



Hillside Elementary School

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! Our faculty and staff join me in extending a very special welcome to our new Hillside families. We are excited to embark on this educational journey with you and your family and look forward to wonderful years together!

The following staff changes have occurred for the 2021-2022 school year: **Mr. LaRocco**, Assistant Principal; **Ms. Rubino**, First Grade; **Ms. Magnatta**, Third Grade; and **Ms. Isidori**, Third Grade ICT. In addition, we would like to welcome **Ms. Barbera**, Third Grade, back to Hillside. We are also happy to introduce **Ms. Fishman**, speech and language pathologist, the newest member of our Hillside team. We know that both our new and returning teachers and staff members will continue the excellence that Hillside has known.

This year, school begins for students on Wednesday, September 1st. We plan to allow parents to drop children off when our supervision begins at 7:50 AM. Please do not drop students off before this time, as there is no supervision available. **Please note: As State guidance is issued, we will revise our plans, if necessary.** All students, K-4, are expected to arrive no later than our start time of 8:30 AM. In the coming weeks, we will share special first day of school arrangements for our incoming kindergarten students to aid in the transition.

Thanks to Lucas Gartner, incoming third grader here at Hillside, we will be welcoming students back to school with a new theme:

*At Hillside, we all put our different pieces together to make something stronger
and more beautiful!*

This theme will be woven throughout the school experience- our birthday photo booth, special events, assemblies and even Field Day!

In an effort to ensure that all parents receive our [Summer Mailing](#) regardless of location, we have again put it online on our webpage. Please click on the hyperlinks in this letter for easy access. We have included a [Summer Mailing Document List 2021](#) outlining the documents that need to be completed and returned on the first day of school to your child's classroom teacher.

We have worked together with our PTSA to ensure safer arrival and dismissal procedures at Hillside and will continue to review and improve our systems. Please refer to our [Transportation Procedures at Hillside 2021](#) to familiarize yourself with our four modes of arrival/dismissal: Bus, Independent Walker, Student Pick Up or Circle Pick Up.

The home-school partnership is a critical component in ensuring your child's success. We will continue to communicate with you often through our Constant Contact blast which you are automatically enrolled to receive upon registration. Additionally, please look out for the *Hastings Daily* which includes all of the communications in one place.

Please save the date for our *Back to School Night* on September 14th for Grades K-4. This evening, our teachers will provide you with detailed information about your child's grade level curriculum, classroom routines and expectations. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to get to know your child's teacher(s) and the exciting learning experiences that lie ahead. More details to follow!

I know that you are anxious to receive your child's placement for the new school year. Placement will be shared on the Parent Portal the last week of August. A blast will go out informing you of the date and time of release. If you have not yet registered on the [Parent Portal](#), please do so. In the meantime, please access the [Grade Level Supply Lists](#) on our webpage under *Headlines*. Additionally, once placement is released, we will share with you a letter from your child's teacher before school begins welcoming them to the new classroom. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

I am confident that our 2021-2022 school year will be a very special one. Please feel free to call or email me to discuss any concerns, suggestions, or ideas to make the Hillside experience the best it can be!

I look forward to seeing you in September!

Warm regards,

Amy Cazes
Principal