



Hillside Happenings

September 11, 2026

[Hebrew translation](#)

[Korean translation](#)

[Spanish translation](#)

We're so happy to welcome our students back into the building for learning! Thank you to our parents for helping make our opening days run so smoothly.



Principal's Advisory Committee



Hillside School Principal Advisory Committee Interest Form

Hillside Elementary School's mission is to promote a love of school and lifelong learning for all children. We strive to create an environment where children develop self-discipline, the ability to work cooperatively, as well as decision-making and problem-solving skills.



Back To School Resources From The State

The New Jersey Department of Education has asked schools to share its Back to School Resource Packet with families as the new school year gets underway. The packet includes resources on mental health, vaccinations, eye care, dental care, and general health. You can view it here: [Back to School Resource Packet](#).

Counselor's Corner

Welcome to the 2026-27 school year! We are excited to welcome our students and families back to Hillside, meet our new students, and see how much everyone has grown over the summer!

Hillside is fortunate to have two school counselors, Ms. Weiss and Mrs. Lang. This year, Mrs. Lang will work primarily with students in PreK, Kindergarten, and Grade 4, while Ms. Weiss will work primarily with students in Grades 1, 2, and 3.

Together, we support students socially, emotionally, and academically in many ways, including through individual and group support, classroom lessons, collaboration with staff and families, and ICARE, Hillside's character education program.

Counselors visited all classrooms during the first few days of school to say hello, introduce ourselves, share how school counselors can support students, and help everyone acclimate to a new school year. You can also find us greeting students each morning and supporting students during recess as needs arise.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year and to continuing to support our Hillside students and families!



🌸 Welcome Back to School!

Enjoy a special Welcome Back video from your school counselors!

[Welcome Back Video](#)

Having trouble viewing the video? The video is shared through a public Canva view link. If you experience an issue opening it, please try opening the link in a private/incognito browser window or while signed out of Canva. The public link has been tested and is accessible this way.

♥ ICARE: Hillside's Character Education Program

ICARE is Hillside School's own character education program, established in 2012. The name ICARE represents five core values that we strive to develop in every student:

I – Integrity

C – Caring

A – Attitude

R – Respect

E – Empathy

Throughout the year, Mrs. Lang and Ms. Weiss facilitate monthly ICARE and Wellness lessons that help students develop important skills for managing emotions, navigating friendships, showing empathy, making responsible decisions, resolving conflicts peacefully, and practicing mindfulness. Through ICARE, we work to create a positive, caring, and respectful school climate where students can grow both personally and academically.

[Learn more about ICARE on our school website](#)

Upcoming Dates

9/14- PTO lunch begins

9/15- Back to School Night, Grades 3-4, 6:30 p.m.

9/21- Yom Kippur, School Closed

9/22- Back to School Night, Grades PK-2, 6:30 p.m.

9/23- PTO Author Visit: Victoria Kann (PK-2)

10/7- Picture Day (make-ups 11/17)

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

A-F letter day rotation [linked here.](#)

Reminders

- For reasons of safety and security, outside delivery services are not permitted (DoorDash, UberEats).
- Students should bring lunch with them during drop-off. Later lunch drop-off is for emergencies only.

Safety during drop-off and pick up:

Drop off/pick up lanes are active. These lanes are used for students who can independently enter and exit vehicles.

- Parents must remain in their vehicles at all times.
 - Students should enter and exit vehicles from the passenger side only.
 - Do not double park.
 - Do not park on or block crosswalks.
 - Do not leave cars unattended on the active lanes.
 - Families should cross at crosswalks only; please do not attempt to cross in the active driveways.
 - When dropping students off, please pull as far forward as possible.
 - If you will be walking from your car to the building to drop off or pick up your child (kindergarten/first grade parents), please park in a designated parking spot. Do not park in the active lanes.
 - Parents/guardians should use the sidewalks at all times.
 - The Hillside parking lot is reserved for staff members. There is a limited number of visitor parking spots, located in the upper loop area, numbered spots 95 through 136 only. Please plan to park on nearby local streets or at Closter Commons.
 - Plan accordingly! Drop-off and dismissal are busy times at our school.
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Ms. Dianne M. Smith

Principal