Inc. (STS) for the recruitment, hiring, and onboarding of substitutes. This includes our Guest Substitute program. If you are interested in becoming a substitute, please visit the Hampton Township School District website, under "About", select "Careers" website to learn more and complete an application.



“Portrait Puppy” Personas...

The Portrait of a Talbot serves as a shared vision that guides the development of curriculum, instruction, assessment, and learning experiences for our students. By establishing a clear and shared vision of what a successful Talbot looks like, we can ensure that our educational programs are aligned with the evolving needs of society, economy, and workforce. Our Portrait of a Talbot includes competencies that reflect academic content areas and 21st-century skills. These competencies are designed to help our students become critical thinkers, effective communicators, and collaborative team members that demonstrate empathy, a learner's mindset, and perseverance. By focusing on these competencies, we believe our students will be well-prepared for college, career, and life success.

At Central, to help students better understand the Portrait of a Talbot competencies, we introduced a group of lovable stuffed animal puppies as learning companions. Each puppy represents a specific competency, making abstract concepts more relatable and engaging for students. The dog breeds were carefully selected based on their natural mannerisms and personality traits that align with each competency. To make them easy to remember, the puppies were given names using alliteration. Since their introduction, we have brought them to life through animation, creating short videos where they share their experiences and demonstrate how they use their competency. Each video also includes a related movie clip or story, allowing students to identify and explain how the competency is applied in real-world situations. Please use the QR to be formally introduced to the Portrait Puppies!

School Supplies

Central PTO has created Amazon lists and also partnered with Office Depot make it easier to fill all of your school supplies needs. Find grade level lists, links, and instructions on The Central Scoop webpage. Happy shopping!

Responsive Classroom

Our *Responsive Classroom* initiative will continue this year. We will continue starting our day with a Morning Meeting. Responsive Classroom includes research and evidence-based practices that are designed to create safe, joyful, and engaging classrooms and school communities for students and teachers. Faculty have been learning strategies to teach students core thinking, listening, and speaking skills. Responsive classroom practices include academic choice, morning meeting, energizers/brain breaks, guided discovery, interactive learning structures, and interactive modeling.



If you are interested in the YMCA Kindergarten WRAP and/or (Before/After) school programs, please contact their Youth Development Business Office directly at 412-573-4166. Both programs will be housed at Central Elementary this school year. Neither of these programs are run by HTSD, we offer our facilities for your convenience.

Communication Venues

It is our desire to keep families informed of the plethora of timelines, activities, opportunities, and general information that occur over the course of a school year. We use many different venues to communicate this information.

Infinite Campus: Hampton uses this system to communicate information such as teacher assignments, report cards, grades, attendance tracking and calls, and outreach/ emergency information for ALL students. Also in-progress grades are regularly posted for students in grades 2-12. If you have not received information to **set up your Parent Account, the please call** Central Elementary, 412-492-6320. **Please note:** If you have older children and have already activated your Parent Portal account, you do not have to do it again. Your account, once activated, is your account for all of your HTSD children. If you previously activated your account, but forget your username and/or password, please contact Margieann Green in Administration at: Margieann.green@ht-sd.org or 412-492-6340.

The Central Scoop (Weekly Packet): Central's online weekly communication with all updated information and calendar changes. It is published on Central's website every Thursday. From the District website choose Central under the Schools choices, scroll down and mid-page click "The Central Scoop" to see current and past editions of our Scoop. Each Friday, a district communication called "Hampton Headlines" will be emailed with links for each school's weekly communication. If there is a flyer that would need sent home in paper form, we typically send these home on Thursday's.

Wall Calendar: They are mailed to all families with District information and events that are similar to all three elementary schools. Always refer to the Scoop or our website in the event a change has been made

Central Calendar Dates List: Central specific event dates provided at the beginning of the year. Also, will be posted on Central's website.

Email Addresses/Phone Numbers: Please don't hesitate to call/email if you have questions or concerns. Email addresses and phone numbers are found on our website.

PTO (Parent Teacher Organization): Information regarding PTO membership opportunities and meeting schedule will come home the first week of school.

Student Safety

Transportation Changes: The safety for our children is always paramount. Arrival and dismissal is the busiest time of day on the property. It is paramount that you help us by sending all transportation changes in note format or call Central's main office in the morning but no later than 2:15. We send out all dismissal changes to teachers by 2:30.

Visitors: Just a friendly reminder that we use School Gate Guardian as our visitor tracking and badging system. For entry into the school, visitors will have their driver's license scanned so please remember to bring your driver's license with you if entering the building.

Drills: Student safety always remains our top priority. Students participate in monthly fire drills, semi-annual ALICE/lockdown drills, evacuation, and severe weather drills each school year. ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training will be explained and noted in the Scoop prior to practicing.

