

2020-21



Kindergarten Information

Harper Creek Community Schools

HARPER CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The mission of Harper Creek Community Schools, is to educate, empower, and equip our students for life. To meet this mission we focus on five strategic goals:

- Student achievement and equity
- Safe and nurturing environment
- Student/family/community partnership
- Talent recruitment and development
- Financial health

Harper Creek Elementary Schools mission is to cultivate students who LEAD, developing people who make a difference in an ever changing world.

- Lead by example
- Encourage kindness
- Act respectfully
- Do the right thing



BEADLE LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
8175 C DRIVE NORTH
441-3250

SONOMA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
4640 B DRIVE SOUTH
441-7800

WATTLES PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
132 SOUTH WATTLES ROAD
441-5850

*All Harper Creek elementary staff believe students will master
challenging content and complex problem-solving skills.*

HARPER CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

EARLY CHILDHOOD PHILOSOPHY

The purpose of kindergarten in the Harper Creek Community Schools is to promote the development of the whole child. This includes social, emotional, physical, and academic growth in preparation for first grade and, ultimately, to lay a foundation for life-long learning.



REGISTRATION

- Michigan Law permits children to enter school if they will be **five years old on or before September 1st** of the school year.
- To enroll your child, you will need:
 1. Your child's legal birth certificate with the raised seal.
 2. Up-to-date immunizations:
 - **DTaP:** 4 doses are required with 1 dose given on or after the age of 4.
 - **Polio:** 4 doses are required with 1 dose given on or after the age of 4.
If dose 3 administered on or after the age of 4, only 3 doses are required.
 - **MMR:** 2 doses are required on or after the age of 1 and at least one month apart.
 - **Hepatitis B:** 3 doses are required.
 - **Varicella (Chicken Pox):** 2 doses are required on or after the age of 1.
 - **Hepatitis A:** 2 doses are recommended on or after the age of 1.
 - **Influenza:** 1 dose recommended annually during flu season.
 - **Vision screening** is required.
 3. Verification of residency is required. Please provide a utility bill, a property sale paper, or rental agreement with your name and address. If you do not have any proof, you will need to fill out a Verification of Residency form at the Administration building.
- Students who have failed to receive the above immunizations **WILL BE EXCLUDED** from school **UNTIL** parents provide proof that **ALL REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS** have been given, or have a waiver on file.
- **All of the above must be provided before the student can start school.**

EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM

BELIEFS

- Child growth and development are sequential in nature.
- Children grow and develop at varying rates.
- Curriculum will consist of teacher-planned learning activities introducing basic skills in language, reading, writing, math, and science.
- Children learn by:
 - playing.
 - using all of their senses.
 - repeating and practicing.
 - building on past knowledge and experiences.
 - observing.
 - trying and learning from errors.
 - exploring.
 - imitating.
 - being reinforced.
 - listening.
 - manipulating objects.
 - questioning.
 - experiencing direct instruction.
- Children learn best in classrooms where:
 - they feel respected and valued as worthwhile individuals.
 - they feel physically comfortable and secure.
 - they experience success.
 - they participate in varied and multi-sensory learning experiences.
 - parents are accepted and involved in the learning experiences.
 - the class size is small enough for teachers to observe children and to spend time with their students.
 - behavioral expectations are fair, consistent, and clearly stated.
 - learning objectives are designed with children's development in mind.
 - learning objectives are developed to align with our Michigan Curriculum Framework.



GENERAL SCHOOL POLICIES

ABSENCE

Please call our Operation Concern/Attendance Hotline explaining the reason for an absence or tardy.

- Beadle Lake Elementary 441-3255
- Sonoma Elementary 441-7805
- Wattles Park Elementary 441-5855

ARRIVAL

Do not bring your child to school early, as there is no supervision until buses arrive at 8:30 AM (8:25 AM at Beadle Lake).

ATTENDANCE

Remember that being on time and attending regularly will help your child establish a pattern that is essential for future success. **The kindergarten year is a very important time for children.** When your child is ill, he/she should be kept home from school. Parents should be alert to symptoms such as a fever, rash, runny nose, sore throat, or upset stomach. If your child has a communicable disease, please notify the office.

