

# **HILLTOP ELEMENTARY**

**2025-2026**

**Life of a Hawk**



**Dr. Ovedia Glover, Principal**

Mrs. Dara Seamans, Assistant Principal for Instruction

Mr. Tony Floyd, Assistant Principal for Discipline

Mrs. Kristen Moroz, Counselor & 504 Coordinator

Dr. Richard Rogers, Superintendent

Houston County Board of Education

Post Office Box 1850

1100 Main Street

Perry, GA 31069

478-988-6200

[www.hcbe.net](http://www.hcbe.net)

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# HILLTOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## MISSION STATEMENT



The mission of Hilltop Elementary is to produce high-achieving students by establishing high expectations for all students in a safe, consistent community that continuously pursues knowledge creating independent, global citizens.

**Dr. Ovedia Glover, Principal**

**Mrs. Dara Seamans, Assistant Principal for Instruction**

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July 30, 2025

Dear Hilltop Elementary Parents and Students,

Welcome to a brand-new school year at Hilltop Elementary School! We are thrilled to have our students back in our classrooms and hallways, filling them with energy, enthusiasm, and a readiness to learn. Whether you are returning or joining us for the first time, we are excited to partner with you in making this year a great one.

Our school-wide theme for this year is "**Together We Can**" a simple but powerful reminder that by working together as students, families, staff, and community, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

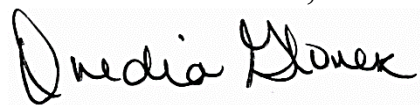
At Hilltop, we are focused on three key goals that guide everything we do:

- **Safety** – Creating and maintaining a secure and welcoming environments for all.
- **Attendance** – Encouraging consistent, on-time attendance to support academic growth.
- **Providing an Appropriate and Rigorous Curriculum** – Ensuring all students are challenged and supported to reach their highest potential.

To help keep everyone informed and connected, we ask that all families review our "**Life of a Hawk**" guide. This resource contains valuable information about school expectations, procedures, and how we can work together to ensure student success.

We look forward to a productive, joyful, and successful school year. Please know that our doors are always open. We encourage you to reach out, get involved, and stay connected.

With Hawk Pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dania Dones", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Principal, Hilltop Elementary School



## **HOUSTON COUNTY SCHOOLS STUDENT CALENDAR 2025-2026**

July 30	Wednesday	First Day of School
September 1	Monday	<b>HOLIDAY</b> - Labor Day
September 2	Tuesday	Distance Learning Day
October 16-10	Monday-Friday	<b>HOLIDAY</b> -Fall Break
October 13	Monday	Student Holiday/Site Collaboration
November 11	Tuesday	<b>HOLIDAY</b> - Veterans Day
November 24-28	Monday-Friday	<b>HOLIDAY</b> - Thanksgiving
December 19	Friday	Last day before Holidays - ½ day for students
December 20- January 2		<b>HOLIDAY</b> - Christmas Holiday
January 2	Friday	<b>Student Holiday/Site Collaboration</b>
January 5	Monday	First Day of Second Semester
January 19	Monday	<b>HOLIDAY</b> - Martin Luther King, Jr
February 16	Monday	<b>HOLIDAY</b> - President's Day
February 17	Tuesday	Distance Learning Day
March 30 - April 3	Monday-Friday	SPRING BREAK
April 6	Monday	Student Holiday/Site Collaboration
May 20	Wednesday	Last Day of School - ½ day for students

### **ELEMENTARY REPORT CARD DATES 2025-2026**

<b>Nine Weeks Period</b>	<b>End Date</b>	<b>Date Report Issued</b>
Progress Report, Day 23	August 19	September 3
Report Card (9 weeks), Day 45	October 1	October 15
Progress report, Day 65	November 6	November 12
Report Card (9 weeks), Day 90	December 19	January 7
Progress report, Day 111	February 3	February 11
Report Card (9 weeks), Day 136	March 11	March 18
Progress Report, Day 156	April 16	April 22
Report Card (9 weeks), Day 180	May 20	May 20

# Welcome to Hilltop Elementary!

The vision of Hilltop Elementary School is to create a learning community in which faculty, students, and parents are educating for excellence. One way we model our vision is through the implementation of professional learning communities and using positive behavior interventions and supports (PBIS).

