

Harpswell Community School
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September 4, 2018

Dear Harpswell Community School Families,

Welcome back! It was wonderful to meet so many of you during Open House last week. I'm looking forward to meeting all of you and getting to know you and your children in the coming weeks and months.

As I mentioned in my August letter, our staff will be focusing on clear school-wide expectations in order to provide safety and consistency for students. Attached please find our school-wide behavior matrix which defines safe, respectful, and responsible behavior in all common areas of the school. Classroom rules will align with these expectations as well. In the near future, look for information to come home regarding what happens when school-wide rules are not followed, as well as how we plan to celebrate the many positive things that children do. After all, most children are doing the right thing most of the time, and we want to recognize that! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Another consideration in keeping our school safe concerns visitors in our school. I recently met with district office staff as well as with regional emergency responders. As a result of this meeting, we will be taking a look at clarifying policies regarding visitors, particularly when students are in the school. When you visit, you may encounter slightly different routines for entering the school. Please know that these routines are meant to ensure that all children and staff are safe. Again, please let me know if you have any questions.

School is a place for learning and also for making new friendships, discovering new interests, and building confidence and self-esteem. All of these positive experiences support long-term academic, social and emotional success for your child. Naturally, our hope is that children attend school every day in order to have these experiences at HCS. Research shows that missing even 10% of school can have long-term negative impacts on students. Of course, we understand that illness happens, and students must stay home when they are not well. Please let us know how we can best support you and help your child be at school each day on time. We want every child to be successful in school!

Let's make it a great year together!

Sincerely,

Anita Hopkins ☺