



Hillis Elementary School

DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

August 2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year!

Hillis is a place where, **Dreamers Learn To Dream Big!**

Our focus at Hillis Elementary School is centered on *learning, leading, and growing.*

We believe we do our best in service to student success when we team together. We are excited for the upcoming school year and are ready for our Hillis learner-leaders to begin their amazing journey of learning, leading, and growing this year. Please accept this invitation to partner with us as support each child toward success.

Mrs. O'Hara

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT – AUGUST 31

Please join us at Meet the Teacher Night scheduled for August 31st from 5:30pm-7:00pm at Hillis Elementary School. This event is an informational event, held by our Hillis staff, and will help our team set the stage for a successful year! Parent/partners will be able to attend an information session(s) for their child(ren) teacher(s) at one of three times. Information sessions will be held in homerooms, the gym, the cafeteria, the interventionist room, the ELL room, and our special education rooms.

5:30 pm-5:55pm

6:00pm-6:25pm

6:30pm-6:55pm

STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP AT HILLIS

We appreciate your patience and cooperation during the drop off and pick up procedures. It is a great opportunity for all of us as adults to model respect and team work to our students!

To keep traffic flowing and keep everyone safe, please enter the U-shaped drive going northbound on 56th street. The right lane of the drive is the only lane where you can stop to drop off or pick up your student(s). You must remain in the car and wait for your student(s) to

exit the vehicle in the morning or to load into the vehicle in the afternoon. Please pull through as close to the exit as you can. Students will be loaded along the whole U-shaped drive including the grassy areas.

If you are planning to exit your vehicle any time during drop off or pick up, please drive along the left lane of the drive and park your car in a parking spot. Once your car is safely parked, you may walk your students to the school door or pick them up!

With your child(ren) safely loaded (or unloaded) from your vehicle, slowly get into the left lane and proceed to exit the drive turning RIGHT onto 56th street.

Remember: Vehicles are not allowed to be parked in the right lane of the drive at any time during arrival and dismissal! Students will be allowed to exit or enter vehicles that are in the right lane ONLY. This is for the safety of our students, staff, and families.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Our goal is to have EVERY student here EVERY DAY and on time!

Our day starts promptly at 7:45 which is the time the students have to be in their classrooms. Please plan to drop your child(ren) off in time for them to walk to their rooms by 7:45 am.

Did you know?

- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, absences may cause children to fall behind in reading and math.
- Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just 1 or 2 days every few weeks.
- Being 5 minutes late to school every day will cause a student to miss 15 hours of instruction in just one school year!

If your child has to be absent, you must notify the school office. You must sign in your student in the office if they are tardy.

Thank you in advance for making sure that your child(ren) is here every day and on time! Our school is not the same without them!

NOTES FROM THE NURSE

Illness- Students who are sick must STAY HOME until they are free from symptoms of illness for 24 hours and/or if any test results are pending. This helps reduce the risk of spreading the illness to others in our school. Notify the school of your student's absence/illness. The nurse follows district policy and guidance from public health in determining when to exclude students due to illness.

Examples include:

- Fever of 100.4 degrees F or greater
- Illness that disrupts the student's learning or poses a risk of spreading to others. (e.g.vomiting, diarrhea, persistent cough, etc.)
- Illness that results in a greater need for care than staff can provide without affecting the health and safety of others.

Medications- Only medications approved and prescribed by a healthcare provider may be given at school. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medications. Medications need to be in the original container and include the child's name, name of medicine, dosage, and time to be given.

If you have any questions/concerns regarding medication administration at school, please feel free to contact me at 515-242-8412.

Thank you and I look forward to working and caring for your students!

LeeAnn Smoldt RN
Hillis School Nurse
leeann.smoldt@dmschools.org#

THERAPY DOG

Thora, our building therapy dog is housed in Mrs. Gilberts 4th grade room

KEY DATES

8/23/2023 First Day of School
7:45 am Start and 2:40 pm Dismissal
8/31/2023 Back to School Night 5:30-7:00
9/4/2023 No School Labor Day
9/18/2023 Picture Day

STAY IN TOUCH

Hillis Elementary School
2401 56th Street – Des Moines IA
515.242.8412
Email: hillis@dmschools.org
Website: hillis.dmschools.org

GET INVOLVED - PTO

Parent Teacher Organization
Facebook: [@HillisElementaryPTO](https://www.facebook.com/HillisElementaryPTO)
PTO President: Abby Ortiz abigail.ortiz@dmschools.org
PTO Email: pto.hillis@gmail.com



PARTY ON THE PLAYGROUND – AUGUST 22ND 6:00-7:30

Join us the day before school starts for an exciting gathering! Come reconnect with friends and engage with a knowledgeable librarian from Franklin Library, who will introduce you to the wonders of the library. Delight in the world of books and partake in engaging activities that await you.

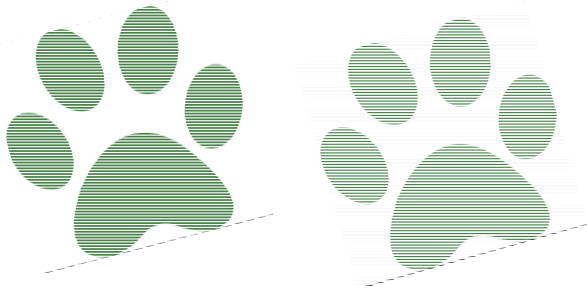
To add to the fun, the PTO has arranged a delightful treat – ice cream for everyone to enjoy. We're eagerly looking forward to reuniting with all of you and creating wonderful memories together. see attached flyer.
Date: August 22nd Time: 6:00-7:30] Location: Hillis Playground
See you there!

NEED SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR YOUR STUDENTS?

Don't worry! We have a lot to share! Reach out to Dema Abuassaf at dema.abuassaf@dmschools.org. Gather the supplies on Friday, August 18th. Feel free to connect for assistance.

SURVEY - YOUR INPUT IS VALUABLE

We are excited to connect with you and gather insights that will aid us in enhancing our community offerings. Kindly take a moment to complete this survey – your feedback as a cherished partner means a great deal to us.
Survey Link: [Community Input Survey](#)



GIRLS ON THE RUN

Girls on the Run is back, and we're excited to invite you to be a part of our empowering program!

Girls on the Run is a transformational physical activity-based positive youth development program for girls in 3rd to 5th grade.

Our program encourages girls to recognize their inner strength and celebrate what makes them unique, while building important life skills through dynamic lessons and interactive running games.

Be a Volunteer! We're seeking enthusiastic volunteers who are passionate about empowering young girls to believe in themselves and lead joyful, healthy, and confident lives. As a volunteer, you'll have the opportunity to mentor and inspire girls, lead group activities, and share in the joy of their accomplishments. Join us in making a lasting impact on the lives of these amazing young individuals.
coaching: [Click here to volunteer](#)

Contact Dema Abuassaf: dema.abuassaf@dmschools.org

Together, we can make a difference!