Our focus is to create the "Best Hawks" in a safe, nurturing learning environment. We look forward to another awesome year and we appreciate your support.

## A Day in the Life of a Hilltop Elementary "Hawk"

From 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., our students prepare for instruction by organizing their desks and materials. Homework is turned in and any messages or notes are given to the teacher. Students' complete morning work during this time that often includes writing in their agenda or journal and solving the problems of the day.

After morning announcements are made, the national anthem is played. Students are then given the opportunity to pledge allegiance to the flag, and a moment of silence is observed once the pledge is complete. After the moment of silence, the instructional day begins. If your child arrives after the starting time of 8:30 a.m., he/she is considered tardy. Please accompany your child to the office to sign in. We appreciate you having your child here on time.

## Arrival

Students may enter the building at **7:45 a.m.** when the doors are unlocked. No one is available to supervise students before this time. **Students may not be dropped off at the door to wait before the 7:45 a.m. arrival time.** Students arriving in cars will enter from the front doors in the center hall. Students arriving by bus will enter the building through the back doors in the center hall.

All students will report to their homeroom at 8:00 am.

An HES staff member will be on duty at the car ramp and on the bus ramp to receive students at 7:45.

### **Please be courteous to others:**

- Park only in designated spaces. (No cars should park blocking the car line or the ramp)
- All students should be released from vehicles only in front of the school where an employee is present to receive them. **No student should get out of the car prior to the designated drop off area. Students should not be dropped off in the parking lot. This is for your child's safety.**
- **Please refrain from cell phone usage while in the moving car line.**
- If at all possible, students should sit by a door opening on the passenger side. Students are put in dangerous situations when they must cross between cars. Please watch for children who exit the cars on the driver's side.

All students must be accompanied to the front of the building. **No student will be permitted to enter from the side or back doors of the building.**

**Breakfast** begins at 7:45 a.m.

Instruction begins promptly at **8:30 a.m.** Students arriving after the 8:30 a.m. bell must have **an adult, preferably a parent**, sign the student in on the computer in the office. Please review the attendance policy in the HCBOE Student Handbook about tardies and early dismissals. Please make extra time allowances during rainy days, since traffic tends to be heavier when it rains.

## Morning Program Procedures

- Students will immediately become silent and remain still when the morning program begins.



- Students will remain in the classroom or designated area during the morning program.
- Students will respectfully stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem.
- Students will be attentive to the speaker while listening to the morning program announcements.

### **Dismissal**

Students who are car riders will be dismissed at the 3:30 p.m. bell. All students leaving earlier than 3:30 p.m. must be checked out from the office. Please do not put your child's teacher in an awkward position by asking them to release a student early.

Our standard procedure is that the student goes home the same way every day unless we have a phone call or note from you. At 3:00 p.m., all teachers are notified via the computer of any changes in transportation.

We begin releasing students at 3:30 p.m. Please help us with this by making sure your child's teacher has received a note from you or you have called the school with a transportation change by 3:00 pm.

Please inform the teacher, **in writing**, if your child is going home in a different way. You may write a note in the agenda. **No child will be allowed to go home a different way unless you have sent written permission.** If you call the office to change the normal transportation, you must do so **before 3:00 p.m.** **No transportation changes will be taken over the phone for children with custody disputes. Do not e-mail a teacher with a change of transportation; teachers may not get this message until after dismissal time.** Anyone picking up a student for an early dismissal is subject to an ID check. **Please do not be offended if office personnel ask for a photo ID when you are picking up your child early. The safety of our students is the primary concern.**

**Car riders** will wait in their classroom until called. All students are subject to the authority of the adults on duty. Parents should hang their car rider tags from the rearview mirror. This will help the dismissal run smoothly. Students will be called by an HES staff member to stand by a numbered cone. Slowly move up to the appropriate cone. **All students must be picked up by 3:50 p.m. Those not picked up by 3:50 p.m. will have to be signed out from the office. Your child's safety is our number one concern at Hilltop Elementary.** In order to help the flow of traffic, we ask that the procedures below be followed.

