



SPECIAL PRESCHOOL EDITION NEWSLETTER 2020

Welcome to the New Preschool Year!

We are excited to welcome your child to preschool for the 2020/2021 school year. As we begin the new year during the COVID-19 Pandemic, we would like to assure you we will be doing everything recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in order to keep your child and our staff healthy. We know we can count on you to be our partner in this effort. Please watch your child and all others in your household for signs and symptoms of illness. If you detect any, please keep your child home. Take your child's temperature often, assure lots of handwashing and practice wearing masks if tolerated. These will be things we will be doing when they join us this year therefore, practicing at home will help them get adjusted to these new routines.

We are excited to partner with you to provide early educational services to your child. If we each do our part, we will have a good chance of keeping everyone healthy and keeping our preschool open for all children. Our staff will be sending additional correspondence before the start of the school year so please look for their helpful information.

Stay safe, stay healthy.

Deb Buccilla, Superintendent



Hills and Dales Early Childhood Center



Hi! I am Renee Achtermann and I am the new Education Director for Highland County. For the last nine years I have taught in Washington Court House City Schools. I live in Wilmington with my husband Bryan and our two daughters, Adalynn (7) and Morgan (4). We raise show pigs and my little girls LOVE to show pigs almost every weekend in the summer! I am excited to join the team here and look forward to getting to know everyone!

	<p style="text-align: center;">Ellen Gray Early Childhood Center Office Administrator</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Emily Combs Preschool Teacher Intervention Specialist Room 1 Younger 3 and 4 year olds</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Danielle Pottorf Educational Aide Room 1 Younger 3 and 4 year olds</p>

	<p>Kristina Marion Preschool Teacher Intervention Specialist Room 2 Younger 3 and 4 year olds</p>
	<p>Ciara Garman Educational Aide Room 2 Younger 3 and 4 year olds</p>
	<p>Anna Smith Preschool Teacher Intervention Specialist Room 4 Older students</p>
	<p>Tammy Manor Educational Aide Room 4 Older students</p>
	<p>Jessica Stanfield Preschool Teacher Intervention Specialist Room 5 Older students</p>
	<p>Mackenzie Edison Educational Aide Room 5 Older students</p>

	<p>Agnus Justice Educational Aide Sensory/Motor Lab</p>
	<p>Kim Johnson Educational Aide Sensory/Motor Lab</p>
	<p>Leah Ater Educational Aide ASL/Float</p>
	<p>Wendy Sykora Educational Aide Float/Sanitation/Kitchen Prep/Sub</p>
	<p>Nicole Haines Sub Aide/Teacher</p>
	<p>Nathan Boatman Sub Aide/Teacher</p>



Teresa Hess
Vehicle Operator/Bus Driver



Chris Hopkins
Vehicle Operator/Bus Driver



**THANK
YOU
TEACHERS
AND STAFF**

Are you Tired of Washing Everyone's Hands yet?

Wait - don't answer that!! You should be! Everyone has heard it a thousand times: Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after you do pretty much everything and do not touch your face. For those of you raising little people at home those are not small or easy requests. Toddlers touch everything multiple times a day including their nose and face 😊. Here are a few ideas to make washing hands a fun experience for them and you...



- Try the old faithful “WASH, WASH, WASH your hands” to the tune of “Row, Row, Row your boat.” The verses can be as creative as you like; you can try – “wash your hands today so we can go play” or “wash your hands today and chase those germs away.” Equally as fun, make up your own silly rhyme!

• Don't shoot the messenger, but the infamous Baby Shark song has a couple new **HANDWASHING** versions available on You Tube from Pinkfong! Kids' Songs & Stories. There is a 20 second version & a full length version if you are extra brave & patient!! #BabySharkHandWashChallenge I know you may be crazy after the 10th time you sing it, but they may love it.



• A teacher in Miami Florida posted a video on You Tube using **PEPPER** to represent the germs or virus & has a student stick their hand in the pepper water without soap & nothing happens. Then she has her dip her finger in soap first & then the pepper and the pepper runs away from her soap protected finger!! Check it out for fun. The video has gone viral for desperate parents trying to emphasize the importance of handwashing to little ones!





HOW TO TALK TO KIDS ABOUT COVID-19

1

STAY OPEN TO QUESTIONS

There is a new virus a bit like a cold, not many kids are getting it but the Dr's are helping everyone.



2

WASH YOUR HANDS

Sing the Happy Birthday song twice every time you wash your hands, rub them together with soap!



