

Hough Elementary Newsletter

JUNE 2, 2023

A NOTE FROM MRS. GRAHAM

Dear Hawk Families-

I hope this message finds you all well and in good spirits. As we approach the final weeks of the school year, I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate the incredible efforts and resilience of both you and your children.

We all know that this time of the year can be hectic and overwhelming, with numerous celebrations and a whirlwind of emotions. It's important to remember to take deep breaths and find moments of peace amidst the chaos. Whether it's a quick walk around the kitchen island (hopefully without a toddler wrapped around your leg) or simply letting go of the things we cannot control. Truth be told, there's a whole lot we can't control, and that's perfectly okay! In fact, it's pretty much most of it. So let's collectively embrace the art of letting go and focus on enjoying the present moments and celebrating the incredible growth and achievements of our children.

Speaking of our amazing kids, they are uniquely THEM. Each one possesses their own special qualities and talents that make them truly wonderful individuals. Sure, they may have their fair share of struggles, which often occupy about 90% of our thoughts and worries. But let's take a step back and appreciate the fact that despite those challenges, they learn and grow, coming out the other side as truly awesome individuals.

As we look ahead, I wanted to remind you of some important upcoming dates to mark on your calendars:

June 9th: Talent Show from 1:00-2:30PM (Families are welcomed)

June 9th: Summer Birthday Table (Families are welcomed)

June 12th: All school assembly to kick off the last full week of school

June 13th: Walk to next year's grade (VITA students will help Kinder walk to their next year teachers)

June 14th: Field Day and Otter Pops

June 15th: Hough all school carnival during the school day

June 15th: DJ during Lunchtime

June 15th: All school BBQ lunch (provided by our neighboring church)

June 16th: Yearbook Signing

June 16th: Staff Soccer/Kickball with 5th grade students

June 16th: Kindergarten Graduation 10:00AM (Families are welcomed)

June 16th: Report cards go home (2-Hour Early Release 12:50PM)

June 19th: No school

June 20th: Last day of school (2-Hour Early Release at 12:50PM)

We deeply appreciate your commitment to bringing your children to school each day, despite the challenges that may arise. By showing up and establishing these strong habits, you are contributing to their growth and success; even in the face of bedhead, backwards shoes, and yes, even pajama bottoms, your dedication does not go unnoticed.

Thank you for your ongoing support, cooperation, and partnership throughout the school year. We are honored to be a part of your children's educational journey. Wishing you a relaxing weekend and we will see you on MONDAY!

Jessica Graham

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR END OF YEAR EVENTS:

I hope this message finds you well. As we approach the last week of school, we have some exciting events planned for our students:

Field Day on June 14th from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM

Hough Carnival on June 15th from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

However, we are facing a shortage of volunteers for these events, and without your support, we may have to cancel them.

We understand that everyone's schedules are busy, and we greatly appreciate the demands on your time. **If we don't receive more volunteer sign-ups by June 12th, we will unfortunately be unable to proceed with these fun-filled activities.** We truly hope that we can avoid canceling them, as they provide our students with enjoyable and memorable experiences to end the school year.

If you are interested and have been cleared by the district to volunteer, we kindly request you to consider signing up for a time slot during Field Day or the Hough Carnival. Your participation will make a significant difference in ensuring the success of these events and allowing our students to create lasting memories.

To sign up for a time slot, please click this link to fill out your information

The link for volunteer sign-up will always be houghptsd.org/volunteer

If you are unable to volunteer, we completely understand and appreciate your understanding.

However, if you know of any other parents or community members who might be available and

interested in volunteering, please feel free to share this message with them as well.

We truly value your support and involvement in our school community, and we are grateful for any assistance you can provide. Let's come together to make the last few days of school extra special for our students.

Thank you for your consideration and ongoing support.

WALKING TO NEXT YEAR'S TEACHER COMING UP

As we approach the end of the school year, we want to take a moment to share an exciting new tradition we have at Hough Elementary School that we believe will help alleviate some of the back-to-school stress and uncertainties.

We understand that one of the challenges for our students, and perhaps even for you as parents, is the anticipation of not knowing which teacher they will have in the upcoming school year until the end of summer break. To address this, we are implementing a special activity called "Walk to Your Next Year's Grade."

On June 14th, we will organize a meaningful event where our Hough Hawk students will have the opportunity to meet and walk up to their next year's grade level teachers. This way, they can put faces to names and start building connections before the summer break begins. We won't identify each individual's students individual teacher as we know changes can happen over summer break.

