



**Hopewell**  
*elementary school*

**New Parent Handbook**  
**2018-2019**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Hopewell Elementary

<b>Student Expectations</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The School Day</b>	<b>3</b>
Visiting the School	
School Schedule	
Calendars	
<b>Arriving to School</b>	<b>4</b>
Tele-Safe	
Buses	
Morning Drop-Off	
Late Arrival	
<b>Dismissal</b>	<b>5</b>
Preschool Dismissal	
Kindergarten Dismissal	
Grades 1-5 Afternoon Pick-Up	
Afternoon Buses	
<b>Before &amp; After Care</b>	<b>6</b>
Before School	
After School	
Drop-In Care	
<b>Lunch Options</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Hopewell Elementary School (HES) Events</b>	<b>8</b>
Annual & Semi-Annual Events at HES	
Recurring Events at HES	
Purchasing HES Gear	
Service Learning at HES	
<b>Extracurricular Offerings</b>	<b>12</b>
After-School Enrichment (offered by HVRSD)	
After-School Enrichment (offered by YMCA)	
After-School Enrichment (offered by HES)	
Before-School Enrichment (offered by HES)	
After-School Enrichment (offered by community)	
<b>Sources of Information</b>	<b>14</b>
On-Line Communication	
Important HES Contacts	
<b>Roles for Parents</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Hopewell Valley Organizations &amp; Events</b>	<b>17</b>

## **Hopewell Elementary Student Expectations**

Value and Respect:

I will treat others the way I want to be treated.

Integrity and Courage:

I will make choices that will help me to be the best person that I can be.

I will have the courage to do what is right when others may not.

Responsibility and Perseverance:

I will come to school prepared to learn.

I will make good choices each day.

I will keep trying.

Truth and Honesty:

I will be honest with myself and others.

Unity and Kindness:

I will be kind and helpful to everyone in our school community.

I will value the differences in all people.

Empathy and Compassion:

I will be fair to myself and others.

I will understand and respect others' feelings and needs.

Our Student Code of Conduct has been posted online.

# **THE SCHOOL DAY**

## **Visiting the School**

Parents or caregivers entering the school must come in the front door, where there is a buzzer with a camera. Please proceed directly to the Main Office to sign in and fill out a green name tag. Name tags must be visible when visitors are in the building. Staff members have been instructed to question visitors without a name tag. This is done to ensure the safety of our children.

## **School Schedule**

Regular Day (Preschool):

- Morning PEECH Class: 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- Afternoon PEECH Class: 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Full Day SKIP Class: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Regular Day (Kindergarten - Fifth Grade):

- 8:35 a.m. School Begins
- 3:35 p.m. Dismissal

Early Dismissal:

- 8:35 a.m. School Begins
- No Lunch
- 12:45 p.m. Dismissal

Delayed Opening:

- 10:05 a.m. School Begins
- Lunch Served
- 3:35 p.m. Dismissal

Preschool will communicate a schedule for early dismissals and delayed opening.

## **Calendars**

The 2018-2019 district calendars can be accessed by visiting <http://www.hvrsd.org/apps/pages/PrintableCalendar>

Our school-based calendar, which promotes HES events, can be accessed by visiting <http://hes.hvrsd.org/>, scrolling down the page, and clicking on the “Calendar” icon.

## **Arriving to School**

### **Tele-Safe:**

When a child will be absent or late due to illness or vacation, call 609-737-4007 x 2 & leave the child’s name, grade, class, and reason for absence/tardiness.

### **Buses:**

For questions about buses, Transportation can be reached at 737-4000, extension 2805. As soon as you get on the bus, you should immediately latch your seatbelt. In late summer, before school begins, specific bus information for your child (bus number, bus stop location, time) will be available on OnCourse Connect (see Sources of Information below). Students will be assigned seats on the bus the second or third week of school. If there are any questions about this, parents/caregivers can contact the Transportation Department at 609-737-4000, extension 2804 or 2805. **Parents should never board the bus to talk to the driver.**

### **Morning Drop-Off:**

Beginning at 8:30 a.m., children can be dropped off at school at one of the two designated areas - the front circle or parking lot. Our campus safety officer is joined by paraprofessionals who will supervise children. Parents who drop off children prior to 8:30 a.m. are responsible for their supervision and care.

