



Lion's e-Roar ***September 30, 2022***

Exercising Patience and Working Together TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

As we deal with the loss of the HELUS Bus Driver and run short on Tech Support, Substitutes, and other staff shortages, we are reaching out to **YOU**. Your patience and understanding during this difficult time is very important in allowing us to run a smooth ship here.

As a reminder, providing transportation to students by the school is not required. We have been so fortunate to have been able to provide this service for as long as we have. The entire nation has been suffering from a staff shortage since the Pandemic hit.

Up to this point, we have been able to use our van to help the few families who have no other means, however, our van is at capacity. We do realize that more families have been impacted by this than seats that are available in the van. If you have students in need of a ride please contact the office to get their names on the waiting list.

We understand that this can be an inconvenience and that every HELUS family is impacted, however we also know that in working together as a school community, we can overcome this massive hurdle.

Picture Retake Day Next Week!

Lifetouch will return to HELUS this coming Thursday, October 6th for picture retakes. Order Forms are available in the school office.

RISE afterschool program:

The Mission of the RISE program is to deliver value-added school programs that support and reinforce academic achievement, fitness and enrichment opportunities for HELUS students in a safe, structured environment. During the summer of 2022, three main topics were focused with HELUS' RISE program on: Astronomy, Technology, and Engineering. Their curriculum was STEAM based and RISE had lessons for each week with art activities, fitness, and social emotional development. Social-emotional skills are provided to HELUS' students during lessons every day with the RISE after school program. The RISE program provides academic support enrichment and fitness opportunities for all students.

Notice of Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District Board Vacancy

The Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School is seeking applications for the current vacant positions on the Board of Education. Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District would like to thank Melanie Dohn for her outstanding years of service to the Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School Board of Trustees. She has served for fourteen years and has played an instrumental role in leadership and as a member in guiding HELUS' Mission with her insight and unique expertise. Her dedication and passion has helped shape Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District into a strong and stable district for all students. All of the HELUS Family thanks her for her service!

To be eligible, the applicant must be a resident of Area 1 or Area 2 and a registered voter in the Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District, at least 18 years of age, a citizen of the United States and California, and not legally disqualified from holding civil office. Any person who has been convicted of a felony involving the giving, accepting or offering of a bribe, embezzlement or theft of public funds, extortion, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any such crime, under California law or the law of another state, the United States of America, or another country, is not eligible to be a candidate for office or be a Board member except when he/she has been granted a pardon in accordance with law. (Education Code 35107; Elections Code 20)

Interested persons must submit a letter of interest and Candidate Information Sheet to the Superintendent's office, Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District, 16633 Elizabeth Lake Road, Lake Hughes CA 93532 no later than 3:30 p.m. on October 20, 2022.

Following a review of submitted materials, the Superintendent and Board will schedule interviews with selected candidates. One individual will be appointed to fill the vacant position in Area 1 and the vacant position in Area 2. The selected individuals will fill the four year term for that Board Seat.

If you have any questions concerning the role of the Board of Education and responsibilities of a Board member, please contact Johannis L. Andrews, Interim Superintendent/Principal of Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District at 661-724-1231.

Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Educator who fully and actively supports equal access for all people, regardless of Race, Color, Religion, Gender, Age, National Origin, Veteran Status, Disability or Genetic Information or Testing, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity or Expression. Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District prohibits retaliation against individuals who bring forth any complaint, orally, or in writing, to the employer of the government, or against any individuals who assist or participate in the investigation of any complaint, or otherwise opposite discrimination.

These suggestions will help students succeed at school.

- Attend school every day and be on time to class.
- Stay organized, write down all assignments, complete all homework, and turn the homework in on time.
- Listen carefully, follow directions, and come to class with all the needed materials.
- Schedule time each evening to prepare for the next school day.
- Choose your friends wisely.
- Seek help from your teachers and our staff as soon as you need it, and don't wait until you are overwhelmed.
- Involve your parents/guardians in your schoolwork and school activities.
- Participate in extracurricular activities.
- Show respect and consideration for others.
- Talk with our staff about school, friends, careers, study skills, or any other topics or concerns.
- Strive to do your personal best!
- READ, READ, READ.

Bus Driver Shortage

As a result of losing our bus driver as of September 6, 2022, we are asking parents to continue to drive their student/students to school. Until we are able to find a bus driver, we are asking you to provide alternate transportation for your student(s). If you are unable to provide transportation please contact the office so they are aware and will help in getting every child to school. When your child misses school because of lack of transportation, the absence would be excused, and the student(s) will have the opportunity to complete any missed assignments. Please check with your student's teacher to find the appropriate location for those assignments if you need assistance. If you are unable to provide transportation and need assistance please contact the office at 661-724-1231.

We recognize this is an inconvenience for the students and families impacted. Our goal is to find the bus driver replacement as soon as we can. This decision was not easily made and is certainly a last resort. We know the best place for our students during the school day is to be with their teachers, learning in-person. We have exhausted all other options prior to implementing these transportation changes. If further changes are needed, we will communicate this to our community.

As a district, we are committed to providing high-quality, safe transportation services that accommodate the various academic needs of our students. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a bus driver, please visit www.edjoin.org, and apply at HELUS.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office at 661-724-1231.

Bus Passes and Fees

Bus fees are on hold until further notice. If you submitted your child(ren)'s bus pass dues already, you have the choice of having it returned to you. In the meantime please still apply for the free or reduced lunch program. If you qualify for the Free or Reduced Lunch Program, the RISE After School Program fees will be reduced. Therefore, it is important for families to apply for the Free/Reduced Lunch Program right away. Here is 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.

Class Attendance This Week

Carr-Knudson - **9/27, 9/28, 9/29, 9/30 (So Close!)**

Christensen - **Better luck next week.**

Crawford - **9/27**

Hambro - **Better luck next week**

Lafayette/Sanders - **9/26**

O'Hara - **9/26, 9/28, 9/29**

Sinclair - **Better luck next week.**

Trifa - **Better luck next week.**

School Attendance & Why It Is So Important!

Your job as a parent is to see that your child is on time and in school every day. As it states in the HELUS Handbook, 3 tardies will equal an absence unless the tardy is cleared through a doctor's/dentist's note presented at the time of tardy. Whether your child's absence is excused or unexcused, the school loses the funding for that student for the day. Did you know that for each student that is absent HELUS loses about \$85 per day, whether the absence is excused or not. That is called ADA (Average Daily Attendance) and it is how all public schools are funded in the state of California. Please remember 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.**
Please note: 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 will be competing 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 for more details on attendance, excusing absences, and tardy/lates.

Our Best Attendance Winners for This Week Are:

TK/K vs 1st grade - Mrs. Hambro (TK/K)

2nd grade vs 3rd grade - Mrs. Carr (2nd grade)

4th grade vs 5th grade - Mr. Crawford (5th grade)

6th grade vs 7/8th grade - Mrs. LaFayette/Mr. Sanders (7/8th grade)

Congratulations champs! You will be sporting the Attendance Trophy all next week!!

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 COVID case on campus 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/>

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 or email helus@riseed.org.

Helus PTA News!

Let's get this fundraiser poppin'! Popcornopolis Fall Fundraiser starts TODAY(9/30)! Check your child's backpack for the flyer with details about the fundraiser and the order form. **Money is due October 14th.** Don't miss out on the opportunity to win prizes, class parties and more. There's even prizes for our parents!

Join our Facebook group to stay up to date with PTA happenings.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/heluspta>

Visit heluspta.cheddarup.com to sign up for memberships, buy spirit wear, purchase a punch card and sign up for other PTA activities

PTA needs your help! We have lots of exciting activities and events planned for our students and school, but we can't make it happen with volunteers and donations. Visit our sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/HELUSPTA> to sign up for donations of items and time. Thank you for helping make memories for our kids!

PTA Upcoming Events:

September 30 - Popcornopolis Fall Fundraiser Starts

October 17th-21st - BOO Pops

October 28th - Fall Festival

Planning Ahead...

October 6th - Lifetouch Picture Retake Day

October 10th - Indigenous Peoples' Day

October 11th - Board Meeting in-person in room 8 and via Zoom 6:30pm.

October 31st - Happy Halloween!