By introducing this activity, we hope to alleviate any anxieties and create a sense of familiarity and excitement for the upcoming school year. We believe that when students know who their grade level teachers will be, they can enjoy their summer break with a sense of relaxation and anticipation, knowing what lies ahead.

We encourage you to talk to your child about this event and help them understand that it is a chance to meet new teachers, make new friends, and embark on another exciting academic journey.

We are dedicated to creating a nurturing and supportive environment for our students. We value the relationships between students, families, and teachers and believe that starting this connection-building process early fosters a positive school experience.

We look forward to seeing our Hough Hawks walk up to their next year's grade level teachers and witnessing the smiles and excitement that will surely fill our halls on June 14th.

Thank you for ongoing support, and we wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable weekend.

HOUGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

June 5th

Monday-school releases 2:50 (*no early release*)

June 6th

4th & 5th Track Party 3:00-3:30

June 9th

July/August Birthday Table (during lunch time)

Talent Show 1:00-2:30 (Families are welcome to attend)

June 12th

Monday-school releases 2:50 (*no early release*)

All School Assembly kick-off to the last full week of school

June 13th

Walk to Next Year's Grade

June 14th

Field Day & Otter Pops

June 15th

Hough all school carnival during the school day/Lunchtime BBQ & DJ

5th Grade Promotion at Hough 5:00-6:30

June 16th

2-HR EARLY RELEASE 12:50

Report Cards Go Home

Yearbook Signing

Staff vs 5th Grade Students Soccer/Kickball Game

Kindergarten Graduation 10:00 am (Families are welcome to attend)

June 19th

NO SCHOOL - Juneteenth Holiday

June 20th - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

2-HR EARLY RELEASE 12:50

2023-2024 VPS CALENDAR



SUMMER BREAK IS COMING SOON!!!

Last Day of School
Tuesday, June 20th

2023-2024

First Day Of School
Wednesday, August 30th

Back To School Newsletter is coming in **August** with lots of important information & dates!

Hough Elementary Office will be closed for the summer
June 26 to August 10

LOST & FOUND

We will be placing the lost & found cart outside of the main entrance everyday after school next week. Please stop by and check for any of your students missing clothing, hats, backpacks, lunch boxes & water bottles. All items left after the last day of school will be donated.

IN DISTRICT & OUT-OF-DISTRICT BOUNDARY EXCEPTIONS

Applications for the 2023-2024 School Year are now being accepted.

Both out-of-district and in-district boundary exception forms **are required annually.** For more information or to complete the online form go to the link below.

[VPS BOUNDARY EXCEPTION PAGE](#)

2023-2024 KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

I'm happy to announce that we are having our upcoming Kindergarten Round-Up at Hough. Its a great opportunity for parents and students to meet the school staff and learn more about the kindergarten program. Here's some information you can share with your neighbors:

- **Date: Monday June 12th** (*re-scheduled from April 26th, 2023*)
- **Time: 3:00-3:45 PM**
- **Location: Hough School (1900 Daniel Street)**

Activities planned for the Kindergarten Round-Up include:

- Meeting the Kindergarten teachers: Parents and students will have a chance to meet the kindergarten teachers who will be welcoming and educating their children during the upcoming school year.
- Presentation: There will be a quick presentation to provide important information about the kindergarten program, school policies, and expectations.
- Meet the principal: Parents can meet the school principal, who will be available to answer any questions they may have.
- Meet the school nurse: Parents will have the opportunity to meet the school nurse, who plays a crucial role in ensuring the health and well-being of students.
- LAP teachers: Parents can meet the LAP (Learning Assistance Program) teachers who provide additional support to students who may need extra help in certain areas.
- Teacher Librarian: Parents will meet the Teacher Librarian, who can share information about the school library and the resources available for students.
- SPED team: Parents can meet the Special Education (SPED) team, who can provide information and support for students with special needs.
- FCRC: Parents can learn about the Family and Community Resource Center (FCRC), which offers various resources and support services for families in the school community.

Please spread the word to your neighbors who have kindergarten-aged children and encourage them to attend the Kindergarten Round-Up at Hough School. It's a great opportunity to get familiar with the school and meet the staff who will be supporting their children's education. Thank you!



[KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION LINK](#)

2023-2024 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Any child who will be five (5) years old on or before August 31 is eligible to enter kindergarten this fall. Please have proof of birth date, immunization records and proof of residence (utility bill or copy of lease/sale with address of residence) ready to upload into Skyward during registration. We recommend parents register their child by May 1st to ensure that they receive information about upcoming kindergarten events.

