

**Armstrong Elementary
Student Handbook
2016-2017**



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Enrollment

Requirements and Policies

HPISD Enrollment Information

All of our campuses are accepting new students. An elementary student will be placed in his/her attendance zone school unless the grade level at that campus is full. If there is not space available, the child's name may be added to a waiting list. However, until space becomes available, the child will be placed at a campus within HPISD that has classroom space available. All of HPISD's elementary schools are excellent, and all have earned the top accountability ratings from the state.

Click [here](#) to view HPISD's enrollment policies. Enter each of the following policy names: FD(Legal), FD(Local), and FD(Regulation) in the policy code box. Here is a summary of the policies:

The family must reside within the school district boundaries.

To learn about the district definition of "resides," please see [FD\(Regulation\)](#).

Click [here](#) to view the boundaries of the district and the attendance zone for each elementary.

To inquire about a unique residency situation, contact the student's future school office or the Student and Administrative Services Coordinator at the HPISD Administration Building.

Tuition for out-of-district students is not permitted.

Enrollment

The enrollment process begins with HPISD's paperless enrollment packet. After creating a family account, the system guides parents through the rest of the steps. Upon completion, all forms are sent electronically to the appropriate campus.

The checklist and additional required documents must be hand delivered to the campus.

Required documents include:

Proof of residency:

- Copy of a contract or deed or current lease of reasonable duration, and
- Original, current electric or water utility bill at the same address, and
- Copy of parent or legal guardian's driver's license at the same address

Additional documents, as applicable:

- Completed enrollment packet for each child, obtained online for each school
- Certified copy of the student's birth certificate
- Copy of student's social security card
- Immunization records
- Copy of custody papers, if applicable
- Withdrawal form from former school, if the school year has started
- Most recent report card for students enrolling in grades 1-11
- Copy of unofficial transcript, if enrolling for high school

Annual Residency Verification

Families must also submit an annual verification of residency using a water or electric bill. This can be submitted online through the district's website. Click [here](#) for Residency Document Upload.

Back to School Sign Up


Prior to the opening of each school year, all parents/guardians must complete Back to School Sign Up. In order to begin the Back to School Sign Up process, your campus registrar will provide you with a Skyward Family Access username and password.

Armstrong Elementary Campus Tours

We are always happy to welcome visitors to our campus. Campus tours are available each Friday during the school year by appointment on a space available basis. Please call the school office at 214-780-3100 to schedule a tour of Armstrong Elementary. We are not able to accommodate classroom visits.

District Calendar

<http://www.hpisd.org/Portals/0/docs/calendar/2016.17.approved.K-8.pdf>



2016-17 HPISD Calendar Grades K-8

July 2016							August 2016							September 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30														
31																				

October 2016							November 2016							December 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
22	23	24	25	26	27	28														
29	30	31																		

January 2017							February 2017							March 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28					26	27	28	29	30	31	
29	30	31																		

April 2017							May 2017							June 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	21	22	23	24	25*	26*	27*	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	28	29	30*	31*				15	16	17	18	19	20	21
23	24	25	26	27	28	29								22	23	24	25	26	27	28
30														29	30					

Grading Periods						
First Semester - 80 Days				Second Semester - 95 Days		
Aug. 22-Oct. 21 - 1st Grading Period - 43 days				Jan. 3-March 9 - 1st Grading Period - 46 days		
Oct. 24-Dec. 16 - 2nd Grading Period - 37 days				March 20-May 26 - 2nd Grading Period - 49 days		

Dates at a Glance	
Aug. 15-19	Professional Days
Aug. 22	First Day of School
Sept. 5	Holiday
Sept. 23	Student Early Release K-6 only/ Afternoon Staff PD
Oct. 10	Professional Exchange Day/ Student Holiday
Oct. 28	Student Early Release K-8/ Afternoon Staff PD
Nov. 23-25	Holiday
Dec. 15	Early Release 7-8
Dec. 16	Early Release K-8
Dec. 17	Work Day for Staff
Dec. 19-30	Holiday
Jan. 2	Campus Professional Development Day/Student Holiday
Jan. 3	Classes resume
Jan. 16	Holiday
Jan. 27	Student Early Release K-8/ Afternoon Staff PD
Feb. 20	District Professional Day/ Student Holiday
March 10	Campus Professional Development Day/Student Holiday
March 13-17	Spring Break
March 28-29**	State assessment
April 13	Student Early Release K-6 only/ Afternoon Staff PD
April 14	Professional Exchange Day/ Student Holiday
May 8-11**	State assessment, AP tests
May 25*	Early Release 7-8
May 26*	Early Release K-8/ Last Day of School
May 27*	Work Day for Staff
May 29	Holiday
May 30*	Bad Weather Makeup Day/ Holiday
May 31*	Bad Weather Makeup Day/ Holiday

* Please note that Texas school districts are required to build two bad weather makeup days into the calendars. If the May 30 and/or the May 31 bad weather makeup days must be used, students and staff will attend school those days. Final exams and early release days will be moved to the last two days of school, and the Staff Work Day will be moved to the day following the last day of school.

** Please note that state assessment dates may change

School Calendar

<http://hpid.intand.com/index.php?type=view&action=month>

School activities and facilities reservations are posted on the HPISD Activities Calendar, which can be filtered for campus specific activities for Armstrong Elementary. Subscribe for calendar updates. Information on specific classroom activities is available from the classroom teacher.

Daily Procedures and Information

Carpool Instructions and Queuing Lanes

Student safety is very important to all of us, and it demands the attention of every driver and student at all times. Please familiarize yourself with the directed flow of traffic around the school, and obey all traffic signs and crossing guard instructions.

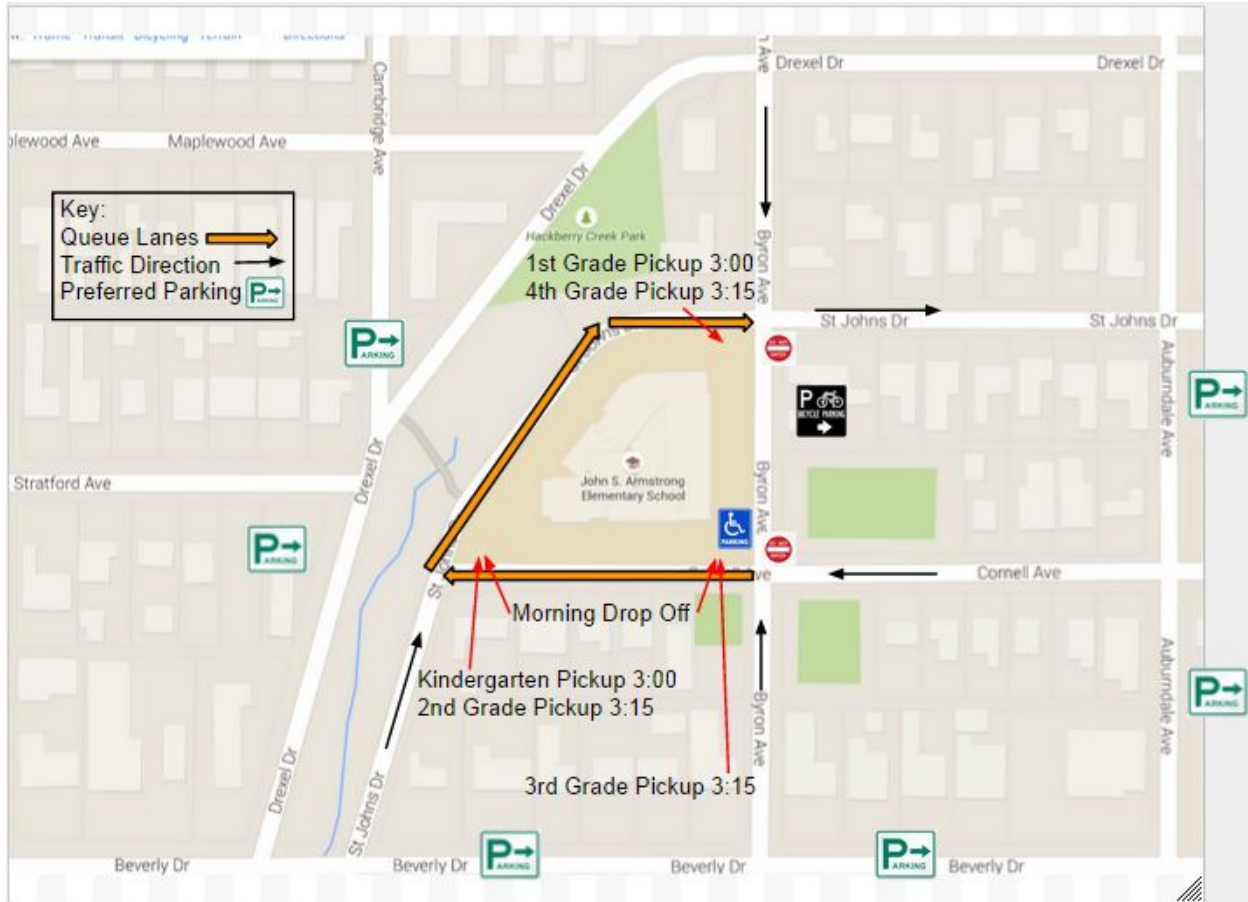
Please be a courteous and patient driver and communicate with your student prior to pick up where you plan to be so that you are not using your cell phone in the school zone.

