

Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate School

Frequently Asked Questions with Answers

A note to readers: This set of FAQs stems from the HKIS Parent Information Sessions held at BES, KES, and HES in the spring of 2019. These particular questions and answers include details which were either not directly included in information presented or are additionally informative. FAQs will continue to be updated as questions come to the administration from parents through school tours and other communication channels. We greatly appreciate the questions that have been asked thus far and welcome new questions as they arise. Please feel free to contact Principal Eric Larson elarson@rsd17.org or Assistant Superintendent Holly Hageman hhageman@rsd17.org to have your question(s) addressed.

Please also consult the informational resources regarding HKIS on the school website at <http://www.rsd17.org/schools6.shtml>.

Main Office Location

Where is the HKIS Main Office?

The HKIS Main Office is on the left as soon as you enter the main front doors. There is a security guard posted at the front entrance for school day hours.

School Nurse/Nurse's Office Location

Will there be a school nurse for HKIS and is there adequate privacy within the nursing office? Is there a separate space for the HKIS nurse's office?

There will be two nurses serving HKIS and HKMS in the one nursing office suite. The nurses' respective schedules will be staggered so that one starts/ends the school day according to the HKMS schedule and the other is there through the end of the HKIS day.

There are two rooms within the nursing suite that allow for privacy for students to have their personal/medical needs addressed.

School Day Start/End Time; Arrival and Dismissal; Before-School Music Ensembles

How is the arrival and dismissal time different from HKMS?

The middle school starts and ends 45 minutes before the intermediate school. The HKMS start time is 8:05 and their end time is 2:50. The HKIS start time is 8:50 and their end time is 3:35. The separate and staggered schedule benefits both schools' programs and also is intended to create completely distinct and orderly arrival and dismissal times for each school.

There are no bells to signal that it is time to change class, so there isn't a problem of each school's "bell schedule" interfering with the other.

Morning and/or afternoon public announcements (P.A.) will be arranged so that there is not an interruption to one another's school.

If my student participates in an HKIS before-school music ensemble, will they be entering the building when middle school students are entering from their buses? Can my student participate in both chorus and band?

The parent drop-off time for HKIS before-school ensembles will be at 8:10, after the HKMS day starts and middle school students are in classrooms. HKIS students will go directly to their first class/homeroom from their ensemble in time for the 8:50 HKIS school start. This is the same amount of time for ensembles as is currently in place at our elementary schools.

By having chorus and band held before school, as has been the practice at the elementary level, HKIS students can have the opportunity to participate in both chorus and band or choose either.

If I need to pick up my student before HKIS dismissal, is there a way to avoid when HKMS dismissing?

The best timing for a planned early dismissal parent pick-up so that you can park as well as avoid the HKMS buses is before 2:45 or after 3:00 (in other words, try to avoid 2:45-3:00) while HKMS is dismissing. Consistent with current early dismissal practices, parents will need to park and come to the office to sign-out their student.

Will there be lunch or recess on half-days?

HKIS will operate on half-days similarly to the elementary schools; lunch will be served, but there will not be recess.

Lunch/Snack

When is the HKIS lunch? With whom will students sit at lunch? How will students pay for lunch? Is there snack time?

5th grade lunch is at 11:50 and 4th grade lunch is at 12:15.* (*This may adjust by a few minutes once the master schedule is finalized.) While one grade is in the lunch room, the other is at recess.

Students will start out sitting as members of the same class at lunch tables. The HKIS administration and staff will revisit lunch room seating considerations as the year progresses to consider the option of having students choose their seats.

Parents will be able to set up online accounts for lunch payment or students can bring lunch money (which is collected first thing in the morning; students will not carry lunch money to the lunch room to pay at a register). This is the same practice that exists currently in the elementary schools.

Students will have snack in the same manner that they have snack at the elementary schools, within their classrooms.

Recess

Will students have recess? Where will it be? What kinds of activities will be available for recess?

