



THE HAWK TALK (FAMILY)

Principal Message

In a communication that I sent to families back in July, I made a commitment to ensure that I would do my best to make this school year as “normal” as possible, and we are on that path. Our teams have worked hard to ensure that our students and families feel connected and have some sense of belonging. We have made hundreds of calls to families, hosted our Academies for students, and launched an exciting first two weeks of activities built to ensure that our students are excited about the return to school. In alignment with our school value of excellence, we are striving to be the model of what remote learning can look like in schools across the nation. We are deeply committed to our students continuing the journey of learning and growing even through a pandemic. With your continued support of DPS, and our partnership, we will achieve that goal.

I want to give our families a special thank you for your kindness and grace as we work to launch this challenging year. It empowers the school team to know you stand with us. Lastly, I want to reiterate that we are all here to serve our students and families. The Hill team is just a phone call or email away.

Warm Regards,

Principal Adams

Resources and Tips:

We will continue to make improvements to Schoology, so that our students become more familiar with the tools. Here are some quick updates and reminders:

- In order to get to Schoology please go to: [Schoology.dpsk12.org](https://schoology.dpsk12.org) and log in using your student ID and password, which is your birthdate (00/00/0000)
- Remember that we are easing into the school day and focusing on building relationships and establishing a sense of community in our virtual classrooms. All lessons are SEL (socio-emotional lessons) and may not take up the entire block.

Below are some resources to help you navigate logging in for class. Students must use their 6-digit DPS student number to log in (student number @dpsk12.org) or they will not be permitted to enter the google classroom.

[Schoology Log In](#)

[Sample Schedule](#) Use this schedule to find your lunch break!

Materials Pick Up:

Next week, we will be passing out student materials for the following courses:

- 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Language Arts novels – All students will need.
- Geometry with Ms. Jackson
- Visual Arts with Ms. Novy
- School Supplies for students who may need them are also available for pickup. **These are first come first served.**

Tuesday, Sept 1st (8-11am) and (3-6) pm

Friday, Sept 4th (7:30-12pm)

Upcoming Dates:

- August 27- Hill Family Forum, 2PM
- September 1- CSC Meeting, 5:30PM
- September 4- Hill Family Forum, 2PM
- September 7- Labor Day, No School
- September 9- Hill Dine Outs- Park Burger Hilltop, 4-8PM

Collaborative School Committee (CSC):

Our first CSC Collaborative School Committee meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday, September 1 at 5:30 pm. The CSC meetings provide a time for families to provide guidance on school improvement priorities, budget priorities, and provide ongoing feedback to improvement processes for the school. I welcome you all to support Hill as we embark on our next chapter by joining the CSC. Meetings will be held the first Tuesday of each month. Below is the zoom link:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/84988965151?pwd=OFc2dVA2eU9jMUJVaEJaRDZxTGZhdzo9>



Bess Screener

All students will be participating in the BESS screener this year. This is an opportunity for us to learn more about our students and align our supports for their success. Please read more about the screener from the Office of Student Support [here](#). If you have questions, please reach out to Rashad Norman, Assistant Principal of Student Support at 720.423.3685 or Valerie Tomasi, School Social Worker at 720.423.9767.

Preparing our Students for High School

At Hill, we are working and partnering with you to build a strong 8th grade student ready for high school. Take a moment read this important message from our Student Support Team on 8th Grade Continuation. Eighth grade families and students must sign this [link](#) in order to let us know that you have read and understand the expectations for moving on to high school. If you have questions, please reach out to Desiree Romero at desiree_romero@dpsk12.org.

Remote Learning

Because school is being done differently, we are asking for families to help us ensure that our students are ready each day for learning by using the norms below in your home:

For Students:

- A successful work space where they can engage in learning.
- Appropriately dressed each day for learning.
- Camera is on unless teacher has given permission for students to have them off.
- Materials for class ready
- Breakfast done before 7:50 am, especially for classes like dance and PE.