Please follow these queue lane guidelines:

- The queue lane is the lane along the curb next to the building, and flows west on Cornell and northeast on St. Johns.
- Parking is along the curb farthest from the school, and the middle lane is for traffic flow ONLY. Use the queuing lane, or pull over to a legal curb, for your child to exit on the sidewalk side of the car. Cars in the middle lane must yield to cars trying to exit the queue lane.
- Enter the queue lane behind the last car in line. Do NOT cut into the queue lane.
- Pull forward as far as possible in the queue lane before dropping off or picking up your child. Be courteous and do not stop the traffic behind you.
- Drop off and pick up students from the queue lane on the curb side ONLY, never the middle of the street.
- NO cell phone use is permitted in the school zone. Comply with posted traffic signs at all times.
- Students crossing the street must ALWAYS use crosswalks.

Queue Lane and Carpool Map

<https://goo.gl/HSJsRo>



Walkers and Bicyclists

Students and all pedestrians must obey the crossing guards, cross only at designated intersections, and observe bicycle safety rules. Bicycles must be parked in the racks provided and should have locks. The school is not responsible for bicycle damage or theft. Scooters, in-line skates, and skateboards, if ridden to school, may be stored in the lockers. The Town of Highland Park does not allow motorized scooters to be ridden on the streets or sidewalks, and they should not be ridden to school.

Safety is reviewed each year at the Bike Rodeo. For the safety of cyclists and pedestrians, bicycles should be walked, not ridden, while on the Armstrong campus, during arrival and dismissal. Scooters, in-line skates, and skateboards may not be ridden inside the school building at any time. Several Walk to School Days are planned throughout the school year and announced on the school calendar in cooperation with the Town of Highland Park Department of Public Safety to encourage families to walk to school when possible.

Building Hours

Morning Entry

Revised 08/01/2016

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Students may not enter the building before 7:30am except for scheduled tutorials or scheduled activities accompanied by a teacher. Parents should be advised that students arriving at school before 7:30am will be unsupervised outside the building.

Students and families may enter the building at 3 locations at 7:30am: the southeast door at Cornell and Byron, the northeast door at St. Johns and Byron, and the southwest door at Cornell and St. Johns. These doors are monitored by staff beginning at 7:30am to support student and staff safety. All students must wait quietly and safely at the lobby entrance inside each doorway until 7:50am.

Teachers are on duty in the classrooms beginning at 7:50am, when students may enter the classroom. Morning announcements begin at 8:00am. All students are expected to be in their seats at that time, or they will be counted as tardy.

Parents and other visitors who accompany their students to the classroom are asked to depart by 8:05am to minimize distraction to the academic environment. All school doors will be locked at 8:05am and will remain locked throughout the school day. Access is permitted through the front door on Cornell Avenue only. Student and staff safety and security is a top priority. All visitors are required to present identification and sign in at the front office and wear a visitor badge at all times while on campus.

School Cancellation and Delayed Openings

In the event of severe weather or other emergency conditions that result in school closing or delayed opening, the Highland Park ISD will post information on its website at www.hpisd.org. In addition, the district will attempt to communicate updated information through local media.

Class Schedules

Grade Level	Class Begins	Dismissal
Kindergarten	8:00am	3:00pm
1st Grade	8:00am	3:00pm
2nd Grade	8:00am	3:15pm
3rd Grade	8:00am	3:15pm
4th Grade	8:00am	3:15pm

Attendance

Requirements

All public schools are required by law to maintain records to reflect the average daily attendance of their students. Students are expected to be prompt and regular in their attendance. Students arriving after 8:00am are marked tardy and must come to the main office for an admit slip. Students absent at 10:00am, the district determined attendance period, will be counted absent for the entire day. Students present at this time shall be counted present for the day.

A student not on campus during the actual time that attendance is taken may be considered in attendance if:

- the student is participating in a Board-approved extracurricular activity or public performance, under the direction of the District's professional staff or an adjunct staff member.
- the student is observing holy days, including days of travel to and from a site where the student will observe holy days. Excused days of travel shall be limited to not more than one day travel to and one day travel from the site where a student will observe
- the student has a documented appointment with a health care professional during regular school hours, if that student begins classes or returns to classes on the same day of the appointment. The appointment must be supported by a signed note from the health care professional.

Notification

When a student is absent, parents are requested to call the office at 214-780-3100 or email Registrar/Attendance Clerk Cindy Clifton cliftoc@hpsd.org and/or your student's teacher as close to 8:00am as possible to notify the school of the absence. Feel free to leave a message on the voicemail if you call. All calls will be logged.

In addition, the student must bring a written excuse for the absence upon returning to school. The note should contain the student's full name, date of absences, and reasons for absences.

Parents will receive notification from the school attendance clerk when their child has accumulated ten (10) or more absences. According to the Texas Education Code, a student in kindergarten through grade four shall not be given credit or promoted to the next grade if he or she has been in attendance fewer than 90% of the days in the school year, unless an attendance committee designated by the Board grants credit because of extenuating circumstances. The principal has the authority to waive the committee hearing and may grant credit if it is determined that all of the absences were due to extenuating circumstance. Parents may be asked to provide documentation of personal illness.

Tardies

Students arriving late to class can be very disruptive to the academic routines of the classroom as well as to the student's own academic participation and success. Students arriving after 8:00am are marked tardy and must come to the main office for an admit slip to class. Please help support your student's positive school skills and habits by ensuring consistent, daily,

on-time attendance. Excessive tardies may result in a referral to the office and conference with the principal.

Students Leaving Campus During the School Day

Students are not to leave the school without permission. If students plan to leave school before the regular dismissal time, the parent or guardian MUST check out the child at the office.

Procedure for checking student out during the school day:

- Parent or guardian should send a note with the date, time, and reason for leaving directly to the classroom teacher.
- Student will meet parents or guardians in the main office at the appointed time.
- Parents or guardians are expected to sign out the child in the main office.
- Student returning to school must be checked in by parent in the office before returning to class.
- Authorization for any person or relative other than the parent or legal guardian to check student out during the school day must be made in writing by the parent or guardian prior to check out. Authorization may also be made on the enrollment card.
- Any special requests for release time for school must be made to the principal.

Grade Placement of New Students

Students enrolling in kindergarten must be at least five years old on or before September 1 of the current school year. Students enrolling in first grade must be at least six years of age prior to September 1 of the current school year. Students new to the district in grades 2-4 shall be placed initially at the grade level attained outside the district. The principal shall then determine final grade placement based on evaluation of prior performance, results of achievement tests, and results of assessments based on the state essential knowledge and skills for subjects within a grade level.

