



UNIFORM PRICING

Cotton & Dri-Fit.....	\$12.00
Cotton Polos	15.00
Sweatshirts	25.00
Jackets	40.00

*Don't see the **Hillcrest Friday shirt** color you want?
We can order it from these colors. Just Ask.*



ACTION
SIGNS + ADVERTISING

**ORDER
ONLINE**



**Price does not include sales tax*

107 E POLK AVE. | LAKE WALES | FL | 33853
actionsignsflorida.net/shop



Hillcrest Elementary

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM



Looking for a safe, fun, and engaging place
for your child after school? Our After
School Care Program offers the perfect
mix of learning, creativity, and fun!



Homework Help



Playground Time



Fun Activities



Movie Time



Snack Provided Daily

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

3:15 pm – 5:30 pm

\$80.00 Per Week

REGISTER TODAY

tammy.glisson@lwcharterschools.com



**HILLCREST
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**

**BEFORE
SCHOOL
PROGRAM**



MONDAY - FRIDAY

6:45 AM - 7:45 AM

IN HILLCREST CAFE

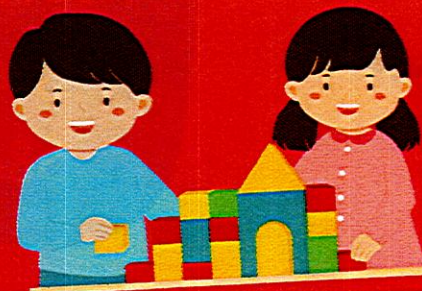
**THE BEFORE SCHOOL PROGRAM PROVIDES PARENTS
WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO DROP STUDENTS OFF
BEFORE SCHOOL IN THE CAFETERIA, WHERE THEY ARE
SUPERVISED BY ADULT STAFF MEMBERS IN A SAFE
AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT.**



**OUR
PROGRAM**

**STUDENTS WILL HAVE A VARIETY OF
ACTIVITIES TO CHOOSE FROM EACH
MORNING, INCLUDING READING, MOVIES,
HOMEWORK TIME, BOARD GAMES,
PUZZLES, AND OTHER ENGAGING
ACTIVITIES THAT ENCOURAGE LEARNING
AND SOCIAL INTERACTION.**

**\$20
PER WEEK**



REGISTER TODAY!

DIRECTOR EMAIL: JENNIFER.HOLLE@LWCHARTERSCHOOLS.COM



WELCOME BACK HAWKS!

We hope you enjoyed your summer and cannot wait to welcome you back to campus for a wonderful new year:



**THIS YEAR
HAWKS ARE
STRONG**



SUCCESSFUL



TRUSTWORTHY



RESILIENT



OPTIMISTIC



NOBLE



GENUINE



ORIENTATION DAY

WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE TEACHER,
FILL OUT IMPORTANT FORMS, GET SCHOOL SHIRTS AND
RECONNECT WITH FRIENDS:

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

10:00AM-12. PM

5:00 PM-7 PM



STAY CONNECTED

CHECK AGENDAS / NEWSLETTERS / BACKPACKS
JOIN TALKING POINTS
UPDATE CONTACT INFO

Ways to get involved

Join PTO

Star Hawk

Celebrations

Become a Volunteer

Join SAC Committee

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES
ARE PROVIDED BY PTO**

**FAMILIES WILL
PROVIDE: UNIFORMS
& BACKPACKS**

**OPTIONAL DONATIONS:
SANITIZER/TISSUES
CLOROXWIPES/SOAP
ZIPLOCK BAGS**



Hillcrest Elementary

1051 State Road 60 East
Lake Wales, Florida 33853-4258
Telephone (863) 678-4216 or Fax (863) 678-4086
www.hillcrestelementary.net

Dr. Julio Acevedo

Principal

July 26, 2025

Dear Hillcrest Families,

Based on new guidance, the Charter Office has created three classifications (Volunteer 1, Volunteer 2, and Visitors) to help clarify who requires a background check and which type is required.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This does not include exempt volunteers, who already have a Level 2 background screening. Exempt volunteers are **LWCS staff, law enforcement, and college students screened through Pre-Employment Services**. Students are also exempt due to being under 18 years of age.

Required Fees:

- Visitors = No Cost associated
- Volunteer Level 1 = \$25.00
- Volunteer Level 2 = \$84.00 (\$64 for the required background checks via Field Print and \$20 for the fees associated with the state's new online clearinghouse)

Clarifications can be found on the school website under "Parents" page.

We realize that you may have questions regarding specific events and/or activities not listed here. We ask that you please contact your school's volunteer coordinator or the district office to help clarify the requirements based on the specific nature of the activity. Additionally, the district will be posting resources to help clarify the distinction between a Visitor, Volunteer Level 1, and Volunteer Level 2.

To sign up to be an LWCS Level 2 volunteer:

Please follow the instructions provided in this link: <https://forms.gle/HXhq6zwb5x3R4K1GA>

Or use this QR code to access.



