

July 22, 2025

Dear Hillcrest Families,

Summer vacation is wrapping up, and the 2025-26 school year is right around the corner! We hope your student had a fantastic summer and is ready for the first day of school on **Tuesday, August 19th**. At Hillcrest, our mission remains focused on ensuring a high-quality education for all students. We hope you'll see this through safe learning environments, rigorous academic instruction, students engaged in meaningful extracurricular activities, and strong relationships. This letter provides key information to help you and your student feel ready for the start of the year.

Back-to-School Student Event – UNITE on The Hill

We're excited to invite all Hillcrest students to **UNITE on The Hill**—a student-only celebration on **Thursday, August 14th at 7:30 p.m.** on the Hillcrest football field. This energizing evening follows Freshman Academy Orientation and includes music, games, and fun activities. It's a great way to kick off the year together because **We > Me**—we are always stronger UNITED!

Student Schedules & HAC Info

Student schedules will be available **Friday, August 8th**, via the **Home Access Center (HAC)** or in person from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** in the Student Center. Please update your student's **demographic information in HAC before this date**. Once submitted, Hillcrest will be notified, verify the info, and activate your student's account. If your contact info changes during the year, update it in HAC or notify the office. *Proof of residency is required for address changes.* **Note:** Schedule changes will only be made for **academic misplacements**. Contact the counseling center with any questions.

Required Forms for 9th & 12th Grade Families

- Available at www.sps.org/hillcrest
- **Freshman:** [Health Inventory](#), [A+ forms](#)
- **Seniors:** [Transcript Request](#), [Parent Permission Form](#), and [two doses of MCV \(Meningococcal Conjugate\)](#) are required
- Forms can be submitted via email to Shay Young at seyoung@spsmail.org or dropped off in person at Hillcrest.

Information for Incoming Freshmen

- **Freshman Academy Orientation:** Join us on **Thursday, August 14th**, from **6:00–7:30 p.m.** This is a great opportunity for students and their families to meet the staff, tour the building, and prepare for the upcoming school year.
- **Student ID Photo:** All freshmen are required to have their student ID photo taken. Please attend one of the following times:
 - **Wednesday, August 13th** – 1:00–3:00 p.m.
 - **Thursday, August 14th** – 8:00–11:00 a.m. & 1:00–3:00 p.m.
 - **Friday, August 15th** – 8:00–11:00 a.m.

General Information for All Families

- **NEW SPS Cell Phone Policy:** SPS is enforcing a new cell phone/electronic device policy for the 2025-2026 school year. State law now prohibits students from using or displaying any personal electronic communication devices during the school day.

- This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, smartwatches, headphones, wireless earbuds, or any similar device capable of initiating, receiving, storing, or viewing communication, information, images, or data electronically.
- Devices must be turned off and stored out of sight from 8:10 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.
- Phones are prohibited on campus (Including instructional time, lunch, time between classes, and Hornet Time).
- Students who violate the policy will be required to store their phones in the office until the end of the school day and will face consequences outlined in the [SPS Student Handbook](#) (p. 59).
- If you need to contact or communicate with your student, please call the main office at (417) 523-8000.
- Learn more here: [Information flyer](#), [frequently asked questions](#), or contact your student's assistant principal.
- **School Hours:** ([Bell Schedule](#))
 - Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri: 8:10 a.m. – 3:10 p.m.
 - Wednesday Late Start: 8:40 a.m. – 3:10 p.m.
- **Free/Reduced Lunch Application:** Apply at sps.org/Page/2400
- **Breakfast/Lunch:** Breakfast is free. Students may grab breakfast at a kiosk and report to class each day. If your student chooses to eat [school lunch](#), you may add money to their account at: www.mypaymentsplus.com/welcome
- **Food Deliveries:** Students may NOT use food delivery services. If food is delivered, delivery drivers will be turned away at the student's expense. Parents MAY bring food to students, but they will not be called out of class for parent food deliveries.
- **Drop-Off/Pick-Up Procedures:** Use the **Grant Avenue entrance** for student drop-off/pick-up at the main entrance (two-lane system). Buses will use the **north lot**. Do not drop off/pick up in the **north lot or staff parking lot**. School opens to students at **7:40 a.m.**
- **Transportation:** Register for bus transportation at connect.sps.org or call (417) 523-0500
- **Student Handbook:** You can find the [25-26 Student Handbook](#) on the [SPS](#) website under Parents & Guardians Resources.
- **Student Devices:** Chromebooks will be distributed in the library at the start of the school year. Lost or damaged devices will be charged to the student's account.
- **Financial Info:** Pay fines, purchase parking permits, and activity passes through **Mrs. Drake** in the finance office or online via [MySchoolBucks](#). Student Parking Permits are \$35 for the year. Tickets will be issued for unregistered vehicles.
- **Dance Eligibility:** Students must meet attendance and behavior standards. Details at: [SPS Dance Policy](#)
- **Final Exam Exemptions:** Students meeting academic, attendance, and behavior expectations may be exempt from end-of-semester finals. Details at: [Final Exam Exemptions](#)
- **PTSA Membership:** Join online at sps.org/hillcrest/pta or during Freshman Orientation on Thursday, Aug. 14th.
- **Athletic & Activity Fees**
 - **Athletic Fee:** \$50 (waived if student qualifies for free/reduced lunch)
 - **Student Activity Pass:** \$10 (ID badge will be marked for SPS game access)
 - **Patron Activity Pass:** \$50/year or \$25/semester
 - **Student ID required** for entry into all SPS high school football games.