- Parents will receive two car tags, if needed, which will identify who you are picking up. Hanging car tags on your rearview mirror will help us move students as quickly as possible. **Parents/Guardians not having a decal will have to come to the office to check out their child and provide identification.**
- Students **must be picked-up by 3:50 p.m.** each day. Students will have to be signed out in the office after 3:50 p.m.
- **PLEASE REMAIN IN YOUR VEHICLES;** teachers will be assisting students to vehicles in the afternoons.
- **Parents/Guardians will pick up student(s) in the front of the building and must have pick-up card(s) displayed while in the car rider line.**
- **Car rider line will remain in single file in an effort to maintain order and safety.**

Please remember that drop off and pick up times are the most hectic times of the day. We ask that you adhere to the procedures mentioned above. As noted earlier, **SAFETY** is our number one concern. With your help we can make dismissal procedures run smoothly and effectively this year. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

### **ATTENDANCE**

The Houston County School District emphasizes the importance of regular attendance in enabling students to profit from the school program.

#### **Compulsory Attendance**

Houston County School authorities, in cooperation with other county agencies, shall enforce the Georgia Compulsory Attendance Law, O.C.G.A. §20-2-690.1, Mandatory Attendance, which requires that every parent,

guardian, or other person residing in the state having control of any school age child or children between the ages of 6 and 16 enroll and send such child or children to school. Further, all children enrolled for 20 school days or more in the public schools of Houston County prior to their SIXTH birthday shall become subject to all provisions of the law. All students missing more than **5 unexcused days in Georgia are declared as truant by law.**

**All Houston County students are affected by and fall under the provisions of our attendance protocol which is stated as follows;**

Level I

- Three (3) unexcused absences.
- School staff will contact parents and document the contact. Contacts may consist of e-mail, phone call, letter, note in the agenda, or other forms of communication.

Level II

- Five (5) unexcused absences.
- School staff will notify parents of the truancy. Parents/guardians may request a conference prior to signing an attendance contract.

Level III

- Eight (8) unexcused absences. • School staff notifies Social Services Department; Social Services provides data to court for judicial proceedings to begin.

Any parent, guardian, or other person residing in Georgia having control or charge of a child or children who violate GA Code Section O.C.G.A. §20-2-690.1 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$25 and not greater than \$100, imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, community service, or any combinations of such penalties, at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction.

**Excused and Unexcused Absences**

Absence from school is classified as either excused or unexcused. Reasons established by the Georgia Board of Education as excused absences are set forth in this policy. Students may be temporarily excused from school for the following reasons:

1. Personally ill and when attendance in school would endanger their health or the health of others. Excessive/extended absences due to illness must be justified by a physician's statement.
2. A serious illness or death occurs in their immediate family. (Parent, Sibling, or Grandparent of child)
3. Mandated by order of governmental agencies or by a court order.
4. Celebrating religious holidays observed by their faith.

NOTE: An excused absence does not mean the student is given credit for being at school.

Students should present a written excuse within five (5) days after an absence whether excused or unexcused. Failure to do so will result in the absence(s) remaining unexcused. **A maximum of 10 parent notes for illness will be excused.** Excessive or extended absences due to illness must be justified by a physician's statement.

The following items should be specified and included on each written excuse:

1. The date the excuse is written.
2. The date of the absence.

3. Reason for absence.
4. Signature of parent or guardian.

Students who have absences may make up work or tests missed. Upon returning to school, students should complete makeup work missed within five [5] school days. Parents may pick up homework assignments in the school office. The teacher, however, should be given adequate time to prepare homework assignments and materials.

**\*At the discretion of the principal, a statement from a physician may be required to validate extended or excessive absences.**

### **After School Program**

We offer an After School Care Program from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Cottichio is the coordinator for this program.

### **Building Hours**

**A student cannot be dropped off at school before 7:45 a.m.** In the afternoon, all children will need to be picked up by 3:50 p.m. unless they are in the After School Program.

### **Policy JCDAF**

Use of Electronic Devices the Houston County School District policy JCDAF outlines the access and use of personal electronic devices for students in pre- kindergarten through eighth grade while on school premises during school hours. Students in grades PK-8 are not permitted to access personal electronic devices while on school premises during school hours, including but not limited to cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, e-readers, headphones, earbuds, and other devices with functionalities such as wireless communication, internet access, messaging, video recording, gaming, social media access, or data transmission during school hours. Any student found in violation of this policy and/or its procedures during the school day shall be subject to progressive discipline consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

### **Coats, Jackets, and Hats**

Please **write your child's name** on all coats, jackets, and hats.

