

Hilltop Elementary

Life of a Hawk Handbook

2023-2024



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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.

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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).

Please read our student handbook for pertinent information and guidelines pertaining to Hilltop Elementary School. 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 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 a 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.

From 7:45 a. m. – 8:00 a. m. students will report to the cafeteria. All students will report to their homeroom after 8:00 a.m.

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 is served from 7:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Please see the HCBOE Student Handbook for prices.

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 front 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 starting at the 3:30 p.m. bell as their numbers are entered. All students leaving earlier than 3:30 p.m. must be checked out from the office on the computer. 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 no later than **3:00 p.m.**

Please inform the teacher, **in writing**, if your child is going home in a different way. You may write a note and send in or send a message on Class DOJO. **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 pick-up cards on their rear-view 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 3:55 p.m. Those not picked up by 3:55 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 a car tag placard which will identify who you are picking up. Having car tags in your windows or on the backside of your visor will help us move students as quickly as possible. **Parents/Guardians not having a car tag will have to come to the office to check out their child and provide identification.**
- Students **must be picked up by 3:55 p.m.** each day. Students will have to be signed out in the office after 3:55 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 car rider line and must have pick-up card(s) displayed while in the car rider line and remain in your vehicle at all times.**
- **The car rider line will remain in single file in an effort to maintain order and safety.**

We do not allow parent walk-up for student dismissal. We do not allow early dismissals between 3:00 p. m. – 4:00 p. m. due to safety. If there is an emergency, please contact HES ADMINISTRATION.

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.

Absences

As part of the Federal Child Protection Act, we are required to know why a student is absent from school. Therefore, you are required to send a note to your child's teacher stating the reason for the absence. If the student will be out more than two days, please call and let us know. We have a hospital homebound program for students who are expected to be out of school for ten or more days. Please let us know if your child's doctor requests an extended illness leave for your child. Your child is not counted absent if he or she arrives before **12:00 p.m.** or leaves after **12:00 p.m.** However, your child will be considered tardy/or considered as an early dismissal.

The Board of Education has adopted very strict policies on absences, tardies, and perfect attendance honors. These policies are explained in the Houston County Student Handbook.

The following is a brief summary:

1. Students will be counted present when they are:
 - a. In attendance at least one-half of the instructional day.
2. Student absences will be considered justified and validated when:
 - a. Personally ill and when attendance in school would endanger their health or the health of others. At the discretion of the principal, a statement from a doctor may be required to validate extended illnesses/excessive absences.
 - b. Celebrating religious holidays observed by their faith.
 - c. Conditions render attendance impossible or hazardous to their health and safety.
 - d. Military related absence approved in advance by the school superintendent.
3. **Students must submit a written excuse within 5 school days upon return after an absence; failure to do so will result in the absence(s) remaining unexcused.**
4. Students shall be permitted to make up work when absences are excused for reasons above.
5. When a student is denied bus transportation due to misconduct, his absence from school is not excused.
6. No pupil shall be allowed to be absent from school during the regular session to take private music, drawing, dancing, or other lessons.
7. **Students in kindergarten through 8th grade are expected to achieve 95% attendance. This equals only nine days of excused absences. Students who achieve 90-94% attendance-missing 9-18 days-will be promoted at the discretion of the school principal.**
8. **To be eligible for a "perfect attendance award", a student may neither be absent nor tardy, nor may a student be dismissed before the end of the instructional day. This also includes lunch for Field Day.**
9. If your child is in the hospital, please call and let the school know. We will contact our county nurse, the child's teacher, and the principal so that we can send a card or possibly visit.

The Hilltop Elementary instructional day is from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Instruction begins promptly at 8:30 a.m., and a student is considered tardy after that time. A student who is tardy must report to the office and be accompanied by a parent/guardian to sign-in to school. If a student is checked out of school before 3:30 p.m., it is considered an early dismissal. Under district policy, an excused absence, tardy, or early dismissal is one in which the parent, guardian, or physician, by note, presents a reason for a student's non-attendance. Notification must be within three school days of the child's return to school, otherwise the absence is recorded as unexcused. The acceptable reasons for an excused absence, tardy or early dismissal include:

- Personal illness
- Medical, dental, or other appointment that cannot be scheduled before or after school
- Recognized religious observance
- Family emergency or event such as a funeral or birth (immediate family)
- Mandated by order of governmental agencies or by a court order

Students must submit a written excuse within three (3) school days upon return after an absence; failure to do so will result in the absence(s) remaining unexcused. When sending in notes, please legibly include the following, in order to facilitate the accuracy of our record keeping:

- Date of absence
- Student’s name (printed)
- Teacher/grade
- Reason for absence, tardy or early dismissal.
- Parent/Guardian please sign the note, as well as print your name

Please note that a parent excusing a child’s absence, tardy, or early dismissal does not make it excused under district policy. The absence must meet one of the criteria listed as acceptable reasons for unexcused absences. School personnel will determine if an absence is excused (see approved reasons) or unexcused (overslept, missed bus, etc.) in accordance with district policy.

*After receiving 10 parent/guardian notes for illness, we will require a doctor’s note for illnesses to be excused.

For the benefit of all students, the following charted guidelines in relation to unexcused absences, tardies and early dismissals may be implemented:

Unexcused Absence Guidelines for K-5th Grade	
Unexcused Absences	Action Taken
Level 1: Three unexcused absences	Parent contact.
Level 2: Five unexcused absences	School staff will notify parents of truancy and request a conference with parents to sign an attendance contract.
Level 3: Eight unexcused absences	School staff notifies Social Services Department.

Unexcused Tardies / Early Dismissals and Actions Taken for K-5th Grade	
Unexcused Tardy/Early Dismissal	Actions Taken
5 th Unexcused Tardy/Early Dismissal	Parent contact.
10 th Unexcused Tardy/Early Dismissal	Letter of notification to remind parents of the importance of getting their child to school on time.
15 th Unexcused Tardy/Early Dismissal	Parents will meet with administration and sign an Excessive Unexcused Tardy/Early Dismissal Contract.
20 th Unexcused Tardy/Early Dismissal	Meet with administration and school social worker to create a plan for improvement.
21 & up Unexcused Tardy/Early Dismissal	After school detention (3:30p.m. - 4:00p.m.) for each Unexcused Tardy/Early Dismissal.

NOTE: A more in-depth description pertaining to compulsory attendance law can be found in the Houston County Schools System Handbook.

After School Program

We offer an After School Care Program from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Please call the school for prices and specifics. Mrs. Coticchio will be the coordinator for this program. She can be reached between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. at the school, 478-929-6113 opt. 0.

Building and Playground 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 3:55 p.m. unless they are in the After School Program. Children are not allowed to wait for their parents on the playground.

Coats, Jackets, and Hats

Please **write your child's name** on all coats, jackets, and hats. We have a lost and found area located behind the stage in the lunchroom. Items with no name listed in them will be donated.

Conferences with Our Staff Members

For the safety of our students and to maximize instructional time, please adhere to the following classroom visitation guidelines:

- **For the safety of our students, parents/guardians must enter and exit through the front doors only.**
- Parents will not be allowed to enter anywhere in the building past the office for any reason.

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 3rd, 4th, and 5th 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 and may be reached at 478-929-6113. Children may check out books during those hours. We will have a number of book fairs that you will also enjoy.

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 478-929-6113. Our school 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 the 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. The Weapons Policy will also be discussed in the discipline handbook. 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. Students may lose part of their recess privilege but they will participate in walking laps during recess and will not lose their entire recess or snack.

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 Lunches

Our lunchroom offers a well-balanced meal for students and parents. Mrs. Whitehurst is our lunchroom manager and may be reached at 478-929-6113.

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. **Students will take a Map Assessment Test three times a school year.**

HILLTOP HAWK CAFETERIA PROCEDURES

The following rules and guidelines for our lunchroom have been established.

The following guidelines are to be followed:

1. Students will enter and exit from an assigned door.
2. Students will enter the lunchroom silently.
3. Teachers will walk and assist students through the serving line.
4. Students will need to get all food items, milk, etc. that they need. They will not be allowed to get up and go back to the serving line. Please emphasize this to your child.
5. Students need to learn their "lunch number" so that there is no delay with the cashiers.
6. When students have given their number to the cashier, they are to report directly to their table, sit down at their assigned seat, and start eating. This is to be done silently.
7. At the end of the lunch period, students will then line up and report to the hallway.