Important Reminders

Technology

Students in Grades 1-5 are assigned an iPad. Students in Grade 3-5 will have a keyboard with their iPad as we begin teaching keyboarding skills in grade 3. Students in Kindergarten will have access to iPads during school day, they are not personally assigned. We will distribute student devices during the first few weeks to new students and students who turned in their device at the conclusion of last school year. Just a reminder that students entering Grade 4 have their device and power cords at home and should bring them charged the first day of school. Students entering grades 2,3 and 5 turned in their iPad but kept their power cords at home. Please make sure you have your power cord so when you receive your device you can charge it. In addition, families will need to complete and return a "Student Device User Agreement" form that will be sent home at the start of the year. You will receive an email about securing insurance for the district issued devices. Teachers will review with students' digital safety and the importance of developing good habits regarding technology use.

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast and lunch menus are posted monthly on our website. The cost of a meal is as follows: Breakfast: Free for All Students; Lunch: \$2.70; Milk only \$0.85. As always, students are permitted to stay in the lunchroom beyond the scheduled time if they need more time to eat.

Conference Days

Homeroom teachers will send out a Signup Genius by the beginning of October, please sign up for a conference time. The schedule for November parent/teacher conference days are:

***Thursday, November 5:** Student Early Dismissal at 12:45 and Conferences scheduled in the afternoon and evening.

***Friday, November 6:** No School for Students and Conferences scheduled all morning.

Review the following documents and forms found on Central's website, click [Parent Resources](#):

- ✓ Arrival and Dismissal Procedure
- ✓ School Supply List
- ✓ Parent Handbook
- ✓ Behavior Expectations
- ✓ Official Note to Central Elementary
- ✓ Birthday Celebration and Classroom Parties
- ✓ Travel Form
- ✓ Cafeteria online payment and menu information

Arrival and Dismissal

Transportation Procedures:

We assume all students are riding assigned district transportation. If your child is not using the assigned in Infinite Campus district transportation you must call transportation (412) 492-6316 or if preferring to be a car riders, you must send in note at the start of year to make a change. Again, this must be updated every year.

AM Arrival: School doors open at 8:15am.

Bus Rooms will be supervised daily beginning at 8:15 and until students are dismissed to homerooms at 8:45am. Buses/Vans drop off in the front of the building.

Car Riders: For detailed Procedures, [click here](#).

AM Drop-Off: Use the North entrance and drop children at the side lobby doors, Door 4.

PM Pick-Up: We will dismiss at 3:30. Students will wait inside. Families are asked to park and wait outside. A staff member will dismiss students from the side lobby and will keep record that students have been picked up. Please bring your ID. If you are picking up your student on a regular basis we will make a pickup sign for you. Please send in a note at the beginning of the year indicating that your student will primarily be a car rider.

Back to School Packet

Look for the following information that will come home with your child the first day of school.

- ✚ Free/Reduced Lunch Program Information (return only if needed)
 - ✚ Authorization for Release Form (needs returned)
 - ✚ Student Device User Agreement (needs returned)
 - ✚ Arrival and Dismissal Procedures
 - ✚ Additional Central Calendar Dates
- The below items are sent digitally:**
- ✚ Health Card
 - ✚ PTO Family Packet



STAFF UPDATES: 2026-2027

The Elementary Administrative Team initially used the Applitrack system to screen over 450 applications for elementary contract and substitute positions. After those applications were screened and reviewed, about 50 were invited for an initial interview. Of those, a select group were invited back for a more extensive Round 2. A select group participated in Round 3 competing for a contract position, which was teaching a lesson to students and completing a writing sample. I am excited and proud to announce the prevailing candidates.

Welcome Dr. Hadley:

New to Central

- Elementary Security Coordinator: Mr. Miller
- Grade K: Ms. Hogan
- Grade 1: Mrs. Krahe (1st Semester Long-term Sub for Mrs. Skidmore)
- Elementary Building Substitute: Ms. Towers
- Paraprofessional: Mrs. Preston
- Paraprofessional: Mrs. Hartle

Central Updates:

- Grade 2: Mrs. Morgan moved from Grade 1
- Grade 1: Ms. Deiuliis moved from Grade 2
- Grade 2: Ms. Spence moved from Grade 3
- Central Building Substitute: Ms. Schnitgen



Reporting Absences

Please be sure to read the Attendance information in the “Handbook for Families with Elementary School Children” available on the [Parents](#) page of the district website. Click here for the revised District Attendance Policy. Please call the Attendance Line 412-486-6000 by 9:15 am, listen to the directions for reporting a student absence and leave a voicemail message. Please include the following information: child’s name, teacher’s name, reason for absence. *Note: you will still receive an automated attendance call.*

If your student has been absent for more than 2 days you may request homework. Please indicate whether you want to pick it up or have it sent home and to whom it should be given.