



## Lion's e-Roar *August 26, 2022*

HELUS is excited about the 2022-2023 school year. Returning students remember that you are the “**ROLE MODELS**” and our lower graders will be looking up to you.

We remain committed to ensuring that HELUS maintains its reputation as a safe and orderly educational school that encourages the social development and academic achievement of every child. Our staff expects your child to be involved in making HELUS a school where everyone is respected, everyone is respectful and everyone excels academically. We have high expectations for our students and our dedicated teachers and staff are committed to providing students with the best instructional strategies to ensure that learning takes place. As we who live and work with teenagers know, adolescents have a wonderfully keen sense of justice and equity. This sense is a key part of growing up and understanding the World and it ranges from simple questions such as who gets more pizza, to social and political situations with increasing complexity. When we, in school, work with young people, we help them to move from the concrete examples of equity to examples that are more complicated and nuanced. This learning matches students’ maturation process, and gives them the tools to begin understanding a complicated world on their own terms, with their own resources.

It is important that students and parents review the handbook together and become familiar with the policies and procedures of the HELUS. All of the programs that are described in the handbook reinforce the SMART choices: safe, model, act, respectful, and trustworthy. By providing students with a safe, supportive environment, it is hoped that students will become proactive, engaged participants in the learning process and enable them to become more successful and independent procurers of information and knowledge.

### **Back-To-School Night Draws a Big Crowd**

It was great to see so many parents and students join us for Back-To-School Night. It is always nice for parents and teachers to have the opportunity to meet each other early in the school year.

## School Bus Driver

Weeks into the school year, rural school districts remain especially hard hit by the national school bus driver shortage that gained widespread attention late this summer. School officials say many older drivers retired early rather than risk getting sick. Vaccine mandates have prompted some drivers to quit and dissuaded some would-be drivers from applying for the job providing the current shortage.

HELUS is losing our bus driver starting September 6, 2022. Currently, HELUS has posted the position but we have no applicants as of today. Until we hire a bus driver or find a substitute bus driver, we may be asking parents to drive their student/students to school. We are doing our best to hire his replacement. Thank you for your cooperation.

## School Attendance

As we kick off the new school year we'd like to remind parents that good student attendance is very important and is the foundation for a great education! Good attendance fosters good citizenship, increased learning and happier students. Students who miss school miss valuable classroom lessons and fall behind their classmates. Please plan vacations and schedule appointments on non-school days or afterschool. If your child has an appointment during school, please have your child attend school in the morning before the appointment. He or she will receive attendance credit for being present. Each day a student is not at school, school funding is decreased. Your child's job is learning at school. Your job as a parent is to see that your child is in school every day. **Please note that you must provide the office a reason for your child's absence within 1 week; after that it will be marked as unexcused.**

Teachers fly their flag outside of their classroom door each day that they have perfect attendance. Our classes compete for the best attendance each week (TK/K vs 1st grade, 2nd grade vs 3rd grade, 4th grade vs 5th grade, and 6th grade vs 7/8th grade). The winner gets to keep the attendance trophy in their class until the other class beats them. ***Please refer to our Handbook (pg 12-13) at [www.helus.org](http://www.helus.org) for more details on attendance, excusing absences, and tardy/lates.***

## Class Attendance This Week

Carr-Knudson - 8/24, 8/25

Christensen - **Better luck next week.**

Crawford - **Better luck next week.**

Hambro - **Better luck next week.**

Lafayette/Sanders - 8/23

O'Hara - 8/22, 8/25

Sinclair - 8/24

Trifa - 8/22, 8/23, 8/24, 8/25 (So close!)

## Parking

Car traffic through HELUS is heavy at Drop-off in the morning and Pick-up time in the afternoon. To help make the process safer and smoother for all involved, please make sure you are legally parked when you drop off or pick-up your child. In particular, please pull over next to the island curb to drop off upper grade students (4th-8th), and lower grade students get dropped off at the top of the hill in designated spots near the district office. Please do not block the right-of-way, driveways, bus stop zones, or parking lot exits, and do not park on the sidewalks. It is important that traffic be able to continue to move freely. Students should use extra caution when crossing the parking

lot/driveway at the school. Thank you for your help in following these guidelines. Most importantly, please be patient. We appreciate your cooperation!

### **COVID - 19 Positive Case or Exposure. What to expect.**

If HELUS has a positive case the following will happen. A general informational notification will be sent school wide to all families. A separate isolate or quarantine notification will be sent to those in close contact to the positive person with a timeline and instructions on what to do. Students in isolation or quarantine may request a short term independent study contract to continue student learning. Students may return to school after the isolation, quarantine period, or negative test clearance.

**The following links are very useful in directing you on what to do if you are a close contact or become COVID positive yourself:**

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/covidisolation/>

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/covidquarantine/>

### **Bus Passes and Fees**

Your child may continue to ride for free until further notice. In the meantime please still apply for the free or reduced lunch program. If you qualify for the Free or Reduced Lunch Program, the After School Program fees will be reduced. Therefore, it is important for families to apply for the Free/Reduced Lunch Program right away. Here it the link to apply <https://family.titank12.com/income-form/new?identifier=3JD2ZE> ***Another incentive to apply is that HELUS receives funding for every application that is submitted for our school, regardless of your income and even if you do not qualify.***

### **RISE AfterSchool Program**

Register now for our 2022-2023 afterschool program. Students will have opportunities to get help with homework, participate in fitness, sports and enrichment programs, and a snack is provided! For more information and to register visit [www.riseafterschool.com](http://www.riseafterschool.com) or email [helus@riseed.org](mailto:helus@riseed.org)

## **Helus PTA News!**

Snack Shack is open Mondays and Wednesdays at first recess and Fridays at lunch recess. Punch cards are available to purchase for \$10.

Join us Saturday, August 27th from 10am-2pm for a car wash benefitting the 7th and 8th grade trip to Washington D.C.

Our first PTA Association Meeting will be held on Monday, August 29th at 3pm. All PTA members are welcome.

New spirit wear is in! Show your school spirit by wearing Blue and white on Fridays. Spirit wear shirts are \$13 each and available to purchase in the PTA room or online. Gently used and vintage spirit wear is also available for sale at a discounted price.

Visit [heluspta.cheddarup.com](http://heluspta.cheddarup.com) to sign up for a membership, buy spirit wear, purchase a punch card and sign up for other PTA activities.

### **PTA Upcoming Events:**

August 27th- Carwash 10am-2pm

August 29th - PTA Association Meeting

September 9th - Family Fall Dance

September 23- Middle School Fall Dance

### **Planning Ahead...**

September 1- Fall Picture Day!

September 5- No School Labor Day

September 13 -Board Meeting in-person in room 8 and via Zoom.