All students dropped off at the front loop must be able to get themselves out of the car independently to avoid traffic build-up. Cars are asked to move as far forward as possible to facilitate efficiency. Parents should remain in their cars.

Parents who drop off in the parking lot must park their car and escort their children to the blacktop.

Students in kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade line up outside the central doors at the back of the school, at the base of the stairs from the blacktop, and enter the building after the bell rings.

Students in grades 2-5 line up by grade on the blacktop for entry into the school when the bell rings at 8:35 a.m.

If it is raining or extremely cold, students gather in the cafeteria and sit with their grade before school begins.

**Late Arrival:**

Students who arrive after 8:35 am should enter the front of the building and go directly to the Nurse's office for a late pass.

**Dismissal**

**Preschool Dismissal:**

Preschool pick-up will take place on East Prospect Street at 11:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. for morning and afternoon/full day students, respectively. Kindly note the signage which prohibits cars from being parked on East Prospect Street after 11 a.m. on school days.

**Kindergarten Dismissal:**

Kindergarten students are dismissed from the East Prospect Street side of the building. Bussers are walked to their assigned buses. Kindergarten pick-up is by the tree/bench near the kindergarten playground. Pick-ups need to be person-to-person; children will not be dismissed to cars.

**Grades 1-5 Afternoon Pick-Up:**

Parents of "walkers," students who live close enough to the school and are not entitled to bussing, must inform the school how they would like their children to be dismissed. There is a form online (<http://www.hvrsd.org/apps/pages/VBP-HES>) which must be completed and returned before the first day of school. Parents can indicate if children can walk home alone, will be picked up by a sibling, or must be released to a parent.

Students in grades 1-5 who are picked up on foot by a caregiver can be picked up at the front loop or the parking lot. Parents who pick up in the parking lot must park their car and meet their children on the blacktop; students are not permitted to navigate the parking lot on their own due to safety reasons.

When possible, changes to a child's pick-up routine (play dates, etc.) should be communicated by sending a note to the teacher in the child's folder. Teachers should not be informed via email because they may not have an opportunity to check email during the teaching day.

When necessary, parents can call the front office before dismissal to communicate any last-minute changes.

**Afternoon Buses:**

The school takes the extra time to make sure each child is where s/he is supposed to be at dismissal. When busses are dismissed, students are asked to walk immediately to their buses.

Students who take the bus home go to East Prospect Street to board buses at dismissal.

A student may be permitted to travel with a friend on another bus on an occasional basis, but only if such request is submitted in writing by a parent or guardian at least 24 hours in advance. Please email the Director of Transportation, Heather VanMater, at [heathervanmater@hvrsd.org](mailto:heathervanmater@hvrsd.org). This is subject to availability.

**Before & After Care**

The Hopewell Valley YMCA offers Before- and After-Care at Hopewell Elementary. Information and registration can be found at <http://www.hvymca.org>.

**Before School**

Hours of Operations: 7:00 a.m. - 8:35 a.m.; Monday through Friday

**After School**

Hours of Operations: 3:35 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.; Monday through Friday

Parents should notify the YMCA if there is a schedule change.

**Drop-In Care**

Drop-In Care is provided before and after school on an as-needed basis. Need your child to attend the program every now and then on as needed basis? Then sign up for Drop-In Care. Registered participants will be able to notify the center of any upcoming days needed and have their child attend without any hesitations. Advanced registration is required in order to make use of the Drop-In Care. Childcare is also available on early dismissal days.

## **Lunch Options**

Lunch at HES is provided by Pomptonian Food Service. Parents can send lunch, give children money to purchase lunch, or create an account with PayForIt (<https://www.payforit.net>) to purchase lunches without carrying cash.

A regular menu is offered daily for \$2.75 per meal. Lunch meals includes an entree, fruit, vegetable and an 8-ounce milk.

### **Sample Meals:**

1. Cheesesteak on a hoagie roll with fries
2. All-beef hot dog on a whole wheat bun with corn

Three times a week (Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday), HES prepares organic, homemade lunches, which must be ordered in advance for \$4.75. An email is sent out with the menu and a link to the online ordering form during the month before the menu is offered.

### **Sample Meals:**

1. Bento Box - organic grilled chicken strips served with homemade hummus and pita chips, organic tomato and cucumber salad, organic apple slices with honey
2. Homemade street tacos - mini tacos served in corn tortillas with grilled steak, homemade salsa, a squeeze of lime juice and optional cilantro, served with corn on the cob, organic blue corn chips and watermelon.

