



# TAKE NOTE

The Hill School (540) 687-5897  
www.thehillschool.org

## AUGUST 2023

During the school year, we publish *Take Note* online every Thursday and it is accessible through the Hill School's website (www.thehillschool.org). We notify all parents via email when a new issue is posted.

*Take Note* is our primary means of communicating school announcements and calendar items. In addition, it contains community news and classified advertisements. *Take Note* also includes instructions for ordering lunches and items for sale (e.g. yearbooks, Hill School wear such as hats, shirts, or athletic clothing). The deadline for submission of all announcements and/or classified ads is noon Tuesday. You may submit these to [takenote@thehillschool.org](mailto:takenote@thehillschool.org).



### Student registration

Parents received registration forms via email in July. Forms must be completed by **August 15**.

If you have any questions, please call (540-687-5897) or email Sarah Schroder (sschroder@thehillschool.org) or Kelly Johnson (kjohnson@thehillschool.org).

For all newly enrolled students, parents must also upload/provide the completed **Virginia School Entrance Health Form** and **Certification of Immunization**, and an **original or certified copy** of the child's birth certificate or **current passport** before the first day of school. (Virginia Law §63.1



Hill will be utilizing Parent Square again this year. Parent Square is an app that we use for communicating closings/delays, sporting event changes, etc. If you are a new family—you will receive an invitation from Parent Square with a sign up link.

Please contact Sarah Schroder - [SSchroder@thehillschool.org](mailto:sschroder@thehillschool.org) with any questions.



Reminder: All students in grades 4 - 8 have assigned summer reading. Please see page 5 for an overview.

All rising 7th graders must receive their vaccinations before the start of school. Two are required (Tdap and Meningococcal), one is optional (HPV). Please download the updated immunization form to the Parent Portal or send/bring it to Silvia Fleming (sfleming@thehillschool.org).



Parents,  
please join us for a **Welcome Back Breakfast** the first day of school at 8:15 in the theater lobby

*First Days of School*  
*Thurs., Sept. 7 - Regular dismissal*  
*Fri., Sept. 8 - Noon dismissal*

### Please mark your calendar:

Wed., September 13, 6:30 pm – 4 - 8 Parent Dinner, hosted by Angela and Krister Killinger

Wed., September 20, 6:30 pm – JK - 3 Parent Dinner, hosted by Gina and Brad Palmer

Sat., September 23, Noon - 4 pm – Hill School Country Fair at the Dornin Science Center (Rain Date: September 30)

Thu., September 28, 7:00 - 9:00 pm – PTC Back to School Night

Wed., October 4, 9:00 am – Hill School Golf Open at Bull Run Golf Club



## REGULAR DAILY SCHEDULES

Students should arrive between 8:10 and 8:20. Students benefit from having time to visit with friends and get organized before their first class.

### **Monday - Thursday School Day Schedule**

JK - 2                      8:30 - 3:00  
Grades 3-8                8:30 - 4:00

### **Friday Dismissals (not 9/8)**

All Grades                      3:00

Note: Sometimes dismissal time is later if a class has a field trip, athletic game, or play rehearsal. Later dismissals will be communicated in Take Note and room parent communications.

## TRAFFIC CIRCLES

We ask that drivers operate their vehicles safely and considerately on the campus.

The school has two primary traffic circles for arrival and dismissal – one at the Main Entrance (front porch) and one behind the Art Building. For morning drop off, parents may also use the entrance on top of the hill (Lower School Building).

Please observe the guidelines outlined below.

1. The traffic circles are one way - counter clockwise. Please drive slowly and carefully.
2. Never leave your car unattended or parked on a traffic circle.
3. Watch your speed. Please enter and leave slowly.
4. Pull up as far as you can. Children always leave and enter your car on the passenger side. No child should walk between cars on a traffic circle.
5. Please park your car in the adjacent small visitor parking areas if your child is not ready to be picked up when you reach the head of a traffic circle.
6. Please do not leave your car to assist your children. Faculty/Staff are at each location to help.
7. Please put your cell phone down while in the traffic circle.

### Morning Arrival

- Before 8:10: Please use the Main Entrance; The school officially opens at 7:45 a.m. If you need to drop your child off earlier, please notify Silvia Fleming so that supervision may be arranged.
- 8:10 - 8:30: Families may use any of the three circles: 1. Main Entrance, 2. behind the Art Building, and 3. on top of the hill (Lower School Building).
- After 8:30: Please use the Main Entrance only; students should sign in at the front desk before going to their classrooms.

