



July 2024

Dear New Armstrong Family:

Welcome to Armstrong! We are glad to have you part of our community, and we look forward to getting to know you and introducing you to our special school. As the first day of school approaches next month, we want to provide you with some information about some of the activities leading up to the school year and the first day.

Please take a look at the attached calendar of dates for New Families--we'd love for you to attend the **New Families Meet Up (August 10)** and the **New Parents Coffee (August 13)**. You can learn more about Armstrong, learn how to get involved, and meet other parents.

Your child will meet his/her teacher at the **Meet the Teacher on Monday, August 12 at 4:00PM**. Teacher assignments will be posted on Skyward on Monday and class lists will be posted at the school doors promptly at 3:50PM.

The first day of school is Wednesday, August 14. The school will be alive with activity! There will be a bagpiper, many parents and families, and yes, some tears—usually by kinder parents. Students typically do VERY well—it may just surprise you how well they do! Our Dad's Club will be making Sno-Cones at dismissal to celebrate Day 1!

Arrival:

- **7:45AM:** First Bell rings to start the day. You may enter through the Cornell door or the St. Johns door—doors will open at 7:30AM for entry. Proceed to your child's classroom to help your student put their backpack in their locker.
- **7:55AM:** Tardy Bell rings. Morning announcements begin with pledges and a moment of silence. Attendance is taken. Doors to the building are locked.
- **Late Arrival:** After 8:00AM, you must enter through the main entrance on Cornell and sign in your student at the Front Office.
- **Early Arrival:** After the first day of school, children may enter the school as early as 7:30AM. They will wait in their grade-level hallway until 7:45AM, at which point they can enter their classroom. Parents may still accompany their children but must wait outside the school building until 7:45AM. This allows teachers and staff time to prepare for the day.

Lunch

- Students may bring a lunch from home or buy a plated lunch in the cafeteria.
- Kindergarteners and First Graders have a set HOT or COLD lunch choice each day.
- Second through Fourth Graders have an à la carte menu and can choose their entrée and sides.

Principal

Betsy Cummins

Board of Directors

Kate Boatright
Monet Ball
Andrea Cheek
Lauren Conway
Melissa Dvorocsik
Lara Francis
Brooke Garner
Kasha Lee
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Katie Chang
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Bree Dahl
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Caroline Eastman
Jennifer Eitches
Jenna Frye
Star Hill
Candace Hines
Kelly Hohertz
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Leslie Malaise
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Megan Morrow
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Cortney Radloff
Vanessa Renna
Megan Reynolds
Laura Rollins
Meredith Sarracino
Alexis Scarff
Elizabeth Schramme
Murphey Sears
Kathryn Shelton
Nancy Shores
Thea Soule
Sarah Thomas
Landen Tillery
Whitney Walden
Lindsey Williamson
Ali Williford
Krystle Womack
Samantha Wortley

Dad's Club President

Matt Malaise

Lunch, continued

- Menus are available on the Nutrislice website. Helpful hint—review the menu with your child before the school day!
- **Please load money on your child's Skyward account.** Kinder and First Grade lunches are \$6.00; prices vary for older children. You can add funds through your Skyward account (Food Services tab).
- Students may purchase drinks (milk, water, juice) to go with a lunch brought from home.
- Ice cream is available for purchase on Fridays.

Snacks & Water

- Students should bring a water bottle to school each day.
- Students may bring a PEANUT FREE snack. It will be kept in their locker until afternoon snack time.

Dismissal

- **3:15PM:** After school pick up for Kindergarten and Second Grade is at the corner of Cornell and St. Johns. First, Third, and Fourth Graders are dismissed at the corner of Byron and St. Johns. Older children will be sent to the youngest child's designated pick up spot unless otherwise noted.
- Each teacher walks their class down the stairs to meet his/her parents.
- **CARPOOL:** You **MUST** stay in your car and in the carpool lane. There is no parking in the carpool lane to pick up your child.
- Please leave dogs and other pets at home during dismissal.
- **EXTENDED SCHOOL DAY PROGRAM** (until 6PM): Offered by The Academy for Lifelong Learning (A.L.L.) from 3:15—6:00PM. Contact Cha Cha Bjork in the A.L.L. Office at 214-780-3380 or email bjorkc@hpsd.org. Charges apply.

