

## **Creekside Elementary September Newsletter 2019**

The first two weeks of school have gone well. Our staff and students are starting to get a structured and daily routine established. Thanks to all of our families for being patient with the new procedures and policies, listed below.

Please remember our parking lot is busy in the morning and afternoons, using the crosswalk is highly encouraged. The bridge repair in downtown has been pushed back for another week 😊 We understand that everyone is busy and has places to be but please be respectful of others while we get through these delays with construction.

### **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 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 for 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 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).

### **Body Safety**

All first-grade classrooms will be participating in Livingston County's Body Safety Program in their classrooms daily from September 23<sup>rd</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup>. Any questions or concerns please feel to contact myself or your child's classroom teacher.

### **Gold Out Game**

The Go Gold for Kids with Cancer Gold Out Game is September 27<sup>th</sup> at HHS. The goal is to support and raise money for kids' cancer. Please see the attached form for sponsorship. T-shirts can be ordered through [cp.clothing.com](http://cp.clothing.com). All proceeds go to C.S. Mott Children's Hospital.

### **Sensi**

We have the privilege of having Sensi spend time in our school again this year! We will begin the week of September 16<sup>th</sup>. Sensi has been a great part of our SEL program in Hartland and at Creekside. We all look forward to his lessons and parent letters.

### **"E.A.G.L.E.S. Take Flight" SEL Program**

Dear Parents,

In preparation for this year's first "Eagles Take Flight" SEL program sessions at Creekside coming up on September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, I wanted to answer these three questions for you:

- "What" – What is SEL?
- "Why" – Why our children need it?
- "How" – How does this all work? (and what you can do at home!)

If you have not heard of the term "SEL" yet you soon will. SEL stands for "Social Emotional Learning". Educators are discovering children today are cognitively (intelligence) and physically (nutrition and medical advances) ahead of where we were but are lacking in the important areas of emotional and social development.

First let's start with –

What is SEL? Broadly speaking, social and emotional learning (SEL) refers to the process through which individuals learn and apply a set of social, emotional, behavioral, and character skills required to succeed in schooling, the workplace, relationships, and citizenship.

More specifically, the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) defines SEL as "the processes through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions."

CASEL has identified five interrelated social and emotional competencies: self-management, self-awareness, social-awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making. The major SEL skills and behaviors can be further categorized into three primary categories (and 12 skills):

1. Cognitive regulation a. Attention control b. Inhibitory control c. Working memory/planning d. Cognitive flexibility
2. Emotional processes a. Emotion knowledge/expression b. Emotion/behavior regulation c. Empathy/perspective-taking
3. Social/interpersonal skills a. Understanding social cues b. Conflict resolution/social problem-solving c. Prosocial skills

4. Character (verbalizing opinions about right and wrong (e.g., making ethical judgments), being tolerant and accepting of differences in others, acting upon an appreciation for community and civic responsibility, trying hard and persevering in the face of difficulty, and following through on responsibilities.)

5. Mindset (expressing confidence in oneself and one's ability to improve (e.g., exhibiting a growth mindset), identifying positive attributes/strengths in oneself and others, and approaching challenging situations with a positive attitude.) Okay, so what does all this fancy language mean? Most children today are underdeveloped and weak in the areas of emotional and social skills. The bottom line - This program is designed to make "stronger" children!

"Why" – Why our children need it?

Experts debate many reasons why our children lack social/emotional skills today. Some attribute it to technology and over-protective parents. While others say the higher expectations and stress levels (and at earlier ages) are causes. Yet others say living in a more scared and paranoid world contributes. Another may be the lack of free play time. Whatever the cause, most will agree our children today, in general, are lacking the social/emotional skills they need to succeed in school and life.

Here are two articles that nicely answer why our children need SEL. The first is from EdSurge: "In what ways does SEL set up students for success that directly relates to academic learning—and also doesn't?

A good example of this would be thinking about a student or adult's ability to regulate your emotions or, as CASEL calls it, in managing yourself. We all have different triggers of stress throughout our life and different emotions that can hijack our body's ability to be able to process the world meaningfully. If we're not able to regulate or down-regulate in a given situation, we're not able to be available to process the information of what we're being taught.

So, regardless of how fantastic your teacher may be or how incredible that science curriculum is at engaging and motivating you, if you have a student who's dealing with stress or trauma or unable to kind of get over the interpersonal interaction they had right before they entered that classroom, or the trigger word that the teacher said, like "pop quiz," that set them off into a spiral, they're not going to be able to process the dynamic curriculum that's being presented to them. And so, social-emotional learning really teaches and targets those skill sets and competencies that underscore your availability to learn."

Here is a second article from the Committee for Children. "Why do youth need social-emotional skills? Think of a time when your child had a falling out with a friend or a difficult time fitting in socially. Maybe it was a time you received a phone call from the principal as a result of a situation at school, or when your child came home from school sad or upset, or couldn't sleep because of an incident at school. Or was it a situation where your daughter or son could not finish a group academic project because of a problem with classmates? Unfortunately, youth often have these and other types of negative experiences. Parents are there to help in any way they can, but over the long-term social and emotional skills can minimize the worst of these experiences and make youth's experiences in life easier to manage.

With social-emotional skills, they can establish rewarding relationships with others, maintain meaningful relationships, and handle difficult social situations. They can manage times of high stress, and during times of anger, keep from launching into destructive actions they may regret later."

Next time, I will share "How" – How does this all work? (and what you can do at home!)

For Stronger Kids,

Sensi

**Annual HEA Coat Drive**

The Annual HEA Coat Drive begins September 1st! You can clean out your closets and donate any gently used coats or purchase new items to help those in need during the upcoming winter months. We collect all winter gear like: hats, gloves, scarves, or boots. All items can be placed in the box located in the foyer. We appreciate all your help keep those in need warm

**Save the date for the CES PTO Fall Fun Run!**

Creekside is hosting a fundraiser, and our goal is to raise \$15,000 for Playground Equipment! In just a few weeks from now, family and friends will support our school by giving pledges towards the number of laps your student will run on the day of the Fun Run. We've asked the fundraising experts at Booster to power our program, making our fundraising simpler, more profitable, and more fun.

Click the link below to learn more about our upcoming program!

<https://vimeo.com/177157581>

In the past, our school has profited \$12,400 to fund field trips, reading subscriptions and technology improvements. Help us reach our goal this year by connecting with sponsors!

Pledging Opens – 9/9

Log on to [FUNRUN.COM](http://FUNRUN.COM)

Pep Rally - 9/16

Event Day - 9/27

**How can you help?** Please visit the link below to see the volunteers that we need to help make this event successful!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0948A4AC2CAAFD0-2019>

Have a great September,  
Mrs. Way, Principal