



Highwood Hills Elementary School

Website: spps.org/highwoodhills

Dear Families:

Calendar of Events

October

- 15 Common Ground
Conversations for
families(virtual)
- 17-18 Education MN (MEA)
Days
NO SCHOOL
- 30 Conference Prep Day
NO SCHOOL
- 31 Halloween

November

- 3 Election Day- No evening
events after 6:00 PM
- 17 Evening Conferences-2:45
-5:45
- 19 Evening Conferences-2:45
- 5:45
Pre-K - NO SCHOOL
- 20 Conferences - 7:15 - 2:15
NO SCHOOL

Thank you again for a good start of the year. I appreciate all those who, by words or deeds, contributed to the successful beginning, despite the pandemic. Thanks also for your understanding as we continue in Distance Learning and all the technological challenges. I am glad to hear from some parents regarding the support that they are getting for iPad related issues, connectivity, interpretation, etc. from our team of staff. We are here to make sure that we create a conducive environment for learning and collaboration despite the platform. I have always believed that in as much as it takes two to tango, it always takes more than two to make peace and create a sound, warm and welcoming learning environment for our students. I look forward to a time when we will return in some fashion to in person learning, hybrid or full person to person!

As we continue this journey together as a school. I would like to remind you that we must always remain positive about our children's education. At Highwood Hills, the staff and I are committed to providing the best possible elementary education to all of our students, while at the same time doing what it takes to adhere to State and District standards, policies and procedures as we are required to do! Paramount among our mission in this work is the safety, security and well-being of all. Sometimes this may involve a change in long term practices that are unsafe, as well as modifying some that need improvement. Through all this, our goal will be to offer the safest learning environment and a rigorous educational opportunity for all of our students regardless of socio-economic status or other factors.

As is the case with every start of the school year when rituals and routines are being established, proper conduct is very important in promoting and maintaining a healthy learning environment. I am imploring families to please work with us in reminding students of proper etiquette, and the need to work with their teachers/adults in building a collaborative, peaceful learning environment both at home and at school. School work should be done with the same seriousness that it is done at school.

I have enjoyed meeting most of you during our fall open house, and also talking with some of you via telephone or some form of virtual platform. I feel very positive about what we have planned for your child this school year. This is, as you know, a great school with a great community supporting our students.



I would also like to share our MCA Report cards from MDE with our families. Since we did not have MCAs last year due to COVID, I am sharing the last one from 2018/19 school year with you. From all indication, we stayed pretty much the same from the year before, with a slight increase in reading and a slight decrease in math, both by less than one percentage point. Nonetheless, I would like to reassure you that we are aware of our shortcomings and are working very hard to overcome them, and implementing our School Comprehensive Improvement Plan (SCIP) goals to address these needs. Despite these results, our students are showing growth in some other important areas, as we continue to push for rigor and excellence in teaching and learning.

The number of students meeting standards in math, reading, and science over time



Subject	2017	2018	2019
Math	18.1% (23)	21.7% (25)	21.2% (22)
Reading	25.4% (32)	21.9% (25)	22.1% (23)
Science			

Halloween

Halloween is a cultural celebration for some, and also for some newcomers to the country who are excited about this American tradition that is generally recognized as an acceptable cultural event in our society by a majority of people in the larger community. As such, we will honor the need to recognize the day for those who want to celebrate it. I would like to implore families who will be out trick or treating to exercise extreme caution in keeping their children safe. They should wear masks at all times, keep their distance even when by people’s doorsteps, at least six feet still recommended, and do not eat candy unless you have washed your hands properly, and taken proper precaution. Please stay healthy and stay safe! Thank you.

Respectfully,

Fatima Lawson

Dr. Fatima Lawson, Principal

- ***NOTE: Please contact us at 651-744-3290 if you need this newsletter or portions of it explained or translated for you.

