



The Rainier Preschool & Hudson Park Elementary School  
28176 Old Rainier Road, Rainier, OR 97048  
503.556.0196

*The Rainier School District is a spirited learning community that is student-centered, safe, academically-focused, and dedicated to preparing every student for success in the global society in which we live.*

August 28, 2023

Dear Families,

I am happy to welcome you to the 2023-2024 school year! This is my third year serving as elementary principal and my nineteenth year working as an educator in Rainier School District #13. Mr. Howell, our Vice Principal, is beginning his second year here at Hudson Park. Together, we have many exciting changes planned for the upcoming school year. Please see below for updates.

**New staff/assignments this year include:**

**Student Services Director:** Shayne Ochoa

**Kindergarten:** Casandra Brown

**Second Grade:** Sarah Cedar

**Fifth Grade:** Shannon Kishpaugh

**Sixth Grade:** Ben Zasta

**Structured Learning Center (SLC) Teacher:** Scott Wolterman

Please visit the [Hudson Park Elementary staff website](#) for a complete staff directory.

**Back to School “Meet & Greet”**

**We will be hosting a “Meet & Greet,” Tuesday, September 5 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. for all students preschool through sixth grade.** This event is an opportunity for students to bring their school supplies to the classroom and meet their teacher before school starts. We hope you can join us anytime during the two-hour block. If you have specific/individualized needs to discuss with the teacher, please send the teacher an email, arrange a time to speak on the phone, or set up a meeting. Meetings with the teacher should be conducted outside of the “Meet & Greet” event.

**School Goals**

Hudson Park Elementary strives to increase the success of all students by providing a well-rounded educational program with necessary resources. We monitor students' progress regularly to ensure instruction meets students' individual needs. Instruction and interventions are closely aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and district-adopted curriculum. Our School Improvement Plan (SIP) outlines specific goals in reading, math, and behavior, along with action steps to work toward meeting those goals. Our overall goal is to ensure academic excellence and close the achievement gap for all students.

**Family Advisory Committee**

This year, we will be forming a **Family Advisory Committee** at Hudson Park Elementary. The role of the Family Advisory Committee will be to offer a structured way for families to provide feedback, solutions and ideas for improving the school. Be on the lookout for an application that will be sent out in the coming weeks to express your interest in joining this committee or any other districtwide committee.

### **Wellness Wednesdays**

At Hudson Park Elementary, we continue to strive to make our school a safe and welcoming place for all. Through our kindness initiative, we have included Wellness Wednesdays in the master schedule again this year. All students will participate in a 45-minute social/emotional lesson every Wednesday, taught using the newly adopted **Character Strong** curriculum. Click the appropriate link to learn more about the curriculum: [PurposeFull People \(PreK-5\)](#) and [Middle School \(grade 6\)](#). The **Character Strong** social/emotional curriculum is designed to teach and integrate social skills, emotional regulation, and character development. Character traits are taught alongside prosocial behaviors, executive functioning, and emotion regulation skills. All of this is designed to lead students to the following three outcomes: **Be Kind, Be Strong, Be Well**.

### **Student Recognition**

At Hudson Park Elementary, we recognize student success in many different ways. As a staff, we review our student behavior data every month. The purpose of this data review is to continually review and reflect on our success with teaching students expected behaviors and to determine areas of need for reteaching. Clear and consistent behavioral expectations create an environment conducive to learning. One way we encourage positive behavior is to celebrate students' success throughout the year by recognizing expected behaviors (Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Respectful, Be Responsible) with our **monthly Cougar Credit drawings**. In addition, we host **awards assemblies throughout the year** to celebrate students' academic achievements in reading, math, and writing, as well as their success with being kind. New this year, and in alignment with our new social/emotional curriculum, we will be implementing **Student of the Month**. Each month, we will recognize students who consistently exhibit the character trait that month, which include: Respect, responsibility, gratitude, empathy, perseverance, honesty, cooperation, courage, and creativity. Ultimately, it is our goal that every student feels safe, welcome, and can experience personal growth as a learner at Hudson Park Elementary.

### **Care Team**

Under the direction of school counselor, Sara Gray, we will continue to address student needs through our **Care Team**, which examines academic and social-emotional progress for students of concern. The team uses a collaborative, problem-solving approach to propose tiered supports for students referred to the Care Team. This team follows a data-based, decision making process. Care Team meetings are held weekly to staff students of concern. The team usually consists of the teacher, administrator, grade level teachers, and support personnel from the school. If you have concerns about your student's academic progress or social-emotional, please contact your student's teacher about making a referral to the Care Team.

