

## OPENING DAY



On the first day of school, your teacher(s) will meet and greet you outside on the parking lot side of the building beginning at 8:25 am. If it rains we will meet in the cafeteria. You should line up with your teacher and classmates in your assigned area. All staff will be outside to help you find your teacher and class. If your mom and dad drop you off, they can help you as well and then join the other moms and dads by the cafeteria. When all students have arrived, we will say the Pledge of Allegiance and the Peace Pledge outside. Your teacher will then lead the class inside to your new classroom. When you have gone inside, your moms and dads will be invited to the cafeteria for coffee and conversation. The PTO Welcome Committee will provide the refreshments.

Plan to arrive at Hopewell Elementary no sooner than 8:25 am. Please wait on the top blacktop area for your teachers to set up. We ask that you do not enter the building to visit teachers or tour the school. Your teachers and other staff members will be working hard to make sure everything is set up for your arrival and they will need every minute to get ready. You may want to remind mom and dad that there is a lot of traffic that first day and they should be especially careful when dropping you off or parking. The parking lot will most likely be crowded but there is to be no parking in the circle as it is a fire zone. The circle in front of the school is for drop offs or pick ups only.

Lunch will be served the first day and if you had money left in your account you can continue to draw on that. Your parents can send in money now to be placed in your account or set up a new account per the instructions included in this packet. You are always welcome to bring your lunch or you can just bring enough money for that day.

## DAY 2 AND BEYOND

If you are walking or being dropped off, **you should not arrive before 8:25 am**. There is no supervision until that time and it is not safe for you to be on the playground alone. If this is an issue, your parents may be interested in enrolling you in the before school program. They will receive information about this as well as the after school program.

You should line up where you did on the first day of school with your class beginning at 8:25 am. Staff will be outside to help and make certain you find your classmates and help you with any other needs. All students should line up outside prior to the opening bell. We realize that some moms and dads like to stay outside and that is fine but we ask that they not escort you to class.

**If you arrive after 8:35 am, you are considered late and should report to the Nurse's Office to sign in.** Your mom and dad may drop you off there and we will be certain you get to your classroom safely and quickly. It is important to be on time as Morning Meeting, announcements, and the Pledge of Allegiance all start promptly at 8:45 am. You will miss important information if you are tardy as well as important social interactions and discussions during the class meeting.

Regular daily attendance is also important. We strongly believe in the value of education and in developing a strong work ethic. It is always difficult to make up work appropriately when it is missed. There is value to class discussions and they cannot be captured for a student who is absent.

## **DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Hopewell Valley Regional School District, in partnership with the community, is to provide a comprehensive, caring educational experience which:

- Nurtures the unique talents of each individual
- Creates a fulfilled, socially responsible, lifelong learner
- Develops confidence and capabilities to face the challenges of a rapidly changing world
- Promotes a culture of respect which values diversity
- As partners, we will provide sufficient resources and a talented, committed staff that creates a safe environment where all individuals flourish.

## **BELIEF STATEMENTS**

- We believe in the worth and dignity of each person.
- We believe that all students are entitled to the opportunity to maximize their talents and abilities.
- We believe that students thrive in a learning environment that facilitates self-discovery, exploration, and intellectual risk-taking.
- We believe that a quality education is a lifelong process that fosters academic and cultural understanding.
- We believe that an effective education is a shared responsibility by all persons, groups, and organizations within our community.
- We believe that we have the obligation to nurture a culture of respect that honors the uniqueness of the individual and fosters responsibility toward the community and the environment.
- We believe that an effective educational system anticipates, plans and acts in response to a changing world.

# 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.

## Parent Conferences

This year, Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on November 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Transportation

Your bus pass and Transportation Guidelines will come from the Transportation Department in late August/early September. If your parents/caregivers have any questions regarding busing, they can contact Transportation at 737-4000, extension 2805. It is suggested that you write your bus number down the first week of school and pin it on your backpack. This would really help younger students feel more comfortable. Your parents/caregivers will want to discuss the guidelines with you prior to riding the bus. Of most importance is wearing your seatbelt. As soon as you get on the bus, you should immediately latch your seatbelt. *We encourage younger students assigned to a bus to take it to school the first week or so even if you may get picked up on a more regular basis.* It is great practice in case there is a time when you have to take the bus unexpectedly. Parents/caregivers can follow the bus in their car and meet you at school that first day!

Please note that on the first few days of school, it is not unusual for buses to be earlier or later than scheduled. Everyone is getting used to the route and pick-up times may be adjusted. The buses should not be arriving at school until 8:30 am or later so that may require some adjustments. Also, at the end of the day they may drop students off 15—20 minutes later than the scheduled time. Dismissal takes a bit longer as students get used to finding their bus and drivers adjust to

their new routes. Please be patient, all of the children are in good hands and we take the extra time to make sure everyone is where they are supposed to be at dismissal. When you hear your bus called at 3:30 pm, please go outside immediately to your bus.

You will have an assigned seat on the bus. This will be done by each bus driver the second or third week of school. If there are any questions about this, parents/caregivers can contact the school. **Parents should never board the bus to talk to the driver.** Seat assignments may need to be changed throughout the year for a variety of reasons. This is another safety measure. We need to remember that your bus driver has a difficult and important job. They can not be looking at the road and in back of them at the same time to see where students are and what they are doing. It is very important that you listen to your driver at all times, wear your seatbelt, and talk quietly to your seatmates.



## WALKERS

If you walk to school, your parents/caregivers will need to inform us in writing how they would like you to be dismissed. There is a form online which needs to be completed and returned telling us if you are dismissed under your own supervision, with a sibling, or if there will be an adult picking you up at the school. **We need the form prior to the first day of school.** If we do not have it, those children will be held at school until an authorized adult comes to pick them up.

## LOOKING AHEAD

There are many special days in addition to the first day of school. Listed below are events that you and your family can look forward to attending. Please mark your calendars.

### September

September 6<sup>th</sup> - First Day of School

September 12<sup>th</sup> - PTO Meeting at 9:15 am (Faculty Room)

September 14<sup>th</sup> — PTO Back-to-School Carnival

September 22<sup>nd</sup> - Hopewell Harvest Fair from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

September 24<sup>th</sup> – Farm to School Day

September 27<sup>th</sup> - Back-to-School Night

6:00 - 7:00      Preschool, kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade

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      3rd, 4th and 5th grade (individual classrooms)