



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FIRST RULE:
STAY IN TOUCH!
(Here are 9 ways)



1 | WEBSITES |

Bookmark HoustonISD.org and your campus website for news, calendars, and deadlines.

2 | TEXT MESSAGING | Text "YES" to 68453
Opt in for weather bulletins and other alerts. Keep your number updated with your school.



3 | SCHOOL BUS TRACKER | HoustonISD.org/BusTracker
Pinpoint your child's bus. Register with the district's account number: 76647



4 | FACEBOOK | [Facebook.com/HoustonISD](https://www.facebook.com/HoustonISD)
"Like" us to share information and interact with HISD.

5 | TWITTER | [Twitter.com/HoustonISD](https://twitter.com/HoustonISD)
Fast news and highlights. Include @HoustonISD in your tweets.



6 | YOUTUBE | [YouTube.com/TheHISD](https://www.youtube.com/TheHISD)
Watch what's happening on campuses.

7 | LUNCH MONEY & MENUS |
Manage account balances at SchoolCafe.com, formerly ParentOnline.net, and get menus and nutritional information at HoustonISD.org/Menus



8 | PARENT STUDENT CONNECT |
Access attendance, assignments and report cards. Go to HoustonISD.org/PSCregister to get started.

9 | MOBILE APPS |
Sign up for Parent Student Connect, above, then search "GradePro for Gradespeed" in iPhone's App Store. Follow school news by searching the App Store or Google Play for "Bb District by Blackboard."

SCHOOL CALENDAR

HoustonISD.org/Calendars

2016

| JULY | | | | | | | AUGUST | | | | | | | SEPTEMBER | | | | | | | |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S | S | M | T | W | TH | F | S | S | M | T | W | TH | F | S | |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |
| 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| OCTOBER | | | | | | | NOVEMBER | | | | | | | DECEMBER | | | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S | S | M | T | W | TH | F | S | S | M | T | W | TH | F | S | |
| | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

2017

| JANUARY | | | | | | | FEBRUARY | | | | | | | MARCH | | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S | S | M | T | W | TH | F | S | S | M | T | W | TH | F | S |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | 26 | 27 | 28 | | | | | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

| APRIL | | | | | | | MAY | | | | | | | JUNE | | | | | | | | |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S | S | M | T | W | TH | F | S | S | M | T | W | TH | F | S | | |
| | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | | |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | | |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |
| 30 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

KEY ■ Holidays ◇ Early Dismissal Days (2½ hours early) △ Make-up Days (if needed)
○ Teacher Service Days □ Teacher Preparation Days

HOLIDAYS

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Labor Day | Sept. 5, 2016 |
| Fall Holiday | Oct. 12, 2016 |
| Thanksgiving | Nov. 23 – 25, 2016 |
| Winter Break | Dec. 19, 2016 – Jan. 2, 2017 |
| Martin Luther King Jr. Day | Jan. 16, 2017 |
| Spring Break | March 13 – 17, 2017 |
| Spring Holiday | April 14, 2017 |

SIGNIFICANT DATES

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| First Day of School | Aug. 22, 2016 |
| Last Day of First Semester | Dec. 16, 2016 |
| First Day of Second Semester | Jan. 4, 2017 |
| Last Day of School | May 25, 2017 |

USEFUL CONTACTS

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Main Number | 713-556-6000 |
| Board Services | 713-556-6121 |
| Parent & Community Assistance | 713-556-7121 |
| Tip line | 713-641-7446 |
| Buses (Transportation) | 713-613-3040 |
| Closing of Schools | 713-267-1704 |
| Counseling and Guidance | 713-556-7387 |
| Health and Medical Services | 713-556-7280 |
| Magnet Programs | 713-556-6947 |
| Multilingual Programs | 713-556-6961 |
| Nutrition Services | 713-491-5944 |
| Special Education | 713-556-7025 |
| Superintendent's Office | 713-556-6300 |
| Transfers | 713-556-6734 |

The district may close schools due to inclement weather or emergencies. HISD announces closings through the following outlets:

- HoustonISD.org
- [Facebook.com/HoustonISD](https://www.facebook.com/HoustonISD)
- [Twitter.com/HoustonISD](https://twitter.com/HoustonISD)
- HISD Weather Hotline: 713-267-1704
- Local radio and television stations
- Phone calls and text messaging



READ WITH YOUR CHILD EVERY DAY



BUILD GOOD HABITS AT HOME: Literacy is the foundation upon which a strong education is built. Parents play a critical role at home by reading aloud to children at least once a day and having their children read aloud to them. Parents can also help their children recognize “**High Frequency Words**” with flashcards, in books, and in their daily environment. Identifying these words is a promotion standard, and the word lists and flashcards for each grade level can be found at HoustonISD.org/HFWFE

In the classroom, guided reading, universal screening, exposure to High Frequency Words, and real-world literacy strategies aim to have every child in HISD reading and writing with fluency by the end of third grade. HoustonISD.org/Literacy

BE A READ HOUSTON READ VOLUNTEER: Donate an hour of time, either in person or online, each week to read to first- and second-graders to help them develop a lifelong love of reading. HoustonISD.org/ReadHoustonRead

STAY ON TOP OF ATTENDANCE



ABSENCES MATTER NOW: Even in elementary school, attendance is a key factor in determining your child’s long-term success. Studies have linked dropout patterns with poor attendance beginning in kindergarten and shown that young students who miss too many days have trouble mastering reading. By grade 6, chronic absence is a proven warning sign that a student is at risk of dropping out.

