

David Harrison Elementary

Home of the HUSKIES



3055 W. Kildee Lane
Springfield, MO 65810
417-523-5800

Dear David Harrison Families,

Wow! Summer has flown by. That means we finally get to have all of our Huskies back in the building. Our DHE staff is excited to see your kiddos again. You may see a couple of new faces at DHE this year. Mrs. Robin Gentry will be our new secretary, Mr. Chase Petree will be our new counselor, and I am your new principal. Many of the routines you are used to will remain the same, but we will be adding some new ways we celebrate our students here at DHE and how we teach character. [Click here](#) to learn more. We also have a new online calendar that you can access from this [link](#) or from our new school website at any time.

Here is one change where we will need your help. As the district and DHE focus on making our school as safe as possible for our students we have reviewed practices already in place. While we know each of our parents have great intentions while in the building, it is impossible to provide adequate supervision when multiple parents are in the building at once, especially at arrival in the morning. Here is our request. After the first week of school we ask that when you drop your student off, you do so at the office door and do not enter the building without checking in and getting a visitors badge. During the first three days of school we ask that you do not leave the cafeteria with your student and allow our staff to escort students to their rooms. This allows staff to ensure we reduce and eliminate the number of non-employees who do not have background checks in our building who have access to our students.

As I noted above, we do have new staff members working in the office who are in the process of getting to know all of our students and parents at DHE. We want you to know that we will be asking for identification if you request an early

checkout or educational records for any and all students. We appreciate your patience as we work diligently to keep your student(s) safe. Another quick reminder, if you are changing dismissal plans please ensure you have made contact with Mrs. Gentry in the office prior to 2pm so we can ensure those changes have adequate time to be delivered to the classroom teacher and student.

First day of school is Wednesday, August 15th. All students need to be here by or before our bell rings, which is 8:10 a.m. Breakfast will be served from 7:45–8:05 a.m. Rise and Shine, a short and fun assembly, will start on August 16th and take place daily in our cafeteria from 7:45 a.m.– 7:55 a.m. During this assembly, students will recite the pledge, have opportunities to be recognized for good behavior, hear what's being served for lunch, listen to morning announcements, see who is having a birthday, cheer along with their peers, play games and much more! This is an excellent way for your child to start their day and I hope all of our students will be here by 7:40 a.m. to join in the fun.

Morning Drop Off The earliest you may drop your child off is 7:40 a.m. Please do not drop your child off any earlier than 7:40 since there is no staff available to supervise. Should you need child care before 7:40, please contact SPARC and get your child signed up. Their phone number is (417) 837–5737. They will also offer after school child care. There will be a crossing guard each morning to assist children/families who wish to cross the parking lot. Please adhere to these guidelines established for a smooth morning drop off:

1. If you are the first car motioned through, please pull up to sign #6.
2. If you are having an issue in your car and your child is not quite ready to get out, please pull up to sign #6 as soon as possible so you don't hold up the line of traffic.
3. For safety reasons, please avoid letting your child exit on the driver's side of the car.
4. It is fine for your child to exit the car south of the pedestrian crosswalk, if there is a line of cars ahead of you. This helps us unload as many as 12 cars at a time.
5. If you need to get out of the car on a regular basis to assist your child out, please consider pulling into the parking lot to drop your child off. You do not need to walk your child into the school; the crossing guard will be there to help your child cross safely.
6. Pedestrians must use the crosswalk. This helps with traffic flow and sets a good example for our children and their safety.
7. Pedestrians must wait behind the red "grid" with their children. This assures the crossing guard and drivers that may be approaching that your child is in a safe area.

Dismissal is at 2:55 p.m. Most students will be walked to the cafeteria by the teachers with the exception of SPARC students who will line up with their SPARC counselor in the designated hallway. Car riders and walkers will sit by class in the cafeteria and bus/van riders will form two lines along the kitchen wall. It is extremely important for cars pull all the way up to the first available numbered sign in order for us to load more students at a time. Please do not stop in front of the school and hold up the line. Attached to the passenger side visor should be cardstock with your child's name on it. Cardstock will be available at Meet the Teacher. As cars pull forward, staff will call out names and students will be excused in the following fashion: Sally Sue, #1, Billy Bob, #2, Happy Heather, #3, etc. Parents are strongly encouraged to remain in the car line instead of parking and then walking up to pick up. If you do decide to wait under the awning for your child, please give your child's name to the staff member on duty Parents are not allowed to wait for their children inside the school building at dismissal time. Please do not cross the parking lot without the assistance of the crossing guard.

It is permissible for cars to enter our parking lot from either entrance—the entrance by the David Harrison sign or the road which takes you to the Crighton House. Using both entrances will help alleviate a long line of cars on Golden.

Regular school attendance is a priority here at Harrison. In fact, our students had the BEST attendance in the entire district FOUR times in the past 8 years! We need your help in ensuring your child attends school each and everyday (unless they are sick, of course---then please contact the office by 9:00 a.m. and let us know.) Punctuality is also very important. Random drawings will take place throughout the school year and if your child's name gets drawn and he/she happened to be a "Punctual Puppy" that morning, then he/she will win a small prize. When students walk into class late, they may feel embarrassed or rushed. They've missed out on important announcements and the entire classroom is disrupted. Thanks for getting your children here on time!

Students who plan to purchase breakfast and/or lunch must know their 6-digit I.D. number. If you don't know your child's number, please ask your child's teacher or check in the office. You are welcome to eat lunch with your child on special occasions, such as a birthday or during Book Fair Week, but multiple visits to eat with children are discouraged. *Students always have first priority for lunchroom seating so it's important that we don't overcrowd our lunchroom with parents.*

Every Friday is "Spirit Day" at Harrison. If school is not in session on Friday, then the Spirit Day will be held on the last school day of that week. If your child has a Harrison shirt, he/she is encouraged to wear it. T-shirts will be available for purchase every Thursday when Husky-Mart (our school store) is open.

Pets are not to be brought to the David Harrison campus and that includes bringing cats/dogs to the school at dismissal. We have students and staff who are

allergic to pet dander. We also do not want anyone to get bit by anyone's pet.
Thanks for your cooperation!

Here are more important dates to know:

Class lists posted: Wednesday, July 25th

Meet the Teacher: Monday, August 13th from 4:30– 6:00 p.m.

Ice Cream Social: Monday, August 13th from 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Open House: Thursday, September 13th from 4:30– 6:00 p.m.

PTA Fall Festival: Thursday, September 13th from 5:30– 7:30 p.m.

I truly believe the success of our school and your student depends heavily on the relationship we build together. If you ever have a need, concern, or want to brag on a staff member, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Yours in Education,

Josh Holt

Principal

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417-523-5800