### **RSD Student-Family Handbook**

The Rainier School District Student-Family Handbook will be ready for your review soon. Teachers will be reviewing the handbook in-depth with students the first two weeks of school. Please take the time to review the handbook at home with your student as well, once it is available. Also, click [here](#) for a link to information about our **Schoolwide Title I program**.

### **Please note, a few important changes to the handbook include:**

- **Electronic Devices:** Hudson Park Elementary students must keep their devices "off and away" between 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 7:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Wednesdays. This means, all electronics must be kept in students' backpacks and not on their person.
- **PE/Swim Lessons Participation:** A student may be excused from participating in PE/swim class by a daily note from a parent/guardian. If a long-term note is needed, a physician must issue it.
- **Energy Drinks:** Energy drinks are not allowed at school for students.

Per Rainier School District #13 Policy ACB, **Every Student Belongs**, all students are entitled to a high quality educational experience, free from discrimination or harassment based on perceived race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or national origin. In addition, per Rainier School District #13 Policy JFCF, harassment, intimidation, or bullying and acts of cyberbullying by students, staff, or third parties toward students is strictly prohibited. "Harassment, intimidation or bullying" means any act that substantially interferes with a student's educational benefits, opportunities or

performance, that takes place on or immediately adjacent to district grounds, at any district-sponsored activity, on district-provided transportation, or at any official district bus stop, that may be based on, but not limited to, the protected class status of a person, having the effect of:

1. Physically harming a student or damaging a student's property;
2. Knowingly placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm to the student or damage to the student's property; or
3. Creating a hostile educational environment including interfering with the psychological well-being of the student.

"Cyberbullying" is the use of any electronic communication device to harass, intimidate, or bully.

Students whose behavior is found to be in violation of these policies will be subject to consequences and appropriate remedial action which may include discipline, up to and including expulsion.

### **Curriculum**

We are very excited to roll out our new mathematics curriculum this year. We have adopted [Oregon Math](#) by Big Ideas Learning for grades K-12. This curriculum is a rigorous, focused and comprehensive math program designed to offer consistency K-12. Each year revisits and builds upon the previous year while presenting new concepts that encourage students to become strategic thinkers and problem solvers. The combination of workbooks and digital access with a wealth of online resources and connections to the real world will make this a powerful curriculum that is likely to yield immediate results.

Additionally, this year will be our second year with our newly adopted English Language Arts curriculum, Savvas. Typically, it takes about three years to see the true effects of a new curriculum. We are looking forward to making substantial growth now that we are familiar with the Savvas curriculum, [MyView](#) (grades K-5) and [MyPerspectives](#) (grades 6-12). We have also adopted a variety of new programs by [National Geographic Learning](#) for our English Language Learners to incorporate into our SAVVAS program and help bridge the gaps in understanding and comprehension of the English language.

### **Briarcliff Pool**

Swim lessons at Hudson Park Elementary include students in Rainier Preschool, kindergarten through sixth grade, and multi-grade classes. Generally, students will participate in swim lessons one day per week for one semester during the school year as part of the PE program. The yearly pool fee for the 2023-2024 school year is \$10.00 for one student or \$25.00 per family for those students participating in swim lessons. Please send your payment to the Hudson Park Elementary office. If you are able to provide a snack for the entire class to eat after each swim session, your donation is greatly appreciated. Keep in mind, the snacks must be pre-packaged/store bought and should not include any nuts. You may also send an individual snack for your student as they are typically very hungry after swimming. Please coordinate with the classroom teacher regarding snacks for swimming.

A few things to note regarding swim lessons...

- Students will need to bring a swimsuit and towel in a plastic bag for every scheduled day of swim lessons.
- Please have students wear easy on/off shoes and clothing on swimming days.

**See below for the swim schedule for the 2023-2024 school year:**

- [First Semester](#) (September to January): Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5
- **Second semester** (January to June): PreK, Grades K, 6, and multi-age *\*Times to be determined*

### **School Schedule/Calendar**

[Rainier Preschool Calendar-English](#)

[Rainier Head Start Calendar](#)

### **Student Daily Schedule**

8:00 a.m.-2:45 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

8:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Wednesdays **\*EARLY RELEASE**

***\*Students may be dropped off no earlier than 7:45 a.m. each day. Staff are unable to provide supervision for students prior to 7:45 a.m.***

### **Attendance**

It is the intent of the Hudson Park Elementary staff to provide the best possible educational opportunity for all students. To reap the benefits of such an opportunity, students and parents/guardians must take an active role in the learning process, beginning with regular attendance.