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

WHEN THE MUSIC IS ON, VOICES ARE OFF



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 ClassDojo. Please refer to your child’s grade level Positive Behavior Management Plan to find out what ClassDojo is and how it will be used this school year. Throughout the school day, students will receive positive and/or needs improvement ClassDojo 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. Please contact your child’s teacher if you need access to ClassDojo.

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 a loss of ClassDojo points. 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) of -3 in ClassDojo. 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.

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

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, Mrs. Hodges, is available to review any questions or concerns pertaining to the Positive Behavior Management Plan (SOAR to Excellence), and can be contacted at jacqueline.hodges@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 meetings.

Name of Club/Organization: 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.

Name of Club/Organization: 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 20 members will be chosen based on their responses to the Art Club Application.

Financial Obligations/Dues: \$10 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: Meetings will be Thursday Afternoons from 4pm-5pm Students will create artworks of all types and assist in creating posters and props for school events.

Name of Club/Organization: Chorus Club

Faculty Sponsor/Contact: Ms. Nealia Coley

Membership Requirement: Must be in 4th or 5th grade. We have rehearsals on Tuesdays after school. Attendance, good grades, and SOARing behavior are expected to participate in the HES chorus.

Financial Obligations/Dues: There is a one-time dues fee of \$25.00.

Mission/Purpose: The purpose is to enhance the music education of the students by performing at different venues throughout the year.

Planned activities: Perform for various festivals, basketball/baseball games, and concerts.

Name of Club/Organization: HES Drama Club

Faculty Sponsor/Contact: Ms. Nealia Coley, Carleigh Gabriel, Melissa Mercer

Membership Requirements: Hilltop's Drama Club is our drama production club provided for students in grade levels 3rd-5th. Rehearsals will be after school, date, and time TBD. There will be some Saturday rehearsals as we get closer to the performance date. Attendance, good grades, and SOARing behavior are expected to participate in the HES Drama Club.

Financial Obligations/Dues: There is no upfront cost for Hilltop's Drama Club, but some expenses for costumes are needed for the production.

Mission/purpose: Through the theatrical arts, the club aims to promote positive social interaction and a safe environment for learning. While we strive to foster a lifelong appreciation of the arts, we also acknowledge the educational power of theatre. Theatre can bring about change, provide a cathartic experience, and unify a community.

As members of the Hilltop Drama Club, we will learn to think creatively and critically. We will do our best to reap the benefits of this club by supporting each other, challenging ourselves, and striving to do our best, both on and off stage.

Planned activities: Production in the Spring; Date TBD

Name of Club/Organization: Partners Club

Faculty Sponsor/Contact: Valerie Riezinger, Mindy Brett

Membership Requirement: Must attend monthly meetings and must have a signed form by parent/guardian to attend

Financial Obligations/Dues: No Dues

Mission/Purpose: Our mission as Partners Club is to teach others about disabilities/exceptionalities and how students can support others with exceptionalities.

Planned Activities: Monthly meetings and activities during Exceptional Children's Week

Name of Club/Organization: SLC – Students Living for Christ

Faculty Supervisors: Kiley Bosworth & LaRae Harrelson

Membership Requirement: K through 5th Grade

Financial Obligation/Dues: \$10.00 fee to join, T-shirt will be included as part of that fee

Mission/Purpose: Equip students with a foundational knowledge of the word of God, develop leadership skills, and build Christian relationships within the community that will enable students to live out their values in word and deed.

Planned Activities: Student leaders will meet weekly with club members to study the bible, pray, build friendships, participate in service projects, and learn to live out God's word by loving and serving those in the school family.

Name of Club/Organization: Hilltop's Outdoor Education Program (HOEP)

Faculty Sponsor/Contact: Berniece Whitehead

Membership Requirements: Teacher Recommendation, Student Applications for 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade Student Leaders will have after school meetings to support the PreK-5 (HOEP).

Financial Obligations/Dues: \$20.00, after school commitment, some weekend gardening

Thursdays, 4:00-5:00 pm, small 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 some 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 more.

Name of Club/Organization: 4-H Club

Sponsor: Mrs. Story

Membership Requirement: 4th-5th grade students

Financial Obligations/Dues: free to students. Some events have a fee.

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.

