

**HILLCREST MIDDLE SCHOOL
2022-2023
Welcome Back Falcons!**



Vision: *Hillcrest Middle School cultivates an environment where students are challenged to be accountable, honorable, and productive citizens.*

Mission: *Hillcrest Middle School stakeholders will nurture life-long learners by integrating high expectations, modeling good character, and utilizing diverse academic curricula.*

Motto: *Responsible Respectful Ready for the Future!*

Brad Brazell, Principal
HILLCREST MIDDLE SCHOOL
GLENDALE, ARIZONA 85310

Scott Larter, Assistant Principal
ATTENDANCE # 623-376-3390
MAIN # 623-376-3300

***** A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ADMIN TEAM *****

Greetings Falcons!! My name is Brad Brazell and I am the proud, new principal at Hillcrest. I am so excited to get the year started and meet the students and yourself. I am entering my 18th year in education (all in the Deer Valley Unified School District) with the last nine in administration at O'Connor High School. I have been married to my wife for 17 years and have two amazing daughters ages 9 and 13 (yes, I too, live with an 8th grader!).

I can't believe how fast these summers go by! When I was a kid, they seemed to last forever...and I never wanted them to end. Now, as a parent, I'm ready for my kids to head back to school as, I suspect, you are as well. Our teachers, staff and administration are committed to ensuring that you and your child have a wonderful and challenging experience here at Hillcrest to prepare them for the next level of their educational journey.

For our new Falcons (whether they be 7th or 8th graders), we want you to be aware of our New Student Camp taking place on July 27th from 8 to noon. More information is listed below. We look forward to welcoming our new and returning Falcons to school on August 3rd. We also look forward to having our Meet the Teacher Event that will be held on Thursday, August 18th. More information about this event will be given out closer to the date.

We have many different forms of recognition on campus for our students such as Student of the Month, Falcon store coupons (given to those students that go above and beyond to be kind or helpful), Principal Breakfast and Renaissance assemblies to recognize the outstanding academic achievements and talents on campus.

Mr. Larter and myself value communication and want to ensure that your student receives the best education experience in the valley. We want to encourage all parents to work with their student and their teachers to make sure that the lines of communication are always open. Please continue to encourage your student, even if they are challenged in the classroom, to persevere and prepare themselves for high school and beyond. The PTSA does an excellent job in making sure there is a forum for parents to work together to help Hillcrest exceed excellence. As parents, I encourage you to become more involved and join the PTSA.

The information in this newsletter is to help you as the upcoming year approaches. Enjoy the rest of the summer and **GO FALCONS!**

New Student Camp

New student camp is on **Wednesday July 27th from 8 to Noon**. The cost is \$35. Please click on the link for more information (payment info is on page 2 of the link).

New Student Camp Registration Form Link

Hillcrest Middle School Schedule Pick Up

This is a time for students and parents to pick up the student's new schedule, check out the pentathlon table, get athletic information, talk to PTSA, put money on lunch accounts, as well as check the bus route schedule. Meet us in the gym.

Wednesday, July 27th

7th GRADE: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

8th GRADE: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Falcon Store Amazon Wishlist

Hello Falcon Families! Throughout the school year, students have opportunities to earn Kindness Cash that can be used to purchase items in our Falcon Store (every Thursday, during lunches). If you would like to help us celebrate the good our students are showing on campus, you can purchase and donate items for the store. Please visit the link below:

FALCON STORE AMAZON WISHLIST LINK

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/33LVJRTDGUCRK?ref=wl_share

Chromebook protection plan

DVUSD will be offering an [Optional Device Protection Plan](#) for families of 4th-8th graders utilizing take-home devices. Enrollment in the plan is optional with the understanding that if students/parents do not enroll in the protection plan they may carry full liability for the student device (iPad or Chromebook) in the same way they do for other damaged or lost school property, such as textbooks.

The fee for this protection is \$25 per child/per school year.