Under Oregon law (ORS 339.020), all students between the ages of 6 and 18, who have not completed grade 12, are required to attend school regularly, unless otherwise exempted by law. All students, five years of age, who have been enrolled in a public school are also required to attend regularly. **Regular attendance is defined by Oregon law as attendance which does not include more than eight unexcused one-half day absences in any four-week period during which the school is in session (ORS 339.065). Oregon law also requires that we withdraw students who miss ten consecutive days of school. If a student is absent for any reason for ten consecutive days, they will be withdrawn from school after the tenth day and will have to re-enroll when they return (OAR 581-023-0006).**

In addition, being on time for school ensures that your student has time to settle into their classroom and prepare themselves for a day of learning. The start of the day is when students eat breakfast and participate in morning meetings in the classroom, which is extremely helpful for students socially and academically. Missing even the first few minutes of class may impact their whole day and if missed regularly can affect their whole year. Tardiness can lead to feeling rushed, stressed, or cause general disruptions as they enter the classroom. We know that things come up and sometimes being late is unavoidable and we want to make sure every child has the best start to their day as often as possible. **At Hudson Park Elementary, students are tardy at 8:15.** If you or your child are feeling overwhelmed in the morning or are having a hard time making it to school on time, please reach out to us so we can see if there are ways we can help support your morning routine.

### **Staggered Start-PreK, K, 1st & 2nd**

This year, we are implementing a staggered start schedule for all Rainier preschool, kindergarten, first and second grade students in order to meet state, grant, and district requirements for assessments and to support students in the transition to school. The staggered start will provide staff the opportunity to set each student up for success as they begin the 2023-2024 school year. Preschool families will sign up for a one-hour assessment appointment and one staggered start day, kindergarten families will sign up for a one-hour assessment and classroom introduction appointment, and first and second grade families will sign up for one staggered start day. **The first day of school for all first and second grade students is Monday, September 11. Rainier preschool and kindergarten students begin school Monday, September 18.** Please click on the appropriate link to register your student for staggered start: [Preschool-English](#), [Preschool-español](#), [Kindergarten-English](#), [Kindergarten-español](#), [First Grade-English](#), [First Grade-español](#), [Second Grade-English](#), or [Second Grade-español](#). See the calendar below for the specific staggered start schedule.

### **HPE Office Update**

The Hudson Park Elementary office is open weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please stop by the Hudson Park office window to conduct school business in-person. To contact the office, please call: 503.556.0196. You may also email the office secretaries:

Erin Knox, [erin\\_knox@rsd.k12.or.us](mailto:erin_knox@rsd.k12.or.us)  
Carrie Vawter, [carrie\\_vawter@rsd.k12.or.us](mailto:carrie_vawter@rsd.k12.or.us)

## **Student Placement**

A great deal of time, effort and thought has gone into the process of student placement for the 2023-2024 school year. Careful consideration was given to input from staff and families as well as student learning styles. Classrooms have been balanced academically and socially. Our class lists are structured to provide equitable class sizes at each grade level. Moving students is difficult without causing imbalances and inequities.

Thank you so much for being positive with your child and helping them understand that it is impossible to place all students with a preferred best friend or teacher. ALL of our staff work hard to make school a positive experience for ALL students. Hudson Park is eagerly looking forward to enriching your child's life. Thank you for understanding that it can take a few weeks for a child to acclimate to a new grade, peer group and teacher.

## **Volunteers/PTO**

Please consider joining our school volunteer program as our students can greatly benefit from your involvement and contributions to the school's program and its operations. We seek volunteers to help us in many different capacities. To become an approved volunteer, please complete the [volunteer packet](#) and submit it to the school office. Please note, volunteer approval is valid for one school year. Also, keep in mind, it takes a few weeks for volunteer paperwork to be processed, so apply early if you're planning to chaperone any field trips this year.

Laura and Rob Hoos are working on restarting the PTO for the 2023-2024 school year. The first meeting will be held on September 26 in the Commons. There will be a "Meet and Greet" from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m., and the meeting will run from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. For more information, check out [HPEPTO.org](http://HPEPTO.org) or email [info@hpepto.org](mailto:info@hpepto.org).

## **Transportation**

Dianne Gabriel is the manager at MidCo Bus Company. Please call 503.556.9140 with any transportation-related questions or concerns. Click [here](#) for bus route information.

