
HURDEN LOOKER SCHOOL

Tracey L. Wolff, Principal
Robert Winston, Vice Principal

September 2019
(908) 352-7664 x3400/3410
Fax (908) 282-5845
www.hillsidek12.org

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

WELCOME BACK! I hope everyone have a wonderful summer.

As another school year begins, I want to welcome all our new students along with our returning students and their families back to Hurden Looker School. I hope that all of us experience a rewarding school year filled with much enthusiasm and interest in our educational programs.

As always, we are happy to have you as educational partners. As the year progresses and you have questions or concerns, I encourage you to call the school and talk to those individuals who might be of help. If your question deals with in-class events, please ask to speak to the teacher, leave them a message or e-mail them. If it deals with the overall program or curriculum, please call and speak with an administrator.

As in all the schools, state regulations mandate that all visitors be "buzzed" into the building through our security area located on the side of the building with the large playground. Only those who need to go into the building will be allowed. Parents will sign their students in and out of the building through this new security area. All drop off items will be done through this security area. We want to thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation as we implement these new changes.

We want to assure you that we will do our best to help your child experience a safe learning environment as well as academic, social, and emotional growth. With your help and cooperation, we look forward to an outstanding year!

Sincerely,
Tracey L. Wolff
Principal

WELCOME NEW STAFF

As we are all aware Hillside has re-districted the 2-6 grade schools. Hurden Looker, Calvin Coolidge and George Washington will now service all the 2-6 grade students at each building.

We have many new faces in our building but familiar ones from the different schools across the district. The school directory is located in our student handbook that is on our district website.

SCHOOL HOURS:

School time 8:35 AM- 2:55PM
Late Bell 8:40 AM

When tardy, **parents must bring their child into the building and sign them in late.** Students will then be given an admission slip to class. Excessive tardiness interferes with your child's educational progress and can impact grades and promotion.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS:

The Hillside Board of Education voted to require all Pre-K to grade twelve students to wear uniforms. It is believed uniforms will promote pride in our schools and help students focus on their studies instead of fashion trends. Uniforms are also more affordable for parents

than the current brand name clothing being sold.

Girls' Uniform: Khaki jumpers, skirts, shorts, pants or shorts.

Navy polo shirts or tops

Boys' Uniforms: Khaki pants or shorts

Navy polo shirts and tops

BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL

This year Hurden Looker will be participating in the **Breakfast After the Bell** program. All students will receive a breakfast as they are going up to their classrooms. If they do not want a breakfast they do not have to take it. **Students will not be allowed into the building until 8:20AM.** Please make the necessary arrangements for your child (ren's) supervision in the morning. **There is no supervision until 8:20.**

CAFETERIA:

The school cafeteria will serve breakfast and lunch on a daily basis. Students will bring home an application for free or reduced lunch eligibility. Parents/Guardians should complete the form if they wish to apply for the program. Lunch status remains as it was last year until the new forms are received and verified or until Oct. 1st.

Regular prices are breakfast \$1.10 and lunch \$2.80. Please note new price.

New students pay full price for lunch until forms are verified. Students who have previously attended Hillside schools will have the same lunch status as last year until lunch forms have been verified.

Any student not submitting a form in September will automatically have to pay full price for lunch until forms have been submitted and approved.

Students owing more than \$5.00 will not be able to purchase a lunch without money until their fine is paid.

ATTENTION:

September is a busy month, and it is necessary that our records be in order. Please return all the necessary forms sent home to you Friday, September 6, 2019.

Thank you for your cooperation.

ABSENTEEISM/ TARDINESS:

Daily attendance and arriving **ON TIME** are very important factors in determining academic progress. If your child must be absent, we request that a parent call the school first thing in the morning at (908) 352-7664 ext. 3441/3400. Students are expected to be in school no later than **8:35 AM**. When students are late, they miss essential directions and instruction. In addition, late arrivals disrupt the entire class atmosphere.

Board of Education Policy states: Excessive absences of 20 or more days may affect a child's promotion to the next grade.

In order to receive credit for attending a full day of school, students must be in school for a minimum of 4 hours.

Parents Make the Difference (article)

Daily school attendance will ensure success

She woke up late and there's no way she's getting to the bus. Would it really matter if she went to school late-or not at all?

In a word, yes. A study from the Journal of Educational Research found that attendance makes a big difference. Kids who are in school every day do better than those who are not.

But what can you do to make those mornings easier? How can you get your child up and out the door, on time, every day? Here are some tips:

- **Start the night before.**
Is homework in the backpack?
Are permission slips signed?
Does she have lunch money or lunch already made in the refrigerator?
- **Put the backpack** by the door your child will go out.
- **Lay out clothes** down to the socks. This one step will avoid morning arguments more than anything else you do.
- **Create a to-do list** of jobs that have to be done in the morning.

