

HARDIN VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK

2019 – 2020

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

At Hardin Valley Elementary School, we will enable our students to achieve academic excellence, reach high expectations, and display respect within a safe, nurturing, and structured environment.

HARDIN VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

11445 Hardin Valley Road

Knoxville, TN 37932

Dr. Sunny Poe – Principal

Kristi Whited - Assistant Principal

Dr. Stephanie Taylor - Assistant Principal

Dr. Karen Sharpe - Assistant Principal

Phone (865)-470-2088 Fax (865)-560-1480

<https://www.knoxschools.org/hardinvalleyes>

A. WELCOME

Welcome to Hardin Valley Elementary School! We are so excited to begin another year! Our administration, faculty, and staff are committed to providing the best education for all of our children. We are thankful for the support of our parents and community who help us to create an environment where all children can learn and feel valued.

B. ATTENDANCE

It is important for children to be in school every day, unless they are sick. The day begins at 7:45 a.m. Your child should be in his/her seat and ready to begin the day at this time. Children must be in school three hours and thirty minutes to be counted present for the day; however, our normal day ends at 2:45 p.m. Students who have perfect attendance at the end of the school year will be given special certificates at Awards Day.

Tardiness causes students to miss vital instructions and explanations at the beginning of the day. Traffic is always heavy from 7:20 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. and will not be exempt from tardies. Parents of students arriving at school after 7:45 a.m. must accompany their child to the office and sign their child in to school. Teachers will not be required to go over instructions for students with unexcused tardies. A pattern of routine early checkout is educationally inappropriate as well, and will be addressed as a tardy situation. If tardiness becomes habitual, the principal and/or social worker will contact the parents of the student, and steps must be taken to correct the problem. More than 3 tardies or early check-outs during a nine-week grading period will negatively affect perfect attendance awards.

Knox County Board of Education policy allows students' absences from school to be excused only for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness
2. Illness of immediate family member
3. Death in the family
4. Extreme weather conditions
5. Religious observances
6. School sponsored or school endorsed activities
7. Military active duty/deployment
8. Summons, subpoena, or court order

Any absence not complying with the above reasons for excused absences will be considered as unexcused. Knox County Board of Education further states, "A student may be absent, due to illness, no more than ten (10) days per school year with written parent excuse(s). Beyond ten (10) days per school year, a medical statement will be required."

Excuses for absences must be made in writing to the school by a parent or guardian and must be submitted within five (5) days of the student's return to school. Students' unexcused absences are reported to Juvenile Court.

A student who will be absent for 11 days or more due to illness or injury may receive homebound instruction. Parents should contact the school for information regarding the procedure to follow.

Makeup work: If a student must be absent for any reason, excused or unexcused, makeup work should be provided to students when they are absent. A reasonable amount of time should be given for the return or makeup work. (ex 2-3 makeup days). Please refer to KCS Board Policy J-120 Attendance.

C. ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Students who arrive between 7:00 and 7:35 a.m. report to their classroom hallway or to the cafeteria for breakfast. Students are dismissed from the hallway beginning at 7:35 a.m. All students must be in their classroom before 7:45 a.m.

Dismissal time starts with our buses loading at 2:40 p.m. Car riders will collect in the gym and will be dismissed after all buses have left the school (approximately 2:45 p.m.). We will provide each family with a brightly colored GREEN sign (you may request duplicates) with your child's name on it to place in your dashboard. This will help keep the flow of traffic moving at dismissal, as we call your child's name on the walkie-talkie to come out from the gym and stand at an assigned cone. If you forget your GREEN sign, you will be asked to show identification in the office in order to pick up your child. All students should be picked up or on their way home by 3:00 p.m. – unless they have after school activities (after school daycare, tutoring, etc.). An after school child care program is available at the school. Please call the office for details.

If your child needs to change his/her method of getting home (i.e. from bus to car rider; or to go home with another parent), a signed and dated parent note should be delivered to your child's teacher that morning. The student will **NOT** be released to another adult unless written permission from the parent or guardian is provided. We do not take phone calls asking to change your child's method of getting home, due to enrollment size and security issues.

