



Hillis Elementary School
DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 2023



Parent-Visitors at Hillis

Parent visitors are welcome to join their child(ren) at lunch and recess times during the school day. For specific lunch and recess times, please contact your child's homeroom teacher. We ask that parent visitors not visit classrooms during instructional times as this makes it difficult for students to attend to their learning at optimal levels. If a parent has questions about a child's individual progress in school, please feel free to contact the homeroom teacher and they will be happy to share individual information with you. Thank you for supporting all our learners.

Change in dismissal plans.

If you have a dismissal plan different than what is a regular routine for your child (example you are picking up your student and he or she should not ride the bus), please contact the main office (515.242.8412) by 2:00pm. We want to safely ensure the change of plan is enacted and need to have information before 2:00pm. Calls made after 2:00pm may not be carried out due to end of the day responsibilities. Thank you for your attention to this important safety matter for our children.

Attendance

Daily on time attendance to school makes a difference in student achievement. Students must be at school, in the building, by 7:45 am. Students who are dropped off at 7:45am or after, are to be escorted into the main office and signed in to the building for the day. If a parent is wanting to walk a student to their classroom after 7:45am, we ask that the parent sign in as a visitor and provide proof of identification by providing a valid driver's license for scanning. All visitors to Hillis must sign in and provide proof of identification for the safety of our children. Thank you for your support and assistance in keeping Hillis safe!

Dismissal

School dismisses at 2:40pm each day. Students must be picked up from school no later than 2:55pm as there is no staff available after 2:55pm. Students who are not picked up by 2:55pm will be placed in our school based after school program and parents will be assessed a fee.

Leader in Me

Hillis Elementary is a Leader in Me school! This year our school will be launching a "habit" of leadership each month during a school wide "Hillis Hound Pack Rally." Our first Hillis Hound Pack Rally is scheduled for September 8th at 8:00-8:30 am. Parents are welcome to attend.

At Hillis, we have been learning about ways we can re-charge or re-calibrate ourselves when we are feeling ways like nervous, anxious, or frustrated. Each learning space at Hillis has a "Paws Station". Hillis Paws Stations are areas that

have different things students can do to help them calm down and refocus. Ask your child(ren) how they have used the Paws Station and what helps promote a sense of calm for them? Homes can establish a Paws Station too!

Library books

Please return any Hillis Library books you may have at home.

Visitors – Parents – Family and Friends

All visitors (including parents) to Hillis must sign in at the office and provide proof of identification (this includes signing your child out early from school). All visitors will be processed through our T-Pass security system. Please allow a few minutes the first time you arrive as all visitors must be entered into our security system. Every visit after that you must still provide Identification at the main office desk. Thank you for your support and patience in keeping Hillis safe!

Key Dates

September 04 – NO SCHOOL (Labor Day)
September 08 – Hillis Hound Pack Rally 8:00-8:30 am
September 11-15 – PTO Penny Wars
September 15 – PTO Movie Night 6:00 pm
September 18 – Picture Day
September 22 – NO SCHOOL
September 25 – NO SCHOOL (Yom Kippur)

STAY IN TOUCH Hillis Elementary School 2401 56 th Street – Des Moines IA 515.242.8412 Email: hillis@dmschools.org Website: hillis.dmschools.org	GET INVOLVED - PTO Parent Teacher Organization Facebook: @HillisElementaryPTO PTO President: Abby Ortiz abigail.ortiz@dmschools.org PTO Email: pto.hillis@gmail.com
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Penny Wars Fundraiser

Penny Wars Fundraiser for Hillis playground improvements. During the week of the 11th, bring your loose change to drop in the buckets that will be in the main hallway before school. The grade level that collects the most money will win a pizza party! More info will be sent home soon

Movie Night

Movie Night on the 15th (rain date 29th). Bring your blankets and chairs to the Hillis playground to watch The Super Mario Bros. movie. Popcorn, water and a treat will be provided but families are welcome to bring snacks too. Movie will start at dusk. This is a free event to attend. Kids must be accompanied by an adult.



