

August 26, 2019

Good afternoon Eagle Families,

On behalf of the staff of Hocker Grove, thank you to all families that made it out to Back to School Night last week. We hope you made some great contacts with Hocker Grove faculty and walked away with a better understanding of what each class will entail.

Cyberpatriot program

One of the clubs we hope you made contact with because it's new to Hocker Grove this year. That is our CyberPatriot program. Our sponsor, Mr. Nafus, is in the process of recruiting students. The selection process will begin shortly after that. Information about the program can be found [here](#) or by watching this [promotional video](#).

"CyberPatriot is the Air Force Association's National Youth Cyber Education Program, created to motivate students toward careers in cybersecurity and other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. The program features the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition for high school and middle school students..."

The program is sponsored by Kansas Starbase 2.0 with funding through the state of Kansas. Dr. Cheryl Cooper, who works for Sprint in the IT and Network Security department, will be assisting Mr. Nafus in coaching students as they prepare to compete against other schools in the state competition and beyond. If you have any questions about the Cyber Patriot program, you can email Mr. Nafus at ToddNafus@smsd.org.

Spanish Hotline

Spanish speaking families at Hocker Grove and SM North have access to a Spanish Hotline that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week since we don't have a full-time interpreter. To access the hotline, just call 913-993-0277 and leave a message. It is checked by our interpreter, who will respond to any questions or concerns by returning the call in Spanish as soon as possible.

First PTA Meeting of the Year

Our Parent Teacher Association Meeting of the year will be this Tuesday at 6:30 pm in the Hocker Grove Library. PTA is a great way to get involved in supporting our building and all of our students, or even just to stay in touch with all that is happening in our building and district.

Student Pictures and Fundraiser Packets

Right after the Labor Day holiday, we have a two big events taking place. The first is school pictures on Sept. 3. Our pictures are taken by Lifetouch and you may have already purchased your picture package. We will send home packages this week for any families that haven't already placed their order during fee payment nights. If you're unsure if you've already paid for pictures, you can access this by looking at your fees paid on Skyward.

Our second big event right after Labor Day is the PTA fundraiser kickoff on Thursday, September 5. Most of the funds go directly to Hocker Grove, but this event is also a fundraiser for all of the events our PTA is able to do throughout the year. Information about school pictures will be coming home tomorrow with students, and school-wide fundraiser info. will be sent home after the big kickoff on Thursday, Sept. 5.

No Tardy Party

Our school-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS Team) will be recognizing students that have been tardy free from August 19-30. This is part of the PBIS team's initiative to celebrate students who are doing the right thing. This team will do a number of during the school day events throughout the year to recognize and encourage our students. They will also do some big things including a field trip each quarter to a fun place. Our quarterly trip takes students who have met requirements of grades (No D's or F's) and behavior (No In-School or Out of School suspensions, to a fun location off campus.

This Week in The Grove:

August 26 Board of Education Meeting 6:00 pm, Center for Academic Achievement

August 27 Cross Country Parent Meeting 5:30 pm, HG MPR

August 27 PTA Meeting 6:30 pm, HG Library

August 30 No Tardy Party for students with zero tardies from August 19- August 30

Upcoming Events:

September 2 No school – Labor Day

September 3 School picture day


September 5 PTA Fundraiser Begins

September 13 Professional Learning –Early release 1:45 PM

October 10 Early Dismissal K-8, End of 1st Qtr 1:45 PM

October 11 No school for students-Teacher Workday

October 24 Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences 5:00 – 8:00 pm



Chris Kase, Ed.D.

Principal