### Dismissal

All students in Junior Kindergarten through grade 3 will be dismissed from the Main Entrance traffic circle. (JK, Kindergarten and Grades 1 & 2 at 3:00, Grade 3 at 4:00).

Grades 4 through 8 students will be dismissed at the Art Building circle at 4:00 UNLESS they are riding in a carpool with a younger child; these grade 4-8 students will be called to the Main Entrance circle for dismissal.

Your cooperation is essential to the safety of our children. Thank you.

### Campus Traffic Pattern

From 8:30 until 4:20, the gates between the dismissal circles are closed.

The **Main Entrance** traffic circle is accessible only from and to **South Madison Street**.

For the **Art Building** circle, please enter and exit at **The Plains Road**.

## Late Arrival/Early Dismissal

- ◆ **Students who arrive at school after 8:30 need to be brought to the Main Entrance. Students should sign in at the Front Desk. Students may not proceed to class until they have checked in.**
- ◆ **No student may leave the campus before regular dismissal time without signing out at the front desk. If parents wish to pick their child(ren) up during the school day (e.g. for a doctor's appointment or due to illness), they or their representative should call the front desk upon arrival and the student will be sent to the car once they have signed out.**
- ◆ **Upper School students who wish to walk to town after school (on a regular or occasional basis) need to have parental permission (written or by phone call to the receptionist).**

## ABSENCES

1. In case of an anticipated absence, parents should make certain that the teachers have been informed - either by email or personal contact - at least one week in advance. Teachers, parents, and students will work together in developing a schedule to complete missed school work.
2. In cases of unanticipated absences, such as illness, please call to notify the front desk about the period of absence.

## SICK POLICY

If your child has a contagious or unusual illness, please call us as soon as possible so that we may alert other parents and children. Students should stay home if they are sick and should be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school.

Though it is a part of our philosophy that family is more important than school, we ask that you respect the school calendar by avoiding "convenience" absences and that you do your best not to interrupt the flow of the school year unnecessarily - to consider that there is an important difference between missing two weeks of classes for a once-in-a-lifetime tour of India, and departing two days ahead of the start of a school break to get a jump on vacation traffic. In every case, we ask that you attempt to assess the effect of the absence on your child. Many children rely heavily upon established academic routines and upon the social alliances which school engenders and supports.

## LUNCHES/SNACK

While we are using the lunchroom, students will also eat outdoors or in their classrooms for many snacks and/or lunches. Therefore, please be sure to pack lunches and snacks that do not require microwaves. More information regarding lunches for purchase will be sent in late September.

## ATHLETIC INFORMATION

### Junior Kindergarten- Grade 3 Sports

Children should bring a designated pair of sports sneakers to be left at school. Clean shoes used only for sports class are necessary for maintaining the gym floor. (Sand from the playground destroys the finish.) Proper shoes help to prevent injuries and allow your child to maximize their skill development. They should also wear comfortable play clothes on the days when their class has sports.

Sports Days:	<i>JK:</i>	<i>Tuesday, Friday</i>
	<i>Kindergarten:</i>	<i>Monday, Wednesday</i>
	<i>Grade 1:</i>	<i>Monday, Tuesday, Friday</i>
	<i>Grade 2:</i>	<i>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday</i>
	<i>Grade 3:</i>	<i>Monday, Thursday, Friday</i>

### Grades 4-8 Sports

#### WHAT TO BRING THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:

Students should bring a pair of well-fitting running shoes. New sports shorts and/or a t-shirt will be available for purchase at the beginning of the year. (Your account will be billed.)

#### SPORTS UNIFORM

Students must have athletic shoes and a sports uniform (Hill School tee and shorts) every sports day, Monday through Thursday. In grades 5-8, a student's preparedness for class counts toward his/her effort grade. (Staff records whether students have the proper shoes and uniform each day.) We request that uniforms be laundered weekly.

4-8 students should have specific shoes for sports to keep in their gym locker - a pair of well-fitting running shoes in excellent condition, and/or sport-specific shoes (e.g., cleats and basketball shoes). Students can also wear athletic shoes to school. Proper athletic shoes help to prevent injuries and allow your child to maximize their skill development. Students run a mile almost every day. Most leg/foot injuries result from poorly fitted or worn-out shoes. Casual sneakers do not provide sufficient support.

