



# TAKE NOTE

The Hill School (540) 687-5897  
www.thehillschool.org

## AUGUST 2024

During the school year, we publish *Take Note* online every Thursday and it is accessible through the Hill School's website (www.thehillschool.org). We notify all parents via email when a new issue is posted.

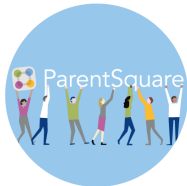
*Take Note* is our primary means of communicating school announcements and calendar items. In addition, it contains community news and classified advertisements. *Take Note* also includes instructions for ordering lunches and items for sale (e.g. yearbooks, Hill School wear such as hats, shirts, or athletic clothing). The deadline for submission of all announcements and/or classified ads is noon Tuesday. You may submit these to [takenote@thehillschool.org](mailto:takenote@thehillschool.org).



### Student registration

Parents received registration forms via email in July. Forms must be completed by **August 16**. If you have any questions, please call (540-687-5897) or email Sarah Schroder ([sschroder@thehillschool.org](mailto:sschroder@thehillschool.org)) or Kelly Johnson ([kjohnson@thehillschool.org](mailto:kjohnson@thehillschool.org)).

For all newly enrolled students, parents must also upload/provide the completed **Virginia School Entrance Health Form** and **Certification of Immunization**, and an **original or certified copy** of the child's birth certificate or **current passport** before the first day of school. (Virginia Law §63.1-196.002).



Hill will be utilizing Parent Square again this year. Parent Square is an app that we use for communicating closings/delays, sporting event changes, etc. If you are a new family—you will receive an invitation from Parent Square with a sign up link.

Please contact Sarah Schroder - [SSchroder@thehillschool.org](mailto:sschroder@thehillschool.org) with any questions.



Reminder: All students in grades 4 - 8 have assigned summer reading. Please see page 5 for an overview.

All rising 7th graders must receive their vaccinations before the start of school. Two are required (Tdap and Meningococcal), one is optional (HPV). Please upload the updated immunization form to the Parent Portal or send/bring it to Silvia Fleming ([sfleming@thehillschool.org](mailto:sfleming@thehillschool.org)).



Parents,  
please join us for a **Welcome Back Breakfast** the first day of school at 8:15 in the theater lobby

*First Days of School*  
*Thurs., Sept. 5 - Regular dismissal*  
*Fri., Sept. 6 - Noon dismissal*

### Please mark your calendar:

Wed., September 11, 6:30 pm – 4 - 8 Parent Dinner, hosted by J.P. Melugin

Wed., September 18, 6:30 pm – JK - 3 Parent Dinner, hosted by Jonathan and Matilda Engle

Sat., September 21, Noon - 4 pm – Hill School Country Fair at the Dornin Science Center (Rain Date: September 28)

Thu., September 26, 7:00 - 9:00 pm – PTC Back to School Night

Wed., October 9, 9:00 am – Hill School Golf Open at Bull Run Golf Club



## REGULAR DAILY SCHEDULES

Students should arrive between 8:10 and 8:20. Students benefit from having time to visit with friends and get organized before their first class.

### **Monday - Thursday School Day Schedule**

JK - 2                      8:30 - 3:00  
Grades 3-8                8:30 - 4:00

### **Friday Dismissals (not 9/6)**

All Grades                3:00

Note: Sometimes dismissal time is later if a class has a field trip, athletic game, or play rehearsal. Later dismissals will be communicated in Take Note and room parent communications.

## TRAFFIC CIRCLES

We ask that drivers operate their vehicles safely and considerately on the campus.

The school has two primary traffic circles for arrival and dismissal – one at the Main Entrance (front porch) and one behind the Art Building. For morning drop off, parents may also use the entrance on top of the hill (Lower School Building).

Please observe the guidelines outlined below.

1. The traffic circles are one way - counter clockwise. Please drive slowly and carefully.
2. Never leave your car unattended or parked on a traffic circle.
3. Watch your speed. Please enter and leave slowly.
4. Pull up as far as you can. Children always leave and enter your car on the passenger side. No child should walk between cars on a traffic circle.
5. Please park your car in the adjacent small visitor parking areas if your child is not ready to be picked up when you reach the head of a traffic circle.
6. Please do not leave your car to assist your children. Faculty/Staff are at each location to help.
7. Please put your cell phone down while in the traffic circle.