Source: Douglas J. Lamdin, "Evidence of Student Attendance as an Independent Variable in Education Production Functions."

AFTERCARE

If you are interested in signing your child up for the Stepping Stones Aftercare Program, please call 973-375-5437.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING:



Inclement weather may force the closing of the Hillside Public Schools. The Hillside school district has implemented the Global Connect Notification System. A call will be made to the current number in our school data base system. Please make sure all numbers are up to date. Announcements will also be made over radio stations WINS-1010 AM; WJDM-1530 AM; WOR- 710 AM; and NJ 101.5 FM.

Back To School Night

Hurden Looker will hold an Open House on Thursday, September 12th at 6:30 pm. Parents/Guardians will have the opportunity to meet their child's teachers, visit classrooms, and learn about our curriculums. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

CONFERENCES:

Anyone interested in having a conference with the principal, supervisors and/or teacher should call the school secretary and make an appointment or email the teacher. If you have a concern in the classroom, please see the teacher first to see if it can be resolved before going to the next level.

SAFETY:

HL parents are asked **NOT** to pull on the playground areas as children are there. If you would like to enter the school, please park on Gurd Ave. or Liberty Avenue.

VISITORS:

We encourage parents to visit Hurden Looker School. **We request that parents and other visitors call the office and schedule classroom visitations** in advance of the actual visit.

As per state regulations. For the safety and welfare of our students and staff, all visitors (non-school employees) must enter in through the new main entrance located on the side of the building. You will be asked how we could help you through the intercom system, if needed to come in, then you will enter into the security area and if necessary proceed into the school building. All items that are brought in will have to be placed in a container outside the building and it will be taken out. All visitors will still have to sign in and out in the school office. A picture ID **must** be shown and T-Pass will be in place.

T-Pass is an electronic visitors' pass system that requires a picture ID, preferably, a driver's license to be presented. It takes a few minutes to activate, so please arrive a few minutes before any assigned appointment times.

MEDICATIONS:

Board of Education Policy 5330 states that a parent or legal guardian's request for the administration of medication in school must be made in writing and signed by the parent/legal

guardian. The parent/legal guardian must submit a certified statement written and signed by the pupil's physician. The statement must include: pupil's name, name of medication, purpose of administration, proper timing and dosage, possible side effects, time the medication will be discontinued, statement that the student is physically fit and free of contagious disease, and statement that the pupil would not be able to attend school if the medication is not administered during the school day.

EARLY DISMISSAL:

A student **will not** be permitted to leave the school building unless the parent/guardian signs the early dismissal form/principal's book (located in the office) at the time the student is dismissed. **Students can only be picked up by a parent/guardian. Board of Education Policy #5230.**

PUPILS REMAINING AT THE END OF THE DAY:

Parents/guardians of students who are late picking up their child at the end of the school day shall receive a letter of warning for the first time. A bill for the district's staff overtime will be issued for the second time and thereafter. The district may impose disciplinary action or bill parents/guardians for any staff overtime as well as call DYFS as per **Board of Education Policy #5231**

PUBLICITY:

From time to time articles and pictures from the school appear in newspapers and other publications. Should you wish to

not have your child's picture appear in publications, please fill out the publicity consent/non-consent form you received in your opening packet.

BIRTHDAY TREATS:

Birthdays will be recognized at the end of the school day. Parents should drop off cupcakes or ice cream cups by noon in the office. **No whole cakes, balloons, party favors, or cameras are allowed.**

Note: Unless the whole class is invited, teachers will not allow students to pass out party

CHARACTER EDUCATION



Throughout the school year, HL will emphasize character traits as well as life skills as part of our Character Education Program. Each month a character trait will be introduced and reviewed. During this month of the children at HL are learning about and implementing the character trait **RESPONSIBILITY.**

Responsibility is

- being dependable and accountable for your words and actions.
- doing your best and never blaming others for your mistakes.
- making sure things are done correctly and on time.

Each time your child is recognized for displaying a particular life skill, he/she will receive a ticket which they will keep track of. At the end of the

month the student with the most tickets in each class will be able to participate in fun Friday.

Let your child figure things out to build RESPONSIBILITY

As the parent it is easy to get into the habit of telling your children exactly what they need to do. But children can figure things out for themselves, and once they are in school they should be actively doing so.

Try giving your children directions and letting them take the initiative to complete the task.