# **HOPEWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (HES) EVENTS**

## **Annual & Semi-Annual Events at Hopewell Elementary School (HES)**

**Back-to-School Carnival:** The annual HES Back-to-School Carnival is held on a Friday evening in mid-September, rain or shine, on the HES back field and playground area. Bounce houses and a DJ are part of this fun-filled evening. Bring a picnic dinner to enjoy on the school grounds or take advantage of the food truck vendors in attendance. Fifth grader students also sell refreshments as a fundraiser. This is NOT a drop-off event and all children need to be accompanied by a parent/caregiver at all times. This event is sponsored by the HES Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and admission is free for all HES families. Parent volunteers are needed to take short shifts to help the event run smoothly.

**Back-to-School Night:** Back-to-School Night is held one evening in the fall and provides an opportunity to meet your child's teacher(s) and learn about classroom policies, expectations, and homework. The schedule typically is as follows:

6:00 - 7:00 specific grade levels TBD (individual classrooms)

7:00 - 8:00 Special education, special area and child study team (Media Center)

7:15 - 7:45 Principal's address with PTO

8:00 - 9:00 specific grade levels TBD (individual classrooms)

**Farm-to-School Day:** The annual Farm-to-School event takes place in the fall and brings local farmers to the school. In the past, we have hosted Double Brook Farm, Morganics Family Farm, Chickadee Creek Farm, and Fulper Family Farmstead. In addition, chefs from Nomad Pizza and Pomptonian, among other local establishments, have offered cooking demonstrations and tastings in and around our garden, and we were visited by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

**Take Your Parent To Lunch Day:** One day in the fall, parents are invited to come have lunch with their children in our cafeteria or al fresco, near the garden.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Held in November; our school will send an email inviting parents to register online for a day and time. Appointments are offered both during the day and in the evening. Childcare is often available by 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Media Center as a fundraiser for the fifth grade.

**American Education Week:** During a week in the late fall, parents and caregivers are invited to come learn about students' experiences at school. In order to limit disruption, classroom visits are limited to 40 minutes and in advance parents are given a window of time they may visit. Please secure childcare for younger children to avoid disruptions to our students' learning.

**Winter and Spring Concerts:** During January and June, respectively, all students in grades 4 and 5 perform for HES families at the Central High School Performing Arts Center (CHS PAC). Our concerts feature the 4th and 5th grade choruses, string orchestra, vocal ensemble, concert band and orff ensemble.

**February Fun:** Offered on three Saturdays in February, this program offers 3 hours of fun-filled activities for children in grades K – 5, all taught by HES parent and staff volunteers. Have a special skill that you would like to share? The HES PTO asks volunteers to instruct a class at Feb Fun; children of instructors get the first choice of classes and also get to attend for free! Anything that you are interested in can be made into a class - we've had magic tricks, knitting, doodling, Ozobots, piano lessons, and photography to name a few examples. Registration for February Fun is held in January.

**Book Fair:** Held in late February/early March, the PTO-run Book Fair takes place in the school library. Each HES student receives a book from the PTO, and every class visits the Book Fair during the school day to peruse the selections and make a “wish list.” Parents can volunteer to help at the event when their child’s class is coming in. One evening, there are Teacher Reads, where faculty read some of their favorite books to students. Parents can purchase books at the fair, including books for their children’s teachers, who also submit “wish lists.”

**March Madness Basketball Tournament Series:** Organized by the YMCA and supported by parent volunteers, students in grades 3-5 are invited to join or create a team to play in this fun, school spirit-building basketball competition. Games take place after school.

**Science Fair:** Run by a PTO Committee, this annual event encourages students to explore scientific concepts through independent projects. Kindergarten and first grade students enjoy a special science assembly in class. All HES students are invited to the Science Fair & Scientific Expo, which are held on a Friday evening in the Spring. Second through fifth graders are invited to participate in the Science Fair, conducting self-directed projects. Second and third graders present their projects to parent and community evaluators at the Science Fair; fourth and fifth graders have the option of being reviewed by an evaluator or being judged for a competition. All participants receive a medal; only students who opt to be judged are eligible to receive a trophy.

**Spring Fling:** Held every-other year, this PTO fundraiser invites parents and staff members to spend time together in support of the school. The event includes food, wine, and a silent auction. Our next Spring Fling will take place in 2019.

