

Happenings – Hillcrest Middle Newsletter

JUNE 2025

Please see our school website: [Hillcrest website](#)

Upcoming Events (including information for our incoming Grade 5 families):

June 2	Pro D Day (school based)	June 13	Activity Day
June 2	Babysitting Course (must have registered)		Grade 8 – Playland
June 3-6	Bike to School Week		Owls – Rocky Point
June 4	PAC Lunch Sushi Fu		Falcons – Cultus Lake
June 5	Grade 6 for morning (for grade 5 students)		Ravens/Jays 6/7 – Stellar Play
June 5	Grade 6 Immunizations (Round 2A)	June 16	Grade 6 Immunizations (Round 2B)
June 6	Global Day of Play	June 17	Spring Band and Choir Concert
June 6	Eagles Swim at Mundy Park	June 20	Eagles/Ravens to Movie
June 10	Grade 8 HPV Immunizations	June 23	Jays Swimming
June 12	Jays to Otter Coop Waterpark	June 26	Grade 8 Leaving Ceremonies: Yellow Eagles: 9:00-10:00am Orange Ravens: 10:30-11:30am
June 12	Athletic Banquet	June 26	Early dismissal 12:15pm

Repeating Events:

Band/Choir:

Beginner Band: Wednesday 7:45-8:30am –Stage
Choir: Thursday 7:45-8:30am – Music Room

Advanced Band: Tuesday/Friday 7:45-8:30am – Stage

Athletics:

Track and Field: Tuesday/Thursday lunch
Track Meets: District Meet: June 6

Open Gym: 8:00am daily

Breakfast Club: Available daily for ALL students 8:00-8:30am

After School Club in the MPR: Daily 2:42-3:50pm



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Principal's Message

On Tuesday, May 27, Ms. Filomarino and I were so proud to watch our Grade 7 Boys and Girls doubles badminton teams bring home district championships for Hillcrest. Shaoqing Yin and Janiece Chan dominated the competition and went undefeated. On the boys' side, Ethan Fong and Ethan Chan had a little tougher road, but managed to fend off Summit Middle to go undefeated. In fact, all of our teams who participated did really well in part because they had such stiff competition while training against who would emerge as the best tandems in SD43!!

It has been a great year at Hillcrest in 2024-25! With the help from PAC and the school district, we were able to see through to the finish line many facility improvements at Hillcrest. The sports court expansion project and the new AV system in the gym are the highlights. Coming soon will be new wrestling mats and work will start on the library courtyard with help from Maxine Wilson. The Ski & Snowboard Club with the help of parent and staff volunteers enabled 150 students to enjoy Cypress Mtn for 4 sessions in February. The Renaissance Fair was an amazing experience for our students to share their learning with the community. A large contingent of family came out to see the displays in the gym and the MPR. As you know from the previous newsletter, we have done a deep dive on tapping into the "data." Attached are the MDI school report for Hillcrest and the results of our own "Street Data." We are moving ahead next year with school action plans to help address our needs that we have pulled from this data. Although our Action Plan for Learning (APL) has yet to be published, you will be able to see how we plan to address our needs in our Human & Social Development goal.

As we begin planning for 2025-26 there are a few housekeeping items that our community needs to be aware of before we close out June.

Code of Conduct:

- Please review the attached document and let me know if you have any suggestions for the 2025-26 Code of Conduct.

Bell Schedule:

- The bell schedule for next year was emailed to families on May 23. The only change is that we will dismiss at 2:45 pm.

School Based Pro-D Days:

- Our school based days will be on Monday, January 26, 2026 & Monday, June 1, 2026.
- See attachment for 2025-26 calendar.

Welcome to Hillcrest on Thursday, August 28:

- Staff will host an additional orientation morning session for those students who are new to Hillcrest and for those who would like an additional visit. More details and an online form to follow in June/July.

First Week Back in September:

- Stay tuned for a revision of how we have done things previously at Hillcrest. I will send out more information in August. Students will stay in their assigned Teams for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Students will move to their homeroom classes on the following Monday (Sept. 8). The changes we are making are intended to ease the transition of our grade 6's and to build connections within our 5 Teams (Eagles, Ravens, Blue Jays, Owls and Falcons).

