What a Difference Attendance Makes.

Every Minute Counts!

According to multiple studies, missing several days of school over the course of a year significantly reduces the likelihood that students will graduate from high school. With attendance a crucial factor to keeping kids on the right path to graduation,

Attendance Works (http://www.attendanceworks.org/research/mapping-the-gap/) has substantial information on attendance and the impact on student achievement. Below is some of the research below on why attendance matters.

Start Strong
Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict frequent absences later in the school year. Nearly half of all students that missed more than two days of school in September went on to miss almost a month of school.

Chronic Absences
An estimated 5 to 7.5 million students in the United States miss almost a month of school every year. This adds up to over a year missed by the time of graduation.

Early Absences Lead to Attendance Issues in Later Grades
Absenteeism starts early. One in 10 kindergarteners and first graders are considered to be “chronically absent.”

Chronic Absence = Missing two or more days per month
Research shows students who miss 10 percent of school, or two days per month, show negative academic progress. In some schools, that adds up to 18 days a school year and is considered to be chronic absence.

Third Grade Reading Level
Poor attendance can keep children from reading proficiently by the end of third grade, which is shown to negatively affect their chances of graduating on time.

Dropout Indicator
By sixth grade, a chronically absent student is shown to have a significantly higher chance of dropping out of high school.

Excused Absences Hurt Too
Excused absences are just as negative as unexcused ones. Suspensions add additional missed time in the classroom, which in turn increases the dropout risk.

At Risk Students are at Risk for Absence
Students from low-income families are four times more likely to be chronically absent. Reasons for this are often out of the student’s control, such as unreliable transportation, unstable housing, and a lack of access to quality health care.

Every Minute Matters
If a student is 10 minutes late to school each day, this adds up to missing more than 33 hours of class time. A student with a 90 percent attendance average for Kindergarten through 12th grade will miss over a year of accumulated time in the classroom.

Kindergarten Orientation
We are reaching out to all Howard families to remind you that enrollment for next year will be starting soon. If you have a child who will be 5-years old on or before September 1st, please start gathering immunization records, birth certificates, and copies of proof of residency. We will be holding a kindergarten orientation night on March 5th at 6:00 pm where we will be able to go over enrollment procedures and answer any questions you may have. Also, if you have friends or neighbors with a school age child, pass this information on to them. Please call Lori if you are unable to attend this kindergarten orientation and have questions about the enrollment process.

Dismissal Time Reminder
Students must be picked up between 2:25 and 2:35 p.m. on Monday through Thursday, and between 1:10 and 1:20 p.m. on Fridays. After-school supervision is provided only during these times. Please make sure that your child is picked up from school by that time each day unless your child rides the bus or goes to an after-school program at Howard. Students still at school after the times listed above will call home for pickup, and you or another person you have authorized will need to come into the school office to sign them out. The office staff IS NOT available to supervise children after 2:35 or 1:25 on Fridays.
All School Reading Activity
This year's school wide reading book will be "Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race". We have a picture book version for the k-2 students, and a young readers edition for 3-5 grades. This book is a 2019 Coretta Scott King Honor Book. The book is based on the inspirational true story of four African American women who were "really good" at math. The women overcame discrimination, and excelled as human "computers" at NASA. They worked on calculations to design and test new airplanes and rockets. We will have supporting books covering other women engineers, and space topics.

Literacy Night! Save the Date!
Thursday, March 12
6:30 – 7:30
Join us for a night focused on reading! We are celebrating the school-wide reading of the book “Hidden Figures”!
❖ Dinner provided!
❖ Howard’s Annual Book Fair will be open the entire evening!
❖ Have fun with your family - all ages welcome!
❖ All students will receive a free book!
❖ Literacy Activities and projects to share with family!

Library News
Books trending in our library. Dog Man Fetch-22, Bad Guys, Wings of Fire graphic novels, and our current Oregon Battle of the Books titles.
Top home with the most check outs was Room 9, 5th grade Miss Rock’s class - nice job 5th grade!
Second runner up was Room 17, 3rd grande Miss Sharpie’s class - way to go 3rd grade!

Annual book Fair
Our book fair is just around the corner. We will be looking for some amazing volunteers to help make this a wonderful event for our students, families and staff. The kids have been asking, “When is the Book Fair coming?” They are so excited!

Please look for a volunteer sign up coming soon to Face Book Howard and Howard PTO soon. I will also be sending one via emails soon! Thank you so much - Mrs. Hopkins

Book fair dates will be:
Set up March 5th
Student preview March 6th
Fair opens March 9th - March 12th
Fair break down March 16th

Oregon Battle of the Books
Our games shall begin! The kids are very excited and nervous! A detailed scheduled has been sent home with our team members the during the last week of January.

