



August 2026

Dear Orenco Families,

Welcome to the 2026-27 school year! I hope this letter finds you enjoying the last few weeks of summer. We are eager to greet familiar faces and welcome our new students and families. At Orenco, we strive to make lasting relationships with students, engage them in meaningful academics, and create an inclusive and positive school community. My staff and I will be using ParentSquare to send out newsletters and announcements. Below is a little information to help you get started:

**Here are some important dates to remember at Orenco:**

- August 14- School office opens, 7:30 am-3:30 pm
- August 26 - Family Connections and Transitions (Welcome Outreach- we call you!)
- August 27 - **Meet Teacher/Popsicles with the Principal/Drop off Supplies/ Donations**, 3:00-4:00
- September 1- **First Day of school** for grades 1-6
- September 2- All Students; First day of school for Kindergarteners
- September 7- Labor Day Holiday—No School
- September 17—**Orenco Back to School Open House Event**, 5:30-7:00 pm

**School Hours:**

Our school instruction hours are **8:00am-2:20 pm M/Tu/Th/F** and **8:00-1:50 pm on Wednesdays**. Office hours for Orenco are 7:30-3:30 pm daily.

- When students arrive at school they will choose to wait in the gym or eat breakfast in the cafeteria. Car riders/Walkers enter on the south side of the building (by the playground). Bus riders are on the north side (Birch St/Main entrance). Follow our signs around campus.
- Students are dismissed and walk to class by 7:50 am.
- Students should arrive **no earlier than 7:30 am**. Our doors unlock at 7:30 am and there is no supervision before this time. Please **arrive by 7:55 am** so they may get to class on time for a prompt **8:00 am** start of our school day.

**School Supplies:** We like to keep things simple and equitable for our families. Please provide a backpack and a water bottle (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, crayons or colored pencils, copy paper, hand sanitizer, composition notebooks and tissues.

**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](#).

#### **Family Involvement Opportunities:**

We hope that all of our community members can volunteer in our building during the 2026-27 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 is a top 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. 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 **503-844-1375**. You'll receive an automated call if we don't hear from you by **10:00 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.

#### **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. As early as possible is appreciated.**

#### **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](#).

Sincerely,



***Ms. Combs*** (kōmz-rhymes with homes)

**Allison Combs** (she/her/ella)

Principal/Directora

Orenco Elementary School

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