



Hillside Happenings

September 12, 2025

[Hebrew translation](#)

[Korean translation](#)

[Spanish translation](#)

Hillside School Principal Advisory Committee (PAC)

Hillside Elementary School's mission is to promote a love of school and lifelong learning for all children. We strive to create an environment where children develop self-discipline, the ability to work cooperatively, as well as decision-making and problem-solving skills.

This school year, the Principal Advisory Committee (PAC) will be formed to collaborate, gather feedback, and engage with families in connection to district and school goals.

Before each meeting, PAC members will receive an email with the topic of discussion and reminders about the date, time, and location of the meetings.

The PAC will consist of 10-15 parents/guardians across grade levels. Parents selected will be notified via email, along with the dates. There will be a total of four meetings, with afternoon and evening meetings (2:15 pm and 6:00 pm). Participating parents are encouraged to attend all four sessions. Opportunities for new families to join the PAC will occur each year.

Thank you for your interest and support of Hillside School!

Please complete the form if you are interested in being a member of the PAC for the 2025-26 school year. This interest survey will be available until September 30th at 8:00 am.





Hillside School Principal Advisory Committee Interest Form

Hillside Elementary School's mission is to promote a love of school and lifelong learning for all children. We strive to create an environment where children develop self-discipline, the ability to work cooperatively, as well as decision-making and problem-solving skills.



Take Note

Safety

- When dropping off and picking up students in our active driveways, drivers must remain in their vehicles. If you need to exit your vehicle to assist your child, do not use the drop-off/pick-up line. Park in a designated parking spot. **(Kindergarten and Grade One students are dismissed directly to an adult. Parents should park and walk to pick up their child.)**
- Students should enter and exit vehicles from the passenger side only.
- Do not double park or block crosswalks.
- The front parking lot to the right of the gym, designated as STAFF ONLY, is **not** a drop-off and pick-up area. Parents are not permitted to use this parking lot for dropping off or picking up children.
- Plan ahead! Arriving late not only impacts your child's instructional time but also disrupts that of their classmates. Students must arrive before 8:40 a.m.
- When arriving early to pick up students, turn your car engine off. **Cars should not be left idling.**
- Families are encouraged to walk, ride bikes, or park at Closter Commons.
- Follow the instructions from our staff and the Closter Police.

Back to School Night

Information for September 15- Grades 3-4 [LINK](#)

Information for September 16- Grades K-2 [LINK](#)

Information for September 16- PreK [LINK](#)



The Curriculum CUBby

by Ms. Zanin, Assistant Principal (zanink@nvnet.org)

Welcome to The Curriculum CUBby! This new section offers a window into our curriculum and instruction here at Hillside, showcasing the daily work happening in classrooms. It highlights how our teaching aligns with the district's vision and goals, the Northern Valley Curriculum Center curriculum (aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards). Our aim is to keep you connected, informed, and empowered as partners in your child's educational journey.

Curricular Updates:

Literacy Initiative: New Jersey has launched a new statewide literacy initiative to help ensure all children become confident, capable readers. Beginning in the **2025–26 school year**, schools must screen students in **kindergarten through third grade** twice yearly using evidence-based tools. The GOOD news - Hillside is already doing this! Aimsweb testing that is used in kindergarten and first grade will help us closely monitor student abilities and progress. And now in grades 2 and 3 we will be using DIBELS. We will notify families of your child's screening results within **30 days**, clearly explaining what the scores mean and the supports available. Therefore, you will be receiving this information in the coming month.

The overarching goal: give every student the foundational literacy tools they need—backed by solid research, strong district support, and transparent communication with families—all in service of improving early reading skills across New Jersey.

***New Math Resource Big Ideas:** This year, Hillside is excited to introduce our new math program, *Big Ideas: Math & YOU*, for students in kindergarten through fourth grade. This resource was thoughtfully selected by a team of teachers after extensive exploration and collaboration. It aligns closely with both our curriculum and the *Big Ideas* program used at the middle school, as well as in many districts throughout the Northern Valley.

The program offers accessible tools and resources for families, making it easier for you to support your child at home. Our teachers received training over the summer and will continue to engage in professional learning throughout the year to ensure a smooth, enriching experience for both students and families.