Class Placement

This process involves a great deal of thought, planning, and collaboration among professional personnel, including the campus principal. We believe that parents have a special lens to their child as a learner. Although requests for a specific teacher are not accepted, parents are welcome to provide special information about their child which they feel would assist school officials in making placement decisions. Class lists will be posted at the annual Find Your Place at the Eagle's Nest event on the Thursday before the start of school. Individual class assignments can also be accessed through Skyward at that time.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Texas law requires students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag each day. Parents may submit a written request to the principal to excuse their child from reciting a pledge.

A moment of silence will follow the recitation of the pledges. The student may choose to reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity so long as the silent activity does not interfere with or distract others. (See policy [EC \(Legal\)](#) for information)

Academic Program

Books

State guidelines require that textbooks be covered at all times. The student is responsible for lost or damaged books and fines may be levied to compensate for loss or damage. The school may not sell state-owned books; however, parents can purchase them directly from local publishers if students wish to have a permanent copy.

Supplies

A supply fee is included in online Back to School Sign Up as a convenience to parents to avoid back-to-school shopping for school supplies. The PTA makes no profit for this service. The PTA is able to take advantage of bulk pricing by ordering supplies for all students. This process ensures all students have the same supplies at the lowest cost. The supply fee includes most consumable supplies requested by the teachers for each student during the school year. Individual supplies will be given to your child in the classroom on the first day of school. Families who need financial assistance for the supply fee should contact the principal. Families may also purchase teacher requested school supplies on their own from a list supplied by the school.

Assignment Requests

Students who are absent two consecutive days or longer may request assignments on the second day. Student assignments should be requested by calling the office no later than 11:00am on the second day of the child's absence. Parents may pick up the assignments in the main office.

Students with excused absences have a period equal to the number of days missed to make up assignments. Absence for one day does not excuse a student from previously assigned work or tests due or occurring on the day of his/her return. It is the student's responsibility to check with the teacher concerning make-up work upon returning after an excused absence. In cases of unexcused absences, the teacher will provide copies of any handouts upon the student's return so that the student will be familiar with the concepts covered during the absence. Please refer to your teacher's guidelines regarding specific makeup work practices.

Because teachers often make changes in assignments during the day, a student will not be given assignments prior to his/her absence.

Field Trips

Each grade level plans two field trips related to the curriculum each academic year. Parents will be provided advance notice of the trip. A general waiver completed during Back to School Sign

Up must be on file in order for a child to participate. Field trip fees are collected during Back to School Sign Up. Please contact the principal if financial assistance is needed. Field trip guidelines are available for parent volunteers accompanying classes on the trips. In the interest of safety and to support the academic purposes of the field trips, siblings are not able to accompany parent chaperones on field trips with students.

Homework

Homework is a link between school and home that shows what children are studying and develops habits of mind and skills necessary for optimizing learning. Teachers are encouraged to:

- Define a clear purpose for homework assignments
- Develop a regular schedule of homework
- Provide prompt feedback on assigned work to students

Research supports that the most effective homework reflects short, frequent assignments that balance practice of past lessons and preparation for future lessons, and balance easy and challenging material. The quality of the assignment is more important than the quantity. General time guidelines are used by teachers to design appropriate grade level assignments, and teachers and parents should monitor the time it takes students to complete assignments as this gives useful information for the individual student. In addition to daily reading expectations communicated by the teacher, students should generally spend the following amount of time on assignments outside of class Monday through Thursday in each grade level:

- Kindergarten: 10 minutes
- 1st Grade: 10 minutes
- 2nd Grade: 20 minutes
- 3rd Grade: 30 minutes
- 4th Grade: 40 minutes

Occasional projects may require additional preparation time outside of class. Students should also engage in daily reading practice.

Parents are encouraged to support academic achievement by:

- Implementing a daily study time and designated study place
- Helping students understand and review the work covered in class
- Monitoring student understanding of the lesson and communicating with the teacher

Tutoring

Board policy prohibits teachers from receiving compensation for tutoring students from their own classroom. However, teachers are available to provide tutoring for students who need help beyond that which they receive in the classroom. Please talk with your child's teacher to schedule a time for your child. Parents may find that this extra help at school will eliminate the need for after school paid tutoring.

Testing

District professional staff members administer the STAAR (State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness) in grades 3 and 4 and a reading inventory in grade K, 1 and 2 in

accordance with state guidelines. Other tests are given to assist in student-level, classroom-level, campus-level, and district-level decisions about student progress toward mastery of learning goals, including MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) in grades 2, 3, and 4, Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessments, and classroom and district curriculum-based assessments. The HPISD maintains a testing calendar that reflects all district-wide assessments that are administered to students. The dates are posted on the Armstrong Calendar of Events. Parents are notified of testing windows and dates in advance of the tests. Other tests are given as needed for special programs such as dyslexia services, talented and gifted services, or special education.

Grades and Report Cards

Teachers are required to assess student learning in all academic areas of the curriculum, including special subject areas. Grades are based on student progress and mastery of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Progress is reported formally through a report card that is distributed each nine weeks electronically through Skyward Family Access. The Parent Guide to the Report Card, available at the [HPISD Curriculum website](#) may assist in interpreting the standards on which students are evaluated and the criteria for evaluation. Students must meet requirements for promotion as reflected in the Texas Education Code.

Elementary Grading Guidelines (required by Board Policy [EIA \(Legal\)](#) and [\(Local\)](#))

1. Standards for Mastery

In kindergarten through grade 4, promotion to the next grade level shall be based upon the student's performance on assessment instruments and determined by the student's parent, teacher, and an administrator, in accordance with administrative regulations.
2. Elementary Grading and Reporting Procedures
 - a. Official Grade Reports
 - i. Report Cards
 - (1) Grade reporting period: Grade reports shall be issued every nine weeks for students in Kindergarten-Grade 4. Parents are required to view the Report Card on Skyward Family Access and electronically sign to document parent review.
 - (2) Means of reporting student's mastery of concepts and achievement:
 - (a) Grading Key
 - 4.0 Mastery beyond the Learning Target
 - 3.0 Mastery of Learning Target
 - 2.5 No major errors or omissions regarding score 2.0 content and partial knowledge of the 3.0 content
 - 2.0 Approaching Learning Target
 - 1.5 Partial knowledge at score 2.0 content but major errors or omissions regarding score 3.0 content
 - 1.0 Insufficient Progress
 - (b) Grades reflect a collection of evidence to determine the growth of the student at the end of the nine week grading period

(3) Re-teaching and reassessing for mastery is an ongoing process

(4) Grades are not determined by one assessment

ii. Progress Reports

Students showing insufficient progress at the midpoint of the nine week reporting period shall be issued a progress report. Interim progress reports may be issued at the teacher's discretion at any time. Students not showing expected progress will be offered tutoring and/or intervention services on the campus.

iii. Grade Book

The grade book represents student growth and performance on the collected evidence throughout the nine week grading period.

(1) Types of Assignments:

Collection of Evidence

Class Performance

Observations

Conferences

Work Samples

Formative and Summative assessments

Data Collection

Digital portfolios

Products

iv. Make Up Work

(1) Students are required to make up all work missed as a result of an excused absence, and full credit will be given for all assignments

(2) Students are allowed the same number of days as the number of excused days missed to make up all work

(3) If a student is absent 3 or more days, the parent may contact the teacher to request a collection of make up work

b. Homework

The teacher is responsible for assigning effective, well-planned homework assignments that aid the student in the mastery of the essential knowledge and skills. Homework will not be assigned as punishment.

Homework will be used to enrich or reinforce topics covered in class and should satisfy at least one of the following objectives:

- To provide drill that helps the student practice basic skills of a subject.
- To give the student practice or extension of concepts learned in class.
- To extend learning beyond the material that can be covered in class.
- To develop effective study methods.
- To help the student prepare for classroom work.
- To allow the student to make up work after an absence.
- To provide a means of re-teaching essential knowledge and skills.

Cafeteria and Lunch

Students are provided a 30 minute period for eating lunch each day. Students have the option of bringing lunch from home or making choices from selections available in the cafeteria, which is managed by the PTA in cooperation with the Highland Park ISD. The Armstrong cafeteria serves delicious, well-balanced meals. Kindergarteners and First Graders are given the choice of a hot or cold plate lunch, while older students make a la carte selections. Meat, vegetables, salads, sandwiches, fruits, milk, and juices are available each day. Kindergarten and first grade plate lunches are \$4.00. The average lunch price for students in grades two through four ranges from \$3.50 to \$4.50.

