



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

By Parents, For Parents

As a parent, how do I know what's going on at Hillsboro?

Here are some tips for staying in the loop as a parent:



1

Sign-up to receive our weekly newsletter at <https://wearehillsboro.com/newsletter-listserv/> **News & Notes** comes out every Friday and is chock full of information. This is our primary method of communication to parents, so **be sure you subscribe!**

2

Check the **Hillsboro PTSO website** - www.wearehillsboro.com. It is updated regularly.

3

Follow us on social media. Three must-haves:

- Facebook - @HillsboroPTSO
- Instagram - @HillsboroBurros
- Twitter- @HillsboroBurros.

4

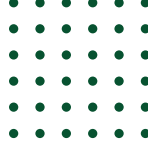
Make sure you're on the **school call-out list**. Dr. Pelham sends major school announcements out through this system, so you want to be on it! Check your preferences via the *Family Portal* at <https://familyportal.mnps.org/campus/portal/nashville.jsp>.

How can I get involved as a parent in the school?

Hillsboro benefits from a very active parent community. For more information about the PTSO and upcoming needs/activities/events, subscribe to our weekly newsletter. Visit the volunteer page of our website, where you can either fill out the volunteer interest form (and we'll connect you with the right folks) or sign up to help with upcoming needs: <http://wearehillsboro.com/ptso/volunteers/>.

What is this whole A day/B day thing?

Hillsboro is on an eight-period A/B block schedule. Block scheduling allows more uninterrupted time for in-depth learning and helps students manage their workload by not having assignments in all eight classes due every day.



Students take four classes every day, alternating between A day and B day classes. Classes meet for @75 minutes. Check <https://wearehillsboro.com/school-newsinfo/calendar/> for a calendar of A/B days. If a day is missed for whatever reason – be that inclement weather, etc. – we do not make up the day but rather stick to the district-wide calendar.

What do I do if there is a problem with my student's schedule?

Every student is enrolled in one of four academies – Freshman Academy (all 9th graders), the Global Health Sciences Academy, the Business Academy, or the IBDP Academy. Each academy has its own school counselor who will handle the needs of the students in that academy – including scheduling. Rather than email the Counselor individually, we ask that students with a schedule issue to complete a schedule change request form. These will be made available to all students at the beginning of school and the form will have instructions as to where to turn them in. Please allow 3-5 business days for consideration of schedule change requests.

Please be aware that the start of each semester is exceptionally busy for the counseling team as they balance many schedule change requests. It may take a few days for them to respond, but that does NOT mean they aren't on it! If a few days goes by and you don't feel you are getting anywhere, contact the Dean of Students or Principal of your student's academy. They may be able to help troubleshoot.

We hear there is a new Choral teacher this year. My student is interested but didn't sign-up for it at the end of last year. How do they get into those classes?

We are very excited to be restarting a terrific choral program at Hillsboro. Any student interested should contact their Academy's counselor. Every effort will be made to accommodate students interested in being a part of this exciting, new arts option.

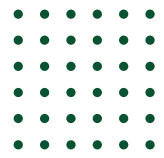
Mrs. G is also hosting an informational meeting on 08/15. See the flyer in this packet for more details. In addition to formal classes students can take there will also be additional after-school/club opportunities as well.

How do I monitor my student's grades?

At Hillsboro, we use two important platforms – Infinite Campus and Schoology. Infinite Campus is the MNPS family portal. From here, you can access a wealth of information, including changing your contact information, opting into our call-out system, and monitoring report card grades. Schoology, however, will be what teachers use day-to-day to post class materials, assignments, etc. Students will also find grades to tests/quizzes/homework there.

We encourage all students and parents to use both of these resources. One positive that came out of COVID is that we all got better at leveraging technology available to stay on top of academic progress.

For more information on how parents can set-up their own log-in to Infinite Campus account, visit <https://www.mnps.org/students-families/familyportal>.



For more information on how parents can access information on Schoology visit

https://technology.mnps.org/digital_tools/schoology_quick_start_guide?_gl=1*1suk6uv*_ga*MTQ0OTc1NzA0MS4xNjg5ODI5NDQ4*_ga_ZRRD0WS5N8*MTY4OTgyOTQ0Ny4xLjAuMTY4OTgyOTQ0Ny4wLjAuMA.

Please keep in mind that for both Infinite Campus and Schoology there are apps that you can download to your phone as well as websites you can access. Sometimes the information on the app is truncated. Additional data and information can sometimes be found on via the website version.

How do I contact my student's teachers? Will they share information with parents regularly?

A full list of faculty members and their emails can be found www.wearehillsboro.com. Most teachers also share periodic updates with parents and may share additional resources or ways to contact them. Everyone at Hillsboro aims to respond to any family inquiries within 24 hours. If that isn't happening or you need to escalate an issue, contact the counselor, Dean of Students or Principal of your academy. You can also reach out via our [Burro Box](#) if you need additional assistance.

