Dear HWE Families,

It’s hard to believe that Tuesday is the first day of school. The energy in the building is already climbing for the excitement of the first day of school! I hope that you all have enjoyed your summer time with family and the amazing weather we have had, perfect for playing outside, traveling, and summer picnics. As we prepare in this last weekend, we have a few items and updates to share with you. Please see below for our final staffing information and the important ABC’s of HWE!

Happy final weekend of summer,

Patricia

Visit our HWE website: https://wlcsd.org/schools/elementary/hickory-woods/

Follow us on Twitter: @HWE_Hawks

Staffing has been finalized for the upcoming school year. Some of our more recent hires are still gaining access to their email and phone, but we will be updating the website as this information becomes available. Please see below for our final staffing updates.

- Kindergarten: Olivia Denton, Kelleigh Dugan, Laura Kwapis, Megan Zydeck, Allison O’Brien (MSU Intern)
- First: Kasee Haven, Karrie Highstreet, Debbie Isaacs, Barb Oatley, Caitlyn Vig
- Second: Helga Henn, Bridget Jankowski, Emily Lada, Rhonda Shelt
- Third: Suzie Kuhn, Carrie Murray, Jennifer Weckstein
- Fourth: Emily Gurley, Colleen O’Rourke, Karie Starr
- Fifth: Nathan Bruce, Karen Burrill, Christine Titus, Briana Keller (MSU Intern)
- Art: Denise Zeiss
- Media: Debra Gantz
- Music: Marc Meyers, Cathie Pierce-Winters, Kelsey Murphy (Student Intern)
- Physical Education: Eric Catenacci, Megan Lepkowski
- Resource Room: Katie Kavanaugh, Deborah Powers
- Alternative Language Program: Rafael Servin
  - Paraprofessional Staff: Gail Ellis, Toshiko Terakado, Von Yacoub
- ASD Program: Beth Roberts, Julie Selahowski, Megan Sidge
  - Paraprofessional Staff: Piper DuBois, Mike Duggan, Marsha Margolis, Samantha Murray, Sirisha Sistla, Kris Stratton
- SXI Program: Erin Schmeling, Jackie Plas (Long-Term Guest Teacher)
  - Paraprofessional Staff: Kim Clees, Sheila Walk
- Teacher Consultant: Joyi Payne
- School Psychologist: Karina Gold
- School Social Worker: Cathy Beylerian
- Speech and Language Pathologist: Katie Mangus
- Lunchroom: Liz Tamer, Carissa Dean, Sandy Ridenour
- Playground: Cindie Colvin, Liz Martin, (We are in need of a 3rd staff member – contact our office if you are interested)
- Head Teacher/31a Coordinator: Danielle Bigi
- Principal’s Secretary: Laura Tayon
- Building Secretary: Jennifer Dean
- Building Substitutes: Sarah Branchseau, Emily Fraser
After School/Before School Care: If you are in need of care for your child after or before school, please contact our Prime Time Care department for registration information: [https://wlcsd.org/programs/prime-time-care/](https://wlcsd.org/programs/prime-time-care/)

Back to School Packet: Each student must have this process completed prior to the first day of school (8/27/19) through the Skyward Family Access Program. You will need your Family Access parent account to complete this process. To obtain a Family Access account, email [familyaccess@wlcsd.org](mailto:familyaccess@wlcsd.org) from your email account on file with the district or call 248-956-2190. Please include your name, email address, and child’s name and school. You will be contacted within 3 business days.

Community Education: We are fortunate to have a valuable partnership in our Community Education department. They offer several after school activities to our students at HWE for a small fee. Please visit our Community Education website to learn more about what is available for your learner: [https://wlcsd.org/our-district/community-education-programs/](https://wlcsd.org/our-district/community-education-programs/)

District Open House: We will be hosting an Open House on October 22 from 6-8pm to share information on our elementary schools with potential WLCSD families. If you know of someone looking to join the WLCSD Educational Family, please encourage them to come see what our elementaries have to offer!

Events: HWE is fortunate to have an extremely active Parent Teacher Association that plans some amazing events for our students and families. Please check our [school calendar](https://wlcsd.org/schools/elementary/hickory-woods/) frequently to ensure that you take part in these wonderful community events!

FAPES: (Fine Arts and Physical Education) This acronym refers to our Visual Arts, Vocal Music, Physical Education, and Media classes that your child will attend each week.

Go Hawks: Our school mascot is the HWE Hawk and our school colors are blue and silver. Please check out our [school calendar](https://wlcsd.org/schools/elementary/hickory-woods/) for the Hawk Pride days scheduled for the upcoming school year. On Hawk Pride days, students can wear HWE spiritwear and/or blue and silver.