**Students will be picked up and dropped off at their home address on file with the school. For any permanent bus route changes, please contact the school office before the first day of school or as permanent changes arise.** Please note, bus changes are not allowed at this time. The one exception is students may change buses for childcare purposes only. While we understand emergencies happen, please refrain from making last-minute changes to your student's dismissal plan, if possible. It is reassuring for students when they know their dismissal plan when they come to school in the morning. **Reminder: PreK, K, & 1 students must have a responsible adult meeting them at the bus for drop-off.**

If you will be transporting your child to and from school each day, please use the parent parking lot for drop-off and pick-up to keep the bus lanes clear during morning arrival and dismissal. Upon arriving at school, school staff will be present at the main entrance to transition K-6 students into the building. The main entrance will be the place for families to say goodbye to their students. Students will go straight to their classrooms upon arrival, where breakfast will be offered in classrooms to all students free of charge. For pick-up, you will be required to **sign your child out each day** at the HPE covered area near the playground. Please be prepared to show personal identification (ID). **To ensure the safety of all students, children may not be taken out of class lines at dismissal.**

Preschool families transporting their students to school each day, will go directly to the classroom to sign-in/out their student each day.

## **Nutrition Services**

Breakfast will be provided to all students at no charge.

Lunch for K-5 will be \$3.25 and \$3.75 for grade 6. Families may qualify for meals at no charge based on income or if they receive SNAP Benefits. Click here to [apply](#) for meals at no charge.

To access the meal menus, [click here](#). Please note, there will be two lunch choices daily for students in K-5. The blue choice will be listed first on the menu and the red choice will be listed second. For the sixth grade lunch menu, use the same link to the lunch menu, but click Rainier Jr./Sr. High, then click on Lunch 6-8. Please be aware that due to supply chain issues we may need to change menus with short notice.

School funding and grants are often dependent on our free and reduced lunch percentage, so please help the school by completing a free and reduced lunch application to see if you qualify. Applications can be done online by clicking [here](#). Hard copies are also available in the HPE office.

### **Lunch Schedule**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Grades K & 1 | 10:30-11:00   |
| Grade 5      | 10:30-11:00 <i>*Students will eat in the classroom on Wednesdays only</i> |
| Grades 2 & 3 | 11:00-11:30   |
| Preschool    | 11:15-11:45 <i>*Students will eat in the classroom daily</i>              |
| Grade 6      | 11:45-12:15   |
| Grades 4 & 5 | 12:15-12:45 <i>*MTThF</i>   |
| Grade 4      | 12:15-12:45 <i>*Students will eat in the classroom on Wednesdays only</i> |

### **Students Services**

The Student Services Department will continue to offer support to students based on their individual needs, talents, or interests. These services include: Nursing, Native Voices Club, Talented and Gifted, English Language Learners, Special Education, and Behavior Analyst. If you have questions about these services, please feel free to reach out to Shayne Ochoa, Student Services Director, 503.556.9121, or email [shayne\\_ochoa@rsd.k12.or.us](mailto:shayne_ochoa@rsd.k12.or.us).

### **Counseling**

Our school counselor, Sara Gray, provides individual and group counseling services for students with both short-term and long-term needs. This includes conflict-resolution for any students struggling with peer issues. If you feel your student needs counseling support, please contact Sara Gray to arrange for services by emailing [sara\\_gray@rsd.k12.or.us](mailto:sara_gray@rsd.k12.or.us) or calling the Hudson Park Elementary office.

### **Facilities**

The custodial team did a great job this summer cleaning and polishing the buildings to make sure they were ready for the return of our students. You will notice some changes outside the HPE gym when you arrive. Over the summer, the moisture mitigation work was completed. New drainage was installed to address the water intrusion into the gym. The humps in the floor inside the gym have been cut out and temporary inspection panels have been installed so the gym is fully usable, but we can still monitor the under floor conditions. The next step after we confirm the success of the repair work is to complete the floor repairs. For facilities related questions, please contact Facilities Director, Boyd Brown, by emailing [boyd\\_brown@rsd.k12.or.us](mailto:boyd_brown@rsd.k12.or.us).



