

Northern Hills Principal's Notes - September 2009

**Brent Brummet,
Principal**

**Amy Jacobs,
Assistant Principal**



Welcome Back

Welcome back to another exciting school year at Northern Hills! We are proud to have been designated an "Exemplary" campus by the Texas Education Agency as a result of our students' performance on the 2009 Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests. An "Exemplary" rating is the highest designation TEA awards and is a reflection of the effort exerted by our students, teachers, and parents each day at Northern Hills. We will continue to offer challenging, individualized instruction in a caring atmosphere in order to help all students be successful both in and out of the classroom.

School Hours

The building is open at 7:15 a.m. No student should be dropped off prior to 7:15 because no supervision will be provided until that time. Students will be dismissed from the cafeteria at 7:45. Breakfast is served until 7:55 each morning. Students arriving after 8:05 are counted tardy and must receive a tardy slip from the office in order to be admitted to class. Children are dismissed in the afternoon at 3:05. You should currently have a Transportation Letter on file with your child's home-room teacher indicating how you want him/her to go home each day. We must be notified in writing of any changes you wish to make or your child will be sent home in the manner you have previously indicated as a safety precaution. Please make arrangements to ensure that your child is picked up no later than 3:15 each day.

Blue Emergency Cards

Your child's safety is our primary concern. We must have accurate contact information in the unlikely event of an emergency. Children will only be released to individuals whom you have listed on the blue Emergency Card. This individual must also have a valid photo i.d. in order to pick up your child. Please notify us of any changes in phone number, address, or authorized alternate adults as soon as possible.

School Visitors

Visitors are always welcome at Northern Hills Elementary. We encourage you to eat lunch with your child, see an exciting lesson in the classroom, or mentor a deserving student. In order to ensure your child's safety, please remember that NEISD policy requires all visitors to sign in through the office, produce photo identification, and wear a visitor's badge for the duration of their visit as a safety measure. Please treat your child's teacher as you would any other professional and schedule an appointment to meet with him or her whenever possible. Our instructional time with your child is precious and we appreciate your cooperation in helping us to maintain an effective learning environment!

Class and Birthday Treats

Please be aware that we are required by law to comply with the Texas Public School Nutrition Policy issued by the Texas Department of Agriculture. This policy classifies most snack foods as Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value (FMNVs) and restricts schools and parents from offering these foods to students except under very specific circumstances. Since we want parents to continue to be able to celebrate their children's birthdays by providing class treats, please be aware of the following guidelines:

1. Parents may bring food items/FMNVs (i.e. cupcakes, etc.) to celebrate their child's birthday, but food cannot be distributed until after 2:00 each day. No treats may be provided to children other than your own during lunch. We encourage celebrating by providing nonfood items-pencils, etc.
2. All food must be commercially prepared to satisfy health department regulations.
3. Parents wishing to bring treats for a class must clear this request with the teacher in advance so as not to disrupt instruction.

For more detailed information on these state requirements, please visit www.squaremeals.org or call 1-888-TEX-KIDS.

Parent Portal

Effective communication between home and school is vital to your child's success. If you have not yet done so, we encourage you to sign up for a parent portal account by visiting www.neisd.net and accessing the "Parent Portal" link on the district homepage. Via the portal you can electronically view weekly

Northern Hills
Elementary
A T.E.A.
"Exemplary" Campus

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IMPORTANT DATES:

- ☉ Labor Day holiday - September 7
- ☉ PTA fundraiser begins - September 8
- ☉ Hispanic Heritage Month begins - September 15
- ☉ PTA fundraiser ends - September 18
- ☉ 6 weeks progress reports issued to all students - week of September 28
- ☉ Book Fair begins - September 28
- ☉ Early dismissal for parent conferences (dismiss at 1:05) - September 29, 30, & Oct. 1