



September

Pinecrest Elementary

Newsletter 2016

"Education is not the filling of a bucket but the lighting of a fire." W. B. Yeats

Good-Bye Summer; Hello Fall!

We are ready to start a new and exciting school year! Welcome back to all of our returning families and a special welcome to the new students and their families for the 2016-17 school year. Please contact us with any concerns you may have, as we want the school year to be a successful one for each of you.

Monthly newsletters are available to you on-line each month. It will be posted just prior to the beginning of the month. ***Be on the lookout for it as no paper copy will be sent home and it contains important information, upcoming dates, events and volunteer opportunities.***

WHAT TIME DOES SCHOOL START?

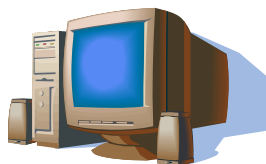
KENNEDY	8:50 AM – 3:25 PM
PINECREST	8:00 AM – 2:35 PM
MCAULIFFE	8:50 AM – 3:25 PM



Students should not arrive prior to the 7:40 bell unless eating breakfast which begins at 7:30.

DISTRICT 200 WEBSITE

A vast amount of information is at your fingertips (from food services, to menus, to calendars, to newsletters, to teacher's class pages and more). Just log on to the district's web page at www.hastings.k12.mn.us. From there you are able to navigate to any school or school department.



PICTURE DAY - September 21



FALL CONFERENCES

Elementary conferences are scheduled in the evening of Monday, October 17th and Tuesday, October 18th and during the morning of Wednesday, October 19th.

Sign-up will be online. As soon as the sign-up is up and running you will receive an email notice.

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH APPLICATIONS

Free and reduced lunch application forms are available in the school office. Our district office processes all applications and will notify you of approval. If you have any questions, please contact April Bechel at 651.480.7126.



It's important that you complete this form each year even if you have been previously approved for this benefit. A new application must be submitted prior to September 26, 2016 to receive approval for the 2016-2017 school year.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR DAYCARE ???

If during the school year your address or daycare changes and this requires a change in transportation, please contact the school, not the bus company. If you give us the information we will work with the bus company to make the changes. Thank you for your help in this matter.

KIDS' CAMPUS BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

We currently have openings for before and after school child care in all of the elementary schools. Call Hastings Community Education at 651-480-7670 for registration information or go to our web site at <http://hastingscommunityed.com/>

NEED A TELEPHONE NUMBER?

Office: 480-7280
480-7281
Health: 480-7386

Please call the Main Office each morning to report when your child(ren) will not be attending school.

Attendance Matters

Research shows that attendance is directly linked to achievement. In tracking students that drop out of school, one thing they have in common is poor attendance.

Being late for school also hurts a child's learning. A student who is 10 minutes late every day will miss close to 30 hours of instruction during the year.

Children can make up an assignment, but they can never get back what's most important: the discussions, the questions, the explanations by the teacher and the thinking that makes learning come alive. Your child's success in school depends on having a solid educational background – one that can only be gained through regular school attendance.

You may ask, how can I help?

- Enforce a regular bedtime.
- Make sure your child is organized so he/she can get out the door with what they need.
- Remember that everything you add to a schedule means something must be taken away. For example, if you add lots of before and after school activities, you take away time for your child to read, play and study.

We appreciate all you do to ensure that your child(ren) attend school regularly.

Please review the attendance policy on page 3 of the [Elementary Handbook](#).

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HANDBOOK

Our 2016-2017 [District Elementary School Handbook](#) is available on-line. This handbook is a valuable resource, as it will answer many of the questions you may have at the beginning and throughout the school year.

NURSING

There is a health office in each of our elementary buildings. Each building has a licensed school nurse on duty. If your child has a health concern, please discuss an action plan with the building RN. The nurse will be on duty the following hours from 7:45 to 3:15.



If your child is saying they don't feel well or showing symptoms, it will be important for you to decide whether they are well enough to attend school that day.

Some important things to remember and go over with your child to help them stay healthy are:

- Properly covering mouth when coughing
- Wash hands often
- Keep your child home until 24 hours after they have had a fever.

More information regarding health services can be found in the [elementary handbook](#).

END OF DAY PICK UP FOR STUDENTS

In order to minimize interruptions to the classroom, students should not be picked up early unless it is an emergency. On those occasions when it is necessary to pick your child up during the school day, please adhere to the following procedure. Go to the school office to sign your child out. The office secretary will call the classroom and have the student sent to the office. *Teachers will not release students unless the office gives prior approval. This policy has been established to help protect your child.*



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

DOES YOUR CHILD NEED EYEGLASSES?

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



LUNCH/BREAKFAST/MILK COSTS:

2016-2017 lunch cost for elementary students is \$2.60, breakfast is \$1.30. One milk is included with each lunch/breakfast served, if your child would like an extra milk it may be purchased for an additional \$.50.

Breakfast and milk for kindergarten milk break is free for all kindergarteners. Milk for students in grades 1-4 will only be available at breakfast and lunch.

MENU CHOICES

Students are usually given three menu choices (hot lunch, alternate or a chef salad). Please go over the monthly menu, which is included on-line in the monthly newsletter, with your child. Students will have to decide at the beginning of the school day which lunch they wish to order. The cooks do use this count to ensure that the proper quantity of each food choice is prepared on a daily basis.

We do discourage the students from drinking pop at lunch. *If your child has a food allergy, arrangements can be made for the student to receive an approved alternate. Please contact your school nurse to arrange.*

CAFÉTERIA TIME

Providing meals for many students during the noon hour is a difficult job, especially with the variety of eating habits of young people. Students are given 20 minutes to eat in the cafeteria. Most children can finish their meal in that amount of time. If they can't, we try to give them a few extra minutes to finish. Students will also have the opportunity to go outside for 20 minutes in connection with the lunch period. This is a good opportunity to visit with friends and work off a little of the energy from sitting all morning. We will be going outside each day unless it is raining or if the temperature is below zero. *Please be sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather that day.* This ensures an enjoyable recess time.