Stay Connected & Follow Us

- Website: www.sps.org/hillcrest
- Facebook: facebook.com/hillcrestsps
- Instagram: [@hillcrest_sps](#)
- X: [@hillcrest_sps](#)
- District Resources: [SPS Back to School Info](#)
- Planning Ahead: [SPS District Calendar](#)

Key Contacts ([Staff Directory](#))

Administration

- Kristina Proctor – 9th Grade: (417) 523-8191 - klproctor@spsmail.org
- Cecil McBrayer – 10th Grade: (417) 523-8013 - crmcbayer@spsmail.org
- Josh Lollis – 11th Grade: (417) 523-8011 - jmlollis@spsmail.org
- Jaclyn Hill – 12th Grade & Athletics: (417) 523-8012 - jnhill@spsmail.org
- Rich Dameron – Coordinator of Site Interventions: (417) 523-8202 - rdameron@spsmail.org
- Terina Brown - Asst. Principal & Athletics Administrative Assistant (417) 523-8273 - tlbrown@spsmail.org
- Shay Young - Lead Administrative Assistant: (417) 523-8020 - seyoung@spsmail.org

Counseling Center

- Ty Heinrichs – 9th Grade & Foreign Exchange Students - theinrichs@spsmail.org
- Dior Toynton – 10th Grade - dntoynton@spsmail.org
- Courtney Miller – 11th Grade - cmiller@spsmail.org
- Michelle Rabinowitz – 12th Grade - mrabinowitz@spsmail.org
- Keelee Hessee – Counseling Administrative Assistant: (417) 523-8260 - krhessee@spsmail.org
- Cindy Happel - Registrar, Records, & Transcripts: (417) 523-8223 - clhappel@spsmail.org

Finance & Attendance

- Tonya Drake - Financial Administrative Assistant: (417) 523-8022 - tdrake@spsmail.org
- Attendance Last Name A–K: Kim Navas – (417) 523-8001 - knavas@spsmail.org
- Attendance Last Name L–Z: Melissa Cloyd – (417) 523-8002 - mrcloyd@spsmail.org
- **Please call to report absences**, late arrivals, or early checkouts. Leave a voicemail if needed.

Key Dates to Remember

- **Friday, August 8** – Schedules Available in HAC ([online](#)) & at Hillcrest
- **Thursday, August 14** – Freshman Academy Orientation (6:00–7:30 p.m.) & *UNITE on The Hill* (7:30–9:00 p.m.)
- **Monday, August 19** – First Day of School
- **Friday, August 22** – Black Light Bash (8:00–10:00 p.m.)
- **Monday, September 1** - No School - Labor Day
- **Tuesday, September 9** – Open House & SPS University (6:00–7:30 p.m.)
- **Thursday, September 18** – School Picture Day
- **Friday, September 26** – Homecoming Dance (9:30–11:30 p.m.)
- **Thursday, October 16** - No School - Teacher Work Day
- **Tuesday, October 21** – Parent-Teacher Conference Night (3:30–7:30 p.m.) by appointment only

We can't wait to welcome you back to **The Hill**! Let's make 2025-26 an unforgettable year! 🍪👋 WOO!

Sincerely,



Rob Kroll
Principal
Hillcrest High School
rkroll@spsmail.org



Hillcrest Athletic & Activities Information

The first day of practice for the fall sports season is **Monday, August 11th**. To participate, each athlete *must have a current physical and MSHSAA annual requirement form on file in Final Forms*.

PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS: ALL sports physicals and annual requirement forms will be submitted online through **Final Forms**: <https://springfield-mo.finalforms.com/>.

To create an account, go to [Final Forms](#), click on Parent Login, and then select "Never Logged in?"

Enter the email address you have on file with SPS.

You will receive an email asking you to create an account. Once you log in to your account, you can update all information for your student(s).

Any student needing an updated sports physical can pick one up in the main office or [print one from our website](#).

All athletic paperwork must be updated before the first day of tryouts (Aug 11). If you have any questions or need to update the email on file with SPS, please contact Mrs. Brown at 417-523-8273 or tlbrown@spsmail.org for assistance.

For all current athletic information, please visit the Hillcrest Athletics page: <https://linktr.ee/hornetathletics>. All Athletics and Activities offered at Hillcrest can be found [HERE](#).

Fall 2025 Athletic & Activity Contact Information:

- **Football** – Keenan Ganz - kwganz@spsmail.org
- **Volleyball** – Deirdre Smith – dsmith098@spsmail.org
- **Softball** – Mike Runnels – mjrunnels@spsmail.org
- **Cross Country** – John Dicks – jwdicks@spsmail.org
- **Girls Tennis** – Karen Fielding – kfielding@spsmail.org
- **Girls Golf** – Jordan Fielding - jfielding@spsmail.org
- **Boys Soccer** – Roy Hardy – rehardy@spsmail.org
- **Boys Swimming** – John Mullen – jmullen@spsmail.org
- **Cheerleading** – Taylor Maurer – taylormmaurer@spsmail.org
- **Marching Band** – Grant Maledy – cgmaledy@spsmail.org
- **Athletic/Activities Director** - Jaclyn Hill - jnhill@spsmail.org
- **Athletic/Activities Administrative Assistant** - Terina Brown - tlbrown@spsmail.org (417) 523- 8273