### Morning Arrival

- Before 8:10: Please use the Main Entrance; The school officially opens at 7:45 a.m. If you need to drop your child off earlier, please notify Silvia Fleming so that supervision may be arranged.
- 8:10 - 8:30: Families may use any of the three circles: 1. Main Entrance, 2. behind the Art Building, and 3. on top of the hill (Lower School Building).
- After 8:30: Please use the Main Entrance only; students should sign in at the front desk before going to their classrooms.

### Dismissal

All students in Junior Kindergarten through grade 3 will be dismissed from the Main Entrance traffic circle. (JK, Kindergarten and Grades 1 & 2 at 3:00, Grade 3 at 4:00).

Grades 4 through 8 students will be dismissed at the Art Building circle at 4:00 UNLESS they are riding in a carpool with a younger child; these grade 4-8 students will be called to the Main Entrance circle for dismissal.

### Campus Traffic Pattern

From 8:30 until 4:20, the gates between the dismissal circles are closed.

The **Main Entrance** traffic circle is accessible only from and to **South Madison Street**.

For the **Art Building** circle, please enter and exit at **The Plains Road**.

## Late Arrival/Early Dismissal

- ◆ **Students who arrive at school after 8:30 need to be brought to the Main Entrance. Students should sign in at the Front Desk. Students may not proceed to class until they have checked in.**
- ◆ **No student may leave the campus before regular dismissal time without signing out at the front desk. If parents wish to pick their child(ren) up during the school day (e.g. for a doctor's appointment or due to illness), they or their representative should call the front desk upon arrival and the student will be sent to the car once they have signed out.**
- ◆ **Upper School students who wish to walk to town after school (on a regular or occasional basis) need to have parental permission (written or by phone call to the receptionist).**

## ABSENCES

1. In case of an anticipated absence, parents should make certain that the teachers have been informed - either by email or personal contact - at least one week in advance. Teachers, parents, and students will work together in developing a schedule to complete missed school work.
2. In cases of unanticipated absences, such as illness, please call to notify the front desk about the period of absence.

## SICK POLICY

If your child has a contagious or unusual illness, please notify us as soon as possible. Students should stay home if they are sick and should be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school.

Though it is a part of our philosophy that family is more important than school, we ask that you respect the school calendar by avoiding "convenience" absences and that you do your best not to interrupt the flow of the school year unnecessarily - to consider that there is an important difference between missing two weeks of classes for a once-in-a-lifetime tour of India, and departing two days ahead of the start of a school break to get a jump on vacation traffic. In every case, we ask that you attempt to assess the effect of the absence on your child. Many children rely heavily upon established academic routines and upon the social alliances which school engenders and supports.

## LUNCHES/SNACK

While we are using the lunchroom, students will also eat outdoors or in their classrooms for many snacks and/or lunches. Therefore, please be sure to pack lunches and snacks that do not require microwaves. More information regarding lunches for purchase will be sent in September.

## ATHLETIC INFORMATION

### Junior Kindergarten- Grade 3 Sports

Children should bring a designated pair of sports sneakers to be left at school. Clean shoes used only for sports class are necessary for maintaining the gym floor. (Sand from the playground destroys the finish.) Proper shoes help to prevent injuries and allow your child to maximize their skill development. They should also wear comfortable play clothes on the days when their class has sports.

Sports Days:	<i>JK:</i>	<i>Tuesday, Friday</i>
	<i>Kindergarten:</i>	<i>Monday, Wednesday</i>
	<i>Grade 1:</i>	<i>Monday, Tuesday, Friday</i>
	<i>Grade 2:</i>	<i>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday</i>
	<i>Grade 3:</i>	<i>Monday, Thursday, Friday</i>

### Grades 4-8 Sports

#### WHAT TO BRING THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:

Students should bring a pair of well-fitting running shoes. New sports shorts and/or a t-shirt will be available for purchase at the beginning of the year. (Your account will be billed.)