Prior to dismissal time, all students must be signed out in the office before leaving school. Again, it is possible that we may ask to see proper identification. If you check your child out of school earlier in the day, please come to the office, not the classroom, and we will call your child down from the classroom. Due to dismissal preparation and students transitioning to various places within the building, making it difficult to communicate with classrooms, no early student checkouts will be allowed after 2:15 pm, except for emergencies. Please plan accordingly. Otherwise, you will be expected to wait outside until 2:45 pm for normal dismissal procedures. Also, a pattern of routine early checkout is educationally inappropriate for children, and will be addressed as a tardy situation.

D. TRAFFIC PLAN

The drop off and pick up area for car riders will only be allowed along the upper driveway off Hardin Valley Road at the top of the hill. As you can see by the map at the end of this handbook, this drive, adjacent to the parking lot, will be one-way throughout the school day. Parents are not to let students exit the car until they reach the drop-off area near the front entrance of the school where assistance from safety patrols/school personnel will be given by opening car doors. These cars will be given priority right of way over cars exiting the parking lot. No cars will be permitted to turn left off of Steele Road into the main parking lot. Cars will be able to turn left into the back parking lot. At

no time should students be dropped off or let out of cars in the parking lot area of the school. Parents need to park the car in a striped parking slot, and then personally escort students across the crosswalk to the sidewalk in front of the school. For the safety of all students, please study carefully the map at the back of this handbook, and use the designated drop off lane each and every morning. Please also refrain from parking in the handicap spots unless you have a handicap license. These spots are used every day and should not be used as a quick means for dropping your child off at school.

E. BUS TRANSPORTATION

Bus transportation is provided for children who reside in the Hardin Valley Zone and who live at least one mile or more from the school. Bus service is provided to and from the student's residence only. A schedule of routes and stops will be posted near the front doors of the school and will be available on the website. The Supervisor of Transportation, who you may reach by calling 594-1550, arranges these schedules.

Riding the bus is a privilege, and students riding the bus should know that this experience is an extension of the school day. Therefore, bus riders are expected to follow the rules and regulations regarding safety and behavior on the bus and at all bus stop locations. Assigned school personnel will be on duty at the school to meet the buses each morning and to monitor boarding of the buses at dismissal time. Buses load and unload at the back of the building, our designated bus loading and unloading area. Parents should not drop students off at the designated bus loading area. Remember, the drop off area for car riders is at the front entrance of the school, as described in our traffic plan map, located at the back of this handbook. Anytime a student needs to ride a bus other than his/her assigned bus, a dated, signed note from the parent or guardian must be sent to the principal before the change may occur. Space must be available on the bus and both the principal and bus driver must agree to the change. The note is good for one day only and must state the bus #'s for both morning and afternoon routes. This policy will be strictly enforced; students will not be allowed to ride another bus without a parent/guardian note.

Each bus is equipped with video cameras that face the children as well as the driver. As a parent, you can also track the location of your child's regular in-zone assigned school bus. Not every bus has this feature, but some do. The information can be found at "SafeStop" on your Apple or Android device and can be downloaded as a free app. You can also access SafeStop on the web at safestopapp.com. You will need to create an account by selecting "Create Account", enter your information, and search for your school or district using your ZIP/Postal Code. Additional steps include:

- Locate and select **Knox County Public Schools** from the list provided.
- Enter in at least one valid Student ID to complete your secure registration.
- Don't know your Student ID? Please reach out to your school administrators.

Buses are contracted through Knox County Schools. The only control the school has is over student discipline. For all other issues, please contact the Transportation Department directly at 594-1550.

F. VISITORS

A Photo ID will still be required to enter the building. Office staff will have to check everyone in at the front office for lunches and volunteering, and often compare it to our emergency cards. This can be a very time-consuming process but clearly worth the effort, and we ask for your patience and cooperation in advance. Volunteers for the classrooms must still be screened and must be scheduled by the teachers in advance. Knox County Schools has a process for background checks for volunteers in the schools that is required. Please, no “drop-in” volunteering, as it would require the office to interrupt the teacher to approve a visit.

G. DRESS CODE & POLICY

The standards for elementary school dress reflect “common sense” and a concern for each child’s comfort, safety, cleanliness, and sense of modesty. There is a strong relationship between neat, appropriate attire and a positive learning environment. Apparel or appearance which tends to draw attention to an individual rather than to a learning situation must be avoided.