Parents can purchase the protection plan online at <https://url.dvusd.org/PaymentPortal>.

For students who damage or lose their district technology device, the deductible can be debited to the student's account in *In-Touch* and the parent can pay the fee online.

ATTENTION PARENTS

If you know that your child will not be returning to Hillcrest for the 2022-2023 school year, PLEASE e-mail Renea.Herold@dvusd.org as soon as possible so that we can prepare to send your child's paperwork to the new school.

BELL SCHEDULE!

Here are the bell schedules for the 2022-2023 school year at the following link:

<https://www.dvusd.org/Page/56911> .

We are continuing the PLC early release Fridays for the 22-23 school year. Please check the DVUSD website using this link: <https://www.dvusd.org/Domain/9762> for more information.



WHAT BUS DO I RIDE ?? You can save a lot of time at Schedule Pick-up if you visit <https://www.dvusd.org/Page/208>.

SPECIAL NOTE TO PARENTS

Parents, our front office is very busy and we realize that sometimes students forget things like homework, lunch money, sports equipment, band instruments, PE clothes, cell phones etc. We ask that you remind your students to make sure they have all they need for their day before they leave home. If something is forgotten and you need to bring it to the school, please know that any **homework assignments** will be time-stamped and placed in their **teachers mailbox**. All other items will remain in the office and can be picked up **between classes** or **after school**. This will ensure our students will have a minimal amount of distractions during class time. *Thank you for your cooperation!*

Cell Phones may be used before and after school, in between classes and at lunch only. Cell phones must be turned off and put in their backpacks or purses during class. If your child needs to reach you, or you need to reach your child you may call the front office and your student is welcome to use the phone in the front office.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Any attire that detracts from the learning environment is not acceptable. Students should dress in a manner that, in addition to the following guidelines, takes into consideration the educational environment, safety, health and welfare of self and others.

- Clothing must cover the entire buttocks. Shirts and tops may not expose bare midribs, bare shoulders, nor be deeply or narrowly cut in the front, back, or under the arms. Halter tops, spaghetti straps, and strapless tops are not acceptable. Clothing that exposes undergarments will not be tolerated for males or females.
- Bare feet are never acceptable. In the interest of safety, shoes must be worn at all times. Closed shoes are to be worn for any type of physical activity, such as physical education, cheer practice, weight lifting, etc.
- Jewelry or ornamentation shall not be worn if it presents a safety hazard to self and/or others.
- No hats may be worn inside any campus buildings at any time, except for properly approved occupational safety headgear required for special classes.
- Defamatory writing, obscene language or symbols, or symbols of drugs, sex, or alcohol on clothing or jewelry are expressly prohibited.
- Tattoos displaying defamatory writing, obscene language or symbols, or symbols of drugs, sex, or alcohol must be covered.

Exceptions must be pre-approved by administration.

Students who participate or volunteer in extracurricular activities, such as athletics, band, chorus, etc., are subject to the standards of dress as defined by the sponsors of such activities.

Deer Valley Unified School District places emphasis on monitoring student dress code. If necessary, students will be asked to either change inappropriate clothing using donated shirts on campus, or call a parent to bring different clothing to school. See the SR&R Handbook for consequences. **Thank you for supporting Hillcrest by monitoring dress before the student leaves home.**

P.E. Attire

The Physical Education Department at Hillcrest does not require, but encourages, students who are participating in P.E. have a change of clothes to participate daily in activities. It is suggested that **students wear red or black shorts and a white or gray shirt.**

BACK TO SCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

One of the most exciting things about going back to school is shopping for school supplies. Each teacher will provide a list of **suggested supplies** during the first days of school. However, here are a few **suggested basics** that should take some of the guesswork out of deciding what to buy: notebook with tab dividers, loose-leaf college-ruled note paper (not spiral-bound), pencils and extra erasers, black or blue ballpoint pens, assorted highlighters, and a protractor. All supplies, which are required, will be provided by the Deer Valley Unified School District. At times, we may request community help for various supplies or special activities materials; however, the Arizona Constitution requires that a public education be "as nearly as free as possible." If you have questions concerning supply requests or optional materials, please contact your child's teacher.

