

Welcome Back!

2025-26



August 17, 2025

Welcome Back!

Dear Hardyston Community,

I hope your summer has been filled with great moments, new memories, and plenty of time to relax and recharge. As we get ready to turn the page to a new school year, let's carry that same spirit of curiosity, connection, and joy into the months ahead.

While summer may be winding down, there's no reason to stop enjoying the sunshine, making plans with friends and family, and finding ways to make each day the best it can be. Our shared energy and enthusiasm will help set the tone for a successful year together.

This "welcome back to school" message will be followed by weekly updates throughout the year to keep our community informed, connected, and inspired.

Here's to a great start!

Our District Goals for 2025-26 are as follows:

- **Academic Excellence:** Increase test scores by supporting teachers & expanding learning opportunities for students
- **Attendance & Engagement:** Increase attendance and decrease absenteeism by working with families and encouraging and inspiring students
- **Family & Community Partnership:** Deploy new opportunities and methods to connect, learn & partner with the District
- **Positive School Culture & Staff Collaboration:** Increase collaboration, camaraderie & celebration; and build teachers' professional and personal capacities.
- **Facilities & Finance:** Determine the District's pressing and future needs in facilities maintenance; identify needs for improvements to our technology, campus, and learning spaces; and explore methods for funding those needs.

Please welcome the following faculty members to our Hardyston educational family:

Kaitlyn Li, *Preschool Teacher*

Albert Buck, *Behaviorist*

Lea LaChance, *Elementary Music Teacher*

Carly Fitzmorris, *Long Term Substitute - Grade 2 Teacher*

Sue Andriola, *Elementary School Secretary*

Ryan Scussel, *Custodian*

Marilla Tanis, *Elementary LPN*

Paraprofessionals:

Janet Caldera

Ela Gonzales

Charlotte Gough

Mary Lombardi

Isabella Pagan

Mary Sardella

Renata Wilowska

Please look for continued updates and important school information via the Weekend Update - sent to your email on Sundays at 10 am and always available on www.https.org under "Updates."

I'm truly energized to begin another year together at Hardyston. Our commitment remains unchanged- we will continue making decisions guided by what is best for our students, while fostering kindness, respect, and collaboration every step of the way. The faculty, staff, and administration are ready to partner with you in creating a school year filled with growth, joy, and success for every child. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on **September 4!**

Sincerely,

Mike Ryder, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Parent Portal - Opens Thursday, 8/21 at 10 am

The parent portal will be open for teacher assignments, schedules, and bus information beginning on August 21st at 10 AM. **If this is your first year in Hardyston School District, your portal login code and instructions on how to access the portal will be emailed to you the morning of 8/21.**

****Please note that in order to view information on the portal, there are required forms that will need to be completed first. To make this process as easy as possible, you may wish to consider**

logging in from a computer or laptop instead of a cell phone.

Bus Information

Please be sure to check your child's **Transportation tab** in the Parent Portal once the portal opens on August 21st. Due to changes in bus assignments and routes over the summer, **bus numbers and pick-up/drop-off times may have changed**. Thank you for your attention to this important update as we prepare for the new school year!

Please arrive at the bus stop *10 minutes before the scheduled time and please wait at least 10 minutes after* the scheduled time for the bus to arrive. On the first few days of school, buses will likely run late as the drivers and children get used to the stops. Thank you for your patience.

To make boarding the buses faster, please have your child standing at the bus stop. Thank you for your cooperation.

Physicals and Immunizations

All newly enrolled Pre-K students and all students entering Kindergarten must submit a physical exam dated after September 4, 2024, along with up-to-date immunization records before the first day of school. They can be dropped off at the school, faxed, or emailed to the school nurse, Mrs. Stoffels, at wstoffels@https.org.

Medication Drop Off

If your child requires daily medication or uses an epi-pen or inhaler, you may drop it off to the school nurse on Tuesday, September 2 or Wednesday, September 3 from 12:30-3:30.

Supply Lists

This folder contains links to supply lists for both the ES and MS.

