



BACK TO SCHOOL



Dear Pincrest Elementary School Parent/Guardian:

The beginning of the 2017-2018 school year is rapidly approaching. The first day of school for Grades 1-4 is Tuesday, September 5, 2017. Kindergarten students' first day is Wednesday, September 6.

School Day

Our first bell rings at **7:40 a.m.**, at which time students are allowed to go to their classrooms. Breakfast will be served from 7:30-7:55 in the cafeteria. The second bell sounds at **8:00 a.m.** to officially begin the day. **If your son/daughter is not eating breakfast, please have them arrive no sooner than 7:40.** Students arriving after 8:00 will need to check in at the office, as they will be marked tardy for the day. All students will be dismissed by **2:35 p.m.** Walkers and parent pickup students will be dismissed to the front of the building or the east side at 2:30 p.m. Bus riders will be escorted to the bus loading area between Pincrest and the Middle School.

Please make all arrangements for pick-up and/or after school plans with your son/daughter the night before, when at all possible. If an emergency change of plans arises, please contact the office.

Open House

Our Welcome Back Open House Night will be held on **Wednesday, August 30th**. Please join us to find your classroom(s), informally meet teachers, and drop off materials and supplies. There will not be scheduled presentations for each grade. To help avoid over congestion, please follow the suggested schedule below.

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| 4:30 –5:15 | Families with last name beginning A-L* (suggested) are invited to drop off materials in their classroom and meet the teacher. |
| 5:30 –6:15 | Families with last name beginning M-Z* (suggested) are invited to drop off materials in their classroom and meet the teacher. |

*If you are unable to attend the time assigned, please feel free to attend the alternate time.

Kindergarten Orientation will be held Tuesday, September 6th. A separate letter with details of your child's teacher, room number and specific times for kindergarten orientation will be mailed out the week of August 15th. The kindergarten rooms will be open during the open house from 4:30-6:30 P.M. on August 30th. Please feel free to find the classroom and informally meet the teacher.

Other Items During the Parent Information Night: Parents will be able to turn in lunch money and paperwork, sign up for volunteering opportunities, visit with the nurse, pre-register for the visitor/volunteer sign-in system and view the [Kids Campus](#) program.

Please note this year's conference dates

Monday, October 16th – 3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 17th – 3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 18th – 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

We will be using Sign up Genius to schedule Parent/Teacher Conferences again this year. Information will be sent out in September reviewing conference sign ups. Parents will be able to sign-up for one 20 minute conference per child.

Bus Transportation /Walkers

K-12 bus pick-up locations and times will be mailed by the Hastings Bus Company sometime in the month of August. Students who live within the walking areas will receive notice that they are **ineligible** for bus transportation. Kindergarten and 1st grade students will be receiving backpack tags to indicate their busing or pick-up information. Please be sure that tags are securely attached to their backpacks prior to the first day of school.

Pinecrest Website

Please visit our school on the web at <http://pinecrest.hastings.k12.mn.us/> You can find out all about our school through our website. We will have current copies of our school newsletter and monthly lunch menus available to you on our website. The rotation day calendar and student handbook are available online as well.

Supply Lists – The school supply list is available on our website at <http://pinecrest.hastings.k12.mn.us/> under the “About Us” tab and at local stores such as Cub, Target, Office Max and Walmart.

School Supplies: Hastings Family Service is accepting donations of school supplies for distribution. Donations of school supplies, new socks, underwear and backpacks may be brought to the HFS or placed in the labeled bins at various businesses. If you are in need of school supplies, please call Hastings Family Service at 651-437-7134 or visit their store at 301 East 2nd Street. Distribution of school supplies will be on **August 23-25 & 29-30 and by appointment.**

District Calendars: Please visit this site to view the district calendar.
http://www.hastings.k12.mn.us/news_events/calendars

Breakfast, Lunch & Milk: School breakfast and lunch will be served on the first day of school. Breakfast is \$1.30. Breakfast is free for all kindergarten students and grade 1-4 students qualifying for free or reduced priced meals. Application forms for free lunch are available in the school office or go to this website:

<http://www.smartchoiceshastings.info/application-for-meal-benefits.html> **You must reapply even if you qualified last year.** If your family received free or reduced priced meals last school year, that same eligibility will remain in effect through October 16, 2017. Families who have this 30 day carry-over and have not submitted an application for the current school year by October 16, 2017 will lose their eligibility.

You will need to pay for breakfast and lunch until the paperwork is done and official qualification is accepted.

The hot lunch price for the 2017-18 school year will be \$2.70 per lunch. Milk is \$0.50 per carton for students who wish to purchase milk for lunch when they bring their own lunch from home. Milk will only be available for breakfast and lunch. **Please pay for lunches online if possible.** (<http://www.smartchoiceshastings.info/online-meal-payments.html>) Otherwise, send money to school in an envelope labeled with your child’s name, amount, and teacher written on the outside.

Please note that your child’s lunch/breakfast account should be maintained with a positive balance. **Please make sure your child understands your feelings about purchasing breakfast and additional milk at lunch time.**

Does Your Child Need Eye Glasses?

The eyeglass program helps individuals that would find it a financial hardship to purchase eyeglasses. This would typically be a person without insurance for eye exams, lenses and frames or they have a high deductible that prevents them from utilizing their coverage. Contact your school nurse for more information.

We are all looking forward to a successful school year!

Sincerely,



Paul Bakker, Principal
Pinecrest Elementary
651-480-7280