



Hillside Happenings

September 26, 2025

[Hebrew translation](#)

[Korean translation](#)

[Spanish translation](#)

In The Halls of Hillside

During the year, you will find information about what our students are learning in Music, Physical Education, Art, Spanish, Science, STEM and Library.

From Ms. Iyo- STEM Teacher

This trimester, all third graders are visiting the STEM Lab to explore how engineers use the design process and computer science in real-world problem solving. Students are currently learning how to design for our 3D printers using a program called **MakersEmpire**. Each student has a school account and can continue creating at home if you install the *MakersEmpire 3D Design* app on your device.

Download & Log In Instructions

MakersEmpire 3D Design can be installed on a tablet, laptop, or desktop computer. Visit the [MakersEmpire Download site](#) and select the version for your device.

When logging in, please remember to use **Google Sign In** with your child's school credentials:




- **Username:** *School ID#@nvnet.org*
 - Example: [20341234@nvnet.org](#)
- **Password:** *(same password they use at school)*


We're excited to see the creative designs our students are bringing to life!


School Photo Day October 9


Picture Day!
Hillside Elementary School
(Closter)
Thursday, October 9, 2025

irvin simon
PHOTOGRAPHERS



1  **Smile**
it's Picture Day

2  **Order**
at [PictureDay.com](https://www.pictureday.com)
You'll receive your online code a few weeks after Picture Day

3  **Enjoy**
Photos delivered home

Pictures you love of people you love

irvinsimon.com



Student Data Privacy and Security Plan - Irvin Simon (3).pdf

Download
1.8 MB

Take Note

Safety

Let's work together to ensure a safe arrival and dismissal for everyone.

Reminders:

- 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.

Main Office

- Ms. Cheryl Boehm's last day will be September 30. We thank her for her dedication and wish her much happiness in retirement.
- We are pleased to share that Ms. Becky Callahan will officially begin her role as full-time Administrative Assistant at Hillside School. She can be reached at callahanr@nvnet.org.
- In addition, Ms. Chelsea Ward has joined us as a part-time Office Paraprofessional. Ms. Ward will be handling attendance along with other main office responsibilities. She can be reached at wardc@nvnet.org.

Test Talk

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

Throughout the school year, Hillside School conducts a variety of standardized and benchmark assessments to help monitor and support student learning. These assessments are administered at different times and grade levels, and families will always receive a letter prior to any testing. Below is an overview of the key assessments your child may participate in during the year, as outlined in our 2025–26 Standardized Assessment Information

- LinkIt (Benchmark Testing – ELA & Math)
Administered in grades 2–8, three times per year (September, January, and June). These assessments help track student progress and guide instruction.
- Aimsweb (Benchmark Testing – Literacy & Numeracy)
Administered in grades K & 1, twice a year (September and February), to assess foundational skills in reading and math.
- NJSLA (New Jersey Student Learning Assessment)
State-mandated testing in ELA and Math for grades 3–8, and in Science for grades 5 & 8. Testing takes place in May, and score reports are sent home in September.
- WIDA ACCESS for ELLs
Required state assessment for students identified as multilingual learners in grades K–8, even if they have opted out of ESL services. This test evaluates skills in listening, speaking, reading,

and writing, and is administered between February and March. Score reports are sent home in July.

- **CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test)**

Administered in grades 2 and 4, as well as to new-to-district students in grades 3, 5, 6, and 7. The CogAT measures verbal, nonverbal, and quantitative reasoning and is used as part of the eligibility process for our enrichment program. Testing occurs in March.

You already received a letter detailing all the testing taking place this fall, but just as a reminder - LinkIt and Aimsweb assessments are taking place this month in our classrooms.

- Students in grades 2–4 took the LinkIt Math benchmark during the week of September 15, and the ELA benchmark during the week of September 22.
- Aimsweb testing for students in grades K–1, and DIBELS testing for grades 2–3, are being conducted between now and October.

These assessments help us better understand student progress and guide instruction throughout the school year.

From The Counselors

We are so happy to see our students! This school year is already off to a great start. We have begun implementing our ICARE and Wellness lessons and activities.

During our first month together, we focused on Back-to-School Readiness, Inclusion (welcoming and respecting everyone), and Getting to Know Our ICARE Program.

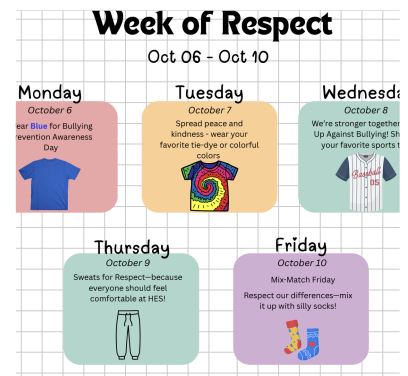
The Week of Respect is coming up! It will be observed the week of October 6th through ICARE, along with a themed week of activities and special dress-up days to show school spirit: [Week of Respect Themed Days](#)

Each month, we will share a helpful parenting tip or resource. We hope you enjoy this month's tip!

9 Ways to Greet Your Child After a Long School Day

(Adapted from [Days With Grey](#))

- "Here's a snack."
- "It's so nice to see your face."
- "I've been thinking about you!"
- "Seeing you brightens my day."
- "I enjoy spending time with you."
- "I'm so happy to have you home."
- "I was wondering if you'd like to..."
- "I couldn't wait to tell you about..."
- Say nothing—simply share the space together with a book.



From The Closter Police

Attached you will find resources to support conversations around online safety.



Parents Start the Convo.pdf

[Download](#)

222.8 KB



Toddlers and Technology.pdf

[Download](#)

662.0 KB



Parenting Tips for Online Safety.pdf

[Download](#)

3.5 MB

Upcoming Dates

10/2- Yom Kippur, school closed

10/3- Spirit Day, wear Hillside gear or red

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

10/13- Early dismissal for students (12:40 p.m.)

10/21-23- PTO Book Fair

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.



PTO Book Fair

Parents and families are welcome to browse and shop **during the evening event only**. For the safety and focus of our students, visitors will not be able to attend the Book Fair during the school day.

Closter Improvement Commission



Ms. Dianne M. Smith
Principal