### **Conferences**

Parents are welcome to visit their child's school for parent/teacher conferences and are urged to call the school office and schedule conferences with teachers as needed. Teachers are not available for conferences during the school day unless they have been scheduled. Teachers will notify parents of additional times that they are available for conferences.

All visitors to the school are required to report to the school office upon entering the school building to obtain a pass and sign in. Parents should sign out in the office upon leaving the school.

### **General Information / School Rules**

No pets are allowed on the Hilltop Elementary School Campus. However, when hands on learning opportunities arise requiring pets to be on the premises, a written document requesting approval must be submitted, by a staff member, to Dr. Glover (principal) 30 days prior to the event.

## **Homework**

Homework is given for review purposes. Parents are encouraged to look over these assignments and help when needed. In 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade, students are expected to write their homework assignments in their notebook. Parents please check for homework or other assignments that may be due on a nightly basis. Students will bring home any papers that need to be signed on Wednesdays each week.

## **Media Center**

Our media center is open each day from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Mrs. Story is our Media Specialist. Children may check out books during those hours.

If your child loses or damages a book, he or she must pay for the library book, as stated in the county handbook. If the lost book is found within 30 days, you may receive a refund. If the book is not returned in the 30 day period, the money will not be returned.

## **Medicine Given at School**

Mrs. Jennifer Hisel is the HES Medical Technician (med tech) and may be reached at 929-6113. Our school's med tech helps monitor the health of our students. We are more than happy to administer medicine to your child when needed. You must send the medicine in the original container with specific instructions for your child. If medicine must be given on a daily basis for more than two weeks, we need to have your doctor complete and sign a special form. This form will be sent home with your child, or you may pick it up in the office. It is suggested by our county nurse that when your child is sick and the doctor prescribes a medicine for your child to be taken three times a day, this should be administered at home in the morning, when the child returns home from school, and at bedtime.

## **Parent Teacher Organization**

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is a valuable asset to our school, students, and staff. It also gives parents a chance to help our school be the very best that it can be. The PTO will sponsor a variety of fundraisers to help provide money for school projects. The money earned is allotted for student needs and resources.

We hope that you will become an active member of the PTO. We have several committees on which you may serve. We appreciate you signing up for a committee during the HES Open House.

## **Personal Possessions**

Please make sure that children leave their valuable possessions at home. No toys should be brought to school. Toy guns and knives are not allowed due to board policy. Not adhering to this policy may lead to suspension. Please carefully read the Houston County Student Handbook.

## **Recess/Break**

Each class has a 15-minute recess period every day. Students may bring snacks to eat at this time.

## **Report Cards**

Students receive report cards every nine weeks. Please check the Houston County Student Handbook for the exact dates that report cards will be sent home.

## **School Closings**

If school is closed for any reason, it will be announced through a phone message system, television and social media. Please check the Houston County Student Handbook for vacation and holidays. We will use our school crisis communication system if a school closing is to occur.

## School Nutrition

Our lunchroom offers a well-balanced meal for students. Our lunchroom manager is Amber Hunter and may be reached at 478-929-6113. All student enrolled at HES will receive meals at no cost without having to pay a fee or submit a free and reduced meal application. No action is required on the part of the child, parent or guardian.

The following rules will be posted on the wall of the cafeteria.  
Failure to follow these rules will result in disciplinary action.

## **RULES FOR LUNCHROOM BEHAVIOR**

ENTER AND LEAVE SILENTLY

REMAIN SEATED AT ALL TIMES

TALK QUIETLY TO NEIGHBORS ONLY

PLACE ALL FOOD ITEMS AND SILVERWARE ON TRAYS

CLEAN UP YOUR AREA

USE GOOD TABLE MANNERS

### Breakfast Procedures

- Breakfast is served daily in the cafeteria beginning at 7:45am – 8:30am.
- All bus riders, walkers, and car riders must go through the breakfast line to receive a grab and go or hot breakfast.
- Students will eat breakfast in the cafeteria or students may eat in assigned classroom designated by the principal.
- A share cart will be placed in the cafeteria and center hallway.
- Students may place their unopened and unwanted items in the share cart or place the unopened and unwanted items on the designated table.
- A staff member will monitor the share cart or table for students only keeping safety and allergies in mind.
- Students may begin exiting the cafeteria at 8:00am when released by HES employee.
- After 8:30am, all late arrivals will receive breakfast from the share cart in the cafeteria, center hall, or front office.

