



BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

POFF PAPERS

August 11, 2026

Welcome to the 2026-2027 School Year!

We are excited to welcome you back! We hope you had an amazing summer full of family fun and adventure. Our custodians, maintenance staff, and office team have been hard at work, getting ready to welcome our students back for another great year. The faculty and staff have also been hard at work, planning amazing learning experiences. We can't wait to see you all on August 20th!

We are currently putting a few finishing touches on both the physical and digital sides of the school. Homeroom placements will be available in Infinite Campus by the time you are reading this message. Please note, we are still working on balancing homerooms in grade 3. Those families will be notified when rosters are complete. I apologize for the delay but I'm excited to have an additional teacher in grade three. Bussing and transportation information will be available in Infinite Campus by Friday afternoon. If you experience any difficulty accessing Infinite Campus, please let me or Mrs. Neal know. Let's have a great year!

Dr. Cable



New
Student
Orientation
8/14 9 am

POFF FLYERS
PTO B2SB
Media info

New Faces at Poff

- **New Students:** Team Poff is thrilled to welcome our 258 students. We we have 47 incoming kindergarten students. Additionally, we have 8 new students this year in grades 1 through 5. If you see someone new in your class or on the playground, please take a moment to introduce yourself to a new friend.
- **New Teachers:** We are also excited to announce the addition of several new teachers and staff members:

Mrs. Koritsky (Kindergarten)

Ms. Kennelly (Third Grade)

Ms. Higbee (Fourth Grade)

Mrs. Healy (Paraeducator)

Mrs. Neal (Office Secretary)

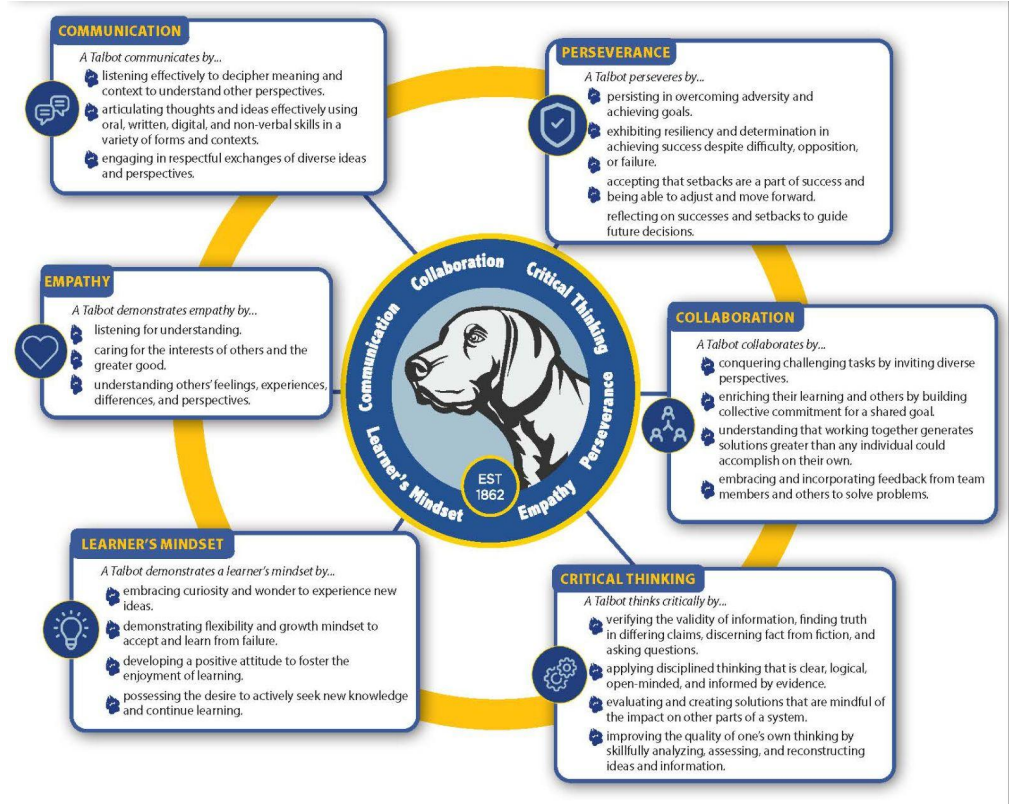
Ms. Johnson (Paraeducator)

