

# Hancock Central School District

**The Wildcat Pledge:** We nurture and empower each learner's unlimited capacity to become a responsible citizen with a promising future.

**Our Vision:** Striving for excellence as an innovative, advanced and reflective school community.

**Core Beliefs:**

- **Our mindset:** We do whatever it takes to ensure continuous growth because we believe each of us can learn.
- **Collaboration:** We work better together, always.
- **Innovation:** We embrace creativity and advancing technology.
- **Integrity:** We trust, respect, support and care for one another.
- **Learning environment:** Our approach is engaging, learner-centered and adaptable to individual needs.
- **Student centered:** We put students first.

August, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We believe outdoor recess is an important and valuable part of our students' day. Fresh air, exercise and time spent outside afford students a break from the structure of the classroom. Most importantly, teachers agree students perform best at school when they have an opportunity for vigorous outdoor play, so we try to get them out whenever possible.

As we begin the school year, it is imperative your child is dressed appropriately for the weather and is prepared to play outside. During the winter season, at a minimum, every child should have a jacket, gloves or mittens, and a hat. If there is snow on the ground, snow boots and pants are necessary. If students do not have snow boots and snow pants they will be limited to the blacktop area on the playground.

There will be times when it is not safe for children to be outdoors, or for outdoor time to be limited. Factors considered in determining outdoor safety are:

- **Temperature/Wind Chill:** when temperatures fall below 25 degrees, including wind chill, children will be inside
- **Precipitation:** rain, hail, snow, freezing rain
- **Age of students**
- **Length of time outdoors**
- **Playground conditions**

While there is no formal recess in the middle and high school, it is important that students still dress appropriately for the weather. Furthermore, as temperatures significantly cool during the winter months, students should dress for comfort and warmth inside of the elementary and high school buildings while school is in session. As a reminder, for health and safety reasons, heavy, bulky winter coats cannot be worn inside the building during the school day.

Finally, it is preferred that AM student drop-offs and walkers arrive at 7:45 AM or after. Please recall elementary students should be dropped off at the main entrance next to the cafeteria, while middle and high school students should be dropped off at the first floor main entrance by the flag pole. Dismissal is at 2:33 PM, and pick-up of all students should take place in the same locations as morning drop-off.

We are looking forward to a wonderful 2019-2020 school year. If you have any questions, please contact the HS MS office at 637-1305, or Elementary office at 637-1219. Thank you for your support in helping us keep your children safe, healthy and happy.