For Parents or other Family members:

- Refrain from being in the camera. This violates the privacy of other students.
- Please email or call your teacher for questions at a later time. Class time is not an appropriate time for teachers to respond to parent questions. Additionally, office hours are for students to get support. Work with your students on using office hours to advocate for what they need.
- Help us ensure that all family members are dressed appropriately. Shirts and pants should be on everyone in the cameras view. Consider positioning your students' work space in a way that no one can walk behind them.
- Help us create a school environment for learning by putting cell phones away and keeping pets and other siblings separated so that they do not distract from learning.

** If you have a student with special needs, we know that some of these items may differ. Please reach out to your students' teacher with questions on how to accommodate your student.

Attendance

At Hill, we encourage students to be in every class, on time, every day of the school year. However, we understand that there may be events or appointments that take place during the school day. Regardless of why a student is missing class, we ask that if you are aware your student will miss class you email their teachers ([staff list](#)) and notify them they will be absent. This will allow their teachers to give them access to missed instruction and assignments. Once you have notified their teacher please follow the steps below.

To excuse an absence:

- Leave a message at the Hill Attendance Voice-Mail at 720-423-9700
- Email the Office of Student Support at Jazmin_Sandoval@dpsk12.org or Lucinda_Wagner@dpsk12.org
- Write a paper note to be delivered to the Office of Student Support the week of the absence

When possible, it is best to communicate absences to the Office of Student Support prior to the absence. Absences will remain "unexcused" if the request for an excuse is not received the week of the absence.

All "excuses" written or verbal must include:

- Parent/guardian's name
- Student name and student ID number
- Dates of absence
- Reason for the absence
- A telephone number where the parent can be contacted during the school day

Absences are excused by the Principal for these reasons:

- Illness
- Doctor's Appointments
- School Events

Your Hill PTSA!

Hello Skyhawk Families!

YOU'RE INVITED!

The Hill Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) officially invites you to become a member of the PTSA for the 20-21 school year. Even in our current virtual environment, PTSA members will still be an important part of helping the PTSA make decisions around supporting a variety of initiatives at Hill. And we want the PTSA to represent the rich diversity of the Hill community so welcome each of you to join! Becoming a member is easy. Go to hill.ptapal.com to sign up or email hillptapresident@gmail.com if you have troubles with the link! There is a suggested donation to join, but it's not required.

COMING SOON! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Don't miss out! Here's a preview of some upcoming important PTSA dates/goings on:

September 17th, 6:30pm - PTSA Meeting via Zoom. Stay tuned for link to join.

Hill Dine Outs - Where you get to take the night off of cooking dinner AND a % of sales at participating restaurants is shared back with Hill!! There will be more added throughout the year, but here are a few to get the year rolling. Special SHOUT OUT to Casey Lehrer, our Dine Out volunteer extraordinaire, for doing the hard work to put these together:

September 9th, 4:00pm-8:00pm - Park Burger in Hilltop! 211 S Holly St. 20% of all sales including take-out. Must mention Hill before payment. Dine-in seating is at reduced capacity due to Covid guidelines, patio seating is available.

September 29th, 4:00pm - 8:00pm - Chipotle! 33% of sales at 745 Colorado Blvd location goes back to Hill! You can order online and pick it up too. MUST USE Online Ordering Code: 8R23LYB

October 6th, 11:00am - 8:30pm - Mici! 20% of sales at 7th & Colorado (727 Colorado Blvd) location goes back to Hill! Dine-In, Takeout, Delivery & Catering. In-person/Phone: mention that you're "dining with Hill". Online Ordering: just add "Hill Middle School" to notes section for online orders.

November 3rd, timing TBD - Bertha's Baja Bistro in Mayfair (900 Jersey St). 20% of all carry-out and dine-in orders when you mention Hill.

INTRODUCING HILL PTSA's EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board members for PTSA for the 20-21 school year are:

President, Jodi Hullinger - parent of a 7th grader at Hill

Vice President, Alecia Zunker - parent of a 6th grader at Hill

Treasurer, Keturah Nelson - parent of a 7th grader at Hill

Secretary, Chistina Heitman - parent of twin 8th graders

QUESTIONS? Please reach out, We'd love to hear from you! HILLPTAPRESIDENT@GMAIL.COM
Best, Jodi