What is this whole "academy" thing? When do you pick one? What is it? How does it work?

The best way to think about the academies is to think of them as a mechanism for creating smaller learning communities where every student is known and where rich, cross-sector teaching and learning take place. It allows students to have all the trappings of a large school (expansive athletics, robust arts, extracurricular options, diverse course/faculty options) and also the benefits of a smaller school where they can get more individualized attention.

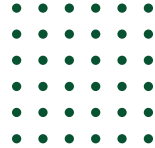
All 9th graders are part of the Freshman Academy. At the end of their freshman year, they will pick the academy and pathway that interests them most. They choose from one of three academies:

- U.S. Community Credit Union Academy of Int'l Business & Communications (aka - Business Academy)
- Academy of Global Health Sciences Academy (aka - Global Health Academy or AGHS)
- Academy of International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (aka - AIBDP or IBDP Academy)

Within each academy, there are multiple pathways to pick from. A pathway is a series of elective courses that a student takes during their sophomore, junior, and senior year. For example, a student In the Business Academy who chooses the Marketing Pathway will take Marketing I, Marketing II, and Marketing III during those years. Those three classes are the only academy focused classes a student takes. The academies and pathways are NOT what used to be called "vocational school," and a student is not deciding on a career path when he or she chooses an academy. Rather, this structure provides an opportunity for our teachers to get to know your student well through a consecutive sequence of classes, and for your student to experience real-life connections with the academic skills they are developing at school.

Remember - even if you do not pick the IBDP Academy, you can still take IB classes, and separate and apart from IB options, there are honors/advanced academic options for almost every academic content area.

Teachers are also assigned to academies. That enables them to co-plan so that whether your student is in Math or English or Science, there are cross-content connections that make what students are learning much deeper and more engaging.



Is IB the only way to do advanced academics?

No! This is one of the common misconceptions about Hillsboro. First, every student at Hillsboro is an IB student. We are an IB World School (one of very few in the region). That means our entire faculty is trained in the IB methodology and approach, and you will see evidence of that in many ways across our school. We also operate both the IB Middle Years Program (which all 9th and 10th graders participate in). From there, we have three additional options if your student wishes to continue on an IB-intensive pathway:

- IB Diploma Programme (IBDP). This is the most rigorous of the pathways. Students are enrolled in all IB classes for all areas of study. If they select this option, they will be part of the IBDP Academy. Depending on the college and the score they earn on their final IB tests, students can earn college credit for IB classes.
- IB Career-related Programme (IBCP). This is for students who want rigorous, IB options but who may not want to take IB-level classes for every subject area. In this instance, they will enroll in either our Global Health Sciences or Business Academies but take classes in both that academy and the IBDP Academy. Depending on the college and the score they earn on their final IB tests, students can earn college credit for IB classes.

It's important to understand that IB classes are NOT the only advanced academic classes offered at Hillsboro. We offer honors classes for most content areas. We also offer many Advanced Placement (AP) classes (like IB, AP classes are college level courses where students can earn college credit) and a number of dual-enrollment classes (where a student takes a college-level course and earns college credit while still in high school). Honors, IB, AP and dual enrollment classes are open to any student who wishes to take them.

In addition, Hillsboro also offers the Interdisciplinary Science & Research (ISR) program. This is a great program for students who are willing and able to pursue science at a high level. ISR is a sister program to the School for Science and Math at Vanderbilt (SSMV). Both are collaborations between the Vanderbilt Center for Science Outreach and MNPS. For more information about ISR click [here](#).

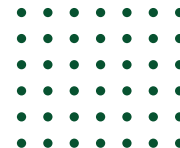
Bottom line, few schools in Nashville offer a greater selection of advanced academics than Hillsboro and unlike many, our courses and programs are open to any student willing and able to put the effort in.

My child is a senior. She/he needs help navigating the college application and selection process. Who should they talk to?

Every Academy Counselor will be meeting with his/her seniors at the beginning of the year to talk about the college application process and to share resources the school has to assist families with this important decision.

Additionally, we are thrilled to welcome Mrs. Gilmore (Angela.Gilmore@mnps.org) who is a full-time college and career counselor – a new position at Hillsboro this year. Ms. Gilmore is an additional resource available to students to help navigate this process.

We also have many college recruiters who visit campus. Students should be listening for these opportunities. Information about upcoming college visitors can be found on the Hillsboro Library website (www.burrolibrary.com). We also will be hosting a College Fair on October 19th and another college & summer employment fair in the Spring.



My student is sick. What do I do? Who do I notify?

Attendance matters at Hillsboro! Students should only miss school if absolutely necessary. Moreover, if you are absent, it is important to bring in doctors notes or other excuse notes or your student could be at risk for truancy actions.

If your student is sick, they should email their teachers directly to let them know. They are also responsible for checking on Schoology or with the teacher about work they are missing and how to catch that up.