**Enrichment Clusters:** In May, teachers and parent volunteers run hour-long classes during the school day over a period of four weeks. Students get to indicate their top three choices from the offerings, which have included everything from Mountain Biking to Flower Arrangement to Basket-Weaving. This program honors student choice, encourages teachers to engage in their passions, and creates opportunities for older students to mentor younger students in multi-grade groupings.

**Field Day:** Field Day takes place in the late spring and features indoor and outdoor games throughout the school's grounds and facilities. Parent volunteers help run many of the events, and many of the students consider this to be the best day of the year. One of the highlights of the day is when the Hopewell Fire Department brings a truck and sprays the children with water in the afternoon.

### **Recurring Events at HES**

**Whole School Meetings:** Held monthly, Whole School Meetings are hosted by a different grade and focus on a particular theme. Parents are invited to attend. Each grade is requested to wear his/her class t-shirt, gifted by the PTO at the beginning of the year.

**Walk & Roll to School Days:** This event takes place during the fall and spring months. It brings attention to year-round safe routes to school and encourages walking and bicycling to school as a healthy way for kids and families to make their school commute. Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association is often present on the blacktop with information and games for participants. Sourland Cycles offers complimentary bike checks prior to this event.

### **Purchasing Hopewell Gear**

Every child will receive a school shirt in the Fall. Additionally, Hopewell Elementary gear will be offered via an online store and during some events during the year (e.g. Feb Fun).

## Service Learning at HES

Hopewell Elementary works hard to nurture the whole child by meeting each child's academic, social, and emotional needs. This includes a commitment to service learning.

We embrace the 6 Pillars of Character as per the chart below:

Preschool/Kindergarten - Red (Caring)  
1st Grade - Orange (Fairness)  
2nd Grade - Yellow (Respect)

3rd Grade - Green (Responsibility)  
4th Grade - Blue (Trustworthiness)  
5th Grade - Purple (Citizenship)

**Fill That Truck:** On the 3rd Wednesday of every month, we fill a truck with groceries and other necessities for the families of the East Trenton Center (ETC). We will also hold a special drive every month. Please send in donations with your child, or drop off in the school parking lot from 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. You can also sign up to volunteer to drive or shop anytime during the year. We also offer the Dollar Drive as a convenient way to make a food donation. 100% of Dollar Drive donations are used to buy groceries for the ETC. Envelopes will come home via backpack every month. Dollar Drive donations may be sent in at any time.

**Day of Service** - Every January, we hold a Day of Service on the Friday preceding Dr. King's birthday. The day commences with a whole school gathering, featuring a keynote speaker. All students engage in service projects throughout the day, supporting local organizations with curricular ties.

**Locks of Love** - Since 2013, Hopewell Elementary School has partnered with Friends Salon and Locks of Love to empower our students with an opportunity to help other school-aged children who suffer from hair loss but cannot afford the expensive hairpieces that need to be custom-made to fit and be styled for smaller heads. This event, held in June, has collected hundreds of ponytails to donate to the Locks of Love organization.

# **EXTRACURRICULAR OFFERINGS**

## **After-School Enrichment Hosted by District (K-2, 3-5, K-5):**

<https://hvrsdenrichment.jumbula.com/#/home>

Classes in everything from public speaking to robotics to yoga to drawing; offerings and registration is handled by the Hopewell Valley Regional School District. Parents receive emails in advance of After-School Enrichment registration with specific information. Sessions typically run for 8-10 weeks in the fall, winter, and spring. A fee is charged to participate.

## **After-School Enrichment, Hosted by Hopewell YMCA (K-5):**

Various sports-related classes are offered. Past classes include golf, football, frisbee and more. Sessions typically run in the fall, winter, and spring. A fee is charged to participate.

## **After-School Enrichment Offered by HES (varies):**

- **Newspaper Club (4-5):** Students compose and publish a digital newspaper in the winter and spring.

## **Before-School Enrichment Offered by HES (varies):**

- **Art Enrichment (5):** 5th grade students who love art time with Ms. Hua work on enrichment projects once-a-week before school begins on a day to be determined.
- **Chess Club (3-5):** Meets every Thursday before school, Chess Club is open to students who are familiar with the rules of the game.
- **Orff Ensemble (5):** Interested students meet with Ms. Alford weekly to learn the orff xylophones and perform for the school community at the Winter and Spring Concerts.
- **Vocal Ensemble (5):** Children who love to sing meet with Ms. Alford weekly and perform for the school community at the Winter and Spring Concerts.