#### SPORTS UNIFORM

Students must have athletic shoes and a sports uniform (Hill School tee and shorts) every sports day, Monday through Thursday. In grades 5-8, a student's preparedness for class counts toward his/her effort grade. (Staff records whether students have the proper shoes and uniform each day.) We request that uniforms be laundered weekly.

4-8 students should have specific shoes for sports to keep in their gym locker - a pair of well-fitting running shoes in excellent condition, and/or sport-specific shoes (e.g., cleats and basketball shoes). Students can also wear athletic shoes to school. Proper athletic shoes help to prevent injuries and allow your child to maximize their skill development. Students run a mile almost every day. Most leg/foot injuries result from poorly fitted or worn-out shoes. Casual sneakers do not provide sufficient support.

**PLEASE NOTE: IF A STUDENT IS UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS, THEY SHOULD PROVIDE A NOTE FROM THE DOCTOR OR A PARENT.**

# APPEARANCE and DRESS

Dress for special events will be announced ahead of time by the school office or by the faculty member in charge of that event. The day-to-day dress code is as follows:

## **Grades Junior Kindergarten - 3:**

Play clothes are encouraged. Suitable warmups and blue jeans are permissible. Shoes should be closed toed and have backs. Platform shoes and sandals are not permitted.

## **Grades 4-8:**

- All clothing should be clean and not ripped, torn, or frayed
- Dresses, skirts, and shorts should be of school-appropriate length (approx. 4" inseam)
- Shirts need not be tucked in, but they must meet waistbands (i.e. no bare midriffs)
- Shoes should be "closed toed" and have backs
- A few items of clothing are not permitted:
  - ⇒ Shirts with very narrow shoulder straps (i.e. "spaghetti straps")
  - ⇒ Clothing with text, logos, or graphics large enough that they cannot be covered by a hand. Exceptions are made for Hill School branded items.
  - ⇒ Clothing with a camouflage pattern
  - ⇒ Athletic clothing (i.e. sweatpants, nylon or mesh athletic shorts, sports jerseys)
  - ⇒ Platform or high heeled shoes and sandals
  - ⇒ Hats may not be worn indoors
- A teacher may request that other items not be worn at school if deemed inappropriate

More detailed information regarding the dress code, including consequences for disregarding it, can be [found here](#).

## **School Supplies**



**JK—Grade 3:** \* Label EVERYTHING with child's name

\* A large, sturdy backpack or book bag that holds everything (folders, books, artwork, and lunchbox)

\* A lunchbox that can also hold snacks or also a separate snack bag; napkins and utensils included

\* A water bottle (spill proof), marked with the child's name

\* Daily snacks (JK, K, and 3rd grade need two daily snacks and anyone staying after 3:00pm will need three snacks)

\* A change of clothes (JK-K need two sets) packed in a labeled Ziploc bag

\* A pair of designated sports shoes

(Teacher may request grade-specific additional supplies, such as a towel to sit on for lunch)

**Grade 4:** Please [Click Here](#) for Mrs. Renneker's letter. Please add a 1-inch binder for Science.

**Grade 5:** Please [Click Here](#) for Mr. Daum's letter

**Grades 6-8:** \* Four 1.5 inch binders with transparent cover sleeves (one for each subject: English, History, Science, Latin or Spanish)

\* 12 Dividers (three for each binder, at least one per binder should be a pocket folder)

\* Pencil/pen holder (incl. pencils and pens)

\* At least 200 sheets of paper

\* For Math: basic calculator, highlighters, 12-inch ruler with inches and centimeters



# HILL SCHOOL SUMMER

## REQUIRED READING

List for Rising 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Graders - 2021

### Grade 3 into 4

Please [click here](#) for a letter from Mrs. Renneker outlining your summer reading requirements.



### Grade 4 into 5

A MINIMUM of six books is required. Book choices should be of an appropriate level. Students need to turn in a typed list of all books they read over the summer on the first day of school.