School Supplies:

- See the attached list



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Grade 6 for a Morning – Thursday, June 5

- 9:15 – Students arrive at Hillcrest Gym either by foot with neighboring school staff or dropped off by caregivers.
- 9:50 – Student tours and activities begin.
- 11:00 – Tour and activities end. Hot dog lunch outside by the sports court.
- 11:30 – Students depart back to elementary schools with home school supervisors or are picked up by caregivers.

Athletic Banquet – Thursday, June 12 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm

- All student athletes in grade 6-8 who participated in a school sport are invited to Hillcrest's inaugural Athletic Banquet.
- Tickets are available at the office before and after school from June 4 to June 10. Tickets are **FREE** if your child's athletic fee has been paid in School Cask Online. If you do not see this as an available item, it probably means that you have already paid for it. At Hillcrest, you only need to pay your athletic fee one time (\$20.00) for your child to participate in multiple athletic events (Swimming, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Volleyball, Basketball, Wrestling, Track & Field & Badminton).
- What is an Athletic Banquet? First, the players and coaches will eat together in the Crest Café (weather dependent) from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. Then, we will transition to the gym where the coaches will give a brief speech about their team and present individual awards. To end the awards ceremony, Mr Jacobsen and Mr. Hart will present the major award winners (Athletes of the Year for Grade 7 & 8 and Team Spirit Award) followed by an unavailing of the 2024-25 banner that will acknowledge all of our teams who won a district athletic championship. So far, we have 4 district championships and there is still 2 upcoming district events (Track & Field and Gr. 8 badminton).

Spring Band & Choir Concert – Tuesday, June 17 from 6:00 – 7:00 pm

- Beginner and Advanced bands will perform along with the Hillcrest choir.

Grade 8 Leaving Ceremony – Thursday, June 26

- *No tickets are required. Families are welcome to attend.*
- Yellow Eagles from 9:00 to 10:00 am
 - students arrive at MPR for 8:45 am
- Blue Jays and Orange Ravens from 10:30 to 11:30 am
 - students arrive in MPR at 9:55 am

Last Day in Session – Thursday, June 26

- Early dismissal at 12:15 pm. Students who attend on this morning will be helping with jobs around the classroom and school.
- Depending on enrollment numbers we may combine classes to release teachers to help at the Grade 8 Leaving Ceremony.



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Global Day of Play - Friday, June 6

On **Friday, June 6**, Hillcrest Middle School will be participating in the Global Day of Play. While the official international event has already taken place, we've chosen this date to better accommodate our schedule and ensure favorable weather conditions.

The event will run from **10:35 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**

During this time, students will engage in unstructured, screen-free play. There will be no digital devices, structured games, or adult-led activities. The goal is to give students the freedom to explore their creativity, develop problem-solving skills, and build social connections in a spontaneous and independent environment.

In preparation, your child may ask to bring in some unusual or creative items to use during playtime. With guidance from their teachers, students will brainstorm ideas for toys, games, and outdoor equipment they might want to bring. While **digital devices will not be allowed during the event**, students may still need them earlier in the day for regular classwork.

Students will also have the opportunity to play and interact across grade levels and teams, making this a fun and inclusive experience for all.

Thank you for your support in helping us create a joyful and enriching day for our students!

Important Reminder

Now that the weather is getting nicer, classes are going outside for walks more often. If you are planning to pick up your student early, please let the office know first thing in the morning to allow us to make sure they are at the office waiting for you.

Hillcrest Yearbook

Sold out! Our yearbooks will be distributed later this month. Sometimes the printer will send overrun copies so if you missed out on purchasing the yearbook and still want one, email me at lcarswell@sd43.bc.ca and I will put you on a "wait" list. We won't know until the books are delivered whether we received any extra. If there is an extra available, I will contact you for immediate payment on School Cash Online.

