

# Hickory Elementary School

*"An Adventure in Learning~A Place in the Sun for Everyone"*

2800 W. 227<sup>th</sup> Street, Torrance, CA 90505

(310) 533-4672

[w1.hickory.tusd.org](http://w1.hickory.tusd.org)

August 18, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians/Caregivers/Students:

Welcome to the new 2017-2018 school year! It is my pleasure to welcome all of our returning parents, students and our new families to Hickory Elementary. I hope you enjoyed the wonderful summer months whether you traveled far or stayed close to home. I would also like to welcome Mrs. Sarah Sepulveda to our Hickory staff. I am excited for her to join the 2nd grade team. We also welcome Ms. Nicole Will to our Special Education staff, she will be helping out in our Learning Centers.

**School begins on Thursday, September 7th at 8:50 a.m. for grades 4 and 5, 8:59 a.m. for grades 1 through 3, and 9:30 a.m. for Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten (TK).**

There will be no morning valet the first day, but there will be afternoon valet at 3:12 p.m., please adhere to the rules of our valet program, they are in place for the safety of your children. In brief, do not leave your car parked in the valet line from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. and 2:30-3:45 p.m., and on Wednesdays from 2:00-2:45 p.m. The valet line is only for loading and unloading students. When loading and unloading, please have your child use the car door closest to the curb. If your child isn't visible in the wait area when you are picking up, you will be asked to move your car and re-enter the end of the valet line. Please be aware of your surroundings and drive responsibly. Safety and your child's well being is a priority for all of us at Hickory, and to that end we ask you follow these simple rules:

- use the proper **crosswalks** and follow the directions of our crossing guards
- use the **valet system** in the front of the school everyday
- drop off children when **supervision starts (8:30 a.m. grades 1-5, 8:45 Kdg. &TK)**
- always supervise** children at Hickory Park
- please **do not enter the Staff Parking Lot** before, during, or after school

**Class assignment lists will be posted in front of the school after 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 6.** If for any reason, a class change needs to be considered, conferences for that purpose will be scheduled after the first 10 days of school. The primary reason for this is that classes may change because of unexpected enrollment the first few days of school. Thank you in advance for your patience.

**Lunch will be served the first day of school for all students grades 1-5.** The cost of lunch is \$3.00 which includes milk. You may purchase milk alone for 50 cents. We will continue using the debit format. Each student has an account using their student ID number which can be pre-loaded with money. Each time your child purchases lunch the amount will be subtracted from their account. We recommend that you deposit \$87.00 which would enable your student to purchase 30 lunches. You can,

of course, deposit any amount onto the card. This can be done in the Hickory office before school. Students are not to pay with cash in the cafeteria line; they are to deposit money towards their account in the school office **before** school. A monthly menu will be published in the Communicator, on the school website, the first Thursday of the month. Hard copies will be available in Room 31. Children may bring a sack lunch from home but, please be conscientious of our wellness policy and avoid sending candy, soda, and other non-nutritious foods. Glass containers should never be sent to school.

We want every child to develop and achieve success in school, and we work hard to ensure that all students have adequate supplies and instructional materials that are needed throughout the year. It is not necessary to purchase specific supplies for you child. However, the school office always appreciates your donations of copier paper, facial tissue, pens, and pencils for the entire school to use. Information about school supply donations can be found on our website. At **Back to School Night**, September 14 for Kindergarten/TK, September 21 for grades 1-5, look for more information on this from your classroom teacher.

Each Thursday, the on-line **Communicator** will be published. This includes a monthly Principal's Newsletter, up-coming schedules, activities, and forms for after school classes, sign-ups for PTA events, and other information. This is our **primary way of communicating** with our families. We want you to be involved and aware of what is going on in your school. Please make it a practice to read and discuss items with your child. If you do not have access to a computer, please fill out a "Request for a Hard Copy" form located in the school office. Our school website is:

[www.w1.hickory@tusd.org](http://www.w1.hickory@tusd.org)

The **Family Welcome Enrollment Center**, 2336 Plaza Del Amo, continues to handle all student enrollments. Enrollments are now taking place at that location. The school district is changing over to a new "Student Information Management" system this year. This system is called PowerSchool. Please look for information from the district on how to input and update student information. This is very important for communication and for any emergency situations that may arise.