To help create the best possible learning environment for elementary students, the following standards for student dress must be observed in all Knox County Elementary Schools:

1. Pants must not sag below the waist and must be at a safe length.
2. Head apparel, except for religious or medical reasons, must not be worn inside the school building.
3. Footwear is required and must be safe and appropriate for indoor or outdoor physical activity.
4. Clothing or accessories may not display offensive, vulgar language or images, and must not advertise products which students may not legally purchase.
5. For students in Grades 3-5 “Short shorts,” miniskirts, and skin-tight outer materials such as spandex are inappropriate attire.
6. For students in Grades 3-5, shirts, blouses and dresses must completely cover the

abdomen, back, and shoulders, and shirts or tops must cover the waistband of pants, shorts, or skirts, with no midriff visible.

The school administration reserves the right to determine whether a student’s attire and appearance is within acceptable limits. In matters of opinion, the judgment of the principal/designee shall prevail. The principal may allow exceptions for school-wide programs or special classroom activities. The teachers and the principal will administer appropriate consequences for policy infractions.

H. DISPENSING OF MEDICATION

As a general policy, medicines are not administered to children at school. However, in special circumstances a *Medical Information Form* may be obtained by parents from the school office. This form should be filled out by both the parent and the physician prescribing the medication for the child. Once completed, the parent must bring the form and medication to the school office and arrangements will be made for

the school nurse or a teacher to administer the medication at the prescribed time. Under no circumstances should a student transport medication to school.

I. SCHOOL CLINIC

Hardin Valley Elementary School is very fortunate to have a school clinic available to all students staffed by a full-time nurse. If emergency medical treatment is necessary, the parents will be contacted. If it is determined that a child is ill (fever, vomiting, severe headache) the parent will be notified and will be expected to pick the child up. Please make sure up-to-date emergency information is on file at the school office. Your child must be fever and vomit free for 24 hours before returning to school.

J. SCHOOL DISCIPLINE PLAN

The entire staff of Hardin Valley Elementary School is committed to establishing an atmosphere throughout our school in which children will feel safe, secure, happy, and have a maximum opportunity to learn and achieve. Students who follow classroom and school rules are kind and considerate of others, and perform to the best of his/her ability. In order to accomplish this, it is necessary to have established rules and guidelines for students.

The following discipline plan has been implemented and students are expected to follow this simple, yet structured discipline plan so that they, parents, and teachers know exactly what is expected from day one. At the beginning of the school year, each grade level will also send home its specific expectations for classroom behavior, as well as a system of rewards and consequences. Please discuss these with your child.

1. Listen to and follow directions and first requests of all school personnel (principal, teachers, aides, cafeteria workers, clinic workers, custodians, parent volunteers and bus drivers).
2. Speak positively to and about fellow students.
3. Respect the rights, space, and property of others. Bullying will not be tolerated in any form or to any degree at Hardin Valley Elementary School. Please refer to Board Policy J-211 that is also included in this handbook.
4. Use appropriate language and manners.
5. Walk at all times and remain respectfully quiet in the hallways.
6. Follow all rules posted in special areas (cafeteria, Encore classes, bus) and in the classroom.
7. No toys or other distracting items are allowed at school.

If an issue arises, please begin with the teacher first. Majority of issues can be handled by speaking with the teacher prior to contacting an administrator. After speaking with the teacher and the issue still remains, please contact an administrator to then set up an appointment.

The KCS Bullying Policy (J-211) is attached for your reference. Below is another table for reference that describes the differences between bullying and other behaviors.

Conflict	Rude	Mean	Bullying
Occasional	Occasional	Once or Twice	Is REPEATED
Not planned; in the heat of the moment	Spontaneous; unintentional	Intentional	Is planned and done on purpose
All parties are upset	Can cause hurt feelings; upset	Can hurt others deeply	The target of the bullying is upset
All parties want to work things out	Based on thoughtlessness, poor manners or narcissism	Based in anger; impulsive cruelty	The bully is trying to gain control over the target
All parties will accept responsibility	Rude person accepts responsibility	Behavior often regretted	The bully blames the target
The effort is made by all parties to solve the problem			The target wants to stop the bully's behavior, the bully does not
Can be resolved through mediation	Social skill building could be of benefit	Needs to be addressed/should not be IGNORED	CANNOT be resolved through mediation

K. BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAMS

Knox County Schools Food Service Department provides nutritional breakfasts and lunches for students. Breakfast is served from 7:15 a.m. until 7:35 a.m. Prices are set by the Knox County School System Food Services Department.

Students are assigned a "PIN" (personal identification number) that is used daily to account for breakfast/lunch usage/payment. This PIN tracks the student's individual cafeteria account. Parents may deposit as much money in the child's account as they wish, but we do encourage parents to pay for at least one week's worth of lunches at one time. There is an online option available to deposit money into your child's lunch account. Information about this can be found at www.K12paymentcenter.com.

Each child with extra money in hand is asked by a cashier if they want the change deposited in their account or change back. We encourage all accounts to be cleared by the end of the year. No deposits will be taken into the accounts during the last week of school. We give students fair notice when their account is approaching zero.

We discourage parents from sending in fast foods and carbonated drinks. Nutrition promotes better learning abilities. We serve healthy, nutritious meals, and we encourage your child to eat breakfast and lunch with us. Lunch prices will be announced each year in the principal's welcome letter.

L. CAFETERIA BEHAVIOR & VISITOR PROCEDURE

The procedure for eating lunch with your child is important to understand, due to security, and seating availability.

- All parent visitors for lunch will be required to check out their children from school, and then re-check them in after lunch only if leaving the campus.
- Due to very limited space with every table and seat being utilized by classrooms, the only available seating for parents during lunch time will be the picnic tables situated outside of the cafeteria. After eating, you will have to come around the building to the front to re-enter and check in your child. Teacher aides will not be able to open the outside cafeteria doors for parents and children to re-enter due to security reasons.
- We are sorry, but no parent will be allowed to walk a child back to the room along with the class.
- Again, due to increased enrollment and limited available seating, parents wishing to bring pre-school aged siblings will be limited to Fridays only. This is necessary due to limited available seating for parents.
- Parent visits for lunch (with the exclusion of Kindergarten-K teachers will notify K parents when they can join their child for lunch) will start August 20 (2 weeks into school) and end May 8th (2 weeks left of school). This is necessary as we are getting the children familiar with routines and rules in the cafeteria the first couple of weeks. The last couple of weeks of school are extremely hectic, as there are several end of year events in which parents are invited to attend (ex. Field days, Awards, Class Parties, etc).

We will go over complete cafeteria procedures with the children the first few days of school. Lunchtime is NOT recess time, and we only ask that our students behave as they would at the dinner table at home, with **four easy rules**:

1. Don't yell or scream.
2. Don't play with or throw your food.
3. Stay seated, respect others' space, keeping your hands and feet to yourself.
4. Be nice to others.

We are making every effort to offer your child a safe and pleasant dining experience. With 300-plus kids eating at one time, we strive to establish an atmosphere where we have control of the noise level for safety reasons, yet we have a pleasant

place for our kids to relax and eat. We ask your cooperation by following the cafeteria visitation procedures outlined below:

1. All visitors MUST check out your child in the office if you are joining them for lunch. There you will receive an identification tag to wear during your visit.
2. Take a seat in the lobby and wait for your child's class to file by on the way to the cafeteria. Lunch times are consistent. You may join your child in the line at that time.
3. The picnic tables outside of the lunch room are the only available seating.
4. Again, due to rising demand, share outdoor tables with other families as necessary.
5. Teaching assistants will administer discipline in a persistent and consistent manner, and are acting directly under the principal's authority. Please support their efforts to maintain a safe and orderly environment.
6. Appropriate cafeteria behavior is expected and required from all students, including students seated at the picnic tables on the patio. No children will be allowed to run about during lunchtime, and are under the direct supervision of you, the parent. Please do not put our staff in a position requiring discipline intervention. Younger siblings must be similarly well behaved and under your control at all times on Fridays.
7. While dining outdoors, please understand that we will not be able to open the outside door to re-enter the school due to security reasons. You will have to walk your child around to the front of the school and check them back in at the office.
8. Students are not allowed to go back into the cafeteria to retrieve "forgotten" items, such as condiments, eating utensils, ice cream, etc. Do not go to the patio until you are sure you have everything needed. Please do not ask a teaching assistant or a volunteer parent to bring items to the patio. They have their hands full dealing with the children's tables.
9. After you bring your child back in the front doors, please say your goodbyes there.

