

2019/2020 South School Fast Facts

School Address and Phone	831 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043 (781) 741-1540 FAX – 781-749-5673
School Website	www.hinghamschools.org . Click on “South” or select “South” from the drop-down menu.
Key contacts	Below is a list of key contacts. Additional contact information can be found on the Hingham Schools website.

Title	Name	Phone	Email
Principal	Mary Eastwood	(781) 741-1540,ext 6	meastwood@hinghamschools.org
Assistant Principal	Lori Jacobs	(781) 741-1540,ext 5	ljacobs@hinghamschools.org
School Secretaries	Pamela Graham	(781) 741-1540,ext 1	pgraham@hinghamschools.org
School Nurse	Carol Lincoln	(781) 741-1540,ext 2	clincoln@hinghamschools.org
School Psychologist	Kim Kerr	(781) 741-1540 ext 4206	kkerr@hinghamschools.org
Adjustment Counselor	Vanessa Bryer	(781) 741-1540ext4207	vbryer@hinghamschools.org
Reporting an Absence		(781) 741-1540,ext 4	
Kids in Action	Jackie Sansone	(781) 741-1540 ext 3	jsansone@hinghamschools.org
Transportation Department	Padraig Cunningham	(781) 741-1510	pcunningham@hinghamschools.org

Email Distribution Lists	<p>Principal’s email distribution: You will automatically be on the distribution list when your child is registered in our X2 system. You would need to notify pgraham@hinghamschools.org if your email changes and/or if you want to add a second email address.</p> <p>PTO Newsletter and Evite distributions: The PTO will be sending newsletters, reminders and event specific invitations, you will automatically receive these communications. Please contact PTO President, Jen Benham, at jenLbenham@gmail.com if you have any questions about PTO communications or would like to volunteer to help.</p>
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School Hours	<p>Regular school hours: 8:50 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (<i>Please do not drop off before 8:35 as we cannot provide supervision</i>) <i>Bike riders and walkers should not arrive at crossing guards before 8:40 as that is when they transition from the early schools.</i></p> <p><i>Please see next page for Early Release Specifics.</i></p>
School Calendar	<p>The School calendar is located on the Hingham Public Schools website.</p> <p>South School operates on a continuous 6 day cycle, beginning with Day 1 and continuing to Day 6. On each day, students may have one of the following “Specials”: Art, Music, Spanish, Computer Science, Gym (students must have appropriate footwear), and Library. (Students may check out books so long as they do not have any books already checked out.) <i>Note: Holidays, snow days, recesses, and weekends do not “count” on the cycle calendar:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: Day 5 on Friday, holiday/snow day on Monday, Tuesday is Day 6
Noon Dismissals	<p>Each month (except September and March this year), typically the first Wednesday of the month (<i>January is the second Wednesday due to New Year’s Day being a Wednesday</i>), South School will have noon dismissals. The purpose of early release is to provide time for faculty meetings, training, and parent-teacher <u>conferences</u> (see underlined dates). You can schedule parent conferences with the school secretary (pgraham@hinghamschools.org). The following are scheduled noon dismissal days for Parent Conferences: <u>(10/2/19, 12/4/19, 2/5/20, 4/1/20)</u> dismissal is at <i>noon</i>, and <i>no lunch is served</i>. On Professional Development Days (11/6/19, 1/8/20, 5/6/20, 6/3/20), dismissal is also at <i>noon</i> and <i>no lunch is served</i>.</p> <p><i>*Dismissal is also at noon on 11/27/19 to begin the Thanksgiving Holiday. The last day of school also usually has a noon dismissal time. This, however, does not become official until after the experience of lost hours due to delays in winter.</i></p> <p><i>Special note about March 3, 2020: The Selectmen have asked that the schools be closed to students as it is Primary Day for the Presidential Election. Therefore, staff will have their March Professional Development as a full day session on that day, and there will be no school for students.</i></p>
Transportation	<p>Bus routes are published in the Hingham Journal in late August and are also listed on the HPS website. Students <i>must</i> ride the bus to which they are assigned. <i>Students may not ride a different bus home with another student without permission of transportation department (781-741-1510) due to space and safety considerations. <u>This is only possible in emergency situations.</u></i> After permission is granted, parents should please write notes to the classroom teacher and the bus driver informing them of this dismissal change.</p>
Drop Off	<p>For safety and traffic flow reasons, all students should be dropped off by the red sign on the sidewalk by the fire station. <i>Please do not drop students off at the main school door unless they are tardy (check in at office) or coming in for early programs. Children are able to go to their classrooms at 8:40; please do</i></p>