ADDITIONAL LUNCH INFORMATION



- All elementary schools use the computerized Point of Sale System.
- Payments for meals and items purchase can be made to your students account by personal check, cash or online.

- Please make sure your child's full name, grade, and teacher are written on all personal checks or envelopes containing cash.
- Online payments are encouraged. You can do this by going to www.mypaymentsplus.com. You will need your child's student ID number to pay online. If you do not know your child's ID number, please call the office to obtain that information.
- Parents can go to the MyPaymentsPlus website to see what their child(ren) have charged for lunches, breakfast, milk, etc.
- All elementary schools offer a breakfast program starting the first day of school. The cost for students is \$1.30. There will be no charge for free student, reduced students, and all Kindergarten students.
- Lunch charges for anyone having lunch at school that does not go to the school (parents, grandparents, pre-school age children, etc.) will be \$3.70.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

The Hastings Bus Company will be transporting the rural and city elementary children (if you live more than .75 miles from school) to and from school. The bus company phone number is 651.437.1888.



Parents of kindergarten and 1st grade students should pin a tag on their child indicating the bus route number, name and address where the child is to be dropped off. These tags should be worn all year for kindergarten and the first two weeks for first graders or until your child is comfortable riding the bus.

SAFETY

Keeping the safety of our students in mind, please call the school office if a change in busing is necessary. The only changes that can be made are those that are permanent or for an extended length of time. It is very difficult for the bus company to make brief or sudden changes in the routes.

Keeping our students safe is a serious responsibility. Please be assured that safety will be stressed throughout the school year and we will continue to enforce and improve our school safety/security procedures.

TOYS-AT-SCHOOL

Please help us monitor the types of games and trinkets that your child brings to school. Items that do not directly relate to the child's educational needs (Game Boys, cell phones, head phones, ipods, etc.) should be left at home. The reasons for this are numerous:

- They act as a source of distraction for the child who brought the item and those around him/her.
- Many items are expensive and if lost or broken act as a source of distress for the child.
- Students who do not have these items are negatively affected as others bring their possessions to school and display them.
- Students should not bring cell phones to school unless requested by parents. Any student bringing a cell phone, at parent request, must turn it off when they enter the building and place it in their backpack until they exit the building at the end of the day. Any student using a cell phone during the school day will have it turned into the office and returned to them at the end of the day. A second offense will result in a call to the parent requiring them to come to school to pick up the cell phone.
- In the case of headphones, it is difficult to monitor what your child is listening to.



Thank-you for your assistance

Right to Know

Parents have the right to request and receive information on the professional qualifications of their children's classroom teachers.

**PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW ACT
(M.S. 123B.575, Subdivisions 1-14)**

Notice Concerning Use of Pest Control Materials:

Our district utilizes a licensed, professional pest control service firm for the prevention and control for rodents, insects, and other pests in and around the district's building. Their program consists of:

1. *Inspection and monitoring* to determine whether pests are present, and whether any treatment is needed;
2. Recommendations for *maintenance and sanitation* to help eliminate pests without the need for pest control materials;
3. Utilization of *non-chemical measures* such as traps, caulking and screening; and
4. Application of *EPA-registered pest control materials* when needed.



Pests can sting, bite, cause contamination, damage property, and spread disease; therefore, we must prevent and control them. The long-term health effects on children from the application of such pest control materials, or the class of materials to which they belong, may not be fully understood. All pest control materials are chosen and applied according to label directions per federal law.

An estimated schedule of interior pest control inspections and possible treatments is available for review or copying at each school office. A similar estimated schedule is available for application of herbicides and other materials to school grounds. Parents of students may request to receive, at their expense, prior notification of any application of a pest control material, should such an application be deemed necessary on a day different from the days specified in the schedule.

Happenings from Hastings Community Education

Tilden Community Center, 310 River Street, Hastings

Community Education recreational opportunities for kids:

- **Private Music Lessons** (gr. 3+) Choose from a 30 minute or 60 minute lesson (same time each week) Thu, Sep 15-Oct 27; \$149/30-minutes or \$249/60-minutes
- **Community Water Safety Swim Lessons** (gr. 3+) Mon, Sep 26-Nov 14 (skip 10/31) from 6:30-7:10 pm AND Sat, Oct 1-Nov 12 from 11:30 am-12:10 pm; \$45
- **Learn to Skate, levels 1-4, Pre-Alpha and Mini-Mites** (ages 3+) Sat, Oct 1-Dec 10 for a 30-minute lesson and 30-minute ice practice between 10-11:30 am at the Civic Arena; \$150

Courses that may interest adults who have children offered this Fall session include:

- **Human Trafficking education and awareness seminar** (adults) Tue, Sep 27 from 6:30-8 pm at the High School, FREE
- **Planning to Pay for College** (adults) Thu, Sep 29 from 6:30-8:30 pm at the High School, \$15/each or \$25/family
- **Stress-free Healthy Meal Planning** (adults) Thu, Sep 29 from 6:30-8 pm at Tilden Community Center, \$19
- **Disney 101 comprehensive planning & information course** (adults) Tue, Oct 4 from 6-8 pm at the High School, \$15/each or \$25/family

Community Education is once again offering **FREE TRY-IT GROUP FITNESS** classes for adults beginning mid-September. Try Gentle Yoga, Turbo Kick Live, Body Sculpting, Candlelight Yoga, and Oula! While these are free, we do ask that you pre-register as space is limited! Call 651-480-7670 or go online to register at www.HastingsCommunityEd.com