## **After School Enrichment Hosted by the Community:**

- **Girls on the Run (3-5):** (<https://www.girlsontherun.org/>) Girls on the Run is a transformational learning program for girls. They learn life skills through dynamic, conversation-based lessons and running. GOTR is offered in the fall and spring; each session culminates with the participation in a 5K. A fee is charged to participate.
- **Let Me Run (4-5):**(<http://www.letmerun.org/>) Let Me Run inspires boys, through the power of running, to be courageous enough to be themselves, to build healthy relationships, and to live an active lifestyle. LMR is offered in the fall and spring; each session culminates with the participation in a 5K. A fee is charged to participate.
- **Boy Scouts:** (<http://www.hopewellpack71.org>) Hopewell Pack 71 meets in Hopewell Borough. Click on the link for more information.
- **Girl Scouts:** (<http://www.hovalgirlscouts.org/>) (<https://hopewellvalleygirlscouts.shutterfly.com>) Connect with a Girl Scout troop in the area. Click on the links for details.

# SOURCES OF INFORMATION

## **On-Line Communication**

**Hopewell Elementary Website:** (<http://hes.hvrsd.org>) Includes links for Virtual Backpack, OnCourse Connect, the calendar, the staff directory, and much more.

**Hopewell Valley Regional School District Website:** available at [www.hvrsd.org](http://www.hvrsd.org), this website includes calendars, curriculum overviews, links to the report card system, OnCourse Select and much more.

**The Focus:** This weekly email is sent every Friday afternoon/evening by the Hopewell Valley Regional School District and includes updates and reminders from each of the District's elementary schools, Timberlane Middle School, and Central High School.

**Frog Flash:** Sent by email periodically, this PTO communication provides updates on events, fundraisers, and other PTO-led initiatives.

**OnCourse Connect:** OnCourse is used to communicate many important details about the upcoming school year. In August, parents receive an email explaining how to find their child(ren)'s classroom placement in [OnCourse](#). This system also shows a child's bus number, bus stop and other important information. Once the school year begins, you will be able to view daily attendance, homework, as well as report cards at the end of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd trimester in the OnCourse system. Each teacher maintains a website in OnCourse throughout the year that will include homework and/or other important information for parents and students related to their class. If you experience any problems trying to access your OnCourse account, please email us at [Registrar@hvrsd.org](mailto:Registrar@hvrsd.org) or call 737-4000, extension 2304.

**Sign-up Genius (Class Sites):** Set up by class parents, class sites are used by room parents & teachers for class events, volunteer sign-ups, and needed supplies.

**Shutterfly (PTO Site):** The **HES PTO** is an active group of parents supporting the work of the school. The PTO committees and their heads, as well as meeting dates and other helpful information, are listed on the PTO Shutterfly site, which includes helpful information, at <https://hopewellelementarypto.shutterfly.com>.

**Student Directory:** This PTO publication is released each fall in September or October. Parents are sent an email offering them the opportunity to include their contact information in the directory, which is very helpful for scheduling play dates, organizing birthday parties, etc...

**Twitter** – Twitter is used by HES Principal, David Friedrich and over a dozen teachers for reminders, announcements, and daily insights into classroom activities.

Hopewell Elementary - @HopewellES

Mr. Friedrich - @HES\_Principal

**Virtual Backpack:** Available on the HES website at

<http://www.hvrsd.org/apps/pages/VBP-HES> or [www.hvrsd.org](http://www.hvrsd.org) ->Schools->Hopewell Elementary->Parents->Virtual Backpack. This site offers documents related to everything from monthly organic menus to after-school enrichment offerings, flyers for fundraisers, and more.

### **Important HES Contacts**

A Staff Directory is available on the school website under the “About Us” tab.

**Hopewell Elementary Main Number: 609-737-4007.**

Mr. David Friedrich, Principal (x7000)

Mrs. Michele Franck, Secretary, Front Office (x7131)

TBD, Secretary, Front Office (x7130)

Mrs. Denise Elliott, Nurse (x7138)

Mr. Bob Dispoto, Campus Safety Officer (x7342)

TeleSafe (for absences and late arrivals) (Main Number, Option 2)

## **ROLES FOR PARENTS**

There are many opportunities for parents to get involved at HES, including roles for parents who work and have busy schedules. A volunteer flyer will be sent home at the beginning of the school year. Here are some examples of ways parents can contribute:

**Classroom Volunteers:** Opportunities may include assisting with struggling readers and mathematicians, leading stations, etc. Reach out to your child's teacher to inquire about opportunities.