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	<p>not drop them off any earlier than 8:35 when teachers begin official duties.</p>
<p>Dismissal</p>	<p>South School students are dismissed in one of the following ways (all supervised by staff) <u>Special Note: Any change from your child's normal dismissal routine requires a note to the teacher and/or a phone call to the office from a parent. Please call before 2:00 PM if possible. Students are not allowed to call home for dismissal changes during the day.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper Main Street Walkers: dismissed through playground and walk down the sidewalk towards Liberty Pole. Kindergarten students should be met by a parent/guardian at the end of the playground driveway (near rainbow). Please wait on/near the red bench. • Lower Main Street Walkers: dismissed to the lower level parking lot along with Special Dismissal Students... All Kindergarten students should be met by a parent/guardian at bus stops or school depending on their dismissal routine. • Bike Riders: Dismissed with Special Dismissal if Lower Main St., dismissed to front hallway if Upper Main St. With parent permission, children may ride their bike to school if they are in grades 4 and 5. Third graders join them after their safety training (Bike Rodeo by Safety Officer) in September (This year it will be Friday, September 13 during the school day.) Teachers will send out information as it gets closer.) All other grades may ride only if they are accompanied by an adult. Children need a change of dismissal note for bike riding as well, and weather determines when we suspend riding for the winter. This will be announced at school and communicated by email. • Bus riders: dismissed to the gym hallway as their bus is called. Kindergarten students are brought down in advance by teachers in their appropriate bus line, and they always board the bus first and sit in the seats behind the driver. Please note that for safety reasons kindergarten students need to be met at the bus stop by an authorized adult, otherwise they will be returned to school, and parents will be notified to come and pick them up. • Please refrain from cell phone use in all pick up/drop off lines. • Special dismissal refers to times when parents/caregivers pick students up by car <i>in the lower Main Street parking lot</i>. You need to send a note to school informing your child's teacher that he/she will need special dismissal that day. Cars typically line up shortly before dismissal. <u>Please put a sign identifying the child's last name in the car window. Please do not get out of your car. We will bring your child to you. Overflow traffic may wait "live" on Loring Hill Road. Please do not block driveways or park on grass. Please do not park there for any other school event!</u> • Liberty Pole Car Loop: for Liberty Pole children only (in the afternoon) due to traffic flow reasons cars must turn right, at the end of our driveway near the fire station. Parents may pick up Liberty Pole children in the upper parking lot. Cars queue up to the red sign across from the Fire Station and take a right into Liberty Pole. Parents also need to send a note informing the teacher that the child will use this dismissal and put a sign identifying the child's last name in the car window. Please refrain from cell phone use in this line. Please do not get out of your car. We will bring your child to you.
<p>Visiting South School</p>	<p>All doors to the school are locked at all times. There is a buzzer located to the left of the main school entrance. There is a second buzzer to the left of the vestibule door. All visitors <u>must</u> report to the school office (located inside the main entrance)</p>

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	to sign in/sign out and obtain a visitor sticker.
Absences	<p>If your child is absent, please do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please call in all absences to the school at (781) 741-1540 (follow prompt for reporting an absence). This extension is available 24 hours a day for your convenience. • If your child arrives at school after 8:50 am, he/she should report to the office accompanied by a parent or authorized adult so that the absentee list can be revised. They will also receive a tardy pass so that teachers will know they are accounted for by office staff.
School Lunch	<p>School lunch is available to all students, <i>with the exception of half-day kindergarten students</i>. Monthly lunch menus are located on the HPS website. The lunch menu also identifies the day of the 6 day cycle. Be aware that a snow day would reconfigure that. Lunch may be purchased by using the POS internet payment system, (You will find directions on the HPS website.) or by sending in \$3.00. Milk and fruit may be purchased separately for \$.50 each, and water may be purchased for \$.75. Regardless of payment method, all children are assigned permanent payment pin numbers. Please be aware that you can enable the POS system to alert you when lunch accounts are getting low, and thank you for keeping an eye on this!</p>
Parking	<p>Parking is an issue due to our limited space. Please adhere to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six short term (30 minutes or less) reserved parking spaces can be used in the main parking lot (four on the right and two on the left). Please do not use these parking spaces if you plan on being in the building for more than 30 minutes. These spots are monitored by office staff. • Please do not park on Loring Hill Road except as “live” for special dismissal. • Please follow the no parking signs posted on Independence Lane. • Please do not park within 15 feet of the fire hydrant in the main driveway. • Please do not park in the driveway where “no parking” signs are posted. • Parking is available at the Lutheran Church parking lot if needed. • During grade level events, staff members are asked to park on the playground to free up more parking spaces. If close neighbors walked to all school events, that would be very helpful. Perhaps people could also find parking sponsors who live nearby, or carpool with neighbors.
Contacting a Teacher	<p>Teachers may be contacted in one of the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By sending an email to a teacher via the Hingham Schools email list. All emails sent to teachers must be sent to their school email address. Example: Jane Smith: jsmith@hinghamschools.org Please check the school’s list on our website for spelling accuracy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – All teachers have email accounts set up using the first initial of their first name, followed by their last name @hinghamschools.org.

