



"When educating the minds of our youth, we must not forget to educate their hearts."  
Dalai Lama

Dear Hooker Oak Community,

Welcome back to a new and exciting 2016-17 school year. It has been an incredible two years here at Hooker Oak and I am confident we are destined for another great year. Our children's' gifts/talents combined with dedication of school staff and supportive parents/community allow us to continue to strive for excellence at Hooker Oak School. As I have said from the beginning, 'It takes a village'. Thank you for all you do to help create the best learning environment for our students.

Our school has experienced several cuts due to our sixth graders moving to the Jr. High. Which impacts our early intervention programs like the Learning Center and our arts programs. One way we can regain some of the funding is by you filling out the free and reduced lunch paperwork supplied in the first day packet paperwork. Even if you do not want to take advantage of this program, just by filling out the paperwork, our school will benefit with receiving extra funding through Title 1 dollars. Currently we are less than 2% away from receiving this additional funding. All information is confidential through the district. You may be receiving a friendly reminder phone call from Pauline, our Targeted Case Manager at the beginning of the year as it is vital that we do everything we can to support our school programs.

We are also requesting your help with school supplies. On our school website: [hookeroak.chicousd.org/](http://hookeroak.chicousd.org/), I have listed by grade level the supplies requested. We will also place a reminder letter in the first day packets. Thank you for your support.

Please join me in welcoming the following staff members to our community.

**Jill Richardson-** Fine Arts Specialist, **Michelle Garcia-** Technology IA, **Patience Hervey-** School Psychologist.

A big thank you to the custodial staff (**Mary Hostick, Austin Robinson, and Kirk Taylor**) for getting our school ready for all our students and staff. The school is looking great.

Please do not request a change in placement as we do not move students unless required for enrollment. Hooker Oak Staff are highly qualified and prepared to assist you in the education of our children. Experience has shown that students adjust to their new teachers and peers quite well. Assumptions made about specific teachers or staff is often misguided. Past, individual interaction and rumors should not be used to judge our staff. Everyone at Hooker Oak is here to support our students and to offer them a positive, nurturing, and productive educational experience. If you have any specific concerns about your child, please first address your concerns with the teacher.

#### **New this year:**

We will be introducing key boarding skills and coding. Fine Arts will now incorporate ceramics. Music will be adding a chorus component for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. There will be some additional changes that we are sure you will find favorable.

## School Involvement:

I am a firm believer that strong parental involvement as well as community/school relationships is an essential ingredient in high student academic achievement. It is very important that parents get involved in children's education by volunteering at the school. This is the reason you signed a two hour weekly commitment per family when you registered your child. We can use parent volunteers at all times in the classroom, office, playground during recess, lunch room, library, special events, PTO, school clean-up and campus beautification. A **"Get Involved"** sheet will be available in the first day packets.

## Personal Property:

The goal of the school is to provide students with a positive and enriching learning experience. Toys, games, trading cards, and other play related items or personal property must be left at home. These items pose a distraction to the teaching and learning process. The district is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.

## School Information:

We will be continue with our goal of going "green" this year. We will be updating our school's website weekly. Please familiarize yourself with our **Parent Handbook** located on our homepage. The Parent Handbook will give you a lot of valuable information to help you with school policies and procedures. You will also find our weekly "Sprouty" (calendar). We will continue to keep our website current. Please visit us at: <http://hookeroak.chicousd.org/>.

## Our Community:

Working together, communicating, and listening to each other will help us build a fantastic atmosphere for our children to grow academically as well as socially. Please feel free to drop by the office anytime. I always enjoy hearing from you about your children. To insure I am available please call Becki and set up an appointment if you have concerns that need to be addressed immediately.

In closing, I am confident that we will experience a positive and enriching school year. Please make sure to review all of the documents in the "First Day" packets. Please send in the emergency cards ASAP so we may update our files. Back to School is August 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00. PTO will also be conducting a Parent Fair the same night beginning at 5:30. Please plan to attend. This is a wonderful way to acquaint yourself with your child's teacher and get involved in our school.

Happy to be back,

Principal Brian