Ms. Nino (Paraprofessional)

Mrs. Cook (Paraprofessional)

Portrait of a Talbot

Poff Elementary will continue our focus on teaching and developing competencies outlined in the [Portrait of a Talbot](#). These competencies reflect skills and knowledge that will help our students thrive in their modern world. Our teachers have been working to integrate the competencies into our core academic instruction. Rather than something extra, we strive to incorporate the competencies and academic content into real world scenarios that allow our students to demonstrate their wide range of skills.



First Days of School

August 14th, 9:00 am - New Student Orientation K-5

August 20th - First Day of School 1st - 5th Grades!

9:05 am - AM Kdg Orientation (parents & students)

10:10 am - PM Kdg Orientation (parents & students)

August 22nd, 5:00 - 7:30 pm - PTO Back to School Bash

August 26th, 6:00pm - Let's Get Acquainted 3 - 5 (adults only)

August 27th, 6:00pm - Let's Get Acquainted K - 2 (adults only)

We are excited to announce that Madia Photography has partnered with "PhotoDay" to give families a stress-free picture day experience! This will replace paper order forms with access to simple online ordering. Look for updates in this upcoming editions of Poff Papers and flyers.





Student Absences

Daily, on-time attendance is an important part of school success. All students should be on time for homeroom, which begins at 8:45am. This is an important time for organization and preparation for the day. Students who are habitually tardy, arriving after 9:00 am (the start of the academic day), disrupt their learning and their classmates' learning. These disruptions can negatively impact academic, social, and emotional development. Per District Policy #204, after ten (10) absences all subsequent absences must be accompanied by a medical note. Please review the [Family Handbook](#) for detailed information about attendance policies and when to keep an ill child at home. **Please call (412) 486-6000 press 2, then press 4, to report student absences for Poff.**

School Meals

Breakfast and lunch are provided daily. Students may go to the cafeteria for breakfast as soon as they arrive each day. **Breakfast is provided free of charge for all students.** Students order lunches during morning homeroom. Applications for free or reduced price lunch are available in the main office or on the [Food Services webpage](#). Monthly menus are also posted there. Information for setting up online payment accounts can be found at the "At the Cafeteria Register" link on the Food Services webpage.

Lunch - \$2.70

Al a Carte Milk - \$0.75



Water bottle refilling stations are located throughout the building. Students are encouraged to bring a **spill-proof** bottle and drink as they need throughout the day.

Wellness

Classroom party treats must either be a healthy snack or non-food treat. Guidelines are in the [Handbook for Families with Elementary School Children](#) on the the District website.



Student Safety

Visitors Visitors must sign in at the office and have their government identification scanned before they can receive a badge that allows them to move past the office and enter the building.

Volunteers Clearances are required for volunteers who work with students without the supervision of a Poff faculty member (e.g, Holiday Shop, Book Fair, Science Olympiad). Details about how to obtain clearances can be found [here](#).

Drills By law, students must participate in monthly fire drills and annual evacuation, lockdown, and severe weather drills. Students will participate in developmentally appropriate lessons on ALICE procedures using the book *I'm Not Scared, I'm Prepared*. Families will receive additional information regarding ALICE training in a newsletter prior to the student lessons in September.

Captured Vestibule The captured vestibule is used for early dismissals. An approved adult must sign out the student and may be asked to show ID before the student is dismissed. Shelving is available to drop off or pick up items without entering the building. Please label items with the student's name. A pen and paper are available for this purpose.

Save the Date!

