



Highland Park Elementary

HORNETS

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Principal-Jason Failla

Dear Hornet Families,

Welcome back to another great year at Highland Park Elementary! I am excited and honored to begin my first year as your principal. I am looking forward to meeting all our new families and welcoming back all our returning Hornets! Our school is dedicated to promoting lifelong learners and fostering a safe, nurturing environment for all of our students. Our theme for this school year is "Going Green at The Park". You will see this theme throughout our school all year.

Please take some time to read through this entire Back to School newsletter as it has lots of important information. Even if you have been at HPE for a couple of years, there are always new changes each year.

This school year, all schools will have the same start times. All elementary school, will begin at 8:10am and conclude at 2:55pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Our Wednesdays will begin at 8:10am and end one hour early at 1:55pm.

There are only seven half days where students are released at 11:55am (8/28, 10/4, 11/20, 12/20, 1/29, 3/6, & 5/21). Make sure you mark your calendars and keep track of schedules to ensure your student is picked up on time. Our calendar and lunch schedules are available online on the district website.

Meet the Teacher Night is on **Tuesday, July 30th**, from **5:30pm – 7:30pm for K-4 and 6th** grades. Meet the Teacher Night for **5th grade** is on **Monday, July 29th**, from **5:30pm - 7:00pm**. Everyone needs to enter the school building through the cafeteria doors in front of the school. Inside the cafeteria our PTSO will be selling a variety of things including brand new Highland Park Hornet spirit shirts, yearbooks, family PTSO memberships, and many other things. Be sure at Meet the Teacher Night to bring cash and several checks to purchase these PTSO items.

PTSO also will be looking for parents to sign up to get involved in various ways in the many activities they sponsor throughout the school year. Our PTSO is a very strong organization and is an integral part of our school. If every parent volunteers to help out at just one or two events/activities/fundraisers then we can ensure all of our planned activities will run smoothly and that no parents are "burned out" having to help at all of the activities. The PTSO also has a user friendly website at www.hpeptso.com which you will want to bookmark on your computer and check out on a regular basis. Having taught for several years at Highland Park, I know first hand the culture of collaboration that exists between our staff and our community.

Our School Supply Wish List for each grade level are available on our school's website. Families are welcome to bring these supply items to school on Meet the Teacher Night as they can be heavy for students to carry during the first week of school. Thank you for getting as many items as you can as this helps to ensure we have all the supplies we need for our students and teachers.

Welcome back to "The Park!"

Jason Failla
Principal

Transportation Information

Safety:

Highland Park Elementary has been designated as a walking school. No busing will be provided except for some of the self-contained special education programs. Parents are encouraged to plan out a route their child should always take when coming to and from Highland Park Elementary. We also highly encourage neighbors to form small groups of students who can travel to and from school together for safety and security reasons. It's also good to have at least one older intermediate student with the primary student. Talk to your child about stranger danger, crossing small intersections, and looking for cars. Getting students to and from school is a top priority of Highland Park Elementary. Students are permitted to carry mobile phones with them for safety reasons when walking to and from school. **Mobile phones must be turned off once the student enters school grounds and must remain turned off during the entire school day.** In order to carry a mobile phone on school grounds, a mobile phone user agreement must be filled out. Mobile phone user agreement forms are sent home with all students at the beginning of the year along with other forms including the district Handbook acknowledgement form. Although it is hot at the beginning and end of the school year, parents and students are encouraged to walk or bike to school which cuts down on the congestion around the school.

No left Turn on Cole Drive Information:

In an effort to help relieve congestion on Cole Drive, vehicles headed north on Cole Drive are not allowed to turn left into the parking lot in front of the school each day 7:30am-8:10am and 2:40pm-3:05pm. During this time all vehicles wanting to enter the Cole Drive Pick Up/Drop Off Zone and front parking lot will have to be coming south on Cole Drive to make a right hand turn into the school parking lot. Parents are encouraged to use the less congested Park Ave. Pick Up/Drop Off Zone and parking lot on the side of the school during these busy times before school (7:30am-8:10am) and after school (2:40pm-3:05pm). During afternoon pick up, as long as you are waiting in line on Cole Dr. Gilbert Police will not issue tickets. **Please stay out of the bike lanes and remember there is no passing on Cole Dr.**

If you live in Highland Groves or Highland Groves Apartments, you are encouraged to go north on Recker Road, make a left onto Heather Ave. in the Cornerstone neighborhood. Then make a left from Heather Ave. onto Joshua Tree Lane, and then finally a right hand turn onto Campbell Ave. which takes you to Cole Dr. north of the school. If you live in Holliday Farms head north on Cotton Way St. from Cullumber St. and then make a left on Lexington Ave. Finally, make a right hand turn onto Brighton Lane which takes you to Cole Dr. north of the school. We know this is a little inconvenient for some but this allows traffic to flow more smoothly in front of the school on Cole Dr. and when exiting from the Cole Dr. Pick Up/Drop Off Zone.