### Grade 5 into 6 ([click here](#) for writing assignment)

- |                                  |   |   |                  |
|----------------------------------|---|---|------------------|
| <b>Required:</b>                 | <u>Weedflower</u>                       | - | Cynthia Kadohata |
| <b>Plus <u>One</u> of these:</b> | <u>Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH</u> | - | Robert O'Brien   |
|                                  | <u>The Crossover</u>                    | - | Kwame Alexander  |

Students must select at least **three additional books** of their own choice and complete the writing assignments.



### Grade 6 into 7

Read at least 750 pages in books of your own choice. One book must be non-fiction. Take an AR quiz on each of the books. Print out the results and submit on the first day of school. For books without an AR quiz, write a page-long summary and turn it in on the first day of school.



### Grade 7 into 8

- A. **Required for History**      Annie, Between the States      -      L. M. Elliott
- B. 750 pages of Independent Reading. Take an AR quiz on each of the books. Print out the results and submit on the first day of school. For books without an AR quiz, write a page-long summary and turn it in on the first day of school.



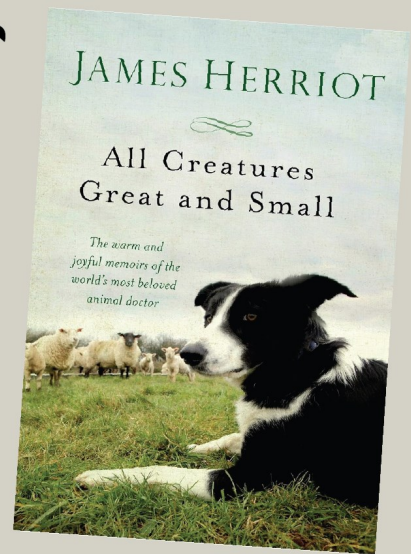
# Book Club

Join fellow Hill adults for a monthly book club. In September we will read and discuss *All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot. In this book, Herriot recounts his time roaming the remote, beautiful Yorkshire Dales, treating every patient that came his way from smallest to largest, and observing animals and humans alike with his keen, loving eye.

**Where:** Alumni Room, The Hill School

**When:** Thursday, September 12, at 8:30 a.m.

Questions? Email Jill Hottel ([jill.hottel@gmail.com](mailto:jill.hottel@gmail.com)).



## THE PTC NEEDS YOU

TO

### HELP COORDINATE FUN FOR THE HILL SCHOOL COMMUNITY

### BECOME AN EVENT CHAIR VOLUNTEER NOW

- **COUNTRY FAIR CHAIR.** Responsibilities include planning and organizing activities, ordering activity supplies, coordinating parent volunteers, securing judges for bake-off, setting up/tearing down.
- **CHRISTMAS PARADE CHAIR.** Responsibilities include coordinating student volunteers riding the float/walking the route, decorating the float, clean-up.

**INTERESTED?** Email Jill Hottel ([jill.hottel@gmail.com](mailto:jill.hottel@gmail.com)) for more information.

# SUMMER CODING CAMP AT THE HILL SCHOOL!

RUN BY  
SILICON VALLEY'S  
#1 KIDS CODING  
PROGRAM!

Sign Up Early  
for \$50 off!  
Use Promo Code  
**CAMPS2024**



## FULL DAY CODE CAMP

August 19-23  
9am-3pm

This full day camp is all about coding games! We'll create projects from scratch, while practicing fundamental coding concepts, learning how to think logically, and having a lot of fun! Using Scratch, MIT's popular drag-and-drop programming language, campers will code cool playable games throughout the camp week!



DETAILS AND REGISTRATION ONLINE

[ashburn.thecoderschool.com/#camps](https://ashburn.thecoderschool.com/#camps)  
e: [ashburn@thecoderschool.com](mailto:ashburn@thecoderschool.com) p: (571) 918-4604

the **coderschool**  
learn to code. change the world.



# JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28TH AT 6:00 PM

Dear Hill Community,

As a new school year starts, we are looking forward to our Guatemalan Cultural Exchange.

This Fall we will welcome carefully selected young ambassadors who will participate in school and present cultural projects from their country, while they share with our student body and develop friendships.