ES Summer Reading Challenge

Attendance Key Terms

Hardyston reduced its chronic absenteeism from 11.3% to 8.4% last school year!
Please click the button above to learn more about how school attendance works.

Reporting your Child's Absence

You can now report your child's absence through the Parent Portal. Please follow these simple steps below:

Instructions for entering your child's absence through the Parent Portal

- Go to <https.org>
- Click on "Parent"
- Sign into your Parent Portal
- Click on the 4 dashes located on the upper left side
- Click on "Daily Attendance"
- Click on "Report Student Attendance" and enter date, type of attendance, and note (reason for absence)
- Click on "Review Attendance" button
- Click on "Submit Attendance Request"

Done! It's that easy! Of course, if you prefer to speak with the nurse, please feel free to call the office.

HMS Grade 5 Back to School Night - Tuesday, September 2

5th Grade, 6 pm

Parents and 5th grade students are encouraged to attend 5th grade orientation. We will all meet in the gymnasium first and then proceed to the classrooms of the 5th grade teachers. Your children will also have the opportunity to setup their lockers!

HES PreK & K Back to School Night - Wednesday, September 3

Preschool, 3:30 pm

Please report directly to your child's classroom. Mrs. Cascone and Miss Li's classrooms are inside the main building. Mrs. Dugan, Miss Brady, Mrs. Lapinski and Mrs. Napovier's classrooms are in the annex. ****Parents only. No children, please.***

Kindergarten, 4:30 pm

Kindergarten students should accompany their parents as they will have the opportunity to meet their teacher and classmates and see their classroom. Students will then tour the school with our 4th grade students. Please report directly to your child's classroom.

****Parents and kindergarten students only. No siblings, please.***

HMS Grades 6-8 Back to School Night - Tuesday, September 16

Grades 6, 7 & 8

Please report directly to the gymnasium at 6 pm

HES Grades 1-4 Back to School Night - Thursday, September 18

Grades 1-2, 6:00 pm

Please report directly to your child's classroom.

Grades 3-4, 7:00 pm

Please report directly to your child's classroom.

Calendar of Events:

9/2 HMS Grade 5 - Back to School Night for students and parents, 6 PM

9/3 HES PK Back to School Night, parents only, 3:30; Kindergarten for parents/students, 4:30

9/4 **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

9/9 BOE Meeting @ HMS, 7 PM, cafeteria

9/16 HMS Back to School Night, Grades 6 - 8, 6 PM
9/18 HES Back to School Night, Grades 1 - 2, 6 PM; Grades 3 - 4, 7 PM
9/26 Fall sports pictures
10/3 HMS Progress Reports posted on portal
10/13 **Teacher In-Service day - SCHOOL CLOSED**
10/14 BOE Meeting @ HMS, 7 PM, cafeteria
10/16 PICTURE DAY - HES and HMS
11/6 & 11/7 **SCHOOL CLOSED**
11/10 1st Marking Period ends
11/11 BOE Meeting @ HMS, 7 PM, cafeteria
11/13 Make-up Picture Day - HES / HMS
11/17 **Reports Cards posted on portal**
11/26 **Early Dismissal Day**
11/27 & 11/28 **Thanksgiving Recess - SCHOOL CLOSED**

8th GRADE PARENTS

We're excited to share that this year's 8th grade trip will be a visit to New York City to see *The Outsiders* musical! Students will travel by charter bus and enjoy a fun lunch at the Hard Rock Café. Additional details and a permission slip will be sent to you via email soon. Stay tuned!

Hardyston PTA Website

Become a PTA member TODAY

Follow us on Instagram

Follow the Elementary School on Instagram

HTTPS Contacts

[Mental Health Resource](#)

Email: admin@https.org

Website: www.https.org

Location: [183 Wheatsworth Road, Hamburg, NJ, USA](#)

Phone: [973-823-7000](tel:973-823-7000)

Twitter: [@hardyston_csa](https://twitter.com/hardyston_csa)



Hardyston Schools

Hardyston is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