### Lunch Procedures

- All students must go through the lunch line.
- All students will receive a grab and go lunch or a hot lunch.
- Students will make a lunch choice daily to maximize lunch time.
- Students are permitted to choose any food they want when they come to the cafeteria.
- Students who bring a lunch box will also go through the lunch line. They may also place their unwanted lunch on the share table or take it with them to class. Lunch options such as Mascot Meal or pre-packed items are an easy option for students who would like to share their lunch or save it for snack later.
- All students will walk through the line and be seated at their assigned lunch table.

## School Parties

There are **only 2 approved parties** during the school year. They are as follows: Holiday party in December and the End-of-the-School-Year party in May. The Holiday party and End-of-the-School Year parties will begin at 2:00 p.m. For these parties, we will ask for a snack donation on a voluntary basis only. **Houston County Board Policy does not allow us to have birthday parties or to give out birthday invitations during instructional time. We also cannot give you addresses or telephone numbers of students for birthday**

**parties. In addition, balloons and flowers will not be delivered to students at school. There are no exceptions to these rules.**

### **Testing**

Each school year all students will take the state-mandated assessment. The test results will be sent home at the end of the school year. Our Assistant Principal for Instruction, Mrs. Seamans, will be glad to discuss test results with you. You will receive notice of exact assessment dates in a timely manner.

### **Weekly Wednesday Folder**

Every Wednesday, please check your child's backpack for your child's Wednesday folder. This folder will contain items such as school information, letters from teachers or administrators, lunch menus and much more.



# Hilltop Elementary School Discipline

## Positive Behavior Management Plan:

### ***“SOAR to Excellence”***



**Rationale for SOAR:** We commit to Educate for Excellence! Our goal is to create a learning environment where each student flourishes academically, socially and morally using *Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)*. The Hilltop Elementary School Positive Behavior Management Plan is intended to help students be conscious of their behavioral choices, in order to foster self-direction and character education. We teach students that they have choices with options and consequences through the use of behavior expectations established throughout all areas in our building (i.e. classroom, hallway, cafeteria, and playground etc.). Students need to choose behaviors that are in the best interest of themselves and others while aiming to leave a student’s dignity intact.

#### **HES Fundamental Principles**

**We encourage students to demonstrate the following positive behaviors daily:**

- **S** – Safety First
- **O** – On Task
- **A** – Always Respectful
- **R** – Responsible

#### **Purpose of Fundamental Principles**

**To teach the following conscious behavior choices...**

- Anger Management
- Helpfulness
- Leadership
- Impulse Control
- Cooperation
- Empathy
- Problem Solving

Our school uses an online communication system to monitor behavior. This system is called Apptegy. More regarding Apptegy to come. Throughout the school day, students will receive positive and/or needs improvement Apptegy points. Positive behavior will be rewarded based on a points scale. Students will be allowed to choose from a variety of rewards once they have reached specific point increments.

**HES Fundamental Principles**- All students can earn positive behavior SOAR Points for demonstrating the following behaviors: **S** – Safety First    **O** – On Task    **A** – Always Respectful    **R** – Responsible

#### **Consequences for (Needs improvement) Inappropriate Behavior (Minor Offenses):**

Minor behavior offenses are handled in the classroom by the teacher. Minor behaviors that are habitual in nature may become a disruption to the classroom learning environment resulting in neutral points being assigned. When a student has received three redirections for the same incident in one day or for a specific behavior infraction requiring an immediate MIR, the student will be issued a Minor Incident Report (MIR). Throughout the school year, if a student receives 4 MIRS, the student is automatically referred to the office. MIR consequences are listed in the chart below.