**February Fun Teacher:** See February Fun above. February Fun teachers instruct a group of students on three Saturdays in February in a class of their choosing and design. Parents who volunteer at February Fun may register their children in advance of general registration.

**Library Volunteer:** The Library benefits from parents who volunteer their time to help with the shelving and organization of books, as well as other small projects. The library is open 8:30-3:30 every school day. Even 15-30 minutes a week to help shelve and tidy up will help our library stay organized. Please email Mrs. Elliott ([katharineelliott@hvrtd.org](mailto:katharineelliott@hvrtd.org)) if you could be a regular shelper; you DO NOT need to pick a fixed time. Also, if you like doing signage and/or displays, that is a bi-monthly volunteer position. To help keep the classes running smoothly, parents are asked to volunteer during times that their child is not scheduled for Library Class.

**Principal's Advisory Council (PAC):** At the beginning of the school year, the Principal asks for parents interested in serving on the PAC and selects a representative from each grade from those who express interest. Parent Advisory Council is comprised of one parent from each grade, preschool through 5th. All Hopewell Elementary parents are encouraged to share ideas, concerns or compliments with the council member representing their child's grade. The council member will, in turn, raise those comments at the next meeting. Minutes will be posted to our school website. In addition, the council member is responsible for communicating a more detailed message to the parent who initially inquired. Parent Advisory Council is one means of promoting constructive communication between home and school.

**PTO:** Parents can volunteer to work on events or fulfill responsibilities on the PTO. Lists of activities, responsibilities, and meetings dates of the PTO are available on its website: [www.hespto.org](http://www.hespto.org).

**Room Parents:** At the beginning of the year, the PTO will ask for the names of parents interested in serving as Room Parents and select two from those who have indicated an interest in serving in this role. Room Parents help teachers in gathering volunteers for events, organizing projects and chaperones, and more.

## HOPEWELL VALLEY ORGANIZATIONS & EVENTS

*Students from all over Hopewell Valley attend HES. Below are some of the local events enjoyed by HES families in Hopewell Borough, Pennington Borough, and Hopewell Township. Each section of our shared valley has a library with a full calendar of events for children, holiday traditions, and small town parades.*

**Hopewell Valley Municipal Alliance** (<http://www.hvalliance.org>)

**Hopewell Valley Night Off:** This community-wide initiative was designed in response to the increasing demands of work and school on personal and family time. With the support of local school officials, sports leaders, parents, community and religious leaders, all sports practices, classes and homework will be cancelled on this special evening in March.

**Hopewell Valley Come Outside and Play:** This Hopewell Valley community-wide event was established to increase awareness of nature and an appreciation of time spent outdoors. Families and community members are welcome to attend a range of activities offered over several days in June.

**Hopewell Valley Night at Trenton Thunder:** The Hopewell Valley Municipal Alliance hosts this popular night at Arm & Hammer Park (formerly Waterfront Park). Bring your family and friends to celebrate the start of summer with the Hopewell Valley community. Many local organizations participate in this fun night in June with discounted tickets for Hopewell Valley residents. Call 737-0120 x6420 for tickets and further information.

**Parent Workshops:** Hopewell Valley Parents are fortunate to be offered workshops for parents on various helpful topics. Information about upcoming events will be communicated by the schools via Frog Flash and the The Focus. A list of helpful organizations is also maintained at <https://www.mcl.org/branches/parenting.html>

## **Hopewell Borough Community Events**

Information as provided on Hopewell Borough Website

(<http://www.hopewellboro-nj.us/community/community-events/>)

**Restaurant Week:** In March, participating restaurants in the Hopewell Valley share their culinary skills with special menu items to get you through the cold winter. A charity is chosen to receive donations from patrons who visit participating restaurants.

**Hand Made Craft Fair:** Mark your calendar for this Sunday in May, come on down to Seminary Avenue, walk around town, enjoy the restaurants and shops. Meet the makers, artisans, crafters of Handmade Hopewell and the cool folks who make up Hopewell Borough.