OBOB Battle Schedule
February 3rd 12:40- 2:30
February 10th 12:40 – 2:30
February 12th [Semi Finals] 8:40 - 9:10
February 14th Final OBOB Assembly 8:40am
March Region competition will be held on the 14th at North Eugene High School

We do have a partial list for next years books 2020/21

3rd to 5th Grade Division
❖ Bob by Wendy Mass & Rebecca Stead
❖ A Boy Called Bat by Elana K. Arnold
❖ El Deafo by Cece Bell
❖ Front Desk by Kelly Yang
❖ The Night Fairy by Laura Amy Schlitz
❖ Power Forward by Hena Khan

Memos from Mr. Matt
The intention of this month’s memo is to announce the start of Howard’s Rest and Return Room! Intrigued? Read on! Schools who have implemented a rest and return room have been able to reduce their school discipline referrals by half. This is great news! Howard’s Rest and Return Room is a classroom that is designed to provide students with tools to regulate their emotions. When student emotions are unregulated, students are not in a learning mindset. Angry, terrified, scared, irritated, overwhelmed, sad, or even tired students have great difficulty learning and processing concepts taught in the classroom. Many of our students don’t have the tools to regulate their emotions and so they sit there unfocused and unaware of techniques to regulate their emotions. In fact, many students can’t even identify their current emotional state and that can make it difficult for them to fix if they don’t know there is a problem.
In the Rest and Return Room, students will learn breathing and calming techniques and have the opportunity to reflect on their emotional well-being. We want students to be able to be ready to learn, focused, and calm and this room can help remove those barriers. Instead of kids just exploding in anger, if they can identify the emotions leading up to that and along with learned tools, they can prevent that explosion from happening in the first place. The Rest and Return Room is meant to be a tool to help kids learn how to regulate their emotions so that they can learn and be in a learning mindset. The room will be staffed and regulation skills will be taught. It is not a space to get out of class. It is not a space for a reward. It is not a space to complete work. It is solely a space to learn emotion regulation tools. Students are at school not just to learn math calculations or how to effectively write a thesis statement, but also how to identify and regulate their emotions, which if done correctly, can lead to much better academic outcomes. All students were taught the Zones of Regulation, a social-emotional curriculum that is the basis for the Rest and Return Room. This curriculum teaches students to be aware of their own emotional state, a zone, and to identify what steps to take to make sure they stay in their ready to learn zone. We look forward to kicking off this extra resource and look forward to teaching kids about emotions and about how to handle them when they take control. Take care and happy February.
Courageous Kids Grief Support Group Referral Information

See the attached Courageous Kids’ winter term groups and intake information. Courageous Kids offers grief support groups for children and their families who have experienced the death of a loved one. They offer a group specifically for elementary kids on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 and have postponed the start date of groups to allow for more families to sign up. If you would like to sign up, please call (458) 205-7474 to schedule an intake. CourageousKidsEugene.org

Flu Vaccines – Not Too Late

Influenza typically continues through April. It isn’t too late to benefit from Seasonal flu vaccines. The vaccine is available at pharmacies, your health care provider and Public Health Clinic, 541-682-4041. We encourage all children to be vaccinated.

Please Keep Sick Children at Home

When children are sick, they need to stay home. If your child has any of the following symptoms, please do not send him/her to school:

- Fever of 100 degrees or more. Children should stay home until the fever has been gone for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.
- Vomiting or severe diarrhea. Children should stay home until symptoms have been gone for 24 hours. If the doctor confirms norovirus please keep your child home for 48 hours.
- Severe cold. A little sniffle is not a reason to stay home, but a severe cold or influenza is.
- Severe sore throat, ear ache, head ache, or persistent cough. If your child has a communicable disease, he/she should not come to school. Common childhood communicable diseases include chicken pox, measles, mumps and whooping cough (pertussis). Please call the school and let them know if your child should contract any of these diseases.

PTO Updates

PTO upcoming events—save the date!

Feb 19
Dickie Jo’s restaurant fundraiser—with free dessert! (see attached flyer)
February 28-March 16
Readathon
April 17
Spaghetti Feed/Bingo/Raffle Night
April 20-24
Penny War
May, TBA
McTeacher night
June 5
Carnival

Volunteer Opportunities

We are in great need of volunteers to help plan the carnival! We especially are looking for people to help plan and organize the games.

We also need help soliciting and collecting donations for the raffle that will be held during the spaghetti feed. If you have questions or can help with either of these, please email howardelementarypto@gmail.com.

Thank you to Science Night volunteers and supporters

Thanks to the many volunteers who made Science Night a success. Also to the Title 1 program for providing food and supplies, the Science Center for hosting a table, and the custodians and other staff who worked extra to make this event possible. Also to the Title 1 program for providing food and supplies, the Science Center for hosting a table, and the custodians and other staff who worked extra to make this event a success.