HKIS students will have 25 minutes of recess daily. The recess area is to the left of the gymnasium and field hockey field and includes an adjacent blacktop with basketball hoops and four-square. There will be swings, climbing structures, and other play areas. Students can play field games (soccer, kickball, etc...). There will also be plenty of balls, jump-ropes, and other equipment according to student interests.

Transportation: Bus Stop; Activity Bus; Before/After-Care

Will HKIS students be on the same buses as HKMS students? Who will they ride buses with?

HKIS students will not be on buses with HKMS students. HKIS students from Killingworth will ride the bus with KES students. HKIS students from Haddam/Higginum will be on their own buses (BES students will have their own buses). Haddam Neck elementary and intermediate students (BES/HKIS) will share a bus. This configuration allows the transportation company to have bus ride times similar in length historically.

Will my child's bus ride time be different than it has been, and when will we know the bus information?

The average bus ride time across all bus runs is similar to what it has been. We cannot say at this juncture (early spring) whether the ride for any individual student is the same, shorter, or longer than it has been, but that all runs will stay under the BOE policy of no rides beyond 1 hour and that they will be within similar ranges of ride times as they have historically existed. The transportation company has been performing the runs to ensure that ride times fall within these parameters in planning for next year.

Families will receive transportation information in the summer about the same time as every summer, so that transportation can continue to hone runs as close to the opening of school.

Is a parent or guardian required to be at the bus stop in the afternoon for HKIS students?

As HKIS is operating more like an elementary school, as is in place at the elementary level, a parent/guardian is required to be at the bus stop. However, as is currently in place, a parent may send a letter granting permission for their 4th or 5th grade student to get off the bus without a parent present. A form letter will be sent home at the start of the school year from HKIS for this purpose.

Will there be an after-school activity late bus for HKIS students?

The HKIS after-school clubs will take place for approximately 1 hour after school, and parents will pick-up students and sign them out with the club advisor, exactly the way elementary clubs function now. The late bus that middle and high school students can take will not be for HKIS students.

If my child is in Park & Rec Before- or After-Care can they be transported to/from HKIS on a school bus?

HKIS students who participate in this program housed at the elementary schools (BES in the am and pm and KES in the pm) will be able to transported by a school bus. HK Parks & Rec is not currently planning

to have a before- or after-care site at HKIS for 2019-20 but may consider plans to do so in future years depending upon parent interest.

After School Clubs

When do after school clubs start and end? Where do I go to pick up my student after a club? Will HKIS students ride the late bus? Are HKIS and HKMS students in the same clubs? Will HKIS students participate in interscholastic sports teams? Will there be a play/drama/musical performance at HKIS?

Just like elementary clubs, HKIS clubs will start right after the school day and will typically run for 1 hour. The club advisor will communicate with parents as to where pick up should occur and at what time, typically either at Main Street or at a specific field. Parents do need to sign-out their student from the advisor. The advisor will wait until all students are picked up and will greatly appreciate parents arriving at the designated end of the activity.

HKIS and HKMS clubs are separate. For more information about the array of clubs planned for 2019-20, please see the HKIS Program of Studies as well as the Parent Presentation.

HKIS students will not participate in middle school interscholastic sports. There will be a Running Club at HKIS and there could be other athletic clubs. Club options can grow and change over time relative to student interests.

It is possible for HKIS to have its own play/musical if there is student, staff and community interest.

HKIS students will not ride the late bus as it is used for middle and high school students.

Supervision in Hallways and Other Areas

Will HKIS students walk themselves to classes outside of their core academic spaces?

Like elementary schools, HKIS teachers will escort their classes to- and from Applied Academics and Lunch/Recess. Additional supervision will be in place as needed for any time of the day considered appropriate.

Safety Drills

HKIS and HKMS will conduct drills at the same time. For fire/evacuation drills, each school will have its own organized areas outside of the building to gather, take attendance and remain until returning into the building.

Bathrooms

Will students from mixed grades share bathrooms?

There will be grade-level-specific bathrooms in the core academic areas.

