

# Hardyston School District

Weekend Update September 7, 2025

## A Message from the Superintendent

As we begin a new school year, I want to share a theme that will guide our work together: **Belief, Belonging, and Becoming**. Over the years, I've learned that when we believe in our students, when we create spaces where they truly feel they belong, we unlock the incredible things they can become.

This summer, I was reminded of that in a simple but powerful way. My family and I made a stop in Winnemucca, Nevada, so my daughter could meet a friend she had only known online. It wasn't a glamorous destination — in fact, Johnny Cash once sang about all the "dust and sand" there, and he wasn't kidding. But for my daughter and her friend, that meeting mattered. It reminded me that belonging takes intention — you have to make time for the people who matter most. The same is true for our schools: when students feel seen, valued, and supported, they thrive.

Our district goals this year — from achieving academic excellence to strengthening family partnerships and building a positive school culture — are not just items on a checklist. They are pathways that help our students grow into who they are meant to be.

And speaking of milestones — congratulations to **Rebecca Halbig, Chriss Reder, and John Torppey**, who are joining the tenure club this year, and to **Arielle Stampone and Dr. Gulay Maffia**, who will reach tenure in the spring. Tenure is more than a piece of paper — it's proof that you've built something lasting here and that you belong in our Hardyston community.

---

**Back to School Toolkit 2025**

---

**Breakfast & Lunch**

Beginning this year, we are excited to offer breakfast to all students each morning. Just like lunch, there is a cost unless you qualify for free or reduced meals, so please be sure to complete the Free and Reduced Lunch Application

[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](#)

HES Parents: [Click here to order your child's breakfast weekly.](#)

## Breakfast and Lunch Menus

Please click above to view HES and HMS breakfast and lunch menus

## Breakfast and Lunch Prices

---

### 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.

---

### 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.



## *How to Use the PickUp Patrol Parent App*

[Click HERE for easy to follow PUP directions](#)

---

### Important Information for HES

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 HES Events

#### **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.***

## HMS Band and Choir - Sign Up Now!

Band & Choir sign-ups are open until Friday, September 26th. Please fill out the Google Form for your students and have them join the Google Classroom. The Handbooks and September Calendar are in provided in the GC and students can get hard copies from Ms. Kempf

**HMS Band and Choir Sign Up Google Form - [click here](#)**

## HMS Battle of the Hornets

Hey **HMS students**! Each month we will share a calendar of events for the student activities taking place for the BATTLE OF THE HORNETS! Here's September -

### HARDYSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL BATTLE OF THE HORNETS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 2025-2026



SEPTEMBER	
ACHIEVEMENT	
Monday, September 8th	"Team" Google Form to be completed in WIN
Friday, September 12th	Battle of the Hornets Kickoff Events
Monday, September 15th	Math Minute Google Form to be completed in WIN
Monday, September 22nd	Cafeteria Google Form to be completed in WIN
Monday, September 29th	Habits of a Highly Successful Hornet Google Form
COMMUNITY	
Friday, September 12th	Battle of the Hornets Kickoff and Spirit Day! (Assembly 8:15am)
ATTENDANCE	
Thursday, September 1st- Tuesday, September 30th	highest % present

---

## 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](mailto:wstoffels@https.org).

---

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

**Grades 6, 7 & 8**

Please report directly to the gymnasium at 6 pm

---



## Calendar of Events:

**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

---

### 2025-2026 Student Parent Handbook and Calendar

---

---

---

### 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

**YMCA HAPPENINGS - Click here for latest flyers and events**

Follow us on Instagram

Follow HES on Instagram

### HTPS Contacts

[Mental Health Resource](#)

Email: [admin@https.org](mailto:admin@https.org)

Website: [www.https.org](http://www.https.org)

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

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

Twitter: [@hardyston\\_csa](#)



**Hardyston Schools**

Hardyston is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters