

Dear Bear Tavern Families,

We are embarking on a very special time of year; the time that we welcome our Bear Tavern students back to school! While I'll be starting my seventh year as the principal of Bear Tavern, I knew immediately upon starting here that this was a special school and community. But the last 18 months have crystallized my appreciation for the staff, students and families of BT, my belief in the resilience of our community, and my joy in working in this amazing place. I am incredibly grateful for the support and teamwork that we received from our returning families and extremely excited to share the Bear Tavern experience with our new ones.

Last year, for many, was the most challenging year we've ever seen. But it was also incredibly rewarding, as we saw tenacity and strength from our students, creativity and commitment from our staff and unwavering support from our families. I look forward to building upon this as we start the year in person and together at Bear Tavern.

I promise to all of you that I will work tirelessly with our incredible Board of Education, central office and Bear Tavern staff to create and maintain an environment that is physically safe, socially and emotionally welcoming and supportive and academically challenging. I'll take time in future communications between now and September 8th to share details of our safety protocols in school, our lunch procedures as well as our arrival and dismissal plans. As Dr. Treece shared, we've been working closely with local health experts to ensure that we are keeping our students safe, but also providing great opportunities to connect, explore and have fun.

I'd like to give a special THANK YOU to our custodial staff, Mr. Apante, Mr. Suto, Mr. Cooper and Mr. Morrison for working tirelessly to clean and prepare our classrooms and building for a great year. I'd also like to thank Mrs. Jordan for working throughout the summer to ensure that our supplies were ordered and all of our systems are operational and ready to go!

Sincerely,
Chris Turnbull

As we prepare for the 2021-22 school year, please see the following information:

ONCOURSE CONNECT / Class Placements

OnCourse will be used to communicate many important details about the upcoming school year. On **Thursday, August 26th**, your child's classroom placement can be found in OnCourse by clicking on the "**Other Student Data**" on the left side of the page when you login. Families will also be able to see their child's bus number, bus stop and other important information. Please note that in the coming weeks, the transportation department will send an email that includes your child's actual bus pass. After you identify your child's classroom teacher, you can access the teacher's website for important information including a **Welcome Back Letter**

Click on “Dashboard” and then on the **homeroom teacher’s name in blue**. There will either be a link called “Welcome Back Letter” or the letter will appear on the teacher’s homepage. Once the school year begins, you will once again be able to view daily attendance, assignments, as well as report cards at the end of the each trimester.

Please use the following link below to obtain your account credentials for OnCourse Connect. Enter the email address that you provided to the district. Your username will be provided by an email with a reset password link.

<https://www.onscourseconnect.com/sso/forgotpassword/hopewell> Please contact the Registrar@hvrds.org or call 737-4000 ext. 2304 with any log in difficulties.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kindergarten Orientation - Tuesday, August 31st at 9 am at Bear Tavern

New Family Welcome - Tuesday, August 31st at 11 am at Bear Tavern

Returning Remote Family Welcome - Tuesday, August 31st at 1 pm at Bear Tavern

OPEN HOUSE - Tuesday, August 31st at 2 pm at Bear Tavern

First Day of School - Wednesday, September 8th (students in grades 1-5 will meet on the blacktop and Kindergarten students will come into the Pencil Post entrance). Families are welcome to join us at the blacktop, but we ask that everyone wear masks, due to the volume of participants, even though we’ll be outside. The PTO will be providing coffee and snacks outside once the students enter.

PTO Welcome Back Picnic - Friday, September 10th 6-8 pm at the BT playground.

School Communication

In an effort to keep BT Families informed of important dates and events, the [Bear Tavern web page](#) on the [HVRSD website](#) will be utilized and updated frequently. Please check the **website** regularly, especially taking note of the Bear Tavern School Calendar. We post school-wide events on the calendar. On the website, parents can find the [Virtual Backpack](#) which contains school and community-related information. Please take a look today to review, print, and complete documents found in the Back to School folder. In addition, families are welcome to follow us on **Twitter** @BearTavernES and [#beartavernpride](#), which is a great way to see what is happening in classrooms and around the school on a daily basis.

PTO Online Information

The PTO is an integral part of the Bear Tavern Elementary School community. The Bear Tavern PTO publishes an online and mobile directory with a school calendar, staff list, student and parent/guardian names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses (though you can choose what family information you share publicly). The PTO is continuing to use Membership Toolkit (MTK) this year, so hopefully, it will look familiar when you log in.

In the next few weeks, you will receive an email with the subject line “Bear Tavern Elementary Directory Confirmation.” Follow the directions to confirm your data and be included in (and have access to) the MTK directory. (Note: You must confirm every year to continue your access.)

The directory is solely for personal, non-commercial use by Bear Tavern families...your information is safe. There is no charge to be listed, and students will only be listed with their

parent/guardian's consent. Please make sure you check out the [Bear Tavern PTO](#) website with links to their Facebook page.