Kindergarten Jumpstart August 14-18

Who: All incoming kindergarten students are invited to attend.

What: A free program where students participate in a variety of math, literacy and hands-on activities; learn school routines; and become familiar with their new surroundings.

When: Monday, August 14th - Friday, August 18th 9:00am - 11:30am

Where: Hough Elementary

Why: Data shows that students who attend Jump Start are better prepared for kindergarten than children who do not participate. They also gain confidence, leadership skills and enthusiasm for school. Don't miss this opportunity to give your child a successful transition to kindergarten!

STAFFING CHANGES AT HOUGH NEXT YEAR

As we approach the end of the school year, we want to take a moment to inform you of some changes within our staff for the upcoming 23-24 school year. While change can be bittersweet, we believe it also brings new opportunities and growth. Please join us in bidding a farewell and wishing the best of luck to the following staff members:

Firstly, we will be saying goodbye to **Mrs. Ronke**, our Intensive Academic Teacher. Mrs. Ronke has made an enormous impact on our students at Hough, and we are incredibly grateful for her hard work and dedication. She will be embarking on an exciting journey as she travels back to Africa to visit her family next year. We wish her the most wonderful experiences and all the best in her future endeavors.

Another significant change is the departure of **Mr. Hoffarth**, our Associate Principal of Eight Years at Hough. Mr. Hoffarth has been a cornerstone of our school community, working tirelessly to support students and staff. He has split his time between Hough and Marshall these past 3 years, and now he will be transitioning to a full-time role as the Associate Principal at Marshall. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Hoffarth for his unwavering dedication and commitment to Hough. We will miss him dearly and wish him continued success in his new position.

We will also be bidding farewell to **Mr. Young**, who has held several roles throughout this year including Mrs. Graham's admin intern. Mr. Young has established fantastic relationships with our families, communities, and, most importantly, our students. Although we are sad to see him go, we are thrilled for him as he continues his education career to the unknown of an administrator, back in the classroom, and coaching and working with students and staff. Whatever lies ahead we have no doubt that he will do great things.

Mrs. Wildeman, our talented PE teacher, will not be returning to Hough next year. Mrs. Wildeman has brought immense enthusiasm and expertise to our physical education program, creating a positive and engaging environment for our students. Her dedication to promoting healthy habits and building strong relationships with our students has been truly commendable. We extend our heartfelt appreciation for her hard work and wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

The departure of **Nancy Bacon**, our esteemed English Language Coach will not be at Hough for the 23-24 school year. Throughout her time at our school, Nancy has demonstrated exceptional dedication and a true passion for teaching and supporting our teachers with strategies to use in the classroom to help our ELL students. Nancy's ability to connect with individuals on a personal level has made her an admired and respected member of our school. We wish her the best of the 23-24 school year

Ms. Mary Brown, our Developmental Skills teacher, will be moving on to a new role in Learning Support next year. Ms. Brown has played an integral part in providing specialized instruction and support to our students with diverse learning needs. Her commitment to individualized education and fostering a nurturing environment has made a lasting impact on our students. We extend our gratitude for her dedication and wish her the very best in her new role.

Ms. Karina Rocha our Equity Coach at Hough will not be returning back to Hough next year. Karina has been instrumental in providing us with insightful perspectives on student equity and amplifying student voice. Her dedication and passion for creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for all students have been truly commendable. We wish Karina the best in the near future

Lastly, we will be saying goodbye to **Ms. Krog**, our 3rd grade teacher. Ms. Krog joined us this year as a rover substitute, and when the opportunity arose, she seamlessly transitioned into the role of a teacher. We deeply appreciate her dedication to our students and the contributions she has made at Hough. We wish her all the best for the 23-24 school year.

While these staff members will be greatly missed, we are confident in the talent, passion, and commitment of our remaining staff and the new staff that will join us. Change brings new opportunities for growth, and we are excited about the positive impact they will have on our school community. (More to come in the August Newsletter)

As always, we appreciate your ongoing support, understanding, and partnership. Together we will continue to provide the best possible education for our students.

HUGE SHOUT-OUT TO OUR HOUGH PTSA

As the school year comes to a close, I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation for the extraordinary efforts you have put forth in making this year an exceptional one for our students. Your hard work and dedication have truly made a difference in the lives of our Hough students, and I am incredibly thankful for all that you have done.

