

Hardyston School District

Weekend Update August 24, 2025

Bus and teacher assignments are now viewable on the portal

The parent portal is now open for teacher assignments, schedules, and bus information. **If this is your first year in Hardyston School District, your portal login code and instructions on how to access the portal was emailed to you on the morning of 8/21.** If you need assistance, please call the main office.

****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

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.

Free and Reduced Lunch Applications

[Free and reduced lunch applications are available online](#) and a paper copy will be provided on the first day of school. Please note that free lunch will not be provided until the application is processed.

and a family qualifies. During that time, please send your child to school with lunch or [add money to their lunch account through payschoolcentral.com](https://payschoolcentral.com)

If your child is NOT taking the bus home, you need to use Pick Up Patrol

PickUp Patrol is a system Hardyston School District uses to manage dismissal. It eliminates the need to write notes or make phone calls when changing your student's dismissal plans. It is assumed that all students will ride the bus home unless you change your preference in Pick Up Patrol. Please be sure to log in to set up your preference. New parents, you will receive a welcome email inviting you to set up an account.

Please note Preschool students do not use Pick Up Patrol because transportation choices were already noted through the transportation survey that was sent out earlier this summer.

PickUp Patrol - How To Use The App



How to Use the PickUp Patrol Parent App

Click HERE for easy to follow PUP directions

Important Hardyston Elementary Information

Drop off and pick up takes place behind the school.

Drop Off is between 8:40 am and 8:50 am. Please remember that drop off is a flowing line of cars and parents are not permitted to walk students to the door. Thank you for your cooperation.

Pick Up is in the back of the building. Parents will be directed to park and may exit the driveway only when signaled to do so.

Arrival times for pick up:

- Preschool parents may arrive prior to 3 pm and must display their PK parking pass to park
- Kinder - grade 4 parents will not be able to enter the driveway before 3:10

Buses will leave the school at approximately 3:40 pm. During the first few days of school, buses may arrive home a few minutes later than what would be typical as bus drivers and students are getting use to the routine.

Upcoming ES Events

Open House for Students

To welcome our families back to school, students are invited to Hardyston Elementary School on **Thursday, August 28 from 10:00 am – 12:00** for a self-guided tour to walk the hallways and locate your child's classroom. Teachers will not be present and all classrooms (except preschool classes) will be locked. Our PTA will be in the main hallway and they are excited to talk with you. I am looking forward to seeing everyone, too.

Preschool, Wednesday, 9/3 at 3:30 pm

Please report directly to your child's classroom. Mrs. Cascone and Miss Li's classroom 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, Wednesday, 9/3 at 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.***

Grades 1–4, Thursday, 9/18

To accommodate families who have students in multiple grade levels, there will be two sessions.

- **Grades 1 & 2** will be held from 6 - 7:00 *parents report directly to the classroom at 6 pm
- **Grades 3 & 4** will be held from 7 - 8:00 *parents report directly to the classroom at 7 pm
- **Assigned Arts, intervention, speech teachers, and (select) CST members** will be available in the cafeteria from 6:30 - 7:30 pm
- **The Hardyston PTA and other organizations** will also be in the cafeteria from 6:30 - 8 pm

****Parents/guardians only. No children, please.***

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

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

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

HTPS 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

A close-up, low-angle shot of the side of a yellow school bus. The bus is painted a bright yellow. On the side, there is a black rectangular sign with a white border that reads "SCHOOL BUS" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. To the left of the sign is a red, oval-shaped light. The bus is set against a clear blue sky. The bottom of the image shows a dark, textured surface, possibly a road or a sidewalk.

SCHOOL BUS