Additionally, when they return to school, any excuse notes should be given to our Attendance Clerk, Ms. Majors. Ms. Majors' office is in the Attendance Office (also known at the Business Academy Office). Her email is Wendolyn.majors@mnps.org. We encourage students and parents to regularly check attendance records on **Infinite Campus** to ensure absences are recorded correctly. If they are not, students or parents should contact Ms. Majors.

I need to pick my student up early for an appointment. How/where do I sign them out?

Students must be signed out in the Main Office by a parent or guardian

My student is late. Where do they go? Do I need to come in or send a note?

Students sign in at the Attendance Office/Business Academy Office. This office is to the left once students enter the rear lobby from Burro Boulevard (near the cafeteria). Parents do not need to come in with students. Parents can send in a note if they are tardy because of an appointment.

My student is getting his/her learner's permit. How do I get the required paperwork?

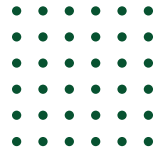
Students can obtain paperwork from Ms. Majors in the Attendance/Business Academy Office as long as they are a student in good standing (i.e. passing at least half of their classes and not on an attendance plan or considered truant). Please be aware that state law requires 30 days of school records so these forms are not available until after Labor Day.

My student turned 16. How do they get a parking spot?

We have ample student parking available on campus but you must be 16 and register for a parking permit. See Ms. Bassham in the AGHS Office on the 3rd floor.

My student is interested in playing sports. Where do they find information about try outs, contact information, etc.?

Hillsboro's athletics program is one of the best in the city. We offer a host of school and club sports. Information about Fall sports is included in this packet, but real time information is also available on the PTO website at www.wearehillsboro.com/athletics/. You will find contact information for all coaches there as well as tryout information and more.



Additionally, Hillsboro broadcasts a weekly announcements video about all kinds of extracurricular activities, including team tryouts.

What clubs/extracurriculars are offered at Hillsboro and how do students get involved?

One of the great parts of Hillsboro is that there is something for everyone here – from sports to music and the arts and everything in between. In total, we have 50+ extracurricular activities. We also make it easy for all students to participate by having a longer lunch block during which many clubs meet. We strongly urge all students to join and participate in one of our many clubs/activities. A current list of clubs and sponsors is included in this packet but a real-time list is always available on the PTSO website at www.wearehillsboro.com/clubs-organizations/. Additionally, Hillsboro broadcasts a weekly announcements video about all kinds of extracurricular activities, including club meetings.

How do laptops work at Hillsboro?

Every student will be issued a laptop during the first week of school. That laptop is their responsibility for the balance of the school year. Students should bring their school-issued laptop to school each day as they are used in most classes for classwork, tests, etc. If you have trouble with your laptop, go to the Tech Center or the Library for assistance. The Tech Center is located on the 2nd Floor next to the Library.

Should students bring their laptops to school every day?

Absolutely yes. We are proud to now be a 1:1 school. Every student in the building having their own laptop opens up so many important opportunities for students and teachers alike. They can take notes on their laptops, keep up with assignments digitally, follow along to presentations on their laptop, and much more. Also, teachers will often use laptops as part of their lessons, like administering assessments facilitating group work. Students should bring their computer to school every day fully charged and plan to use it as their primary learning device. In addition, they will often have access to e-textbooks rather than old-school textbooks they have to lug to and from school.

One thing that is important is that students will need to learn strategies for keeping digital work organized on their computers so they can find what they need when they need it. This is a challenge for many students, but a deeply valuable lesson to learn for their long-term success.

Are there school supplies students need to buy/bring on the first day?

In high school, school supplies are minimal and will mainly be issued by your student's teachers. In the first week of school, teachers will review the syllabuses for their classes and discuss any other recommended or required resources. Bottom line - there is no need to purchase school supplies before the beginning of school. The most important tool is the school-issued laptop, so they should bring that along with a notebook and pen/pencil to write with.

What is the dress code at Hillsboro?

While Hillsboro does not require students to attend in Standard School Attire as many other schools in MNPS require, we do have a dress code. If you violate the dress code, you will be asked to change, call home and/or visit the clothes closet. Some specific dress code guidelines include:

- Shorts/skirts should be an appropriate length (i.e. fingertip length).
- Tears/holes cannot be above fingertip length.
- There can be no visible undergarments, tube tops or crop tops of any kind.
- There can be no inappropriate images on clothing (i.e. offensive, illegal, etc.).

I need help figuring out where my child can catch the bus. Where can I find that?

You can contact the Family Information Center for all of your transportation needs. They can be reached by phone at 615-259-4636 or by email at familyinfo@mnps.org. You can also access MNPS' "find your bus stop" information at https://www.mnps.org/students-families/services/transportation/find_my_bus_stop.

Additionally, all MNPS students enrolled in grades 9-12 can ride the *WeGo Public Transit System* at no cost. You simply need your student ID, which will be distributed in the first two weeks of school. Visit www.wegotransit.com for more information about bus routes.