If your family would like to live a culturally enriching experience by hosting a Guatemalan ambassador at home for 7 weeks, we invite you to learn more about the program.

[REGISTER FOR MEETING \(CLICK HERE\)](#)

**Save the date!**

**Informational Meeting:  
Host a Guatemalan  
Student for 7 Weeks**

**Wednesday, August 28th**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Zoom Meeting ID:  
849 2829 7971  
Passcode: 924955**

**isabella.cardona@facesandcultures.com** **+(502) 4149-1947**

**FACES & OUR CULTURES**  
EMPOWERING THEIR FUTURE

If you cannot attend the meeting, you can [request more information here](#) or reach out to our Faces Contact: Isabella Cardona at [isabella.cardona@facesandcultures.com](mailto:isabella.cardona@facesandcultures.com).





THE HILL SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
PRESENTS THE ANNUAL

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# HILL SCHOOL OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 9 AM START  
BULL RUN GOLF CLUB

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REGISTER HERE - [HTTPS://2024-HILL-SCHOOL-OPEN-GOLF-TOURNAMENT.EVENTLIFY.COM](https://2024-hill-school-open-golf-tournament.eventlify.com)

# HP SOCCER FOUNDATIONS

FALL  
CLINICS!

IGNITE YOUR CHILD'S LOVE FOR SOCCER!  
*TAILORED FOR SPECIFIC AGE GROUPS.*

LOOKING FOR AN ENGAGING WAY FOR YOUR CHILD TO DEVELOP ESSENTIAL SKILLS? OUR PROGRAM FOCUSES ON RUNNING, KICKING, AND COORDINATION THROUGH AGE-APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES & NON-COMPETITIVE GAMES. KIDS BUILD CONFIDENCE, SOCIAL SKILLS, & A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE SOCCER DEVELOPMENT. ENROLL TODAY & WATCH YOUR CHILD THRIVE!

**LOCATION** *THE HILL SCHOOL - RECESS FIELD*

**DATES** *WEDNESDAYS / SEP. 18 - OCT. 30*

**AGE GROUPS** *KINDERGARTEN - 3RD GRADE*

*(MULTIPLE CLASSES)*

**LEARN MORE & REGISTER TODAY!**

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SPORTS**





MIDDLEBURG MUSIC FEST  
INTERNATIONAL

Friday, August 23rd, 6 pm

The Hill School, Sheila C. Johnson Performing Arts Center

130 South Madison St. Middleburg, VA, 20117

Dear Friends,

The Foundation presents an exciting piano recital, featuring three outstanding young artists, pianists Neel Perdue, William Hsieh and Matthew Chang. We seek to bring highest-caliber live music performances to the historic Town of Middleburg and hope you will join us on this memorable occasion.

RSVP



[middleburgmusicfestival.org/events](http://middleburgmusicfestival.org/events)

Program

- L. van Beethoven Sonata In C minor, Op. 13
- F. Liszt *Gnomenseligen*
- G. Ligeti *Der Zauberlehrling*

Neel Perdue

- W. A. Mozart Sonata K. 332, 1st mov.
- F. Chopin Nocturne Op. 48 No. 2
- F. Chopin Etude Op. 25 No. 2
- F. Chopin Ballade Op. 47

William Hsieh

- L. van Beethoven Sonata Op. 81 a, 1st mov.
- M. Ravel *Scarbo* from *Gaspard de la Nuit*
- F. Chopin Variations on "La ci Darem la Mano" from W. A. Mozart "Don Giovanni"

Matthew Chang

Reception following



Neel Perdue

Neel is a 12-year-old pianist from Ashburn Virginia. Neel started piano lessons at age 4 and since 2018 he has been under the mentorship of Dr. Edvinas Minkstimas at The European Academy of Arts. Neel is a passionate pianist who has perfect pitch and is full of musical ideas. In addition to playing challenging pieces, he loves composing his own music. Neel has been selected first and second prize winner in the Charleston International Competition, first in the Beethoven Young Musician Competition, bronze prize for intermediate star in the Amedeus International Music Award, and most recently second prize in the Marlin-Engel solo performance. He was also invited by the American Prodigy and Progressive Musicians competitions to perform at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall. He was recently selected into Levine Music's competitive Honor's program where he will study with Dr. Artur Alshonov. He is eager to master advanced virtuosic compositions and compete in future prestigious competitions. Neel loves to play a variety of genres of music including classical and Avant garde. Neel loves reading about the great composers and listening to their master pieces. He is the school's concert pianist and loves to perform for his school, community, and family and friends. Aside from piano, Neel loves to compete in local USTA tennis tournaments.