4th Annual OneRun

September 23, 2023

The 4th annual District-wide OneRun fundraiser DMPS will be held at Water Works Park on September 23rd, 2023, with check-in between 8:00-8:45 a.m. The event will be a 2-mile fun run/walk with an option to cheer on the sidelines as a supporter! Registration is free for everyone; participation is what will count.

To register as a runner, walker, or sideline supporter click here: <http://www.dmpsfoundation.org/events/>

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!



Hillis Elementary School – 2401 56th Street – Des Moines IA 50310 – 515.242.8412

email: hillis@dmschools.org - website: hillis.dmschools.org



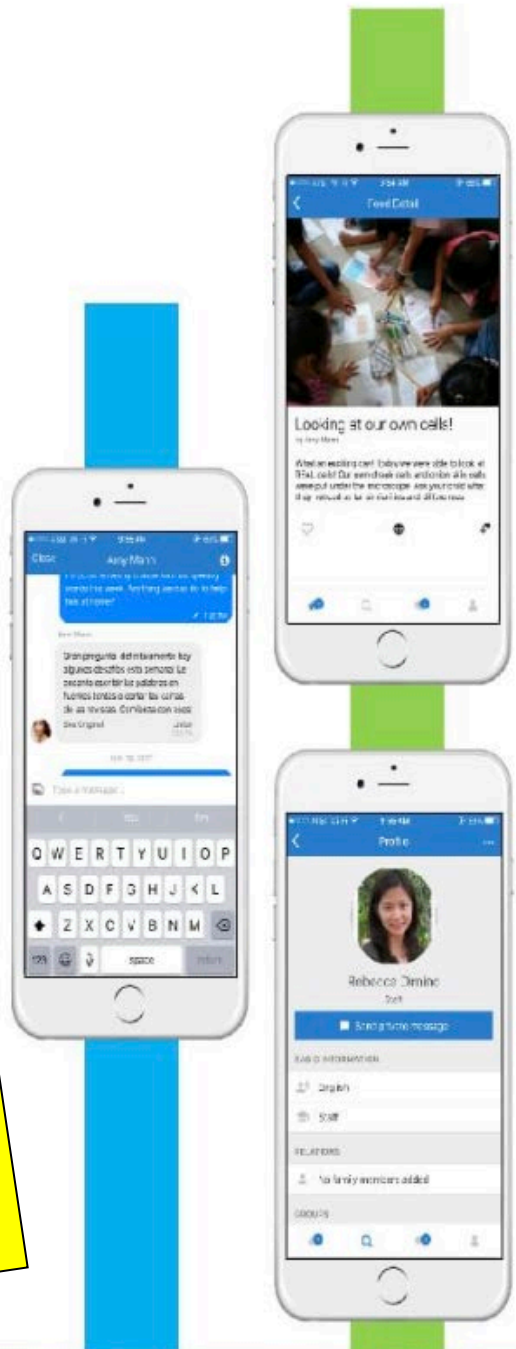
Our school is excited to be partnering with SchoolCNXT to provide a platform to communicate with you on your mobile phone or tablet! This app is free and will provide school and classroom news, in-app text messaging, translation services, and more!

You will be able to:

- Send and receive messages to teachers and parents
- "Like" school and classroom news items
- RSVP to events
- Stay connected to your child's classroom and school!

You will be receiving a text message on your mobile phone with a link to download the app. Please click the link follow directions to create an account. This will be the best way to stay up-to-date about what is happening with your child's school!

We are excited about this opportunity and look forward to communicating with you through SchoolCNXT.



Check your phones and emails! We will be sending out electronic codes and instructions!
Or you can send an email to hillis@dmschools.org

www.schoolcnxt.com

support@schoolcnxt.com



South Union Elementary