



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.*

September 1, 2022

Dear Families,

I am happy to welcome you to the 2022-2023 school year! This is my second year serving as elementary principal and my eighteenth year working as an educator in Rainier School District #13. This year, we are fortunate to have hired a vice principal, Mr. Howell, to also support the students, staff, and families of Rainier Preschool and Hudson Park Elementary. In addition, Mr. Howell will be supporting the entire school district as Director of Teaching and Learning.

We have many exciting changes for the upcoming school year. First, we are grateful for the opportunity to add teaching staff this year, resulting in smaller class sizes at all grade levels. This year, we will have three teachers at each grade level!

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

**Vice Principal/RSD Director of Teaching and Learning:** Ken Howell

**Secretary:** Carrie Vawter

**Kindergarten:** Ariel O'Neill

**First Grade:** Cortnie Geringer

**Third Grade:** Stacy Peterson & Breann St. John

**Fourth Grade:** Cassidy Crawford & Gabrielle Ricker

**Fifth Grade:** Elizabeth Miller & Carole Shockley

**Sixth Grade:** Kaitlyn Berg & Kathleen Johnstun

**Elementary Fine Arts (Music):** TBD

**Elementary PE:** Alan Luff

**Reading Specialist/ESL Coordinator:** Louise Johnson

**Extended Resource Teacher:** Amber Stout

**Instructional Assistant:** Ashlee Byrum

**Instructional Assistant:** Kelly White

**Gen. Ed. Instructional Assistant (Recess/Small Groups):** TBD

**Gen. Ed. Instructional Assistant (Recess/Small Groups):** TBD

**Preschool Instructor:** Stephenie Poorman

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

**Open House**

**We will be hosting an Open House Tuesday, September 6 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. for all students preschool through sixth grade.** This "Meet & Greet" 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.

## **RSD Student-Family Handbook**

The Rainier School District Student-Family Handbook is ready for your review. 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. Click [here](#) for a link to the handbook. Also, click [here](#) for a link to information about our **Schoolwide Title I program**.

**To support your child's return to school this fall, we suggest the following:**

- Establish a nighttime routine with a set bedtime at least one week before the first day of school
- Plan and practice a morning routine that includes plenty of time to eat a healthy breakfast and provides enough time to get out the door on time
- Set a screen curfew for school nights; a "downtime" where there are no screens, preferably about one hour before bed
- Post a calendar with a countdown to the first day of school
- Create a daily school-year schedule for home that includes a set wake-up and bedtime

## **New ELA Curriculum**

In addition to reducing class sizes, we are implementing a new English Language Arts curriculum districtwide this year, [SAVVAS myView Literacy](#) for grades K-5 and [SAVVAS MyPerspectives English Language Arts](#) for grades 6–12. This research- and standards-based curriculum will provide all students with a complete reading and writing curriculum. As part of the curriculum, all students will be provided with a workbook to use during lessons to support their learning. All students will also participate in small groups for reading every week. Finally, we will continue to utilize the Accelerated Reader (AR) program as a supplement to our reading curriculum in order to provide additional ways to support students' reading comprehension. AR will also help students set and meet individual reading goals for the Kindles for Books program.

## **Wellness Wednesdays**

At Hudson Park Elementary, we continually strive to find ways to support students' social and emotional learning. New this year is the implementation of Wellness Wednesdays. Every Wednesday, all students will participate in a 45-minute social/emotional lesson taught using the Random Acts of Kindness curriculum. To preview the curriculum, click the appropriate grade level: [PreK](#), [K-5](#), [6](#).

## **Swim Lessons**

The Briarcliff Pool on our campus has been reopened, which means Hudson Park students will have the opportunity to participate in swim lessons this year. Students will participate in swim lessons one to two days per week in place of PE for one semester (approximately 18 weeks) during the school year. The swim schedule for the year is as follows:

- First Semester (September to January): Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5
- Second semester (January to June): PreK, Grades K, 6, and multi-age

## **School Schedule/Calendar**

[District Calendar](#)

[Preschool 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**

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 required to attend regularly. Students' attendance will be monitored and letters will be sent to

families with excessive absences. 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.

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

This year, we are implementing a staggered start schedule for all 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 2022-2023 school year. Preschool and Kindergarten families will sign up for a one-hour appointment, while first and second grade families will choose one staggered start day. During the staggered start, assessments will be completed and students will be introduced to the classroom. **The first day of school for all preschool students is Monday, September 12. First and second grade students begin school Tuesday, September 13. All kindergarten students begin school Monday, September 19.** Please click on the appropriate link to register your student for staggered start: [Preschool](#), [Kindergarten](#), [First Grade](#), [Second Grade](#). 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 outside 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 2022-2023 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**

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 package](#) and submit it to the school office. Please note, volunteers must be fully vaccinated. Please reach out to the Hudson Park Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) by emailing [hpepto97048@gmail.com](mailto:hpepto97048@gmail.com) for more information about schoolwide volunteer opportunities.

### **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. **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 reduced or free lunches based on income or if they receive SNAP Benefits.

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 at [www.mymealtime.com/apps](http://www.mymealtime.com/apps). Hard copies are also available in the HPE office.

### **Lunch Schedule** \*All students will eat lunch in the cafeteria/Commons

Grades K & 1	10:30-11:00
Grades 2 & 3	11:00-11:30
Preschool	11:30-12:00
Grade 6	11:45-12:15
Grades 4 & 5	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 Heidi Schafer, Student Services Director, 503.556.9121, or email [heidi\\_schafer@rsd.k12.or.us](mailto:heidi_schafer@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.

## Important Dates

9/5	Labor Day Holiday, No school for students or staff
9/6	All Staff Work Day, No school for students <b>Open House for all grades, PreK-6 (in-person), 3:30-5:30 p.m</b>
9/7	<b>First day of school for grades 3-6, Early Release @ 12:45 p.m.</b> Staggered Start One-Hour Appointments, Rainier Preschool Students & Families <i>*No school for PreK, K, 1, and 2 due to Staggered Start</i>
9/8	Regular school day for grades 3-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m. Staggered Start One-Hour Appointments, Rainier Preschool Students & Families <i>*No school for PreK, K, 1, and 2 due to Staggered Start</i>
9/9	Staggered Start One-Hour Appointments, Rainier Preschool Students & Families Staggered Start One-Hour Appointments, Kindergarten Students & Families <b>Staggered Start First and Second Grade, Group A students only</b> <i>*Attend school as if it's a normal school day.</i> Regular school day for grades 3-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m.
9/12	<b>First day of school for all preschool students</b> Staggered Start One-Hour Appointments, Kindergarten Students & Families <b>Staggered Start First and Second Grade, Group B students only</b> <i>*Attend school as if it's a normal school day.</i> Regular school day for grades 3-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m. <a href="#">Regular School Board Meeting</a> , 6:30 p.m., Board Room & streamed live
9/13	Regular school day for all preschool students Staggered Start One-Hour Appointments, Kindergarten Students & Families <b>First day of school for all first and second grade students</b> Regular school day for grades 3-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m.
9/14	Staggered Start One-Hour Appointments, Kindergarten Students & Families School day for grades PreK and 1-6, Early Release @ 12:45 p.m.
9/15	Kindergarten Assessment Review and Class Placement Determinations <i>*No school for kindergarten students</i> Regular school day for PreK and 1-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m.
9/16	Kindergarten Assessment Review and Class Placement Determinations <i>*No school for kindergarten students</i> Regular school day for PreK and 1-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m.
9/19	<b>First day of school for all kindergarten students</b> Regular school day for PreK-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m.
9/20	Regular school day for PreK-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m.
9/21	School day for grades PreK-6, <b>Early Release @ 12:45 p.m.</b>
9/22	Regular school day for PreK-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m.
9/23	Regular school day for K-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m. <i>*No School for Rainier Preschool and Head Start students only</i>
9/26	Regular school day for PreK-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m
9/27	Regular school day for PreK-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m

9/28	School day for grades PreK-6, <b>Early Release @ 12:45 p.m.</b>
9/29	Regular school day for PreK-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m
9/30	Regular school day for PreK-6, Dismiss @ 2:45 p.m Kindles for Books Kick-Off Assembly, 1:45 p.m., Location: TBD <b><i>*This event is tentative.</i></b>

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)