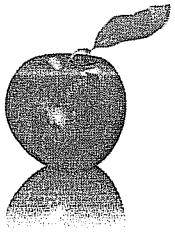
Hillcrest Elementary Student Handbook

2045 South Pond Street
Boise, ID 83705
854-5080



Dear Parents and Students,

On behalf of the staff at Hillcrest Elementary, it is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2010-2011 school year.

We eagerly await the opportunity to educate your child to his/her highest potential. We can best do this with a partnership between parents, students and your child's teacher.

In preparing for the school year, this handbook has been put together to provide important information about the school year calendar, daily schedules, attendance, school lunch, expected behavior and other various topics of interest to you and your child as they attend Hillcrest Elementary.

Please read and discuss the following information in the handbook with your child. It provides information that will:

- Assist parents and students in knowing the school rules and expectations.
- Clarify the school calendar and daily schedule.
- Identify general information and policies.

Keep this handbook available for future reference throughout the year; however, do not hesitate to call us with any questions or concerns you may have as the year progresses. 208-854-5080

Thank you and we look forward to a great year at Hillcrest Elementary.

Mr. Kurt Thaemert
Principal

Your child needs to come to school everyday, and on time. We are committed to providing your child with a quality education. Each school day is filled with critical instructional time along with testing opportunities. Hillcrest School's test scores can be even higher with your help. Please make sure your child is here for testing and here and on time all other days for learning. (Confirmed test dates are in bold print, and date ranges are in italics.)

Test Dates

Grade	Test	Dates or Date Ranges
Kg - 3rd	IRI Reading	*September 8,9,10* *January 3- February 11* *April 18 – May 20*
4th - 6th.	CBM Reading	*September 8,9,10* *January 3-February 11* *April 18 – May 20*
Kg - 6th	ELL Language Assessment	*2/21/11 – 4/1/11*
6th	District Writing Assessment *(7th grade placement test)*	March 2rd
6th	District Math/Science Survey *(7th grade placement test)*	*March 7 - 11*
3rd-6th	Idaho Standard Achievement Test (ISAT)	*4/11/11-5/7/11*

School is Cool!
Come to school - Everyday, On Time!

Attendance is important!

Why?

- Kids who come to school everyday get better grades.
- The school district gets money based on how many students are in school.
- We like your kids and we want to see them everyday!
- **It's the law.** Students are required to be in attendance at least 90% of the school days in an academic year. *(This translates to no more than 9 absences per semester or 18 per year.)*
- Students that exceed the maximum number of absences in a semester ***may*** be withdrawn from school.

What happens when kids come to school?

- Your child will get a better report card.
- He or she will have more time with friends.
- Your child will be better able to keep up and be ready for the next grade.
- Your child will be better prepared for the future
- Students with no tardies each month are eligible for a small monthly incentive (incentive may include pencils, candy, etc.)

What happens when kids don't come to school?

- We call to find out where they are.
- Your child will find school more difficult.
- Your child may have to make up time.
- You may have to go to court with your child and talk to a judge.

* ATTENTION – We have new Start and Dismissal times this year. Please review the changes below.

The first bell rings at 9:10 a.m. and the dismissal bell rings at 3:45 p.m. Students should NOT be on school grounds before 8:45 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m., because we cannot provide supervision.

A study hall / activity room will be available in the school Library from 8:15-8:45 daily for those students that need to be dropped off a few minutes early. PARENTS – please make arrangements with your child's classroom teacher or the librarian if you plan on dropping them off early. Students participating in this room will then be dismissed at 8:45 each morning to go outside on to the playground until the morning bell rings at 9:10.

NO other students will be allowed in the building before 8:45 unless specifically authorized by a teacher or coach. The doors will be locked.

ALL students must be off campus by 4:00 each day unless authorized by a staff member.

Early Release time is now 1:45 Kindergarten and PreSchool will also have an amended schedule.

Hillcrest Kids Are Well Behaved!

School rules are taught to every student in each classroom during the first week of school. If rules are not followed, and the offense is minor, a student may receive any or all of the following:

- Warning
- Time Out
- Natural Consequences (Including removal from an activity or area)
- Conference with Principal
- Notice to Parent
- Other Consequences as deemed appropriate for the offense

More serious offenses include fighting, defiance of school staff, disruption of the educational process, bringing a weapon to school, bullying, harassment, criminal acts or any other act for which the student could be charged by law in school or out of school. Consequences may be:

- After School Detention
- Parent Conference at School
- Conference with Resource Officer
- In-school or out-of-school suspension
- Expulsion
- Other Consequences as deemed appropriate for the offense

CLOTHING

Please have your child dress appropriately for learning and for the current weather conditions. Short skirts and shorts, midriff-baring shirts, or immodest tank tops are not acceptable for the learning environment. Care should also be taken to ensure that children have safe and appropriate shoes for playing outside and attending PE class. High heels, flip-flops, or sandals may pose a significant safety risk when children are running. Students may not wear hats or baseball caps in the building, except on specific spirit days that apply. Wearing of bandannas, low-riding pants, cell phones, pagers, chains, clothing that promotes drugs or alcohol, and any gang-related attire is not permitted in the school building or on the school grounds. Parents will be notified should their child's clothing present a disruption in the learning process and may be asked to bring a change of clothes.