No Parking and Waiting on Park Avenue:

If you are picking up your students near the parent pick up/drop off on Park Avenue, you **may not park and wait** on Park Avenue. This creates a blind spot for cars trying to get by you to pull into the parking lot or drive down the street. Additionally, students **are not permitted** to get in or out of cars from the street on Park Avenue. You must pull into the parking lot and wait until you get up to the drop off / loading zone in the parking lot along the curb. This year we will have staff with megaphones at this pick up / drop off location as well assisting students into cars as we do on Cole Drive. Please remember to wear your car tag so that we can easily call out your child(ren) first and last name.

Parent Pick Up/Drop Off:

Some parents may choose to drop off or pick up their children before and after school. Those parents who live close to the school are highly encouraged to walk to the school to drop off or pick up your children as it can be faster than driving your vehicle through one of the pick up/drop off zones. Safety over convenience is our top priority! Highland Park is fortunate to have two pick up/drop off zones.

There are two pick up/drop off zones located on the school grounds for your convenience. One is located in front of the school and is called "Cole Dr. Parent Pick Up/Drop Off Zone." The other area is located on the southside of the school and is called "Park Ave. Pick Up/Drop Off Zone." Feel free to use whichever area is most convenient for you. We highly encourage more parents to use the Park Ave. Zone on the south side of the school as it is quieter and less congested than in front of the school where all kindergartens and their siblings are picked up. Also, special needs buses use the front driveway making it very congested at times. Staff is located at each zone to ensure student safety. When picking up and dropping off, please pull forward to allow as many cars as possible into the parking lots. Students are not allowed to walk without an adult from the parking lot areas across the pick up and drop off zones. Parents can park and walk their children up to the school, but at times parking lots may be full so using the two designated drop off and pick up zones is highly encouraged. This year we will have staff on megaphones at both locations calling students to cars. Please make sure you grab a car tag from your child's classroom on Meet the Teacher Night.

Kindergartners/Preschoolers:

Our Preschool classroom has moved to one of the Kindergarten rooms so all Preschoolers will line up between the Kindergarten gate and the building on the North side of the school. AM Preschooler students will not be released at 10:45am to walk home on their own unless an adult comes to pick them up. AM Preschoolers parent pick up is at 10:45am and will occur on front of the school in the Cole Dr. Drop Off/Pick Up Zone.

PM Preschooler students should be accompanied by an adult when walking to school at 11:30am. All PM Preschool students should be dropped off in front of the school in the Cole Dr. Drop Off/Pick Up Zone.

Kindergartners can walk/bike to school in the morning with responsible older siblings/friends. In the afternoon at 2:55pm dismissal, kindergarten students may walk/bike with responsible older siblings/friends. Please make sure to let your Kindergarten teachers know how your Kindergartener(s) is getting home each day.

Bikes/Scooters:

Kindergartners through 6th grade students may ride a bike to school. Bike helmets are highly encouraged. Bikes can be parked at one of the two bike racks on the school grounds. One is located behind the school near Park Ave. and the other bike rack is located in front of the school on Cole Dr. Even though the bike racks are locked up during the day, students need to bring a bike lock to secure their bike. Highland Park Elementary and the Gilbert School District are not responsible for any lost or stolen bikes. Bikes must be walked across all designated crosswalks and on school grounds. NO motorized go peds or hoverboards are allowed. Skateboards are not allowed.

Crosswalks/Crossing Guards:

Highland Park Elementary has six designated crosswalks/crossing guards in and around the school. Crossing Guards are on duty at these crosswalks before school from 7:45am-8:10am and after school from 2:50pm-3:05pm. The school grounds including the playground and bike racks are not open to students until 7:45am. Please remind your child(ren) to arrive on time and leave within a few minutes after school to ensure they will be crossed safely while someone is on duty. Crossing guards will at the following location:

- Recker Rd. and Park Ave. for Highland Groves students to cross. Two crossing guards will be stationed here in a 15 mph school zone.
- Cole Dr. and Cullumber directly in front of the school.
- Cole Dr. and Park Ave. Two crossing guards will be stationed here.
- Front Driveway in front of the school.