When your child returns to school from an absence, a written note explaining the reason for the absence as well as the date(s) of the absence with a parent/guardian signature is required. **An “excused” absence will only be considered if a written note is submitted to the office within two days of your child’s return to school. At times you may be asked to bring in a doctor’s note if your child has been sick for numerous days.**

COMMUNICATION

Periodically, your child will bring home information from the school letting you know of specific events and things going on in the classroom, school, and / or community. Communications may come in the form of emails, newsletters, BLOOMZ, written notices, and / or phone messages. Please pay close attention to these notices and mark your calendar accordingly.

CLOSING OF SCHOOL

School closings or delays will be broadcast on local radio, television stations, facebook, and can be found on our website, www.harpercreek.net. In the event of an EMERGENCY EVACUATION, students may be dismissed early. Parents should review with their children what steps they would like them to take in the event of an early dismissal. Please do not direct your child to use the school phone, and do not call the school unnecessarily. You may call 979-5317 and listen to the prompts for updated school information.

CLOTHING

Please have your child wear clothing that is clean, comfortable, and suitable for floor and outdoor activities. Be sure that buttons, zippers, and fasteners are in good working order and can be done and undone by your child independently. Please consider sending an extra set of clothes to change into due to accidents. ***Boots, coats, and other clothing items should be labeled with your child’s name.***

CONFERENCES

Parent-teacher conferences are held two times per school year. Both parents are encouraged to attend. It is helpful if you jot down questions and comments you wish to cover during conferences. *Report cards are issued three times during the year.*

DISMISSAL

Parents picking up students early from school for appointments must do so through the office. On the first day of school, prepare your child to ride the bus or walk to school unaccompanied.

MEDICATION

Should your child need to take medicine at school, you will need to complete the appropriate paperwork in the office. We also need a form signed by a physician. Any medication must be in its original container.

Per Board of Education Policy, an adult **must** bring all medications to the school. This includes over the counter medications such as cough drops and throat lozenges.

MONEY

Any money sent to school should be placed in a sealed envelope with the child's name, the teacher's name, and the purpose. *Checks are to be made payable to Harper Creek Community Schools unless otherwise indicated.*

NAME TAG

Transportation tags will be provided by the school after registration is completed. Please have your child wear this transportation tag during the first week of school.

RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility is an essential part of kindergarten. *Please help your child be responsible for bringing a backpack daily, returning library books, and wearing tennis shoes on P.E. day.* In 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed a law that requires schools to identify learners who are struggling with reading and writing and to provide additional help. The law states that third graders may repeat third grade if they are more than one grade level behind beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

TARDINESS

The expectation is for students to arrive on time and remain in school until school is dismissed. When arriving late, please come to the office and sign your child in.

TRANSPORTATION

Whether your child is to walk to school or ride the bus, it is important that you choose the safest route and practice it with your child several times before the first day of school. If your child is to be picked up or if you change the usual transportation plans, **we must have a note signed by the parent stating the changed plans or your child will be sent home in the usual manner.** If you drive your child to school, please follow the parking policy of your building. Please see individual building handbooks for further information.

For the safety of our kindergarten students, we ask that parents make a visible contact with the bus driver before the child exits the bus.

VISITORS

All visitors must report immediately to the office upon entering the building. Visitations may be arranged by contacting the classroom teacher. Parents are requested to call at least one day in advance to schedule a visitation. Visitors/parents are required to wear visitor badges while in the building.

HELPFUL HOME EXPERIENCES

The following activities will allow your child to develop a sense of responsibility that will carry over into the classroom:

- Begin each day well rested and with a healthy meal.
- Perform fine motor activities such as:
 - coloring
 - cutting
 - pasting
 - working puzzles
 - buttoning, zipping, and fastening
- Care for personal possessions such as:
 - clothing
 - toys
- Plan appropriate clothing for different types of weather.
- Dress independently.
- Teach appropriate personal bathroom skills.
- Teach responsibility by giving age-appropriate chores your child can complete:
 - making their bed
 - setting and clearing the table
 - collecting the trash
 - feeding the pet
 - straightening his/her room
 - plant and care for a small garden.

Parents can help make school more successful by:

- reading with your children.
- helping your child recognize lower and upper case letters.
- helping your child recognize numbers and counting to 10.
- encouraging your child to help.
- teaching your child to follow rules.
- being a good role model.