The bathrooms in the area upstairs near the 5th and 6th grade classrooms and the World Language classrooms will only be used by 5th and 6th graders. 7th and 8th grade students will use the bathrooms in their core academic areas prior to or upon return from Spanish or French, or can walk to their core areas to use the bathrooms if necessary during class.

The bathroom(s) on “Main Street” are typically used when students are at Applied Academic (Specials) classes, which are grade level-based. Since the scheduled of Applied Academics is by grade level, there typically will not be students from mixed grades in the vicinity at the same time to use those bathrooms. However, there will be planned adult supervision in these areas at such times that students are changing classes.

The school administration will review this bathroom plan once school is in session and make any necessary adjustments along the way.

Lockers

Will students have their own lockers and will they have to figure out a combination lock?

Each student will have their own locker in an area adjacent to their core academic classes. The lockers will be used in the way that elementary cubbies are used, to hang jackets, store a lunch bag, etc... Lockers will not be locked.

Small Group Instruction, Student Support, and Instructional Spaces

Will students receive the same level of support they have had for reading and/or math intervention or special education support? When and where will such support occur?

We have staffed HKIS with the level of support needed to serve students commensurate with how they have been supported and in conjunction with students' individual plans and learning goals. Support will occur during the Personalized Learning block in the daily schedule so that students are not pulled out of core or applied academic classes. The administration of HKIS and HKMS are finalizing the space usage plans to identify all of the instructional spaces available for intervention as well as for special education support.

Teacher Assignments

Do we know which teachers are going to HKIS and when will I find out who my student's teachers are?

Staffing assignments for 2019-20 are in the final stages of completion. We expect to continue to include information about next year's teacher assignments as we currently do at the elementary level (on the last day of school with your child's report card).

Mr. Larson sent home to current 3rd and 4th grade parents the annual "Parent Input Form" to collect information regarding any necessary special consideration that should be made concerning placement. Parents are to return that form to their current elementary school (if they elect to fill it out) by Friday, May 3rd.

Parent Conferences

How will parent conferences work with the Duets and Trios?

As is the case now in Grade 4, the homeroom teacher will be the teacher parents meet with. The homeroom teacher will have all of the performance and progress information from their partner teachers. Of course, parents can always contact or meet with any one of their student's teachers for information or to share a concern at any time.

Report Cards/Grades; Power School; Homework Expectations

What kind of report card will there be and will I use Power School (like in middle and high school) to track my student's assignments and grades? How much homework will there be?

The HKIS report card will be a continuation of the elementary report card through grade 5 with standards-based grades. Letter grades will begin at HKMS in grade 6. The use of Power School for parents will also begin in grade 6 at HKMS.

The homework assignments will be similar to what is currently in place at the elementary level. The homework level at grade 5 will be similar to what is in place in grade 5 now with any appropriate adjustments with 5th grade as part of an intermediate school.

Cell Phones

Can HKIS students have cell phones in school?

The use of electronic devices (including cell phones) by students in grades K-8 is not allowed. Students who have cell phones must store them in an appropriate location during school hours. The school system is not liable for the loss or theft of personal electronic devices that are brought to school. (BOE Policy 6141.33)

If a student needs to call home during school hours, they can have access through school landlines.

Clothes for P.E.

Will HKIS students need to change clothes for Physical Education class?

Like elementary schools now, students will not have to change clothes for P.E. class.

Opportunity To Visit HKIS Over the Summer

Can I bring my 3rd or 4th grader to visit HKIS over the summer?

Yes. Even though students are visiting HKIS this spring and parents can sign-up for tours as well, Mr. Larson is happy to provide tours during the summer. Please do call the school or email Mr. Larson ahead of time to arrange a date/time.

Step-Up Day

What is Step-Up Day and when will it take place?

Step-Up day is during a mid-late August before school starts where students visit their classrooms, participate in fun orientation-style activities, and locate their lockers. It can also be considered as a Meet and Greet experience.

The specific date is not scheduled yet, but will occur during the week of August 19th.