<b>Hilltop Elementary Minor Incident Report (MIR) Consequences</b>	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> MIR</b>	<b>Student will Lose Break (Teacher will call parent.)</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> MIR</b>	<b>Student will receive silent lunch (Teacher will call parent.)</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> MIR</b>	<b>Student will receive After School Detention (Teacher will call parent.)</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> MIR</b>	<b>Office Referral (Student will see an administrator / administrator will contact parent)</b>

**Examples of (Needs improvement) Inappropriate Behavior (Minor Offenses) may include:**

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| *Talking at Inappropriate Times | *Class Disruption                          |
| *Running in the Hallways        | *Playing with Items at Inappropriate Times |
| *Name Calling                   | *Unprepared for Class                      |

**Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior (Major Offenses):**

Major incidents are behaviors that require action to be taken by an administrator due to it being a severe and persistent behavior offense. The first office referral, depending on the severity, may result in a parent conference with the principal or assistant principal. Thereafter, In-School Suspension (ISS), Out-of-School Suspension (OSS), or Bus Suspension will be assigned in progression, depending on the severity of the infraction. The fourth office referral may result in a behavior contract. Administration reserves the right to apply disciplinary action deemed appropriate.

**Examples of Inappropriate Behavior (Major Offenses) may include:**

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| *Profanity towards staff  | *Fighting                                      |
| *Theft from Staff/Student | *Extreme Disrespect                            |
| *Threat/Intimidation      | *Access inappropriate content using technology |

**A Minor /Major Offense May Result in the Following:**

- |                  |                       |                                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| *Silent Lunch    | *Break Detention      | *Teacher/Student or Parent Conference |
| *Parent Contact  | *Parent Conference    | *After School Detention               |
| *Office Referral | *In-School Suspension | *School Suspension                    |

**Houston County Board of Education Policy violations such as bullying, harassment, bringing weapons/toys weapons, drugs, and others are addressed in the Houston County Student Handbook.**

Hilltop strives to provide a clear and common set of positive expectations and behaviors to create a strong community where all students are learning in a safe environment. We thank our parents/guardians for always supporting and helping our students succeed! Our Assistant Principal of Discipline, Mr. Floyd, is available to review any questions or concerns pertaining to the Positive Behavior Management Plan (SOAR to Excellence), and can be contacted at [tony.floyd@hcbe.net](mailto:tony.floyd@hcbe.net) or 478-929-6113.



# SCHOOL CLUBS LISTING

## **Hilltop Elementary School**

The clubs listed below are extracurricular activities. Students must keep good grades and good conduct in their classes. The students must also display good behavior and participation in club activities. Please carefully read the club objectives and guidelines. This listing of clubs is being provided at this time to inform you of the clubs we have to offer here at Hilltop Elementary. Houston County Board of Education School Operations department will notify school staff when clubs can begin meeting.

### **Name of Club: 4-H Club**

**Sponsor:** Mrs. Story

**Membership Requirement:** 4th-5th grade students

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** \$10

**Mission/Purpose:** Houston County 4-H is free to join and is open to all youth in 4-12th grade who live or attend school in Houston County. You can become a member of Houston County 4-H at any time during the year. 4-H is a youth development program that seeks to build leadership skills, public speaking skills, citizenship, and community service. 4-H is exploring, discovering, encouraging, challenging, and of course having fun!

**Planned Activities:** 4-H Club Meetings will be once a month.

Houston County Extension Website:

<https://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/houston/4-H-youth-development.html>

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### **Name of Club: Academic Bowl Team**

**Sponsor:** Mrs. Hallman, Ms. Clark, and Mrs. Geiger

**Membership Requirement:** 10 - 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** \$10 to \$15 for T-shirt

**Mission/Purpose:** Academic Bowl is a game of academic competition among students at the elementary and middle school level.

The Houston County Academic Bowl contributes to our continuing efforts to recognize and promote academic excellence and good citizenship in the following ways:

- Creates good work/study habits
  - Broadens individual horizons of factual information
  - Develops poise and confidence in students presenting themselves to the public
  - Develop teamwork and good citizenship qualities
  - Instills an appreciation for the pursuit of knowledge
- 

### **Name of Club: Anchored 4 Life**

**Faculty Sponsor/Contact:** Mrs. Moroz

**Membership Requirement:** Fourth grade students and fifth grade students who were previously selected from last year. The students are nominated by their teacher. They must be able to attend one morning meeting monthly (before school) and exemplify a SOARING behavior.