PERSONAL ITEMS

Students are asked to leave pagers, cell phones, IPODs and other personal electronic equipment at home. If you feel your child needs to bring a cell phone to school please notify the classroom teacher and they may be asked to turn the phone in daily to the teacher or the office to minimize interruptions. We also ask that students leave personal toys, shoes with wheels, skateboards, sports equipment, etc. home to increase safety and reduce the chance of loss.

ILLNESS OR INJURY

A school nurse is on call in case of illness or injury. If a parent or guardian cannot be located and medical attention is advised, your family doctor may be called and your child will be taken to the emergency room at the hospital (unless you have given instructions to the contrary.) **Aspirin or other medications are never given at school unless you have made prior arrangements with the nurse.** For everyone's safety and good health, please do not send your child to school if he or she is ill.

Even with careful supervision, accidents can and do happen at school. Parents need to be aware of this and understand that the school district does not provide medical insurance to pay for medical expenses when children are injured at school. This is the responsibility of the parents or legal guardians. Student medical insurance is available for purchase. Brochures outlining the coverage and premiums are sent home at the beginning of the school year and are available at the office throughout the year.

LOST AND FOUND

The school is not responsible for lost items. Please **label** your child's clothing and belongings whenever possible. This will help in finding the home for lost items. Lost and found is located in the hallway outside of the library. Periodically, the items in the lost and found will be bagged up and donated. Please check our lost and found periodically to avoid losing items permanently.

SAFETY PATROL

A school safety patrol will be organized utilizing upper grade student volunteers. Students working on safety patrol will be on duty from 8:50 to 9:10 a.m., and from 3:45 to 4:00 p.m. Patrols are responsible for enforcing safety rules on the school grounds and it is expected that all students will follow their direction.

SCHOOL SECURITY

All visitors are required to check in at the office upon arrival. Visitors will be asked to sign in, and then will be given a Visitor Identification Badge to wear while in the building. Visitors include all parents, volunteers, and substitute teachers who are in the building for any length of time. Hillcrest is concerned for the safety of each student; your cooperation in the effort is greatly appreciated.

LIBRARY BOOKS

The books in our library are valuable and important to all of our students. It is a privilege to check out books. Students are responsible for returning the books they borrow the following week. If they do not return the books, or they return them in a damaged condition, students may not be able to borrow books in the future and/or they may be responsible to pay a fine or replacement fee.

BIRTHDAYS

We understand that birthdays are an exciting time in a child's life, and we respect your desire to celebrate them. We do, however, ask that you help us by honoring the value of "teaching time" in the classroom. If you choose to bring treats to celebrate a birthday, please consider bringing them just before your child's lunch period. Then, you or the teacher can bring the treats to the cafeteria for the class to enjoy. We prefer not to celebrate birthdays during the classroom day, if at all possible. Thank you for your help in this.

MEALS

The Boise School District Foodservices offers various meals and meal options. Hillcrest Elementary participates in the Federally Funded "Breakfast in the Classroom" program for which there is no charge to students. All Hillcrest students are eligible to participate in this program. Many Hillcrest families may also be eligible for Free or Reduced price lunches for their students also. Please see the school kitchen or office for the appropriate forms to apply for this program. All other lunches must be paid according to the following pricing schedule:

2010-2011 STUDENT MEAL PRICES

		2010-2011 Prices
Elementary	Breakfast	**1.25**
	Lunch	**1.90**
Jr. High	Breakfast	**1.50**
	Lunch	**2.50**
Sr. High	Breakfast	**1.50**
	Lunch	**2.75**

2010-2011 ADULT MEAL PRICES

		2010-2011 Prices
Elementary	Breakfast	1.75
	Lunch	2.75
Jr. High	Breakfast	2.00
	Lunch	3.50
Sr. High	Breakfast	2.00
	Lunch	3.50

Food Service does not receive the Federal reimbursement and pays 6% sales tax for adult meals.

NOTE: It is imperative that your child not be unpaid or have charges exceeding $10.00 on their lunch account or they will **NOT** be given a lunch until the account is brought current.

There will be NO Principal account to cover meals when a child reaches the $10 charge limit. Students that have reached the charge limit and are no longer eligible for lunches from the Food Services Dept. will be given a small snack from the school office for up to three days. After the three days the child will no longer be given anything for lunch.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

In addition to focusing on academic improvement this year, our entire staff will be encouraging students to strengthen their personal character. Each month, we will emphasize a particular character trait that will help your child be more successful in *and* out of school. The following is a list of the traits we will be covering. Please join us in encouraging your children and finding ways to discuss these traits at home.

September: *Respect*
October: *Forgiveness*
November: *Citizenship*
December: *Empathy*
January: *Positive Attitudes*
February: *Responsibility*
March: *Problem Solving*
April: *Conservation*
May: *Honesty*