Volunteer Level Clarifications

Visitors:

The following activities do not require a background check. Instead, "visitors" are only required to adhere to our school sign-in and sign-out process via Raptor in the front office.

Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and we ask that you contact the school volunteer coordinator or the district office for questions about activities not listed here.

Visitors
<i>Must be signed in to Raptor as a visitor/guest and will be monitored by a staff member at all times</i>
School tour or parent meeting
Award Ceremonies
Walking your child to class, eating lunch with your child (no other students outside of the direct line of sight/supervision of an LWCS employee)
Spectator for fun run, Field Day, sports, Special Olympics
Shopping at the book fair
Guest Speaker (includes presentation/performances)
Class performance/presentation, play/chorus/science fair
Classroom observations (college students)
School celebrations (Veterans Day, Halloween Parades, etc.)
Community partners for staff appreciation type events.
Judging competitions
Sporting Event support, e.g., chain crew, timers, etc. (Note: this excludes coaches who must follow volunteer background check requirements)
Concessions, Ticket Collection/Sales, Parking, etc. (No direct supervision of students. Cashless transactions or no money handling.)

Volunteer Level 1:

The following activities have been identified as those where the volunteer would only require the Level 1 background check.

Please keep in mind that all these activities require that the volunteer be under the direct supervision or line of sight of an LWCS employee at all times.

Volunteer Level 1
<i>Must have an approved volunteer application and Level 1 background screening, so long as they are under the direct supervision of a LWCS employee.</i>
Classroom helper – holiday activities, small groups, reading to students
Field trip chaperone or other school-sponsored event where you are not supervising children and/or are under direct supervision of LWCS staff.
Assisting with band/chorus/drama
Helping at the book fair, organizing the school library/media center

Monitoring school dance/festival/carnival, hallways (watch dogs)
Organizing clothes closet/food pantry
Club sponsor, mentor, tutor
Office helper, SAC

Volunteer Level 2:

While the list below mirrors that of a Level 1 Volunteer, those performing the activities listed below **without direct supervision of an LWCS employee** are required to have a Level 2 background check completed.

<u>Volunteer Level 2</u>
<i>Must have an approved volunteer application and Level 2 background screening completed, since they may <u>not</u> be under the immediate direct supervision of a LWCS employee.</i>
Classroom helper – holiday activities, small groups, reading to students
Field trip chaperone or other school-sponsored off-campus activity where you are helping supervise students
Athletic coaching/assisting
School Events: supervising student stations at Field Day, Fall Festival, Color Run Fun Runs, etc.
Assisting with band/chorus/drama
Monitoring School dance/festival/carnival, hallways
Organizing clothes closet/food pantry
Club Sponsor, Mentor, Tutor
Assisting with PreK events - Ex: helping run water day, Easter egg hunt, etc...
PTA/PTO



2026-2027 INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND PARAEDUCATORS

Dates are subject to change.

Board of Trustees Approval: May 18, 2026

Events	Dates
Professional Development System Days - Designated Days for professional development opportunities within the LEA	- September 4th- Afternoon - October 16th Morning Only - January 15th Afternoon - February 12th- Afternoon
Teachers First Workday (196-Day Contract)	Monday, August 3, 2026
Orientation Information Will Be Shared by Each School	Varies By School Locations
Paraeducator First Workday (186-Day Contract)	Friday, August 7, 2026
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	Tuesday, August 11, 2026
STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL 1 of 10	Friday, September 4, 2026
HOLIDAY (Labor Day) – STUDENT, Teacher (Paid), and Paraeducator (Paid)	Monday, September 7, 2026
First Interim Report (23 rd Day – September 11, 2026)	Distribute Week of September 8 – 11, 2026
STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL 2 of 10	Friday, October 2, 2026
FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) Student Enrollment Attendance Window	September 25 – October 9, 2026
FTE Student Survey Week	October 5 – October 9, 2026
End of First 9-Week Grading Period (46 Days)	Thursday, October 15, 2026
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS or Paraeducators/	Friday, October 16, 2026
Grades Due/Begin Second Quarter	Monday, October 19, 2026
Distribute Report Cards (First 9 Weeks)	Monday, October 26, 2026
STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL 3 of 10	Friday, October 30, 2026
HOLIDAY (Veterans Day) – STUDENT, Teacher, and Paraeducator	Wednesday, November 11, 2026
Second Interim Report (23 rd Day – November 19, 2026)	Distribute Week of November 16 – 20, 2026
STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL 4 of 10	Friday, November 20, 2026
FALL BREAK – STUDENT, Teacher, and Paraeducator (Paid 11/26 and 11/27)	Monday – Friday, November 23 – 27, 2026
Storm Make-Up Days as Needed	Monday & Tuesday, Nov. 23 and 24, 2026
STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL 5 of 10 (Teacher Planning Time)/ END OF FIRST SEMESTER (86 Days)/ End of Second Grading Period and Last School Day Before Winter Break	Friday, December 18, 2026
WINTER BREAK BEGINS	Monday, December 21, 2026
HOLIDAY (New Year's Day) – STUDENT, Teacher, and Paraeducator	Friday, January 1, 2027
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS or Paraeducators/ Teacher Workday Swap Day	Monday, January 4, 2027

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS or Paraeducators/ Staff Development Day/ Grades Due (Second Grading Period)/Storm Make-Up Day as needed	Tuesday, January 5, 2027
STUDENTS RETURN AFTER WINTER BREAK/ Begin Third Quarter/Paraeducators Return To Work	Wednesday, January 6, 2027
Distribute Report Cards (Second Grading Period)	Tuesday, January 12, 2027
STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL 6 of 10	Friday, January 15, 2027

1 of 2



**2026-2027 INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR
FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND PARAEDUCATORS**
Dates are subject to change.