A daily menu can be found on the school website at <http://armstrong.hpsid.org> at the Cafeteria link. Parents are urged to review the menu with their children and to help them plan their lunches. A price list and nutritional information is also available from the campus and district websites.

Each class is allotted 30 minutes for lunch. 15 minutes after the beginning of the lunch period, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade students are allowed to purchase ice cream for dessert. Kindergarten and 1st grade students are allowed to purchase ice cream for dessert on Fridays only.

Students are expected to remain seated and talk quietly at their table during the lunch period. Cafeteria monitors ensure a safe and orderly environment and assist students as needed. Students are expected to clean up around the area where they are seated and dispose of all trash properly at the end of the lunch period. Recycling bins are provided to encourage responsible environmental practices. Students are expected to follow any instructions given by faculty members supervising the cafeteria.

DineRite

The Armstrong cafeteria utilizes the DineRite debit system. This is an optional program that is a pre-paid system, so that your child does not have to carry cash to school for their lunch purchases. A valid credit card is required to open and maintain the account (as an overdraft protection), but the account can be funded by cash, check, or credit card. Parents simply fund the account, then help their child memorize their 4 digit account number, and replenish the account as needed. When the balance reaches \$15.00, account holders will receive a notice via email, phone call or text message (your preference), then bring in a check or cash, or simply allow the credit card to be charged (on Fridays). The funds will be deposited into the child's account. Parents can view their child's daily food purchases and manage the account at any time. Information and registration can be found at <http://parents.dineritedrx.com>. Payments may be deposited by giving a check made out to "Armstrong Cafeteria" to Cafeteria Manager Jeanette Volpe or parents may make deposits using a credit card online at the same website. The school ID is hpsarms.

Students may also use cash daily.

Food and Nutrition

Schools are in a powerful position to influence children's lifelong dietary habits, and we, in partnership with parents, should work hard to convey the importance of good nutrition and the development of good eating habits and healthy lifestyles. In addition, nutritious meals and foods can improve students' concentration, academic success and overall health.

Armstrong will follow as a guideline the FMNV policy set forth by the USDA and Texas Department of Agriculture which does not allow the following foods of minimal nutritional value to be sold or given away on school premises by the school, teachers, or any other person or group during the school day:

- Any carbonated beverage
- Water ices--any frozen, sweetened water such as "...sicles" and flavored ice with the exception of products that contain fruit or fruit juices.
- Chewing gum
- Candy

Exceptions to this are special education classrooms, nurses, and school holiday celebrations or special events determined by the teachers and approved by the principal.

Food Allergies

The school nurse will provide information regarding students' allergies to teachers and staff that work directly with those students.

All classrooms and common areas that are food allergen free will be marked with an "Allergy Aware Area" sign. No products containing food allergens may be brought into these areas of Armstrong.

In the cafeteria, a designated "Allergy Aware" table is available for each class. Students with food allergies should sit in the designated "Allergy Aware Area" of the table assigned to their class; students with any food that may cause an allergic reaction must sit at the other table assigned to the class. The table will be cleaned separately from the other cafeteria tables.

Students at Armstrong are asked to wash their hands before and after eating lunch and snacks.

All teachers and staff at Armstrong are trained in detecting the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and how to administer an Epi-Pen.

Teachers at Armstrong are asked not to use food products in teaching curriculum, art and crafts, and as rewards.

Birthday Treats

We celebrate every child's birthday with special recognition on the morning announcements and in the classroom. Because of food allergies and nutritional guidelines, parents are asked not

bring birthday treats to distribute to other students in the class, either in the classroom or in the cafeteria.

Lunch Visitors

Parents are invited to eat lunch with their student in the cafeteria. Parents should meet their student in the cafeteria when the class arrives, not in the classroom. They may sit at the designated visitor tables inside the cafeteria or outside on the patio. Unfortunately, there is not room at the class table for visitors, and parents may only eat with their own child. Students may not invite friends to eat with them at the visitors table with their parents.

Classroom Snacks

Teachers may schedule a brief classroom snack in the morning or afternoon not to interfere with instructional time. Students must provide their own snack which must be in accordance with the FMNV policy and must follow the guidelines for any food allergy alerts as informed by the teacher.

Library

The Armstrong Library Media Center is part of the specials rotation for students in grades 3 and 4, with students attending library for 1 hour weekly. Students in kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade will visit the library for research opportunities and check out books during class time. The library is available to students through classroom visits, as well as before and after school, from 7:50am to 3:45pm. Not only does the Library Media Center act as a traditional library with books and reading-related activities, but it also has CD-ROM materials and e-books.

Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students can check out one book at a time, and 3rd and 4th grade students can check out two books at a time; books are due after one week. Parents may also check out books for their children or themselves. Students are reminded through notices in their take home folder if they have overdue books. The library is not open for visits by parents and siblings until after the instructional day.

Physical Education

Students attend physical education as part of the specials rotation for 60 minutes two times weekly. Students should be engaged in moderate to vigorous physical activity for more than half the class. Physical Education, just as other school curriculum, is guided by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills.

Students are encouraged to dress appropriately for participation in PE classes and recess. Students should wear shoes with closed toes and closed heels for safety, and girls should wear shorts under skirts or dresses. PE classes frequently go outdoors unless it is cold or wet. PE teachers also monitor to be sure students pace themselves appropriately to avoid overexertion.

Medical Excuse from PE

Written excuses for non-participation in PE should be given directly to the PE teacher. If the excuse is for more than five days, a note from the doctor is required.

Fine Arts (Art and Music)

Arts education plays a vital role in the overall development and academic success of our students. All students have the opportunity to attend classes in both art and music for 1 hour weekly as part of the specials rotation.

Foreign Language in Elementary School

Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students have the opportunity to attend classes in Spanish for 90 minutes weekly to develop second language proficiency. In addition, other special events, activities, and interdisciplinary projects are planned with classroom teachers and the Spanish teacher to develop cultural awareness and second language exposure for all students.

Recess

Regularly scheduled periods for unstructured activity and play are crucial for the cognitive, emotional, physical, and social development of children. All classes will take a scheduled recess break during the day, and all students will have the opportunity for some physical activity during this time.

Physical activity is an important part of the school day. Except when there is significant precipitation or threat of violent weather, or on heat or ozone advisory days, recess will be held outdoors. Students should therefore bring any needed outerwear. In hot weather, students are encouraged not to overexert themselves during outdoor recess time.

Playground Guidelines

In order to ensure safe play for everyone, students are expected to observe the following safety guidelines as announced by the teacher.

Basic Rules of Conduct for Students:

- Be respectful to other students and teachers at all times
- Keep your hands and feet to yourself
- Say kind things to each other rather than mean things
- Talk peaceably rather than arguing
- Share and take turns using equipment

Teacher Supervision:

At least one teacher should be stationed on the merry go round side of the playground equipment, and at least one teacher should be stationed on the swing side of the playground equipment in order to provide adequate supervision of students.

Slides and Climbing Equipment:

Pay careful attention to the condition of the equipment if it has rained or the equipment is wet, in case the equipment is slippery and cannot be used safely.

Merry Go Round

Limit the number of students on the merry go round to a safe number.

Limit the number of students pushing/pulling the merry go round at a time.

Keep hands, arms, feet, and legs inside the merry go round while it is moving.

Each grade level has specific guidelines for the age appropriate safe operation of playground equipment that teachers will review and students are expected to observe.

Dismissal Procedures

Afternoon pick-up locations are designated as follows:

- Kindergarten: 2:50-3:10pm. Corner of Cornell and St. Johns, southwest corner of the school, **pickup on Cornell ONLY**
- 1st Grade: 2:50-3:10pm. Corner of St. Johns and Byron, northeast corner of the school, **pickup on St. Johns**
- 2nd Grade: 3:10-3:25pm. Corner of Cornell and St. Johns, southwest corner of the school, **pickup on Cornell ONLY**
- 3rd Grade: 3:10-3:25pm. Corner of Cornell and Byron, front entrance, **pickup on Cornell**
- 4th Grade: 3:10-3:25pm. Corner of St. Johns and Byron, northeast corner of the school, **pickup on St. Johns**

Parents should communicate their plan for pickup at dismissal with the teacher. Teachers will release students to parents or other guardians authorized for school pickup. Parents are responsible for supervision of students on school property, on the playground or athletic fields, after dismissal. Students who walk home from school should leave school property immediately after dismissal. Students who are not picked up within 10 minutes of dismissal time will be brought to the main office to make a phone call and wait there to be picked up.

