



Lion's e-Roar **August 19, 2022**

Welcome Back to School

We are off to a good start for the new school year! Thanks to everyone for making the opening of school go so well. As I visited classrooms during the first week, I was struck by how well prepared teachers and students were for a new school year. Everyone shifted their focus quickly, and seemed to make a smooth transition from the summer mode to their school mode. Based on this start, we have a lot to look forward to this year. I welcome the new families to HELUS and hope their transitions are smooth.

HELUS hopes that you are able to play an active role in your child's education. I encourage parents to participate in the Parent Association (PTA), Parent Advisory Committee, and School Site Council. We value your time and talents and hope that you can share them with our school. I want to thank the members of PTA for their outstanding achievement with the start of this school year.

We also strive to provide consistent and timely communication opportunities. We provide classroom newsletters, and PTA Newsletters and flyers and the office Lion Roar weekly letter. Daily Announcements are provided to staff. I look forward to working with each of you and your children.

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.

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 for more details on attendance, excusing absences, and tardy/lates.*

Class Attendance This Week

Carr-Knudson - 8/16, 8/18

Christensen - 8/15, 8/16, 8/17, 8/18 (So Close!)

Crawford - 8/15, 8/16

Hambro - 8/16, 8/17, 8/18

Lafayette/Sanders - 8/15, 8/16, 8/18

O'Hara - 8/15, 8/16, 8/17, 8/18 (Nearly had it!)

Sinclair - **Better luck next week.**

Trifa - 8/18

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.

First Day Re-enrollment Packets

Thank you to the families who have turned in their First Day Packets. If you have not yet turned in your signed paperwork from the First Day Packets, please do so, as we update the student files each year. The HELUS Parent-Student Handbook is updated and available at <https://helus.org/student%2Fparent-handbook>. If you have not yet turned in your signed paperwork from the First Day Packets, please do so, as we update the student files each year.

Bus Passes and Fees

BUS FEE DUE DATE HAS BEEN EXTENDED ONE WEEK! Due to logistical reasons, the due date has been extended. Bus fees are \$100 per semester (for your 1st child... see information that came home in the packet on the first day of school) due on Friday, September 9th. Your child may ride for free until then. Bus Pass Order Forms were sent home the first week of school. If you qualify for the Free or Reduced Lunch Program, your bus fees will either be free or reduced as well. Additionally, if you qualify for the Free or Reduced Lunch Program, your Before and 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.** Please make sure you fill out and turn in the order form even if you are free; we do not automatically create a bus pass for everyone. Parents must provide the Free/Reduced acceptance letter for the bus pass. They will email it to the email address you provided in the application process. You can either bring it into the office for us to copy or just email it to the office. Tanya Duron - tduron@heluesd.org or Samantha Banks - sbanks@heluesd.org

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!

Please check your child's backpack for important information that was sent home from HELUS PTA.

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

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

Our first PTA association meeting will be held Monday, August 29th at 3pm in the PTA room. All PTA members are welcome.

After school club rosters will be sent out next week. Clubs will begin in September.

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

PTA upcoming Events:

September 9- Family Fall Dance

September 23- Middle School Fall Dance

Planning Ahead...

September 1- Fall Picture Day!

September 5- No School Labor Day

September 9- Bus Fees Due

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