



# Holly Area Schools

*Excellence in Action!*

August 1, 2024

Hello Holly High School Families,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you are getting the opportunity to enjoy the summer months with family and friends!

Here at HHS, we are preparing for an outstanding 2024-25 school year and want to take this opportunity to welcome you to it. We are excited about what lies ahead of us as we strive daily to meet the HHS Mission to *provide a safe environment that encourages academic growth, creativity, personal development, and productive citizenship.*

The faculty and staff at Holly High School are unwavering in our commitment to creating meaningful and engaging learning environments for all our students. We strive to instill a culture of joy through a love of learning that incorporates student voice and choice across our school environment. When teachers, students, and families work together, HHS is an amazing place to grow, learn, and prepare for a limitless future!

The first step in preparing for the 24-25 school year is for our families to complete their annual online registration. This essential step is mandatory and guarantees a quick and seamless experience during our schedule pick-up days later in the month. Please complete the online registration by visiting the "[Skyward Online Verification](#)" link. If you have any questions about this process, please contact our HHS Administrative Assistant, Laura Oldaugh, at [laura.oldaugh@hask12.org](mailto:laura.oldaugh@hask12.org).

As part of the Skyward Online Verification, we encourage students and families to thoroughly review all aspects of the [Student Handbook](#) for the most up-to-date information and revisions regarding academics, student events, extracurricular opportunities, student expectations, attendance policies, student discipline, and more. We would like to highlight a few of the updated items that we are focusing on in the 24-25 school year:

- **Attendance** - Daily school attendance is essential to school success; often, students, parents, and schools do not realize how quickly absences — excused and unexcused — can add up, leading to academic challenges. Chronic absences — missing 10 percent of the school year, or just 2-3 days every month—can translate into third-graders unable to master reading, sixth-graders failing courses, and ninth-graders dropping out of high school. Missing time in the classroom, for any reason, can never truly be recaptured. At HHS, we will continue cultivating a positive attendance culture that encourages showing up every day, *even* when it isn't easy. For additional information regarding school attendance, please follow [this link](#) to Page 26 in our student handbook.
- **Bronchos L.E.A.D** - This Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) initiative promotes a nurturing and respectful school environment. Each letter in LEAD represents a key principle:
  - **L** "Listen to Others" encourages active listening and understanding, fostering an inclusive community where every voice is valued.
  - **E** "Encourage Everyone" focuses on building a supportive atmosphere where students uplift one another and celebrate each other's successes.
  - **A** "Act Responsibly" instills a sense of accountability, guiding students to make thoughtful decisions and take ownership of their actions.
  - **D** "Display Kindness & Respect" emphasizes treating others with compassion and dignity, creating a positive and harmonious school culture.

Through collaboration between staff and students, each building within HAS will design what the L.E.A.D program looks, sounds, and feels like throughout the 24-25 school year.

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## Holly High School

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**Eric Curl**, Principal  
**Codie Lakin**, Assistant Principal  
**Melissa Wachowski**, Assistant Principal

- **Cell Phones** - Building on the information and research that Mr. Roper shared with our school community last spring regarding the impact of social media and cell phones on our students ([links can be found here](#)), HHS is implementing a new cell phone/personal electronic device policy for the 24-25 school year. Cell Phones or other electronic communication devices, including Smart Watches, earbuds, headphones, etc.:
  - **May be used** before school (up to 7:24 a.m.), during passing times, and during their scheduled lunch.
  - **May not be used** during class time/instructional time. Class/Instructional time is considered **across the building** from when the bell rings to start the instructional hour/period until the bell rings to complete the hour/period. **Therefore, students cannot use cell phones anywhere in the building at HHS while class is in session. Cell phones shall not be out or visible during class/instructional time.**
  - Cell phones and electronic devices are never used in Bathrooms, Locker Rooms, Dressing Rooms, or any other changing rooms.

The updated cell phone policy, including outcomes for students who do not adhere to it, can be read on pages 48-49 by following [this link](#).

- **Dress Code/Bags/Backpacks**—Each year, it is important for our students and families to review this aspect of the handbook. We have updated these policies for the 24-25 school year to provide clarity and consistency. Regarding Bags and Backpacks, please note that students may not use them at any time once the school day has begun (after 7:24 a.m.). You can find the full Dress Code on pg. 51 and Bags/Backpacks on pg. 59 by following [this link](#).

**Important Upcoming Dates** - As we approach the start of the new school year, here are some important upcoming dates to add to your calendar!

- **Wednesday, August 1st** - The HHS Office resumes 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily hours.
- **Saturday, August 3rd** - Holly Area Schools Health and Wellness Fair and Parent Camp at Holly High School ([Flyer Link](#))
  - 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- **Monday, August 19th** - Student Pictures and Schedule Pickup (Juniors and Seniors)
  - Pickup Times:
    - 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
    - 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
    - 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, August 20th** - Student Pictures and Schedule Pickup (Freshmen and Sophomores)
  - Pickup Times:
    - 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
    - 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
    - 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- **Monday, August 26th** - First Day of School
  - Please remember that this day is a half day, with school starting at 7:24 a.m. and ending at 10:34 a.m.

We look forward to seeing you soon! Go Bronchos!

Sincerely,

*Eric Curl*

Eric Curl, Principal

Holly High School