A child is considered chronically absent after missing two or more days a month – including unexcused and excused absences. Missing more than 10 percent (or 17 days) of school a year can lead to a student not receiving a grade or being retained. It is each parent’s duty to make sure his or her child attends school. Parents who do not are subject to civil prosecution by the truancy court. HoustonISD.org/Attendance



DOLLARS ARE AT STAKE: Your school’s budget is tied to daily attendance, and every absence leaves less money to fund classrooms.



KNOW THE BASICS

MEALS: All students get a free breakfast, and some campuses offer free lunch and dinner to all students. Paid lunch is \$2.25. Call [713-491-5944](tel:713-491-5944) for more information, and learn about school meal benefits, manage your child’s cafeteria account, or view menus and nutritional information at HoustonISD.org/NutritionServices.

TRANSPORTATION: Students are required to use three-point seat belts, when available, any time the bus is in motion. For information about eligibility for transportation and bus stops, contact your child’s school, call [713-613-3040](tel:713-613-3040) or visit HoustonISD.org/Transportation.



METRO DISCOUNT: With the **Q Fare Card**, all students over age 6 receive a 50% discount and free transfers. Call [713-635-4000](tel:713-635-4000) or visit RideMetro.org

MEDICAL CARE: Parents or other designees will be contacted in case of illness, injury or emergency. Medications can be administered at school only with advance written parental and physician permission. For state immunization requirements, visit HoustonISD.org/Immunizations.

STUDENT INSURANCE: Public schools are by law not liable for injuries on campus, but parents can buy voluntary accident insurance from Texas Kids First. Call [1-800-366-8354](tel:1-800-366-8354) or visit TexasKidsFirst.com. The state sponsors health insurance for children. Call [713-556-7280](tel:713-556-7280) or visit TexCarePartnership.com.



CYBER SAFETY: Utilize resources, tools, and tips on keeping your child safe in today’s digital world at HoustonISD.org/CyberSafety

DISCIPLINE: The Code of Conduct has been updated to reflect changes to the district’s discipline policy that reduce the use of in- or out-of-school suspensions. HoustonISD.org/CodeOfConduct

KEEP UP WITH ACADEMICS



REPORT CARDS: Elementary schools send report cards to parents four times during the year, shortly after the end of each **nine-week grading period: Oct. 28, Jan. 6, March 24, and May 25.** HoustonISD.org/Grading

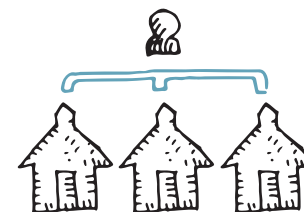
PROMOTION STANDARDS: To move to the next grade level, students must show that they have met standards related to classroom grades, local or state tests, and attendance. HoustonISD.org/PromotionStandards



PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES: Conferences are designed to teach parents about classes, teacher expectations, behavior, and their child’s academic progress. Conferences are typically held around report card time. Contact your child’s school to schedule a conference.

GIFTED/TALENTED IDENTIFICATION: HISD serves **Gifted/Talented**, or **Vanguard**, students through either their zoned neighborhood school or a Vanguard magnet school. Vanguard identification is determined through various criteria, including an achievement test, an abilities test, grades, obstacles, and teacher recommendation or, in the case of the very young, parent recommendation. Once students are identified as G/T, they retain that designation and remain in the district’s G/T program throughout their tenure in HISD, regardless of which school they attend. For information on G/T testing and to download an application, visit HoustonISD.org/Vanguard

PREPARE FOR WHAT’S COMING



SCHOOL CHOICE: HISD offers strong neighborhood, magnet and specialty school choices, including Montessori, fine arts, STEM, dual-language, career academies, and more. Fall is the time to start exploring school options for the following year and beginning the application process. Call [713-556-6947](tel:713-556-6947) or visit HoustonISD.org/SchoolChoice for more information and important deadlines.



STAAR: **State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness** is the current Texas testing program for students in grades 3 through 12 that is designed to evaluate progress and ensure students are meeting grade-level expectations. Find testing dates and answers to frequently asked questions at HoustonISD.org/STAAR