

Dear Jaguar Families,

It is with great excitement that I write in anticipation of the opening of school in less than a couple of weeks away. As I walk through vacant hallways, I'm reminded of happy, buzzing sounds of students out and about making their way around our school. I catch myself reminiscing over the sounds of children engaging in exciting lessons and spending time with their fellow classmates and friends. Exhilarating feelings overwhelm me of the thought that the school year is here! During the summer months, we hope that you took time to enjoy family and friends, visit special places, make new memories, rest, relax and refresh yourselves. However, you spent your summer, just know, that it was well deserved. We look forward to seeing pictures and hearing stories about the exciting things that have taken place.

Since school ended in June, it's been busy at "The Hill". Our front office staff has excitedly welcomed new families, staff members have been participating in meetings, and children have had a chance to attend STEM and art camps. Kudos to an amazing team as they committed their time and talents as we celebrated the tremendous efforts of our students and staff last year and reflected on ways to continue to address the individual needs of our students. We would also like to highlight our incredible custodial staff, TJ, Fuji and Joe, who have been working tirelessly ensuring the building exceeds readiness expectations. As you visit during Open House, please be mindful that custodial services will be working to complete tasks in preparation for the official return of students on Tuesday, September 4, 2018.

As students return for the 2018-2019 school year, we are sad to say goodbye to our fellow Jaguars; Latonya Allen, Megan Blouse, Diane Standeven, Maria Laskey, Logan Keller, Lauren Collins, Mary Curry, Jacqueline DeBella, and Aleah Zinalabedini. We will miss them dearly and wish them well in their new chapter of life. We are excited to welcome the following to "The Hill".

- Barbara Brown - Principal's Secretary
- Marcia Hospedales - School Nurse
- Alexandra Kissel - 2nd Grade Teacher
- Beth Eisentraut - 3rd Grade Teacher
- Sarah Goshen - 4th Grade Teacher
- Nathan DiSimone - Physical Education
- Anna Lentz - Strings
- Margaret Schorb - Band

Now the time has come to return to Jeffers Hill and embark on a successful school year as we have had a busy summer preparing for your return. As we look forward to a year full of exciting opportunities and achievements, here are some helpful hints to revisit for a great beginning of the school year:

1. Get them to bed at an early hour: Children have rapidly growing bodies that require plenty of rest. A well-rested child is more mentally alert and will perform better in school.
2. Organize their belongings the night before: Have a special place set aside for their backpacks and anything else that they might be bringing to school the next day. Pack any notes, library books, or lunch money the night before. Make sure there are no toys in the backpack, unless it's for show and-tell. Together, select the clothes your child will wear the next day. All of this will ensure a less busy morning and lessen the likelihood of forgotten items, which can cause a disruption.

3. Share their backpacks with them every day: Set aside a specific time each day when you can go through your child's backpack with them and see what papers have been brought home. Parents who are interested in what their child is learning will make your child feel that learning is important. The education of your child is a team effort between us all.
4. Read to your child: Share books with your child every day. Ask your child about stories they heard in school that day.
5. Allow for down time when they get home: Most of your child's school day is very structured. Allow them time when they get home to run, play and unwind.

### **Update Your Family File Information for the 2018-2019 School Year!**

HCPSS utilizes Family File for parents/guardians to complete emergency information. Parents/guardians must verify and/or update information for each child, and can do so by logging in to [HCPSS Connect](#) and selecting the Family File tab on the left and then clicking on Family File.

Once logged in, parents/guardians will be asked to update or provide the following information:

- Student Information
- Parent/Guardian Contact
- Emergency Contacts
- Medical Information
- Arrival/Dismissal Procedures
- Photo Approval
- Data Confidentiality
- PTA/PTSA Directory

Changes of address may not be made through Family File. If you have recently moved, please contact Karen Taylor in the main office as soon as possible.

[Resources](#) on how to access Family File may be found online. Parents who have forgotten their login credentials may find online [instructions](#) on how to reset passwords. If you need additional assistance, please fill out this [Connect Help Form](#).

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

#### ***Kindergarten Back to School Night***

***Wednesday, August 27th, 2018 from 4:00 - 5:00 pm (Please note: Only parents should attend this event. Students will have an opportunity to meet their teacher on Thursday, August 30th, 2018)***

#### **Open House Details**

**Thursday, August 30th, 2018**

Grades K-5: New Student Orientation from 12:30pm-1:00pm

Grades K-5: 1:00pm-2:00pm

*(Please note: All students should be accompanied by an adult to the Open House) All orientations will begin in the school cafeteria on the 30th.*

*Teachers may still be tidying up, so this unfortunately is not the time for conferences or teacher meetings.*

#### **First Day of School**

**Tuesday, September 4th at 9:00am (Please note: Students can enter the building at 8:45am)**

## Back to School Night

**Back to School Night** is the perfect opportunity to learn more about your child's grade and meet the teacher. This year we will host Back-to-School Night - Grades 1-5 on **Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. GT information session will begin at 5:45 PM.**

### **Please NOTE:**

1. **School Hours: Students may enter the building at 8:45 am.** Morning announcements begin at 8:55 am sharp and instruction will start immediately after announcements. Students arriving **9:00 am or later are tardy** and must be signed in by a parent in the front office. Dismissal will begin at 3:30 pm. Please make sure your child has the best start possible. Let's get them to school on time and ready to learn.
2. **Arrival and Dismissal Procedures** – The doors open at **8:45 am. ALL STUDENTS** will enter through the front of the building. There will be staff members assigned to the bus lanes and car lane to assist with student entry. Dismissal begins at 3:30 pm. Bus riders, students that attend aftercare and daycare centers exit the front door. Walkers are also dismissed at 3:30 pm through the side door, Majors Lane Road exit. To ensure safety for all students, please be sure to remind all walkers to use marked crosswalks and not cut across any street. Car riders are dismissed shortly after the buses leave the lane (at approximately 3:35). Our dismissal runs smoothly and is very uniformed. We ask that drivers not leave their vehicles as this impedes the movement of all other cars. Please stay with your vehicle and staff will assist your child in meeting you. We appreciate your cooperation in this important safety issue.
3. **Class Lists** – Class assignments will be mailed home on August 28th on postcards as well as you may access your child's teacher on HCPSS Connect on August 29th when you update your Family Emergency Card. If you do not receive the postcard or are unable to come into the school during Open House, please be assured that we will have many staff members available to assist students in finding their classrooms on the **first day of school, September 4<sup>th</sup> 2018.**

Please continue to enjoy the remainder of your summer as you take time to relax and enjoy your family. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me ([Maisha.Strong@hcpss.org](mailto:Maisha.Strong@hcpss.org)) or Ann Steger, ([Anne.Steger@hcpss.org](mailto:Anne.Steger@hcpss.org)).

We are excited for an awesome school year as we:

Value all stakeholders  
Achieve individual focus supports for every person  
Connect students and staff in a nurturing, inclusive environment  
Empower the educational community

Sincerely,  
Maisha Strong  
Principal

Ann Steger  
Assistant Principal