

Hello Hillcrest Families,

Welcome to the 2020 - 2021 school year!

We only have a few days to go before our first official school day on Wednesday, September 2nd. I genuinely can't wait to reconnect with our returning students and families, and I'm really excited to welcome all of our new students coming from Skyline and other schools near and far. Hillcrest is a great school with a very supportive staff and community where every new student and family is welcomed with open arms. I'm writing this letter to provide you with some basic information about what school will look like this year and other important details you may want to know. Look for more communication coming from me and classroom teachers over the next two weeks.

Distance Learning -- As you know, we will start the year teaching and learning from a distance. Although we all wish we could have students in our classrooms working everyday, I want you to know that we have some good plans in place to make learning engaging, thoughtful and meaningful for all students. Some of this learning will happen in real time with classroom teachers and some of this learning will be structured in an "on demand" system that allows kids to access the lessons at flexible times throughout the day. There will be a learning curve for everyone at the beginning of the year, but at Hillcrest we embrace learning everyday. Our students, staff, and families are going to do a great job bringing this school year to life together.

Schedule -- What will a typical day/week look like for students? This is a great question that everyone is asking. We have developed a schedule that you can count on each week in order to build routines and habits for your student(s) but which also has flexibility built in for family schedules. I'm attaching a link to our district website where you can view the elementary schedule. The first half of the day is focused on working with your teacher and classmates in real time. The second half of the day is for students to focus on assignments they need to complete, for small group support to happen, for teachers to provide feedback for students through Seesaw, and much more. Wednesdays are going to be a little different, so please make sure you take a look at the Wednesday description as well. Take a look at the schedule when you get a chance and we promise that it will all make sense and come together once school starts. It's a good thing. [Elementary Distance Learning Schedule](#)

Family Connection Meetings (September 2nd, 3rd, and 4th) -- At Hillcrest, and in Lake Stevens, we believe that positive relationships are the foundation of everything we do for students. So, we want to make sure that you and your student(s) have the opportunity to virtually meet your teacher, begin learning about each other, get a sneak peek into how school will be organized this year, and, most importantly, take the first steps in establishing a great positive relationship. So, in order to accomplish this, we have dedicated the first three days of school for "Family Connection Meetings" where students and families will meet with their teachers at scheduled time. (This will be similar to what we've done in kindergarten for years.)

There will be a letter coming home on Monday to explain in more detail what to expect from these meetings and how to prepare.

How Will I Know Who My Child's Teacher Is? -- All students who are registered currently are already placed in classes. This includes folks who registered over the summer. On Monday afternoon, you will be able to learn who your child's teacher is by accessing Skyward "[Family Access](#)" which can be found on our website.

Office Opening for Registrations on Monday, 8/24 -- We are excited to continue registering our newest Hillcrest Hawks. If you have not registered your child(ren) yet, our office will be open each day beginning on Monday with limited hours (9:00 - 12:00), or you can call to schedule an appointment outside of these hours (425.335.1545). If you do stop by, please remember that we are following all CDC and State guidelines regarding Covid 19 safety. You must wear a mask to enter the building.

Chromebooks -- Our goal is that every student who needs a Chromebook will have one at home. On Friday, August 28th Chromebooks will be distributed from Cavelero for all Lake Stevens students who need them. More information will be available about this process, but I wanted you to plan ahead for it. This is also the day that kindergarten students can pick up their Chromebooks as well. :)

I'd like to wrap this letter up by just saying "thank you". Thank you for being patient. Thank you for engaging in the launch of a distance learning school year. Thank you for supporting your student(s) and encouraging them throughout the year. Thank you for the support you always provide Hillcrest. When we work together, communicate, and adjust we can accomplish anything.

On behalf of the Hillcrest staff, I want to say, "Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year!"

Thank You,

Steve Burleigh, Principal