Fundraising opportunities

School Cents
Help Howard earn up to $2,000!!
Shop, dine or see a movie at Valley River Center October 1 – March 31 and save your receipts
Submit receipts: At shopandlog.com/VRC; or drop off receipts at school in the receipt collection box. Box is in the office near the volunteer sign in.

Bottle Drop
Bring cans and bottles in Howard Elementary PTO Bottle Drop bags—we are happy to give you bags or pick up your bottles. Just email howardelementarypto@gmail.com

Duer’s ATA
$49.00 for 1 Month of Unlimited Lessons at Duer’s ATA. 100% of the proceeds goes to the PTO

February is “Be Safe, Be Seen.” Month

Wednesday, February 5th is our monthly Walk & Roll to School Day! This month’s theme is “Be Safe, Be Seen.” Walking or biking together to school or elsewhere is a chance to practice road safety skills like looking both ways before crossing the street; paying attention to traffic; and acting in a predictable manner. Best of all, it’s a time to be playful, connect, and have fun together!

We encourage everyone to walk, bike, carpool or ride the bus to school. When you do so, it is great to wear bright or reflective items of clothing and lights in addition to practicing safely getting to and from school. If you live a long way from school, try parking a ten minute walk from school and walking the rest of the way. It will wake up your child’s brain for learning and you’ll avoid the parking lot traffic!

As part of Safe Routes to School program we need to evaluate student transportation. We ask that you take a few minutes to fill out our Parent Survey for Howard Elementary (http://www.saferoutedata.org/surveyformparent.cfm?key=6701647) to help us as we work to improve the safety for students to walk, bike and roll to school. This link is specific for your school. If you have more than one student at this school please fill out one for the older student only. If you have students at more than one school please fill out one for each school you receive a link for.

Future Happenings

2/7 – Report Cards Sent Home
2/11 – PTO Meeting, 6:00 pm
2/17 – Presidents Day, No School
2/19 – Exclusion Day
2/21 – Fun Friday! Super Hero Day
3/3 – Kindergarten Round Up, 6:00 pm
3/9 – 3/12 – Book Fair
3/10 – PTO Meeting, 6:00 pm
3/12 – Literacy Night
3/13 – No School, Professional Development Day
3/23 – 3/27 - Spring Break
3/30 – Students Return from Spring Break

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We also need help soliciting and collecting donations for the raffle that will be held during the spaghetti feed. If you have questions or can help with either of these, please email howardelementarypto@gmail.com.
At Westraunt Concepts, we’re proud to support schools, churches, clubs, sports teams and other non-profit organizations in the communities we serve. Bring this entire Fundraising Voucher Form to DickieJo’s Burgers and DickieYo’s Frozen Treats (both located across from Valley River Center) anytime during the specified 2 Day Funding Period and your organization will receive **25% OF THE VALUE OF YOUR PURCHASE(S)**.

**INSTRUCTIONS & EXCLUSIONS**

- During the specified 2 Day Fundraising Period, participants can dine with us as many times as they would like to (contributing 25% of their purchase each time).
- Voucher(s) may not be distributed inside or immediately outside of the restaurant(s) to guests who had no prior knowledge of your organization’s fundraiser and whose choice to dine at DickieJo’s Burgers or DickieYo’s Frozen Treats on the specified dates had nothing to do with your organization and its coordinated fundraising efforts.
- Voucher(s) must be presented at time of purchase (for accounting purposes).
- Voucher(s) are only valid on the specified dates.
- Voucher(s) may not be used to purchase Gift Cards.
- Voucher(s) may be used for both dine-in and take-out orders.

**ORGANIZATION**

- Howard Elementary PTO

**2 DAY FUNDING PERIOD**

- **MON.** (__) / (__) and **TUES.** (__) / (__)  
- **WED.** (__) / (__) and **THURS.** (__) / (__)  

**FOR INTERNAL USE**

- Date: _____ / _____  
- Order Number: ________________  
- Order Total: $______________

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**FOR INTERNAL USE**

- Date: _____ / _____  
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- Order Total: $______________

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Serving lunch and dinner from 11 AM to 9 PM (on the dates below). Located at 1079-C Valley River Way (next to Red Lobster). Instructions and Exclusions apply. www.dickiejos.com

Located at 1079-B Valley River Way (next to Red Lobster). Open from 11 AM to 9 PM (on the dates below). Instructions and Exclusions apply. www.dickieyos.com
Please join us for

Family Literacy Night

A fabulous event for Howard families!

Join us for a night focused on reading! We are celebrating the school-wide reading of the book “Hidden Figures”!

♦ Dinner provided!
♦ Howard’s Annual Book Fair will be open the entire evening!
♦ Have fun with your family - all ages welcome!
♦ All students will receive a free book!
♦ Literacy Activities and projects to share with family!

Howard Elementary School
Thursday, March 12, 2020
5:30 – 7:30 pm