Supplies

- School supplies are purchased during Back to School Sign-up (BSSU), **July 24-July 31**.
- The supplies will be in your child's classroom on the first day of school. There is no need to send your child with any supplies.

Helpful Tips and Requests

- Each student will need a **backpack** large enough to fit a folder, lunch, and water bottle. (Larger than a preschool backpack.)
- Students should wear **athletic shoes** and comfortable clothes. Please label everything!
- No parent lunches the first two weeks of school to allow students to adjust to Cafeteria procedures. Thereafter, parents are invited to eat with their child(ren) during their lunch time.

Birthdays

- Birthdays are celebrated by your child's teacher and are announced on the morning announcements.
- Please, no birthday sweets or treats per school policy.

Spirit Shop

- The Armstrong Spirit Shop is open each Tuesday and Thursday, 7:35-7:55AM. Students like to shop for pencils, trinkets, and Armstrong gear. Parents can purchase Armstrong Eagle spirit wear! Cash and credit cards accepted.

Text Message Group

Please email Charlotte Lee if you would like to join the Armstrong New Families Text Message Group. This is a place for new families to ask the New Families Co-Chairs questions throughout the year. New Families found it helpful particularly in the early weeks and months.

Questions?

Please reach out to anyone listed here:

- Betsy Cummins, Armstrong Principal: cumminb@hpsid.org
- Kelly Hohertz, Armstrong PTA New Families Co-Chair: kelly.hohertz@gmail.com
- Charlotte Lee, Armstrong PTA New Families Co-Chair: charlotte.m.k@gmail.com
- Kate Boatright, Armstrong PTA President: boatright.kate@gmail.com
- Monet Ball, Armstrong PTA President-elect: monet.ball@gmail.com

Helpful Websites:

- www.armstrongpta.org
- armstrong.hpsid.org
- www.hpsid.org (The "Parents/Students" tab provides access to district calendar, Skyward, and more)
- [@armstrong_eagles](http://www.signup.com/go/armstrongpta) 



Skyward



Cafeteria eFunds



**Nutrislice
Cafeteria Menu**

We are excited for the school year and are eager for our children to start making their lifelong friendships with your child this fall!

Kate Boatright
Mom of 3rd Grader
and future Kinder (2027)

Monet Ball
PTA President-elect
Mom of Kinder & 2nd Grader,
and future kinder (2026)

Kelly Hohertz
New Families Co-Chair
Mom of 1st & 4th Graders
and future kinder (2027)

Charlotte Lee
New Families Co-Chair
Mom of Kinder & 4th Grader
and future kinder (2026)

Important New Families Events & Dates

Back to School Sign Up (BSSU)

July 24 - July 31

BSSU is required for all students.

New families to the District will receive a neon envelope mid-July with log-in details.

New Families Meet-Up

Saturday, August 10; 9:00-10:00AM

Meet us at the Armstrong Playground for popsicles to meet other new families.

Please email Kelly Hohertz (kelly.hohertz@gmail.com) if you can attend.

We want to be sure to have enough popsicles!

Meet the Teacher Night

Monday, August 12; 4:00-5:00PM

"Find Your Place in the Eagle's Nest"

Meet your student's new teacher and take a peek inside the classroom!

New Parents Coffee

Tuesday, August 13; 8:00-9:00AM

Sky Flex Space at Armstrong

Meet other New Parents and hear from current parents and our principal. Kindly, no children.

First Day of School

Wednesday, August 14

Arrival 7:30-7:55AM

Dad's Club Sno-Cones at Dismissal

Save the Date!

Grade Level Performances

Kindergarten: May 2

First Grade: November 22

Second Grade: October 25

Third Grade: March 6

Fourth Grade: May 21