Parents should communicate any changes in regular dismissal arrangements on a particular day prior to 2:00pm directly to the teacher, or after 2:00pm directly to the main office to ensure that the teacher receives notification.

Tips:

- Have a rain plan. Traffic is heavier on these days.
- Consider parking a block or two away from prime drop off and pick up spots and walking to dismissal locations to pick up your student. Drexel along the east side of the creek is rarely crowded, and the bridge across the creek is a convenient walk.
- Carpooling reduces the number of cars in the queue lanes, which is very helpful. Please consider carpooling if you are not already.

Communication

Campus Communications

Revised 08/01/2016

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A variety of print and electronic communication tools keep our parents informed about the activities and events available to students and families of Armstrong Elementary. There is no reason to go uninformed. Please take time to familiarize yourself with the following:

Armstrong's Eagle News: The front office electronically publishes a weekly newsletter called the Eagle News, which is sent each Monday by email. It contains information relating to school events as well as extracurricular activities, reminders of volunteer commitments and news about Armstrong families. Please contact the school office to place items in the newsletter. Articles can be submitted by email. Take time to read the Eagle News so you will stay informed about what is happening at Armstrong and in the community. You may subscribe to the weekly email newsletter through myhponline at Back to School Sign Up.

Armstrong's Website Homepage at <http://armstrong.hpisd.org>. This is an electronic resource at the click of a mouse that is full of information about Armstrong Elementary. Visit Armstrong's Homepage for everything you need to know about what is happening at Armstrong.

Morning Announcements: We start the day by listening to morning announcements that begin at 8:00am. Campus administrators and students collaborate to provide announcements which includes US and Texas pledges, observing a minute of silence, celebrating student birthday, information about activities in our school, and a thought for the day. Students are expected to be in their classroom by the start of morning announcements. Students who are still in the hallway should stop to observe the pledge and moment of silence and enter the classroom at the conclusion of the announcements.

Channel 16: HPISD has a public access television station, Channel 16, which is available on the Park Cities cable television system. Information about school events and community activities is broadcast 24 hours a day.

Student Directory: The PTA publishes the Armstrong Directory with class rosters, lists of families, school calendar, lists of faculty and staff, volunteer worker schedules, and policies and procedures specific to Armstrong. The directories are distributed in the early fall to each family that purchases one or more during Back to School Sign Up. Copies are \$15 each and may be purchased later from the Eagles Store. Families who have purchased the directory may also download and access the Armstrong Directory on their smart phone through the Armstrong Directory App.

Yearbook: The yearbook is published each school year with all of the student class pictures, as well as candid shots taken throughout the year. Order forms for the Yearbook are available through Back to School Sign Up. Parents are encouraged to take pictures throughout the year at class parties, events, and school functions and submit them to the PTA Yearbook Coordinator.

Parent Communication to Teacher

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Teachers may be contacted by sending a note or email. Teachers are expected to meet with parents during their daily scheduled conference time and return phone calls or email in a timely manner, generally at the end of the instructional day. If a parent needs to get an emergency message to a teacher, they should send a note through the main office, as teachers may not have access to email during instructional time. Parents, please do not contact teachers by text message and please refrain from contacting teachers on their personal phone numbers.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Our staff welcomes the opportunity to conference with parents about their child's educational progress and educational program. In order to protect instructional time, however, conferences should be scheduled during conference periods or after school hours. Impromptu conferences interrupt instruction that is in progress and critical to our students' success.

Teachers will be available for individual conferences for all families during the first grading period. Parents will be invited to sign up for a conference time with the teacher. Conferences may be scheduled on an as needed basis during the remainder of the school year, except during the last week of each grade period.

To schedule an appointment with the principal, please contact the school office.

Problem Resolution

The philosophy of Highland Park ISD educators is that the needs of students are best served when a cooperative partnership exists among teachers, students, and parents. It is our belief that problems or concerns are best resolved at the point nearest the situation. The three-step process for addressing concerns is as follows:

1. Teacher and child confer. Most problems can and should be resolved between teacher and child.
2. Teacher and parent confer, with the child included if appropriate.
3. Teacher and parent confer, with the principal or counselor included as appropriate.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

Students with cell phones should have them stored in lockers and turned off during the school day. Student cell phones should never be in use or visible, unless specifically directed by the teacher as a component of a supervised instructional activity. We kindly ask that parents limit cell phone usage while in the building during the school day.

Phone Messages

Decisions about afternoon transportation, appointments, and other information for students need to be made before students come to school in the morning. Phone messages for students will be placed in teachers' boxes, but the office cannot guarantee that messages will be picked up by a particular time. It is not possible to leave the office and clinic unattended in order to deliver messages to classrooms, and we will not interrupt class over the public address system with individual student messages.

Telephone Usage

The office phone is for emergencies only. If a student is ill or injured, the school nurse or office staff will contact parents.

Opportunities for Involvement

Student Extracurricular Activities

Participation in school-sponsored extracurricular activities before or after school is an excellent way to develop interests, receive recognition, and build relationships with other students. Staff will develop extracurricular opportunities for students based on the interest level of students and staff.

PAWS

The 4th grade service and leadership organization at Armstrong Elementary is called PAWS (Promoting Armstrong's Winning Spirit) and is open to participation by all 4th graders. An organizational meeting will be held at the beginning of the school year for students to sign up for committee opportunities. PAWS meets monthly during the school year before school, in addition to regular committee meetings. PAWS serves the school and community by assisting with such activities as character education, teacher appreciation, recycling and environmental awareness, teacher classroom assistance, community service collection drives and education, and other projects.

Community Activities

Information on opportunities through Girls Scouts and Boy Scouts can be obtained by contacting the school's main office for scouting coordinator contacts. Information on YMCA activities is available from the Park Cities YMCA at <http://www.pcyymca.org> or 214-526-7293. Several local churches, synagogues, and other community organizations also offer social, educational, and recreational programs through the year. Information can be obtained by contacting the organizations directly.

Parent Volunteers

Volunteer Website

The Armstrong PTA Volunteer Website at <http://www.armstrongpta.org> provides a convenient platform to manage your volunteer schedule of classroom and school activities. Login to the volunteer website to view your personal schedule, view full posted schedules, view rosters, find substitutes, and view and change your personal settings. You can also receive automatic email reminders of your volunteer assignments.

Room Parents

These parents help organize parties and field trips throughout the school year, as well as recruit volunteers to work for the class on Field Day and at the Carnival. Many additional parents are

needed to help with the parties and field trips. Volunteers for Room Parent sign up on the PTA volunteer website and are then contacted by PTA leadership and their child's teacher.

Classroom Volunteer Opportunities

Please access the Armstrong PTA Volunteer Website to view volunteer opportunities for your classroom, which may include readers, scientists, garden assistance, career speakers, and a variety of other roles as determined by the teacher. All parents are encouraged to participate in these opportunities throughout the school year, and to consider in their volunteer schedule to ensure that all parents in the classroom have an opportunity to participate in these activities. In addition, volunteers are prohibited from distributing any food items or other gifts to students during classroom visits.

Armstrong PTA

The Armstrong PTA meets four times during the school year--October, November, February, and May. These meetings are held in the Armstrong Auditorium, beginning at 8:15am. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings. It is a great way to meet other parents and learn more about Armstrong. During the meetings, activities are planned to supplement the school's academic schedule, funds are appropriated to enhance the school's budget, and ways to make the school year more enjoyable for our students are discussed.

We urge you to join the PTA. A registration form will be part of your online registration during Back to School Sign Up. It is \$35.00 for the year and includes one Armstrong Directory, which will be distributed in early fall.