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** There is no upfront fee; however, students will have to purchase a t-shirt.

**Mission/Purpose:** The mission of the club is to support students at Hilltop with empathy, in all uprisings areas, to be successful at Hilltop.

**Planned Activities:** Annual School Project, Fundraisers, Leadership duties at school, Leadership Step-Up Training, and Tours to assist students at Hilltop going through various encounters.

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## **Name of Club: Art Club**

**Faculty Sponsor/Contact:** Elizabeth Coticchio

**Membership Requirement:** Any 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade student is eligible to try out for art club. Applications will be available after Labor Day and members will be chosen based on their responses to the Art Club Application.

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** \$15 for an art club T-shirt

**Mission/Purpose:** The art club offers 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students the opportunity to develop their creativity and grow as young artists.

**Planned Activities:** Students will create artworks

of all types and assist in creating posters and props for school events. Fall focus will be 3-d art (specifically clay), Spring focus will be crafts (specifically sewing skills)

A calendar of meeting dates and times will be distributed to members of the art club.

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## **Name of Club: Chorus**

**Sponsor:** Ms. Coley

**Membership Requirement:** To participate in chorus, students must be in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade and maintain a "B" average in their classes and exhibit good behavior at school.

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** \$25

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## **Name of Club: Drama**

**Sponsor:** Ms. Coley and Ms. Wilson

**Membership Requirement:** To participate in Drama, students must maintain a "B" average in their classes and exhibit good behavior at school.

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** N/A

**Mission/Purpose:** Our mission is to ignite imaginations, empower young performers, and instill a love for storytelling through theatre. We are committed to fostering teamwork, creativity, and self-expression while creating inclusive and supportive spaces for all children to explore and shine on stage.

**Planned Events:** TBA

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## **Name of Club: G.L.O.W. (Girls Leading Our World)**

**Faculty Sponsor:** Dr. Jackson

Framework: G – Growth | L – Leadership | O – Opportunity | W - Wisdom

**Membership Requirements:** Grades 3-5 grade: grades to keep a grade of C and up

**Financial Obligation:** \$20 will cover the cost of club shirts

**Mission/Purpose:** Girls that G.L.O.W. aims to empower young girls in grades 3–5 to grow with confidence, lead with kindness, embrace new opportunities, and make wise choices. Through monthly mentorship, reflection, and purposeful activities, we help each girl discover her inner light and shine boldly in every area of her life.

**Planned activities:** Each month includes a theme, weekly topics, and matching activities. It is our vision to cultivate a generation of confident, compassionate, and courageous young leaders who positively impact their schools, communities, and the world.

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## **Name of Club: Healthy Hawks**

**Faculty Sponsor/Contact:** Kwanzaa Thomas

**Membership requirements:** Grades 3-5; Membership will be based on teacher recommendation, good behavior, leadership skills, academic excellence, and athletic promise.

**Financial obligations:** No dues at this time but will be dependent upon what the team decides to accomplish for the academic school year.

**Mission/Purpose:** The emphasis of this club is to get students physically fit and learn to appreciate a healthy lifestyle.

**Planned activities:** Meet bi-weekly throughout the year in which the team will practice running and fitness activities while also collecting data to set goals and encourage others in preparation for a possible 5K (3.1 miles) event in which the team will run.

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## **Name of Club/Organization: HES After School Program**

The Houston County After-School Program (ASP) began in 1995 as a pilot program at Russell Elementary. The main reason for beginning the program was to provide supervision for children enrolled in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade from the time school regularly closes until the end of their parents' workday (not later than 6:00 p.m.). Children participating in the program do homework and engage in recreational and enrichment activities. The children are supervised by certified and non-certified school personnel.

To be eligible to attend and remain in the ASP, students:

\*Must function in the program under established guidelines (class size, activities, etc.)

