



Dear Hodge Families,

I am thrilled to welcome you to the 2022-2023 school year! I believe this will be our best year yet. I look forward to partnering with you to ensure that your child has a safe, nurturing, and engaging school experience. A child benefits most when the adults at school and home work together to foster both their academic and social emotional growth.

As we gear up for the new school, I want to share some important information.

**THE FIRST DAYS OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 1<sup>ST</sup>- 5<sup>TH</sup>**

Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, is the first day of school for students in grades 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades. Kindergartners will begin on a different schedule.

**STAGGERED START FOR KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS**

Teachers will meet with each family individually during a scheduled date between Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Each family should receive their scheduled meeting date, if not please call the office at (919) 266-8599.

Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> through Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, your child will come to school on ONE of these days. This day will be scheduled and communicated to families.

The first day of school for all kindergarten students is Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup>.

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL BONANZA**

Please mark your calendar for our **Back-to-School Bonanza** on **Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 4:00p.m. – 6:00p.m.** Families are welcome to visit the school anytime during these hours to meet the teacher and see the classroom. There will also be an opportunity to receive transportation information, register for Before/After School Care, meet the PTA board members, and visit many more informational booths. Sir PAWS, our school mascot, will also make an appearance. There will be food, a photo station, a chance to win prizes and treats. You don't want to miss this fun, annual extravaganza!

**CLASS LISTS**

Class lists will be posted in the building on the evening of the Back-to-School Bonanza. Please note, due to changes in student assignments and students enrolling or withdrawing after the first day of school, classroom assignments are always tentative until the 20<sup>th</sup> day of school. Your child's classroom

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assignment will not be changed unless it is absolutely necessary, and your support and understanding is necessary if such changes become unavoidable. You will be notified immediately if such a circumstance arises.

### **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

School supplies will be provided for all students this year. These supplies include pencils and a pencil case, pens, scissors, crayons, markers, notebooks, folders, a ruler highlighter, pencil sharpener, erasers, and glue. Grade levels have created a Wish List for families who are willing to donate items to the classroom. These lists can be found on our school website. They will also be available during the Back-to-School Bonanza.

### **SCHOOL HOURS/ ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL**

School hours are 8:30am- 3:00pm. Students may enter the building starting at 8:00am. Students are not to be dropped off before 8:00am as there is no adult supervision provided. Students that arrive after 8:30 are considered tardy and must be signed in by a parent or guardian. Please do not just drop students at the curb after 8:30. There are no student check-outs between 2:30- 3:00. Please plan appointments accordingly.

**\*\*Maximizing and protecting student learning time is critical. Students will begin packing up and heading to their dismissal locations at 3:00. Carpool release will begin at approx. 3:05pm and end by 3:25.**

### **SCHOOL BREAKFAST/LUNCH**

Breakfast and lunch will no longer be free for all students. The full price for breakfast is \$1.50 and full price lunch is 3.00. You may apply for free or reduced lunch online at [www.MySchoolApps.com](http://www.MySchoolApps.com) . Free or reduced lunch forms are also available in the main office.

### **VISITOR SIGN-IN & STUDENT SIGN-OUT PROCESS**

All visitors must sign-in using our computerized system in the main office. **A Photo ID is required to sign-out students** and to enter the building beyond the main office.

### **CARPOOL TRANSPORTATION**

If you wish to pick up your child in carpool at any time during the year, you will need to display a Hodge Road carpool tag from your rear-view mirror. Carpool tags will be available during the Back-to-School Bonanza and anytime during main office hours. Tags can be issued to a family at any-time during the school year. If your tag is lost or damaged during the year, make sure to notify the main office so we can provide you with a new tag. Please help your child memorize their carpool tag number right away to help with the loading process. For the safety of your child, students will only be dismissed to parents/ guardians in vehicles, therefore, please refrain from walking up to the gym doors. For obvious safety reasons, we thank you for refraining from talking on the phone or texting while operating a vehicle on campus. To expedite the loading process, students will be escorted in and out of the car on the passenger side. If your child is not able to exit/enter the car on the passenger side, you will need to assist them. Please remember,

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(919) 852-3303

school ends at 3:00. Starting at 3:00 students will begin heading to carpool. **Carpool students need to be picked up no later than 3:25 each day.**

### **WALKERS**

Parents must sign a letter granting their child permission to walk home. Walkers will be dismissed at 3:15 and escorted to the corner of Mingo Bluff Blvd and the school building. Parents/Guardians should meet students at that location if walking with them. Students will not be permitted to walk through the parking lot to meet their parent(s)/or guardian(s). For the safety of your child, students who live directly across the street from the school will be escorted to the crosswalk and safely crossed by a staff member. **All staff and students are expected to use the sidewalks and crosswalks for safety reasons.**

### **BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL CARE**

This year we will offer a Before and After School Program at Hodge. Registration can be completed in the main office and during the Back-to-School Bonanza. The \$15 registration fee and an application must be completed **prior** to the first day of your child attending the program. You will have the opportunity to meet the Coordinator for the program and receive necessary information. We must have a minimum of 25 students in each program for sustainability.

### **BUS TRANSPORTATION**

Bus routes are created at the district level and will be available during our Back-to-School Bonanza. Families can find updated transportation information (including route number and stop location) in your child's Home Base/PowerSchool account. Sign up for an account at your student's school. More information on Home Base is available at [www.wcpss.net/student-information](http://www.wcpss.net/student-information). Bus stops are designated by the Transportation Department and drivers must adhere to the established route and stops unless changes have been approved. Questions or concerns related to routes, bus stops, schedules, driver concerns, or student behavior should be directed to Tonya Moore, Assistant Principal, at (919) 266-8599 ext. 21545.

Please allow 15 minutes before and after assigned time for pick-up and drop-off during the first few weeks of school. This will allow drivers time to make whatever route adjustments necessary to maximize their route.

All pre-k, kindergarten, and first grade students **must** have an adult at the bus stop to receive the child in the afternoon per Wake County Public Schools' Policy. Students will be returned to school if there is not an adult present at the stop.

**Per Wake County Public Schools' Policy, ALL bus riders will be issued a bus pass (tag) on the first day of school. These will be attached to their backpacks. PLEASE DO NOT remove them as they will not be allowed to board the bus without this tag. This is for the safety of your children.**

### **VOLUNTEER INFORMATION**

There are many ways to support learning and teaching at Hodge Road! For you to be able to volunteer in the school, classroom, or chaperone students during a field trip, you must register at any Wake County

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Public School site. The district contracts with an outside vendor to run criminal background checks on all volunteers to ensure a safe school environment.

We are going to have a wonderful school year! I am so excited that you are part of our amazing school family. I welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to excellence in education. Together, we will make this school year a success!

Your partner in education,

Felecia Dorsey  
Principal  
Hodge Road Elementary School  
**#HodgeRoadStrong**

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