Armstrong's PTA operates both the Cafeteria and the Eagle Store in cooperation with the Highland Park ISD, in addition to supplying volunteers for the Teacher Workroom and the Library Media Center. This unique involvement is evidence of the strong tradition of parent participation at Armstrong and throughout the Highland Park ISD.

Armstrong Dads Club

Armstrong Dads Club holds breakfast meetings during the school year for dads only, at 7:15am in the Armstrong cafeteria. In addition, father-son and father-daughter breakfasts are held each year with special guests. Dates are on the school activities calendar, and reminders are sent home in the email newsletter. Membership is open to all interested fathers through online registration during Back to School Sign Up. The Dads Club helps with the spring Carnival, raises funds to supplement our school's budget, and takes on campus improvement projects.

Armstrong Bradfield Preschool Association

The Armstrong-Bradfield Preschool Association (ABPA) welcomes into its membership all parents living in the Armstrong and Bradfield school zones who have children kindergarten age and younger. They focus on presenting programs that promote training in parenthood and family living and on the healthy development of preschool aged children. They accomplish their mission by providing quality speakers at general meetings, children's parties in the fall and

spring, playgroups, social functions for parents, community service projects, and a December fundraiser “Homes for the Holidays” that benefits the Armstrong and Bradfield schools.

This group provides many opportunities for parents of preschoolers to get to know other parents and their families. They have five general meetings on Wednesdays during the school year from 9:15 to 11:30am at members’ homes in the district. These meetings consist of a social/refreshment time, committee reports and a guest speaker. Meeting dates, locations and contact information will appear on the Armstrong activity calendar, and at www.armstrongbradfield.com. Nursery care is available for meetings. Become a member by going to www.armstrongbradfield.com.

Campus Leadership Committee

A Campus Leadership Council (CLC) shall be established on each campus to assist the principal in accordance with district policy [BQB \(Local\)](#). The council shall meet for the purpose of implementing planning processes and site-based decision making in accordance with Board policy and administrative procedures and shall be chaired by the principal or designee. The council shall serve exclusively in an advisory role except that each council shall approve staff development of a campus nature. The council shall perform duties as described at [BQB\(Legal\)](#).

Parent Education Committee

The Parent Education Committee is a district wide committee designed to support families and the healthy social and emotional development of students. Activities include support for Red Ribbon Week and a parent speaker series throughout the year. Events will be posted on the campus and district calendar, and information is available from the school counselor and the PTA.

Class Parties

During the school year, classes are allowed two parties lasting thirty minutes each. Room parents coordinate these parties with the teacher. One party is typically held prior to dismissal for the winter holidays; the second party is typically around Valentines Day.

Classroom and School Visitors

In the interest of student and staff safety, the main entrance to the building on Cornell will be the only point of access to the school after 8:05am on school days. Students and staff are not allowed to open the other doors for visitors. Access to the building is not available after hours, on weekends or during vacations.

Visitors to the school must use the Cornell entrance, register at the office, and wear a visitor badge at all times in the building. Students are not permitted to bring visitors to class. Parents of Armstrong students are welcome to arrange a visit to their student’s classroom. To minimize the disruption to instruction, visits should normally be for no longer than 30 minutes, and must always be scheduled in advance with the teacher.

For families anticipating enrollment, parent volunteers or staff conduct school tours, which may be scheduled by calling the office at 214-780-3100. Classroom visits are not possible on school tours.

Eagle Store

The PTA sells Armstrong spirit items, such as T-shirts, shorts, and caps, featuring the Armstrong logo. These items are available in the Eagle Store 3 days a week from 7:50 – 8:00am. They will also be on display and available for sale at the New Families Coffee in the fall, at “Meet the Teacher” Night. Flyers are also included in the email newsletter on occasion and items are available through the Eagle Store Co-Chairs.

Curriculum Night

At the beginning of each academic year, Curriculum Night is generally used as an opportunity to meet your child’s teacher, receive information on classroom and grade level expectations, and learn about upcoming class events. In addition, parents can volunteer to assist with events and activities for their child’s class. Curriculum Night is an important opportunity for parents to learn more about the curriculum overview for the grade level. Curriculum Night is designed for parents only.

Open House

At the Spring Open House, which the students usually attend with their parents, the students have an opportunity to show families the special work that they have done during the school year. It is followed by a family picnic dinner.

Special Programs and Services

The district provides special programs for gifted and talented students, homeless students, bilingual students, migrant students, students with limited English proficiency, students with dyslexia, and students with disabilities. The coordinator of each program can answer questions about eligibility requirements, as well as programs and services offered in the district or by other organizations. A student or parent with questions about these programs should contact the counselor who will direct the student or parent to the appropriate coordinator.

English as a Second Language

This program is offered at University Park Elementary for HPISD students in grades K-4 who meet state eligibility criteria. The focus of the ESL Program is on the development of language proficiency for students that are speakers of other languages. The ESL curriculum provides a multisensory language arts program and includes activities that promote and develop student proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing in English.

Special Education

Special education and related services are specially designed instructional services mandated by the state to support students with disabilities within the general curriculum. The intent of the

support services is to enable all students with disabilities to make progress in the general curriculum, to participate in extracurricular and nonacademic activities, and to be educated and participate with peers in the public school system, to the same extent as non-disabled peers.

Eligibility for special education services is determined through a referral/assessment process which is initiated upon parental consent if it appears to the Student Support Team that a child has needs which could be met through such services. Programs available at Armstrong Elementary include speech/language therapy, Resource, LIFT and Structure classrooms. Students whose needs require other services may receive these services on another campus if the ARD (Admission, Review, and Dismissal) Committee determines that this is needed.

Dyslexia Services

The dyslexia program is a regular education program offered for students who need extra support and practice in literacy skills, utilizing the Take Flight curriculum from Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. Participation begins with teacher referral based on educational need. Students must meet eligibility criteria and receive parental permission prior to placement. Services will be provided after all requirements for participation are met.

Talented and Gifted

The TAG program for Explorations and Math serves gifted students in accordance with state mandates. Students meeting district-developed criteria, including standardized test results, are invited to participate in this program. Kindergarten and 1st Grade students are served in their classrooms. Students who demonstrate a need for TAG services in 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Grade spend some time out of their regular classroom with the campus TAG specialist teacher and peers. Information and testing for the TAG program takes place in January for beginning services for the following year. Parents must submit an application for their child to be tested by the December deadline. Parents of new students transferring into HPISD may refer their child for TAG testing within three weeks of enrollment. Contact the campus TAG specialist for additional information about TAG services or for referral procedures.

Student Support Team

The Student Support Team (SST) meets regularly to consider the individual needs of students. The SST may include an administrator, counselor, diagnostician, psychologist, and nurse, as appropriate, to consider the needs of students referred to the Team. An administrator, classroom teacher, counselor, or parent may refer students to the SST. The SST considers referrals for supportive counseling, crisis intervention, Talented and Gifted (TAG), English as a Second Language (ESL), and ADA eligibility and accommodations such as the program for students with dyslexia. The SST also may refer students for a special education evaluation. The SST is designed to comply with the requirements of Child Find and the ADA. Questions or requests for more information may be directed to the school counselor at 214-780-3140.

Section 504 Plans

A committee of knowledgeable persons may be convened to determine whether a child can be identified as an individual with a disability under Section 504/ADA. This means that the student will be entitled to all of the procedural protections provided by Section 504/ADA and the right to have the child's education individually designed so as to meet his or her needs as well as those of non-disabled students. These rights are spelled out in the Notice of Rights and Procedural Protections document. As an individual with a disability under Section 504/ADA, the student may need an individual plan of accommodation and/or services. If so, such a plan will be developed by the 504 team. Questions or requests for more information may be directed to the school counselor at 214-780-3140.

School Counselor

There is a certified counselor on each elementary campus. The school counselor is available to assist students with a wide range of personal concerns, including such areas as social, family, or emotional issues. The counselor may also make available information about community resources to address these concerns. The counselor conducts classroom guidance activities and works together with parents, students, and staff in order to enhance student success. Students may work with the counselor individually or in groups. Parents are encouraged to call the school counselor should they need assistance at 214-780-3140.