- Ask questions: Instead of telling your children to get their raincoats, ask about the weather outside and what they think they should wear.
- Offer facts: "I am going to vacuum later today. If small toys are on the floor, they might get vacuumed up." Even if your children do not make the connection that they need to pick up the toys, they will probably show some alarm. Then you can say, "What can you do to keep your toys safe?"
- Make suggestions: Use phrases such as, "sometimes I..." or "one idea is ..." to suggest solutions for your children. They can try your suggestions or they could decide to do something else and see how that works. Most problems are solved through trial and error.
- Watch for frustration: Learning how to solve problems should be a positive experience. Don't let things progress to the point where your children are in tears. If

they try several times and still can't figure something out, gently step in to give a solution.

Source: Parents Make A Difference 2011, J. J. Pawel, The Parent's Toolshop.

LET'S READ!

Hurden Looker School has an incentive reading program called HL 100 Book Challenge. More information will be sent home shortly. Reading for 15 minutes daily will be a homework assignment every day. That is the challenge! Studies have shown those students who have been read to frequently are better prepared for success in school.

HILLSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY:

"Hillside Public Library staff members are not responsible for any minors left in the library without a guardian for any period of time. Students, who do not follow library rules, are disruptive or create disorder, will be asked to leave the library."

We Are All on the Same Team

We will continue to promote building team spirit through good character lessons and learning about life skills at HL. Our character education program as well as many activities and events planned revolve around this theme. This program entails character trait lessons as well as positive school climate lessons and activities that will teach students proper ways to handle situations. Our Character Education program will play an integral part of this program. We encourage parents/guardians to visit the school website for parental information as well as talk to your child about what it means to be respectful, honest, compassionate, kind, have good citizenship, build

team awareness, strive for excellence and self-disciplined.

ZERO TOLERANCE:

In an effort to maintain high standards of excellence for our students, the Hurden Looker faculty and staff are making every effort to provide a safe and sound educational environment for your child.

Whether or not your child has initiated the problem or retaliated, our school has a ZERO TOLERANCE for fighting. Our students are taught to remove themselves from a potential fight by seeking the assistance of the supervising adult.

Your continued support and cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Special Education: Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS)

The I&RS Committee is a committee in each school designed to provide a coordinated system for the planning and delivery of intervention and referral services that are designed to assist students who are experiencing learning, behavior, or health difficulties and to assist staff to address students' needs. If you believe your child can benefit from the services of I&RS Committee, please contact your school principal.

Special Education Child Find

If your child is between the ages of three and twenty-one, and exhibits physical, sensory, emotional, communication, cognitive or social problems, the child may be eligible for interventions in the general education program or an evaluation to determine eligibility for special education and related services. A referral is a written request for an evaluation that is given to the school district when a child is suspected of having a disability and

might need special education services. Parents, school personnel, and agencies concerned with the welfare of a student can make a referral. If you believe that your child may have a disability, you may refer your child for an evaluation by submitting a written request to your school principal or to Dr. Sandra Mercedes, Supervisor of Special Education.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

The Hillside Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, or social or economic status. The Hillside Board of Education also does not discriminate on the basis of disability with regard to admission, access to services, treatment, or employment in its programs or activities. Any questions with the scope of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 can be directed to:

Dr. Sandra Mercedes,
Supervisor of Special Education
Hillside High School
1085 Liberty Avenue
Hillside, NJ 07205
(908) 352-7664 ext. 8448

Student Activities

All Hillside Public School students are eligible to participate in any extra curricular activities scheduled by the schools or Hillside Board of Education either during or after school. Please consult the monthly newsletter and your child's teacher for activities.

Potentially Missing or Abused Children

Dr. Sandra Mercedes, Supervisor of Special Education, serves as the school district's liaison and primary contact person between the district and child welfare authorities.

PTA

The faculty and Staff would like to welcome our new PTA members

Ms. J'Ne Brathwaite-President
Ms. Judith Soares - Vice President
Ms. Tanisha Minto- Treasurer
Ms. Teal - Secretary

Please get involved with your child's education by getting involved in the PTA. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month.

The first PTA meeting will be Thursday, October 3, 2019 at 6:30PM. The PTA will be available to meet and talk with anyone at Back to School Night on Thursday, September 12th. We hope to see you there.

The HL PTA will be kicking off September with a fundraiser

- Character Education "kick off" to sponsor positive School Climate Assemblies will begin on Kickoff Day September 13th.
- Membership Drive

We look forward to your contributions and volunteering.

WELCOME BACK!



Important Dates to Remember

**4 – Meet and Greet
2:00 – 3:00 PM**

5 - School Opens

12 - Back to School Night 6:30 PM

13 – Character Education Kick off

20- PTA Movie Night

30- School's Closed