



Red Clay
Consolidated School District

Principal's Welcome Message to Families

Dear Highlands Wildcat Families,

Welcome to the 2020-21 School Year!

As our district recently announced, the first day of school is September 8. We will phase in our instructional model and all Red Clay students will start the 2020-21 school year in a remote learning environment for the first six weeks. You can learn more about Red Clay's Roadmap to Reopening at redclayschools.com/reopening.

Complete the Safe Return to School Questionnaire by August 24

Our district plans to phase in a hybrid-learning environment for specific grade levels/programs later this school year, with families that choose in-person learning. In this scenario, families that wish to keep students home would be provided with remote learning support.

To help us plan for the phased reopening, please complete the Safe Return to School Questionnaire by August 24. We need to hear from every family so that we can plan a safe and efficient return to in-person learning when it is time to reopen our doors.

Click below for the English version:

[Highlands Elementary Safe Return to School Questionnaire](#)

<https://forms.gle/2uk5j8KucycW6Z6j6>

Click below for the Spanish version:

[Highlands Cuestionario sobre el Regreso Seguro a la Escuela](#)

<https://forms.gle/HvuUrGRqoXiTFoBp7>

Check your mailbox for your child's Red Clay Back-to-School Starter Kit

Please check your mail for the Red Clay Back-to-School Starter Kit, which should arrive in your mailbox around August 29. This kit provides important details to help your family start the school year, including your child's Google account, parent/guardian login information for Home Access Center (HAC) and Schoology, and the contact information that we have on file for your family in School Messenger.

Pick up your child's Chromebook and learning materials from August 31- September 3, 2020.

To support remote learning, a device will be provided for every student and we will work to ensure that all families have access to the internet. We will distribute instructional materials, school supplies and Chromebooks to students on August 31- September 3, at Highlands Elementary School from 9-4pm.

Online Learning at Highlands Elementary School

Remote learning will happen Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00am-3:00pm.

Your child's teacher will provide a detailed remote learning schedule next week.

Red Clay Remote Care (*Elementary Schools Only*)

We understand that childcare may be a challenge for some families during these unprecedented times. Red Clay is working with the Boys and Girls Club of Delaware, the YMCA of Delaware and the Latin American Community Center to offer on-site care this school year. This will be similar to the before care and after care that we have typically provided during in-service days.

For more information, please contact:

Boys and Girls Club Director: Christopher Graham: cgraham@bgclubs.org

Attendance & Grading

Consistent attendance, participation in learning activities and completion of assignments are critical to your child's success with remote learning. Attendance and participation will be monitored and your student's work will be graded. Teachers will provide more details in the coming weeks.

Social/Emotional Support at Highlands Elementary School

We have built time into our school's schedule to support social/emotional learning. Please look out for our upcoming Home Student Wellness Questionnaire, which will assist our team in identifying students who may be in need of additional social/emotional support.

Our school has a support team consisting of a school counselor(s), school psychologist(s) and tiered support leaders to support your child remotely and in person. If you have a concern related to your child's social/emotional health, please contact our support team members below:

School Counselor: Mrs. Pia Cooper; pia.cooper@redclay.k12.de.us

School Psychologist: Ms. Faith Zeitlin

If your child is in need of immediate assistance, please contact Child Priority Response (Mobile Crisis) available 24/7 at 800-969-4357 or the 24/7 Crisis Text Line (text "HOME" to 741-741).

Special Services & English Learners

We are committed to supporting all learners. During remote learning, all services and supports outlined in students' IEPs will be provided through remote instruction and telepractice. The special education teacher/case manager and related service providers will communicate the schedule for special education and related services with the family. For students with 504 plans, all supports outlined in the plan will be incorporated within remote learning sessions or through telepractice (e.g., therapies, counseling services). English learners will continue to receive English Language Development support integrated with their class schedule.

For more information on supports for students with disabilities or English learners, please contact our support staff:

- Special Education Coordinator: Ms. Gloria Waters; gloria.waters@redclay.k12.de.us
- 504 Coordinator: Mrs. Pia Cooper; pia.cooper@redclay.k12.de.us
- English Learner Contact: Mrs. Mary Ippolito; Mary.Ippolito@redclay.k12.de.us

• **School Health Services**

Your school nurse is here for you and your child. During remote learning, our school nurse will be providing support, such as health care management, care coordination, health education and family consultation, including connection to community resources and services. It is important to stay up to date with routine health exams and immunizations including the flu shot.

- Our school nurse is: Mary McConnell
- The best way to reach is by phone at (302) 651-2715/ by email at Maryann.McConnell@redclay.k12.de.us

It is imperative that we have updated student health information on record for your child. Please complete the Student Data Card and return it to school by scanning to the following address: Patricia.Szymanski@redclay.k12.de.us (or) by mailing it to Highlands Elementary School; 2100 Gilpin Ave., Wilmington, DE. or dropping it off at school.

How to reach the Highlands Wildcats

Principal: Dr. Fitzgerald

Assistant Principal: Ms. Equetta Jones

School Secretary: Mrs. Patricia Szymanski

Clerk: Mrs. Brenda McIntire

Our main office staff will be available Monday –Friday from 8:45am-4:00pm.

Stay up to date with School Messenger

We use School Messenger to communicate important information from the school and the district. When you receive your Red Clay Back-to-School Starter Kit in the mail, please verify the contact information that we have on file for your family and follow the directions to update your information and manage your communication preferences.

In Closing

We look forward to helping your child succeed in 2020-21. Please look out for a message from your child's teacher with more details next week!

Sincerely,

Dr. Fitzgerald

Principal of Highlands Elementary School