Health Services

The goals of the HPISD Health Services are:

- To advocate and help provide an environment conducive to the promotion and maintenance of health;
- To detect and provide nursing care for any physical condition or health problem which impedes learning or threatens optimum health;
- To act as liaison among the school, home, community agencies, physicians, and other health personnel;
- To achieve acceptable levels of compliance with federal, state, and local health regulations;
- To maintain and utilize current individual and collective health data; and
- To provide learning and growth experiences for students, family, and staff members.

The school nurse provides vision and hearing screening for all Kindergarten, 1st, and 3rd graders, as well as all new students and upon request from a teacher or parent. A cumulative health record consisting of hearing and vision results, height and weight, allergies, chronic illness, significant visits to the clinic, injuries, etc., is kept in a confidential manner in the clinic.

Attendance Guidelines for Illness

Please do not send your child to school if any of these symptoms or signs is present in the last 24 hours:

- Elevated temperature (100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater)
- Acute cold, sore throat or persistent cough
- Vomiting, nausea or severe abdominal pain

- Repeated diarrhea
- Purulent discharge (anything other than clear discharge) from the nose or eyes resulting from contagious condition
- Red, inflamed or discharging eyes (conjunctivitis)
- Suspected scabies, impetigo, acute skin rashes or eruption, any skin lesion in the weeping stage, head lice or any infectious childhood condition.

There will be times when it is difficult to tell when your child is too ill to go to school. Sometimes there is worry that he or she will miss important school work. Like adults, children have different tolerances for discomfort and illness. Even with a common cold, some are able to function fine while others are miserable. If your child is coughing continuously, he or she won't be able to concentrate, and will disrupt others in the class. A day of rest at home combined with lots of fluids speeds recovery. If you decide to send your child to school when he or she in the "borderline" of being ill, it is a good idea to call the school nurse or send a note to the teacher. Be sure to let the school know where you can be contacted in case your child's condition worsens.

If your child complains of headaches, stomachaches or frequently does not feel well, it is wise to mention it to your doctor. Also, it is not uncommon for children to have physical complaints when they are anxious about a test or an event – or even when they have realized that staying home brings a little extra attention.

Medication

Policy for the administration of medication during school hours:

- Only those medications that are necessary for a student's medical care and that cannot be given outside school hours will be administered. Even medications that are scheduled for three times a day can usually be given outside of school hours.
- Medication must be in its original, properly labeled container (no baggies or zip-locks please). Please request your pharmacist to provide two labeled bottles of medication: one for home and one for school. Also, if a dosage is changed, a new label must be made – medications can only be given per label instructions.
- Please provide written consent and specific instructions for each medication. There are medication cards available for this purpose in the school clinic.
- Medications must be age appropriate. Aspirin is an important example: Aspirin usage by children and adolescents has been associated with the rare, but often fatal, syndrome, Reye's Syndrome. The nurse may not administer aspirin or any aspirin-containing product without specific physician permission.
- The school nurse cannot dispense over-the-counter (non-prescription) medication such as Tylenol, cough syrups, antihistamines, etc. These medications must be provided from the home (with written permission/instructions).
- Only medications that are up-to-date may be administered. Please check the expiration date before sending medication to school.
- Injectable medications may only be administered by the nurse or a trained designee, and only in life-threatening situations (for example, adrenaline for severe allergic reactions).

There must be on file written authorization and instructions from the physician (a special form for this is available in the school clinic).

- Special agents, such as herbs, amino acids and homeopathic remedies will require the following before they will be administered: Physician description of content and possible adverse effects, written parent consent, specific instructions for use
- Students are encouraged to remember to report to the clinic/office for their medications.
- Students who have parent and physician authorization and written consent and instructions on file in the school clinic may carry asthma inhalers during the school day. We urge you to keep an extra inhaler in the clinic as a back up.
- Prescriptions and non-prescription medication requests and parent/physician requests are to be renewed at the beginning of each new school year. Prescription medications may only be given if prescribed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in the United States.
- At the end of each school year, medications will need to be picked up by the parent or guardian. Students will be permitted to bring home leftover medication only if they have parent/guardian consent. Any medications that are not picked by the last day of school will be discarded.

First Aid for Illness and Injury:

Every effort is made to keep your child's environment safe at school. However, in the event of a serious accident or emergency, the parent is contacted immediately. When a parent or guardian cannot be reached, an ambulance is summoned and the student is taken to an appropriate facility. The school nurse will accompany and stay with the child until the parent arrives. To ensure optimum care, the "Health Information Section" from online registration is kept on file in the nurse's office. Referring to the "Attendance Guidelines for Illness" and adhering to school policy whenever your child is not feeling well will help us to keep all children at school healthy.

Immunization Requirements:

Current immunization requirements are outlined in the attached chart available at the HPISD School Health Services link at www.hpisd.org.

http://www.hpisd.org/Portals/0/docs/healthservices/201516_Immunization.pdf

Pediculosis (Head Lice):

Head lice are a common problem among school age children. Anyone can get head lice; there is no respect for age, socioeconomic level, or cleanliness. Infestations can be transmitted from one person to another via head to head contact, or by sharing combs and brushes, hats, headbands and other items used on or near the hair. Prompt treatment is important to keep the problem from spreading.

We ask that parents check their children for lice regularly throughout the school year. A head check should take 5-10 minutes. In good lighting, carefully examine the child's whole scalp, paying special attention to the nape of the neck and behind both ears. Nits found within 1 cm of the base of the hair shaft suggest, but do not confirm, an active infestation. Unlike dandruff and

dried hair products, white eggs (nits) will be firmly attached to the hair shaft near the scalp. Adult lice are more difficult to locate because of their brief lifespan and mobility. If you do find live head lice, the child must be treated before they can return to school. Please notify the school nurse if your child has been treated for lice.

Treatment consists of the application of a special shampoo and manual removal of nits with a nit-removal comb. A number of products are available, with the most common being Kwell, Nix, or RID. Persistent cases may require a prescription product from your physician. All of these products should be applied as directed and repeated in 7 to 10 days to kill any new eggs.

For more information, please visit <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/schoolhealth/lice.shtm> or contact your child's pediatrician for their preference of treatment.

Important Health Notice:

The Texas Education Code 28.004 requires all public schools to establish a local school health advisory council. In accordance with this code, the Highland Park ISD School Health Advisory Council holds annual meetings.

It is further required that the following be posted for public information:

- HPISD School Board Policy EHAB (Legal) - Adopted to ensure that elementary school and middle school students engage in physical activity.
- HPISD School Board Policy FNC (Legal) and FNCD (Local) and the Student Code of Conduct - Prescribes penalties for the use of tobacco products by students and others on school campuses, at school-sponsored, or school-related activities.
- Highland Park ISD does not participate in the Federal Lunch Program outlined by the Child Nutrition Act and is not required to adopt policies on restricting student access to vending machines, but does operate by campus guidelines and access procedures for age-appropriate use of vending machines

Student Behavior Expectations

District Code of Conduct

The Student Code of Conduct has been adopted by the Highland Park ISD Board of Trustees. This Code provides information to parents and students regarding standards of conduct, consequences of misconduct, and procedures for administering discipline. The Code of Conduct can be accessed online through the link at the district website at www.hpisd.org or directly at http://www.hpisd.org/Portals/0/docs/handbooks/Student_Code_of_Conduct.pdf

Campus Code of Conduct

Our campus philosophy of discipline is based on developing strategies and interventions to help students make informed choices to improve their behavior, and to help teachers focus on learning in a well-managed environment.

Students are expected to observe the following Armstrong Code of Conduct:

We will show respect for ourselves and others by:

- Keeping hands, feet, and other objects to ourselves;
- Not disrupting learning in the building;
- Listening and following directions;
- Walking safely in the building; and
- Arriving on time with necessary materials.

Classroom teachers will communicate with parents to help students develop responsible self-managing behaviors. Repeated offenses and behavior that is disruptive to the learning of others may result in removal from the classroom at the discretion of the principal.