**PLEASE NOTE: IF A STUDENT IS UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS, THEY SHOULD PROVIDE A NOTE FROM THE DOCTOR OR A PARENT.**

# APPEARANCE and DRESS

Dress for special events will be announced ahead of time by the school office or by the faculty member in charge of that event. The day-to-day dress code is as follows:

## **Grades Junior Kindergarten - 3:**

Play clothes are encouraged. Suitable warmups and blue jeans are permissible. Shoes should be closed toed and have backs. Platform shoes and sandals are not permitted.

## **Grades 4-8:**

- All clothing should be clean and not ripped, torn, or frayed
- Dresses, skirts, and shorts should be of school-appropriate length (approx. 4" inseam)
- Shirts need not be tucked in, but they must meet waistbands (i.e. no bare midriffs)
- Shoes should be "closed toed" and have backs
- A few items of clothing are not permitted:
  - Shirts with very narrow shoulder straps (i.e. "spaghetti straps")
  - Clothing with text, logos, or graphics large enough that they cannot be covered by a hand. Exceptions are made for Hill School branded items.
  - Clothing with a camouflage pattern
  - Athletic clothing (i.e. sweatpants, athletic shorts of nylon or mesh material, football jerseys, yoga/athletic leggings with mesh inserts or pockets for running)
  - Platform shoes and sandals
  - Hats may not be worn indoors
- A teacher may request that other items not be worn at school if deemed inappropriate

More detailed information regarding the dress code, including consequences for disregarding it, can be [found here](#).

## **School Supplies**



**JK—Grade 3:** \* Label EVERYTHING with child's name

\* A large, sturdy backpack or book bag that holds everything (folders, books, artwork, and lunchbox)

\* A lunchbox that can also hold snacks or also a separate snack bag; napkins and utensils included

\* A water bottle (spill proof), marked with the child's name

\* Daily snacks (JK, K, and 3rd grade need two daily snacks and anyone staying after 3:00pm will need three snacks)

\* A change of clothes (JK-K need two sets) packed in a labeled Ziploc bag

\* A pair of designated sports shoes

(Teacher may request grade-specific additional supplies, such as a towel to sit on for lunch)

**Grade 4:** Please [Click Here](#) for Mrs. Renneker's letter

**Grade 5:** Please [Click Here](#) for Mr. Daum's letter

**Grades 6-8:** \* Four 1.5 inch binders with transparent cover sleeves (one for each subject: English, History, Science, Latin or Spanish)

\* 12 Dividers (three for each binder, at least one per binder should be a pocket folder)

\* Pencil/pen holder (incl. pencils and pens)

\* At least 200 sheets of paper

\* For Math: basic calculator, highlighters, 12-inch ruler with inches and centimeters

# HILL SCHOOL SUMMER

## REQUIRED READING

List for Rising 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Graders - 2023

### Grade 3 into 4 ([click here](#) for more information)

Read a minimum of 5 books, each from a different genre. Use your genre wheel to help you make selections. Make a list of the book titles and authors. Write a book recommendation about at least one of the books. Bring the list and the book recommendation(s) on the first day of school.

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### Grade 4 into 5

A MINIMUM of six books is required. Book choices should be of an appropriate level.

Students need to turn in a typed list of all books they read over the summer on the first day of school.

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### Grade 5 into 6 ([click here](#) for writing assignment)

- |                                  |   |   |                  |
|----------------------------------|---|---|------------------|
| <b>Required</b>                  | <u>Weedflower</u>                       | - | Cynthia Kadohata |
| <b>Plus <u>One</u> of these:</b> | <u>Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH</u> | - | Robert O'Brien   |
|                                  | <u>The Crossover</u>                    | - | Kwame Alexander  |

Students must select at least **three additional books** of their own choice and complete the writing assignments.

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### Grade 6 into 7

- A. Fever 1793 - Laurie Halse Anderson
- B. Read at least 750 pages in books of your own choice. Take an AR quiz on each of the books. Print out the results and submit on first day of school.

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### Grade 7 into 8

- |                             |                                  |   |               |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------|
| <b>Required for History</b> | <u>Annie, Between the States</u> | - | L. M. Elliott |
| <b>Required for English</b> | <u>Across Five Aprils</u>        | - | Irene Hunt    |

Plus 500 pages of Independent Reading.



THE HILL SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
PRESENTS THE ANNUAL

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# HILL SCHOOL OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 9 AM START  
BULL RUN GOLF CLUB

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REGISTER HERE - [HTTPS://THE-2023-HILL-SCHOOL-OPEN-GOLF-  
TOURNAMENT.EVENTLIFY.COM](https://the-2023-hill-school-open-golf-tournament.eventlify.com)