**Memorial Day Parade:** Everyone enjoys an old-fashioned parade with veterans marching, bands playing, flags waving, and fire trucks shining. Line up is organized at Taylor Terrace and the marching begins at 1 p.m., moving east on Broad Street. Sponsored by the Hopewell Borough Fire Department.

**Concerts In The Park:** On select Friday evenings, live music is performed by local musicians under the Volunteer Bandstand fondly referred to as the Gazebo in Borough Park on South Greenwood, 7–9:30 p.m. Grab your blankets or lounge chairs, and pick up dinner or dessert from any of our local restaurants. Concerts sponsored by 1st Constitution Bank. Alcohol is not permitted. Bathrooms are located at the Fire Station. Rain date is Sunday.

**Cruise Night:** Twice a year, in the middle of charming Hopewell Borough, streets fill with antique cars and car lovers, who also love great food served street-side and live music played on front porches. 5–8 p.m.

**Animation at the Station:** Twice during the summer, an animated movie will be projected on a very large screen with big sound, under the open sky at Hopewell Train Station. By 8:30 p.m. the crowd settles in.

**Food Truck Fridays:** Sponsored by the Borough Recreation Committee and other volunteers twice a year, 5-9 p.m. The Train Station fills with local food trucks, both sweet and savory, while live music plays. Bring your lounge chairs or blankets, but leave alcohol at home. This is a rain or shine event. Signs for parking options will be posted.

**Town-Wide Yard Sale:** The second weekend in June, Hopewell Borough residents clean out their basements, sheds, garages, and barns to participate in a no fee, two-day community yard sale; rain or shine.

**Hopewell Public Library Book Sale:** ☐ The Little Red Library will have the perfect book for summer reading. This sale is always held the same Saturday as the town-wide yard sale; 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. There are many other programs that the library provides for both children and adults. Visit <http://www.redlibrary.org> to discover other fun programs and events throughout the year.

**Hopewell Community Campout:** ☐ This every-other-year event is a partnership between Delaware-Raritan Greenway, local scouting groups, and the Hopewell Borough Recreation Committee. Enjoy an evening of adventure under the open sky. This is a ‘tents only’ event starting at 2 p.m. on a June weekend in conjunction with the Nation’s Great American Backyard Campout. This event will next be held in June 2019 and requires pre-registration.

**Hopewell Harvest Fair:** On the fourth Saturday in September, on the grounds of the Hopewell Elementary School, the Hopewell Harvest Fair brings together residents, businesses, and community organizations. There are plenty of food choices, games, pony rides, scarecrow making, live music, and even the “Find Freddy” competition (a live scavenger hunt). The Fair is not just a day of fun; it is also a fundraiser organized by volunteers to raise grant money for local non-profit organizations in the Hopewell Valley area.

**Halloween Parade:** The Sunday before Halloween means it’s time for the annual Borough costume parade, sponsored by the Hopewell Borough Fire Department. Line up is at the Hopewell Train Station. All are encouraged to be creative. Bring pets, decorated bikes and wagons, to march down Greenwood Avenue, across Broad Street to the Fire Station.

**Reindeer Lane:** On a Friday in December, the Train Station and Freight Station glow with holiday cheer in every manner. Volunteers guide children with gift giving for their family and friends while live music plays, elves dance, and jolly Santa pops in to say “hello-ho-ho.”

**Museum Holiday Tea:** The Hopewell Museum holds an open house the first Sunday in December, 1-4 p.m. Visitors get to see period holiday decorations, discover some history of Hopewell, and enjoy a traditional tea served in the kitchen.  
<http://www.hopewellmuseumnj.org/>

**Tree Lighting:** On the first Saturday in December, at 6 p.m., locals gather in front of the Volunteer Bandstand, fondly called the Gazebo, to sing holiday tunes and watch for Santa to ride into town on an antique fire engine. When he arrives, he asks for the children to help him light the tree. On the count of three, the evergreen by the Fire Station lights up as if by magic. Santa continues to the firehouse where children line up for a chat.

## **Hopewell Township Community Events**

Information as provided on Hopewell Township Website

(<http://www.hopewelltp.org/events-calendar/>)

**Memorial Day Celebration:** The Saturday of Memorial Day weekend at 11 a.m. Alliger Tract (Located adjacent to the HT Public Works Building)

**Summer Camps:** The Hopewell Township Recreation Department offers a variety of popular summer camps. Art in Park, Teen Travel Camp, Skate Camp, and Sports Camp are just a few examples.