Throughout the year, we have witnessed remarkable student events that have brought joy, laughter, and unforgettable memories to our school community. From the enchanting Winter Wonderland to the spooktacular Monster Mash Bash, the upcoming lively carnival to the exhilarating Field Day, and the love-filled Cupid's jubilee, each event has been a testament to your creativity, organization, and unwavering commitment to our students' well-being.

Moreover, I want to acknowledge and commend the remarkable success of various fundraisers and initiatives that you have spearheaded. Your tireless efforts in raising funds have enabled us to provide enhanced educational experience, support crucial programs, and create opportunities that will have a lasting impact on our students' lives. The dedication and enthusiasm you have shown in coordinating birthday tables, ensuring that each student feels valued and celebrated, deserve special recognition.

I am humbled by the countless hours you have dedicated to planning, organizing, and executing these events. Behind the scenes, your hard work often goes unnoticed, but its impact is felt by each and every student who has had the pleasure of participating in these activities. Your selflessness and unwavering commitment have contributed to making Hough a place where students feel safe, inspired and valued.

It's important to recognize that none of these accomplishments would have been possible without your invaluable support. Your dedication, creativity, and collaborative spirit have been vital to the success of our PTSA and the experiences we provide for our students. On behalf of the entire school community, I extend my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to each and every one of you!

PTSA NEWS

All information about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities and so much more is available on the Hough PTSA website! houghptsa.org

4th Grade Fundraiser to Support the 5th Grade Fine Dining Event

The fundraiser was a huge success!! We have some very talented soccer kids in our school! Thank you so much to everyone that pledged! We still have some outstanding pledged donations that haven't been submitted. We would really appreciate if you could submit those donations before the end of the school year! If you aren't sure how much you need to submit, please feel free to reach out to the PTSA and we will let you know! Fundraisers like this are how we are able to support these many events for our Hawks!

The 5th Grade Fine Dining Event was a MASSIVE success and the 5th Graders had a wonderful time and left feeling very special. We want to thank you for your support in making this happen for them!

PTSA General Meeting is June 8th @ 3pm

PTSA END OF YEAR GENERAL MEETING is coming up, Thursday June 8th at 3pm! This is a super important meeting and we need lots of attendance. At this meeting we'll be discussing plans for next school year, electing next year's Hough PTSA Board Members (we still have some open positions to fill and PTSA members are welcome to self-nominate at the meeting), and setting our budget for next year.

The PTSA at Hough is responsible for so many of the things you love about our school, like Monster Mash Bash, Winter Wonderland, Donuts with Grownups (in partnership with the FCRC), Spirit Wear, Yearbooks, monthly Birthday Tables and so much more. We LOVE providing these wonderful experiences for our Hough Hawks and the whole school community, but we're all volunteers and we can't do without YOU.

Please join us at the General Meeting to help us plan another amazing year next year! Some of our awesome PlayWorks Student Leaders will be available and organizing games outside to keep younger kids entertained while parents attend the meeting!

Next Year's PTSA NEEDS YOU!!!

It's that time of year where we are putting together next year's PTSA board. We are looking for people interested in filling Board and Committee positions for the 2023-2024 school year. We know many families are balancing full schedules and carving out time for a new commitment can be challenging, but **we invite you to consider the possibility**. We need help to continue offering the Hough community events like Monster Mash Bash and Winter Wonderland. We need help finding donations and raising funds so we can fund these events, continue to offer classroom grants to teachers to pay for classroom supplies, and other learning tools for the school. We sure could use your help.

Please click the link below to view the Nomination Form which includes descriptions of our positions.

[Nomination Form](#)

If you or someone you know could lend a hand next year. The Nominating Committee has completed it's work finding Nominees for the PTSA Board positions for next year, but there are still many Committee Positions we need to fill! We will vote on all the Nominees at the General Meeting on June 8th and people can still self-nominate for ANY position at the meeting before the vote. We need you!!

July Birthday Table is Friday, 6/09!

If your student has a birthday in July, they are invited to a special birthday celebration during their lunch time and one parent/caregiver is welcome to join them! Your student will receive an invitation the week before.

If your child has a birthday table in August, fear not! August birthdays are celebrated with the September birthday table!