Bullying

Bullying occurs when a student or group of students directs written or verbal expressions or physical conduct against another student and the behavior results in harm to the student or the student's property, places a student in fear of harm to himself or his property, or is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment. The Board has established policies and procedures to prohibit bullying and to respond to reports of bullying. See policy [FFI\(Local\)](#).

Students must not participate, either individually or in a group, in bullying or harassing behaviors toward another student. Such behaviors may include repeated teasing or ridicule, name-calling, threats, theft, gossip and rumors, or physical intimidation of any kind. A substantiated complaint against a student will result in disciplinary action, according to the nature of the offense and the Student Code of Conduct.

Students are expected to observe the following bullying prevention pledge:

1. We will not bully others.
2. We will try to help others who are bullied.
3. We will try to include others who are left out.
4. If we know that someone is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.

Harassment

Students must not engage in harassment behaviors motivated by race, color, religion, national origin or disability directed toward another student.

Students are expected to treat other students and District employees with courtesy and respect; to avoid any behaviors known to be offensive; and to stop these behaviors when asked or told to stop. The District encourages parental and student support in its efforts to address and prevent harassment in any form in the public schools. Students and/or parents are encouraged to discuss their questions or concerns about the expectations in this area with a teacher, counselor, or principal.

A student who believes he or she has been harassed by another student or by a District employee is encouraged to report the incident to the principal. The allegations will be investigated and addressed. A substantiated complaint against a student will result in disciplinary action, according to the nature of the offense and the Student Code of Conduct. See policy [FFH\(Local\)](#).

Vandalism

Students are encouraged to be good stewards of the shared resources of the campus. Textbooks are to be covered, library books returned in a timely manner, and school property treated respectfully at all times. Students will be fined the repair/replacement costs for damaged property.

Dress Code

The District's dress code is established to teach grooming and hygiene, instill discipline, prevent disruption, avoid safety hazards, and teach respect for authority.

Students shall be dressed and groomed in a manner that is clean and neat and that will not be a health or safety hazard to themselves or others. The District prohibits any clothing or grooming that in the principal's judgment may reasonably be expected to cause disruption of or interference with normal school operations.

The District prohibits pictures, emblems, or writings on clothing that:

- Are lewd, offensive, vulgar, or obscene.
- Advertise or depict tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drug, or any other substance prohibited under [FNCF \(Legal\)](#).

Hats are not to be worn at school.

Final decisions on the appropriateness of school dress rest with the principal. Situations not covered by the guidelines will be evaluated based on whether they disrupt the learning environment or create a hazard.

In addition to the above guidelines, students are encouraged to dress appropriately for participation in P.E. classes and recess. Students should wear shoes with closed toes and closed heels for safety, and girls should wear shorts under skirts or dresses.

Responsible Use Policy

To prepare students for an increasingly technological society, the district has made an investment in the use of district-owned technology resources for instructional purposes; specific resources may be issued individually to students. Use of these technological resources, which include the district's network systems and use of district equipment, is restricted to approved purposes only. Students and parents will be asked to sign a user agreement regarding use of

these district resources. Violations of the user agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

Students are prohibited from possessing, sending, forwarding, posting, accessing, or displaying electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal. This prohibition also applies to conduct off school property, whether the equipment used to send such messages is district-owned or personally owned, if it results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment. Because engaging in this type of behavior can lead to bullying or harassment, as well as possibly impede future endeavors of a student, we encourage you to review with your child <http://beforeyoutext.com>, a state-developed program that addresses the consequences of engaging in inappropriate behavior using technology. In addition, any student who engages in conduct that results in a breach of the district's computer security will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Additional Information

Gifts

Individual gifts for teachers are not encouraged. However, if you feel that you would like to give your child's teacher a gift, please remember that only small tokens are appropriate. Parties and showers for the teachers are not permitted.

Forgotten Items

Please bring work, supplies or other items your child forgot to bring to school to the school office. We will make every effort to get them in their hands at an appropriate break in instruction. Help us protect instructional time by refraining from interrupting class.

Lost and Found

Please make every effort to label your child's property, e.g., coats, jackets, gloves, backpacks, lunch boxes. Lost items which are turned in are placed in Armstrong's Lost and Found located by the east side entry doors to the building. Items not claimed by the end of each semester are donated to charity. Armstrong Elementary is not responsible for items lost/found on the school property.

Lockers

A locker is issued to each student for storage of school materials and personal belongings. Students are urged not to keep money or valuables in lockers. The school cannot assume responsibility for such items. Lockers are intended for day storage only. Please do not decorate the inside of the locker. Please do not place balloons, streamers, or large signs on the outside of lockers. Please do not place locks on the locker.

Valuables

Students should not bring valuables to school. If a student brings a valuable item to school as part of a demonstration for a class project, the student should receive prior approval from the teacher and permission from the parent.

Pets

Pets are not allowed in the building. Additionally, please refrain from bringing pets on campus during arrival and dismissal times, as well as campus-wide events that draw large crowds of people such as the carnival, field day, and family picnics. Pets should only be on public, perimeter sidewalks. In addition, pets should never be in the playground area or on the playing fields, for the safety of students and staff, and for the safety of the animals.

Financial Assistance

In order to provide every student with the opportunity to participate in all aspects of the school program, scholarship funds are available to assist students when necessary. The decision to award scholarships is based on financial need determined by the principal. Contact the main office for guidelines and application forms.

Safety Drills and Procedures

Armstrong Elementary has a Campus Emergency Operations Plan in place to keep our students safe. In the event of an emergency or disaster situation, our school has two goals:

- To ensure the safety of students and staff
- To keep parents and the community informed with accurate and timely information

Here are some of the procedures we have in place to keep our students safe:

- Evacuation, fire and lockdown drills are conducted throughout the school year.
- Our campus emergency response plan includes communication with our local police, fire and medical services and other responding agencies.
- Every classroom teacher has been trained in our emergency response procedures and there is a quick reference guide in each classroom.

During a shelter response, such as a tornado, students and staff will move to the safest area inside the building.

- We ask that parents do not come to the campus, as the doors will be locked and students will not be released until the incident is over.
- Following the emergency, the school district will work with safety officials to determine the appropriate action, such as evacuation or early dismissal.

During an evacuation, students and staff leave the building to prevent harm or injury due to an emergency inside the school, such as a fire or gas leak.

- If students must leave the building for safety reasons for an extended period of time, parents will be contacted with information about when and where to pick children up.

During a lockdown, all interior and exterior doors are locked and students are secured in their classrooms.

- No one except emergency personnel will be allowed to enter or leave the building.
- We ask that parents do not come to the campus, as the doors will be locked and students will not be released until the lockdown has ended.

Parent Reunification Procedures

If an emergency occurs that requires students to be removed from the school, they will be taken to an alternate safe location. Parents will be notified of the alternate location and given instructions about how to go there to pick up their child. Remember, students can only be released to a parent, legal guardian, or an adult who is listed as an emergency contact on school records, so be sure to keep that list updated. Anyone attempting to pick up a student must show proper photo identification.

Building Access After Hours

Access to the building is not available after hours, on weekends or during vacations. To schedule a school sponsored activity requesting school facilities, contact the main office at 214-780-3100. To request use of the facilities for a non-school sponsored event by a community organization, contact the Highland Park ISD district office at 214-780-3016.

Student Records

Confidential student files are maintained in the main office. For security reasons, the school cannot release information about students without parental permission.

Requests for Recommendations or References

When we receive written permission for the release of student records to any elementary or secondary school, public or private, Highland Park ISD is happy to provide any objective data in the student's permanent record file. That includes transcripts of grades, results of norm-referenced and criterion-referenced tests, records of suspensions. As a matter of professional practice, we will have no comment on subjective issues such as study habits, academic potential, parental involvement/support, commitment, motivation, or academic effort. Staff members acting in their professional capacity are asked not to provide such comments. This practice is based on our belief that we should avoid subjective judgments about our students and avoid any legal liability for such comments.

Withdrawal

When a child is to be withdrawn from school, contact the school office so that all records can be cleared (library fines, lunch loans, etc.) and academic records prepared to send to the new school. Please provide as much advance notice as possible when withdrawing. A withdrawal form, obtained from the school office, must be completed prior to the student's withdrawal.