



Hermiston High School

600 South First Street Hermiston, OR 97838 Phone: 541-667-6100
Principal: Tom Spoo, Assistant Principals: Blaine Braithwaite, Michael Thomas, Ericka Keefauver, District Athletic Director: Larry Usher

From the Doghouse to your House

Keep Your Child on Track in High School



Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.

Did You Know?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful, and on track to graduation.
- By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) of the school year can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks.
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job.

What You Can Do

Make school attendance a priority

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day; make that the expectation.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day.

Help your teen stay engaged

- Find out if your child feels engaged by his/her classes and feels safe from bullies and other threats. Make sure he/she is not missing class because of behavioral issues and school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, work with your school.
- Stay on top of academic progress and seek help from teachers, if necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage meaningful afterschool activities, including sports and clubs.

How to Excuse an Absence for Your Child:

- Call one of the two attendance secretaries.
- Send your child with a note excusing the absence signed by a guardian with a personal phone number.
- Email one of the attendance secretaries with a personal phone number.

Attendance Secretaries:

Andrea Serrano 541-667-6116 Email: andrea.serrano@hermistonhsd.org
Adrian Muniz 541-667-6148 Email: Adrian.muniz@hermistonhsd.org

UPCOMING DATES

- 9.9.19: Picture Day
- 9.20.19: No School I/W Day
- 9.23-9.28: Homecoming Week
- 10.1.19: HHS Blood Drive
- 10.16.19: SAT, ASVAB & PSAT Test Day



Point of Interest:

According to the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA), students who are involved in athletics and activities attend classes 26% more than those who are not involved. That's reason enough to encourage your student to join our clubs, sports and activities, but the benefits don't stop there! Some of the other benefits include:

Teamwork Communication Leadership Organization Responsibility Time Management

Hermiston High School takes pride in having sports, clubs, activities, and organizations to engage many different interests and ability levels. Check our many groups that are available this year and listen to the announcements for meeting times!

Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports	Clubs/Activities/Organizations			
Football Volleyball Girls soccer Cross Country Cheer Girls Swimming Dance Slow Pitch Softball	Boys Swimming Boys Basketball Girls Basketball Boys Wrestling Girls Wrestling Girls Bowling	Boys Golf Girls Golf Boys Tennis Girls Tennis Track & Field Baseball Softball Boys Soccer	Trap Shooting Speech Marching Band Color Guard Lacrosse Hermiston Rodeo National Honor Soc. Choir	Boys Bowling DECA College Savings Science Club Skills USA FCCLA Yearbook Knowledge Bowl	Drama Art Club Anime Club Mock Trial Key Club Library Club Fellowship Christian Athletes Columbia Basin Home Bldrs.	Robotics Chess Video Club FFA Link Crew

Special Education Restructure at HHS

With our desire to increase learning for all students, we have spent considerable time over the last year researching and adjusting our approach in the Special Education Department. This research led us to make two major changes, both with the intention of increasing communication between the regular education teacher and the special education teacher.

The first change that we made was to assign a special education teacher to work with each of the core departments (Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, and Science). They are present in the classrooms to be a resource for those teachers and to help them better understand how to work with our students who have special needs. This time to plan together can help the core departments adjust instruction and more thoroughly assess where students are in their learning.

We have also combined our Learning Labs. By condensing our classrooms from four labs with one teacher each to two labs with two teachers each, HHS is able to accomplish two goals. One outcome is that students in the Learning Labs have more resources to assist them, while the other effect is the ability of the Special Education teachers to be present in regular education classrooms more often. While there, Special Education teachers are able to better personalize planning with regular education teachers and guide implementation of individual student instruction.

We expect that these changes will assist our Special Education students to be more successful in school and feel more supported in their learning. This will help us with our goal to increase learning for all students.

Counseling Department

What does "On-Track" for graduation mean?

- Students must earn at least 6 credits each year
- No more than one F per semester
- Students who Fail a class are less likely to be ready for work or college

An "On-Track" 9th grader is 3.5X more likely to graduate in 4 years

How does a student stay "On-Track"?

- Pass all of your classes
- Attend school every day
- [Know the requirements for graduation](#)

Attendance Matters

Research shows that students who attend school every day:

- Get better grades
- Are more likely to get a high school diploma
- tend to continue that habit through high school
- Are less likely to end up in prison

Nearly 90% of 9th graders who miss less than 1 week of school per semester graduate from high school regardless of their 8th grade test scores.



It is extremely important that parents closely monitor student's attendance and progress in PowerSchool. If a student is going to graduate on time, it is important to have a good working relationship between the parents/guardians and the school staff.