We need volunteers to help us host the Birthday Table!! Sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4aa4a82fa1f8c25-monthly#/>

Field Day is June 14th from 9:30 to 2:30 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our annual Field Day is coming up on June 14th! This is always an awesome time for our Hawks to get outside and have some fun and play some games! **We need volunteers** to help run games, hand out popsicles, get kids where they need to be and just generally make the day run smoothly!

If you can spare a couple hours to help out, please **SIGN UP HERE!** We need about 12 volunteers for the whole day, and we've broken the day into 2 hours shifts.

End of Year Carnival is June 15th from 10 to 2 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Come celebrate the end of another FABULOUS school year with your Hawks at the End of Year Carnival! There will be carnival games to play, a DJ, hot dogs and hamburgers, and prizes to win. It's going to be a great time and a great way to celebrate all our students' successes this year! You don't want to miss it!

We are also in need of volunteers to help us make this event happen! We've broken the day into hour-long shifts, but if you can sign up for more than one shift, that would be awesome too!

[SIGN UP HERE!](#)

5th Grade Promotion Ceremony VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our 5th Graders have MADE IT to the end of their Elementary School Career! They're moving on to MIDDLE SCHOOL and we are celebrating them and their many successes with a 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony on June 15th from 5pm to 6:30. **We need about 5 volunteers to help us set up the gym from 3pm to 4pm on June 15th!** **[SIGN UP HERE](#)**

Kindergarten Graduation Decorating VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our Kindergarteners are graduating and we want to celebrate their successes as they move on to become BIG 1st GRADERS! A Kindergarten Graduation ceremony is being held on June 16th at 10am. **We need about 5 volunteers to help us transform the gym from 8am to 9:30am on June 16th!** **[SIGN UP HERE](#)**

Yearbook

2022-2023 Yearbooks have arrived! If you pre-ordered your yearbook, they were handed out to your students' teachers on June 1st.

If you want a yearbook and didn't pre-order them, we have about 30 available for purchase (while supplies last). You can purchase them with cash or check (made out to Hough PTSA) for \$22. Or you can submit a payment online via paypal for \$23.10 (this covers the cost of yearbook plus the Paypal processing fee).

Please go to the houghptsa.org/yearbook to purchase one online, while supplies last!

Spirit Wear

Spirit Wear orders arrived and were sent home with your students! If you didn't receive yours or have any questions, feel free to reach out! We have a limited supply of Spirit Wear items still available for purchase, if you're looking for something, please reach out. We will also have a table set up at the End of Year Carnival for purchasing.

REMINDERS:

PTSA General Meeting 6/8 @3pm

July Birthday Table Friday, 6/09 during lunch!

Field Day June 14th. 9:30 to 2:30

End of Year Carnival, DJ & BBQ June 15th, 10am to 2pm

5th Grade Promotion Ceremony, June 15th 5 to 6:30pm

Kindergarten Graduation, June 16th @ 10am

A NOTE FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

Please remember to pick up all daily medications or expiring medications **after dismissal on** the last day of school, **June 20th**. Daily medications not picked up or medications that are expiring over the summer will be disposed of at 9:00 am June 21st. Epi-Pens and inhalers that are not expiring can stay locked up at school over the summer.

Health plans and medication forms for the 2023-24 school year will be sent home in June. To ensure that your student can attend on the first day of school, please return all necessary paperwork and medication **on or before Friday August 25th** to allow for processing time. Paperwork can be returned before the end of this school year and will be forwarded to your child's new school if changing schools.

Thank you!

Mindy Ding, RN
School Nurse

SAFETY NEWS

Hough Families, it has been an honor to lead the Hough Safety Committee for the past 6 years. I hope that I have served our students and community successfully with my core belief that safety is the foundation of student well-being and academic success.

Essential items the Hough Safety Committee completed this month include:

- Verify cameras are operating and recording
 - A new camera was installed in the second floor hallway this month
- Inspect AED, located at the gym entrance.
- Update emergency rosters on teacher safety clipboards.
- Review student accident reports.
- All school Fire Drill on May 9th

You can see the updated [Decision Tree Flowchart](#) from Clark County Public Health. This flowchart is helpful to reference when someone is sick in your household and you are unsure how to respond. Here is a link to the [VPS COVID-19 information page](#), the guidance is subject to change as COVID-19 conditions can shift rapidly. There you can find information about symptoms, testing, case notifications, vaccination requirements, cleaning/ventilation, and guidance for after-school activities.

As always, your feedback is important to the safety committee. If you have a suggestion for us

to consider or improve, please reach out to erick.hoffarth@vansd.org or jessica.graham@vansd.org