Board of Trustees Approval: May 18, 2026

HOLIDAY (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day) – STUDENT, Teacher (Paid) and Paraeducator	Monday, January 18, 2027
FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) Student Enrollment Attendance Window	Friday, January 29 – Friday, February 12, 2027
FTE Student Survey Week	February 8 – 12, 2027
Third Interim Report (23 rd Day – February 8, 2027)	Distribute Week of February 8 – 12, 2027
STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL 7 of 10	Friday, February 12, 2027
HOLIDAY (Presidents' Day) – STUDENT, Teacher (Paid), Paraeducator (Paid)	Monday, February 15, 2027
End of Third 9-Week Grading Period (45 Days)	Thursday, March 11, 2027
STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL 8 of 10	Friday, March 12, 2027
SPRING BREAK WEEK – NO SCHOOL	Monday-Friday, March 15 – 19, 2027
Grades Due (Third 9 Weeks)	Monday, March 22, 2027
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS, Teachers and Paraeducators Non-Contract Day	Friday, March 26, 2027
Distribute Report Cards (Third Grading Period)	Tuesday, March 30, 2027
Fourth Interim Report (23 rd Day – April 22, 2027)	Distribute Week of April 19 – 23, 2027
STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL 9 of 10	Friday, April 23, 2027
GRADUATION CEREMONY for LWHS Date	Friday, May 21, 2027
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRADES DUE (172 nd Student Day)	Monday, May 17, 2027
LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS – STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL END OF SECOND SEMESTER (94 Days)/Distribute Elementary Report Cards /Last Work Day for Paraeducators (186-Day Contract)/ Storm Make-Up Day as Needed	Thursday, May 27, 2027
Last Teacher Work Day (196-Day Contract)/ Secondary School Grades Due	Friday, May 28, 2027

Storm Make-Up Days: 11/23/26, 11/24/26, 1/5/27, and 5/27/27 (Last Student Day - Subject to Change).

Reminder: Non-Refundable Travel Tickets Should Not Be Purchased in the Event That Storm Make-Up Days Are Used as Student Attendance Days and/or Teacher Workdays.

Student Early Dismissal Dates (10)

Students are dismissed from school 150 minutes (2.5 hours) early on each of these days:

Friday, September 4, 2026	Friday, February 12, 2027
Friday, October 2, 2026	Friday, March 12, 2027
Friday, October 30, 2026	Friday, April 23, 2027
Friday, November 20, 2026	Thursday, May 27, 2026 -Subject to
Friday, December 18, 2026	Change
Friday, January 15, 2027	

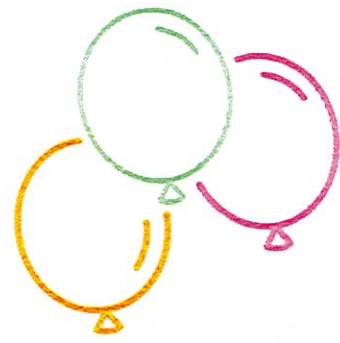
Information regarding student testing and assessment dates (FL Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST), End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments, etc.) is available through the Assessment, Accountability & Evaluation Office and on the District's website at <https://polkschoolsfl.com/assessment>.

Employees are encouraged to visit the Payroll Link (www.lwcharterschools.com/payroll) and view the assigned daily work schedule.

www.lwcharterschools.com/districtcalendar



POLICY ON CELEBRATIONS



While we enjoy celebrating birthdays, we do not want those celebrations to interfere with instructional time in the classroom. Below is a description of what is appropriate for school celebrations.

ALL school celebrations MUST be coordinated and approved by the classroom teacher 24-hours in advance.

EVERYONE

- Students will be recognized on Hawk Talk.
- Students come to the office to receive their birthday pencil.
- Parents may come to eat with their child on ANY day during their child's lunch time.
- Cafeteria Food Guidelines:
- If food is brought from outside for your child for lunch (at any time), it should be eaten out on the picnic tables and NOT brought into the cafeteria.
- No food items are to be brought for any other students during lunch.

KINDERGARTEN-5TH GRADE

- 1 item may be sent to school (either 1 food item OR a treat per student).
- Must be approved by the teacher/room parent.
- These are typically given out during recess time.

HILLCREST STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO RECEIVE COMMERCIAL LUNCHES (DROPPED-OFF OR DELIVERED).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

~HILLCREST ADMIN