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE HEALTH CENTER

Medication Policy: All prescription medications must be stored in the Health Center. Forms are available in the Health Center if medication is needed during the school day. Each bottle of medication must be in the original container and paperwork on file in the Health Center. Inhalers and self-administered "Epi-Pens" may be carried if the proper medication form has been filled out and placed on file in the Health Center. **All over-the-counter medication must be stored in the Health Center. NOTICE:** Medication may not be shared with others. Failure to follow these rules could lead to consequences, including suspension or expulsion.

Immunizations: Students must be current for all immunizations. The appropriate documentation must be in the nurse's office to avoid your student being excluded from school. According to A.R.S. 36-672, any student who does not meet immunization requirements MUST be excluded from school until proper immunizations and documentation have been completed. Any questions about vaccine programs can be directed to the County Health Department at 602-230-5852. **REMEMBER,** we are a **latex free school**. We cannot have balloons, rubber bands, rubber gloves, or other latex products on campus. Thank you for your understanding.

FALCON SPORTS AND PHYSICALS

Hillcrest is offering on-site sports physicals on Thursday August 4th 4:00pm-7:00pm located in the HMS Gym. Doctors from Alpha Med and Physical Therapists from Foothills Sports Medicine will be conducting the physicals from 4:00pm-7:00 pm. Cost is \$20.00. Checks or Cash only. Checks may be made out to Hillcrest Middle School. Students interested in signing up, please do so at this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4babab2da02-2022>

REMEMBER... ALL sports require that Register My Athlete www.registermyathlete.com is completely filled out online PRIOR to tryouts or any non-cut sport. Physicals and brain concussion certificates will be required for all 7th and 8th grade students who are planning on trying out for any sport. Completed Register My Athlete account is required to attend camp, tryout for any sport or non-cut sport. Please see the following Athletic page on the Hillcrest Website for detailed information:
<https://www.dvusd.org/domain/8365>

Fall Sports tryouts start on Tuesday August 16th with Baseball and Softball. Information for camps and tryouts are below. Please listen to the morning announcements and check Hillcrest Happenings on the website for all the up to date information throughout the year.

Spiritline Tryouts

Spiritline tryouts are on August 20th. Please visit the Hillcrest Spiritline page at this link for more information: <https://www.dvusd.org/Page/61923>

Baseball Camp

When: Aug 9th, 10th and 11th (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) from 3-5:30pm.

Where: Hillcrest Baseball fields

Cost: \$30

Requirements: All athletes must complete paperwork in two places:

Register My Athlete: <https://www.registermyathlete.com/>

Camp Sign-Up: Use this this link: [Baseball Registration Link](#) or the QR code below



Baseball and Softball Tryouts

Baseball and Softball tryouts begin on Tuesday August 16th at 3:00pm on the Hillcrest fields. If you are interested in trying out, you must have all the required paperwork and *UPDATED PHYSICAL* uploaded to <http://www.registermyathlete.com/> to be eligible for any of the 2022-2023 teams.

Hillcrest Falcons Athletics Social Media



Hillcrest Athletics

Follow us on Twitter @HMS_Athletics28

Follow us on Instagram @hmsfalconathletics

Join the Hillcrest Athletics Facebook page

2022-2023 Approved Athletic Fees

7th/8th grade athlete: \$60 per sport (\$120 maximum per athlete)

Family: \$300 maximum per family/household*

*A family or family household is defined by the United States Census Bureau for statistical purposes as "a householder and one or more other people related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption."