3

KIDS ARE STRONG

Eat healthy foods, sneeze into your elbow, drink lots of water and try not to touch your face!



4

IT CAN IMPACT ANYONE

It doesn't matter where you or your parents come from, be caring to everyone. It's not your job to worry.



FOR A TOOLKIT OF RESOURCES



Beverly Hills
Unified School District

VISIT [BHUSD.ORG/COVID19/](https://www.bhUSD.org/COVID19/)



COVID Procedures

As Hills & Dales Preschool prepares to welcome your preschool child, we want you to know we are doing everything we can to ensure the safety of your child. The COVID-19 pandemic can be scary and is hard for children to understand. We want to create an environment where you feel safe sending your child and where your child feels safe. Based on Ohio Department of Education (ODE) preschool rules and recommendations, you and your child will see changes to our program. Some of those changes are outlined below. The following information may be different from what is in our handbook for typical operation. **Please know that these plans can change at any time with guidance from the Governor! You will be notified of any changes as they occur.**

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How can I prepare my student for the school day?

- *Students should wash their hands prior to leaving their home in the morning.
- *Parents are asked to check their child's temperature before leaving their house daily. Students who have a temperature of 100.0 will not be permitted at school.
- *Ensure your student has a mask with them for the school day if they will be wearing one.

Being Safe on the Bus

- *Temperatures will be taken before students get on the bus. If their temperature is over 100°F they will be required to return home.
- *There will be one student per seat or 2 siblings from the same household.
- *Buses will be sanitized after each route.



Arriving at School



- In the interest of student and staff safety, visitors will not be permitted into the building this year. Parents/Guardians picking up their child will be asked to text the office upon arrival and receive assistance in order for you to have a contactless visit. Please **text 937-768-3756** when you arrive and your child will be brought out to you. Visitors will only be permitted into school buildings for authorized events and predetermined meetings arranged with school personnel. This procedure will be followed for daily pickup at the end of the school day.

-Temperatures will be taken for all students as they enter the school building. Students who have a temperature of 100.0 will not be permitted at school.

During the School Day

-Students will be served lunch in their classrooms. They will have prepackaged plates and utensils will prepared for them provided by our kitchen staff.

-Students will be permitted to play on the playground. They will stay with their class and the playground will be sanitized after each classroom leaves.

-As ordered by the state, all employees will be required to wear masks inside, except those individuals who are alone in a private office. Students are not required to wear masks in the classrooms but it is recommended.

-Students will be asked to wash their hands and use hand sanitizer throughout the day.

-Restrooms will be cleaned throughout each day. Classrooms will be cleaned at the end of each day as well as toys and desks.



Student Illness: What should we do?

Any student with a fever over 100 degrees Fahrenheit should stay at home.

Any student that has the following symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home from school and should see primary care provider to be assessed for COVID-19:

- Any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing
- OR**
- Two of the following symptoms: chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, GI Issues (nausea and vomiting or diarrhea)



- OR**
- Any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing, chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, GI issues (nausea and vomiting or diarrhea) and an epidemiological link to a case of COVID-19

When can I return to school after being sick?

If a student is diagnosed as having COVID-19, they must meet the following criteria to return to school:



- Three (3) days with no fever (without using fever reducing medication)
- And**
- Other symptoms improved
- And**
- 10 days since symptoms first appeared

Students that only have a fever and no other symptoms and have not had any contact with an individual that has had COVID-19 may return to school after they are fever free for 72 hours without using any fever reducing medications.

COMMUNICATION ON COVID-19 CASES

Communication will be developed by the Highland County Health Department, not the school. A common template will be developed to include the following:

- Specify to parent which classroom/bus/school/other school activity the confirmed case was in.
- The school will cooperate with the Highland County Health Department in contact tracing to identify close contacts of the case of COVID-19.
- Fourteen (14) day quarantine will be required of any student who is determined to have close contact with the case of COVID-19 by the Highland County Health Department.
- The Highland County Health Department will write a letter for the school to use and the letter will explain/define what is considered close contact to a COVID-19 case that will result in quarantine.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Highland County
Health Department**



We are looking forward to your child attending our program. If you have questions about the information included in this newsletter, please ask. You may contact Education Director Renee Achtermann at rachtermann@highdd.org. We are here to help you and your child be comfortable and feel safe in our program, while together, we help your child learn and grow during these critical developmental years.

