



ELK HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**"Where kids
come first"**

501 Kern Street, (P.O. Box 129)
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Jeff Tensley
Superintendent

To: All Elk Hills Parents, Guardians, and Students
From: Jeff Tensley, Superintendent
Date: August 14, 2017
Re: Welcome to the 2017-18 School Year

The Board of Trustee's, staff and I would like to welcome you to the start of the 2017-18 school year at Elk Hills School! We are very excited to begin the year with many new activities and programs to enhance our students' learning and our parents' and community participation. I want to ensure you that Elk Hills School District wants to continue to build a strong partnership with you to make your child's education the very best and as personalized as it can be. So we invite you to be on campus as often and involved, as your schedule will allow! We are looking for parent volunteers to support our school in many different ways, such as library supporters, classroom helpers, event supporters, Parent-Teacher Club members, sport coaches and the list goes on. If you want to be involved in your school, please call us at 765-7431. Together we can make the difference for our students!

New STAFF MEMBERS

We are pleased to introduce two new teachers to our "family"! They were hired for their experience and talents to fully support your child's educational needs and provide a nurturing environment. They are very excited about being at Elk Hills School and we are excited to have them! I know that you will help them feel welcomed to Elk Hills School District.

*Rachel Marantos-1st

*Erica Johnson -6/7 combo

New YEARLONG SCHOOLWIDE THEME

Parents and guardians, please plan to join us on our **first school day, August 14, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.** for a presentation as we start the new school year. We will visit special places, have lots of activities and events for our yearlong theme, "Elk Hills Zoo, Take a Walk on the Wide Side". We are planning monthly student, parent and community activities to support our monthly themes to enhance our science, arts, language, math, and technology programs. Don't miss out on this "adventurous" opportunity to start off a great year at Elk Hills School!

2017-18 SCHOOL CALENDAR

For your convenience we will send the 2017-18 School Calendar with school dates and major activities listed home in the first day of school packet. Red and Orange dates indicate "Non School Days." Yellow indicates "Minimum School Days (1:30 dismissal)". Please make a special note that we have made some modifications to our vacation periods in order to better align our calendar to Taft High School to support our families with students at both levels. This is a great resource to hang on the refrigerator all year long. A monthly calendar will also be sent home and posted on our webpage www.elkhills.k12.ca.us to reflect many of the schools activities and events for the upcoming month.

MINIMUM DAYS

Minimum days are indicated on the school calendar in yellow. Minimum days will be held on **every** Wednesday per the schedule. The first minimum day is scheduled for Wednesday, August 16th. **All Minimum day dismissals will be at 1:30 p.m.** Please check the bus schedule for minimum day bus route times.

SCHOOL HOURS

No students may arrive before 7:45 a.m., since there is no supervision prior to that time. Students who need extra help on homework may arrive at 7:45 a.m. and receive help in the cafeteria from one of our support aides. Students may arrive at 7:45 a.m. to start eating breakfast in the cafeteria. **School begins at 8:30 a.m. and dismisses at 3:00 p.m. for all K-8 students.**

LUNCH PRICE

Breakfast and Lunch meal prices will remain the same this year; "Full-price" lunches are **\$2.60 per lunch and \$1.60 per breakfast**. Free and Reduced Lunch (.40) and Breakfast (.30) also remains the same. Please remember all meals must be PREPAID and entered into our computer system for students to receive meals. Lunch/Breakfast menus will be sent home monthly as well as posted on our website. Please help us by keeping your cafeteria bills paid up to date.

ATTENDANCE PROGRAM & STUDENT ATTENDANCE REVIEW BOARD (SARB)

Did you know...last year our school district **lost over \$70,000 in state funding** due to student absences! Of course many of these absences were due to severe student illness and could not be helped. However, some of the absences could have been averted. So again this year, our school will be implementing both special reward programs for students with great attendance records, but also holding parents accountable for non-student attendance per Education Codes. **Please** help us by making sure your **children are at school everyday and on time at 8:30 a.m.** unless they are ill and need to stay home. We can only continue providing the extra educational programs that we offer here at Elk Hills School (smaller class sizes, learning trips, technology...) if we have the funding!! So please do your part again this year and lets decrease absences to increase funding to support our school!!

DRESS CODE

The Board has recently reviewed the current dress code and wants to make sure all parents are fully informed that the current policy will be enforced. **This includes no body piercings (except ears) will be allowed.** Please review the policy with your students. The School Site Council will be reviewing the Dress Code and making any suggested changes for Board consideration this fall.

BUS ROUTES

Please reference the enclosed 2017-18 Bus Route Map and scheduled bus stop times. Please note that some bus pick-up times have changed, so please read the schedule carefully! Due to student enrollment, students living in the Taft area will have two bus stops. We have made the bus stop assignments based on parent addresses, the amount of bus space available and the safety on our students. **Due to bus capacity, students cannot change bus stops unless approved by the school.** Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

MUSIC PROGRAM

Elk Hills School District believes in continuous improvement each and every year! Based on board, staff, student and parent input, we'll continue our school-wide music program, but also add in some art, music and drama classes for 6-8th grades. Mrs. Johnson will provide classroom music instruction (Orff Music program) one afternoon per week for each K-5 classroom. Music and arts are so important to a well-rounded educational program for our students.

SCHOOL PARENT PACKETS

The school parent packets are sent home the first day of school with your student. The packet includes all of the forms that need to be filled out, signed and returned to the school office to ensure your child's safety, security and also informs us of any special information that the school needs to best serve your child. Please remember that if your student has any special medical needs, you will need to come to the office and fill out the medical forms for your student. The Annual Parent Notice is now available to review on our website or can be sent via email to you. **Please return the signed forms to our school office or with your child before Monday, August 21st.** All students will receive a special treat if the packet is received by the deadline.

Finally, on behalf of the Board and Staff, we are truly looking forward to an exciting and productive school year with your children! With your continued support and help, Elk Hills School District will meet our goal to provide the highest level of education possible, *"Where Kids Come First!"* Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or ideas at 661-765-7431.

Sincerely,

Jeff Tensley
Superintendent