2022-2023 Middle School Athletic Event Admission Prices

Adults.....\$4.00

All DVUSD students with school ID.....FREE

Family Pass (10 Punches).....\$30.00

Important News from the Cafeteria

[HMS Cafeteria News Link](#)

As of **June 30, 2022** the Federal funding will be changing back to pre-pandemic pricing programs. This means no longer will ALL students receive Free Meals.

DVUSD will be returning to the pricing program and prices are reflected below:

Meal application packets/online will be available for parents/guardians to fill out for the 22/23 school year in early July. The EZMealApp.com site is on the district website. It is important for parents/guardians to fill these out in a timely manner for the new school year. Students will incur charges on their accounts until certified for meal benefits. Meal application packets will be delivered to campuses the week of July 18, 2022 for inclusion in back to school packets/information. DVUSD application packets are available in English and Spanish. Application documents in many additional languages can be found at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/translated-applications> if needed.

Parents/Guardians can add money to their student’s lunch account through EZschoolpay.com or by bringing cash/check to the school cafeteria or front office.

2022-2023 MEAL PRICES (MIDDLE SCHOOL)

BREAKFAST

LUNCH

Student Meal: \$1.50

Student Meal: \$2.95

Adult Meal: \$2.00

Adult Meal: \$4.00

Indiv. Items: A La Carte

Indiv. Items: A La Carte

Safe and Healthy Eating

Please encourage your student/child/or children to be seated upright when eating and not to be distracted. Encourage them to eat slowly, take small bites, and fully chew and swallow their food before talking and laughing. If you pack a lunch and send it with your child, please avoid food items that could be difficult to chew or which could possibly cause choking. Encourage them not to eat while walking, running, or engaging in other activities. Encourage them to avoid children's games that involve catching a food item in the mouth or putting large amounts of food into the mouth. Eating in the cafeteria should be fun and social, but eating in the cafeteria is a privilege. For those who misbehave or fail to follow these directions, cafeteria privileges may be revoked.

Paying for Meals: <https://www.dvUSD.org/studentaccounts>

This site provides all the information needed for paying school lunches (including online options), applying for Free and Reduced Meal program, and information about unpaid meal charges.

Payment Options

When a student is enrolled in school they are given an ID number from the school's front office that they will keep throughout their time at DVUSD. If you do not know your student's ID number, please contact your school. All students key in their ID number on a pin pad when they go through the breakfast and/or lunch line to make a purchase.

Parents can add money to a student's account in three different ways:

1. **Cash:** Students may buy meals with cash or add cash to their account in the cafeteria.
2. **Check:** Students may bring a check with their student ID number and current phone number on it to the cafeteria to be added to their account.
3. **Online:** Payments can be made at EZSchoolPay.com using Visa, MasterCard, or Discover card for a fee of \$3.00 per transaction. Parents can also use EZSchoolPay to view student spending and set up low balance reminders **at no cost. The EZSchoolPay transaction fee will be waived from now, through September 30, 2022.**

Free and Reduced Price Meal Household Applications

Free and reduced price meal household applications are distributed to students in the first week of school and can also be found online at www.EZMealApp.com or www.dvUSD.org/mealassistance.

Find more information by going to the [Meal Assistance Program](#) tab or by contacting our office at 623.445.5166.