M. FREE AND REDUCED MEAL APPLICATIONS

If you need assistance with your child's lunch or breakfast costs, there is a program for free or reduced prices, which may benefit you. Information on how to apply online is being sent home in a separate flyer. The information to apply can also be found on the Knox County Schools website under For Families and then School Nutrition. If your income status happens to change during the school year, you may apply anytime online.

N. SCHOOL FEES/ FEE WAIVERS

School fees for each child will be \$25.00. Please make every effort to have fees paid by the end of the first grading period. Forms are available to apply for Free or Reduced Lunch and/or Fee Waiver, if you so choose. As school fees are used to purchase supplies and materials that all students use on a daily basis, we strongly encourage all parents/guardians to pay the assessed fee. Without this fee we are

unable to provide the much needed supplementary materials and supplies that enhance student learning each and every school day.

O. FUNDRAISERS

Our school will officially sponsor one major fund-raising campaign each year. This annual fundraiser will begin in September. The School Coupon Books will be sold by all Knox County Schools during this period. Our school keeps \$8 from each book sold. Our school Leadership Team will determine the use of profits from these sales, and we will publicize this information. Please encourage your neighbors and relatives to reserve their coupon purchases for Hardin Valley Elementary this school year. (note: Hardin Valley PTO may have more than one fundraiser during the school year, for example, the fall “Hoe-Down” and the “Hawk Walk” in the spring.)

P. SCHOOL PORTRAITS

Individual school portraits will be scheduled for fall. Group and individual portraits will be made during the second semester. More detailed information will be sent home at a later date after all plans have been finalized.

Q. TEXTBOOKS

The taxpayers of Tennessee provide our textbooks. Students are fully responsible for the care of all textbooks which are issued to them. Parents will be assessed replacement costs if books are lost or damaged.

R. HOMEWORK

Homework is a valid learning experience and a necessary extension of the school’s educational program. Typically, there might be as much as 10 minutes per grade level of homework per night (example: 2nd grade might be 20 minutes, 5th grade might be 50 minutes). Read carefully and go over with your child the classroom teacher’s policy concerning homework. If your child is completing more homework than stated above, please speak with the teacher.

S. GRADE REPORTING/STANDARDIZED TESTING

Report cards are issued every nine weeks (five school days after the end of the grading period) and are to be signed and returned to school immediately. In addition, mid-term progress reports will be sent home. Grading standards will be given to you by your child’s teacher as per grade level requirements.

T. COMMUNICATION

- **DISTRICT AND SCHOOL WEBSITE** – The Knox County website is www.knoxschools.org, and it has a tremendous amount of information at your fingertips.
- **CLASS NEWSLETTERS** - Teachers will send home regular communication outlining information about the happenings in their room. Please look for a

newsletter or some other approved type of written communication every week or so, based on your grade level's procedure.