Torrance Unified School District will continue to support its teachers and its students by continuing the **Professional Learning Community** model this year. This model is designed to provide time and opportunity for teachers to monitor and address student achievement as a collaborative team of professionals. This means that each Wednesday, your children, grades 1-5 will be dismissed 45 minutes early at 2:28. Please make appropriate arrangements for their pick-up.

In order to support teachers with planning and full implementation of California Common Core, 6 full time Physical Education teachers will be returning. These individuals will travel to all the elementary schools and provide Physical Education (PE) instruction to all students grades 1-5 for one hour a week. On Thursdays, 3 PE teachers will be at Hickory all day. Each grade level will be scheduled for a PE session. During this time, our teachers will be receiving coaching and support in a variety of subject areas including math instruction, the new science standards, and English Language Arts. This is a wonderful opportunity for students and teachers alike. We ask that your children come to school with appropriate shoes and clothing (class t-shirts, spiritwear) in order to take full advantage of this great program.

Safety and your child's well being is a priority for all of us at Hickory, and to that end we ask you to be conscientious about dropping off and picking up your children. The school playground **opens at 8:30 for 1<sup>st</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> grades, 8:45 for Kindergarten.**

THERE IS NO SUPERVISION FOR STUDENTS BEFORE THAT TIME. PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF STUDENTS BEFORE THESE TIMES. THE SCHOOL DAY ENDS AT 1:59 FOR KDG. AND 3:12 FOR GRADES 1-5, PLEASE DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP YOUR CHILDREN PROMPTLY.

REGULAR SCHOOL HOURS

8:59-1:59 Kindergarten/ TK

8:59-3:12 Gr. 1 through 3

8:50-3:12 Gr. 4 and 5

LUNCH TIMES

11:30-12:15 Kindergarten/TK

12:00-12:45 1st and 2nd

12:15-1:00 3rd

12:30-1:15 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>

**Information For Kindergarten/TK- Parents**

Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> is the first day of school. Please provide a snack for your child in a **labeled** lunch box/sack. The following is the schedule for the first **day September 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**9:30 a.m.** Bring your child to his/her assigned classroom. Meet his/her teacher. Say good-bye and wipe his/her tears (and your own). Join the PTA in the cafeteria for a "Kiss N Cry" information session.

**12:30 p.m.** Pick up your child from the classroom (or where your teacher has designated)

**TK/Kindergarten Schedule:** September 7-8, 2017 – Attend from 9:30-12:30 p.m.

*September 11, 2017 -- Begin attending full day from 8:59 a.m.-1:59 p.m.*

Please send a lunch with a drink for your child through October unless you hear differently from your child's kindergarten teacher. Kinder/TK will not be buying lunch from the cafeteria until the end of October. Kinders will eat lunch in their classrooms. Each room will be supervised by an adult. They need time to get used to the routine that is necessary for the cafeteria, opening lunch containers, washing hands, and socializing is quite an ordeal for many of these little ones. We want them to establish healthy eating habits and manners before we take them to the cafeteria to buy lunch and eat with over 175 other little ones.

Beginning Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, the kindergarten playground will be open and supervised starting at 8:45 a.m. for kindergarten students. We ask that you do not come into the kindergarten yard when you bring your child to school. Bring them to the gate, give a hug and a kiss and tell them to have a "Great Day!" You may also use the school "Valet Program" which allows you to drop off your child in the valet line. Older students will escort the Kinder/TK students to the kinder yard. You will be picking them up at the gate (or teacher designated area), not the classroom, at 2:00 p.m. starting that day.

***KDG/TK Back to School Night Sept. 14, 2017 6:00-7:30p.m.***

I am looking forward to a fantastic year!

*Edna J. Schumacher, Principal*