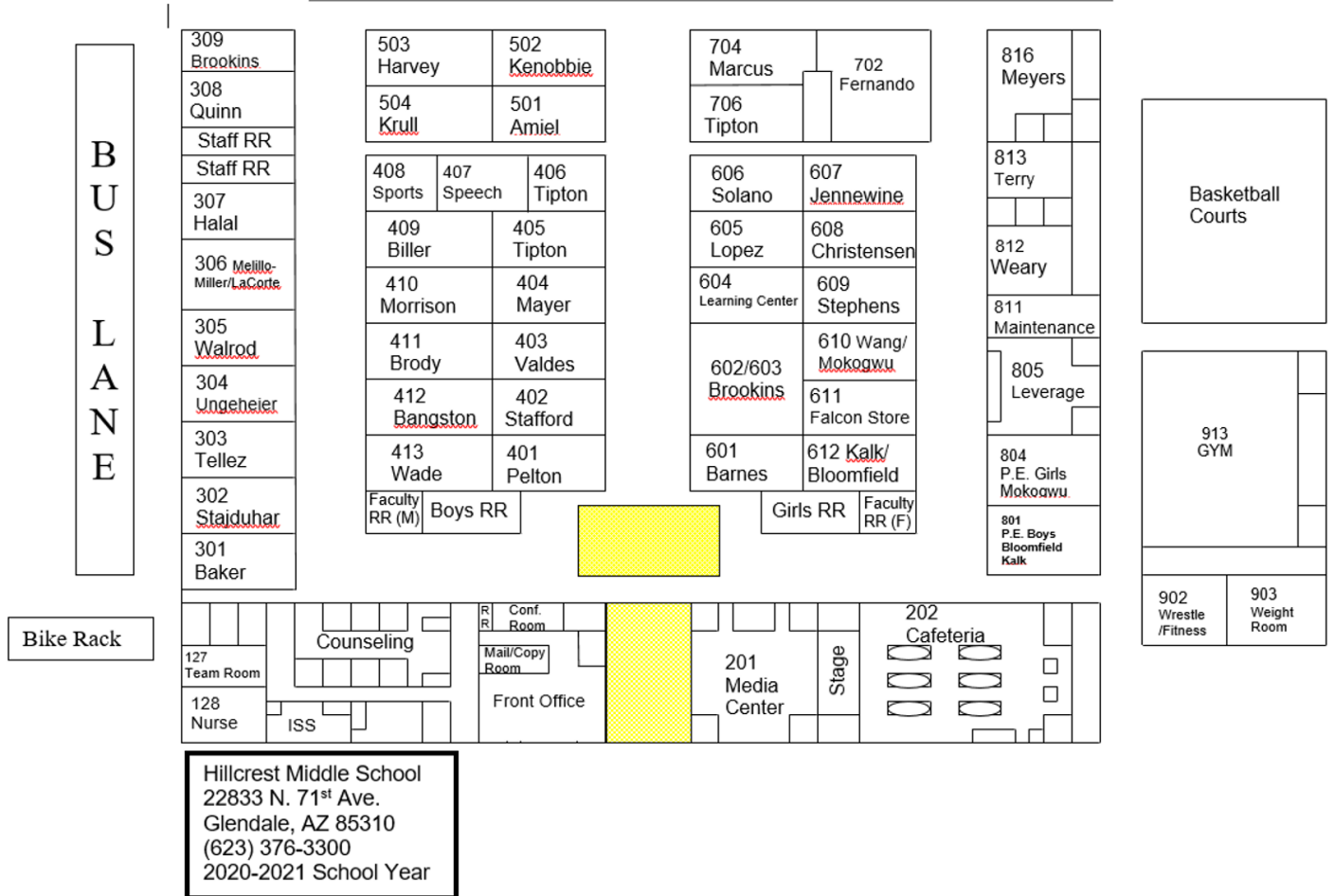
We encourage you to do this online to expedite your applications more quickly, especially if you are new to the program. For those of you already on the program, you must reapply, otherwise your student's account reverts back to a paid account.

Please, if you turn in written applications we would appreciate it if you have them sent directly to the cafeteria manager or head clerk to help prevent loss of applications and for confidentiality purposes.

All past school years applications will expire on **September 14, 2022** that is 30 days into the new school year.