- **ASSIGNMENT/BEHAVIOR NOTEBOOKS** - Each homeroom teacher will provide additional, grade-level consistent, means of two-way communication between home and school regarding behavior, assignments, deadlines, and daily instructional plans. Students in grades 3-5 will utilize the assignment notebook, the "agenda," to help them acquire better organizational and time management skills.
- **PARENT PORTAL** - Aspen Family Portal is your online access point for important student information and teacher communication. Every Tuesday the KCS IT Helpdesk sends an email to *ALL* parents who have a valid email listed at their child's school and who do not already have an Aspen Family Portal login. That email contains a link to register for Aspen Family Portal and directions for creating your own login. If your child has been pre-registered, you should start receiving emails in early July when the system is rolled over to the upcoming school year.
- **TAKE-HOME TUESDAY FOLDERS** - Please look for additional information (schoolwide notices, graded papers, PTO information, etc.) to be coming home each Tuesday in this brightly decorated folder. Please return this folder to school the next day so that it can be reused each week.
- **PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER** - This is a weekly email sent by Dr. Poe to the entire parent population. This information can also be located on the Hardin Valley Elementary website under "Announcements from the Principal".
- **HVES FACEBOOK** - New this year we are starting a school Facebook page that will highlight all the fantastic learning and events at school.
- **CLASSROOM OBSERVATIONS** - Parents are genuinely welcome to visit to observe their children's classes. We request, however, that you notify the principal 24 hours in advance of your requested visit and the purpose of your visit. Once approval has been granted by the principal, the principal will then notify the class that you request to visit. On the date of your visit, you must first report to the school office, sign in on the visitor log, and receive a visitor badge. Your visit will be limited to thirty minutes. Such visits are not to be used for unscheduled parent-teacher conferences. Teaching time is valuable and should not be taken from any child or teacher.
- **TELEPHONE** - The school phone is a business phone and is to be used only for that purpose. No student will be allowed to use the phone unless given permission by the teacher or office personnel. A student cannot be called out of class to talk on the phone, except in case of emergency. If you need to speak with a teacher, please call the office and we will forward you to the teacher's voice mail. He/she will return your call, if needed, at the first opportunity, unless it is an emergency. Thanks for your patience and understanding that phone calls during school take time away from the students' instruction, and we must protect our very valuable teaching time. If a student forgets his/her homework/items we will not call and interrupt classroom instruction. The work/items will be put in the teachers' mailbox and given to the student when the mailbox is checked for the

day. The only item we will call the classroom for is a student's lunch or lunch money.

- **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES** - We strongly encourage communication between parent and teacher. In order to facilitate conferences, we ask that you make your request, in writing, to the teacher. Parents are discouraged from calling teachers at home. Your homeroom teacher will invite and encourage you to sign up for a formal Parent-Teacher conference from late September to mid-October, on designated dates.
- **PARENT/GUARDIAN MEETINGS WITH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS**- We kindly ask that if you would like to meet with one of the administrators in the building, please request an appointment along with the nature of your request via phone call, email, or by completing a form in the front office. We will do all that we can to meet at the earliest possible time.

U. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **EMERGENCY CARD** – A “Student Information Verification Form” will come home the first week of school for you to complete. The information completed on this document is used to create an emergency card in the office and the clinic and provides the teacher and administration with contact information. Emails and phone numbers must be updated if they change. If a child becomes ill or hurt, we must be able to contact someone based on this emergency information. If you have child custody information of which you feel we need to be aware, please be sure to provide legal documentation for our files.
2. **SCHOOL MESSENGER** – The information above is used to make an emergency or special notification call to parents on our *School Messenger* mass calling system. In the event of a snow day, an unusual occurrence at school, or even a special upcoming event, you may receive a computerized phone call from the principal or the Knox County Schools Superintendent.
3. **WHAT TO LEAVE HOME** - Anything not needed for class should not be brought to school. Cameras, cell phones, radios, CD players, I-pods, skateboards, pets, candy, gum, trading cards, electronic games, and toys of any kind should not be brought to school unless the teacher gives permission for these to be brought to class only. Anything that tends to distract students from focusing on the teacher and the curriculum is not appropriate for an elementary school environment. Cell phones are inappropriate in elementary school and will be confiscated; however, students can have a cell phone in their backpack, turned off, if needed for after school purposes. Fireworks, firearms, knives, matches, tobacco of all types, alcohol, illegal drugs, and medication (of any kind in the hands of children) are illegal on school property, and possession will result in serious consequences.
4. **FIELD TRIPS** - Teachers are encouraged to incorporate curriculum-appropriate field trips in your child's educational program. Costs of field trips are calculated to pay for themselves, and if for some reason your child does not get to go, the school is unable to refund your child's money. Detailed information will be sent home by the teacher for every field trip. Make sure that your child's written

permission slip is on file one week before the field trip date, along with the money. Students are required to ride the bus both to and from the trip's destination. The Emergency Cards described above will be taken on the trip by the teacher. On the day of any field trip, your child must be at school on time, even if the parent is a chaperone. Official paperwork and checks for buses and venues are written based on attendance in the classroom at 7:45, and tardiness may keep your child from attending the trip.