From The Counselors

Hello and Welcome To The 2025–2026 School Year!

We're so excited to be your School Counselors this year—Ms. Weiss and Ms. Lewis (serving as Mrs. Lang's leave replacement).

This year, Ms. Weiss will be supporting students in Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades, while Ms. Lewis will be working with students in Pre-K, 3rd, and 4th grades. If you'd like to learn more about us, be sure to check out our "About Me" pages!

☞ [Click here to learn more about Ms. Weiss!](#)

☞ [Click here to learn more about Ms. Lewis!](#)

As School Counselors, our mission is to help students thrive socially, emotionally, and academically. We offer a variety of support throughout the year, including our signature ICARE and Wellness Day lessons, which are shared with students weekly. We also provide individual and small group counseling as needed and we develop classroom lessons based on student and school needs. Collaboration is at the heart of what we do—we work closely with families, teachers, and administrators to create a supportive and welcoming school environment where all students can succeed.



We're looking forward to a fantastic year ahead and look forward to working together!

Dara Weiss

School Counselor for K, 1 & 2

weiss@nvnet.org

Ashley Lewis

Leave Replacement, School Counselor for PreK, 3 & 4




lewisa@nvnet.org

From The Closter Police



New Jersey's E-Bike & E-Scooter Law

CLARITY AND EMPHASIS ADDED BY CLOSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

VEHICLE TYPES	PROPULSION METHOD	POWER SOURCE	MAX ASSISTED SPEED (MPH)	LICENSE & REGISTRATION	HELMET	PARK ON THE SIDEWALK?	TAKE ON TRANSIT?
LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC SCOOTER 	Kickstart and throttle	Electric	19mph	No	Under 17 years old	If not blocking access	Yes*
LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC BICYCLE 	Pedal and optional throttle	Electric (<750W)	20mph	No	Under 17 years old	If not blocking access	Yes*
MOTORIZED BICYCLE 	Pedal and optional throttle	Gas or Electric (<50cc/<1.5BHP)	21mph - 28mph	Required	Required	No	No

<http://njbikeped.org/new-law-legalized-e-bikes-and-e-scooters-in-new-jersey/>

E-mobility devices make it easier to:

- Save on gas, parking, and rideshare costs.
- Access destinations without needing to walk or drive.
- Reduce carbon emissions.
- Make "first-mile" and "last-mile" connections for bus and train trips.
- Climb hills and keep up with traffic without getting sweaty.
- Help people with limitations due to age, physical fitness levels, or disabilities.

SAFETY IS OUR #1 PRIORITY

E-BIKE RIDERS MUST FOLLOW THE RULES OF THE ROAD (TITLE 39) VIOLATORS ARE SUBJECT TO FINES AND MUST APPEAR IN COURT



RUTGERS
Edward J. Bloustein School
of Planning and Public Policy



Low-speed e-bikes and e-scooters are regulated like bicycles. Drivers of low-speed e-bikes and e-scooters:

Must ride in the same direction as traffic and obey all traffic lights, signs, and signals.

- Are advised to wear helmets to minimize potential head injury.

Helmets are required in NJ for youth under age 17.

Must park devices without blocking pedestrian and/or wheelchair access.

Should not ride on sidewalks. Off-road trails generally do not allow motorized bicycles, but may allow e-bikes and e-scooters. Regulations vary by municipality and county. Check all local ordinances and policies. Ride slowly in areas with pedestrians.

For more information, visit the NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center at njbikeped.org or the NJ Safe Routes Resource Center at saferoutesnj.org. 01.13.22

Upcoming Dates



9/15- Back to School Night for Grades 3-4-6:30 p.m.

9/16- Back to School Night for Grades PK -6:00 p.m. K, 1, and 2- 6:30 p.m.

9/23- Rosh Hashanah, school closed

10/2- Yom Kippur, school closed

10/9- School photos, make-up day 11/13

Reminders

- As a reminder, numbered parking spots are reserved for Hillside School staff. **Do not park in these spots even if they are open.** Many staff members travel between schools or attend meetings outside Hillside School. Families are encouraged to park on local streets.
- The transition of the main office staff is underway. Please direct email communications to Ms. Callahan at callahanr@nvnet.org.



Ms. Dianne M. Smith

Principal