Hillcrest Middle School Campus Map

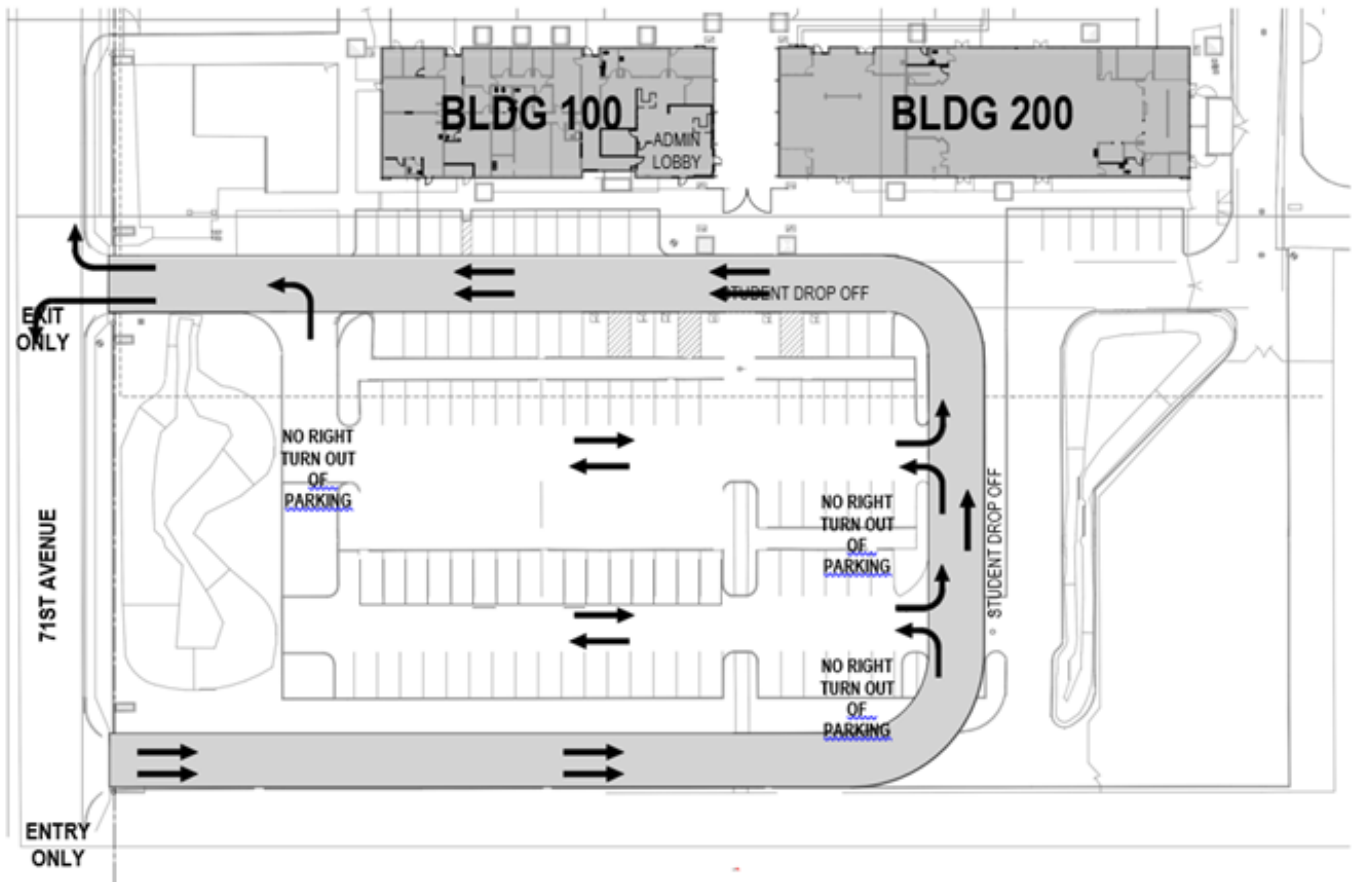
2022-2023 CAMPUS MAP



Hillcrest Middle School
 22833 N. 71st Ave.
 Glendale, AZ 85310
 (623) 376-3300
 2020-2021 School Year

Hillcrest Middle School Parking Lot Map

Below is a map of the new parking lot to assist you for technology distribution:



HILLCREST MS VEHICULAR CIRCULATION

FIRST DAY SCHOOL FACTS Wednesday, AUGUST 3rd

Start Time: 8:15 a.m. (Students are allowed on campus at 7:55 a.m.)

