

Hartland Consolidated Schools

**Creekside Elementary**  
3480 East Street P.O. Box 408  
Hartland, MI 48353  
(810) 626-2600 Fax (810) 626-2601



## **Opening Day Newsletter**

### **August 2019**

### **Welcome Creekside Families!**

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to the 2019-2020 school year! Creekside is a special place and we are excited to welcome all of our new and returning families to the Creekside family. The staff has been busy preparing this summer and we look forward to the students' arrival! We hope to see everyone at Back to School and PTO Cookout and Mingle!

**Teacher placement emails will be sent to parents via email on Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Last school year our students and staff experienced and accomplished many wonderful and exciting things. This year the plan is still to push forward with our vision to make Creekside the best it can be! We will continue our E.A.G.L.E.S. social-emotional learning plan and guest speaker Sensei. Our focus will be the development of expertise in the areas of Empathy, Achievement, Grit, Links (relationships), Empowerment (leadership), and Serve (service). Please be on the lookout for more information in newsletters and community life.

I would like to introduce myself as the new principal to Creekside. I am truly blessed and excited to take on this new role. I have been with Hartland for 20 years with 19 years of those years spent in the elementary setting. My family resides in Hartland and I have two children, one is a graduate of HHS while the other is attending HHS. The community of Hartland is an amazing place to raise children and live in.

We would like to send well wishes to our staff members that will not be returning to Creekside this year. Congratulations to Mr. Pumford, on his new role as principal at Ore Creek. He will be greatly missed by staff, students and parents. We truly appreciate the time he spent at Creekside along with his compassion, support and love for students. Mr. Wozny, Ms. Globe, Ms. Leutze and Ms. LeBlanc who have moved to other buildings in our district.

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They will be missed, and we appreciate all their important contributions to Creekside.

Please welcome Mr. Guenther our new Physical Education teacher. Mr. Guenther joins us from Wayne Westland District, and we are excited to have him. Please welcome Ms. Ottmar as our new special education teacher. Ms. Ottmar is newly relocated to Michigan from Ohio and has experience that will be valuable at Creekside. Ms. Lauber will be teaching JK this year. She will be getting married soon and we are happy to welcome her to the family. Last is Ms. Marnetti who is taking on our new full-time position of school social worker. We are excited to see the impact her role has on Creekside. Welcome to Creekside!!

We are committed to excellence, relationships and making our students great people, as well as great students. Welcome back Creekside family. We have missed you all very much. We look forward to a wonderful year together!

Stephanie Way, Principal

**Absence Line: 810-626-2605 Please call this number to report your child's absence.**

**School Hours: Monday- Thursday 8:50- 3:50 pm  
Friday, Early Release 8:50-2:50 pm**

**Please know students are permitted to enter the building at 8:45. We provide outdoor supervision at 8:40.**



## Beginning of the School Year Jitters

We understand the excitement and anxiety parents can have regarding their children and the start of a new school year, especially those in the primary grades. We **strongly** encourage parents to say goodbye at the bus stop, the school front doors, drop off locations, or the kindergarten line in front of the building. Walking them to the classroom can make separation much more difficult for you and your child. Please remember these transitions are often harder for parents than children. With that in mind, we understand that parents may want to walk their child to class the first few days of the new year and we welcome you to do so. **We want to work with you to ensure a smooth start for you and your child.**

## New Morning Procedures

Hartland Consolidated Schools makes the safety and security of our students and staff a top priority. Creekside will be implementing a new morning procedure in regard to early drop offs or parents and students entering the building early. Students and parents can ENTER the building at 8:45, No Exceptions. Parents who have scheduled meetings with staff, parents who are dealing with front office issues and students eating breakfast will be exceptions. We look forward to working with you to help the safety and security of our buildings, students and staff to be necessary and important. Thanks for your patience, understanding and acceptance of the new procedure that ensure the safety and security of students and staff at Creekside.

## Sign In Procedures

These guidelines are an important part of ensuring a safe environment for your children. Parents entrust their precious children to us during the school year and we will do everything we can to keep our building safe. Please follow these guidelines to ensure all students are safe at Creekside. If you arrive after 8:50, please walk your child into the office and sign them in. If

you pick your child up during the school day, please sign them out in the office. We will call them down for you. During school hours, all parents and visitors are required to sign in at the office in order to keep everyone safe. If you are dropping off items for your child during the school day, please bring them to the office.

## Student Pick Up/Dismissal Procedures

Creekside Elementary is dedicated to a safe and secure environment for students, parents and staff.

\*Students riding the bus will exit from the doors located by the bus parking lot.

\* If you are picking up your child at the end of the day please pick them up from the front doors.

\* If you know ahead of time that you will be picking up your child early from school, please notify your child's classroom teacher **BEFORE** 3 pm, **BEFORE** 2 pm on Friday.

\* As part of our security protocol, you must sign your children IN and OUT of the office.

## Breakfast and Lunch

Creekside will be offering breakfast this year. Free and reduced lunch applications can be found on the HCS homepage and CES webpage. Copies are also available in the office. **A new application MUST be submitted at the beginning of each school year.** One application can be used for all your children. Breakfast will be offered at 8:40 for student drop offs and bus students.

Student Breakfast/Lunch costs:

Breakfast: \$2.00    Reduced: \$.30    Lunch: \$2.75    Reduced: \$.40

Any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Student Nutrition Department: Lisa Archey (810) 626-2867.

# Birthday Celebration Policy

Due to the high number of life-threatening allergies at our school it is necessary to eliminate food items from our birthday celebrations.

Celebrating with non-food items will ensure that our school is safe for all students. Classrooms and the office will continue to ensure that birthdays are special days for students. We will continue to celebrate holidays as we have in the past. Your child's teachers will share details specific to their classroom. Thanks for your understanding as we work to make Creekside safe for all students.

# Attendance Policies

As you may know, research has shown that physical attendance at school correlates to academic success. High absenteeism is linked to lower grade retention, reduced student achievement, and increased dropout rates. It is difficult to ensure that students who are not attending school regularly gain the social, emotional, and academic skills necessary to be successful.

Hartland Schools is working hard to improve the attendance of our students in an effort to ensure their success now and in the future.

Hartland Consolidated Schools has a rich history of working collaboratively with parents and the community to ensure student success. We understand that children get sick and appreciate parental efforts to follow the HCS Elementary Parent-Student Handbook guidelines in regard to illness related absences. Absences accompanied by a doctor's note or a call on the absence line are considered when evaluating the number of absences. In an effort to work collaboratively with parents to increase student attendance, we have created a process that will prevent the negative effects of high absenteeism.

## Steps in the Process:

1. When your child has been absent for 5 days you will receive a notification letter. This letter is intended to inform you that your child has missed 5 days.
2. When your child is absent for 10 days you will receive a notification letter. This letter is intended to inform you that they have been absent 10 days. 10 days is approximately 5% of the school year.
3. When your child has been absent for 15 days you will receive another letter and be contacted by the building principal to set up a meeting to create an attendance improvement plan/contract. Copies of the plan will be sent to our District Attendance Officer Mr. Mike Capra so he can begin monitoring

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your child's attendance plan and help reduce the likelihood of additional absences.

4. If your child's attendance does not improve and he/she reaches 20 absences, Mr. Capra will send a letter and a LESA Truancy Referral form to the LESA Attendance Officer for consideration of further action. 20 absences is more than 10% of the school year.

### **Creekside School Tardy**

Arriving to school on time and staying the full day are very important to your child's education! Students will be considered tardy when arriving after 9:00 am. Students will be marked absent after 9:30 am. Students being picked up after 2:30 pm will be marked as an early dismissal. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at [stephanieway@hartlandschools.us](mailto:stephanieway@hartlandschools.us)



## **Important Dates**

August 19<sup>th</sup>- Back to School Night

5:00-6:00 **JK/Kindergarten Only, meet teachers**

5:30-6:30- PTO Cookout/ Mingle

6:00-7:00- 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> meet teachers

August 21<sup>st</sup>- First Day of School

September 12<sup>th</sup>- PTO meeting- 6:00pm- Media Center

September 17<sup>th</sup>- School picture

September 27<sup>th</sup>- Fall Fun Run (CES Fundraiser)

October 7-11- Spirit Week

October 11<sup>th</sup>- HHS Homecoming Game

October 18<sup>th</sup>- NO SCHOOL

## PTO NEWS



August 2019

Dear Creekside Families,

The Creekside Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) would like to say hello to start the 2019-2020 school year. For those of you who are new to our school or unfamiliar with our group, we are a volunteer organization made up of parents, teachers and administrators who work hard to help make the school year exciting and enjoyable for our students, teachers, and parents.

The PTO supports our students and staff by providing educational and environmental needs. We strive to provide open lines of communication between administration, teachers, and parents. Both our support and communication are fundamental in fostering our incredible Creekside culture and school spirit. The PTO supports all efforts of the students and staff monetarily and through volunteer power.

We are looking forward to meeting all families, parents, and grandparents that would like to get involved with our PTO this school year. We encourage you to join our organization and get involved! Everything we do is based on our family of volunteers and we are always looking for those of you who can help make a difference in the lives of our students. The PTO meets once a month to discuss events, plan fundraisers to enhance all of our programs, and share ideas. If you are able to give any of your free time please join us!

Attached to this letter is our current calendar of events. In addition, you can find us on our Facebook page ([Creekside PTO Families](#)) or you can email us at [creeksideelementarypto@gmail.com](mailto:creeksideelementarypto@gmail.com) to keep up on news, upcoming events and volunteer opportunities at our school.

Our first meeting of the school year will be held Thursday, September 12, 2019 in the Creekside Media Center.

We look forward to getting to know you and look forward to a great year!

Sincerely,  
The 2019-2020 Creekside PTO Board

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AUGUST 19	Welcome Back to Creekside BBQ
SEPTEMBER 6	Popcorn Friday
SEPTEMBER 12	PTO Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 27	Fun Run
OCTOBER 4	Popcorn Friday
OCTOBER 10	PTO Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
OCTOBER 25	Box Top Collection Deadline
NOVEMBER 1	Popcorn Friday
NOVEMBER 7	PTO Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
DECEMBER 6	Popcorn Friday
DECEMBER 9-13	Santa Shop
DECEMBER 12	PTO Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
DECEMBER 18	Marco's Pizza Night
JANUARY 9	PTO Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
JANUARY 10	Popcorn Friday
FEBRUARY 7	Popcorn Friday
FEBRUARY 13	PTO Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
FEBRUARY 21	Box Top Collection Deadline
MARCH 6	Popcorn Friday
MARCH 19	PTO Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
MARCH 20	Family Fun Night
MARCH 25	Marco's Pizza Night
APRIL 9	PTO Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
APRIL 17	Popcorn Friday
MAY 1	Popcorn Friday
MAY 4-8	Teacher Appreciation Week
MAY 14	PTO Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
MAY 20 & 21	Marco's Pizza Box Night

**\*\*\*ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*\*\***