



Family Newsletter, August 22, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and enjoying the final days of summer. On behalf of the entire faculty and staff, I am thrilled to welcome you and your child back for an exciting new school year at Hazel Park Junior High School.

This year, we are proud to take an important step forward in how we support our students—by moving to a teaming model. This approach is centered on one clear goal: ensuring every student feels connected, supported, and seen each day.

In this model, students will be part of smaller learning communities, or “teams,” with a consistent group of classmates and a dedicated team of teachers across core subjects. This structure allows for stronger relationships, improved communication, and greater collaboration among staff to meet individual student needs—both academically and socially. We believe this shift will make a meaningful difference in how students experience middle school and will create a more personalized, connected, and supportive learning environment.

This positive change reflects our continued commitment to putting students first in everything we do. Middle school is a time of rapid growth and change, and we want to ensure that every student has a consistent group of adults and peers who know them, care about them, and are invested in their success.

We are energized and enthusiastic about this school year—not only because we get to welcome our students back, but also because we are building something that will truly enhance their school experience. Our team has been working hard over the summer to plan and prepare for this transition, and we can’t wait for you and your child to see it in action.

As always, we value your partnership and look forward to working together to make this school year a success. Please don’t hesitate to reach out with any questions or thoughts as we begin this exciting journey.

Sincerely,

Dr. Julie Kaminski

Principal

Hazel Park Junior High School

“Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.” –Robert Collier

HELLO HPJH FAMILIES!

We are very excited to be starting the new school year at Hazel Park Junior High School! Implementing the new team schedule is going to elevate learning and a growth mindset for our students. You can learn more information about the team schedule at our *Meet the Teacher event on September 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the HPJH auditorium*. This event will be followed at 7:00 with a 15 minute meeting with the 8th grade parents to discuss the Washington DC field trip. We look forward to seeing you there!

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The first day of school for students is Wednesday August 27. It is a half day with school starting at 12:25. Parents can follow the drop off procedures below. Parents cannot escort their child into the building. When students enter the building they will be directed to the following locations:

- 6th Grade - auditorium
- 7th Grade - large gym bleachers
- 8th Grade - small gym

From there, students will be given their schedules that will include their locker and combination. They will then meet with their team of teachers in their classrooms/pods. Dismissal is at 2:55. Please be sure to follow the pick up procedures explained below.

No breakfast or lunch is provided on August 27. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on the first full day of school, August 28.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Please be mindful of the traffic flow. There is only one entrance to the parking lot and that is off of Highland, then exit onto Otis. You **MUST** pull up along the sidewalk in front of the school **BEFORE** your child can exit your vehicle. No students should be getting out of a vehicle in the parking lot unless a parent is walking them *to the door* of the school. The same is true for pick up. Students must be picked up along the sidewalk. No students are allowed to cross the driveway into the parking lot. It is always safer to have your child enter and exit your vehicle on the driver's side as it is the side for the sidewalk if at all possible. Staff will be outside to help with traffic flow.

There is ***NO PARKING*** along the north side of Otis. Signs are posted and this will be monitored by HPJH staff and Hazel Park Police.

BREAKFAST

All students have access to a free breakfast every day. The front doors open at 7:25 for students that will like to join us in the cafeteria for a hot breakfast.

A bell will ring at 7:50 and that will let students know it's time to head to their teams. Students will exit the cafeteria and enter through the front doors. There will be a reminder bell at 7:54, then a bell at 7:55. At that time all students must be in their classrooms. If your student arrives late and needs a breakfast, a bag breakfast is provided.

LOCKERS, BACKPACKS AND PURSES

Students should only need to get to their lockers at the start and end of the school day. Backpacks must remain in lockers throughout the day. Small, stadium-sized purses are all that students should be carrying during the day.

CELL PHONES

Cell phones should not be out in school. If you need to get a message to your child, please contact the office and we will get your message to your child when it doesn't interrupt instruction. If a student has a cell phone out, it will be turned into the office. At the end of the day, the student can pick up their phone. If this happens a second time, a parent/guardian will have to come into the school to pick up the phone. Consequences will scaffold from there.

BADGES

We will be diligently enforcing that students wear their ID badge on an HPS lanyard every day. There is a \$2 fee to replace the badge if lost. Students will receive their badge and lanyard on picture day, September 8.

8TH GRADE WASHINGTON DC FIELD TRIP INFORMATION MEETING

During our Meet the Teacher Night, 8th grade parents can meet in the auditorium at 7:00 to learn more about the Washington DC field trip. This is a great opportunity for our students!

DATES TO REMEMBER!

Here are some important dates to get on your calendar!

Aug 27	12:25-2:55	Half Day of School
Aug 28	7:25-7:50 7:55-2:55	Breakfast Full Day of School
Aug 29-Sept 1		NO SCHOOL - Happy Labor Day Weekend
Sept 8	ALL DAY	School Pictures

Sept 9	6:00-7:30	Meet the Teacher Night!
	7:00	8th Grade Parents - Washington DC Information in the auditorium
Sept 26	7:55-11:05	Half Day of School

Sincerely,
Dr. Julie Kaminski, Sheila O'Kane, Ed.S., Bobby Kiger

HELPFUL LINKS

[Hazel Park Junior High School Calendar, 2025/2026](#)

[Hazel Park Junior High School website](#)

[Hazel Park Schools Student Handbook, 2025/2026](#)

[Hazel Park Vikings Gear](#)

[Hazel Park Junior High School Gear](#)