

August 11, 2016

Dear Highland Park Kindergarten Families,

I hope you and your families have enjoyed your summer and are looking forward to starting Kindergarten at Highland Park School. Enclosed please find a letter from our Kindergarten teachers, the school calendar, and information about our annual Family Picnic.

On **Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, from 3:00-4:00 p. m.**, we will be hosting our Kindergarten orientation. This time will be a wonderful opportunity for you and your child to get to know our school and our staff.

**Highland Park Kindergarten Orientation Agenda:**

3:00-3:10 Principal's message and staff introduction

3:10-3:30 Introduction to your child's kindergarten classroom and teacher

3:30-3:45 Walk to the cafeteria and a light snack

3:45-4:00 Bus ride around the block

\*All students are strongly encouraged to participate in the bus ride. We will use buses as transportation for field trips throughout the year, and as such, this quick trip is a great opportunity for all new Kindergarten students to practice safe bus ride expectations.

**The first day of school is Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>.** It will be a full day of school, with lunch in the cafeteria. Our Kindergarten teachers highly recommend sending lunch from home with your student for the first few days. Doing so will allow your student to practice the transition from the classroom to the cafeteria before learning the additional tasks involved with buying lunch from the cafeteria. To support your child's transition into the Kindergarten classroom, you are welcome to walk your child to his or her classroom on the first day of school. There will be staff available throughout the building to help with that transition. The first arrival bell rings at 8:55 a.m., and school hours are officially 9:05 a.m. – 3:25 p.m.

Transportation information will be available online in late August on the district website, [www.mpspride.org](http://www.mpspride.org). Click on the "Transportation" link under the "District" tab and follow the links for information regarding Highland Park School bus routes. In order to keep our Kindergarten students safe, bus drivers will not let students off the bus in the afternoon without a known parent or guardian present at the bus stop. If you have any questions regarding transportation, please contact Joanne Hebert of MPS Transportation Services at (860)647-3476.

**Looking ahead, we have some important events planned for September! Be sure to mark your calendars for the following dates:**

Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup> – First day of school!

Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> – No school in observance of Labor Day

Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> – Open House from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> – Early Dismissal for students (1:17 p.m.)

Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> – PTA Back to School Picnic (Rain date: Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>)

On behalf of the entire Highland Park staff, I look forward to working with you and your child throughout their Kindergarten year. Best wishes for a safe and happy end of summer!

Sincerely,

Dr. Joanna Ali

Principal