William Hsieh

William began studying piano at age 6 and is a student of Dr. Ivo Kalitchev. He has won top prizes in many competitions, including First Prize and the Kern Foundation Aspiration Award at the 2022 Rosalyn Tureck International Bach Competition, First Prize and the Best Chinese Work at the 2023 International Middleburg Artist Piano Competition, and First Prize at the 2023 Mabin Family Memorial Chamber Music Competition. In 2022, he had his orchestral debut with the Levine Chamber Orchestra at HEARC Theater in Washington, D.C., and performed at Cary Hall in the Dimenna Center for Classical Music in New York. He also performed at the Sabá Anthony Junior Soto in the Conservatoire de Musique in Puerto Rico, and the Kosciuszko Foundations in DC. William has also participated in three editions of the Puerto Rico International Music Festival, where he had the opportunity to have lessons with renowned pianists and pedagogues such as Krzysztof Jablonski, Alexander Kobrin, Stanislav Khristenko and Jose Ramos Santana. Aside from piano, William plays violin and has been playing in the school orchestra. He enjoys studying math and engineering. He is also enthusiastic about serving the community.



Matthew Chang

Matthew Chang, fifteen years old, is studying mainly with Dr. Martin Labazevitch and Prof. Krzysztof Jablonski. Matthew received numerous accolades including winning the Chopin Competition in Hartford, CT, the Rosalyn Tureck International Bach Competition, the Great Washington Steinway Piano Competition, the International Young Artist Piano Competition, the Chicago International Competition, the Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Competition for Young Pianists, and the Kirov International Junior E-Piano Competition. Matthew had his first livestream solo recital when he was eleven years old, and a second one at the Polish ambassador's residence at twelve years old during the Covid-19 Pandemic. In 2022, he had a live performance at the Czech Republic Embassy and also performed two concerts in Seoul, Korea. In the 2022-2023 period, Matthew was among the national finalists in the MTNA Junior Performance Competition, was selected to be one of the semifinalists in the Cooper International piano competition of 2023, and received the Chopin foundation scholarship. In the same year, Matthew performed with the Sinfonia da Camera orchestra with maestro Ian Hobson and appeared on NPR's From the Top. Recently, he received the second prize and special award for the best performance of a Mazurka in the 31st International Chopin Piano Competition in Szafarnia.



MONDAYS

K-2 GRADE  
3:00 PM- 4:00 PM

3-8 GRADE  
4:00 PM- 5:00 PM

10/14/24 - 2/3/24  
No club meeting on school  
closure or early dismissal days

TUITION: \$252  
FOR 12 WEEKS



**THE HILL SCHOOL  
CHESS CLUB**  
SPONSORED BY THE HILL SCHOOL

*Fun is the name of the game...*

...but Magnus Chess Academy also sneaks in a bit of critical thinking, sportsmanship, and patience into chess club!

Each week students of all levels do a fun but challenging lesson with one of our great coaches from our world class curriculum followed by practice games against other students in the class.

Join the 100,000 (and counting!) kids who've learned chess with the official academy of 5x world champion Magnus Carlsen. This in-person club includes online extras like practice tournaments, Chesskid Gold membership (\$49 value) and a bonus lesson with Magnus or Judit Polgar, the best female chess player ever!



To register, scan the **QR Code**  
or visit  
**[www.chessacademy.com](http://www.chessacademy.com)**

Questions or financial aid information -  
email: **[info@chessacademy.com](mailto:info@chessacademy.com)** or call: **703.574.2070**

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