August 22nd, 5:00pm - PTO Back to School Bash

December 22nd - Winter Parties

August 26th, 6:00pm - Let's Get Acquainted 3rd-5th

February 12th - Valentine's Parties

August 27th, 6:00pm - Let's Get Acquainted Kdg - 2nd

March 16th - Open House (1, 3, 5)

September 16th - Student Picture Day

March 18th - Open House (K, 2, 4)

September 30th - Class Picture Day

April 15th - Junior Achievement

October 30th - Halloween Parade & Parties

May 5th - Project ACES

November 5th & 6th - Conferences

May 18th - Field Day (Rain Date May 20th)

November 24th - Thankful Luncheon

June 3rd - 5th Grade Move Up

Ceremony

Home-School Partnerships

The key to a child's success at school is communication and collaboration between teachers and families. Below are some of the methods we use to encourage your involvement.

Communication Our school newsletter, Poff Papers, is published online each Thursday evening and sent via the District's Hampton Headlines email on Friday mornings. Homeroom teachers will also establish regular communications to keep you informed about classroom events and the academic skills your child is learning at school. Please be sure to read these and then follow-up with any questions that arise.

Let's Get Acquainted This adult-only event is for families to meet the teacher, see the classroom, and learn about the coming year. Homeroom teachers provide an informative, 60-minute presentation about classroom expectations and grade level curriculum.

Conferences Teacher conferences are scheduled for November 5th and 6th this year. Homeroom teachers will send information for choosing a time slot. These brief, 15-minute sessions are an opportunity for teachers to share your student's progress at the start of the year. *Families are strongly encouraged to schedule additional phone, in-person, or virtual conferences at any point in the year when questions or concerns arise.*

Homework Homework is an opportunity for collaboration. Families are encouraged to communicate with their teachers about how homework time is going. Homework should not be a source of daily frustration or be so easy as to feel pointless. A good rule of thumb is that assignments should take about 10 minutes times the grade level to complete. Thus, a third grader would expect assignments to be completed in about 30 minutes. If your student is taking much more or less time on a regular basis, please let your teacher know so things can be adjusted.



Transportation

Bus Riders 5th grade students are assigned as “safeties” for each bus. The role of the safeties is to assist the driver in maintaining a calm environment through kind reminders to students when necessary. It is the responsibility of all students to follow bus transportation rules including not eating or drinking on the bus, remaining seated, and using a quiet voice. *For the first two weeks of school all new students K-5 will be assigned a “bus buddy” who will assist with finding the correct bus and bus stop daily.*

Walkers Students who are walked to school by an adult may be escorted to the main entrance in the front of the building or to door #8 in the back of the building. After school, a Poff staff member will walk students across the street to the intersection of Marie and Haberlein where an adult should be waiting to greet them.



Car Riders Use the back entrance (door #8) for both drop off and pick up.

Drop Off - Enter the back parking lot. Stay in a single line next to the curb. Pull forward to the second cafeteria door (door #8). **Remain in your vehicle as your student exits**. Pull forward when he or she is safely on the sidewalk. Stay in line. Do not pull around other vehicles. Continue to follow the curb back to the fence, turning left and driving around the parking lot to exit onto Haberlein Road.

Pick Up - **Please send a note with your student if you plan to pick them up from school.** All families will receive a numbered card on the first day of school. When picking up after school, place it in your passenger side window. Enter the back parking lot. Stay in a single line next to the curb. **Pull all the way forward to the back fence**. A staff member will dismiss your student from the building once your number has been identified. **Remain in your vehicle** and pull away as soon as your student is safely inside. Do not pull around other vehicles.

Students will receive their devices within the first few days of school. All students should bring charged devices daily.

Student Devices

Students in grades 1-5 are provided with an iPad. Each school year, families must access the District's [insurance site](#) to either **accept or decline** the insurance for your student's device. You should receive an email from the District with detailed information regarding registration. Questions can be directed to Margieann Green at margieann.green@ht-sd.org.

On the first day of school, you will receive a hard copy of the *Device User Agreement*. Please be sure to review this with your student, sign it, and return it to school.