**Community Concert & Fireworks:** On a Sunday at the end of June, Woolsey Park (formerly Alliger Park) The 63rd US Army Band will performs a variety of music for the community prior to an excellent Fireworks Display. Food vendors are on site and there is a classic car show too! Bring your family and your lawn chairs or blankets.

**Community 4th of July Parade:** The Titusville Community Fourth of July Parade is a long-standing special tradition in our community. We are dedicated to celebrating the freedom and independence of our great nation and bringing recognition and honor to our many community veterans and patriots. This parade takes place on July 4th from 11am-3pm on River Drive in Titusville. Details can be found at <http://TTV4th.org>

**Turkey Trot:** The Annual Hopewell Turkey Trot takes place on Thanksgiving morning in Rosedale Park, Pennington. This is a community event hosted by the Hopewell Valley Wrestling Parent Boosters. This annual event is our largest fundraiser for the year, allowing us to support our hardworking student athletes on the HVCHS Wrestling Team all season long. In 2015, there were over 850 registrants! We welcome walkers, baby strollers, joggers, and serious runners alike.

## **Pennington Boro Community Events**

Information as provided on the Pennington Boro website

[http://www.penningtonboro.org/recreation\\_main.html](http://www.penningtonboro.org/recreation_main.html)

**Easter Egg Hunt:** Join friends and neighbors for the official celebration of spring and park season with the annual Easter egg hunt at Kunkel Park! Children ages 2-11 bring your baskets for a 10 a.m. sharp start. Special appearance by the Easter Bunny!

**Pennington Day:** This street fair with local businesses, artisans, and non-profits takes place on the 3rd Saturday in May. It is held in downtown Pennington Boro along Main Street and adjacent roads intersecting Main Street to celebrate and strengthen the community we love and to spread joy amongst all who attend, perform and exhibit.

**Memorial Day Parade & Concert:** The Pennington Parks & Recreation Commission is the host for this annual event as they honor our heroes, past & present. Bring the family out to enjoy

marching bands, floats and walking groups as the parade begins at the HVRSD Administration Building and ends at The Pennington School tennis courts. The day concludes with a concert starting at 5:30 p.m. Children are invited to decorate their bikes and ride in a Kids on Bikes Brigade. Line up is at 10:15 a.m. at Toll Gate Grammar School.

**Fourth of July Races:** On the morning of July 4th, children ages 3-12 are invited to race at the Pennington School track on Burd Street. Children are divided into running groups by age. Prizes are awarded to all participants.

**Summer Concert Series:** Every third Thursday in June, July and August enjoy free family friendly concerts featuring local bands. Food is available for purchase. This event takes place in Howe Commons from 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

**Trail Day-Take a Hike:** Held on a day that schools are closed in the fall, enjoy a FREE guided hike on the Pennington Loop Trail. We'll kick off with games and music at the park, then head down the beautiful Pennington Loop Trail to take in the scenes of fall and enjoy this magnificent community resource -- right in our own backyards! Immediately following, hikers will enjoy free hot dogs and refreshments.

**Kunkel Park after Dark Outdoor Movie:** Bring a blanket and chair to enjoy a family friendly movie, music and BBQ at Kunkel Park on King George Road. This event typically takes place in early October.

**Tree Lighting & Holiday Walk:** Typically held the first Friday in December, the Holiday Walk is a Pennington tradition that signals the start of the holiday season and brings together the community for a night of family-friendly festivities. It all begins with the arrival of Santa at Howe Commons, 65 Main Street, to light the tree. Hot chocolate, cider and holiday cookies will be served at the tree lighting, compliments of Pennington Bagel, a local eatery. Holiday music will be played by the Hopewell Valley Central High School Brass Band.

### **Hopewell Valley Education Foundation ([www.hvef.org](http://www.hvef.org))**

The HVEF is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 grant-making organization that provides funds for enrichment programs in all Hopewell Valley public schools. The HVEF is different from the school's PTO because we fund activities throughout the district. However, we work with the PTOs on many programs such as the annual Author-in-Residence. The HVEF works directly with district faculty, staff and administrators to fund programs that are beyond the means or outside of the mission of any individual school's PTO.