\*Must follow the rules relating to behavior

\*Must not be a danger to self or others

\*Must function with reasonable accommodations within the resources available

**For more information, contact Elizabeth Coticchio at [elizabeth.coticchio@hcbe.net](mailto:elizabeth.coticchio@hcbe.net).**

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## **Name of Club: HES Book Club Babes**

**Sponsor:** Kim Farr

**Membership Requirement:** 3,4,5 grade girls

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** \$20

**Mission/Purpose:** To celebrate reading while forming friendships and bonds with exceptional books!

**Planned Events:** (none at the moment) we will be selling scented pencils and pens later in the school year

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## **Name of Club: HES News Team**

**Sponsor:** Kristen Moroz and Samantha McLaughlin

**Membership Requirement:** 3,4,5 graders

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** \$15

**Mission/Purpose:** The purpose of the Elementary School News Team is to create an engaging, informative, and creative platform for students to share important school news, announcements, and educational content with the entire school. The news team will be composed of students from 3rd-5th grades who will work together to produce video news segments and more.

**Planned Events:** None at the moment

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## **Name of Club/Organization: Science Olympiad Club**

**Faculty Sponsor/Contact:** Joanna Hare

**Membership Requirements:** 3rd, 4th, 5th graders, Teacher recommendation, Student application

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** \$30.00, after school commitment, Saturday Competitions (Houston Co. and MGRESA) 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 4:00-5:30 pm, notebook, pencil, volunteer supplies (boiled eggs, masking tape, and aluminum foil)

**Mission/Purpose:** The emphasis is on STEAM learning, participation, interaction, having fun and developing team spirit. Teamwork, group planning, cooperation, and creativity will be developed, plus the love of math and science. These STEAM events are well balanced between the various science disciplines of life science, earth science, physical science, and math.

**Planned Activities:** Science Olympiad guidelines, requirements, and activities meet the national science educational standards and will create interest in math and science. We will practice the 18 events for the local and regional Science Olympiad competitions (March & May) during our club meetings to expose and prepare the students for each event.

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## **Name of Club: Hilltop's Outdoor Education Program (HOEP)**

**Faculty Sponsor/Contact:** Berniece Whitehead

**Membership Requirements:** Teacher Recommendation, Student Applications for 4th and 5th Grade Student Leaders will have after-school meetings to support the PreK-5 (HOEP).

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** \$30.00, after school commitment, some weekend gardening 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 4:00-5:30 pm, notebook, pencil, volunteer supplies (gardening gloves, knee pads, hats, wagon, & recycling resources as needed)

**Mission/Purpose:** The emphasis is on STEAM (*Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math*) learning, participation, interaction, having fun and developing team spirit. Teamwork, group planning, cooperation, and creativity will be developed, plus the love of gardening. These STEAM events are well balanced between nature, seasonal growing, and the Jr. Master Garden information.

**Planned Activities:** Outdoor Education will support PreK-5 curriculum learning through Life Science including life cycles of plants, animals, and insects. Activities will include composting, seasonal plants, and much more.

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## **Name of Club: Partners Club**

**Sponsor:** Brittney Adams

**Membership Requirement:** Signed permission form.

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** TBA

**Mission/Purpose:** Our mission is to work with exceptional students in showing kindness and inclusion.

**Planned Events:** Monthly meetings. Also, participation in some activities during the school day, at different times throughout the school year.

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## **Name of Club: SLC (Students Living for Christ)**

**Sponsor:** Kiley Bosworth, LaRae Harrelson

**When do you meet:** Wednesday mornings at 7:30 (October through May)

**Membership Requirement:** K-5

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** \$10

**Mission/Purpose:**

- Equip students with a foundational knowledge of the word of God
- Develop leadership skills

- Build Christian relationships
- Enable students to live out their values in word and deed

**Planned Activities:**

- Study the Bible with relatable life application, memorize scripture
  - Worship through song
  - Prayer
  - Related activities including crafts, snacks, games, etc...
- Service projects within the school and in our community
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**Name of Club: Student Council**

**Sponsor:** Mrs. Ard and Mrs. Tolbert

**When do you meet:** Before school from 7:15 to 8:00 in room 314 once a month on the first Tuesday of each month. We may meet at other unspecified times depending on future community service projects.

**Membership Requirement:** 4th and 5th grade students only have to keep good grades and behavior, teacher recommendation.

**Financial Obligations/Dues:** No dues. Will need to purchase their club shirt.

**Mission/Purpose:** Student Councils purpose is to give students an opportunity to develop leadership skills and serve the community. We will do this by organizing and carrying out school activities and service projects.

**Planned Activities:** Club will meet once a month.

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