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	<p>Thank you for understanding that it may be difficult to respond to communications from parents during the school day as it is a busy one. If you need your child to get a timely message, please call the office and the teacher will receive a direct phone call in the classroom from the office staff.</p>
<p>Teacher Conferences</p>	<p>Teachers in grades K-5 are available for parent conferences during some scheduled early release days. Parents are also welcome to arrange other conference times during the year by contacting the teacher directly to find a mutually convenient time to meet. Official Conference Days for 19-20 are: 10/2; 12/4; 2/5; 4/1. Conferences begin at 12:40, and are scheduled every 20 minutes until 2:20 P.M.</p> <p><i>If you would like to schedule a conference with your child's teacher, please call the school office 781-741-1540 x 1. If the schedule is full, or you would like to arrange one at a different time, contact your child's teacher directly to schedule a mutually convenient time.</i></p>
<p>Back to School Night and Before and After School Programs</p> <p>Other School Events</p>	<p><i>Back to School Nights are scheduled for September 11 (2,4,5) and September 25 (K,1,3). Specific times will be announced for each grade level.</i></p> <p>Grades 3-4 Before School Strings Instruction</p> <p>All Grades: Fly South Enrichment Program- Most Tuesdays and Thursdays 3-4</p> <p>Grades 3-5: Homework Heroes Most Mondays and Tuesdays 3-4.</p> <p><i>Please watch backpacks, email and website for specific information about all programs.</i></p> <p>Many school events take place throughout the year. Parents are informed of these events via School Newsletters, principal's email, and teacher correspondence. Here are a few examples of events by grade where parent attendance is welcome and where parent volunteers are needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindergarten: Alpha Fest (Spring) • Grade 1: School Play (June) • Grade 2: Poetry Festival (May) • Grade 3: Native American Pow Wow (November) • Grade 4: China Trade (May) • Grade 5: Booth Day (May) Farewell Ceremony (June) • School-wide: Field Day (June) <p><i>We also ask that siblings are not dismissed from class for events at other grade levels with the exception of the "Fifth Grade Farewell Ceremony" as it is quite disruptive to the learning process.</i></p>
<p>PTO</p>	<p>We are so grateful for ALL that our PTO does for the SES Village! Please consider volunteering to help. The South School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) meets monthly on Friday mornings. Dates are posted on the PTO website, which can be accessed by clicking on a link from the South School website. For further information and to be included in the PTO listserv, contact Jen Benham, PTO President, at.</p>

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	jenLbenham@gmail.com
Room Parents	To facilitate communication and organize volunteers for classroom and school events, each class has two volunteer room parents. Room parent volunteer forms are distributed the first week of school by the PTO, and these two parents are chosen in a random lottery. There is an informational meeting shortly after the random selection. Throughout the year, you may be contacted by them for certain events etc...
Snow Days	Snow days, delayed school openings, or weather-related early release will be posted on the HPS website and provided to the media. In addition, some Boston radio and TV websites have a school closing email/texting notification process beginning late fall. Select a school district and provide an email address to be notified by text/email of a school closure, delay, or early dismissal due to weather.
Additional Sources of Information	<p>Here are some additional sources of information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• South School Handbook; the handbook is located on the school's website. During the first week of school, parents will receive a form indicating they have read the handbook. This form needs to be signed and returned to school.• South School Directory; the school directory is printed and distributed during October. It contains phone and email addresses of students and is organized by grade and class. Parents may elect <i>not</i> to have information printed in the directory. <i>We thank the PTO for producing this directory!</i>• Hingham Schools/South School website: www.hinghamschools.org. Click on "South".• PTO website: Click on the PTO link on the South School website.