**Hillcrest Middle School Calendar
2025-2026**

Schools Open	Tuesday, September 2, 2025
Pro D Day (Common District Day)	Friday, September 19, 2025
Truth and Reconciliation Day	Tuesday, September 30, 2025
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 13, 2025
Pro D Day (Common District/ Common Provincial Day)	Friday, October 24, 2025
Remembrance Day Stat Holiday	Tuesday, November 11, 2025
Schools Close for Winter Vacation (last day in session)	Friday, December 19, 2025
Winter Vacation Period	December 22 – January 2, 2026
Schools Re-open after Winter Vacation	Monday, January 5, 2026
Non-Instructional Day (School Based)	Monday, January 26, 2026
BC Family Day	Monday, February 16, 2026
Pro D Day (Common District Day)	Friday, February 27, 2026
Schools Close for Spring Vacation (last day in session)	Friday, March 13, 2026
Spring Vacation Period	March 16 – March 27, 2026
Schools Re-Open after Spring Vacation	Monday, March 30, 2026
Good Friday	Friday, April 3, 2026
Easter Monday	Monday, April 6, 2026
Pro D Day (Common District Day)	Friday, April 24, 2026
Victoria Day	Monday, May 18, 2026
Non-Instructional Day (School Based)	Monday, June 1, 2026
Last Day of School for all Students	Thursday, June 25, 2026
Administrative Day	Friday, June 26, 2026

Hillcrest School Supplies List for 2025-26

All grades 6, 7 & 8

Essential Items:

- 400 sheets of Refill paper – Ruled with margins
- 50 sheets of Refill Graph paper – 4:1
- 12 -Blue or Black Pens
- 2 Sharpie markers – permanent – fine point black
- 2 Sharpie permanent markers – chisel tip - black
- 4 pack of Highlighters – chisel tip – multi-colour
- 2 Staedtler erasers – Mars Plastic, white vinyl – large
- 2 Glue sticks – 36 grams
- 12 pre-sharpened HB Norica Pencils with latex free eraser
- 12 pre-sharpened Pencil Crayons (or used, but sharpened)
- Pencil pouch or Pencil Box
- Ruler – shatter proof – 30 cm
- Sharpener – OVAL with shaving collector – single hole
- Scissors – 6.5 inch – soft grip
- Laptop – see next page

Teacher specific items (wait until September):

- Duo-Tangs (quantity and colours)
- EXPO – dry erase low odor – Chisel tip
- Labels
- Ear buds for electronic devices
- Index dividers – Cello Tab
- Sheet protectors
- Binders (quantity and type)
- Red pens
- Tissues
- Sticky notes
- Scientific Calculator
- Math set – 9 pieces

Student Laptop for a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD school)

Q: Why are we doing Bring Your Own Device?

- *A: Lifelong learning. Learning doesn't stop at the end of the school day. We believe in the importance of developing creative and critical thinking skills that will serve students in all aspects of their lives. Using a tool like this will allow them to use the device they are already familiar with (or a device that they will become familiar with if it is new) in a new context. They will learn to use it as a tool for learning and presentation of learning and give them the skills they need to be successful in an increasingly technological world as they move into young adulthood. The School District has published their Direction 2025 document on developing lifelong learners which can be found here: [http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Board/Vision/Pages/default.aspx#/=](http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Board/Vision/Pages/default.aspx#/)*

Q: What kind of device will my child need?

- A: The device your child brings will need to have a minimum of a 10-inch screen, as well as a keyboard.

While we can support a variety of devices, we have some recommendations below:

- We do not recommend iPads or Minis. The screens are too small even with a keyboard.
- The district discourages Chrome Books and android tablets. They are unable/not optimized to run some of the software we use in the classroom.
- Think about the size and weight of the device as students will need to carry it to and from school each day. Protective cases are highly recommended.
- Battery Life - we encourage you to think about devices that have a longer battery life.
- You do not need to buy a high-end device, but you may want to think about how many years you plan for your child to use this device. We have noticed an issue with devices that have limited Hard Drive Space.
- Students in the district all get Office 365 for free. You do not need to purchase any software.
- We highly recommend students bring a mouse when bringing in a laptop.

Q: What if a family can't afford a device?

- A: The School District is committed to supporting our vulnerable families on a case-by-case basis. If you are unable to acquire a device for the BYOD Program

Please email: Hillcrest@sd43.bc.ca