5. **FIRE/EMERGENCY DRILLS** - The system for exiting the building, as well as other procedures, will be discussed and rehearsed periodically and practiced regularly. These drills should be taken seriously.
6. **EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING** - During inclement weather, and if the possibility of school closing is apparent, do not hesitate to come and pick up your child. It is not necessary to call the office beforehand. We recommend you wait for a School Messenger to be sent out or check with local news stations for the official closing. Be aware that bus routes could be reduced or cancelled due to snow and ice. Refer to the Knox County Schools website. If school is closed, our School Messenger system will be initiated, and you will get a call, based on the information you provided on the *Student Information Verification* form that you will also get at the beginning of the school year.
7. **PTO** - Show your support for the school by joining the PTO. Recognizing that parent and family involvement increases student success, the PTO seeks to help the school reach its objectives in educating our children. The school office can put you in touch with the PTO if you have questions or would like to be involved. You can keep up with the latest PTO news by joining the "Hardin Valley Elementary PTO" page on Facebook.
8. **VOLUNTEERS** – Volunteers are an important asset to our school. Volunteers will be scheduled by teachers based on classroom needs, so be sure to sign up with your child's homeroom teacher at the beginning of each year. Please know that there is a security screening process involved if you want to volunteer in the school, that once completed, is valid for six years.
9. **PARTIES** - Two class parties are planned annually, by the "room parents," with the approval and guidance of the teacher and principal. Requesting birthday parties or delivering balloons, stuffed animals, or any other items to school for your child are educationally distracting and cannot be allowed. We apologize for having to restrict this, but it is simply not logistically practical with our increased enrollment. With prior teacher approval, however, parents may bring an approved, healthy treat to be shared at lunchtime.
10. **SCHOOL COUNSELOR** - We have a trained school counselor here five days per week to do classroom, small group, and individual counseling with students. Please contact the office if you desire a parent conference or consultation, and she will return your call.
11. **LOST and FOUND** - We maintain a lost and found at our school. Many expensive and useful items are left in our lost and found. Due to sheer volume, we donate all leftover items to charity at the end of each semester. Be sure to label all clothing and personal items with your child's name.

V. AWARDS

The following awards will be given at the end of each grading period for grades 1-5:

- **A-E Honor Roll**-This award is given every 9 weeks to any student who received ALL A's in both academic classes and encore classes as well as ALL E's in behavior. For the full school year award, the student must earn the A-E honor roll for all four grading periods.
- **A-B (E-S) Honor Roll**-This award is given every 9 weeks to any student who received ALL A's or B's in both academic classes and encore classes as well as ALL E's or S's in behavior. For the full school year award, the student must earn the A-B (E-S) honor roll for all four grading periods.
- **Perfect Attendance**-This award is given every 9 weeks to any student who does not miss a day of school. Tardies and early checkouts will negatively affect student eligibility for perfect attendance. A student can have no more than three total tardies or early dismissals (without doctor's notes) per nine weeks. For the full school year perfect attendance award, the student must earn the perfect attendance award for all four grading periods (this allows a cumulative maximum of 12 unexcused tardies or early dismissals for the full year).
- **Soaring Hawk**-This award is given to one student for each 9 weeks who has shown the most improvement. This student may have made great gains in their behavior or possibly an area of academics. This award is chosen based on teacher discretion. At the end of the school year, the Soaring Hawk award winners from each of the four grading periods will be recognized.
- **Hawkeye**-This award is given to one student for each 9 weeks who has been the best "all around student". This student may be chosen for going out of their way to help a fellow classmate feel welcomed or cared for. This student is always doing their best work and is kind to others. This award is chosen based on teacher discretion. At the end of the school year, the Hawkeye award winners from each of the four grading periods will be recognized.
- **Character Counts:** This award is given every 9 weeks for one of the pillars listed below. Awards are based on teacher discretion. All Character Counts recipients who received an award throughout the year are recognized at the end of the year awards.
 - **Responsibility**-This award is given to two students from each class who show the character trait of responsibility.
 - **Respect**- This award is given to two students from each class who show the character trait of respect.
 - **Caring**- This award is given to two students from each class who show the character trait of caring.
 - **Trustworthiness**- This award is given to two students from each class who show the character trait of trustworthiness.

First through Fifth grades will honor these awards throughout the year. However, additional awards may be given at the discretion of the grade level.