

Welcome to the 2024- 2025 School Year!

Dear Tara Hills' Families:

We are looking forward to students starting the new school year on Monday, August 19! We have many returning teachers/staff as well as new teacher/staff members all preparing for a great school year for our students. The first day of school will be a minimum day and every Wednesday is a minimum day as well. Here is the link for the [2024-2025 Bell Schedule](#).

Please see the updates below to help prepare for the new school year. Please keep an eye out for more information and updates that will be communicated over the next couple of weeks.

Student Nutrition Services: All students are eligible for free breakfast, 2nd chance breakfast (during 1st recess), and lunch. Here is the link for all [breakfast and lunch menus](#). The menu is posted for the month and allows parents to view the menus ahead of time. Parents are able to sign up to have the school food menus emailed directly each month. Here is the link-[Monthly food menus](#). Students are also able to bring their own snack and/or lunch. We encourage all students to bring a reusable water bottle with their name on it. All drinking fountains have a refillable water bottle station. Breakfast will be available from 8:00-8:15 in the cafeteria. Students are able to have a 2nd Chance breakfast at the beginning of recess time.

- Note: Because every student can have free breakfast and lunch, the office will not accept any food deliveries during the school day. Please communicate with your child's teacher regarding birthdays and special events.

2024-2025 Calendar and School Website: Here is the link to the district calendar - [WCCUSD 24-25 Calendar](#) and to our school website- [Tara Hills Website](#). The district

school websites are in the process of being changed. We will send out the new information as it becomes available.

Annual Forms: Parents/Guardians are required to update their [annual forms](#) online each year for their student(s). Parents/Guardians can do so by logging into the [PowerSchool online system](#). Please complete the annual forms for your student(s) by Monday, August 19. You may refer to the above links for details on how to complete these **very important** forms. It is critical that 100% of Tara Hills' families complete the income verification form. The information you provide on this form is directly related to how much funding we receive from the state and federal governments - there is a possibility that our funding would increase! Please be sure to complete this form. It is also very important that the emergency contact form is completed. Please provide at least three different phone numbers. If a phone number or a contact changes at any time, please make sure to update the emergency contact form. This is extremely important in the case of an emergency and we need to contact you. Double check the primary contact number as that is the number that will receive the ParentSquare messages, as well as be contacted first.

If you need assistance with annual forms or anything else, please feel free to contact the school office by emailing tarahills@wccusd.net or calling (510) 231-1428. We are here to help.

Attendance- It is very important that students are at school every day for the entire school day. Parents are responsible for their child's school attendance. When your child is absent for any reason, please email tarahills@wccusd.net with your name, the name of your child, the date(s) they were absent and the reason. You may also report your child's absence through ParentSquare as an Attendance Note.

The following reasons for absences may be excused with documentation:

- Medical/dental appointments
- Personal illness
- Bereavement/death of immediate family member
- Observance of a holiday or ceremony for religious reasons

Arrival and dismissal:

- If you have students in both grade spans, please be here at the earlier time to supervise your younger child while you wait for your older child to be dismissed. We do not have supervision after school so please pick up your child on time.

Lost and Found: Please label all supplies, clothing, lunch bags, and water bottles! It will help reduce the overload in the lost and found. Lost and Found is located outside of the cafeteria doors. Any Lost and Found items that are still remaining will be donated prior to the winter break and at the end of the school year.

Volunteering and Parent/Guardian Involvement: When schools and families work together, our students benefit. You are encouraged to get involved by joining the School Site Council (SSC), English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC), African American Parent Advisory Council (AAPAC) or by volunteering. Your engagement in the school is appreciated! The District requires that all volunteers, including parents, complete an application and be fingerprinted before they can volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering, please [apply online](#). After applying online, volunteer applicants will need to schedule a [fingerprint appointment](#). There will also be upcoming drop in fingerprinting events held at various locations across the school district. More information regarding volunteer opportunities will be provided over the next few weeks.

Class Lists: Tentative class lists will be posted on Friday, August 16. The class lists are subject to change during the first couple of weeks due to attendance.

Back to School Night: Back to School Night will be Thursday, August 29. Back to School Night will be from 4:00-5:00 pm with two different sessions. This will allow parents with students in multiple grades to hear both teacher presentations. We will send flyers home regarding further information, as well as posting on ParentSquare.

Sincerely,

Shari Salinas

Principal- Tara Hills Elementary School