POFF PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

A Message From the PTO

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year!

We're so excited to welcome our Poff students, families, and staff back for another great year! The Poff PTO is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting our students and staff, strengthening our school community, and creating fun opportunities for families to connect.

Throughout the year, the PTO supports school assemblies, educational experiences, classroom extras, student and family events, and our amazing Poff staff. Every parent and guardian is automatically a member of the PTO, and we are so grateful for the time, talents, and generosity of our Poff families.

We do ask for a \$20 per family donation to help fund our activities throughout the year. Our first event is our Back-to-School Bash on Friday, August 21, from 5:00–7:30 PM outdoors at Poff! Please note: parent supervision is expected and required at this event.

If you'd like to help make this event a success, we'd love for you to sign up to volunteer or donate items through our SignUpGenius: [2026 Back to School Bash](#)

We're also kicking off a Spirit Wear Swap! If your child has gently used Poff spirit wear they've outgrown, we'd love to have it. Bring donations to the Back-to-School Bash, and we'll set up a Spirit Wear "Store" at Let's Get Acquainted Night for families to shop. More details to follow!

PTO General Membership Meeting

Our first PTO General Membership Meeting will be Tuesday, September 22nd at 7:00 PM. We'd love to see you there as we kick off the new school year, share what we have planned, and hear your ideas!

We encourage every family to get involved in whatever way works best for you: attend an event, volunteer your time, donate, share your ideas, or simply stay connected. The PTO is stronger because of the families who make up our Poff community, and we would love to have you be part of it!

Be on the lookout for more information throughout the year about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, fundraisers, and ways the PTO is supporting our students and staff.

In the meantime, you can find us on Facebook by searching POFF PTO and requesting to join our group. You can also reach us by email at president.poffpto@gmail.com.

We're so excited for the year ahead and look forward to seeing you at the Back-to-School Bash on August 21st!

Here's to a wonderful 2026–2027 school year!

Alyssa Pater

Poff PTO President



POFF ELEMENTARY

2026-2027 Dates and Information



Regular School Day Schedule

8:15 – 8:45am School Doors Open
8:45 – 9:00am Homeroom
3:30pm Students Dismissed

8:45 – 11:25am AM Kindergarten
12:50 – 3:30pm PM Kindergarten

2-Hour Delay Schedule

10:15 – 10:45am Doors Open
10:45 – 11:00am Homeroom
3:30pm Dismissal Begins

10:45 – 12:40pm AM Kindergarten
1:30 – 3:30pm PM Kindergarten

School Holidays

No school will be held on these dates.

September 7th
October 12th
November 2nd
November 6th
November 26th & 27th
December 23rd - January 1st
January 18th
February 15th
March 22nd - 29th
May 31st

Early Dismissal Schedule

8:15 – 8:45am School Doors Open
8:45 – 9:00am Homeroom
1:45pm Students Dismissed

8:45 – 10:45am AM Kindergarten
11:45am – 1:45pm PM Kindergarten

Early Dismissal Dates

Early dismissal begins at 1:45pm. If a 2-hour delay is called on an early dismissal day, the early dismissal will be cancelled and students will dismiss at 3:30.

September 11th (F)	February 12th (F)
October 9th (F)	March 19th (F)
November 25th (W)	April 16th (F)
December 22nd (T)	May 7th (F)
January 15th (F)	

Additional early dismissal dates:

November 5th – 12:45pm–Conferences
June 3rd – 11:45am
June 4th – 11:45am – Last Day

Contact Information

Office phone numbers begin (412) 492 - XXXX

Principal	Josh Cable	cable@ht-sd.org	x6336
Administrative Assistant	Renee Neal	nealr@ht-sd.org	x6335
Nurse	Dawn Gunnett	dawn.gunnett@ht-sd.org	x6337
Counselor	Ellen Giarrusso	ellen.giarrusso@ht-sd.org	x6332
Attendance Line	(412) 486 - 6000, Press 2, then Press 4		