



# HILLSIDE HAPPENINGS

June 24, 2026

[Hebrew translation](#)

[Korean translation](#)

[Spanish translation](#)

## With Gratitude

As we close out another school year, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your continued support and partnership. This year was filled with so many special moments, from Back to School Night to the creativity on display at our Art Show, and everything in between. To every family who trusted us with your child this year, thank you. We are proud of all we accomplished together and excited for what lies ahead.

Wishing you and your family a safe, restful, and joy-filled summer!

## Happy Summer From Hillside Staff

Click below for a video from our staff.



**2026 Don't You Worry.m4v**

[drive.google.com](https://drive.google.com)

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## To Note

- We appreciate your understanding and support as our staff dedicated considerable time and care to developing class lists for the upcoming school year. This process involves thoughtful consideration of various factors, including student personalities, the distribution of those receiving support services (such as Special Education, PLUS, ESL, and related services), class size balance, and academic levels. Our goal is to create well-balanced classrooms that foster

a positive and productive learning environment for all students. **Our staff has completed the process of classroom assignments for the 2026-27 school year. No changes will be made.**

- Assignments for the 2026-7 school year will be available for viewing in the Realtime Parent Portal in late August. Please note that we are unable to accommodate specific teacher requests, as our placement process is designed to consider the best overall fit for each student within the broader classroom community.
  - If your child will not be returning to Hillside School for the 2026-27 school year, please email Ms. Callahan ([callahanr@nvnet.org](mailto:callahanr@nvnet.org)) as soon as possible.
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## Preventing Summer Slide

Summer reading and math activities [linked here](#).

### Tips from our Plus Team

Summer is a time for children to relax, play, and enjoy a break from school routines. While rest is important, children can lose some of the reading and math skills they gained during the school year if they go several months without practicing them. Educators often refer to this as the "summer slide."

The good news is that preventing summer learning loss does not require worksheets, tutoring, or hours of academic work. A little reading and learning woven into everyday activities can make a big difference.

#### Why Reading Matters

Research shows that regular reading helps children maintain and strengthen important skills such as:

- Vocabulary
- Reading fluency
- Comprehension
- Background knowledge
- Communication skills

Even a small amount of reading each day can help children stay connected to learning and feel more confident when school begins again in the fall.

#### Easy Ways to Encourage Reading

##### Visit the Library

Give your child opportunities to choose books that interest them. Many public libraries offer free summer reading programs, special events, and incentives for readers.

##### Let Children Choose Their Books

Children are more likely to read when they are interested in the topic. Graphic novels, joke books, nonfiction books, magazines, and chapter books all count as reading.

##### Read Together

Reading aloud is beneficial for children of all ages. Take turns reading, listen to your child read, or enjoy a family read-aloud before bed.

##### Use Audiobooks

Listening to books is a great way to build vocabulary, comprehension, and a love of stories.

Audiobooks are especially helpful during long car rides or for children who find reading difficult.

##### Keep Reading Fun

Summer reading should not feel like homework. Encourage reading for enjoyment rather than focusing on how many books your child completes.

### Turn Everyday Activities Into Learning Opportunities

Learning doesn't have to happen at a desk. Many everyday activities provide opportunities to practice important skills.

Try:

- Reading recipes while cooking
- Following directions for a craft or game
- Writing shopping lists
- Calculating prices while grocery shopping
- Reading signs and maps during trips
- Visiting museums, zoos, parks, or historical sites
- Exploring nature and discussing what you observe

These activities build reading, vocabulary, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills while keeping learning enjoyable.

### Keep a Simple Routine

Children benefit from some structure during the summer. A routine does not need to be strict, but setting aside a regular time for reading can help establish a positive habit.

Examples:

- Read for 15–20 minutes after breakfast.
- Enjoy family reading time before bed.
- Listen to an audiobook during car rides.
- Visit the library once a week.

Small, consistent routines are often more effective than occasional long study sessions.

### Balance Learning and Play

Children need time to relax, play outdoors, be creative, and spend time with family and friends. Summer should not feel like an extension of the school year.

The goal is not to recreate school at home. Instead, focus on keeping children's minds active through reading, exploration, conversation, games, and real-life experiences.

### A Few Summer Goals to Consider

- Read or listen to books most days.
- Visit the library regularly.
- Try new books and topics.
- Spend time outdoors exploring and learning.
- Talk about books, experiences, and discoveries together.
- Keep learning fun and stress-free.

A little reading and curiosity each day can help your child return to school in the fall ready to learn, confident, and excited for a new year.

Summarized from: <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/gradeschool/school/Pages/prevent-the-summer-slide-fun-ways-to-keep-kids-reading-and-learning-over-school-break.aspx>

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## In The Halls of Hillside

During the year, you will find information about what our students are learning in Music, Physical Education, Art, Spanish, Science, STEM and Library.

From Ms. Klink:

Link to [Ms. Klink's Summer Suggestions](#)

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## Counselor's Corner

We are excited to share our [ICARE Wrapped](#) again, highlighting the many accomplishments, memorable moments, and positive impact of the ICARE program throughout the year. We are also pleased to present our [ICARE Summer Send-Off](#) video. A fun way to celebrate the close of another wonderful school year and wish our students and families a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer. It has been a true pleasure working with you and your children this year. We are grateful for your partnership, encouragement, and continued support, which have helped make this year such a success.

### Parent Tips

As summer begins and routines shift, we hope your family enjoys a well-deserved break filled with fun, relaxation, and new experiences. To help turn those occasional "I'm bored" moments into opportunities for creativity, learning, and exploration, we invite you to participate in our [Summer Boredom Buster Challenge](#). We hope these activities provide meaningful ways for you and your child to learn, grow, and make lasting memories together.

Thank you for being part of an incredible year. We wish you and your family a happy, healthy, and memorable summer!

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## Upcoming Dates

District calendar for the 2026-27 school year [linked here](#).

9/3- First day of school for students

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## IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN!

Students must be five years old on or before October 1, 2026 to be eligible for kindergarten.

Register today! [www.closterschools.org](http://www.closterschools.org)

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**Ms. Dianne M. Smith**

Principal