Break Times: 4 minutes passing time **WITHOUT minute bell**

Lunch: 30 minutes

End Time: 3:00 p.m.

Please note there will be no minute bell. This will increase student safety by decreasing the number of students waiting until the minute bell to run to class.

- Students will be bringing home parent signature forms. Please read these and return them to school immediately.
- Bicycles may be locked in the bike racks near the entrance. Skateboards, roller blades, scooters and go-peds may also be stored in the bike rack at the risk of the owner.
- Students may bring a sack lunch to school. Sack lunches must be kept in the student's backpack until lunchtime.
- Please follow the blue pick-up and drop-off lines in the front parking lot. Only buses are permitted in the bus lots.
- If your child is going to be absent the first day of school, please call the Attendance Office at 623-376-3390 as soon as possible.
- Hillcrest is a closed campus. For your child's safety, all visitors and parents are to check in at the Front Office and we can have your student brought to the office for you to speak with.
- Please check our website for more information on <http://hillcrest.dvUSD.org>
- **Immunizations: Students will not be allowed to start school without current immunizations. Please contact the nurse at 623-376-3310.**

Publicity Committee

Welcome back! Our publicity committee has hit the ground running in support of Hillcrest Middle School and education. We work together all year long to find ways to connect to our community. We have many opportunities for you to offer your support through partnerships, advertising, the donation of supplies or even cash. Please contact Courtney Biller (courtney.biller@dvusd.org) with any questions or to see how you can join in to connect our community with education.

One of our ongoing partnerships, **Fry's**, has sent out a link to either sign up or re-enroll your connection with Hillcrest beginning Aug. 1. It only takes a moment and in return, Hillcrest receives a monetary donation every time you shop. It is that easy!

How to Re-Enroll for the Fry's Community Rewards Program

1. * Go to www.FrysCommunityRewards.com
2. * Click on 'Sign-In'.
3. Enter your email and password, click on 'sign in'.
4. Click on your name (top right hand corner), under 'Account Summary' scroll down to "Community Rewards".
5. Click on 'Edit' under Community Rewards.
6. Under Find Your Organization: Enter the NPO number or name of organization then select 'search'. (**Hillcrest NPO #80398**)
7. Under 'Select Your Organization', click on the circle next to your organization.
8. Click on 'Enroll'

If you have re-enrolled correctly, you should see a green box with 'Your enrollment in the Community Rewards Program has been updated. Thank you for participating!' You will also see the information listed under 'Community Rewards' on your Account Summary page.

Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)

The Hillcrest Middle School PTSA is excited to provide amazing support with awesome activities during the upcoming 2022-2023 school year! Some of these awesome activities include dances, restaurant nights, and the infamous Wipeout activity that students loved last year. With your help, the PTSA will also have several appreciation events for our amazing Hillcrest staff to show them we care about them as they do our children. Be sure to stop by our table during schedule pickup to get more info on purchasing spirit wear and membership **which will include your child's core color shirt this year!**. To learn more about opportunities to help your child's school this year or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact our President, Vanessa Douglas, at hillcrestmiddleschoolptsa@gmail.com.

Don't forget to "like" us on Facebook

Sign-up, meeting dates, and all important information is found on our website:
<https://www.hillcrestptsa.org/>

FREQUENTLY USED PHONE NUMBERS

Main Lane	623-376-3300
Fax	623-376-3380
Absence Line/Attendance	623-376-3390
Registrar	623-376-3306
Principal	623-376-3304
Assistant Principal	623-376-3304
Nurse	623-376-3310
Transportation	602-467-5090
Cafeteria	623-376-3314
Facility Reservations	623-376-3305
Media Center	623-376-3313