

Orca Spout Out Newsletter

Dear Highland Terrace Orca Families,

It was wonderful to be able to see our Orca students and families in person at the drive through yesterday. We are excited to start our year of learning together with our students in Grades 1-5 tomorrow, September 2 and our Kindergarten students on September 8. We are ready to continue our Orca pride together - **Set the Example - Be the Change!**

This year, information about student lessons will come directly from classroom teachers via Seesaw. **We do plan to continue our Orca Spout Out Newsletter each Tuesday for school-wide information and key dates.** Right now, we will use School Messenger for that communication. It may shift to Seesaw as the year gets going.

Key Dates:

- **September 1:** Seesaw for Families: Guided Practice and Drop in Help with Mrs. Wilson (see details below)
- **September 2:** First day of school for grades 1-5
- **September 2-4:** Family meetings for Kindergarten via Zoom schedule with teachers
- **September 8:** First day of school for Kindergarten
- **September 10:** Whole School Virtual Assembly during first morning block
- **September 17:** Virtual Curriculum Night

Daily Schedule & Instructions for Logging In and Using Technology Tools

- [HT K-5 Remote Master Schedule 2020-2021](#): This document outlines the Highland Terrace daily schedule for grades K-5. It shows when within the district schedule Highland Terrace students will engage in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and STEM/Social Studies/Health Lessons.
- [HT Remote Learning Grade Level Schedules](#): This document outlines the daily schedule for specific grade levels.
- [At-home Instructions for Logging In and Using Shoreline School District's Elementary Instructional Technology Resources](#): This document outlines steps for accessing the technology tools and who to contact if you need support.

Launching the Year = Start Smart

The first few weeks of school focus on creating a positive and caring community. Students and teachers spend time learning about one another, building connections, and establishing trust within the learning community. Students and teachers work together to create a safe, respectful, kind and responsible environment for all. They develop classroom norms, routines, and procedures. Students learn about the daily and weekly schedule and how to use the learning tools and resources. Each morning and afternoon, students engage in community

circles to support the development of the classroom community. **In our K-5 Remote Learning, students and families can expect the same.**

Also during the first weeks of a school year, teachers take time to get to know their students as learners and academically. Teachers will use different processes, surveys and assessments to learn more about how students learn and where students are in core academic areas (reading, writing, and math). They will engage students in review of previous skills to help build back student stamina for academic learning. Students also work on core topics like reading, writing and math is embedded within these classroom orientation activities during this time. **In our K-5 Remote Learning, students and families can expect the same.**

You may start to hear a new term across the district for how we are launching the first weeks of school = Start Smart. Taking intentional time to connect with students and establish a positive culture for learning is always a priority and this year it is even more critical that we take the time needed for students to feel comfortable, safe and supported in their learning environment.

Beginning the third week of school, all students in Shoreline will start the district outlined curriculum for reading, writing, mathematics and social studies, STEM, and health. Teachers across the district worked this summer to develop common pacing guides, units, and lessons at each grade level to provide consistency in what students are learning. More specific information about the standards and content will be shared at curriculum night on September 17.

September 1 - Seesaw for Families Guided Practice and Drop in Help with Mrs. Wilson

We want to help you learn how to navigate your student's Seesaw classes. Please join the sessions best for you to get a step-by-step tutorial for Seesaw. If you just have a few questions for the program, then attend one of the Drop In Help meetings to get the help you need for Seesaw.

- 9:00 - 9:45 Guided Practice
- 10:00 - 10:45 Drop in Help
- 1:00 - 1:45 Guided Practice
- 2:00 - 2:45 Drop in Help
- 6:00 - 6:45 Guided Practice
- 7:00 - 7:45 Drop in Help
- Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/4299375178?pwd=eXE0M2RCSnY0ZmNaOCsyZHhxQmx3UT09>

- Meeting ID: 429 937 5178
- Passcode: Seesaw

Please reach out if you have a question or need something.

Sincerely,

Lara Drew

Principal | Highland Terrace

lara.drew@shorelineschools.org

Hello Highland Terrace Orca Families,

Highland Terrace Race & Equity Team Information

Did you know that Highland Terrace has a Race and Equity team? In fact, all Shoreline Schools have a Race and Equity team. Shoreline is committed to examining the inequities within our school systems and communities and working towards combating racism in our schools. As a district and as a Race and Equity team, we strive to improve our anti-racist practices and equity awareness in all of our Highland Terrace activities and choices. We are committed to ensuring our instructional practices serve the needs of all students and families while creating a welcoming, safe and inclusive school environment.

Some examples of ways that Highland Terrace's Race and Equity team have worked to bring anti-racist practices and awareness in our instructional practices include:

- Creating monthly cultural observance activities for staff and students.
- Students engaged in learning about other cultures and communities, including art, literature, history, and current life.
- Staff professional development sessions on race and equity.
- Bringing new books into the classrooms featuring authors and characters of diverse cultures.

This year I am the lead for Highland Terrace's Race and Equity Team. It is my mission, and the mission of Highland Terrace, to be an environment where all students and families feel welcomed and safe. Please feel free to reach out to me with questions or comments:

kelsey.graves@k12.shorelineschools.org

Thank you,

Kelsey Graves, 3rd Grade

For more information about the Shoreline School District's work around Equity and Family Engagement, please take a look at the department's website:

<https://www.shorelineschools.org/domain/1090>