

Welcome Back to School!
2019-2020

Welcome back to school for the 2019-2020 school year! We are looking forward to welcoming parents and students as we begin the new school year. The following information provides dates of upcoming events, an overview of home and school communication improvements, and curriculum updates.

Important Dates

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| August 12, 2019 | 8:00 - 12:00 PM Grades 9 - 12 New Student Scheduling Tour at 12:00 PM, starting in the auditorium |
| August 14, 2019 | Postcards with bus information will be mailed. Questions regarding buses are to be emailed to " busroute@hasdpa.net " |
| August 16, 2019 | Homeroom assignments will be available in Skyward. |
| August 20, 2019 | Elementary Open House 5:30 - 7:00 PM Grades K, 1, & 2 6:30 - 8:00 PM Grades 3, 4, & 5 |
| August 21, 2019 | 1:30 - 3:30 Grade 6 Orientation 2:00 - 3:30 New students to Grades 7 & 8 Schedules will be distributed and accessible in Skyward for students if parents have verified information in Skyward. |
| | 8:30 - 11:30 AM Orientation for Freshman. High school student schedules will be accessible in Skyward for students if parents have verified information in Skyward. |
| August 22, 2019 | First Day of School for Grades 1-12 Orientation for Kindergarten students & parents |
| August 23, 2019 | First Day of School for Kindergarten |

Change for Elementary Open House

The start of a new school year can be stressful for students and parents. In order to promote a smooth transition for elementary school students, Open House has been modified to provide an opportunity for elementary students to meet and greet their new teacher(s) prior to the start of school. Elementary Open House is scheduled for August 20, 2019. Parents and students entering grades kindergarten, first, and second are asked to visit the schools between 5:30 PM and 7:00 PM. Parents and students entering grades three, four, and five are asked to visit their schools between 6:30 PM and 8:00 PM. Open House is designed for all current and any new elementary students entering the Hempfield Area School District. Parents and students will see their classroom(s) and get a quick overview of class expectations and the year's curriculum.

Transportation Provided to Freshmen Orientation

Freshmen attending the orientation on August 20th from 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM will have the option to be transported by school bus. Ninth graders wishing to ride the school bus to Freshmen Orientation must be at their bus stops one hour later than the scheduled time for the regular school year. Postcards will be mailed with bus information the week of August 12, 2019.

New Communication Tool called "Remind."

A new communication tool called Remind will replace Skylerts (School Messenger) beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. School closings, delays, and emergencies will be announced through Remind. Principals and teachers will share school and classroom information using this tool. Remind will also be used to alert you if your child is not in school. Parents will receive an invite by text or email the week of August 19th, which will activate their account.

Student Excuses

The Skyward Family Access feature for submitting student absences electronically is a new feature that has been added for the 2019-2020 school year. The district and school websites include a document demonstrating how to use this feature. Students on required medicals will not be able to submit excuses electronically; however, this feature will allow you to enter sick days, appointments, college visits, etc. into the system. Using this feature will eliminate the need of handwriting an absence excuse.

Online Verification of Parent/Guardian Contact Information

Beginning August 16th, parents and guardians are asked to log into Skyward Family Access to review and update parent/guardian phone number(s), email address(es), and emergency contact information. This information will be used to send messages through Remind and to contact parents in the event of illness and/or an emergency. Students will have access to their schedules via Skyward on August 21, 2019, if parents have completed the online verification process. Online verification can only be completed using a computer and not a mobile device.

First View Coming this Fall

First Student is working to roll out an app for parent use in late fall. First View will provide parents the opportunity to track their child's bus in real-time to get an estimated arrival time at the bus stop. The tool will also provide the arrival and departure times of the bus from the school. Options will exist to set a custom alarm when the bus is a chosen distance or number of minutes away from the bus stop.

Hempfield Area Schools join the Pennsylvania Positive Behavior Support (PaPBS) Network

Fort Allen Elementary, Stanwood Elementary, and West Point Elementary have joined the PaPBS Network and will begin planning and training for implementing a schoolwide positive behavior support plan in each building. They will join three other Hempfield schools, Harrold Middle School (year one implementation), West Hempfield Elementary (year two implementation), and Maxwell Elementary (recognized tier one plan with fidelity). The teams will receive continued support from the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit Training and Consultation (TaC) Behavior Teams.

Middle School Robotics

Middle School Students will benefit from a PA Smart Grant that awarded the District \$35,000 which was used to enhance our robotics education curriculum through the Technology Education Department. Through this grant, Lego EV3 Robotics kits were purchased for all three middle schools. The middle school technology education teachers received additional training through Lego Education this summer in order to enhance their coding and robotics lessons through the use of these additional resources.

Secondary Mathematics Curriculum

New curriculum was written in the spring and summer of 2019 for high school math classes, with new resource materials also being selected for implementation from several standards-based vendors. Students in the middle schools will continue to utilize the Illustrative Mathematics resources that were piloted in the 2018-2019 school year.

Welcome New Administrators

With the retirement of two principals, the district welcomes Mr. Jeff Kozuch and Ms. Lauren Weisser to our administrative staff. Mr. Jeff Kozuch served in an interim capacity at Maxwell Elementary during the 2018-2019 school year and was hired as the principal of Maxwell Elementary beginning this school year. Ms. Lauren Weisser was hired as the Principal of Stanwood Elementary.