Handbook: Our [school handbook](https://wlcsd.org/schools/elementary/hickory-woods/) is available on our website and gives you all of the “need to know” information for the building. This document is updated annually and will soon be ready for the upcoming school year!

Important Date and Times: Don’t forget that the first day of school is Tuesday, August 27! Our school day is from 8:55 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. Half days are from 8:55 a.m. to 12:25 p.m.

Just in Case: Please bookmark our website: [https://wlcsd.org/schools/elementary/hickory-woods/](https://wlcsd.org/schools/elementary/hickory-woods/). Make sure to add our office number to your telephone contacts: 248-956-2600. If your child needs to be absent, please be sure to call our absence line 24-hours a day: 248-956-2690.

Kindergarten Staggered Start: To help our youngest learners transition into kindergarten, WLCSD will be utilizing a staggered start on the first day of school, Tuesday, August 27. Please note: Students with a last name beginning with the letters A-L will attend in the morning (8:55am-12:09pm) and students with a last name beginning with the letters M-Z will attend in the afternoon (1:00pm-4:00pm).

Lunch Information: Students will have a scheduled 20 minute lunch period each day with their grade level. Please visit our [Food Services website](https://wlcsd.org/schools/elementary/hickory-woods/) for lunch menus. You can add money to your child’s lunch account through Family Access. If you are in need of assistance with the cost of lunch, please request a Free/Reduced lunch application or complete one on the Food Services website and return it to our office.

Meet and Greet: Teachers will return to school on 8/26 for professional learning and to prepare their classroom in the afternoon. From 3-4 p.m. teachers will be working their classrooms and we invite you to stop in and let your learner meet their new teacher and join our PTA from 3-5p.m. for a special welcome back treat on the playground! Class assignments are available through Skyward Family Access. The placement process is very involved and we work as a team to ensure that we have an appropriate placement for each child with a group of students that will help them to
share their gifts and challenge them to grow socially, emotionally, and academically. We appreciate the feedback of our parents each spring as we begin this process, but please know that class placements are final.

**News:** Each week you will receive an email from Mrs. Chinn with upcoming dates, important building information, PTA connections, and community updates. Please be sure that your email address is updated in Family Access to receive this information. Please also follow us on Twitter @HWE_Hawks

**Office Hours:** Our HWE office will be open for the school year from 8am-4pm daily. Please contact our office team with any questions that you have: 248-956-2600

**PTA:** We have an amazing opportunity for parents to be an active participant in your child’s education through our Parent Teacher Association. Please visit our [PTA website](#) for more information on how you can get engaged!

**Questions:** If you ever have a question about how something works at HWE, please contact our main office (248-956-2600) and if you need to talk with the teacher about your child’s progress, please contact them directly through our website: [https://wlcsd.org/schools/elementary/hickory-woods/staff/](https://wlcsd.org/schools/elementary/hickory-woods/staff/)

**Recess:** Your child will participate in 20 minutes of recess each day and will have a scheduled block recess (60 minutes) each week.

**Skyward Family Access:** You will need your Family Access parent account to access your child’s report card, view their attendance and lunch account information, and receive information from the teacher. To obtain a Family Access account, email familyaccess@wlcsd.org from your email account on file with the district or call 248-956-2190. Please include your name, email address, and child’s name and school. You will be contacted within 3 business days.

**Transportation:** Transportation has posted routes on their website. Bus not showing up? Check the transportation hotline @ 248-956-5199.

**Upstanders:** We believe in a setting where kids feel empowered to stand up and speak when they see something they feel should be addressed. We talk to our students about being an upstander throughout their time at HWE, meaning they do not stand by and watch, but rather they say something to help the situation and/or get an adult to help them problem solve how to make things better for all parties involved.

**Volunteerism:** We want you to partner with us through volunteerism. Our PTA has a multitude of committees available for you to get involved at HWE and we love to have parents volunteer in our classrooms and media center. Please connect with your child’s teacher or with Ms. Gantz for these opportunities! All volunteers will need to sign into and out of the office upon visiting the school.

**Western Oakland County Parenting Education Fair:** This year’s guest speaker will be Brooks Gibbs. Please join us on Saturday, November 4 at the [WOC Parenting Education Fair](#)!

**eXtra Support:** We are proud to offer our families access to a [Student Pantry](#). If your family is in need of food items, some clothing, or school supplies, please contact our office to set up a time to visit the pantry and gather the necessary supplies to support your family.

**You:** Our goal is to provide your child with the most excellent educational opportunities available. We cannot do that alone! We hope that YOU will partner with us to ensure this goal is met through a collaborative and engaging environment!

**Zoinks!** The school year is almost starting and we cannot wait to see you on Tuesday, August 27 at 8:55am!