

# Harkness Vikings

Greetings Harkness families and welcome back!

We hope you had a wonderful summer and that you had the chance to spend some quality time with family and friends. We are all very happy that we can once again be with our students in person, and we're doing everything we can to get the year off to a great start. That being said, we know that you likely have questions about how school and the educational process will look now more than two years into the pandemic. The district and our school appreciate that and commit to getting timely information to you as it becomes available.

For now, we have put together the following information to help ensure that the opening days of school go as smoothly as possible.

## **1. The First Day of School is Thursday, September the 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

- Breakfast is served daily from 8:30-8:55.
- Instruction begins daily at 9:00.
- Because the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school is on a Thursday, school will be dismissed at 2:07 for grades 1-6.
- Regular dismissal time on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays is 3:07.
- Kinder dismissal is 12:45 or 12:50 every week day.

## **2. Entering and Leaving School.**

- ALL students will enter through the main gate in front of the school.
- After entering, all students will proceed through the cafeteria to have their temperature taken. At that point, they can choose to get breakfast or move on to their class lines on the playground.
- At the end of the school day, all students will exit through the main gate.

**{Parents picking up their students are urged to arrive at school promptly at dismissal time. Due to very limited supervision after dismissal time, students may NOT remain on campus after the school day is over.}**

**3. Some COVID considerations.** What has the District and School done to address the on-going COVID situation?

- Made vaccination or weekly testing a requirement for all staff on campus.
- Established isolated *Care Rooms* for students who exhibit any possible signs of infection at every school.
- Required the wearing of masks both in and outdoors.
- Made ongoing screening/testing available to all requesting it.
- Established enhanced cleaning and disinfection campus-wide.
- Increased ventilation measures.
- Implementation of contact tracing as called for.
- Requiring physical distancing as much as possible.
- Ensured that every school has trained health care staff on site during the school day.

Where can I get more information on this?

[Returntogether.scusd.edu](https://returntogether.scusd.edu)

[Learnscusd.edu](https://learncusd.edu)

[Reopeningdashboard.scusd.edu](https://reopeningdashboard.scusd.edu)

**4. Lunch Procedures at Harkness.**

- All students are eligible to receive a free lunch daily. Parents may also opt to send lunch to school with their children.
- During these days of COVID, we are encouraging as many students as possible in grades 1-6 to eat their lunch outside, where they can more easily spread out. Cafeteria seating will be available but limited due to physical distancing.
- Drinking Water: Due to State guidelines, our drinking fountains at school have been closed. Teachers and the cafeteria will make drinking water available to students. Parents may also want to send plastic or permanent water bottles to school with their children.

**5. First Day Packets.**

As in years past, students will bring home the First Day Packet at the end of the day on Thursday. These packets contain critical information for parents as well as important forms that need to be completed and returned to school. These packets

include information on meals and menus, a complete Bell Schedule, instructions for Reporting Student Absences, and most-importantly the yellow Student Emergency Card.

The Student Emergency Card serves several safety-related functions:

- Lets the school know who to contact in case of all emergencies.
- Informs school staff on who can access your student.
- Informs the school about any health considerations that should be known.

Please take the time to read over the information carefully and send back all required forms promptly!

## **6. Harkness Parent-Student Handbook.**

The Parent-Student Handbook is another important document that parents and students should be aware of. It contains valuable information on nearly all of our school's rules and procedures.

A partial listing of the contents:

- Medications at school
- Behavior Expectations in and out of the classroom
- Cell Phone Policy
- Homework Policy
- Prohibited Items
- School Dress Code
- Bullying at School

The Parent-Student Handbook can be found on-line at:

(located at the bottom of the page under "Reminders")

<https://harkness.scusd.edu/studentparent-handbook>