



HILLSBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT

FREE ORCHARDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

August 2026

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year, Foxes! We are excited to welcome our students and families back to Free Orchards Elementary! We hope you had a wonderful summer filled with fun, rest, and time with loved ones. We look forward to partnering with our families to create a welcoming school community where every student can learn, grow, and thrive. We can't wait to see all the amazing things our Foxes will accomplish this year!

Here are some important dates to remember:

- Friday, August 14: School office opens, 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 26: Family Connections – Your child's teacher will contact you
- Thursday, August 27: Back-to-School Night, 5:00–6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 1: First day of school for students in Grades 1–6
- Wednesday, September 2: First day of school for Kindergarten
- Monday, September 7: Labor Day – No school

School Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 8:00 a.m.–2:20 p.m.

Wednesday: 8:00 a.m.–1:50 p.m.

For student safety, please do not drop students off before 7:30 a.m., as supervision is not available before that time.

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://linqconnect.com/public/menu/ERRCAH> or [Hillsboro School District Menus](#).

Family Involvement Opportunities:

We hope that all of our community members can volunteer in our building during the 2026–2027 school year. 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>.

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 **503-844-1140**. You'll receive an automated call if we don't hear from you **by 9:00 a.m.**. 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.

Pick-up/Drop-off during Arrival and Dismissal: In order to keep all of our students, staff, and community members safe, as well as being efficient with time, please follow our traffic, parking, and arrival/dismissal guidelines below.

- The Southside/back parking lot is for staff and buses only.
- The Eastside/front parking lot is for visitors and pick-up/drop-off.
- We have a pick-up/drop-off line that runs along the curb, marked in yellow, for students who can independently get in and out of cars during arrival and dismissal.
- If you utilize the pick-up/drop-off line, do not leave your car and pull all the way forward.
- Do not park or use the fire lane, marked in red and with orange cones as parking or pick-up/drop-off line.
- If you need to get out of your vehicle, please use a parking spot.
- Follow all crosswalk areas during all times.
- If you park in the street please walk up to the school to pick up your student and do not block our neighbors' driveways.

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](#).

Gabby Hensley

Principal

Free Orchards

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