## Important Dates

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 9/1  | REA & Preschool Instructor Work Day, No school for all students   |
| 9/4  | Labor Day Holiday, No school for students or staff  |
| 9/5  | All Staff Work Day, No school for students<br><b>Back to School "Meet &amp; Greet" for PreK-6, 3:30-5:30 p.m</b>  |
| 9/6  | No school for Rainier Preschool, kindergarten, first, and second grade students<br><b>First day of school for grades 3-6, Early Release @ 12:45 p.m.</b>  |
| 9/7  | No school for Rainier Preschool students<br>Staggered Start One-Hour Assessment & Classroom Introduction Appointments, Kindergarten Classrooms<br>First Grade Staggered Start (Group A) *Regular school day<br>Second Grade Staggered Start (Group A) *Regular school day<br>Regular school day for grades 3-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m.   |
| 9/8  | Staggered Start One-Hour Assessment & Orientation Appointments, Rainier Preschool<br>Staggered Start One-Hour Assessment & Classroom Introduction Appointments, Kindergarten Classrooms<br>First Grade Staggered Start (Group B) *Regular school day<br>Second Grade Staggered Start (Group B) *Regular school day<br>Regular school day for grades 3-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m.                            |
| 9/11 | Staggered Start One-Hour Assessment & Orientation Appointments, Rainier Preschool<br>Staggered Start One-Hour Assessment & Classroom Introduction Appointments, Kindergarten Classrooms<br>First day of school for all first and second grade students<br>Regular school day for grades 1-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m<br><a href="#">Regular School Board Meeting</a> , 6:30 p.m., Board Room & streamed live |
| 9/12 | Staggered Start One-Hour Assessment & Orientation Appointments, Rainier Preschool<br>Staggered Start One-Hour Assessment & Classroom Introduction Appointments, Kindergarten Classrooms<br>Regular school day for grades 1-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m  |
| 9/13 | No school for Rainier Preschool students<br>Staggered Start One-Hour Assessment & Classroom Introduction Appointments, Kindergarten Classrooms<br>School day for grades 1-6, <b>Early Release @ 12:45 p.m.</b>  |
| 9/14 | Rainier Preschool Staggered Start (Group A students only) *Regular school day<br>No school for kindergarten students. Staff will be reviewing assessment data and creating class lists.<br>Regular school day for grade PreK (Group A) and grades 1-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m   |
| 9/15 | Rainier Preschool Staggered Start (Group B students only) *Regular school day<br>No school for kindergarten students. Staff will be reviewing assessment data and creating class lists.<br>Regular school day for grade PreK (Group B) and grades 1-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m   |

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 9/18 | <b>First day of school for all Rainier Preschool and kindergarten students</b><br>Regular school day for PreK-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m.        |
| 9/19 | Regular school day for PreK-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m.  |
| 9/20 | School day for grades PreK-6, <b>Early Release @ 12:45 p.m.</b>   |
| 9/21 | Regular school day for PreK-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m.  |
| 9/22 | <b>No School for Rainier Preschool and Head Start students only (Staff Work Day)</b><br>Regular school day for K-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m.     |
| 9/25 | Regular school day for PreK-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m.  |
| 9/26 | Regular school day for PreK-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m.<br>September PTO Meeting: "Meet & Greet" @ 5:30 p.m., PTO Meeting 6-7 p.m., Commons      |
| 9/27 | School day for grades PreK-6, <b>Early Release @ 12:45 p.m.</b>   |
| 9/28 | Regular school day for PreK-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m.<br>Cougar Credit Prize Drawing & Student of the Month (Respect) @ 2:00 p.m. via intercom |
| 9/29 | Regular school day for PreK-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m.<br>Scooters for Readers Kick-Off Assembly, 1:45 p.m., Auditorium                         |

On behalf of the Hudson Park Elementary staff, we look forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our students achieve their highest potential. We recognize in order to be successful in school, our students need support from both school and home. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for your child's success and want you to know we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities.

Educationally yours,



Megan Keplinger

Principal

503.556.0196

[megan\\_keplinger@rsd.k12.or.us](mailto:megan_keplinger@rsd.k12.or.us)

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." ~Aesop

Under Oregon law, (ORS, Chapter 339), all students between the ages of 6 and 18, who have not completed grade 12, are required to attend school regularly unless otherwise exempted by law. All students, five years of age, who have been enrolled in a public school are also required to attend regularly. "Regular attendance" means attendance which does not include more than eight unexcused one-half day absences, or the equivalent thereof, in any four-week period in which the school is in session. Oregon state law requires that we withdraw students who miss ten consecutive days of school. If a student is absent for any reason for ten consecutive days, they will be withdrawn from school and will have to re-enroll when they return.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#) which can be obtained online at: [Filing a Program](#)



**Complaint as a USDA Customer webpage**, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 Complaint form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: **program.intake@usda.gov** This institution is an equal opportunity provider.