



Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! I hope our Welcome Back Letter finds you all in good health and excited and ready to return to school! This summer, contractors are finishing up last year's Bond work at Country Oaks. I am excited to report that new play structures were installed in our Jr. Kindergarten/Kindergarten play area and on our big playground. Also, our Jr. Kindergarten/Kindergarten play area was enlarged to give our littlest ones more area to roam:-) These playground upgrades were funded by the HVS Bond & Building Site Sinking Fund that passed in 2019 along with monies generated from last year's Color Run. Thank you Country Oaks PTA!!

PARENT DROP OFF & PICK UP:

This year, the first bell will ring at 9:05 am. **Children must remain in their cars until 9:05 so they can be supervised by staff.** Please know that Kindergartners are let off the bus before 9:05 as they are supervised by Bus Safeties. The remaining students on the bus will be released at 9:05. Again, please hold your kids until 9:05 when grades 1st-5th are released from the bus. Like last year, you will need to enter our campus at the Bus Loop entrance located between COE and OVMS. Please follow the road up the hill to Oak Valley's Cul-De-Sac and then return back down the hill to COE. Students need to exit on the passenger side, nearest the sidewalk. Parents must remain in their cars. Students will be dismissed at 4:08 and the same process will be used for parent pick up in the afternoon. Expect a more detailed explanation of parent drop off and pick up procedures in August.

BACK TO SCHOOL ONLINE PROCESS IN SKYWARD AND EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

It is very important to make sure you review your emergency contacts (any person that you give permission to pick your child up either at the end of the day or in case of an emergency) and make sure they are in the system correctly so that we are able to contact someone in case of an emergency. Please note that you will not be able to access your class placements until the online process has been completed. For more information regarding our back to school process, visit our Online Back To School Page by clicking [here](#).

BECOME PART OF THE PTA COMMUNITY:

Country Oaks PTA invites everyone to join our community to benefit our children. Visit our website at <https://www.countryoakspta.org> to view the PTA welcome back checklist. Also, join our Facebook Group - search Country Oaks Elementary PTA Community.

WELCOME BACK "POP IN & ICE CREAM SOCIAL"

Last year, due to construction, we were unable to have our annual "Welcome Back" event:-) This year, we are happy to announce, we will be hosting a Welcome Back Pop-In & Ice Cream social on Wednesday, August 30th from 5-7pm. Mark your Calendars!

FIRST DAY INFORMATION

School begins with a full day on Tuesday, September 5th. Children in grades 1-5

will attend from 9:15 a.m. to 4:08 p.m. Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten students will have adjusted start days; a separate communication will be sent home in August to our Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten families.

BUS ROUTES:

The Transportation Department will be mailing postcards containing bus route numbers along with the locations and times for pick up and drop off at the end of August. If you do not receive a postcard, please contact the Transportation Department at 248-684-8200. It will be very helpful for your child to ride the bus the first few days of school. This helps Transportation establish accurate counts and bus routes.

CLASS PLACEMENT:

Students are placed in classrooms based on student academic needs, learning, and teaching styles. Efforts are made to maintain consistent class sizes and an appropriate balance of boys and girls, and a variety of other student profiles. The staff at Country Oaks have put a lot of time and thought into the placement decisions and we request that parents not call asking for changes in the class placement. You will be able to check your class placements on **8/29/23 after 4:00pm** as long as you have already completed the back to school process in Skyward.

We're excited about the upcoming school year and look forward to working with you as a team to provide the best education possible for your child. We hope you enjoy the last few days of summer with your friends and family!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Hamilton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Gary Hamilton